

A Glitched 331

Chapter 331 The Past Of The Demon Nuns

After we finished eating, the children had their fill, many of them went to rest while a few stayed playing around. I began to see through them using the Heavenly Sight Skill and realized that most of the children were between three to six years old. Children as old as Mist were rare, as she was near our age, while Celeste was way past ten, but her size was still rather small, she was kind of a midget.

After this was done, the adults and the nuns sat down over the clean table to speak while drinking some tea. Although Lucia couldn't speak, she knew how to use sign language and used it sometimes. My mother knew sign language, so she was able to understand her alongside Mary. Furoh had already gone back to my Soul Scape to rest after eating, but he was still a hot topic of conversation.

"Mary, do you know more about the tribe of Furoh?" Wondered my mother, as she seemed rather interested.

"I do... slightly." Said Mary. "I remember seeing them long ago. They were called Mimics, a tribe that is usually not together, their members are always separated, hiding in their burrows or pretending to be things, some hide inside hollow trees to capture prey, others go into dungeons and pretend to be treasure chests... They didn't had a good reputation even with other demons, sadly. B-But I am sure that Furoh is a good person, i-if he made a pact and became a familiar... I dislike discriminating people based in their tribe... It is not something that my tribe taught me."

"I see..." I said with a slight smile. "I wish we could one day met more of the tribe of Furoh, I kind of want him to have a family or something... I want him to be happy honestly, he had suffered a lot."

Mary and Lucia noticed my words as they smiled rather sweetly.

"Y-You're a good girl, Sylphy..." Said Mary.

Lucia nodded after Mary's words.

"Now... to adress the elephant in the room, I want to learn more about you girls." Sighed my mother. "You can also ask us about ourselves. We cannot reveal everything about us, but we also want you to trust us." She was incredibly direct, but then again, my mother had never been those women that is shy about talking out serious things, and most of the time, she was incredibly direct, often time bordering as rude. But I guess the pride of an elf makes her this way, especially one that actually is part of a royal family.

"Us?" Wondered Mary rather shyly.

"Sorry if she sounded like she was interrogating you..." Sighed my father. "My wife sometimes has problems addressing serious things, by getting incredibly serious. Anyways, I'll break the mold right away. Name's Allan, this is Faylen, Nepheline, Shade, Ninhursag." Said my father. The names of the heroes were not spread out, only their titles, so nobody really recognized them for who they truly were.

"We are part of a caravan that is leading a big tribe of Amazon to another continent, we are moving from the Amazon Jungles all the way to the shores of the continent, so it has taken a while, in our travels we found this town which we wanted to visit, and here we are... If it wasn't for my little daughter, we wouldn't had found Mist." He said.

"Amazon! That tribe of humans?" Wondered Mary. "S-So Nepheline and Aquarina are Amazons then? But you... the rest are not?"

"We are good friends, we simply wanted to help them, our families are interconnected through strong ties, so we are like one big family at times." Said Nepheline.

"Indeed, we are all S-Rank Adventurers by the way, but I am guessing Celeste told you this beforehand, right?" Asked Shade.

"Y-Yes, she did... We are very grateful for your help..." Said Mary. "A-And well, I suppose we can introduce ourselves a bit more, as you seem to be concerned about our scars, right?"

"Sorry, we didn't mean to be rude so we didn't say it up front..." Said my father.

"But yes, we are... very concerned about you and Lucia, and the other children... These scars... and the history of this town, are they intertwined together? Can you tell us more about this?" Asked my mother as politely as possible, though her stiff expression was still slightly intimidating.

"Sigh..." Mary sighed, as she looked at her own hands, scarred through burns.

Celeste who was close by quickly intervened.

"It is more complicated than you think. Although I came here later than the two nuns, I know what they went through and I partially helped them get through many difficulties... I don't know if this can be something they can easily talk about as if it were an evening conversation." Said Celeste. "I think you guys should learn some common sense-"

"Celeste don't be insolent with these people!" Said Mary, quickly changing her expression. Her red skin suddenly glowed brighter, and so did her eyes. "Don't talk like this to them, be more polite, please..."

"Ugh..." Celeste seemed slightly annoyed, but seemed to be willing to go with Mary's suggestion.

"I will tell you a bit..." Sighed Mary. "It has been years since then, but you know about the war of demons between humans, right? Well, Lucia and I... we are survivors of that tragedy. When the war still ongoing, the demon continent had sent a large army of warriors and soldiers, the demon king had grown slightly worried about lack of soldiers, so he ended paying many commoners to become warriors and fight for the demons... We ended agreeing with my tribe because we wanted to fight to protect our homes. We were obviously lied by the higher ups, we were sent into this continent against our will and... well, we lost more easily than we could have ever imagined."

Lucia seemed to nod slowly, as she drank a bit of tea, she lacked a tongue to talk properly, but was able to eat and drink food just fine, they had probably cut a large part of it though.

"The demons sent to this continent..." My father said. "They indeed were defeated easily. I don't know what the Demon King was thinking back then... He was probably becoming desperate and thought he could surprise us."

Chapter 332 The Past And The Present

Apparently the war against the demons wasn't one-sided, humans weren't the only ones invading the demon continent, as demons also invaded it back using their sheer numbers. However, unlike the humans who were more prepared and had created many magical tools alongside the elves to facilitate travel and conquest in new lands, demons seemed less prepared, relying on their brute strength and powerful magical ability to overpower their way through, but the scheming mind of humanity won, rather expectedly so.

I am not really cheering for the humans nor the demons, I doubt war is a good thing at all. And it only brings more suffering than anything. Only the elites at the top fully benefit from the slaughter, while everyone below them is a mere plaything. The worst part is that war only creates more war, violence only breeds violence. As the humans attacked, the demons fought back, and then the humans became even more aggressive with their invasion. The heroes, who had been growing all that time had probably finally reached the demon continent, and their clash against the demon king was imminent.

"The demons sent to attack the human continent failed miserably at the end..." Said Shade. "It was war, so losses were expected, especially those that invade an enemy's continent. Humans also were lost in many numbers as they invaded the demon continent."

