

# CURSED IMMORTALITY

## Chapter 691 Pay the Piper! (3)



On a remote island with a scarce amount of mana, Star-Lord, or, more accurately, Vincent, appeared wearing dark robes with a hood covering his head.

He approached a tree that seemed just like any other tree on this island and pressed his hand on it. The next moment, the star watch on his wrist shimmered, and the tree suddenly trembled before a myriad of runes appeared on its surface, and a runic circle appeared under Vincent!

The next moment, Vincent's figure vanished without a trace, and the tree returned to its normal state as if nothing had happened.

Thereafter, Vincent was teleported into a dark space where the only source of light was a white goblet ignited with blue flames.

'Where is this place?' Vincent's eyes narrowed, and an uneasy feeling gripped his heart because he hadn't been in this place before, and the atmosphere didn't sit too well with him either.

However, he didn't have the option to not come in this because the person who summoned him wasn't someone he could just refuse or even question his decision.

He was no longer the master of his own because he recently discovered a scary truth about the ATLAS, and that was, the Star Hackers weren't the core

of ATLAS; instead, they were just ATLAS's branch, and this discovery shocked Vincent to his very core!

Vincent still might've been ignorant about this fact if he hadn't started the chaos in the Siren Hymn Temple. Truth be told, this discovery hit him harder than anything in his life, and he almost lost his purpose in life, but when he thought about it more carefully, a sudden realization hit him!

Since even the Star Hackers were a mere branch of this organization that nobody was aware of, what if he could join their ranks and then reach the top? Wasn't it far better?

However, he also knew that it wouldn't be easy since they were far more careful. He didn't even know about them despite being the Star Lord of the Star Hackers for so many years. He knew joining their ranks would be too difficult, and with his lifespan approaching its end, he didn't have time to play the long game.

So, he decided to be obedient, at least until he entered the middle plains, became a fable legendary rank being, and increased his lifespan. He was sure that a Fable Legendary Rank wouldn't be ignored, and he might have a chance to join the actual organization's rank.

He even thought this might be the chance he had been waiting for. If only he knew just how ignorant he was and that this was just a pipe dream...

At this moment, a static voice rang from the goblet of fire, "Star Lord, or should I say, Vincent N. Elliot of Lightning Elves, it's our first time speaking to each other."

Vincent's eyes narrowed as he looked at the blazing blue flames and bowed his head submissively, "I was also quite curious about the 'Lord'; I'm honored to have an audience with you finally." His tone was respectful, or he was making it that way.

"Heh, you didn't sound like someone who discovered he isn't the top 'boss' of the ATLAS. But that's the thing I liked about you, Vincent. You are the most competent Star Lord of the Star Hackers I've ever seen in the Unique Plains, and that's the only reason I'm willing to give you another chance to admit your sin!" The voice suddenly turned icy as a mountainous pressure suddenly enveloped Vincent out of nowhere!

Vincent's expression paled, and he instantly fell on his knees without even putting any resistance. It was like he was a helpless common rank in front of a unique rank being. The gap in power was simply too great.

'How is this possible! I'm an Initial Stage Quasi Legend Rank, damn it!'

Vincent was completely horrified, and any thought of resisting this 'lord' dashed instantaneously.

"I...S-sin? But I've already made amends and even handed over the ancient forbidden formula for my mistake! B-but, i-if it's not enough, please tell me how I should make up for my ignorant mistake?" Vincent spoke while clenching his teeth, as he was finding it hard to breathe properly.

He still thinks this was all happening because of the chaos he caused in the Siren Hymn Temple, and the compensation he handed over still wasn't enough to make amends.

He was already holding on to something else just in case things went south, and it seemed he had to use it now. Although it was his biggest secret, as long as he could live, he didn't care what he had to sacrifice!

"Hmm?" The voice sounded startled and fell into silence, but the pressure didn't decrease a little bit. After an eerie wait, the voice spoke again, "Why do I get this feeling that you have no idea what you just did?"

"I-I... only followed the decree I received from the Anarchy that day. If I made a mistake, please give me another chance to make it right! If that ancient

forbidden formation isn't enough to make up for my mistake, I'm willing to hand over something else!" Vincent quickly replied.

"We are not on the same page, are we?" The voice muttered before it spoke in a cold tone, "Didn't you rigid with the forbidden formation scroll in the hope you might be able to kill 'me' with it?"

Vincent was flabbergasted when he heard that absurd accusation and quickly shook his head, "NO! I won't dare; I know my limit! Please think about it. Why would I risk doing anything to you when I'm not even sure if you are the 'leader' of ATLAS? For all I know, you could be just a proxy for the real leader.

