

A Glitched 351

Chapter 351 The Little Demon Girl And Her Teddy Bear

"Just how much people do you have enslaved in here?" Asked Allan angrily at Jack.

"I-I think there might be over twenty..." Jack said while looking at the ground, too afraid of glaring at the hero's eyes.

"So many?! Damn it..." Muttered Allan.

"And that's without counting all the ones spread through the city that had been sold already... We can't simply just abandon them, right? Perhaps there might even be some family members from these people already enslaved... The mother of that little, blue-skinned demon girl, maybe..." Shade said while feeling guilty, looking at the little girl lost and sad, he couldn't help but feel like she could be like Aquarina. Her innocence was too much alike his daughter.

"I can help you track down all the slaves that had been sold, there are many documents about them. Whenever a slave is sold, the owner is registered as well..." Said Jack. "Additionally, there might be the other two organizations to pick up for you later, they also must have slaves they recently got."

"How many do you think are there in total?" Asked Allan.

"In total... like the entire city?" Asked Jack.

"Yeah..." Allan said.

"Perhaps... over a hundred." Sighed Jack.

"What? Seriously?" Asked Allan, feeling like strangling Jack to death.

"There's no other way, we'll have to find them, free them and... I guess we'll bring them with us." Sighed Shade.

"You've decided then, huh?" Allan asked as he looked at his friend's eyes, filled with conviction.

As Shade was practically the second chief of the Amazon Tribe, he was the only one aside from Nepheline, the actual chief, that could actually take such decisions regarding sheltering people into the Amazon Tribe. Allan had no saying in such things, so he felt relieved Shade was going to go so far for these people.

"We'll shelter them in our hoe and bring them with us..." Said Shade.

"I remember that Faylen said that as the Princess of her Kingdom, she's able to ask her father for a piece of land. We could rebuild our village in there and shelter all these people... But we'll have to ask them if they're truly willing to take such a long trip to another continent just to find a place to call home. We'll have to ultimately leave it as their decision after we are done with this place." Said Allan.

"I agree... Well for now, all of you, come near me, I'll bring you all outside. I shall let you enter my shadows. It is mere magic, so don't fear it as it is not malicious. Inside of my shadows I can help you keep yourselves safe until we reach our destination. Can you cooperate?" Shade asked rather coldly, most people seemed a bit afraid, but because the two were their heroes, they ended accepting it. The people wasn't dumb after all, they knew that if they walked outside with rags and being demi-humans, they would most likely get picked by other thugs at the end.

"W-We'll put our trust into you, sir..."

"I hope we can find a place to call home..."

"You're doing so much for us... D-Do we need to repay back somehow afterwards? I don't have any money to give you, I am sorry..."

"I-I've never seen such powerful dark magic before...!"

As the people walked inside, the little, blue-skinned girl, who had red eyes and tiny black horns growing from her head, alongside fluffy black hair looked at Shade with eyes filled with sadness, touching his robe.

"S-Sir..."

"Yes?"

"C-Can you help me... find mama?"

"..."

Shade felt like hugging her, but he contained himself. The little girl might end up being scared if he did such a thing out of the sudden.

"Of course, I will do everything I possibly can to bring your mother back... What's your name?" Shade said, kneeling in front of the girl and getting his eyes near her face to look at her better, she was very small, perhaps being around five years of age.

"C-Celica..." She said timidly, as Shade gently used a handkerchief to clean the dirt of her face using the [Clean] Spell, until she was all clean. Noticing her feet all filled with wounds and bruises, he conjured a healing spell in them and cleaned them as well.

"I see... For now, go inside of my shadows. I know it might be scary, but I will bring you to a safe place. I'll give you clothes and good food, and also a bed where you can sleep comfortably... For now, you have to be strong, Celica... Can you do this for me- no, for your mother?" Shade asked while petting her head gently. Celica gently nodded, cleaning her tears with her tiny hands.

"O-Okay..."

"Good girl."

Shade noticed that the little girl was carrying a small teddy bear she didn't had before, it was all nasty and almost torn apart, missing a leg as well. It seems this was her toy that the thugs took away from her before throwing her into the cage.

"Mister Teddy says that he will protect me until mama is back..."

"I see. Mister Teddy is very strong... I will grant him a bit more of strength, he seems a bit wounded, he must be a strong warrior."

Shade touched the Teddy Bear, using the [Repair] Spell, he easily managed to repair small items, the Teddy Bear suddenly regained its beautiful original color and shape, even regaining the missing leg.

"Oooh!" Celica's eyes opened wide in surprise. "Mister Teddy is all healed up!"

"I told you he was very strong." Shade said with a smile.

"Thank you! Thank you! Now Mister Teddy is no longer in pain... He looks so healthy, just like when mommy gifted him to me..." Celica said with an adorable and innocent smile, hugging the teddy bear tightly.

"Here, have this, share it with the rest of the people, dear." Allan said, showing at the side of the girl and giving her a bag filled with bread he had brought through his Storage Bag.

"B-Bread! Okay, I will!" Celica ran inside the shadows of Shade, quickly sharing the bread with everybody.

"That should do it for now, let's go back. We need to rest and communicate everything with everyone else, we can't do this solo forever." Said Allan.

"You're right, let's go." Shade said. "I will definitely bring Celica's mother back to her..."

"Heh, you're truly a hero, huh?" Sighed Allan.

"Nah, I'm just trying to be a good person for once..." Sighed Shade.

Chapter 352 Back Home

Before leaving, Allan and Shade decided to ask Jack a few things, especially ones regarding what happened to the little and cute Mist, who ended beaten up to almost dead by thugs. They were not able to see who did it, nor able to stop this from happening. They felt guilty for it, and wanted to find the one that did it and beat them up to make them know her pain, of course, they wouldn't kill them.

"Someone that beat up a little demon girl in the streets? W-Well, we usually don't act on the streets at day, and my subordinates don't go out at the streets picking kids, even demons... If they saw her at day they would leave her alone, but at night... t-they would had kidnaped her, not beat her to almost dead." Said Jack. He asked his subordinates, each and every one of them. With the Soul Chains, they were unable to lie, and it seemed that none of them was the ones behind Mist's events.

"No, it appears that nobody here was..." Sighed Jack.

"Hmm... Then that leaves it to other street thugs, or the other two organizations you talked about, huh?" Wondered Allan. "We want those bastards as soon as possible, use all your connections and find out who beat up a little girl demon girl with white hair and black horns. She had a cross-shaped mouth too."

"And do it quickly." Shade said.