"Y-You're well informed..." Said Mary. "I am part of those people that... managed to survive. With Lucia, and perhaps a few hundred of other demons... We were thousands back then. I-It was very arduous to survive. Some scattered away and hid in woods, only to be hunted down by the people of this continent... W-We were part of those groups that ran away, but ultimately, we were too wounded to run faster... But... if it wasn't for the sacrifice of my big brother, I... I might not be alive right now."

"Mary..." Sighed Celeste, as Lucia petted her shoulders and hugged her with her tail.

"Lucia too... She's like me, we were captured by the people of this town... Back then, the soldiers and adventurers were constantly hunting down and capturing demons, there were big bounties for us, although there were even bigger ones for our heads. All these times were still in war, a conclusion had yet to be reached so... S-So... we... we were not treated well." Mary said, as her hands began fidgeting nervously. "W-We... we were tortured for... information and other things... In those times, I don't know how much I wished to die... It was living hell... I-I... I still have... n-nightmares about it... I-It never... leaves my head."

Everyone looked in silence as Mary mustered the strength to speak more with us, despite being part of the group of races that discriminated and hurt the demons, she was opening her heart to us, perhaps

due to our solidarity. I felt the impulse to hug her, but I calmed myself down, knowing well that would be rude.

"You don't have to tell us anymore, we understand, dear." Said my mother. "We... also participated in the war... We did things... we feel so much guilt about... There are many times where I have nightmares of such things... They never leave my head either." My mother spoke words I had never heard her talk about before. She... never told me about that. Was she opening her heart to Mary so she could relate?

"I-I know that what we did was unforgivable... We really deserve to be hated for the rest of our lives." Sighed my mother. "But I wanted to tell you that I am sorry."

Mary looked into my mother's eyes, their gazes met, as Mary smiled a bit, as tears began to flow like rivers. She seemed to be moved by my mother's honest words.

"T-This is the first time someone addresses this and even... ask for forgiveness like you've done, lady Faylen... B-But don't worry... I've already made up my mind long ago... I don't want to hold grudges, nor I want to hate others. I feel like if I do, I would be only making my life worse... My brother always taught me to look forward into the future, and never look back... It is very hard to follow his words, and I understand you well. Do not worry, you don't have to be sorry, you've helped us so much today, we can live and eat now, for days and perhaps a whole year... These children are our lifeblood, the pillars of our life, the reasons we keep moving forward... All of them are my reason to live, to see them happy, with their bellies full, and smiling... It is all I really want in my life. If you've helped me reach this goal... Then I am already grateful to you."

"M-Mary..." My mother muttered, as her hands reached Mary's hands. "Even then... I am sorry for what they had done to you... These people... they did more than we had ever thought they would. Perhaps we thought too highly of ourselves back then, as we never looked back here when there were still people that needed our help, even if they were of the enemy faction... People is people at the end, if you were captured, that was already enough, torture and other things... they are an illegal act, there are laws in war that had been set between the many nations of humans. It saddens me to think that these people would forbid all the laws they have made... and all the humanity they are so proud of to act like barbarians..."

"It is big enough of a surprise to see people comprehend us so much, Lady Faylen... I am moved by your words... But you don't have to feel sorry... M-Much like all of us, you should keep looking forward, and move through the path you've been walking on, there's a family with you as well. I-isn't it?" Mary asked slightly embarrassedly, as her hands were being held by my mother.

"I suppose... you're right. But that won't stop us from helping you... I want to make a difference- no, we want to make a difference, right?" Asked my mother, as my father, Shade, Nepheline, and Ninhursag nodded.

My mother seems to want to change the injustice of this town, but is it even possible without ending up looking like the villains?

Chapter 333 Mary And Lucia

"I-I think you're being a bit too over the top, Lady Faylen, there's no need to go this far..." Said Mary. My mother quickly realized she had said something that would be considered ridiculous, after all they were thought to be normal people, strong adventurers but still normal people, even S-Rank Adventurers are citizens and need to respect the law and other things, or they will be treated as criminals and chased down by the elite of the nations, I would assume.

"I can relate to how you feel though." Said Celeste while sitting near Mary. "I've always felt like this damned town is filled with rotten people, even after the war... Although these alleys are filled with criminals, the higher ups such as nobles are no different, leisurely buying and selling slaves as if it were a game, disgusting... I hate all of this; I also want a change."

"B-But it is not possible, that's too much. There are things that we can do and others that we can't... G-Getting into trouble won't get you anywhere, Celeste... T-This is for Lady Faylen and the rest as well... S-So please, don't get in trouble..." My mother and everyone else realized that telling Mary and Lucia about what they truly wanted to do would be too much, so they nodded and apologized, refraining from talking about this. I guess nobody is perfect, they were too excited about making these people happy and bringing them justice, but they had disregarded common sense quite a lot.

"Calm down for now, Faylen, this is not the time to talk about these things. We want to learn more about their history and get some clues, don't let your emotions get the better of you." My father whispered to my mother's long ears, as she understood and nodded slowly.

"Sorry, I got myself carried away..." My mother apologized. "Could it be possible to resume where you left out?"

"S-Sure... But it is not... something pretty..." Said Mary. "When I was captured and tortured to get any information from me, I met Lucia as well. M-My disgraceful tribe... the Red Oni always had a rivalry against the Lamias, the area where we lived overlapped with their swamp, so we were rivals all our lives... Lucia has been my friend since we were children, although we often fought more than anything... In the war, we fought together, but we were simply too weak. The Demon King's strategy was flawed, he simply wanted to flood the humans with numbers, completely disregarding terrain knowledge, and how prepared were humans. The concept of adventurers, mercenaries, and other organizations was foreign to us. We were only told we were fighting an army, not multiple smaller armies, and groups composed of incredibly strong people that were able to take dozens of us down in a single battle..."

"The humans scattered us across their land and quickly picked us all... I ran away and ended losing myself in the woods and was ultimately captured... If it wasn't for my brother and a few other brave ones that stayed fighting in the frontlines, while telling us, the younger ones, to run away, we would be dead as well..." Sighed Mary. "Although the war was horrendous, both of our factions took a lot of one another's lives... I also am guilty of having taken down many human soldiers while fighting... It was war after all. I feel like what humans did was partially because it was the right thing to do in their perspective, I know the Demon King is dead now, he was slain by humanity's heroes. But... I still feel a bit of... r-resentment for what he did to us..."