"Furthermore, I won't get anything out of it because I'm not even part of the real ATLAS and have no clue about its real purpose or its whereabouts. Not to mention, even if I had such thoughts, I would never dare to do something so foolish and then show my face. This is clearly a huge misunderstanding!" He tried to explain the best he could because he sensed something had gone wrong with the 'delivery.'

"Hmmm... now that you said it out loud, it is indeed quite peculiar, and I know how astute you are..." The voice seemed convinced, but the pressure on Vincent still didn't decrease even a little.

"Very well, I'll give you a chance to prove your innocence. If you really have nothing to do with this, then I want you to find the true culprit. Since it was your men who made the delivery, the responsibility to find the truth is also yours.

"Prove your innocence first and then your competence; if you fail to do any one of them, prepare to suffer the consequences, for there is no place for incompetent people in ATLAS!" the voice coldly declared.

Vincent was really at a loss this time around. He didn't even know what he was being accused of when he had done nothing.

But the other party didn't give him any chance to explain, and at this moment, some kind of mechanism suddenly triggered, and the floor in front of Vincent suddenly slid open.

The next moment, a white pillar with multicolor runic lines started to rise from the open floor. Vincent's eyes widened in disbelief when he thought about the origin of this pillar and even thought he was hallucinating because this pillar should only exist in one place!

At this moment, the voice spoke again with a hint of playfulness as if he had guessed what Vincent was thinking.

"Vincent, prove your innocence by going through the trial of Truth Pillar!"

Chapter 692 The End or The Beginning? (1)



When a sudden, blinding flash erupted from the depths of the ocean, turning the inky blackness into a searing white, many witnessed this scene and felt the raw power sear their retinas.

Those who were anywhere near close to the range of white light lurched violently, tossed around like toys in a bathtub by an unseen giant.

Silence... an unnatural silence descended, broken only by the groaning tremors and shockwaves like raging beasts.

This lasted for about five minutes before the light started to fade away. However, despite the blinding light absence, it didn't mean everything had returned to normal; it was far from it.

The temperature of the area around the blast was like a raging inferno as huge amounts of bubbles and fog were rising and spreading, making it impossible for anything to be visible.

In this fiery fog, Jacob's figure was floating in the water, completely unbothered by the high temperature or the powerful radiation around him. But the thunder whale mount of his was nowhere to be seen and there were some faint burning marks on his winder breaker.

'I thought I would end up in a somewhat miserable state... but it seems I've underestimated the cursed bone marrow stage. Not only my resistance to fire and poison has increased, but I can even sense the dense blood mixed in this fog and water.

'The explosion was simply too strong, and I don't think anything would've survived. Even if they did, they would've already turned into ashes because of the radiation heatwaves.

'But just to make sure those three steps of legends are really gone, I better check. After all, since nothing happened to me, it might be because I was too far away from the explosion. Let's see how the epicenter of the explosion is doing.

'Furthermore, the closer I'm to the source of blood, I'll be able to gather it more quickly, even if it completely diluted into water or fog. As long as the blood is in some kind of tangible state, I can extract it, and this ability is getting stronger with each runic line sculpted to my bones.'

Jacob smiled coldly as he used his magic to swim toward the location of Mermaid Faith City. Although the temperature was rising as he went closer, and the mist was getting thicker and darker, he remained unaffected, and with his eyes, nothing remained hidden from him.

At this moment, Jacob arrived and saw that the location of the Mermaid Faith City was now a deep crater of molten rocks glowing an angry red. Tsunamic shockwaves, invisible yet powerful, rippled outwards, churning the water into a roiling maelstrom.

However, Jacob's expression changed because, with his eyes, he spotted something extremely unusual within this molten crater. He saw dense color spectrum particles in the shape of silhouettes gathering together in the center, and they seemed to be sheltered by colored lines.

'Living things protected by a magic barrier!' Jacob instantly recognized those color spectrums.

But he wasn't much shocked because he was expecting this much from people above unique rank. After all, if he could rank the current explosion, it would be around the level of Advanced Inception Legend Rank, which means no one should survive below this stage, and even a Quasi Legend might suffer injuries if they were at the center of this.

But this was still his speculation since he didn't have enough data on both ranks. He was still astounded when he noticed that more than one person had survived that blast. He didn't think Siren Hymn Temple was hiding such experts.

Nonetheless, Jacob wasn't planning on spearing anyone, especially if that survivor was the Ocean Oracle. After all, he was doing all this to get rid of this troublesome opponent.