"Y-Yes, please count on me!" Jack said while nodding and lowering his head to the two. He seemed incredibly loyal out of nowhere. Perhaps the beat up he got really impacted him psychologically and ended traumatizing him. Maybe this was even Stockholm syndrome. Whatever the case, the two didn't really cared, and decided to go back to the settlement where the tents of the Amazon Tribe were left.

There was a Mirror Barrier surrounding it since this morning, after Faylen realized that it was dangerous if people could find them out in the open like Celica did so easily back then. As the two jumped over the city's walls and reached the grasslands, it looked as if there was nothing there. Such was the wonderful power of a Mirror Barrier, which reflected light and made it completely transparent.

"I guess the barrier worked well." Said Allan while standing in front of nothing, until he stepped further, easily slipping through the barrier and reaching the small settlement with many tents, Shade followed him from behind.

"So you're finally back!"

Suddenly, the two were scared by the voice of a woman that emerged at their left side. Faylen was standing there, her belly was already rather big after being pregnant for many months, and she might end up giving birth in a couple more of months from now. Because of this, she wasn't able to run around and easily accompany them.

"S-Sorry for being late, honey..." Allan quickly changed his personality and nature, trying to calm down the rage of his pregnant wife.

"Sigh, you know how late it is?! I was dead worried." Sighed Faylen while crossing her arms. "So? What happened at the end? Did you find any people?"

"Yes, we found the slaves and we managed to Soul Chain the thugs into obeying us. The leader ended changing his mind after we beat him up and seems cooperative. I don't know why." Said Shade.

"Soul Chain is indeed powerful, I guess we can rely on its powers to keep their mouths shut..." Sighed Faylen. "Did you bring the people through your shadows, Shade?" Asked Faylen.

"Yes... Shadow Expansion." Shade said, a second after, his shadow expanded around his surroundings and everyone inside were slowly dragged into the surface, emerging over the grassy floor.

"Ah! W-We are outside the city?"

"Where are we?"

"Wait, this forest... we are in the fiefdom's outskirts?"

"A big village... It reminds me of my own... Sigh..."

"S-Sir!"

The little Celica ran towards Shade, she had already grown a bit attached to him.

"We are in the village I told you I would bring you to. It is a village of our tribe, we all belong to the Amazon Tribe, and we are slowly moving through the continent, but we are taking some time to rest and gather food and other resources in the meantime here... And that's how we ended here and managed to rescue you all." Shade give an answer to everybody rather quickly to not create any more confusion between the people. Everyone seemed to quickly understand and nodded to his words rather rapidly. People was quick to catch up to things, more than others would believe, especially survivors such as these people.

"Sigh... So you brought them here? I don't know if we got enough tents and beds for everybody, there's over twenty people!" Said Faylen while reprimanding her husband and Shade.

"T-There's... no bed?" The little Celica suddenly appeared near Faylen, timidly walking towards her. "I-I can sleep in the grass... As long as I am with Mister Teddy..."

Faylen looked at the little girl being bare feet, touching the grass with her little toes. She could already imagine how cold they could be, even though it was hard to tell because her skin was already blue.

"N-No, dear, you're sleeping in a bed, okay? Sorry for saying that." Faylen said with a smile, as Celica felt comforted by the elf's motherly charm. "All of you, come with me, we need to quickly build some tents, you two quickly bring things up. Nepheline, where is she?"

"Here." Nepheline quickly had reached Faylen after hearing Shade was back. She had been preparing tents for a while.

"I already told Nepheline through [Telepathy], so she started making the tents with Ninhursag and Arafunn." Said Shade.

"Yeah, we re almost done." Said Ninhursag.

"Yep, yep~!" Arafunn showed up out of nowhere, scaring Faylen and Celica.

"Uwaah!" Celica cried in shock, as Faylen held her with her arms.

"Idiot! You scared her!" Faylen reprimanded her the older elf who carefreely smiled.

"Oh my, sorry. I didn't meant to scare you, dear." Arafunn said with a gentle smile. "Will you forgive me if I give you this delicious apple I just found around?"

"A-Apple!" Celica suddenly grabbed the apple from Arafunn's hands, wolfing it down quickly. "Uwah... So sweet!"

Chapter 353 A Small Meeting Between Heroes

At the end, everyone managed to clean the former slaves using magic and then gave them all tribal clothes they had lying around. Some people disliked them but they were clean and recently sewed by the crafters of the tribe, so they ended accepting them. If they wore the tribal clothes of the Amazon, they would also be more easily accepted within their society.

After everyone had a big dinner with tons of stew filled with potatoes, carrots, and meat, alongside herbal tea, the heroes saw them all go to sleep. The tents were made so they had multiple beds inside. Meanwhile, Celica didn't wanted to leave Shade and the others, so she ended sleeping in the same tent as Shade and Nepheline, in her own tiny bed near Shade's.

Of course, the heroes had yet to go to sleep even though it was nearing 3 AM, the group had gathered in their usual place, a small tent where they discussed everything by themselves over a large table while sitting around it. Faylen had just finished reprimanding Allan and Shade for being so reckless and doing way too many things without telling her, all while Nepheline was trying to calm her down for being overly grumpy.

"Come on, you don't have to be so grumpy, Nepheline! Don't lecture my husband at least." Said Nepheline while seemingly feeling quite angry.

"Hm? Nepheline you're also below my age, you're all children in front of me, I can lecture you all I want!" Faylen said while crossing her arms.

"Dear, you don't have to stress yourself so much, here, drink this tea and calm down. Think about the baby." Allan calmed down his wife, as Faylen sighed one last time while sitting and drinking some tea.

"Anyways, now that we are all together and little Faylen has calmed down, why don't you explain to us what just happened?" Asked Arafunn with a bit a carefree demeanor, although he seemed slightly worried as well.

Allan and Shade nodded at each other, as they began to explain everything in detail, from how they captured the thugs that tried to bomb the orphanage, to how they tracked down the hideout of their organization, beat the boss and everyone else inside, Soul Chained them, and rescued the slaves.

"I see, you did a rather exceptional job there, and everything stealthily as well." Said Arafunn. "Well done! Now that we know the entire story, I guess we should go hit the bed right now, goodnight you guys~" Arafunn, easily showing how little he cared about things sometimes due to his annoyingly carefree nature, walked away.

CLAAASH!

However, vines quickly grabbed his entire body and dragged him back to the tent, Faylen wasn't going to let him get away.

"You're not going anywhere." Sighed Faylen. "I dislike this attitude of you so much! Stay and talk with us as well, don't just go about on your own, now that you've joined us you better help!"

