

Be Honest! 281

Chapter 281 Loki's Suggestion

Haha~

Loki's eyes tilted upwards the more he laughed.

New toy. A new toy and chess piece had been added to this fun game. So how could he not be happy?

Immediately, his brain began to spin. And soon, a bad thought came to mind.

'Would it be bad if I want my dear friend to lose?'

If Lucifer knew his thoughts, he would undoubtedly risk it all in beating the sh** out of him.

Initially, Loki had wanted Lucifer to succeed just to see what the heavens would do.

Indeed. He wanted chaos and mischief to dill the place to his contempt.

But in all this, no one thought of the humans.

Heheheheh~

What would happen if the underdogs that no one factored in ended up victorious?

A creepy smile plastered on Loki's face.

Not the heavens, not Lucifer and his gang, not the newbie demons... But the weaklings no one thought of.

Good. Good!...

Loki licked his lips so much that he almost scabbed them away with his tongue.

'I'm so bad... But I like it!'

Imagining how his dear friend's hopes would get crushed and turned into hatred was enough to give him ecstasy.

His friend has been working for millenniums to get to this point. Yet, it would come crashing down with an unknown factor that they overlooked from the beginning of time.

Chaos... Carnage... Disbelief... Unwillingness...

Hahahahahaha~

Humans were the new chess pieces, and already, he had decided on who would bring it the best shock and turmoil.

Hey... You can't blame him for this.

Who asked his so-called friends to prop themselves high to the moon?

The greater the expectations, the bigger the disappointment.

Would his friend have a 'heart attack?' Will he go crazed with fury and turn berserk? How will humans deal with this? If they defeated him, wouldn't his dear friend puke blood and faint from too much rage? How would the heavens punish his dear friend?

Countless intriguing questions popped into Loki's mind.

The more he envisioned things, the more his heart trembled with glee.

What was interesting was that he didn't feel guilty one bit, knowing that he just saw Lucifer not too long ago.

[Lucifer]: (--_--) So after sending me on this deadly hunt, you still have the guts not to take my side? Tell me the truth, are you just toying with me?

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Loki rubbed his chin playfully.

'Hmmm... I still have to work with all sides, turning things to the way I want.'

After all, how can it be fun if he didn't add a little bit of space and sugar the closer the dateline approached?

He might've already changed his mind on whom he wanted to stand victorious, but that didn't mean he couldn't change his mind later on.

To him, no decision was ever permanent. It would all depend on how much this new chess piece satisfied his appetite.

Loki's eyes flickered with a strange yet cruel light.

If he decided to go with Dorian and tomorrow, Dorian's actions aren't as entertaining to him, then changing his mind was nothing but a thought.

And of course, to do this, wouldn't it be right for him to sell out his Information to brutally punish this chess piece for wasting his time and attention on him?

Because Loki was still a strange lesser God, he developed a certain level of pride etched into his veins.

If he showed favor to a mortal, that person better be damn sure worth it, or they would have himself to contempt with.

And believe him, he had a million ways of dealing with unwanted or broken chess pieces.

His a dangerous stare, he squinted his eyes at Dorian.

'For your sake, you better be interesting and entertaining to this daddy!'

Dorian was also observing him too.

'How odd... System, he has noticed you.'

[Ah!-... Host, host... How do you know?]

'Take it as a feeling... You're too stupid to understand.'

["..."]

Whose side was its host on again?

What did it do you warrant this insult?

Aggrieved.

The system had no tears but wanted to cry.

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Oh?

The corners of Dorian's lips tilted ever so slightly.

Even though Loki was a lesser God, his antics and ingeniousness were known to exorcists and ordinary mortals in many worlds.

A lesser God who could do so much to the main gods only meant his capabilities were far from few.

Even now, he was supposed to be locked up, yet he had bypassed the 'security' put in place by those prominent Gods and had ventured through the cosmos undetected.

So wasn't it strange that he couldn't see the system?

'How intriguing. It looks like my idiotic system is far more valuable than I thought.'

Even the other prominent Gods and Goddesses might not be able to spot it.

So how powerful was the being that created it? Did that being know something about himself?

