

## A Ghost 861

### Chapter 861 A Talented Child...

There was no real bath in the Inn right now, or well, it was not working for a while because of how rare water was. However, things changed with us, who could just easily conjure water. I took out a few bathtubs from my Inventory, and by covering the wooden floor with my shadows so it the water wouldn't spill, we took a warm bath there, even adding shadow curtains and all.

Tear was our main producer of water, but such a simple spell could be conjured by any of us anyways. Though she enjoyed being "useful" and conjuring all the water we asked her for... So I just let her be happy.

Everyone took a nice warm bath, using some heat magic to warm the water, everyone took their turn in the bathtubs, and once we were fully cleaned and feeling good, we decided all had a nice meal, mostly the food they brought to us, which was very dry, rock-hard bread, a large chunk of roasted red meat, probably camel meat, some roasted roots and grains, and... a juice made out of the green blood of Giant Antlions fermented with grains, which they called Green Wine.

It was rather awful... But we ate it all because we were hungry, and then, we just feasted with stuff from my inventory! I brought out lots of meat, a grill, potatoes, fresh bread, and everything else. Nia and Celes woke up some time ago, took a bath to relax, and were now enjoying the feast with us.

By using some barriers to easily isolate the room, it was possible to eat as much as we wanted without being found out that we were cooking here.

"This food... I have never eaten something so delicious..." Nia started crying as she ate. "And this sweet juice... It's so nice."

"It's just cactus juice, you don't even get to drink that? We found some cactuses on our way here." Partner explained.

"Cactuses are rare, they're farmed in some areas, and are very expensive. We couldn't have afforded them." Nia sighed, caressing her child's head. "I... I don't know how to thank you for everything you've done for us... Thank you for saving our lives and helping us, we don't deserve so much generosity."

Nia quickly bowed her head, as she told her son to do the same, the clueless boy seemed confused, but he was rather grateful we saved his mama, so he bowed his head too.

"There's no need to bow your head though." I sighed. "It's fine, really. What you two went through was our fault, after all, they were looking for us in the end. We had t take responsibility for what we provoked."

"Lady Mary..." Sighed Nia, feeling rather moved.

"Auntie Mary is really nice!" Celes giggled innocently.

"Right? Mama's the best!" Nyx said. "She is a superhero that saves everyone! She will never turn her back against baddies!"

"S-Superhero?" I wondered, feeling embarrassed. "Come on, do you have to call me like that? Hahaha..."

"Ahem! Anyways, we've washed ourselves and we're also well rested, right?" Lucifer asked. "Wouldn't it be a nice time to talk about what has happened recently?"

"Yeah, he's right." Emeraldine nodded. "Were you aware of your son's condition?"

"My son's... condition?" Nia seemed confused, until she seemed to finally remember what happened yesterday, and then, she noticed her son's eyes, which were now blue, it was a permanent change. "Dear, your eyes..."

"Hm? What's wrong?" Celes wondered, munching on a sandwich. "Mama? You're too close, heheh..." lights

The young baby boy giggled cheerfully, he was not older than four years of age, so his mental age was similar to that of Nyx and Silva, mostly. Fabian and everyone else was much more mature, probably at teenager levels.

"T-This..." Nia sighed. "D-Do you know what has my son become?" She asked nervously.

"We don't know for sure, but I checked his soul. As a Necromancer, I have the innate ability to see people's soul. And his soul, unlike yours, which seems normal, is very powerful." I explained to her.

"H-How so?" Nia asked nervously.

"Let's see... Well, if a normal soul is like this grain over here." I grabbed one of the toasted grains. "Then your son's soul is like this melon."

"E-Eh?!" Nia was shocked. "T-That big?! But I could had tell before if he would had used some magic...!"

"The thing is, his soul is strange, it feels as if he had automatically sealed its abilities to protect himself, maybe without him even realizing." I explained. "But his soul... It is really special. It possessed the brilliance of divinity, sprinkled with the holiness of spiritual energies. And it had the strong attribute of Water. Your son..."

"I-Is he?! No... it can't be! He can't just be... The reincarnation of the Oasis Spirit, right?! The one they've been looking for so long just happens to be my dear son?!" Nia panicked. "W-What do I do?! What can we do?!"

She started to have a panic attack, worrying about the wellbeing of her son. It was only natural to feel so afraid, seeing how those bastards were about to torture her just a few hours ago.

"Calm down for now." Tear sat down at her side, patting her shoulder with her big arms. "It's going to be alright. We're a big family here, right? It wouldn't hurt us if we added you to the group. We'll protect you and your son, it's the least we could do."

"Miss Tear..." Nia was about to cry.

"Indeed." Emeraldine said, giving her a gentle smile. "Please calm down and have faith in us. We've only meet briefly, but this must be destiny. Your son is someone special, someone that might one day save

not only your city, but the entire desert. His powers are miraculous, but also dangerous if they fall in the wrong hands. We won't let any evil befall him."

"T-Thank you, it's so relieving to have people I can trust..." Nia sighed. "But... what might happen now? My son... Celes do you feel like... doing magic?"

"Huh? Magic? Like before?" Celes wondered. "Hmmm..." He suddenly started concentrating, and then...

SPLAAASH!

A lot of water came out of his hands, splashing everywhere!

"Alright, I guess he does have his powers..." Lucifer sighed, drying his face with a handkerchief.

Chapter 862 Charismatic Daughter!

"For now, there's two options." I said. "You can either escape and go to my town in the south of the continent, it is far away, cold, but peaceful, you won't ever lack anything there, and people will treat you well. And once we're done here, you may choose to come back with your son."

"And the other is to stay here with us. We'll protect you, but we might also ask you to fight, and grow stronger, so you can protect your son and at the same time, fight for the city you've been born and grown into." I said. "Your son has a special power, something that might make him the savior of this city, or the desert... But he needs training to get stronger. To defeat monsters and Level Up."

"That's..."

Nia remained in silence, she probably wanted to go to safety, any mother would want that. And I wouldn't blame her if she went and left the rest up to us. In fact, I secretly wanted her to choose that so things would be easier for all of us.

However, there was also the part regarding responsibility, what she thought was the right decision, and also the injustices of this city, what she thought about that, and the frustration she always felt about how things had changed.

"What would my husband do...?" She wondered, sighing weakly.

"Mama!" Celes smiled cutely, touching her mother's trembling hands. "Let's stay and protect the city! With my magic, I can bring water to everyone! Even if I have to fight monsters... it's fine!"

Those were indeed the words of a child lacking on experience and proper judgement... But it could also be said that those were the words of the future little hero of this city. Perhaps the Divine Spirit has fully reincarnated into Celes, someone completely different.

But I can tell that some of her original emotions, of her love for this city and her people, remains within her second life's personality, something that might drive him to work harder and fight for the city he loved even in his previous life, and that even sacrificed herself to protect it.

"Celes..." Nia sighed. "But it's dangerous... We might get hurt, we might even die...!"

"Not at all! I'll protect Celes and her mom!" Nyx said while frowning. "Trust my strength! And mama too! And auntie, and dad!"