"Ugh, okay, okay! You don't have to get so angry! I-I was just joking, okay? It was a joke! Hahah! Don't take it so seriously, sheesh! You really take a lot from your father, don't you, little Faylen?" Sighed Arafunn while smiling and laughing nervously, attempting to calm down Faylen. She quickly wrapped

him with her vines conjured through the [Entangling Vines] Nature-Attribute Spell and sat him down over the chair next to her.

"Anyways... What should we do now?" Asked Ninhursag. "I all up for some beating. I hate how these bastards enslave these poor people... I know they're demons and I once said I hated demons but... I can't help but feel regret by having said that... I want to show I've changed and help as well, even if compared to you I am not that much."

"Your help will be appreciated Ninhursag." Said Faylen with a gentle smile, completely changing her attitude compared to the one she had against Arafunn.

"Well, yeah, we'll have to go again later this week. Jack said there are other two organizations aside from the bastards we caught, they probably got as many slaves as well... Damn it, this makes me want to just go there and get this done with, but we can't make too much of a fuss, and without proper information, we'll only end up running in circles." Sighed Allan.

"You're right, and going out recklessly is a bad thing! Even as strong as we are... I never taught any of you to abuse your power and wreck everything. Even though a group of people in this city are exploiting, discriminating, and enslaving demi-humans, it doesn't mean that we have to simply wreck their entire city, destroy their houses and kill innocents, right? If you go in a rampage without caring for your surroundings, you might end up turning everything into a wasteland in mere minutes." Said Faylen.

"I-I know! I said I wasn't going to do anything!" Sighed Allan, he felt like a child being reprimanded by his mother.

Faylen was the one that taught all the heroes except Arafunn about how to use their powers, and to never abuse them to get what they wanted forcefully. They were also members of society, and had to get what they wanted fairly, or at least try to make it not look weird or out of place. The infiltration was done stealthily mostly thanks to Shade's magic and techniques, which all came in handy in terms of stealthily hiding away presences, chaining souls, and even deleting memories, but if Allan went alone, he would only have his flames with him and a few support spells of lower tier, which aren't as amazingly specialized as Shade.

"Anyways, there are two other organizations, yeah. Now that we got Jack with us and also Soul Chained, he'll bring us information about things constantly. I gave him a Spell Jewel infused with [Telepathy] so he can speak to me whenever he finds some clues."

Chapter 354 A Plan

"They don't seem to know everything in the world as we thought, and neither they were part of those that left Mist almost dead." Said Shade while sighing. Jack's organization wasn't the biggest, in fact they were the third smallest out of the three big ones that served the nobles. The other two were larger, and perhaps held many more secrets. They were also rivals with Jack, but they still made many negotiations, so they could get info through them.

"I see, I guess that organization was rather small compared to these other two, huh?" Wondered Nepheline. "But what about the other two? And you said they were rivals?"

"Yeah, this is also something that might make getting info from them hard..." Sighed Shade. "Unless we do negotiations with them. The three underworld organizations share materials and resell to one another. Because Jack was the smallest of the three, he often bought stuff from them, very rarely was he gifted with things from the nobles, although those Spell Jewels they tried to use to blow the orphanage were given to him by them. There's nothing saying the Nobles won't do the same with the other two organizations."

"Damn it, so this means those bastards could also have the damn Spell Jewels?" Asked Nepheline. "Those things are dangerous, we can't just let them have them and go around with them, they could cause immense destruction very easily..."

"The ability to just throw a spell at full force without even chanting or using Mana is indeed frightening, especially in the wrong hands." Sighed Faylen.

"Well now, you said you need to do negotiations, right, Shade?" Asked Arafunn. "Do those guys got slaves with them? Why don't you rescue slaves incognito by buying them off slowly over the week from these two organizations?"

"Buying them off?" Asked Shade. "But that's..."

"Come on now, don't overthink it. If we want quick results that will net us something, we can easily just overfeed them with their beloved gold and buy all the slaves they got, and bingo! We got rescued all this people. After that we can ask the people or see through their memories and then we can track down the

leaders, infiltrate their hideout, beat them to a pulp and done! Boila!" Arafunn said. "And yeah, Nepheline can create most basic ores through magic, right? I know she said that flooding the market was wrong and all but come on, just make some gold coins, and give it to these idiots."

Arafunn words enlightened everyone about an easy way out. He was always the laziest and most carefree, but perhaps because of that reason, he was able to come out with easy solutions with the least amount of effort.

"Y-You're right, I can do that." Said Nepheline. "Advanced Earth Magic allows for the creation of ores. This is a forbidden power that could easily flood the market of the world, so I have forbid myself from using it except in things for ourselves. I guess we don't have enough coins to buy all the slaves with our current savings, right?"

"Yeah, that's actually a pretty good idea!" Said Allan. "Arafunn you're awesome, you came out of nowhere with such a good idea! I can tell you're a member of Faylen's family if you're as smart as her, but you're just a bit... lazy, I guess."

"Hm, I like the idea too, less aggressive, and we can slowly gather info to strike them down once and for all. We could also learn their hideout easily by observing the memories of the slaves that belonged to them." Added Shade.

"Yeah, it sounds good. I am all in for it. Whenever we finally reach the end, I'll storm them with my monster transformation, and crush them to death!" Said Ninhursag, as everyone looked at her slightly frightened.

"Huh? Ah, o-of course, I am not going to kill them... Well, I will try not to." Said Ninhursag.

"That's more than enough, I guess." Said Allan.

However, although everyone seemed to have come to an agreement over these plans, Faylen seemed slightly annoyed that Arafunn had come out with a great plan and she was completely in the blue about what to do... Perhaps she should take a break and think things through but...

"How come you will make gold?! We said you wouldn't do that, Nepheline!" She roared.

"But it is so we can rescue people, why not?" Asked Nepheline.

"Ugh... Agh... Okay, I guess... It is a good plan, fine! Ugh, I am tired. I shouldn't argue anymore. Do whatever you want." Sighed Faylen, walking back to bed. As she did, everyone looked at Allan.

"Ah... Okay, I am going to be with her, I'll calm her down. You guys should go to bed as well." He said, as everyone discussed for a bit and then walked back to their tents.

...Except for Arafunn.

"H-Hey? Is someone going to free me from these vines? They're quite strong, the damn spell she used is like Tier 6! Hello? Guys?!"

...

Allan walked back to the tent where he found Faylen resting in the bed, with her eyes closed, she was perhaps trying to sleep. Allan quickly decided to slip in the bed and turn off the magic artifact illuminating the tent, hugging his wife.

"Are you still mad?" He asked timidly.

"...No." Faylen said rather coldly.