"The Demon King..." My father sighed. His eyes seemed to be recalling the past. I wanted to know what he was thinking about, I really wanted to know how the Demon King even looked like, but they had never truly spoken to me about this. In fact, my parents hold way too many secrets they had not even told me about.

I really... I wish I could know more, but if I ask, I might end up being reprimanded, it is quite clear they don't want to tell me about the war anymore. They don't want to recall these things, perhaps... Or maybe they fear I would hate them for what they did? I've already known long ago they probably committed many mistakes; I still love them. But I guess it is not so easy.

"After the first few months of captivity and torture, where I endured the agony of hell... I was brought somewhere else where I was healed by someone, and then given some clothes. I worked as a servant of a small noble family for a long while, but my clumsiness got in the way many times, and the noble lady always bullied me... At the end, I was sold off as a slave, but due to my scars and my ugliness... Nobody wanted to buy me. Many times I felt despair, to be treated as an object, I had long ago lost all the pride I once held as a warrior of the Red Oni Tribe... I was stripped from all honor, I was a mere shell of what I once was..." Mary said in between tears, as she calmed down for a bit. "Lucia was in the same position as me, and several other demons, males and females, of various tribes. All of the survivors... Lucia had it worse though..."

Mary held Lucia's hand tightly, as Lucia rested her head over her shoulder, it seemed as if they were incredibly close with one another, giving one another comfort and warmth perhaps for all these years they had lived in this place.

"Lucia was different than me, perhaps... She fought more, she had always been talkative and loved to insult others... T-That was... why her tongue was cut off. Tongues are the pride of lamias, they decorate them alongside the tip of their tails..." Sighed Mary. "Lucia had endured everything... She's very strong."

Lucia had yet to cry through this conversation, but she seemed very saddened, her beautiful eyes were filled with grief and sorrow.

Chapter 334 Father Darius

"L-Lucia was tortured harshly... Her tongue was cut off because she was always a big talker..." Sighed Mary. "Those people of the past... I don't know where they are right now, but I still do recognize some of them, they're still soldiers and knights in this town, living with what they had done, having families and children, and enjoying their lives, fully knowing of the atrocities they committed... Sometimes I wonder if these people are really... people at all."

"Ahh... Ah..."

Lucia suddenly tried to speak, but only soft and dry moans came out of her mouth, as she seemed to want to tell Mary to not concentrate in those things. Mary knew about it and seemed to sigh and hug her friend again. This was harder for them than I imagined, I felt guilty that we were being given such a long explanation of their past. It felt like we were doing something they were uncomfortable with, and I really wanted them to stop... But I also knew this information would be useful for us at the end. Nonetheless, I couldn't help but question the methods of my parents, especially my mother who was the one to first speak about this.

I feel like they used these gifts as a way to give them the obligation to speak, even though it wasn't forceful, nor through any ill means, it felt slightly manipulative. I can't help but think that, and I feel terrible the more I think about manipulating these people to talk about their traumas and past. But if I talk, I might be ignored anyways... but I can try to stop this before the two nuns go through any more pain.

"I-I think we should stop this..." I said, the first time I spoke through the entire conversation. "Mom, dad... They're in pain, they really don't want to... talk about these things. I feel like we are manipulating them into saying such things."

"Sylphy..." My mother looked at me, as she seemed considerate. I do remember that yesterday when I found Mist, she had reacted in various different ways, but something about demons had impacted her greatly.

"I-I am trying to learn for you... What you said yesterday really impacted me." My mother told me. "I am sorry if this seem manipulative to you... Mary, Lucia, you can stop if you want to. I-It wasn't my intention to make you feel forced."

"Not at all..." Said Mary shyly, mustering her strength to smile. "I am happy to find such nice people... If you need me to share my past, I will. I feel indebted, but I don't feel manipulated to do this... I've always wanted to sit down and speak a bit about this, even as painful as it is... I cannot keep it inside of my chest forever."

"Mary... You're really doing this..." Sighed Celeste.

"Nonetheless, I wanted to tell you that... W-We don't think ill of these people anymore. Resentment against them seems meaningless... It has been many years, trying to find them and attempting to hurt them will only brew more violence at the end. I want to... move on." Said Mary, as she looked into the tea. "After I was thrown into a slave market, I met Lucia once more, in there, we felt slightly better, accompanied by the other, and covered in scars. It felt like we barely recognized one another back then, we had changed so much, and we had gone through too much... We were both different, too different... but our past connected us together, and made us rely on one another to survive. Eventually, we were sold to someone... a mysterious old man, a human."

"A human bought you two?" Asked Shade. "Are you two still slaves?"

"No... He freed us the moment he bought us. He wasn't someone with enough money to buy every slave available, but he was a good-hearted man. He was Priest Darius, the original owner of this orphanage." Said Mary. "He was... an incredible and gentle man. He used all his savings to save us, and when we asked him why he did it, he merely said: "I did it on a heartbeat, I couldn't stand you children standing there, like items... I felt like I had to do it, or maybe nobody would had freed you."... Since then, we began to work in this orphanage."

"Father Darius was a kind soul, he was very old, but energetic. He taught us many things, and took care of us, slowly healing our large wounds and scars with medicinal herbs and low-tiered magic..." Sighed Mary. "He was... like a second father for the two of us. He taught us so much and he showed to us that not all humans were evil, that there were many good people out there... He showed us that there's always good people everywhere, in any race..."

"He had started this orphanage because he pitied the children left by the survivors of the war. Many half-demons and beast-kins were left. Some beast-kin were often treated like citizens, but there were many of their tribes mixed in our army, so they were just as discriminated as us."

"Father Darius opened an orphanage for these children that the other orphanages ignored. Of course, he also took humans, but most of the humans, elves, and dwarves were welcomed by the other four orphanages in this city, which are being maintained by the government. Our orphanage is in fact something different, we used to receive a monthly income to help us raise the children, but the last years they stopped, ignoring us..."