Was it truly an 'error' for him to come into this world? His stupid system might think this, but Dorian didn't believe it.

When he arrived in this world, the system had said it had brought the wrong host over.

However, as time passed by, it was more apparent he was brought here on purpose.

Coincidences of this kind were too unbelievable.

But what was also strange was himself and his sense of familiarity with the several more polished spells and books granted to him by the system.

Several factors made him doubt himself.

But if not that he had checked his soul essence and being, he would've sworn he wasn't mortal.

Dorian's interest in the system's master was once again piqued.

Who was it?

Who designed him to come here?

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Looking at Loki, Dorian decided to put the matter of his strangeness behind him.

"God Loki, I'm a busy man who doesn't like to ramble. So just cut to the chase and come out with it... What do you want with me?"

What did he want?

Heh.

With a playful expression on his face, Loki floated beside him.

"What if I told you I wanted to help you?"

Chapter 282 A Good Pat On The Back

"Grandmaster, I have returned."

Opening the limo's door, Butler Shen quickly sent his master in, fearing that he might've taken too long to return.

'Hmm...'

Dorian answered very lightly, sitting in the vehicle.

A gave one brief look at the forest. And soon, they were off.

Make a deal with that trickster? No way.

Dorian had neither accepted nor shown interest in whatever the man had to say.

Their conversation had gone a little something like this.

[Loki]: You have a lot of enemies, so why don't I help you free of charge?

[Dorian]: Thank you, but I think I can manage things for now. How much more interesting would it be to have me win without anyone's help?

His words had not only made Loki overly excited but had also saved his neck too.

He didn't want that troublemaker butting into his work and plans in and out. So to make the guy let him be, this was the only way.

Dorian had more or less grasped the mindset of this perverted and sick God.

What the guy wanted was good entertainment.

Dorian didn't know it, but initially, Loki planned to return in 2 years to see the big showdown.

But now... because of his interest in Dorian, Loki had decided to come over several months later.

That's right.

He was so pumped up that he planned to further crack the code of the room holding him, giving him more time to roam the cosmos undetected.

Apart from being an entertaining Chess Piece, something else intrigued him. And that was Dorian as a whole.

What exactly were his origins?

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How odd.

Loki could see far into the origins of many heavenly beings and even Lucifer and those in the underworld... Talk less of seeing into a mortal with a single glance.

So why?

Why was this guy shrouded in a layer of mist when he tried to peer in?

No way!

Loki hated to admit it, but unless he figured out Dorian's origins, he wouldn't allow anyone to kill Dorian. Not even the heavens or those in the underworld.

What was funny was that with his overly inquisitive nature, success and mischief, he felt as though the matter was holding him hostage, preventing him from playing too much with Dorian.

Remember, he was a being who could get information at the drop of a hat in many places many couldn't.

There has never been any secret he wanted to find that he didn't.

So how could Dorian's matter not intrigue him?

If possible, he would've loved to strap Dorian on a chair and begin experimentation.

Too bad he always had those damn heavenly dogs on his ass, always trying to monitor his movements nonstop.

If not that he left a look-alike dummy in his cell, do you think he would be out here?

His time was limited since after a while, the prison system he cracked would be restored to its original form, destroying his dummy.

In the end, Loki was too interested in Dorian to see him die anytime soon.

Even without Dorian saying a thing, he decided to hold off the bigger threats far beyond Dorian's powers.

The boy was too weak! It would be a pity if he attracted the top deadly beings so soon.

Thinking like that, Loki appeared in another mortal world, discussed himself as another powerful demon, sweeping thousands of creatures at will.

But how did he do this without the demons feeling that a heavenly being was attacking them?

Heh...

That was all Loki's secret. As a trickster, if he couldn't even do this much in manipulation, then wouldn't his title be undeserving?

You look down on him too much!

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--In another world.--

"Ahhhhhhh~"

Many creatures wailed in pain as an entire estate went in flames. To the mortal eye, these flames were ordinary. But to those in the underworld, how could they not recognize flames baptized by the abyss?

With hate in their eyes, they looked at the being that caused it all.

"Seguros! How dare you?!"