"Ugh... You don't have to be so cold with that response though." Sighed Allan.

"I am not being cold... Just sleep already." Faylen sighed. Suddenly, she felt Allan's hand caressing her belly.

"You're so beautiful..." He said.

"G-Geez! We should sleep, stop talking!" The grumpy Faylen shouted.

"Have you thought of a name for the baby?" Wondered Allan.

"...Not yet." Said Faylen. "I want Sylphy to help at naming the baby too."

"Oh, that's a good idea, honestly." Said Allan. "Our little girl had grown a lot, she's about to be eight, right?"

"Hm... And her little sibling might be born in about two to three months... Do you think we can make it in time back to the continent?" Wondered Faylen.

"Should be doable, we won't spend more than a week in here as we work around things..." Said Allan with a gentle tone of voice.

Chapter 355 A Conversation Between Parents

"I want to help these people too, but I also want to hurry to the continent of Atlanta..." Sighed Faylen. "This orphanage... Should we bring them with us as well?"

"I had thought about it too, to be honest, it does seem as the most logical thing to do after seeing how they are discriminated. They just tried to blow them up... Bastards." Said Allan while feeling slightly angered.

"Hm... This place brings me bad memories... About everything we did..." Sighed Faylen. "I just wanted to live a peaceful life. But at the end, the phantoms of the past are always following us everywhere... I can't say I don't feel guilty about them, nor that I find them an annoyance either. I suppose it is my duty to help these people. It's the least... I can do."

"Yeah, but you're pregnant, aren't you? So you're resting." Said Allan. "Leave it all up to us, don't worry. Just take care of Sylphy."

"Hmm... I want to help too, so I am going to go visit the orphanage tomorrow again, you're coming?"
Asked Faylen.

"Of course, we are going with Sylphy as well... She said she wants to do some quests for the adventurer guild, it would be a good way to let her get some experience fighting the monsters inside a dungeon, right? Also, there's the whole deal with the Miasmic Cocoon..." Said Allan.

"Yeah, that... I don't know if we should bring her to the dungeon in that regard if that thing is enhancing the monster's strength." Said Faylen as she seemed worried about her daughter's wellbeing.

"You shouldn't worry, any of the adults can accompany her and Aquarina. They also got their familiars. And didn't they just beat Goblin Champions back then? They're plenty strong if you ask me." Allan said, quite prideful of his daughter.

"We don't even know the true Rank of those monsters..." Faylen's voice slowly grew more angered at Allan's carefreeness. "Did Arafunn made you this way in just a few weeks since he joined us? I am feeling like you're reverting back to the brat you were, stop being so carefree."

"Well, you also shouldn't be so overly concerned, we got the spirits always protecting the girls." Said Allan.

"But... what if something like what happened before happens again? What if our spirits are negated and... they're both captured?" Asked Faylen. "I don't want Sylphy to go through the same thing, Allan... Her body is strange, she might as well have a mysterious power that made her strangely immortal in some sort of way, I have not done anything to her to investigate more because I fear I might end up scaring her... But... Even then, she still probably felt pain, and I doubt this powers of hers is endless, she's still weak, not strong enough to fight against all the threats... If something were to happen to her, I-"

"I told you that we'll go with the kids, nobody is going alone this time, any of us adults will accompany them into the dungeon. Even if a god shows up, even Ninhursag should be powerful enough to grab the kids and run away." Said Allan.

"...Well, if we accompany them it's alright." Faylen quickly calmed herself. She was slowly making her fears resurface, and the trauma of having seen her little girl all destroyed in that day several years ago.

However, due to the comforting words of Allan, she calmed down and realized that if the kids were always with a strong adult, even in the worst-case scenario, things might be possible to be handled well.

"The Goblin incident went far from our expectations... But things should be more alright now, right?" Asked Allan. "We can handle things better now if we prepare well. The kids can also go on their own sometimes too, the spirits-"

"Allan, you're just going back to the same thing again..." Sighed Faylen.

"True... We can't rely completely on the spirits." Sighed Allan. "But that girl really craves for adventure and challenges, despite all the things she had gone through, she's really like..."

"Like you, huh? Yeah, I can tell... If she was more like me, she would stay at home learning alchemy and other things, but she loves to put every sort of magic or technique she learns into action. Her powers are also fantastical and the spirits she has are strong too... She got a bright future, and her attitude will only make her die sooner than later if she's not guided the same way I guided you." Faylen said.

"...Right, back then in every situation, well, most of them, you were always there for us. Healing us, supporting us, guiding us, and protecting us. There was no way I wasn't going to fall for you." Laughed Allan.

"D-Don't say it like that...!" Sighed Faylen. "A-And anyways, so tomorrow... We'll go to the orphanage, and then Sylphy should make a party... Does she has the necessary equipment and items for dungeon delving? Dungeons are dangerous and big, she needs better equipment too, she got a chainmail made out of that lizard's skin and dragon scales you made for her, but I feel like she needs a protection for her head, and also shoulder pads, but those are heavy... We could make some light ones with lighter and more magic-infused materials I guess. And maybe also give her something else than a sword, like a dagger, perhaps? Oh! Has she practiced with the bow? Long ranged attacks with bows are often way more secure for a child like her than going one-on-one-"

"Haha, okay, calm down, you're getting too excited now. It's fun, isn't it? To think about her and how she slowly grows stronger and more smart? Guiding her, equipping her, and seeing her in action, despite all the things we went through with her and all the dangers... You have to admit it, it's fun, isn't it?" Allan said with a charming smile, as Faylen felt like she skipped a beat.

"R-Right... I guess it is a bit... Well, it keeps me busy from having other thoughts." Sighed Faylen. At the end she didn't admitted it, btu Allan knew she meant it.

"Well, tomorrow we'll do that and more then! Aquarina and Zack too, don't forget those two either."
Said Allan.

"Yeah, yeah, I know. They're inseparable from her..." Sighed Faylen.

Chapter 356 Waking Up Stronger Than Before

(Sylphy's POV)

When I woke up, I found that I had grown slightly stronger. Somehow my physique felt heavier and also lighter. It was a weird feeling altogether, but this feeling always came when a Physique of a person became stronger, as my father explained to me once. Not only that, but deep within my soul, I felt my Mana flowing across my Magic Circle and reinforcing it.

I have been sleeping while cultivating for a while now. Both my physique and magic circle are not hard to cultivate in early stages, simply using the [Mana Usage] Skill to control my Mana has become rather natural, to the point I can leave it in "auto" with the aid of Alice. This way I can practice the [Mana Circulation Technique] all around my body. And while I sleep I emerge in my soul scape and dedicate half my mind into enhancing my Magic Circle with Mana and slowly creating runes.