"That's awful... Is that not illegal? You could complain for that." Said Nepheline. "But I guess... you don't want that trouble to reach you, don't you?" She sighed.

"N-No, I would prefer to not bring us trouble, our existence is problematic enough for these people..." Sighed Mary. "Father Darius taught us to not find trouble and to be cautious with people, to learn how to read their hearts as well through a special spell he learned named [Heart Reading] which I used in all of you when we first met..."

A magic that can read a heart's intentions? So is that similar to Aquarina's mysterious ability to see through the intentions of others as well? How interesting...

Chapter 335 Emotion Magic

"Like this, I can feel if someone harbors darkness or light in their hearts, and if they have bad or good intentions with us... None of you had bad intentions, but a few harbored a deep darkness and sorrow... I felt pity for your hearts, and I welcomed you all without hesitating."

Mary suddenly threw a big reveal out of nowhere. Apparently she was long ago taught a special spell that can help her read emotions to an extent, and even the true intentions of people. If they harbor hate or ill intentions, she can easily tell. But it also can even tell her if they have "darkness" or "light" inside their hearts. But having darkness doesn't mean having bad intentions, it merely means that someone had gone through a lot of pain and suffering, perhaps, and there's a big burden someone's heart is carrying...

Do my parents... and Aquarina's parents carry such a darkness?

Did I also carry it? Could Mary have seen through my heart?

I suddenly noticed Mary looking at me for a few seconds and then quickly looking away, I noticed that her gaze seemed concerned. Perhaps she really saw through my own heart. The things I went through in my previous life... do they still haunt me to this day? I've been trying my best to get over such things, but it is simply impossible. I always try to be good at doing things, I always train harder than anybody as well, and even now as I hold a mysterious power I am still developing, I often wonder if I have delved too deep into my own training and into becoming "someone strong and perfect" that I've lost myself and my own emotions along the way.

I do... think of myself as someone imperfect, but do I truly look imperfect to others? What does... Aquarina like about me? That I am strong? That I am brave? What does... Zack like? Or my parents? What sort of appearance do I give to other people? How do they see me?

I began thinking so much that I felt slightly sickly. Thinking these things affected me more than I thought, and I quickly decided to calm down and sort out my thoughts later, perhaps when I go to bed. I suddenly felt rather ill, as if I had... been missing something important in my life. Do I even lack something? Now that I see how much everyone has suffered, how much everyone is flawed, and how much everyone misses something... I feel guilty for having more than them, and... for having strength and love from my parents.

It is just as Celeste said, I am someone that grew in comfort and that has yet to truly see what's the world about. Even in my previous life, I only spent two years training and then I died recklessly sacrificing myself for my mother and my sister. But is that enough to justify having everything I have? I feel like a noble, lucky to have everything I could ever need, without lacking a single thing... Do I even have flaws? Or perhaps... my own flaws are deep within me, hiding them from everybody, so I always make it seem I am always alright?

Can Mary... see through my heart?

I felt the impulse to ask her what she could see. It was sorrowful to think that not even I could know how my heart was deep down. Reincarnating... really takes away a bit of your common sense. I wished someone could hug me now, but I know that's also a spoiled brat's thinking. I train every day and concentrate into not thinking about myself... because I know that I have flaws I don't want to show to others, such as one that has resurfaced now, my insecurities.

Am I strong enough to deserve to be the daughter of two heroes?

Aren't I merely cheating with my System, having a power I really don't deserve?

Shouldn't someone like Mary... truly deserve what I have instead of myself?

Am I... good enough to deserve the love of someone else...?

Do I even... deserve any love?

...

"Sylphy!"

Suddenly, as I thought about these things, I heard the voice of Alice within my soul.

"What's going on with you? Your soul... it is wavering with pain, what is happening?"

"Y-You can sense them? My emotions?"

Alice quickly realized that my soul scape could change in color and even generate different light depending in my mental state.

"Yes... I saw through it. What is troubling you?"

"I... Nothing, don't mind it. I don't want to trouble you..."

"Sylphy..."

This is something I have deal to deal with myself. My own insecurities, my own thoughts, and my own flaws, perhaps trying to fix them will never be possible. It is often impossible to fix our flaws, as that's what makes us who we are. At the very least, I need to make up for it... And perhaps that's a reason why I feel the obligation to be good with others. Even though I feel like it always comes from the depths of my heart, maybe there is another reason as well.

Sigh...

I don't really know what to think anymore. I should simply ignore things for now... I don't feel like thinking any longer, I've thought enough for the day. If I really want myself to become worthy of the things I was gifted after my rebirth, I have to make up for it. The only way I know is... to help others get through the same darkness in their hearts. I looked back at Mary and everyone else, as I remained in silence. Afraid from interrupting them, I remained quiet.

"Mary... So that's what you did..." Said my mother in shock.

"So you can read hearts?" Wondered my father. "That's a rare spell, I had never heard of it."

My uncle quickly decided to talk a piece of his mind, he seemed to know a lot.

"Ah, of course you guys don't know about it, that's the old Emotion Magic, lost in time due to its dangerousness. It helped people see through the intentions of others, so it always was terrible for those that plotted and schemed against the other. That magic was banned from this continent five hundred years ago, and any evidence of it is hard to find, its wielders are just as rare... I happen to have similar powers thanks to my blessings and Sound and Wind Attribute Magic. But that's mostly because I am a talented Bard that can read people's hearts."

Emotion Magic, so this is the power that saw through our hearts, and the power that made me think so much as well...

Chapter 336 Jealous Aquarina

Emotion Magic, a magic so terrifying that it was banned in the entire of this continent and forgotten over hundreds of years. It seems to be capable of reading through the true intentions and emotions of others, making it easy to discern if someone had good intentions or not. By using this Magic, people was able to take better decisions to who to make allies, but because nobody ever had good intentions with the other most of the time, it caused more conflicts than anything, and ended being banned by several of the dominant nations of the Gallatea Continent, I have no idea about it in other continents.

"So that's how it is. You were able to read our hearts. Is that why you told us everything so quickly?" Wondered Nepheline, asking rather directly.