"We see that after you newbie prince killed Asmodeus (prince of pride), you all are getting too bold! You dare to hit our prince of greed, Mammon's camp?! Bold!!!"

The men in the villa burned away into nothingness, filled with rage and absolute hate.

Till their last seconds, they were convinced that it was this guy, Seguros, that killed them.

But at the very last moment when their soul was taken in judgment, they were so baffled and stunned into a daze.

"..."

What just happened?

After an underworld being kills another, shouldn't they get reborn into the abyss?

So why was it that they were now heading to the heavenly realm for judgment to get sent for judgment and countless reincarnations instead?

The energy and evil essence that killed them couldn't be called. So was it an error in the matrix?

Heh.

The answer was simple.

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Loki had mimicked, hypnotized, and manipulated things so much that even the angels checking these creatures wouldn't understand why these creatures were sent to heaven after getting killed by their fellow underworld beings.

Hey... Loki was still supposed to be locked up. So how could he reveal himself?

Please!!!

With a wave of his hand, he killed all except one, leaving them to report the matter to their prince.

Like so, Loki began his play.

Whether they were from the old princes or the newbie princes.

Sometimes he would use raw strength, other times, he would mimic his ability to resemble those in the underworld, and so on.

Sigh... Could he say that it was almost too easy?

With fake horns popping out of his flesh, he held the survivors from the old Princes' sides, asking where the world they planned to make their biggest attack was.

No doubt, his actions would hasten the need for the old princes to clean up the new princes before all their plans were exposed.

Additionally, he also leaked 5~8% or a fraction of the plan to the newbie princes by acting as a trembling demon who was caught on the spot before sneaking away like a rabbit running for their life.

Heh.

Of course, seeing that he also destroyed many of the supreme beings from the newbie princes, you best believe they would also go to war with the old ones.

And during this time, because they wouldn't want that world to be discovered, the old princes would definitely limit entry into these worlds or stop their men from going in and out for the time being.

Laying low was best, lest they get followed by the enemy.

In that case, wouldn't their plans be all but futile?

Hey... Loki did so much that he wanted to pat himself on the back.

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And just like that, he managed to keep the big top dogs focused on the war between all princes.

Heh.

No one ever thought of the humans or the real culprit acting in the shadows.

'Good... this should keep them busy for a while... hmmm... until I decipher the boy's origins, no one is to kill my plaything!'

Chapter 283 A Trip Away

Like so, the days went by fast.

The underworld was in turmoil, and all forces were in rage.

The newbie princes wanted to know what plans the old princes were cooking up.

Another bloody war was inevitable, with major and powerful creatures being called back.

Again, things were getting lost and missing, with several important pieces getting stolen by each 'side.'

Mammoth, prince of greed, found the item he worked hard to locate already promoted with words saying it was with the new princes.

Belphegor, prince of sloth, was also going crazy finding out that the enhancer he worked so hard to prepare for millenniums now got stolen.

What's worse, he couldn't smear it in the underworld? So didn't this mean it could be hidden in any of the billions of worlds out there?

Dammit!!!

The entire underworld was in utter chaos.

The field stench of death emitted strongly.

No one had time to focus on other matters except these.

Sigh... The days had gone by just like that, unbeknownst to Dorian.

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--Tian Estate.--

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Dorian sat in the dining, eating a simple yet fulfilling breakfast with tea.

And as he ate, Chan-Ki and Raulin calmly brought down his luggage from above, taking them to one of the vehicles, alongside a few exorcist materials in the wooden boxes.

It was clear that today would be a sunny day. Yet, because the Grandmaster was going on this far away trip, his absence only caused a gloomy atmosphere in the air.

Maybe because Dorian had always been with them from the onset, having him leave for so long was indeed too strange for them.

But of course, they would never slack around, keeping the estate's matters up to speed until the Grandmaster returned.

The only person heading out with the Grandmaster was Chan-ki.

He also placed his luggage in the boot of the vehicle and took an extra coat just to be sure.

Alright. They were good to go.

All that was left was the Grandmaster to make the call.

Gulp.

Angzen swallowed hard, secretly taking a few peeks of his student.