Although he didn't know why, from the moment he heard about Ocean Oracle, his killing intent was instantly provoked, and he was hellbent on killing her no matter what. It was like she had provoked something inside him, and because her ability was just as dangerous, both Jacob's mind and instincts were on a unanimous decision to kill her.

Jacob, enduring the terrible heat, quickly made his way toward the hidden barrier he was seeing. It was clearly not visible to the naked eye, and the two people inside it seemed extremely weak. If not for their potent power, they would've been long dead, and Jacob mused they might be healing right now.

After all, he still completely reads the changes in the color spectrum of flaws in the Eyes of Judge and can only make vague guesses from his own experience and experiments.

Other than the Judgement Gaze, he still had no clue about the true depths of his eyes, and Immoritka just refused to reveal everything. Nonetheless, he was still doing fine and slowly learning about his eyes, and he knew he would one day master them completely.

Jacob arrives in front of the invisible barrier, hiding his presence with stealth since he doesn't want to alert the other party.

Fire aura suddenly covers Jacob's fist at this moment, and using his full power, he throws a punch right at the invisible barrier! He wanted to test his new strength and see if he could blast apart this barrier seems to have protected these people from the blast.

"Boom!"

A huge shockwave released, and a sound like a glass shattered rang. In front of Jacob, it was like an illusion had shattered, and two bodies enveloped by a gentle green mist were revealed.

Both suddenly opened their eyes, which seemed to be empty, like black holes with clear shock and terror, especially when they noticed two golden bloodthirsty eyes staring at them at this moment like they were just pieces of high-quality meat!

"Who are you!!?" Their voices were eerie as they questioned at the same time.



Jacob couldn't help but carefully notice their charred bodies, but he felt something strange about these two as a peculiar kind of feeling rose in his heart, a feeling of utter disgust and contempt.

However, before Jacob could make sense of this strange feeling, he noticed both charred beings started to gather their magic secretly, and he felt threatened!

So, without hesitation, Jacob directly controlled the fiery water around him. With a simple thought, the water turned into countless blades and shredded those two into countless pieces before they could even react!

But what happened next was something Jacob wasn't expecting!

#### Chapter 693 The End or The Beginning? (2)



The moment Jacob shredded those two charred bodies, a strange scene took place.

Right where those two bodies were located, a golden light suddenly shone, and two tiny hourglasses with black frames suddenly appeared in the middle of this golden light. They seemed to be filled with golden sand, and space suddenly started to tremble.

The next moment, a dark vortex appeared behind those hourglasses, and they seemed to be about to escape into it!

'What the hell...' Jacob was shocked when he witnessed this strange scene as his eyes were affixed on those two ethereal hourglasses.

However, Jacob didn't feel any kind of danger from them. Instead, his cursed heart suddenly started to beat wildly the moment those two hourglasses appeared like it was attracted to them!

Before Jacob could react or even comprehend what was happening, an invisible suction force suddenly released from his body. Feeling that invisible force, the two hourglasses trembled and quickly tried to enter the vortex!

But, the next moment, those two hourglasses started to drag towards Jacob, and they were trembling and trying to pull away, but that invisible suction force, which seemed to originate from his cursed heart, didn't let that happen, no matter how much they struggled.

However, Jacob was even more shocked and filled with agitation because he tried to calm his heartbeat and get away from those mysterious hourglasses since he had no idea what they were or why his cursed heart was reacting this way.

But to his shock, his heart was simply out of his control, and even his body refused to move. At this moment, he felt a sudden jolt of excitement from his blood and craving like never before. He felt like he had been thirsty for ages!

"Stop fighting your instincts and absorb them; they are very beneficial to you." At this moment, Immortika's eerie rang in his head. He hadn't heard this voice for a very long time.

Jacob was naturally astounded when he heard Immortika's voice and stopped resisting, but it didn't mean he wasn't curious.

"Just what are these things, and why is my heart reacting this way? Why do they seem alive?" He asked with a grave expression. He could feel his blood boiling in excitement and his heart beating even more wildly as those hourglasses drew near.

"Hahahahaha! They're just a bunch of idiots trying to cheat death by imitating something they shouldn't have. As for what exactly they are, you need to find out yourself. All I can tell is that that golden sand hourglass is akin to 40,000 Unique Rank Dark Beings' dead flames, and it will give you enough blood vitality to complete your entire leg as well as 1,000 years of free lifespan!" Immortika dropped a huge bomb!