"Yes... I was moved by your kindhearted nature and how you gave us so much... I felt obligated to respond to your questions. I would wish to form a long-standing bond with you all, even if you may depart in the near future... I wish for you and the children here to form bonds." Said Mary with a warm smile. "Father Darius always said that making bonds with people was what made us who we were, it expanded our perception of the world, and helped us understand one another... He said that bonds could bring peace to the world... But I suppose there are many people hurt by life, that cannot value bonds."

"Mary... I completely agree with you, dear." My mother said, holding her hand. "You're a good woman... You've opened my mind more than I have ever thought someone could at my age."

"I am glad I was able to enlighten you, Lady Faylen..." Said Mary. "I suppose we are done now? Ah, well... I could continue if you want."

"What... exactly happened to Darius?" Asked my father.

"Father Darius... He protected us for many years, and helped us a lot, but ultimately died of old age. We believe he has gathered with the gods in the afterlife, perhaps with the many souls of the people... I hope he can rest in peace with everybody else." Mary said, as Lucia nodded.

"I see... I am sure he was a goodhearted man." Said my father.

"Well, and about Celeste here... I am sure you're curious about her, right, Sylphy?" Wondered Mary, looking at me as if she had read my mind.

"E-Eh? Me? I-I am not..." I said.

"Well, you've already made a friend of her..." Said Mary.

"There's no way I would become her friend in just a single day, Mary!" Celeste complained, crossing her arms in dissatisfaction. Ouch, that hurt a bit, but I guess she's right.

"Why would Sylphy even want you as a friend?!" Aquarina who had infiltrated into the conversation emerged at my side as if she had been spying on us.

"Huh?" Celeste looked at Aquarina with a threatening glare, but Aquarina didn't falter.

"Aquarina don't start something please!" Nepheline quickly stopped Aquarina, and so did Shade.

"Yeah, don't say things like that." Shade said.

"But she thinks she's all high and mighty... Sylphy is a good person..." Sighed Aquarina.

"Aquarina don't worry about the details, in this world we'll meet many people that will disagree with you. It doesn't mean they're in the wrong and only you're in the right, everyone simply has different perceptions of people." I said. "Leave it be, I also think it is a bit too soon to call myself the friend of someone I've met for a day and a half."

"Ugh... Okay." Sighed Aquarina. "I just don't like seeing you sad..."

"W-Was I sad?" I asked.

"Yeah, you made a sad face..." Aquarina said, as she suddenly petted my head.

"Hehe, well now I am happy you're here." I said, petting her back.

"Well, Celeste came to us some years back. We found her in the alleys, she was small and weak, and covered in bruises and blood... Darius said she was a half-demon, which is quite rare. When we welcomed her here she used to be such a shy little girl... B-But now she's a nice girl that goes hunting, she developed a lot of self-confidence after training her strength and magic." Said Mary.

"I have noticed she's very strong, how did she trained?" Wondered my mother.

"I researched in the public library and bought books with money." Said Celeste. "My demon bloodline probably made things easier for me though."

"Amazing... You're a rather exceptionally talented young girl, I am sure you're destined for greatness in the near future." Said my mother with a confident smile.

"I am not that great to be honest..." Sighed Celeste. "There are still monsters out there like you guys... I guess I cannot even compare with you, huh? Haha..."

Celeste seemed slightly disappointed in her own strength, but comparing herself with my parents will only make her more depressed than anything. And well, it wasn't as if they got that power out of nowhere, it was through a lot of training, years of challenges, and many hardships.

"We were once weaker than you are, we all start in the same place. It is up to us to grow stronger. As long as you have the motivation you will eventually reach our height, or might even go beyond that point, who knows?" Asked Shade. "It is worth a try, right?"

Celeste smiled a bit.

"I guess... Anyways, I am sleepy, so I'm going to bed."

Without realizing it, we spent the rest of the day speaking with Mother Mary with the company of Mother Lucia, they were both very nice and amicable with us, and also quite welcoming. At the end, we enjoyed a nice dinner composed mostly of meatloaf and rice.

Although everyone was enjoying the day, I couldn't help but have many doubts within my heart and wanted to ask Mother Mary for some advice. She showed to be someone amazingly capable of seeing through the hearts of people, so I thought she could have something she could say to help me.

Chapter 337 Do I Deserve What I Have?

While having dinner I ended sitting next to Mary instead of Aquarina or my parents. Mostly because I wanted to speak with her about certain things. I felt slightly concerned about what she could have seen through my heart. I wanted to know if there was something there that could give me certain clues about myself. I had suddenly felt as if I didn't really deserve what I had, and this thought further increased as I began to think that I wasn't really someone without flaws, I guess I have many too.

Maybe because I've been trying to become a new person, I am trying to leave them behind, but they have started to torment my own thoughts once more. More than anything, my anxiety and insecurity. I suppose that battle with Hell back then... it still lingering within my mind as a trauma. It probably is also lingering within Aquarina and could be another big reason on why she feels comfortable when she's with me, because she might feel protected. Perhaps she doesn't want to be alone as she might be afraid of something similar to happen. I cannot blame her; I think the same most of the time

"Mother Mary..."

"Hm? Y-Yes, Sylphy?"

Mary looked at me with a gentle and slightly shy gaze.

"What did you... see from my heart?" I asked her timidly.

"Huh?" She wondered.

"You saw through my heart, right? What did you see?" I asked again.

"What did I see..." Mary muttered while thinking. "Well, I saw a troubled heart. You seem afraid, very afraid of things, Sylphy, perhaps more than other people... But somehow, you're covering that fear with a lot of bravery, maybe... Is this what you wanted me to tell you? Your heart is pure and lacks darkness... You're a good person, Sylphy. You're in fact, much like any other person out there, afraid, with insecurities, but still trying to do your best... We all try... t-to do our best."

"Mother Mary..." I sighed. "I often wonder... If I am really deserving of having the family and the friends I have... Sometimes it feels as if all these people were given to me without me doing anything at all, it doesn't feel as if I earned them... It feels like... they would be way better off with any of the children here..."

"F-For how long have you been thinking this way?" She wondered.

"S-Since a long time..." I sighed.