As promised, Dorian had agreed to escort him back to his rural village where he was born and brought up.

Being called a village only meant that the settlement site had a small population of 500~4,000.

The youth in the village, just like himself, all dream of moving away to the big cities as soon as they can.

Some stay back, inheriting their family's farms, lands, and businesses, while others return from the city after failure to officially settle in.

All in all, his village has always had a steady and seldom changing population flow.

Though the landmass was extensive with many farms and homes scattered about, the population had always been small and has always been a problem for the village heads who all wanted to grow their villages bigger.

Of course, his village also had a factory set up by some big guy in one of the major cities.

The factory provided a lot of income for them village folk, with at least one child or person in a family working in the factory.

Often, the oldest would inherit while the rest would have to find work in the factory or do other petty street businesses.

But even with the factory out in place, not many based in bigger places would leave their prosperous cities to travel to these remote villages for work while living in homes they weren't used to.

Thus, the population had always been relatively constant.

Angzen's body shook anxiously.

Can anyone tell him why he didn't notice this student was so intimidating?

Maybe because this was his first time in such a wealthy estate or because of what he knew about Dorian that made him a little frightened to anger this God.

'I have to be careful not to offend him, or wouldn't I die without anyone finding my corpse?'

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Angzen held his toasted loaf of bread with trembling hands, trying to contain himself.

"Student Dorian... After I used your talismans, the gloomy air around me faded. And no one else around me also had accidents. So is it time for me to stop using it?"

"Hmmm... Should be." Dorian replied calmly.

Before sending Angzen on his way, Dorian had kept his parents' ghost in a pendant.

Following that, he had given Angzen ghost warding talismans and instructions on how to balance his Yin and Yang, seeing that he came into too much Yin contact thanks to his ghostly parents.

Dorian lazily glanced at him from the corners of his eyes. "Eat up. We have a long day ahead of us."

"Ah!-... Yes!"

Angzen quickly dug into the meal without delay.

After all, his student was right.

They had to leave quickly, it would take 16 hours to drive to his village.

So today, they would spend their time on the road. And tomorrow, they'll begin with whatever needs doing in his village.

According to what the Grandmaster said, they might stay there for a day or even 2, based on the situation at hand.

That's why even though he packed light, he entered to take all necessities with him.

Like so, Dorian and Angzen finished their meal, heading out towards the vehicle.

"Shen, Bewoh, Haru, Raulin, Zhulyn... You 5 know your tasks. Your top priority is my parents, followed by everything else guarding the estate and the academy. Pandrol is here with you. So guard these places and continue training."

"Yes, Grandmaster!"

Say no more. They would do as he said.

With that, Dorian, Chan-ki, and Angzen took off.

But some nosy people just couldn't help themselves from reporting what they saw.

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'What? Leaving for a long trip?'

Alice felt obligated to report this to Mr. Green fast. This could help her quicken things up!

[Sir, they just left the mansion for a long trip.]

Message sent.

In the hotel, Green's face turned distorted.

He had also gotten news that Dorian's vehicle had left the estate, but he thought they were moving around the city.

A trip?

Dammit!

He grabbed his headpiece fiercely.

"After them! No matter how far they go, stay in their tail!!!"

Snake and the rest were on edge, feeling that their target was getting more mysterious by the day.

But they weren't the only ones feeling overly anxious.

In a town between Angzen's village and this city, an even stranger sight was occurring.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhh~"

A woman screamed with all her might, seeing her husband step into their home.

Her heart pounded as she used her hands to crawl backward in horror.

"No! No! No!~... How can you be here? I buried you last year."

Her pupils dilated, and her hairs stood erect.

Someone... Anyone... Please save her from this nightmare.

Chapter 284 High Peak Town

"No! No!.... Ahhhhhhhh!~~~~~."

The petrified woman seated on the floor released a terror-filled scream with widened her eyes.

Her ghoulish scream spoke of her tremors as though she already had one foot already in the grave.

However, in no more than 5 seconds, the screams stopped, and everything returned to normal.

But what could have happened?

What mysteries lay within this strange town?

And what about the stage fog that had now fully engulfed the scene?