[Mana Usage] also comes in handy there, as I can also assign an automatic circulation of mana through my soul for the magic circle. But I have to be careful and slow so I don't end up hurting myself, this is why I cannot rush things and do things slowly, bit by bit, each day and night without getting impatient and trying to overcome these progression walls by unleashing all of my endless mana into my body and soul, which would only make it explode.

Of course, it was very strange that I suddenly increased my Physique and Magic Circle Rank by one from after just a single night! Why did that happen?

"Ah, Sylphy, you're finally awake. Something had happened while you were sleeping, your [Yggdrasil Endurance] Skill reached max level." Alice quickly communicated to me.

"Eh? It did? Oh, I see. Maybe is that the reason my physique got stronger?" I wondered.

"Yes, precisely! It seems that this reinforcing Skill that enhances the endurance of your body counts as some sort of physique of its own, when it reached max level, the powers were merged into your physique and it increased in strength! Additionally, your magic circle was enhanced because you gained a few hundred Nature-Attribute Runes from the Skill itself." Alice said.

"Eh?! Skills can give Elemental Runes?" I wondered. "With over a hundred more, won't my Nature magic deal a lot more damage and have more power than before?"

"Yes, it was increased by at least a third in power and effects!" Alice said happily. "You're such a hard worker that I am glad Skills have evolved in such a way to compensate for me being a failure that can't let you level up..." She sighed.

"Aw, you're not a failure, you're my best friends and without you, I don't know if I would even be alive. Don't say that Alice!" I said, quickly cheering up my good friend, as I sat down over bed and stretched. Miraculously so, Aquarina wasn't sleeping at my side this time. "I am very grateful I always have someone like you with me, supporting me and helping me... Don't ever think you're useless! In fact, I think I am more of the useless one here, I can barely do anything to help you."

"T-There's no need to do anything for my sake, Sylphy, don't worry about it!" Alice said cheerfully. "A-Anyways, why don't we assess your gains? Look at your Status once more."

<#23a System>

[System Owner]: [Sylph Natoria Bravo]

[Magic Circle]: [Tier 2: Rank 3 -> 8: Elemental Magic Circle]

[Physique]: [Tier 1 -> 2: Rank 3: Yggdrasil's Eden Physique]

[Level]: [1/#523a]

[Class]: [Farmer]

[HP]: [10/10]

[MP]: [20/20]

[Strength]: [4]

[Defense]: [3]

[Magic]: [50]

[Resistance]: [10]

[Agility]: [6]

[Luck]: [-10]

[Charm]: [20]

[Skills]:

[Royal Elven Lineage]

[Agriculture]

[Lesser Fire Magic: Ember]

[Mana Usage]

[Hero Seed]

[Divine Protection]

[Heavenly Sight]

...

[Special Skills]:

[Agriculture: Lv10]

[Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv10]

Oh?! What's this?! My Magic Circle raised all the way to Rank 8! Two more Ranks and I can even get to Tier 3... Insane! My magic is really getting stronger. And that's not all, my Physique went through a big change. It jumped all the way to Tier 2 at long last, and even Rank 3 at that!

But... something even weirder happened, the Physique changed? I am pretty sure it said "Strengthened Body" before, but now it changed to "Yggdrasil's Eden Physique". What's this all about?!

"A-Alice! My Physique changed!"

"Yeah, it is something outside of the system so it changed without being affected by the glitching. It is a new Physique. Apparently in this world people simply doesn't grow stronger. Their physique gains special magical runes infused into their bodies which strengthen them. Now that your body has gained a lot of Nature Runes too from getting Yggdrasil's Endurance strengthening, you have attained the Yggdrasil's Eden Physique. It appears to have special effects that enhance your Nature Affinity." Alice explained calmly and composed, although I couldn't help but feel euphoric about such a great change.

"T-This is amazing! After so long I finally got something special like this!" I said happily. "S-Should I tell my parents? Ah, but how can I even explain it to them? Better leave it as a secret I guess..."

"Y-Yeah, it would be better to leave it as a secret until you find a good enough excuse, Sylphy." Said Alice.

"Can the System show what effects the new physique has?" I wondered.

"Sadly, no. But I can analyze it. The physique seems to enhance your natural Stamina Recovery and Wounds Recovery by a small amount, and it also allows for you to connect to plants? I think? I don't know what that really means." She said.

"Well, I'll figure it out later. For now, isn't there a new chance to get a new Skill?" I wondered.

"Exactly, now that you've reached Level 10 in the Yggdrasil's Endurance Skill, you can now continue through the Skill Tree... Or go back!" Said Alice.

"Go back?" I wondered.

"Indeed, you're able to choose between trying to pick a new Skill or choose the Skill you didn't pick before." Said Alice.

Chapter 357 Max Level Skill And New Skill Tree Options!

So that's a thing? I had no idea... Maybe we could check the next Skills available and then decide. But I kind of want to see the full description of the Skill at Level 10 first before doing anything else...

[Yggdrasil's Endurance: Lv10]

Skill Proficiency: -- / --

The World Tree Yggdrasil blesses your body with great endurance that can compare to a fraction of its bark's defense.

Passively enhances your Stamina, Defense, and Vitality with each Level, while your skin progressively grows harder and more resistant to blows. Can be used actively to enhance magic and physical defense of your body for a few seconds.

Additionally, it grants a large amount of Nature Attribute Runes distributed through both the body and soul.

Active Effect (10): Enhances your Physical and Magical Defense and Total Endurance by +100% for 10 Minutes. Cooldown: 20 Minutes.

Level Bonus (10): Enhances the Skill Effects by +100%.

Ooh, the Bonus and Effect both were enhanced even more from Level 9 to Level 10... Now the Active effect can last up to 10 whole Minutes, that's nice. It is a way better enhancement now that it can last so long... And that's not all, the Cooldown also increased, I guess to balance it out. Lastly, the effects are once more enhanced by +100% due to the Level Bonus, so I actually get an enhancement to my endurance of +200%! Damn...

"S-Sylphy? Are you okay?" Wondered Alice. "You're making a fascinated face..."

"A-Ahaha... I am just a bit too excited, I guess. I don't remember having received such a great gift ever before such as this one... And I can even pick a new Skill now? This will be my third Skill that can Level up, I can't wait to grind it and gain levels on it!" I said. "This System power is very addicting."

"I see that you're becoming a "gamer"... Even when you come from a world where such concept doesn't exist, haha..." Alice giggled.

"Huh? Gamer?" I wondered. "What does that even mean?"