"Nyx's super strong, it's fine!" Celes giggled. "I don't want to run away... I don't know why but I just want to stay... and protect the people... I sometimes remember mommy always crying at night, I don't want that to happen again!" The boy said that as his eyes glowed bright blue.

"We won't force him to fight or something." I explained. "But cooperation could be ideal, he could become a figure that people would unify for. I would never make a child fight, until they show to be extremely competent like little Nyx, or Silva and Fabian, and his friends... At most, he could fight using

his magic. There's a Dungeon underground, right? We'll get there and help him gain some levels, you'll gain levels as well, Nia."

"I see..." Nia sighed. "If that's the case... I guess it is better to stay. I don't want to escape or run away, even if you might take of mostly everything, I know that there might be a place, or somewhere where my son and I could help! So to repay for your kindness and help, I want to do anything I can! And Celes too, right?"

"Yeah!" Celes celebrated. "Let's help everyone! I'll give water to everyone!"

"Looks like it is decided." I sighed. "We'll do everything we can to protect you, so don't worry. For now, we have to gather our thoughts and plan what we'll do now. We cannot step out recklessly, there might be more powers lurking around than we originally imagined... And this whole problem might even involve a goddess from all things, we have to be careful."

"A-A goddess...?!" Nia panicked.lights

"Well, the whole church is run by one, and she's dead set into torturing everyone here for some reason..." Partner crossed her arms. "Also she seems really angry with the Oasis Spirit, so whatever happened between the two, we'll have to find out in the future, as we investigate everything..."

"Yeah, as she said." Emeraldine nodded. "There must be a reason on why she told her servants to look for the Divine Spirit's reincarnation... And we have to find that reason, eventually."

"Hahh..." Nia sighed, still nervous. "Okay, I get it..."

"No rush though, let's rest for the moment and relax, let's eat good, and sleep well." I smiled.  
"Tomorrow we'll begin our investigations. Before clashing against the church or something, we have to prioritize finding the dungeon below and see what they're doing down there..."

"I agree." Lucifer nodded. "I think we might even have to split into two groups, we're too many, and that brings even more attention. We could also look for clues more efficiently."

"You're not wrong with that." Emeraldine agreed. "Let's plan things out tomorrow morning, I want to eat more for now..."

"Alright, everyone! All of you worked really hard today, so let's have a nice meal together!" I laughed.

Like that, the small feast continued, Nia and Celes stuffed themselves full of food, and so did Fabian and his friends, who were big gluttons. Catarina the blood with Partner, and Lucifer and Nyx ate a lot of meat.

Everyone started getting along much better now too, Takeshi and Laura started talking a lot more with Fabian and his friends, and Nyx and Celes with Silva too, who was the most timid of the small kids.

"Silva! So you also come from Ruby Palace? Wow..." Celes was amazed, looking at her into the eyes.

"Y-Yeah..." Silva nodded. "I was a chimera child... And I was saved by miss Catarina over there... She's my mentor, and my auntie now! A-And... Well, we saved that city! ...I think."

"So cool! I also want to save the city!" Celes giggled.

"As long as we stick together we'll do just that!" Nyx smiled proudly. "Trust me, my frens!"

"Oooh! Nyx's so reliable!" Celes giggled.

"She's strong too." Silva smiled.

Nyx was surprisingly charismatic... Did she get that from me or her biological mother? Because Lucifer is not exactly... like her.

We slept through the night without any disturbances, even I managed to get a nice shuteye while giving myself the privilege of relaxing as much as I wanted. The morning sun came rather strong as a new day starter.

And as I woke up, I was quickly sent several amounts of information from what my Phantom Clones had extracted from the souls of the Paladins, alongside from those that went to scout the entire city at night.

I was able to quickly map almost the entire city with my Automatic Mapping Skill and this information. And of course, I learned where the secret passages leading to the dungeon were. Most of the entrances were sealed with bricks, but there were some still open, guarded by paladins.

Our best bet is to reopen one of the sealed entrances, which doesn't seem so hard as long as we create a barrier that isolates the sound from the outside, yeah.

The second news is that the Paladins knew a bit, but not as much as I imagined, from all I saw, they've simply been following the orders of Emilia, the Saintess that has become more like a tyrant in this city.

And about their modified bodies? It happened while they were unconscious. The faint memories they have of their modifications were of "qualifying" for it, entering a large hall in the church with some suspicious men wearing black robes, and then them falling unconscious and waking up the next day over a soft bed, things completely done.

They didn't knew who those guys were either, but they could be either a different organization cooperating with the church, or maybe another organization that might be an off branch of the Vampire Family operating Gold Sand in the shadows.

Aside from that, I learned that the people they apprehend and capture, who they have seen "illegally" trying to get water from the Oasis, are kept in a dungeon section of the church, which might or might not connect with the dungeon underground.



And information about the Divine Star Carriage, there was none, not even the commander, who was now a huge shark monster undead had no idea about it, sadly. Oh, and I also raised the other two as Undead, so I got three giant marine monsters as Undead, and they're all S- Rank! Pretty good, isn't it?

I could probably use them as trump cards for now, I've also got the giant monsters and armies I acquired from Elfina's town, the Giant Mushroom, the Demonite Golem and the Treants on standby, but I haven't used them yet because they're too big and too many, and these guys are the same.

I haven't given them names yet either... I'll have to think on something. Also, I only made them Undead through the normal method, perhaps if I spent some System points and other materials, I could make them into an even stronger being, but for now, let's keep them as they are.

"And that's all I learned." I explained to my group what I had learned as we had breakfast while enjoying the bright sun coming from the morning sky.

"Hmm, this place really likes to hide its secrets." Partner muttered. "Should we go to the dungeon right away? I'm feeling like earning some EXP at the very least..."

"Yeah, and we could also find out what they're doing exactly." Lucifer said. "And also, we would help Nia and Celes level up while being at it, killing two birds with one stone, pretty good."

"I agree." Emeraldine nodded. "Are you children alright with that too?"

"Yeah, we're fine." Fabian nodded. "We can help lil' Celes get stronger, and her mom too."

"We gained a lot of levels, but we're not max level yet." Garon commented.

"We'll accompany you wherever you go for now. Until we can find another purpose to our new lives..." Spectra said. "And well, with Fabian too."lights

"Adventure!" Silva celebrated, acting more lively than before now.

"This will be my first time going to a dungeon mom! How is it?" Wondered Celes.

"I-I have no idea, I haven't visited it myself, but your father used to go there to hunt monsters for their EXP and also materials. He told me there were creatures down there that gave nice pelts, meat, and bones, some even dropped magic cores, or pieces of armor or weapons very rarely." Nia explained.

"So this Dungeon used to be a crucial part of the city's economy, huh?" I wondered. "So to take away even more opportunities for people to make a living, they sealed the entrances and now the dungeon is a secret place only a few can enter... Maybe the reason why their paladins are so strong is because they have all that EXP for themselves now."

"Hmm, well! Anyways, let's do our best for today! Once we're done having breakfast, let's explore the slightly fancier areas of the city. I want to taste some of the endemic food, buy some equipment for Nia and Celes, and also for everyone else. I doubt you guys want to wear just bone armor and weapons. If we can get back home, it would be easier for me to craft items with all the materials I have in my own forge with the dwarves, but in here, I can make very little, sadly." I shrugged.