"T-That's not a normal thinking that a child should have..." Sighed Mary. "At your age, you should be playful, cheeky, and asking to be spoiled... Don't overthink such things. It is not as if you get the choose of picking your family and your friends, right? Things just happen... S-Some of us have it rougher, while others easier... B-But I am sure that you've gone through a f-fair deal of troubles, right? I can notice it within your anxiety and your nervousness... Y-You're not at all the spoiled girl you think you are... In fact, you're quite a-amazing, so little yet so capable, you have a strong will... You're not perfect, nobody is perfect... Don't try to seek perfection, dear... W-We are all imperfect, it is what... makes us special."

Her words suddenly hit me strongly. My heart began to beat faster as I blushed a bit. I think... I was slightly enlightened, and also felt embarrassed all at the same time. I have... been thinking just stupid things due to my own insecurities, but she's right. I am... not perfect, I don't have to seek perfection either, I don't have to try to become the best there is or something. I just want to learn magic and spend time with my friends. I want to be stronger to survive, not just for my own selfishness.

Despite her stuttering, Mother Mary is amazing with words, with just that, she made me realize I was being too stupid, and it made me feel embarrassed with myself. Although I always think that someone else should take my place instead, someone more deserving... It is not as if that's possible at all. We never choose how we are born, or how we are given a family and friends.

Things just happen, just as she said. We have to appreciate the present and... embrace the people around us, instead of constantly self-loathing myself into thinking I don't deserve them. I will instead give them all my love and try to make them happy.

"Y-You're right... Sorry for bothering you with something so dumb... Sigh... I am so stupid..." I sighed, I began to stutter myself now. I had never felt this embarrassed before.

"No, you aren't. You were merely being like a normal person is! Don't attribute things you feel embarrassed with as stupidity... D-Don't be rough on yourself, we all are curious and uncertain about everything, even ourselves. As long as you always r-remember being yourself, the person everyone loves... and to be genuine with yourself as well, then... there's nothing wrong with it." Mary said with a gentle smile, as she timidly petted my head.

"Thanks... You're such an amazing person, Mother Mary... Sniff... I am sad I wasn't able to meet you earlier!" I cried, as I ended hugging her.

"Uwaah! Haha... I-I am glad you think that way... B-But we are having dinner, Sylphy..." Mary said, as I suddenly noticed various children staring at me angrily, it seems they got a bit jealous I got so close with their adoptive mother.

"Ahh... Ah..." Mother Lucia gently whispered something, as if to make herself noticed, she quickly sat down near me and petted my head, feeding me food with a spoon like a baby.

"W-Wait, I am not a baby anymore- Guh...!"

"Hehe..." Lucia giggled adorably, as she petted my head and continued feeding me.

I guess I am still kind of a child... not even being ten years of age and all. My parents don't feed me because I requested them to stop, but I suppose the people here don't know.

Chapter 338 An "Innocent" Girl

When dinner ended, we decided to move back home. There were rooms available in the orphanage but my mother insisted that we didn't had to bother them, and well, the conditions in the building weren't that good.

My mother had even offered everyone to be relocated into our tribe for the moment until the building could be repaired, but Mother Mary said she didn't wanted to bother us any more than that. Although we promised to go see them next morning anyways, so it wasn't as if we were going away forever.

"Take care, Mist, be a good girl and go to sleep now." I said, caressing Mist silky white hair, as her smile filled with tiny sharp teeth was utterly adorable.

"Nooo! D-Don't go..." Mist cried, grabbing my arm. "Stay! I can give you space in bed!"

After Mist innocently offered me to sleep at her side, Aquarina quickly grew redder and a bit shocked, quickly running to our side.

"M-Mist, we have our own rooms, r-right? So don't bother yourself. We'll come back next morning!" Said Aquarina, trying to act polite instead of rude. Wow, was she improving at long last?

"B-But... We awe fwends!" Cried Mist, beginning to cry like a baby, despite being near our age.

"We'll come back next morning, we promise. Don't worry about it, okay? We'll even teach you some magic." I said. I quickly looked at Zack who was hiding from Mist for some reason, and called him here.

"Y-Yeah! Mist, calm down." He said, petting her black horns.

"Zack! Will you really come next mowning?" Asked Mist. Perhaps due to her several teeth getting in the way, and the different shape of her mouth, sometimes words came out slightly baby-like in speech, although I am sure she was speaking rather well.

"Yeah, we are friends now as you said." Said Zack.

"Indeed, we won't abandon you or something." I said.

"Also, there's Celeste for you here, and all your siblings, didn't you miss them?" Wondered Aquarina.

"Y-Yeah..." Mist, said, as Celeste came to her side and petted her head. Suddenly, a blonde girl also came, she was almost the same size as Mist and had a slightly cheeky expression in her face. I had noticed her staring at us for a while with bright eyes, fascinated by everything we brought and our clothes too.

"Mist stop being such a crybaby, come to sleep already!" She said.

"B-But Alicia..." Cried Mist.

"Mist, come." Celeste said, suddenly holding Mist like a baby with her arms and carrying her away.

"Uwaaah! Shtop! D-Don't carry me!" Cried Mist. "T-That's reserved to my special prince!"

"Again with that?" Asked Celeste.

"I think I finally found him! Heheh..." Mist giggled innocently, looking at Zack as he suddenly blushed and glared elsewhere.

Oho~ I see why he's so shy with her and he doesn't want to get closer, seems like Mist got love at first sight with Zack? Is this why she's sticking with him sometimes?

"Hm... I don't think he's a prince, he looks like a kid from the streets, doesn't have the air of noblesse!" Alicia said, the cheeky blue-eyed blonde girl said while cockily remarking Zack's appearance.

"W-Well, good night!" Mary said, as she saw the girls walk inside the building once more. After that, we quickly made our way outside the fiefdom once more and reached the tent quickly after. I decided to leave a few seeds created by Naturia near the building, which are my own special guards.

As we made our way back to the tent, we couldn't help but ask Zack what's up with that. He seemed to have no idea what we were talking about and that he had only meet Mist for just a day and a half, so I guess it was justifiable, but still, it was pretty cute!

"So what's up with Mist?" I wondered. "She's a cutie, isn't she?"

"I-I am not interested in demon girls..." Said Zack rather annoyed. "She's our new friend, n-nothing else, don't get the wrong idea! She's very childish compared to us so she talks things out of her mind..."