"It is a term my creator god once spoke about. He said that he needed an avid Gamer from Earth that would be able to abuse the power of a System to its fullest potential. This is why the System is also structured in a way similar to games from Earth." Said Alice.

"So Games... are like systems?!" I asked.

"K-Kind of, well, for someone not from that world, it must be hard to understand. For the moment, do you want to see your available Skill options?" Wondered Alice.

"Yeah, I guess we can leave that for later, and sure!" I said happily, as some System windows emerged in front of my sight.

<Available Skills>

[Spiritual Blessing: Lv1]

You are greatly connected with Spirits, you can feel their emotions, their thoughts, and even their hearts, and connect with them through strong bonds that can last for eternity.

Passively enhances the Magical Power of all Spirits that you've contracted with, while also enhancing their growth speed. Can be used actively to enhance the power of a selected spirit by a certain percentage for a few seconds.

"Oh! This is the previous Skill I didn't pick, isn't it?" I wondered.

"Yes, remember that you can only pick skills from only one previous row of the skill tree, Sylphy, so if you don't pick this one, it will be lost forever. ...Unless it could somehow emerge in other Skill Tree. Additionally, Skills you didn't pick before that you can pick now will have a boost of x2 their Skill Proficiency learning speed, meaning that you can level up at thrice the speed!" Alice said.

"What? I didn't know of that feature at all! Did you design it?" I asked.

"No, it was already within the internal main frame of my database. It is something the God that created me intended for Skill Trees." Said Alice.

"I see... Sounds interesting, you're already tempting me in picking this one, and honestly it seems to be the best one to pick... But let me see the other two." I said, feeling slightly impatient.

"Understood." Alice said, showcasing the system windows.

<Available Skills>

[Divine Fruit of Knowledge: Lv1]

Your knowledge over magic and spirits is greatly enhanced. You might be capable of creating Magic Circles more easily and without the requirement for complicated runes through repeated use of the Skill. You acquire the ability to merge magic of various elements without the negative side effects. You can learn Magic Spells more easily and store them inside of your mind through your great knowledge. Additionally, you're able to share such knowledge and talent through special [Fruits of Knowledge].

Passive Effect (1): Mana Regeneration Speed, Mana, Intelligence, and Resistance by +20%

Active Effect (1): By spending a large quantity of Mana, you can create a [Fruit of Knowledge] that can share 10% of your earned knowledge and experience with magic (and only magic, personal memories and secrets are not shared) with anybody that consumes the fruit.

By consuming the fruit, Mana and Health is restored by 50% of their maximum value and grants a temporary enhance to Mana Regeneration Speed, Total Mana Capacity, Intelligence, and Resistance by +30% for 6 hours. Cooldown: 12 Hours.

W-Woah... What is this Skill?! It's insane. Alice, is this alright to have? Isn't this a bit too godly? I can just create a Fruit that grants Magic Knowledge and Experience and even restores Health and Mana by 50% of their maximum value, so they're not only just amazing healing potions but they also enhance stats temporarily for a whole 6 Hours! The cooldown is big at 12 hours but still, this is very good.

Ah, right, and I don't have to forget that it grants passive enhancement to magic learning speed and everything else such as Intelligence, Resistance, and Maximum Mana Capacity. These boosts are passive and don't show in the status but are always applied. Of course the Mana one won't help much but everything else will be greatly appreciated.

Chapter 358 Choosing A New Skill!

"It's pretty good, right? This is a Tier 4 Farmer Job Skill. This is why it is so strong, but Tiers go beyond in the Skill Tree, and Skills continue to become even stronger. I don't want to praise my creator or

anything, but he gave such power even to the Farmer Job because he can't decide which Job is assigned to the user, this is assigned based in their environment and innate talents, alongside accumulated previous life experience." Said Alice.

"W-Wait a second, so I am not a Farmer because of my father?" I wondered.

"If it were up for your father you would be a Hero! But no, your [Farmer] Class is because of your previous life, you spent roughly 16 years being a Farmer after all, Sylphy." Said Alice.

"...Right, I guess." I sighed. I only spent 2 years training to be an assassin, so its make sense I am more talented at being a Farmer than an Assassin. But still! The truth was quite shocking now that I get to know it well, and yeah, it puts me down a little bit.

"D-Don't feel bad about being a Farmer, the Class comes with amazing Skills, isn't it, Sylphy? This one you just saw was great already!" Alice said, trying to cheer me up.

"Yeah, you're right. I am quite hungry though; I want to eat breakfast... So let's look at the other Skill and then grab the Skill I want." I said, as I looked at the next Skill. There were always a choice of two after all.

[Great Harvest Familiar Summon: Lv1]

Thanks to your great talent as a farmer and with your great connection with nature, you're capable of harboring the power of nature into the seeds you nourish and plant, creating powerful minions from seeds you've previously placed in the ground. Great Harvest allows for the quick creation of [Harvest Familiars] that are strengthened versions of such monsters, possessing unique traits and abilities that distinguish each one.

[Harvest Familiars] can be created beforehand by modifying existing seeds or creating their seeds, which can be stored inside the [Seed Pouch], which has a limited amount of storage that can be increased with the Skill level. Each [Harvest Familiar] will be summoned immediately by the command of the user as long as the seeds are lay over the floor, the necessity of using Mana is only required when creating

[Harvest Familiars Seeds]. Familiars' strength is not only based in Skill Level but also in the growth of the user, therefore, they can keep growing stronger outside of Skill Level.

Passive Effect (1): Enhances All Stats of Summoned [Harvest Familiars] by +20% and grants new types of Familiars with each Level.

Active Effect (1): Grants the Ability to create [Harvest Familiar Seeds] of varied types of [Harvest Familiars] and to be able to summon them at any time as long as their seeds are placed in the ground. Additionally, the [Seed Pouch] allows for the storage of such seeds and easy retrieval. Seed Creation Cooldown: 1 Hour.

Available [Harvest Familiars]:

Level 1: [Running Radish], [Explosive Potato]

Huh?! As if the first one couldn't be anymore great, then comes this! I can... pretty much Summon brand new "Familiars"! W-Woah... I kind of want every Skill now! Both look so great... So this is the power of Tier 4 Farmer Class Skills. That idiot God is really great at his imagination if he can do such a thing with his ideas.

"This is a special Skill, it doesn't give you any direct powerup or benefit, but it allows for the creation of stronger Plant Monsters named Harvest Familiars. I knew you would like this one because it will allow you to slowly build your own little army of veggies. Bear in mind that Harvest Familiars are similar to Plant Monsters and cannot grow stronger independently. Also their health is not the highest so they might die after a few hits." Said Alice.