"It's fine, I would gladly wear bone armor!" Nia said. "My husband and I used to craft it to sell it, it was cheap yet it always sold for newbie adventurers..."

"Aww, well, I'll get you a much better armor. Are you proficient in any weapon?" I wondered.

"Hmm... W-Well, I never really fought." She sighed.

"Well, a complete newbie, huh? If you have no magic affinity, the best would be a spear." Partner said. "Spears are the easiest to handle weapons for newbies, you just point at something and pierce it, you can even keep a good distance from them, spear and shield would do good. I was a complete newbie too when I was just a skeleton, so the spears simplicity helped a lot, now I'm a dual spear expert!"

"A-A skeleton?" Nia wondered, feeling confused.

"Forget that part..." I laughed nervously. "A-Anyways! Let's get going!"

Meanwhile, within the depths of the city's dungeon, a large group of black-cloaked people started moving to the surface.

"Find them, trap them, and kill them."

Chapter 864 Visiting The Commerce District

We started by disguising ourselves with some magic, the kids were rather unrecognizable anyways, but some Illusion Magic I have been practicing for a little while did wonders, changing their hair color and clothes made meld better with the crowd.

And as for us, well, most of us possessed shapeshifting abilities, so we simply changed some parts of us, became taller, or smaller, and were mostly done with it. I doubt they'll recognize us by appearance alone, because the only ones that know how we look like are some of the citizens, but they didn't know our names either.

Oh, and the Paladins that knew more about us... well, they're now big sea monsters I turned into Undead and adopted, so there's little worry about that as well!

Oh right, while we wandered about, I created a dozen Phantom Clones and filled my Inventory with barrels filled with water, courtesy of Emeraldine for the wood and Tear for the water, and I decided to place them inside every home in the city. My plan was to cause havoc by giving every citizen a barrel of water and see what reaction we get.

Anyways, leaving that aside, we decided to visit an area of the city known as the "Commerce District" where many merchants would put their wares on sale. Nia said this was the perfect place to find equipment and even rare materials if we were crafters, which we wouldn't find anywhere else in the world.

"The best wares of the Goldsand Desert can be found here, milady! Are you interested in something we're offering?"

"The tastiest and sweetest of cactus pulp is in here! Cactus Juice available! Cheaper than water!"

"Grilled Desert Crickets with extra spicy sauce! It's tasty and affordable!"

"We're selling all sorts of jewels and ores, extracted from the Mines at Emerald Fountain!"

It was very lively compared to other districts in cities where they sold products, the merchants were also very pushy! Whenever you made eye contact with them, they would immediately try to grab your attention and sometimes would get in front of you, showing you what they had.

"No thanks, I am not interested in cactus pulp..." Lucifer groaned.

"And what about you?" Asked the merchant, offering me it.

"I... Fine." I sighed, paying up and grabbing some. Lucifer looked at me with a disappointed look. "What? We're here to enjoy the place too! Ain't no way I'll just dedicate to research and stuff! Think of this as our vacations too! Hmm! Oh this is so sweet!"

I drank some of the cactus juice; it was incredibly sweet and made you thirstier in fact. Too much sugar would usually make people crave liquid.

"Hey it's really good, try it out!" I said.

"Oway!" Nyx quickly drank her cactus juice, her eyes glowed brightly the moment she realized how sweet it was and drank it all in one shot. "Waah! It's so sweet! Celes, try it out! You too Silva!"

"Ooh, sweet..." Celes was licking his lips like a puppy.

"Hmm, I've never tasted such a sweet drink before..." Silva said slightly timidly.

"Let me see some of that." Catarina said, as Silva gave her the drink. "Oh?! Oh wow, since I became a zombie and all that tastes have been pretty mild but this sweetness... I can taste it right away!"

Emeraldine and Partner also tried it out, both being surprised by the taste too.

"Hmm, so refreshing. Back in the village, we would sometimes make a very tasty fruit punch, with our favorite fruit juices." Emeraldine smiled gently. "This sweetness brings back memories."

"Ah, so sweet! As sweet as blood I think." Partner commented.

"Hahh..." Lucifer sighed, as Nyx offered him some of the juice. "Fine- Guh?! Agh, too sweet! My tongue is burning!"

"Heheh, for being a dragon, you seem rather weak to sweet things, Sir Lucifer." Nia giggled.

"Right? Hahaha, he's grumpy for dumbest of things." Tear laughed.

"Ugh..." Lucifer sighed.lights

"I wonder if I should try something out of this city's cuisine..." Jonathan wondered, drinking the cactus. "One... cricket, please."

"On it!" One of the men selling food quickly gave Jonathan a huge stick with three big desert crickets covered on spicy sauce...

"Gulp..." Jonathan was beginning to doubt his decision now.

"Oi, oi, are you sure you're trying that, blondie?" Partner teased him.

"He's beginning to doubt it now, I bet he won't dare eat it." Catarina laughed.

"W-What? I will never back down from my words!" Jonathan quickly bit through the crickets; they were incredibly crunchy.

CRUNCH!

"Guh... Ugh..." He slowly munched on it and swallowed. "Hmm, it's not so bad... Try it out!"

"Eh?! Me?" I asked in surprise. "W-Well, I'm a ghost so it shouldn't be bad for my stomach..."

I grabbed his offering and gave it a small bite... It was dry, crunchy, a bit hard in some areas, it got stuck in my mouth a bit, but it tasted kind of like... I don't know, spicy jerky? Kind of.

"Hmm..." I drank some of the juice and realized they made a great combination. "Not bad, not bad at all..." I nodded, rubbing my chin. "They make a good combination!"

"Eugh, you ate a bug!" Celes seemed disgusted.

"I've eaten cockroaches before when I was too hungry..." Silva said.

"Eeeh?! Silva too?" Celes was shocked.

"I want bugs too!" Nyx said. "I remember eating those big scarabs back in mommy's big farm! Or the occasional rat, they were crunchy and fresh."

"Eeeeh?!" Celes was panicking after hearing the two cute girls that became his friends ate gross things.

"Come on now, Celes, we've eaten bugs before too, you just didn't realize it because I triturerated them into the stew." Her mother admitted.

"W-What?! Mom, how could you?!" Celes was about to die out of horror. "Uuggh... Buaagh..."

And there goes the juice I gave to him...

"A-Ah, Celes! Are you okay?!" Nia cried, helping her son.

We decided to take a little break because Celes felt a bit dizzy, sitting inside a small restaurant, we wanted to try out some of the exotic things they sold in here.

"So? What are you guys ordering?" Asked a girl with brown cat ears and sharp golden eyes.

Beast-kin were rather common in here, and so were the Desert Elves too, so it wasn't just dark-skinned humans.

"I want the whole menu!"

"EH?!"

Chapter 865 A "Delicious" Feast!

"So what is all of this again?" Asked Emeraldine, looking at the immense feast filled with doubt and a bit of disgust...