"Hehe, never thought you would become such a type of guy..." I laughed.

"W-What type?!" Asked Zack.

"Yeah he kind of feels like a Casanova." Said Aquarina.

"Where did you learned that word?" I asked while giggling.

"From mommy, she calls my father like that when they're having fun in bed!" Said Aquarina. Suddenly, Shade and Nepheline felt like a giant boulder fell over their bodies, getting stiff.

"A-Aquarina, don't say such things upfront!" Cried Nepheline.

"A-Also, I've told you countless times that such things are not made for children to know about!" Shade said.

"But you two jump in bed, must be fun!" Said Aquarina.

"T-That's... Shade, haven't you been setting up a barrier when we do it?!" Asked Nepheline angered at Shade.

"I-I do! Maybe... when we are in the heat of it I forget..." Sighed Shade.

"Ugh..." Nepheline facepalmed.

I guess I am not the only one... Aquarina has also sometimes caught her parents doing the deed, huh? I guess I have only seen my parents doing it twice, and it was because I ran into their room when it suddenly opened.

Often times when I woke up to the bathroom and I saw them... yeah. Anyways, now I just run away whenever I feel like they're doing it to not bother them. But 99% of the time they set up barriers to not notice it, unless they forget, which happens. After all, just as Mary said, we are not perfect.

My parents, of course, laughed and mocked their friends for this, despite having committed the same mistake many times, perhaps because they were unaware of this unlike Nepheline and Shade...

"Hahaha! You're being a bit too careless there, friend." My father giggled.

"Aquarina shouldn't really be talking about such things..." Sighed my mother.

"I guess things are doing pretty good in paradise, huh?" Laughed my uncle.

"How unsightly..." Sighed Ninhursag.

Maybe I should get them back with it too...

"Mmm, sometimes I also listen to them jumping in bed... I really don't know why they do that, is it fun?" I wondered innocently. My parents quickly felt petrified.

Chapter 339 Ignatius' Sadistic Training

At the end I caused more of a ruckus than I could had imagined and had my parents explaining to me that they were doing nothing at all, just playing. Of course, as someone that remembers being a young adult woman, I know all about the sex thing, even though I never had myself. So I am quite sure they

were enjoying some of that... But for now I just pretended to be dumb and accepted their lies, I just wanted to surprise them a bit, not trouble them with something so ridiculous to begin with.

I was already resting over my bed, and Aquarina was convinced to go to her own bed too (a miracle!), though I am sure she'll appear in my bed when I woke up...

Meanwhile, within my Soul Scape, something completely different was happening, Ignatius was practicing his new Skills! I discovered it was possible to acquire Skill Proficiency inside my Soul Scape, so utilizing Skills constantly can accumulate more power to Skills. Using this, I've begun to rapidly increase the skill proficiency of my [Yggdrasil's Endurance] Skill, and it getting super close to max level! Additionally, Ignatius is training his three Skills, and has already leveled them all up once, he's a hard worker.

Naturally, I appeared there with my Astral Projection while practicing my [Yggdrasil Endurance] Skill by asking Furoh to attack me with his tentacles and Naturia with a barrage of vines and bullet seeds. They seemed happy to do it inside my Soul Scape as it wasn't my real body, this way I can accumulate more skill proficiency. Although still, it tires my mind, so I can't do it 24 hours a day, but I can get a nice boost of a few hundred skill proficiency points in my Skills this way, each day I am getting closer to maxing out the Skill.

Of course, to remain in this Astral Projection State, I have to concentrate a lot, so I usually do it when I am not moving around or doing any external exercise. Ignatius has a Skill named [Eggshell] which seems to be similar to the [Yggdrasil Endurance] Skill I have, so right now, Furoh, Naturia, and Beelze were all attacking him with their blows.

"Tentacle Spear!"

Furoh infused Mana into his tentacles, reinforcing them and covering them in a metal-like darkness coverture, enhancing their power and attacking Ignatius with a barrage of consecutive piercing attacks.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Aggh...! T-This kind of hurts! Ugh...! My HP is going down... H-Heal me, Naturia!"

Ignatius resisted the blows from Furoh, as his eggshell suddenly began to crack, if it cracked, he would lose even more HP. I don't know what might happen if he loses all his HP, but we don't want to risk it.

"Foo!"

Naturia gently obeyed, as she stopped firing bullet seeds at him from afar and bathed Ignatius with a bright yellow-gold light. She had become rather proficient in using Tier 2 Life Attribute spells by now, so she was a decent healer of smaller wounds. Of course, she still can't reach the point of a total reconstruction of the body like my mother, but the higher the Tier of the spells, the better they get.

FLASH!

The bright light healed Ignatius cracks, as he quickly flew across the space of the Soul Scape, clashing against a small worm coated in darkness, Beelze. The two had already become rivals. Beelze felt envious of Ignatius getting the System Seed, as he also wanted the same privileges than him, and he decided that beating him with the excuse of gaining skill proficiency was a good way to feel better with himself, I can't blame him.

CLAAAASH!

"Heh! You got a System yet you're still a little egg at the end, Ignatius! Show me what you got, boiled egg!" Laughed Beelze, he was a small caterpillar-like maggot though, so he didn't had much of a right to speak like that.

"I am not a boiled egg, you stupid worm!" Roared Ignatius savagely. Both clashed against one another as flames exploded against darkness. The two were very weak compared to when they were alive, as they had turned into low-ranked spirits, but as I developed, they should also grow stronger, even more if I become capable of creating more System Seeds and distribute them, although the next on the line is probably Naturia, sorry, Beelze, you'll have to wait even more.

"GROAR!"

Ignatius continued to utilize Baby Dragon's Breath, a skill that allowed him to generate powerful little flames from his egg crack where his mouth was located, with that, he unleashed a spiraling storm of flames against Beelze, who protected himself with a barrier of darkness.

BOOOM!!!

"Heh, you're not half bad... That damn System you got must be helping!" Said Beelze.

"I was always this strong, bug!" Said Ignatius while laughing prideful.