"There are some more defensive ones, but each one is specialized in certain things, so one cannot do everything. They, however, don't die off after some time, and you can revert them into seeds if they have yet to die through the usage of a lot of MP... but I doubt that's gonna be a problem for you! Oh right, the Skill also gives you a small Storage Item you can summon at any time named [Seed Pouch] where you can put the seeds and save them safely." Alice added.

"That's so great! I want this Skill so badly! O-Or the other too? It can also be great as it let me create healing fruits that restore HP and MP... Ugh, so many decisions! Though, wouldn't it be better to get the Spirit Skill first if it can level up at thrice the speed?" I wondered.

"Yes, if you do so, new Skills will open as well, as you'll be walking through the other path of the Skill Tree, the Spiritual Path!" Said Alice.

"Spiritual Path... Sounds interesting... Alright, let's pick the Spirit Skill!

Ding!

[You have chosen the [Spiritual Blessing: Lv1] Skill!]

[The [Spiritual Blessing: Lv1] Skill has received a [Compensation Enhancement]!]

[The [Spiritual Blessing: Lv1] Skill can now level up at thrice the speed and has received bonus enhancements!]

"Bonus Enhancements? So not only just the level up at thrice the speed but something else?"

"Yes, look it up!"

[Spiritual Blessing: Lv1]

Skill Proficiency: 0/1000 (x3)

You are greatly connected with Spirits, you can feel their emotions, their thoughts, and even their hearts, and connect with them through strong bonds that can last for eternity.

Passively enhances the All Stats of all Spirits and Familiars that you've contracted with, while also enhancing their growth speed. Can be used actively to enhance the power of selected Spirit and Familiars by a certain percentage for a few minutes. Additionally, connecting with Spirits now becomes easier.

Passive Effect (1): Permanently Enhances Spirits and Familiars All Stats, HP and MP Regeneration Speed and earned EXP by +10%. Spirits can connect more with their Master, increasing the synchronization of Master and Spirit by +20%.

Active Effect (1): Temporarily grants [Blessing] to a target Spirit or Familiar, increasing All their Stats, HP and MP Regeneration Speed and earned EXP by +20% for 30 Minutes. Cooldown: 1 Hour.

Level Bonus (1): Enhances the Skill Effects by +10%.

It seems that the Skill was indeed boosted, not only it can grow faster but it even got new effects...

"So how do you like it?" Wondered Alice with a cheerful voice.

"It's amazing!" I said happily.

"Indeed! Now you could try to- Ah, someone is coming!" Alice said, quickly retrieving back to my Soul Scape.

Suddenly, the curtains of the room opened and a little girl appeared.

Is it Aquarina?

"H-Hi? Is this Sir Shade home? Ah!"

However, it wasn't Aquarina, but an adorable little girl with blue skin and small black horns.

Chapter 359 A New Little Girl

"H-Hello..."

The little girl surprised me. Who is she? She's clearly from a tribe from the demon continent based in her characteristics. Is she from the orphanage? Maybe Mist and Celeste came with the children to play here?

Nonetheless, I quickly jumped off bed.

"Hello! Are you lost, dear?" I asked curiously. As she nodded timidly.

"Y-Yeah... Wow... Y-Your ears are pointy like the lady... Your skin is white too, very bright..." She said, slowly admiring me. "Red hair! Like mister Allan..."

"Huh? You want to touch me skin? Here." I said. I decided to let her satiate her curiosity, as her tiny blue hand touched my skin, I quickly realized her hands were rough and not soft at all, she was filled with scars.

"Smooth..." She said.

"A-Anyways, what's your name? What are you doing here?" I wondered. The girl seemed to not have a clear focus, though she said she was looking for Shade.

"I-I... I was brought here by Mister Allan and Shade... T-They said they will bring mama back... S-So I have to be strong with Mister Teddy... And wait here... B-But I got lost..." She sighed.

Awww... She's so cute my heart is melting.

And... apparently my father and Shade brought her? So she's not from the orphanage? And also bring her mother back... Who is she?

"I see...! My name is Sylphy, I am Mister Allan's daughter! I am eight years old, and you?" I asked.

"Mister... Allan's daughter? Wow! ...A-And my name's C-Celica... This is Mister Teddy..." Celica timidly hid behind her plushie, as she moved his little arm as if it were greeting me.

"Nice to meet you Mister Teddy, hehe." I giggled, as I gently petted Celica, she seemed timid and closed her eyes, but realized I meant no harm. "Don't be afraid, you're so cute I couldn't help but give you a pat."

"Hmm... C-Can you help me find Mister Allan, Sylphy?" Asked the little Celica, her eyes were like those of a puppy, I cannot resist.

"Yes, of course! Let's go outside, give me your hand so you won't get lost." I said.

"Hmm... B-But my hand is ugly..." She said.

"Ugly?" I asked.

"Sylphy's too pretty... My hands... rough..." She sighed.

"Eeeh? What are you talking about? Look, I got a ton of scars!" I said, showing Celica my belly and back, quickly finding out the large scars I had from Hell's battle several years ago.

"S-So many..." She said.

"Yeah, I went through my fair bit of challenges!" I said with a smile. "Honestly, I like my scars. It shows that I was strong enough to survive these challenges. Don't be shy about them, they're a trophy that shows you've survived until now!"

"Ooohh... Trophy...?" Celica said surprised.

"Yes, like something you're proud of. Instead of making it your weakness, why not make it your strength? Something to bring out courage?" I asked with a smirk.

"Courage... I-I don't know..." Celica said.

"Come on, give me your hand, I'll guide you. We are not so different." I said with a smile. "And you're not ugly, you're a cute girl! I'm sure you'll grow to be even prettier."

"Pwetty... Me?" Celica blushed, as her blue face turned slightly red. She shyly covered her face with her Mister Teddy.

"Yeah! Now, let's go, let's not keep ourselves here. I am super hungry! Are you hungry?" I wondered.

"Yeah... I'm hungry..." She said.

"Let's eat something yummy then!" I guided Celica as she finally trusted me enough to give her my hand. It was slightly rough due to her scars, but it was still soft for me.

We walked outside my tent after I put on my sandals. The morning was slightly cold but I could bear with it easier than before. Perhaps it might be because of my Physique.

Walking over the grass, we quickly reached the big tent where my parents were. In the way, I had noticed a whole lot of new people, none of them human, nor elf or dwarf. Some had horns, others more animalistic features, beast-kin, and demons, probably.