In front of us, there was a gigantic feast I had ordered. I ordered every single thing in the menu, including drinks and desserts. There were all sorts of critters, the desert people especially liked eating the giant bugs that wandered in the desert.

"Well this over here is roasted Golden Centipede, considered a delicacy due to its tender meat. Over here we've got Salted Green Oasis Frog, it is very tender and delicious. In here, there's Leaping Desert Snail, the shell is very hard but once roasted, the meat inside becomes very tender and flavorful! Over here we have an Ant Stew, including the big queen floating in the center, and some desert cactus roots. Oh! And how can we forget the Ocular Demon's meatballs? Their eyes are surprisingly juicy!"

The girl that brought us the food explained everything in here, there was even a whole roasted armadillo too, with claws, head, and everything... The meals smelled of all kind of things, but they were all... not the usual things we ate in the more Mediterranean zone of the continent.

"Alright, let's dig in everyone!" I giggled.

"Uwaah... Ugh." Emeraldine was trying to look for something less gross to eat.

"Hmm, oh this centipede's tender! It tastes like a slightly bitter shrimp." Said Partner, munching on the giant thing all on her own.

"Hmmm..." Lucifer was not really grossed out either, he just disliked sweet things. "Oh, these eyes and the frogs, not bad..."

"Hmm! Nom, nom, nom...!" Nyx was devouring the armadillo with big bites, head and claws included.

"I-I think I'll just eat the bread..." Emeraldine grabbed a piece of bread, suddenly realizing it had tiny, green-colored crickets inside. "GAAH?! There are bugs inside the bread!"

"Ah, yes, it's our popular cricket bread! Because its impossible to get them off the grains, we've grown used to see them in the bread as they get processed." Laughed the waiter girl. "Nyahaha! It's tasty and crunchy and adds an extra layer of energy! Give it a try, it doesn't disrupt the flavor of the fluffy bread at all! This one variety is special, the crickets are covered in a delicious sweet and salty sauce before being put into the dough!"

"W-Whaaat?!" Emeraldine was dying inside.



"Come on now, just try it!" I said, munching on the bread. "OH! This is not bad!" I put some butter over it and the fusion of flavors was surprisingly amazing.

"Hahhh..." Emeraldine gently gave it a bite. "Hm... I-It's not bad? Oh, it has the taste of oregano on it too, and some onion too. It tastes like the Elven Bread that has oregano, onion, and olive! Hmm..."

And she got it! Now she would begin to slowly open for more foods, I hope.

"Come on now, Celes, eat your stew." Nia said.

"B-But it has ants in it..." Celes was disgusted.

"It will fill you up just fine, dear." Her mother sighed.

"Ugh..." Celes gave it a taste. "Hm... ugh. Nom. Ah... Eh? Not so bad..."

"See? It's good!" I laughed. "Let's eat as much as we can!"

I loved to try out new things, so this was a paradise to me. In the previous city we weren't able to explore things too much, but this time around I'll look things a bit more.lights

I know I need to find my little brother too, but if I make haste, things will only become more chaotic, and right now, I really need some tranquility and stability to feel calmer and prepare for whatever is to come.

"Anyways, thanks for the meal!" I said, as I left a bag of coins over the table as we walked away, with our stomachs full.

"Nyah?! So much money...!" The waiter cried. "W-Wait, there's too much here!"

"You can keep the charge." I shrugged. "Anyways, do you know where there's a few good weapon, armor, and similar things shop?"

"T-There's a few..." She sighed. "I'll tell you where they are."

She quickly gave us some directions as we made our way to the closest shops, looking for fitting weapons. After going through two of the that sold really shitty things, we landed on a rather good looking one, it had more expensive things, but they were all good quality to excellent quality.

The one selling the products was a depressed looking very old Desert Elf man, with a short black beard and sharp silver eyes. He let us wander around and look for the best things.

There were many interesting weapons, but compared to what I can do with good preparation, it wasn't much, but sufficed for equipment for Nia and Celes, and also for Fabian and the kids too.

"Do you have small armor pieces for the kids?" I asked him.

"To the left, we sell stuff for midgets like dwarves and halflings." He said with a gruffy tone of voice.

"T-Thanks!" I said gently. "Alright kids, come here, let's quickly choose what you want to get..."

We spent some time helping them decide their armor, there were of all shapes and sizes, some more generic than others, but I had the money to afford the best sets. As for Celes and Silva, who weren't frontliners, we still got them some light protection, such as chain mails and so on, alongside robes enchanted with magic-enhancing runes.

"Wow, you all look like a cute RPG Party in some Dragon Quest..." I said while gasping. "So cute!"

Once the kids were done changing their clothes, they looked absolutely adorable in their new medieval equipment! Celes was wearing white and blue priest robes, which enhanced spirit magic power, and a huge blue hat that enhanced ice and water magic power.

And then there was Silva wearing a black robe, with brown shorts, tiny black boots, and a witch hat that enhanced darkness magic powers and curses and hexes, which her miasmic powers seemed to count as!

So cuteeeee!

We also got Nyx some new items for her to try on, Lucifer and I were going crazy because she looked absolutely stunningly adorable with every clothe we put on her!

"I can't decide, everything looks good on her!" He cried.

"I know right?!" I laughed.

## Chapter 866 Shopping Spree

After buying Nyx every single thing we found cute on her, from armor to dresses to robes to hats, to bracelets to necklaces to earrings and all, we got into weapons.

"Excuse me, small weapons?" I asked the bitter-looking desert elf.

"To the right..." He groaned.

"Thanks~!"

We moved on to the next things, weapons! We decided to check everything they wanted. Fabian and his friends were all proficient in using magic powers and skills barehanded, but that wouldn't do though, we wanted them to get some weapons.

Silva and Celes too, if possible. Nyx... I don't know if she even needs weapons? She has so many draconic powers that she's better fighting off without one, maybe.

"So what would you like to use as a weapon, Silva?" Asked Catarina. "I know I gave you a knife back then, but maybe something else would do you good?"

"Hmmm..." Silva wondered around the shop, looking for something she liked. "I-I don't know..."

"Hah, oh well, let's see what you are good at wielding." Catarina gave weapons to Silva and started trying out what she liked or could use.

Silva tried out all sorts of weapons, swords, spears, axes, staffs, a halberd, and so on, but she wasn't good at wielding any of them except small wands and knives.

At the end, she grabbed a black colored dagger with a tiny red jewel on it, named Dark Curse Dagger, it'll enhance her magic and help her defend herself if needed.

"Huh, maybe I should grab a spear like mom..." Celes wondered, seeing his mom hold a spear and practice with it a bit, rather well at that.

"Hehe, are you surprised that your mother can wield a weapon?" Giggled Nia. "I used to train a bit with the weapon, your father taught me how to use it rather well, I believe.

"Oooh, that's so cool!" Celes was excited. "I want to use a spear too!"

"It would be better for you to use something less dangerous, Celes." Her mother said. "You'll do better with this blue wand; it seems good for your element!"

"Ugh, fine..." Celes sighed, accepting the wand that enhanced water and ice elements a bit.

As for the other kids, Fabian got himself a magic sword, Spectra a magic spear, Garon some red colored gauntlets, Nick two small axes, and Beery a shield and a wand.