Evening due? Was it cold due to the town's resting position above the towering hills?

Things were never as they seemed.

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Vrmmm~~!

Dorian, Chan-ki, and teacher Angzen were now on the road to Soppo village.

The clear was silent, with Dorian closing his eyes and leaning back, Chan-ki on the driver's wheel, and Angzen reading a book.

It was his usual practice to read while traveling.

As an intellect, he did enjoy getting drawn into the worlds of many authors while using the light engine noises from cars, buses, and trains on his voyages as soothing sounds of focus.

It was just that on this particular rip, his nerves were all over the place, with him taking several peeks at this former student of his.

His belly knotted with a thousand butterflies and his muscles clenched on edge.

Inwardly, he was glad that Dorian chose to 'sleep,' or else how would he have communicated with this student Grandmaster of his?

The awkwardness was so real.

As an enthusiastic educator, if it were the past, he would probably spend at least a small portion of the trip educating his student about life or school. But now, he didn't dare to do so whether Dorian was awake or not.

'How to communicate with this former student of mine?'

He found that apart from the elephant in the room, A.K.A his ghostly parents, he couldn't talk about anything else.

Ring!!!~~

His phone startled him, causing him to throw it up in the air and catch it clumsily.

It was his wife.

"You can take it," Chan-ki stated.

They weren't criminals holding him hostage. So teacher Angzen could do as he pleased. Yet... Why was he still on edge as though a gun was pointed at him?

[Have you left yet?]

"Yes..." Angzen replied, trying to sound calm. His wife didn't know about the matter of his parents turning into ghosts.

If he told her, wouldn't she think him going insane from all the pressure on him?

By then, it wouldn't be long before the nosy neighbors also get wind of it, calling a clinic to take him away for their own safety.

After all, mad people could also harm others.

His wife's worried voice echoed out. [Ang... You must remember to come back fast. That shark loaner will harm the children and I if you take too long. I don't want to sound rude and wicked. But after all you've done and given to your sister and your parents, it's only fair that they should be able to gather something for you. We need the money!!]

Angzen's hands trembled. "I know. I will be back soon. Stay safe."

Tut...

He hung up, seemingly lost in thought.

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Angzen ran his hands on his neck, relieving his built-up stress.

His wife didn't know that his parents were already dead. If she knew, she would've wanted to take the children to pay their respects to them for the last time.

Though his parents didn't like her in the past, she didn't take these things to heart all that much, maybe because his wife also grew up in a home where her mother wasn't liked by her grandparents.

The woman took it all with a pinch of salt. If you don't care for her, she won't care for you.

Back then, she was seen as disrespectful because of her attitude. But Angzen didn't judge her or force her to do any filial piety acts as a daughter-in-law to his parents.

They would abuse their powers and make things difficult for her if given the opportunity to do so.

Thinking about the situation at hand, he was going back to Pollo village not only to put his parents to rest, but also to take back all the money he sent his dear sister.

And when he meant all... He truly meant ALL!

Everything he's been sending for the last few years would definitely be collected. And if she couldn't spit out the money, then their parent's home, farms, and land she took as hers would be given back to him. Additionally, an IOU was in order.

Angzen didn't know how Dorian would make her sort it all out. But he was confident with this student of his.

Surely, the Grandmaster had his way of doing things, no?

With his reading glasses on, Angzen shook his head, forcing himself to focus on the book in his hands.

Apollo village was 16 hours away. And they've only been on the road for 3 hours at best.

The driver, Chan-ki, had mentioned to him that in the next 2 hours, they'll enter another city to have lunch.

And 6 hours after that, they'll enter another town called High Peak town for a meal.

The name High Peak was because the town was positioned high up the hilly/mountain-like terrain.

Angzen had heard of this town before but had never been there in person... Though he had seen the highway signs leading to the town on multiple occasions.

The town was 5 hours away from Pollo village.

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Vrmmm~~~

The vehicle drove along the highway in silence.

And in no time, they drove into another city for lunch 2 hours later.

Following that, they drive again for an additional 6 hours.

And wouldn't you know it? It was once again time to have dinner.

Dorian, who had been closing his eyes throughout the trip, suddenly opened them and started up the high power from afar.