Filled with questions in my mind, I reached the large tent where my mother was cooking a large pot of stew with meat and potatoes and sharing it with everybody. The stew looked good, honestly. It had generous chunks of meat and big pieces of potatoes and carrots, the people was wolfing it down happily.

"Everyone is eating yummy food?" Celica wondered, sucking her thumb.

"Ah, Sylphy! You're here." My mother greeted me, as I noticed my father, Shade, and Nepheline giving out plates with stew and a piece of bread to the people.

"Y-Yeah, what happened? Who are these people? I also found this little treasure when she arrived at my tent..." I said, referring to Celica.

"Aunt Faylen, I'm hungry..." Celica slowly walked towards my mother.

"Here you go dear, come sit down with Sylphy to eat." My mother said, putting the food over the table, as Celica ran there and sat down. "These people are former slaves your father and his friend rescued last night. Sigh... For now they'll join us until they decide to either go on their own. I have already made up my mind that they might stick with us."

"My father did what?!" I asked in shock.

"Yeah I expected that response. Your father and Shade went out and rescued some slaves, not only that, those two also stomped over the organization holding them captives and now made them their underlings. They'll infiltrate other organizations to rescue more people. I think..." My mother sighed, she seemed slightly stressed out about the whole thing.

"My father is really reckless!" I said. I had to recognize it. He was more reckless than even me. There was no way I would just infiltrate another organization, especially as weak as I am. Ah, I guess it doesn't apply to my father and Shade, they're both monsters.

"SIGH! Finally someone agree with me! This is why you're my daughter." My mother said, kissing my forehead. "Here, go eat with Celica for now, we'll explain things to you later."

"Okay then..." I sighed. "By the way, where's Aquarina and Zack?"

"Both are helping in sharing food and helping getting clothes to the people, they already ate." My mother said. "You woke up a bit late today as usual..."

"Hahaha... I guess..."

Maybe cultivating at night makes me more exhausted, so I end up oversleeping...

Chapter 360 Celica's Story

Apparently, my father and Shade went off at night and did all sorts of things! Honestly, I wish I could had been there to see them fight and be badass. But I am a little girl still, and weak, so I can't do much myself. Yeah I might be able to defeat some monsters but I am not even close to my parents in levels of power.

I guess my father reached the level of strength where he can pretty much do anything he wants to an extent, but even then, he still fears society as a whole. I guess you can only get so far with pure raw strength. Though, magic is convenient at the time of being stealthy. I bet Shade has a giant assortment of Spells that allow him to easily sneak inside places and everything else.

"So you were a former slave, Celica?" I wondered.

"Uguh..." Celica swallowed a bit of a potato when I asked that. Maybe I was a bit too rough with the question.

"A-Are you okay?" I asked desperately, but she drank a bit of water and got better.

"Yeah..." She sighed.

"Ah... Well." I said. I didn't really know what to ask her. It might be better to just not rub salt on the wound.

"I was caught by bad guys..." Sighed Celica. "Mama too... Mister Teddy was taken away as well..."

"Eh? Really? Were you from some tribe?" I wondered. As Celica nodded.

"No... The city." She said.

"S-So you were just kidnaped in your own city by the same people that later sell slaves?! That's awful..." I sighed. "W-Well, we'll take good care of you here, so relax. My parents are super strong, and I am decently strong myself, I won't let anything lay a finger on you!"

"Thank you... Nobody had ever treated us... this nicely before..." Celica cried. "People is always awful... T-They always say my blue skin is ugly..."

"Did they? Well, they're all a bunch of idiots! Your blue skin is very pretty, like blueberries!" I said. "Do you like blueberries, Celica?"

"I-I do... Mama used to... pick them up at the forest..." She said. "They were sweet... Sniff... I miss mama..."

"...I am sure your mom will be rescued in its due time, don't worry... My parents are strong and reliable. Let's trust them in this one, okay?" I asked Celica.

"Hm! Mister Allan and Shade promised to me... To bring my mama back..." Celica said while feeling slightly hopeful.

"I was surprised when I learned my father is doing so many reckless things, but if he does them to help others, then I guess I can't help but feel prideful of having a father like him." I sighed. "You know? There's an orphanage with a lot of different children, some are like you too, with horns and different skin colors."

"Really?" Wondered Celica.

"Yeah, the people there is nice as well, and we are protecting them too. Want to come with me to go see them later? You'll have tons of fun, and nobody is going to laugh at you for your skin color, or your horns, or anything." I said.

"Other kids like me?" Wondered Celica. "Really?"

"Yeah! You've never met more like you?" I wondered.

"No..." Celica sighed. "W-When mama brought me to the plaza, people would look weird at me... They threw stones at my mama, and the other kids didn't liked me... They said I was ugly and that blue color wasn't natural for skin color... But mama is blue too... So why..."

"Sigh..."

People can really be awful sometimes. The resentment against demons is strong, even after the Demon King was killed. Even more now after the war where some of the demons that survived the war roam here, or their descendants, such as Celica and her mother. Perhaps her mother was a former soldier, a member of the ones that invaded the Gallatea continent.

"People can be really awful sometimes... The resentment of wars ferment hate towards anybody of that certain group, and they discriminate individuals that had little to do with their suffering... I am sure your mother was someone goodhearted if she raised such a cute girl like you. As I said before, those people are idiots and just biased, they can't really see the big picture. There's different people all over the world, discriminating because of skin color or because you got horns is stupid, we are all people at the end." I said with a smile, trying to cheer her up.

"Hmm... Mama said that she used to be part of war..." Sighed Celica. "She said she was forced to come here because her family was poor and they needed the money given to them by the Demon King."

"Money?" I wondered. Suddenly, I had a small flashback, recalling the memories I saw from Furoh. He was also recruited by the Demon King army through money. It seems that the Demon Continent has a

lot of poverty, maybe even worse than Gallatea. People desperately sending part of their families so the rest of the family can survive with the money earned... doesn't sound so far-fetched to me.

"Yeah... But mom said she never killed any human. She hesitated and ended running away before joining the battle..." Celica said. "She said she had realized she was pregnant. Daddy is in the Demon Continent..."

"S-So she enlisted while being pregnant?" I asked.

"S-She didn't know..." Celica sighed.

Just what conditions were demons living on to send a young girl to war just for some pennies? Maybe... What her mother told her is not the complete truth. After all, you can't tell your daughter the entire truth, she probably sugar-coated the truth with some lies. Maybe things... are not as simple as that.

Whatever's the case, I don't have anything to do with Celica's mother story. I won't simply discriminate if she killed humans or not either.

"I'm sure your mother is very strong if she survived this long while raising you. Don't worry." I said.
"We'll find her."

I hope...