"Don't forget about me!" Furoh appeared quickly after, clashing against Ignatius and using his tentacles like whips, hitting hi constantly and slightly shatter his eggshell a lot.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"AGGH...! GRAAARR!"

Ignatius quickly reacted, covering Furoh with flames and swiftly flying away from the range of his tentacles, only to be quickly healed by Naturia once more...

"Ah! My Eggshell reached Level 2 already!" Celebrated Ignatius. "I can feel it got a bit harder! Now I can-"

CLASH!

Naturia didn't let him rest, firing a giant walnut at him, this was a Tier 2 Nature Attribute Spell named Bullet Seed, it allows us to create seeds which we enhance with magic to get as hard as rocks, and we fire them like projectiles. Pretty handy, huh?

"Agh! Not even giving me a break to celebrate? You're the worst!" Ignatius complained, as Naturia ignored him and continued firing walnuts at his eggshell, quickly generating even more cracks.

I quickly decided to join them while I slept, so I could train [Yggdrasil Endurance] and other Spells to get more accustomed to them. Taking advantage of the Soul Scape is the ideal way to grow stronger!

Chapter 340 The Mysterious Perpetrators

In the middle of the night within the fiefdom of Eastgrain, a group of five mysterious figures ran through the alleys, reaching the ruined building where the orphanage for demi-humans was located. The entire place looked like an abandoned house, with the windows covered with several pieces of wood and moss, and the door was barely standing... It was honestly a miracle that this ruined building was holding up until now. The mysterious figures smiled rather viciously and almost comically cartoonishly, as they took out small daggers from their pockets.

"This is the place? It looks like an abandoned house... I can't believe this hole is where that damn pile of misfits are living..."

"I can't believe the government is letting these demi-humans stay here as if they were citizens, didn't we had a war with them? The demons killed many of us, why are they being forgiven now?"

"It's all that damn Darius doing after all, just as the boss had said, that priest is still a pain in the ass even after death. He was a good friend with the previous governor, the father of the Duke, and abolished slavery with his help, making the survivors of the war civilians and stopped their hunting, deeming it as illegal..."

"Well, not like we can't do it, just not in front of everyone now..."

"It was because of these damn demons that my mother died when I was a child... I won't forgive them!"

"Tonight we'll have our revenge, for all the lives they took from us... Boss was really nice for giving us these too."

The figures gathered behind the building, as one of the women making the group showed a red-colored jewel infused with a large quantity of Fire-Attribute Mana. These jewels were called Spell Jewel and were dangerous weapons that Magicians created, by infusing an element or a spell inside a Magic Crystal taken from the carcass of a monster that was purified from impurities, it was possible to create

Spell Jewels, that worked like bombs, throwing them away and using a certain conjuration generated the spell inside of them to come out. It was often used in warfare against the demons, one of the many magical inventions that the Elves shared with Humans to have an upper hand in the war against the Demons.

"There Spell Jewels are not cheap at all, the refining process costs a fortune! But he said we could go all out..."

"They're infused with a fire spell? It's hot!"

"Yeah, it has a lot of Fire Blaze, a Tier 2 Spell hat can generate a powerful explosive blaze, not strong enough to kill strong monsters, as you need more than one attack, but to burn down a little house? It's easy."

"Then let's blast this entire place down... That'll show them... these damn demons!"

"Yes... it will show them that they're now welcome here!"

"They'll burn like my little daughter did... They'll know our suffering!"

The Spell Jewels were ruthlessly thrown at the house, as the people suddenly recited the special words that would activate them.

"To hell with all of you demons!!!"

FLASH!

The jewels while falling from midair suddenly glowed with bright light, emanating a tremendous amount of heat from within! In mere seconds, they all exploded into thunderous blazing infernos one after the other, illuminating the dark night!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOOOOMMM!!!

FLUOOOSH!

The blazing fire spread out into the neighboring houses; mostly abandoned houses were only homeless people would live. The gigantic explosions were so loud that people from far away was woken up by the sudden commotion, many people ran outside of their houses, seeing the flames of hell erupting from the ground.

The people that launched the Spell Jewels began to laugh, pleased with what they had done, they looked at everything take flames... Except the orphanage itself.

It was in fact not blazing with flames, something had stopped the flames from even reaching the building. One of the men noticed an invisible barrier of light that had blocked the flames, pointing at it, many of them quickly thought something weird was going on.

"That's a magic barrier?!"

"It is capable of resisting five Tier 2 Spells at once...?!"

"Is there such a strong magician in town to begin with...?"

Without them even realizing, some strange green vines began to quickly lurk beneath their feet, suddenly catching them and entangling their legs, and dragging them close to the building!

"Uuaaggh!"

"V-Vines?!"

"There's a Nature Magician around?"

"Shit... cut them off!"

The vines viciously captured these perpetrators, as they suddenly realized the origin of them were Tier 2 Monsters named Vine Blooms, that had suddenly appeared out of thin air! This was, of course, Sylphy's doing. The moment she had mentioned leaving her "seeds" in the orphanage, it meant these specially modified seeds she had created through Agriculture, capable of evolving into Monsters by reacting against danger or someone that posed a threat to the building and those inside.

She had done this before, of course, but other this entire time, Sylphy learned the ability to delay the seeds transformation into monsters, and even put certain conditions for their transformation. But of course that wasn't all, as black chains suddenly emerged out of the air, some of the men realized there was a strange creature floating in the middle of the sky, meddling with the darkness, resembling a ghost!

"Fresh Sacrifices... Hehehehehe..."

It suddenly revealed its face, showing a horrid and pale face, the same face that a zombie had! What sort of strange entity was that that came out of absolutely nowhere?!

"Gyyyyyaaaah!"

"H-Help!"

"Help us! Please help!"

As the perpetrators desperately cried for help, two figures came to "help" them, two handsome men wrapped in black clothes, one with white hair and another with red hair.

"Huh, so someone actually came... I can't believe they were actually trying to blow up the entire orphanage..."

"We should just kill them..."

"Woah, calm down Shade. We captured them, there's no reason to just kill them... for now."

"Hm..."

Two pairs of merciless eyes glared down at the captured perpetrators.

"You guys' better talk honestly, if you don't want to meet my friend's fury..."