High Peak town.

That was it.

"Fog?"

Angzen blurted out, wondering if he would need his jacket when stepping out.

It's normal for High Peak to develop a whiff of fog, seeing how high up it was whole surrounded by Nature's blessings.

But what was strange was that in the dead of summer, High Peak was still cold, so much so that fog could emerge from the scene.

Seeing that it was now 9:15 P.M

Though the scene was visible, the sun was now in its late setting phase, revealing a fiery orange/pinkish hue.

'Could it be that even during summer nights, High Peak still gets so cold?'

After all, no matter how bright it was outside, it was now evening.

And judging from the already dimming sunset, in another 10 minutes or so, the entire land should be engulfed in darkness.

In other words, by the time they reach High Peak, no ray of sunlight would be present.

'I better suit up.' Angzen thought, already reaching for his jacket.

He took it on a whim. But who would've known he would actually use it?

Sure enough, the old saying works true for every situation... Better safe than sorry... Better to be prepared than surprised.

Vrmmmmmm~~~~

The vehicle drove in without delay.

Unlike other regions that have their towns and cities relatively close to the branched-off main highway, one would have to force for an additional 20 minutes to get into the High Peak town's entrance.

Though it was already past 9 P.M, such small towns always had 24-hour diners and fast food places for passing travelers.

Though from the looks of the scanty roads, this place shouldn't have that many people visiting it in and out.

At least, this was what Angzen summarized.

But Dorian had another theory to things.

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Up they drove to High Peak.

,m And the further they advanced, the thicker the fog.

F***!

How cold was it?

Angzen's jaw nearly dropped, watching the fog form a layer of smoke-like coat on the windows.

'Is that precipitation? Did it rain or something?

With how thick the fog was growing, even seeing the road ahead was becoming a daunting task.

~Flick.

Chan-ki turned on the headlights and steadied his speed ahead.

The Grandmaster didn't need to warn him.

Already, he felt the strangeness in the air.

'This fog isn't normal!'

What was even stranger was that there were no vehicles along the path? No vehicles going down at all. But this was weird. This was a town and not a village.

No matter how desolate it was, at least one person should be moving or driving a vehicle down the slope.

Chan-ki narrowed his eyes, throwing them towards every corner with a vigilant light.

'I have a bad feeling about this.'

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Angzen puffed a breath onto the window, seeing it fog up in an instant.

Flabbergasted was far from what he felt.

High Peak Town...

The place gave him an uneasy feeling. But seeing that the others were calm and without worries, Angzen thought he was overthinking things.

'Clean up.'

Angzen subconsciously frowned, pulling his sleeves forward to whip away the fog he created on the window.

But soon, his arm froze dead on its tracks.

One blinks, and what he thought he saw seemed like a figment of his imagination.

Angzen laid back in his seat, feeling that he probably saw nothing but trees.

He completely threw the matter behind him, feeling his belly gurgle for a meal.

Crossing his legs, he glanced at his phone to pass the time.

The fog made sightseeing impossible.

So to him, their journey into High Peak wouldn't be a noteworthy one

But little did he know that this seemingly ordinary town was where their nightly story would begin.

Chapter 285 Into The Town, We Go

Bam!

The trio stepped out of the vehicle, looking at the foggy scene.

Look left; look right.

Look up; look all around.

Angzen could see a few glimpses of the buildings around them, but not very much.

If not for the moon, showing its dim rays past the fog, though most of it was blocked off by the denseness of the fog.

With a full 360-degree view, he tilted his head clockwise, taking it all in.

"So creepy." He murmured.

The streets were empty, with no vehicle moving in any lane.

But maybe what was even more disturbing was that the vehicles at the side of the roads were marked very hurriedly, as though people were running from something.

The scene was truly disturbing.

Doors left open; cars parked vertically on a horizontal road; everything made Angzen's chest grow tight.

~Whooo~

F***!

What was that?

Angzen jumped like a cat dunked into water.

"Relax. It's just an owl."

Chan-ki's voice seemed to soothe his already trembling legs... But not by so much.

"Ah-... "Yes... Yes... You're right. It's probably an owl."