Jacob's eyes widened in shock as he instantly comprehended what this meant. If he added all his previous kills, he could not only evolve his hex core now, but he would also gain a huge amount of blood vitality and 1,000 years of lifespan to boot!

"Just what kind of species are they, and what do you mean by trying to cheat death by imitating something they shouldn't have had?!" Jacob didn't let this go since it sounded too good to be true, and it was his first time hearing about it.

After all, if something like this existed that could allow him to bypass the restrictions of killing dark beings to evolve his hex core on such a level, then he should've known this much earlier.

"Didn't I tell you? It's up to you to find out and believe me when I say it had nothing to do with their races. I told you what I can. Just rejoice that you hit the jackpot! Hahahahah!" Immortika laughed like crazy.

Jacob clearly didn't like this answer, but he knew he wouldn't get anything else from Immortika now, and he didn't have time to push further. At this moment, those two hourglasses were close to his chest, and they were resisting even more furiously but to no avail.

The next moment, his cursed heart's heartbeat was so fast that its crimson projection was visible on his chest, and when the hourglasses touched his

clothes, they simply bypassed them as if they didn't exist and directly entered his body.

Suddenly, Jacob felt two explosions in his body, and a dense amount of mysterious energy swept through his entire body. The runic lines on his bones suddenly became alive, while the cursed path glory gem in his pendant started to glow brightly, and the hex core in his cursed heart started to revolve.

Jacob could feel huge changes starting to take place in his body all at once. He didn't have time to pay attention to anything else, so he quickly sat down on the burning ground without hesitation to observe what was happening!

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In the Timeless City, the City Lord appeared in front of a huge hourglass at this moment.

Suddenly a static voice rang,

"No.192nd Incarnation (Dark Elf) of Golden Constant-87,001 has died unnaturally! "No.190th Incarnation (Mermaid Siren) of Golden Constant-88,925 has died unnaturally! "Golden Constant-87,001 has been demoted to Silver Constant-999,999th!

"Golden Constant-88,925 has been demoted to Silver Constant-1,000,000th!

"Reshuffling the Constant Rankings!"

"So, they really ended up dying, huh? Just who was behind that explosion? Since Vincent had passed the truth pillar, it wasn't him. I had seen the recording before they died; it was a well-

crafted scheme by someone, and just when they were about to complete the list as well. Furthermore, someone who could make a bomb that could kill two

Quasi Legendary Rank experts wasn't recorded in our database..." The Timeless City Lord muttered in a grave tone.

However, at his moment, the huge hourglass suddenly trembled, which was completely out of the ordinary.

"Error, error, error!" The static voice suddenly boomed, making the city lord gobsmacked.

"Former Golden Constant-87,001 and Golden Constant-88,925's Life Hourglass has been failed to retrieve!

"The Life Hourglasses' connection has been permanently severed! "Former Golden Constant-87,00 and Golden Constant-88,925 can't be revived and have died permanently!

"Reporting this unnatural event to the ???"

"An utmost important Timeless Mission has been issued to all the Constants present in the Lesser Galaxy of Taurus!"

The Timeless City Lord was in utter disbelief, as if he was hearing something absurd and impossible.

But when the symbol of an hourglass suddenly appeared on his forehead, and foreign information appeared in his brain, he knew it wasn't an illusion. Two undying constants have really met their doom!

## **Cursed Immortality #Chapter 694 Cursed Mystic Signature (1) - Read Cursed Immortality Chapter 694 Cursed Mystic Signature (1)**

### **Chapter 694 Cursed Mystic Signature (1)**

In the depths of the ocean, a thunder whale was making its way toward the surface, and it appeared like a bullet cutting through water.

On top of the thunder was sitting Jacob, who was still thinking about the surreal event that took place over six days ago.

'Just what could be those hourglasses? From that damn book's subtle words, they can help 'cheat death,' and this ability originated from something extremely powerful. Could it be another Universal Godly Scripture?' Jacob could only think of this possibility since he was sure that Immortika wouldn't have phrased it like this if it wasn't something it acknowledged.

'But the question is, who were they, and are there more like them? Since they were in the Siren Hymn Temple, they might have had a relationship with the Ocean Oracle. I should've let Autarch absorb their brains before killing them; I was too hasty.

'However, it wasn't entirely my fault since I had no idea I would stumble upon something like this. Now, although my hex core has evolved into a unique rank magic core, and I'm overflowing with blood vitality after absorbing those two hourglasses and the blood vitality scattered in the water, that darn book used its chance to speak to me directly, and now I can't summon it for 30 days.