"Alright, looks like you guys are set." I nodded. "Oh, you guys don't want a weapon too?" I asked Takeshi and Laura, who had been helping the kids decide their weapons.

"I would grab a wand but I'm alright with what I have." Laura said.

"My fishing rod is a weapon!" Takeshi seemed a bit offended I didn't count that as one...

"O-Oh, right, my bad!" I laughed a bit. "A-Anyways, we'll be paying for all of this." I said, placing a huge bag of coins over the wooden table, the desert elf glanced at the money with eyes wide open.

"Y-You're really buying all of this... V-Very well, let me count the money and the prices..." He slowly did just that, until we paid for everything. "Looks like there's an extra few thousands, please grab them."

"Oh, alright." I nodded. "Though if you don't mind, do you sell any materials? I remember seeing the ones from outside, they were all very low quality, so I wanted to find higher quality materials that were endemic of the deserts..."

"I don't deal with materials, everything I get is to make stuff, but you can buy high quality materials at a shop in the other side of this street, the prices are not that cheap though, but I doubt that'll be a problem for you, seeing how wealthy you are." The desert elf old man smiled.

"Thank you, gramps!" I said, leading my party to that very shop.

"Gramps?! I'm still rather young!" The desert elf protested as we left his shop.

We traveled across the streets as we inspected our surroundings, finding many interesting things, ultimately landing in front of the shop that sold materials, entering it, we found a desert elf woman this time, the entire shop was filled with all sorts of gems, ores, stones, and the magic crystals of monsters.lights

"Welcome!" She said very gently.

"Oh, hi! We're looking for materials." I said. "I'll take a look around and pick what we need."

"Sure thing. Take your time." The lady nodded.

I ended picking up most of the ores I found that were new. There was Golden Sand Ore, which was hardened sand mixed with gold, Strengthened Salt Silver, which was a magic ore of silver with desert salt crystals, Rainbow Glass Crystals, that were made out of desert sand imbued with spirit energy, turning into a rainbow glass of strong magic properties.

Spiraling Saphirinitte, which was a mix of Sapphire, Ruby, and Emerald mixed together into a spiral, very beautiful, and lastly, my personal favorite, Diamond Draconitite, an incredibly unique crystal, almost as hard as diamonds, in the shape of scales, it can harbor elemental power really well too!

"Wow you're buying a big haul, girl, are you some sort of blacksmith? Never seen you around!" The lady said.

"Something like that, I just like to collect rare materials and see what I can do with them!" I laughed, paying up.

"Thank you for passing by! Have a nice day." She said.

"Thanks!"

Like that, we moved out, realizing the night had already come as the sun descended from the horizon in the meantime it took me to check everything I wanted.

"Well, it's gotten dark already, should we go back to the Inn for now?" Asked Lucifer. "Or should we get to the dungeon right away?"

"Hmm, I think another day of rest for everyone to get completely ready should be good." I nodded.  
"Let's go take one last break before things get real, shall we? We also need to wait for the water barrel reaction, I've already distributed half the population now, some had found it out and had not said a thing, I wonder if some will make a fuss eventually..."

"Alright! I want dinner mommy!" Nyx said, without really caring about whatever I was saying.

"Haha, fine, I'll cook some food from home this time, to change things a bit." I smiled. "I'm sure Celes will be pleased."

"Yaaaay! I want cheesecake!" Celes was growing slightly spoiled.

A group of black-cloaked men wandered around the dark streets at night, walking closer to the Inn, using magic artifacts to remain unseen and undetected, enchanted with ancient hexes and sorcery.

However, their sharp crimson eyes could be seen beneath their cloaks, very clearly at that, showing what their true nature and beings they truly were.

"They're getting closer, prepare everything."

"The Magic Nodes are positioned, and it is night, sir."

"Once you give us the command, the shard's powers shall be activated..."

The black cloaked men gathered around their leader, smaller and older than them, as he laughed once he heard things were going smoothly.

"Perfect! Our Lord Maleficus will be pleased once we bring him the child!" He laughed. "They are certainly strong if they could defeat those Puppet Paladins even in their transformed states... But things will be a bit different now."

## Chapter 867 Endless Void

Once we walked back to the Inn, we were welcomed again by the Inn Lady, our rooms were ready as we left them prepaid beforehand. We moved upstairs and took a bath like we did back then, relaxing while eating the terrible food we were given as small snacks before the big meals.

After taking a bath in separate cabins I made up using whatever I had available, I started to prepare things for dinner, bringing out the many cooking utensils and beginning to cook up many delicious dishes.

Everyone was rather happy and relaxed, today was a day where we able to unwind a bit and including Nia and Celes. Tomorrow, we might raid the Dungeon and start things, probably provoking a chain reaction that'll make things very chaotic.

So, before that, we have to gather all the energies we can and-

RUMBLE!

"Huh?"

Before I could even think what was happening, our surroundings started to distort, as weird, miasmic energies started creeping out of the stone walls of the Inn, everything was consumed by an endless void.

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One second Celes was preparing himself for a tasty dinner while his mother was drying his hair, and the other, everything was blackened, as he and everyone else in the room were consumed by an endless void, transporting them elsewhere!

RUMBLE!

"Ahhh! W-What?!" Nia was the first to panic, without realizing what was happening. "Where are we?! I- Is this the Shadow Realm of Lady Maria?!"

"E-Eh? We were dragged there?" Wondered Celes, wandering around the darkness.

"Wait, Celes!" Her mother panicked, as she saw something unnerving, something that never would happen within the Shadow Realm of Maria.

Countless of black tentacles emerged from amidst the darkness, red eyes opening up, and jaws revealing sharp fangs, an aberration made of darkness had summoned itself, right in front of the unsuspecting boy!

"CELES!"

"Eh?"

The blue-eyed boy wondered why her mother screamed so much as she ran towards him, seconds before the tentacles wrapped around the boy, covering his eyes and mouth!

"Hmnggh?! Hmngggghhh...!"

The boy tried to scream as the tenebrous horror took him!

"Who are you?! Give me back Celes! Let him go!"

Nia screamed, grabbing the spear she had luckily carried along, and imbuing what little Mana she had, leaping into midair and pointing the spear downwards, piercing the tentacled beast's tentacles!

CLAAASH!

"GRYEEEEH! That hurts, you damn whore!"

The monster groaned in anger rather than much agony, quickly revealing itself as two smaller red eyes emerged from the darkness, the figure of an old man with short gray hair and a decayed-looking face, with sharp fangs and red eyes emerged!

"W-What...?!" Nia cried, noticing that the tentacles emerged from the old man himself!

Beneath his black cloak, a mass of miasmic flesh emerged, with many eyes, jaws, and tentacles, which were grabbing the child and not letting him go!

Yet, they were not killing him either, they wanted him alive for some reason.

"You're sure annoying." The old man muttered, Blood Energy and Darkness Energies surging from his old, skinny hands, his long and nasty-looking nails looking like claws. "You're the boy's mother? I have to thank you for taking good care of him... But now, you're no longer needed. His soul is very precious! We'll be taking him from you now, hehehehe...!"