Though Angzen agreed, he still didn't let go of Chan-ki's clothes.

Even he didn't seem to notice his body's reaction.

Looking at the fog that had now engulfed the many sparsely arranged 2-story buildings on both sides of the streets, Angzen squinted his eyes, hoping to get a glimpse of the said owl.

Nothing... Or... Was it something?

His eyes saw something. But once again, after a blink, it registered nothing.

He stared at the scene with a tilted face in a trance.

"Mr. Angzen?"

Chan-ki's voice woke him from his stupor.

"Ah!-..." Seeing Dorian already advancing, how could he continue getting distracted?

Though a bigger part of him was worried about the situation in this town.

What could've made the people here leave their vehicles in such a hurry?

The many buildings were completely dark, with only a few having lights that probably came on automatically. The street lights were also on, though the fog still limited his visibility by 90%.

To be honest, he felt the moon did a better job at illumination than the street lights, which by the way, were very dim, as though low in power.

They blinked and flickered non-stop, going off and on severally.

Their pulsing caused his throat to constrict, causing a sickening wave of anxiety to well up in his belly.

And what was that smell?

Though faint, there was a bad and overly pungent smell in the air that itched his nostrils.

Windows opened, some closed...

The town seemed deserted.

Moreover, why didn't he get reception over here?

There was no signal in this town!

Cold sweat poured on Angzen's back.

Everything spelled out warnings!

He wanted to say something, wanting them to leave and find another town or city to eat in.

Even if nothing were wrong with his place, he still wouldn't have the appetite for a meal.

Angzen opened his mouth and closed it in silence. In the end, he said nothing.

Chan-ki looked at him briefly. "Let's go. Since we can't drive any further, we can only walk."

Like so, the trio moved along the messy main road in a zigzag manner, not stepping on the sidewalks.

And as they moved, they continued to observe the randomly displaced vehicles on the roads.

The more Angzen proceeded, the more warnings bells alarmed in his heart.

He turned around abruptly but didn't see a thing.

'Could I be wrong? Why do I get the feeling that we're being watched?... Bah!... Forget it.'

Angzen shook his head, following the duo closely.

But just at that moment, something bizarre happened.

It seems that his mind likes playing tricks on him. He thought.

In the dark buildings, alleyways, and even on the roofs, hundreds and hundreds of eyes of different shapes all stared at the trio's backs from amidst the shadows.

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The trio walked for what seemed like an eternity to Angzen (15 minutes), taking several street turns before suddenly coming to a halt.

Their journey had been dark and uneasy, with no signs of life along the roads or in the buildings.

They had deviated from the main commercial road, reaching one of the first residential streets with houses lined up on both sides of the street.

Dorian squinted his eyes, coming to a halt before one of the ordinary-looking homes on the street.

It was a green, wide 2-story home with a small front yard, with its garage doors still closed. Yet, the vehicle on the property was smashed through the wooden garage door instead.

And on the front garden beds, all the flowers were withered and dead... All except for the bright bloody colored roses that seemed well-nourished

But why did he stop at this resistance?

Dorian tilted his head upwards, looking at the fog above.

This was where it all began.

Lifting his feet, he stepped over the overturned, broken-down baby crib on the lawn. "Keep up."

Chan-ki and Angzen followed behind him closely while also observing the mess scattered about the lawn.

~Chiiiiiaa~~~

The door squeaked loudly.

But stepping in, Angzen was taken back.

This... This...

(0_0)

Blink. Blink.

"How can it be so clean, organized, and intact?" Angzen blurted out, wondering how the outside of the home looked like it had passed through a hurricane while the inside looked like a newly furnished home.

How does one explain the baby crib that was cleanly shot out of a window in this home?

How does one explain the other household objects also scattered about in that manner?

If not for the broken window on the side of the building, the car rammed into the garage door, and the broken front door knob, he would've thought he had been hallucinating about everything he saw earlier.

Heh.

Dorian chuckled, playfully moving about the building.

First, they visited all rooms on the main floor, primarily focusing on the kitchen and dining room.

After all, who knows what strange things they would meet in this seemingly ordinary home?