"Y-YOU BASTARD!" Nia roared, rushing towards the old man as she grabbed her spear back up. "Give me back my child!!!"

"SCRAM!" The old man roared, moving one of his tentacles as he imbued them with energy, and controlling the tentacles as if he were a puppeteer with thread-like energies coming from his fingers!lights

BAAAM!

"ARGH!"

BAAAM!

"UGH...!"

BAAAM!

"AAAGH...!"

Three powerful strikes reached Nia, dislocating her left arm, breaking some of her teeth, and then crushing her down into the ground, breaking one of her legs!

"HMMMGGHHH!" Celes tried to scream, but with his mouth covered, he could only groan, tears flowing from his eyes.

"Hehehe, that's what you get for trying to get in our way." Laughed the old man. "The Warlocks of the Underworld shall use your son as a good material. His soul is the Essence we've been looking for this entire time! With it, our great lord, the Dark Pest can be fully revived!"

"U-Ugghh..." Nia groaned. "C-Celes... Celes...!"

She suddenly started to muster strength from her love for her son, slowly standing back up, even with a broken leg, and using the spear as a support.

With a swollen, purple eye, she could only see with her left eye, glaring at the old man, as she slowly started making her way towards him.

"Give me back... my son...!"

"So unsightly..." The old Vampire sighed, glaring at her with a disgusted expression. "I'll kill you quickly so you stop annoying me... Don't worry, the rest of your friends here are all trapped and won't be getting away until their souls are consumed by our great lord! Gyahahaha! Now, DIE!"

His tentacle swung towards Nia, gigantic and sharp, it reached her body and attempted to pierce her chest!

"GRRRHHH!"

However, in that very moment, Celes started biting the tentacle wrapped around his mouth, his tears beginning to float in midair, as more and more water materialized around him!

"Huh?!"

The old man suddenly lost his concentration, the tentacle about to pierce Nia's chest failed its trajectory as it ended hitting the ground instead, all while countless of blades made of water started cutting his tentacles, freeing Celes in the process!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"GRUUAAGH!"

The old man gave an agonizing shriek, stepping back, completely perplexed to see the child floating in midair, an aura of Divine Spiritual energies overflowing from him, as his eyes shone as bright as sapphires!

"Leave us ALONE!"

With a scream filled with frustration and tears, an enormous concentration of water emerged in front of him, like a wave of the sea itself!

"W-What...?! Has he awakened his powers to such an extent already?!"

SPLAAASH!

The oceanic wave pushed away the old warlock, as Celes ran towards his mother, his hands gathering his emotions and desires to heal her, as spring water covered her wounds once he hugged her tightly.

"Mom! Mooom!" He started crying, his tears working as a healing potion as well, as her mother's wounds slowly regenerated!

"C-Celes...! My wounds?!" Nia reacted in surprise.

"YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!"

However, the old man had yet to be gone, gigantic tentacles rushing towards mother and son!

## Chapter 868 Trapped

It happened in a flash, as everyone were suddenly sucked inside of a void, and transported completely elsewhere. And not only that, if they could had been transported together, things might had been easier to deal with, but they were separated.

"Huh? What's going on in here?" Partner, who was clueless, wondered, glancing into the dark world.

"Don't tell me we were sent somewhere else?! Ah, the kids!" Emeraldine who was right by her side panicked, immediately thinking about the kids. "Who did this?! Are they here?!"

"There." Partner pointed into the distance, as her Vampiric Senses immediately noticed the presence of something.

"You shouldn't be worrying about the kids right now..." A dark figure emerged from the shadows.

It resembled a single man cloaked on black robes, holding a small, black crystal staff imbued with a small dark blue jewel...

"Who are you?! How did you get us in here?!" Emeraldine asked furiously.

"I can't even break from this?!" Partner had tried shooting a beam into the shadows, but it was simply absorbed into the void, it was as if there was no ceiling to begin with.

"Hehehe, I don't think that matters right now, foolish ones." The old man laughed, his body slowly beginning to transform... "I'll rip apart your souls and offer them to our Great Lord!"

As Partner and Emeraldine got ready to fight, the same situation happened with Lucifer and... Jonathan.

"Lucifer! A Dark Force has pulled us into this strange space... Some sort of pseudo dimension?! How did they even conjure such a power?!" Jonathan panicked, holding his sword tightly. "Ah, I even got off my armor!"

"I can tell..." Lucifer inspected his surroundings. "This space is some sort of highly advanced domain... It is fueled with many energy sources and a single, strong core... But it's all... Void?"

"Over there! Look!" Jonathan heroically said, pointing at something.

Something strange slowly dragged itself out of the shadows, an old man covered on black cloaks, which slowly was lifted off the ground, revealing itself to be attached to a long scaly neck, belonging to a much larger, and stranger body behind.

"Hehehehe... The soul of a strong human and a majin... Our Great Lord will surely be pleased!"

"You're behind this, huh?" Lucifer asked, his claws beginning to conjure Abyssal Death Flames. "I'll burn you to ashes and then ask your soul what you're trying to do."

FLAAASH!

"W-Wait, Lucifer, don't jump the shark!" Jonathan followed him from behind.

A similar situation repeated itself once more, this time it was Tear, Takeshi, and Laura who were sent somewhere else together. There was a pattern, those that were close with one another would usually be sent together, but there was some sort of limit to it.

"Is this a domain?" Takeshi asked desperately. "But it feels weird... This is really fishy! I don't like this one bit..."

"Calm down, Takeshi! Something so strong that it can even caught off-guard S Ranks such as us is not something to scoff at, let's calm down and assess things." Laura said.

"I agree... Children, stay behind me if possible." Tear took the rails of the situation, knowing she was the adult between the three, desiring to protect them.

"Hoh, such a dedicated leader... An Ice Giant is not something you see every day around here..." A woman wearing black robes, covering her and most of her body except her foot, which revealed black sandals appeared, holding two black daggers. "What an interesting mismatch... Sadly for you, I'll have to quickly take you down, hehehe..." Her eyes glowed with bright red light.

"If she's bold enough to come to us, she might mean business... Or is just stupid." Laura smiled.

"Alright, I was itching for some warmup!" Takeshi was actually excited.

"I'm actually rather worried about the children than ourselves..." Tear sighed. "Three against one seems quite unfair, don't you think?"

"Heheh..." The Vampire Lady laughed. "Really?"lights

Her Miasmic Aura suddenly spread around, channeling dark powers from her "Great Lord" as dozens of clones of herself made of Miasma and Darkness were summoned!

"I think you might be the ones on a disadvantage here..."

At the same time as this was happening, in another side of this strange Realm conjured by the Warlock's sorcery, Fabian and his friends were all teleported together into an area which was closer to a river made of... blood.

"W-Where are we?!" Asked Nick, panicking.

"W-We were teleported? How?!" Garon was the same.

"C-Calm down you too..." Beery was trembling, trying to remain calm was hard for him.

"This space..." Spectra closed her eyes, sensing her surroundings. "Yeah, we're trapped, and this is not Aunt Maria's Shadow Realm, this is something much more complex and sinister, fueled by a strange entity."

"Is that so?" Fabian wondered, squinting his eyes. "Looks like whoever had a beef with us decided to make the first move, isn't it?" His sharp eyes glanced into the distance, as two figures emerged from within the shadows.

They resembled two small children, even slightly smaller than the kids here, yet they had huge wings behind their backs, and beak-shaped plague doctor masks.

They were holding hands, giggling maliciously.

"Hehehe~ Time to play, sis."



"Yep, bro! Tehee!"

Fabian and his friends felt a strange, unease feeling as these two children laughed, their power seemingly resembling an endless black and red mist spreading around.

In a similar situation found themselves Catarina and Silva, both trapped together once more, this time, confronted by an incredibly tall, muscular man, covered on black robes, and with three glowing red eyes...

"W-Where are we? Who is he?!" Silva cried.

"Calm down kid." Catarina glanced at the giant in front of them. "Whoever they are and whatever they want from us, they mean business if they trapped us here so seamlessly, without even Maria realizing..." Her fists started glowing with her aura.

"Oooohhh..." The tall man groaned, wearing a plague doctor mask. "Such wonderful specimens! You will make a great part of my collection!" He laughed, revealing what was beneath his black cloak, showing a horrifying scene...

And while this happened, Nyx and Maria found themselves alone, separated from everyone else as they were seen as the most dangerous by their enemies, both confronting Warlocks that had been handpicked to fight them.

"Mom... everyone... Where is everyone?!" Nyx cried.

"Heheh... Calm down, sweetheart." Giggled the skinny man that confronted her. "You'll join them soon yourself~ In death, that's it."

"I didn't even felt it! And this Void... It feels so endless...!" Maria thought, gritting her teeth as she was thinking about what to do, glaring at the approaching foe, a tall man with big shoulders, large arms, and a strong physique. "Those clothes, don't tell me you're part of the clowns from the Warlocks?"

"Clowns?" Asked the man, wearing a plague doctor mask. "I would prefer if you called us enlightened, or even talented people!" He laughed. "Milady, I will show you that you should had never tried to mess around with our territory. We, Warlocks of the Underworld, are an organization not to be messed around, even if you're S Ranks..."

"Hoh, bring it on, jackass." Maria smiled defiantly.

And as all these events were happening, their leader, an old man with sharp crimson eyes glanced at dozens of black bubbles floating in midair, where everyone was trapped, fighting members of the organization.

In the middle of these bubbles, there was a large, dark blue crystal floating in midair, harnessing an incredible amount of dark and divine powers...

"Now this is getting interesting..."

## Chapter 869 Nyx's Almighty Strength

"Who are you skinny man?!" Nyx angrily said. "And where's mom and dad? And my aunties and uncles... And Celes and Fabian?! Were we dragged by evil magicians?"

The figure of an old, skinny man, incredibly tall, whose entire body seemed to be made of sticks slowly walked towards her, his sharp red eyes glowing beneath his black cloak.

"Indeed, they were all dragged by evil magicians~" He laughed. "And soon you'll join them in their death!"

"Death?" Nyx was confused. "There's no way mama or papa would lose... Are you dumb or something?! Idiot!"

"W-Wha...?! What with that stupid confidence, you damn brat?!" Roared the man, his black cloak suddenly flying away to reveal a tenebrous chimeric shape.

His form was monstrous, rugged, and coated on several scars resembling patchwork, as if his body had been rebuilt using other body parts.

He was still a Vampire, but his body had been modified to the point only his head remained the same, with everything else having purple or red scales, black and brown fur, and sharp claws of many creatures.

And on its chest, Nyx could notice a huge dark blue crystal, emanating a devious and malicious power, slightly similar to the one the Paladins had when they transformed.

The skinny abomination, which resembled a cryptid right out of some creepy pasta, quickly got into all fours, his sharp fangs showing off as he hissed angrily at Nyx.

"I'm going to kill you, so start being a bit fearful, alright? Or it won't be any fun if you're this dumb!"

FLASH!

His entire body started overflowing with energies, as his long, skinny arms reached the motionless Nyx with a tremendous, powerful clash!

CLAAASH!

However, Nyx did not move nor evaded the attack, her entire body taking the blow head on, as an explosion of darkness, black lightning, and phantasmal energies erupted the moment the attack reached her!

"Heh, you're done for now- Eh?!"

Her foe quickly realized something wrong was going on, his hand didn't felt covered in her warm blood, nor he had felt any impact whatsoever.

Once the smoke dissipated, the truth was revealed, as an enormous black dragon emerged. Her scales shining brightly, made of black crystals, while she had long, silver hair coming from her head all the way down her neck, like a silver mane.

Her sharp red eyes glared at the vampire in front of her, showing off her sharp, draconic fangs... Nyx was not messing around anymore.

"[Void Piercing Spear Tail]!"

Her tail gathered her energies, rushing towards her foe and piercing his enormous, skinny, black-colored arm, slashing it apart in a single second!

SLAAASH!

The old Vampire shrieked in agony, surprised that he was suffering actual pain. His enormous body slowly stepping back before something of an even greater size than him.

"[Abyssal Shadow Claws]!"

His Aura expanded into an endless shadow mantle, as dozens of claws made of darkness reached Nyx! However, her senses were much sharper, as she quickly sensed the attacks and blocked them with her dragon claws, coated on phantasmal flames!

"[Phantasmal Death Claws]!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Nyx's phantasmal claws divided into countless more phantasmal claws, emerging from her entire body, as she clashed against her foe's attacks, blocking his blows quite easily!

CLAAASH!

"URGH...! I-Impossible! How strong are you?! I am supposed to be as strong as an S Rank!" The old Vampire grew furious, his skin glowing with countless, crimson-colored stigmas emerging across his body. "[Blood Stigmata: Berserk Strength]!"

FLUOSH!

Suddenly, the Vampire started overflowing with a brand-new crimson blood aura, his shape becoming even more monstrous as his head turned into that of a beastly crimson furred bat!lights

"Ah, it's similar to Auntie Partner's transformation... A bit!" Said Nyx, as she saw the monster rushing towards her!

"NOBODY EVER LIVES AFTER SEEING THIS FORM OF MINE!" Laughed the Vampire. "Now die! [Blood Claws Rampage]!"

CRASH! CRASH! CRASH!

His attacks became faster and more precise. His sharp claws gaining blood energy and darkness energy made them sharper as well, as Nyx noticed her scales being torn to pieces once his attacks hit her!

"Hmph!"

However, Nyx didn't felt intimidated, constantly regrowing her scales anew as she clashed against the Vampire with her own blows. Her Phantom Claws and her Void Spear Tail created sharp, piercing strikes that constantly blocked or parried her opponent's attacks!

BAAAMMM!

Eventually, she used her whole body, charging against him and pushing him away, all while her jaws gathered her energies, unleashing a blasting breath attack right into his face!

"RAAAHHHH!"

"UGHH?! AARRGH...!" The man screamed in agony as the blast of phantasmal energies and darkness reached his body. "T-This is impossible...! My body's... How strong are you?! You're... ugh...!"

BOOOOMMM!

Before Nyx could even learn the name of the bastard, his whole chest was blasted away, leaving a huge hole where his core was located!

CLAAASH!

His corpse fell into the floor, motionlessly, Nyx, who had yet to even reach S Rank herself, felled an S Rank with little trouble!

She wasn't a Young Calamity for nothing...

"Huh? He's dead already?!" Nyx was shocked. "O-Oh, oh well..."

Nyx grabbed the corpse and then stored it inside her shadows, which served as a small storage, she didn't want to eat it because she was honestly grossed out herself.

But she knew the corpse might come useful, or could turn into an undead for her mother, so she knew that it was precious enough to save it!

"Now... H-How do I get out of here?"

Nyx wondered that as she started flying amidst the void, suddenly stumbling upon a loop. She realized that whenever she reached a certain area, she would seamlessly be teleported to the other side of the void.

"It's more like a sphere! I GET IT!"

She quickly started harnessing her mothers into her giant claws, as she slashed through the empty air!

SLAAASH! SLAAASH!

RUMBLE!

The empty space itself started to tremble before her might, shattering apart like fine glass, until countless cracks appeared, and a hole emerged.

"Oh!" She said in surprise. "It worked!"

She quickly flew through the portal, reaching somewhere else...

Meanwhile, the one controlling the entire Domain was left speechless, dropping his jaws...

"W-Wha... What did she just do?!"

Chapter 870 Nyx To The Rescue

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Black Tentacles chased Celes and Nia as they clashed into the ground, barely being evaded by the nimble boy and his healed mother.

"Come here you damn brat!" Roared the old man. "I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!"

The old Vampire grossly walked with his many tentacles, chasing mother and son. Celes had managed to cut through his tentacles with his magic, but had suddenly lost his concentration due to fear, and he and his mother started running away.

However, no matter how far they ran away, the environment, a pitch-black darkness, never changed, everything was completely dark, and it felt like they were not even running anywhere, always, and constantly going back to the same starting point.

"W-Why is not changing?! It feels like we're always coming back to the same point..." Nia gasped for air.

"Mom, I don't know what to do...!" Celes was growing fearful, he had yet to train on hunting monsters to sharpen his skills after all.

"Calm down honey, everything's going to be okay..." Nia sighed, looking into the distance as the old man kept creeping in.

"Ehehehehe! Do you think you can escape from this?! Fools! It is a special Domain, a Pseudo Dimension made through the almighty powers of our Great Lord and the Divine Strength he stole from your foolish Guardian." Laughed the old man. "By harnessing it with our own magics and hexes, we can create truly magnificent things, isn't it true?! Just look at what my body has become! I've finally become strong and powerful, despite being an old man!"

The old man threw away his black cloak completely, showing that from his torso and below he was completely made up of slimy, miasmic tentacles, covered in sharp jaws and eyes!

"Strong and powerful?! You're ugly and horrible!" Celes cried, his water magic suddenly gathering around him into several floating water blades. "Go away!"



SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Dozens of cutting water attacks reached their foe, cutting down his tentacles into pieces, only for them to regenerate almost instantly.

"Hehehe, you caught me by surprise before, but it doesn't matter anymore!" Laughed the Vampire. "No matter how much you cut my tentacles, they will keep regrowing endlessly!"

His tentacles kept regrowing, as he sent a dozen towards Celes and Nia. The boy tried to conjure barriers made of water, but they were instantly popped and destroyed, the tentacles about to wrap around his legs!

"CELES!"

However, his mother valiantly rushed forwards, imbuing Mana into her weapon like Partner had taught her to use Spear Techniques for a bit, as she unleashed a strong blow.

"[Piercing Strike]!"

CLAAASH!

The tentacle was quickly cut down, with several more behind her being destroyed! The Vampire glanced with a raging expression on his face at the woman.

"Tch, you're such an annoying rat!"

He gathered dark and red energies into his hands, firing bullets made of blood energy and darkness, which exploded on contact!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Nia grabbed her son and started running away from the explosions, but one managed to hit her legs from behind, making her trip over the ground as she hit her head strongly.

BAAM!

"Urgh...!" Nia desperately tried to stand back up, the tentacles creeping in.

"Mom!" Celes desperately cried.

He pointed his little hands against their foes, as he started gathering more and more magic, remembering that Nyx had told her something, a "trick" about magic!

"You have to channel the mana into your hands and then visualize what you want it to become! The stronger you can visualize something, the better!" "Visualize... Visualize...!" Celes cried, suddenly noticing his mother's spear, as the water he conjured shone with a divine light, shaping into a gigantic spiraling water spear, overflowing with spiritual energies!

FLUUOSH!

"W-What the...?!"lights

The Vampire stepped back in slight surprise, his face distorting into desperation as he suddenly started running towards Celes at full speed again!

"I won't let you conjure any more of your tricky magic spells, you damn brat!"

His tentacles shapeshifted into sharp metallic spears, seconds before the Spirit Water Spear reached his body, clashing into his chest and blowing through his heart, leaving a huge hole behind!

BOOOOMM!!!

"UUAARGH...!"

The Vampire couldn't take the hit really well, instantly falling into the ground, vomiting blood as he saw the enormous wound, perplexed and in complete disbelief!

"Y-You did it Celes!" Nia panicked in surprise.

"I-I did?!" Celes was amazed.

"UURRGH... YOU HAVEN'T DONE SINGLE THING!"

The Vampire, however, swiftly stood back up, his many tentacles swirling and moving around like deadly appendages, his wound quickly being covered and filled by dark miasma and crystals growing over him.

"I might have to just kill you! I can deal with your soul later..."

His body slowly transformed completely into a mass of tentacles and eyes, consumed by his own monstrous half, the old Vampire turned into an Abyssal Horror himself!

"GRUOOHHHH!"

"Uwaah!"

Celes cried in fear, as her Mother gritted her teeth, covering her son to protect him from the attack that was coming, as dozens of sharp, spear-tipped tentacles rushed down towards the two!

Crack, crack...!

CRAAASH!

However, an even louder sound echoed behind the two of them, as a gigantic draconic body emerged from the void itself, breaking through its dimensional walls and stopping the tentacles from reaching the two!

"W-What...?!"

The tentacled abomination suddenly found himself stopped by a huge black dragon, with black crystal scales and long silver hair!

"ROOOAAARRRR!"

"W-Who is that?! A-A Dragon?!" Celes cried.

"A Black Dragon... Wait...! Are you Lucifer?!" Nia cried.

"I'm not papa!" The intimidating dragon spoke with a girly voice. "I'm Nyx!"

"NYX?!" Celes and Nia, who had never seen Nyx in such a form were shocked. "R-Right, she's the daughter of Lord Lucifer after all!" Nia was slightly relieved.

"Nyx, you came to save us!" Little Celes said.

"Don't worry, now that I'm here I won't let the baddie hurt you or your mom!" Nyx roared, looking at the giant monster she had stopped.

"You dare believe you stand a chance?!" The Vampire went insane, attacking Nyx with everything he had! "Dragon or not, you're still a pathetic child!"

"Let's see about that!" Nyx opened her jaws, unleashing her devastating breath attack!

BOOOMMM!!!