'But I can't stay in the deep ocean another since not only would the empires be curious about what happened, but if the people behind those two also came to investigate their deaths, it might be troublesome. After all, I can't take my chances against these people who might have had some sort of relationship with a Universal Godly Scripture.

'Even if this is just my speculation, I can't expose myself, so leaving the deep ocean and lying low in the Unique Plains is the right choice until I can summon Immortika again and start the longevity schema again.' Jacob mused gravely as he looked ahead.

He could feel the gravity getting lesser and after living for decades under that terrible gravity, he was feeling as if his body were becoming light as a feather.

At this moment, Jacob's eyes suddenly shimmered with ecstasy as he flipped his hand, and a locked space ring appeared in his hand. If it had been before, he would've been frustrated since he wouldn't be able to unlock it.

However, after his hex core's evolution, he could feel the presence of his mystic signature clashing with that of this space ring. Yes, he finally got his mystic signature!

But what made Jacob uncertain was that despite the hex core becoming a unique rank magic core, he didn't awaken the element glyph. He didn't know if there was something wrong since he had used the scripture of blank to create a fake spirit glyph in his hex core or if it was just because of Immortika. He decided to ask Immortika about it once he could summon it again.

Nonetheless, now that he has the mystic signature, he can do many things that weren't possible before. For example, the Life Substitute Doll he received as a reward for his

early achievement and the title reward for Lone Hero of Life can only be used with the Mystic Signature.

This Life Substitute Doll is extremely precious because it can allow the owner to escape deathly situations by taking the place of the owner when he is on the brink of death and teleporting him a hundred miles away, and he can recover his 10% health!

After awakening his mystic signature, Jacob instantly used it on the Life Substitute Doll, and it turned into a runic tattoo just below his neckline.

Another such treasure was the Gluttony Mask, but he stopped it because he needed to quickly escape the blast area.

Now that he was finally out of the woods, he first decided to try opening these space rings, which he had received from his final two victims, who were also the owners of those two mysterious hourglasses.

Jacob followed his instincts, and as his mystic signature clashed with the mystic signature of the space ring, he tried to fight it by releasing his mana. Since the owner of the mystic signature was dead and wasn't there to resist Jacob's advance, the space ring suddenly trembled as if something shattered in it!

The next moment, Jacob could feel a faint connection with the space ring. It was a strange feeling, and it meant that Jacob was now the owner of this space ring because it now had his mystic signature!

Although he was elated, he didn't waste time. He quickly scanned the space ring to see what was inside, hoping to get some kind of clue about those two's backgrounds.

'What a filthy rich guy!' Jacob was surprised when he saw mountains of magic gems, and from their dense magic energy, he could feel they were all advanced and unique ranks!

Furthermore, this space ring was far more spacious than the one he was currently wearing. It has 1000 Cubic Meters of space, and Jacob mused that this space ring was above the Advanced Unique Rank because he knew an advanced unique rank space ring can only have around 500~600 cubic meters of space!

Other than the mountains of magic gems, he found many peculiar things, like a shelf filled with books, a pile of scrolls and weapons, a... statue that gave off a peculiar aura, a pile of space rings, and many others.

Jacob then quickly opened the other ring before further investigating its contents to see if there was something similar in the second ring as well.

The second space ring, however, was not like the previous one because it was only 550 cubic meters in diameter, and he found something strange in it.

'Why are there so many dry corpses in it? It seems like their blood vitality was drained before they died.' Jacob was astounded since he was very familiar with this kind of effect. After seeing the corpses' fishtails, he was sure they belonged to the Siren Race.

'Could this ring have belonged to the Ocean Oracle? So, she was also part of this hourglass organization? But what was she doing by sucking the sirens' vitality?'

Jacob became confused and even curious because it was simply too strange. The more he knew, the more confused he got. But one thing was clear; whatever was happening back there was far from simple!

## **Cursed Immortality #Chapter 695 Cursed Mystic Signature (2) - Read Cursed Immortality Chapter 695 Cursed Mystic Signature (2)**

### **Chapter 695 Cursed Mystic Signature (2)**

Jacob didn't stop with only those two space rings; while he was reaching the surface, he opened every locked space ring in his possession and arranged its contents, throwing away the useless stuff in them.

By the time he was done, he could see the light up ahead. It was apparently day on the surface, and seeing the sunlight after so many years excited Jacob for a moment.

However, his excitement didn't last long, as he knew he wasn't out of the woods. The Ice Fiend Locust Queen might send her army the moment she realized that Jacob was reachable again.

Nonetheless, Jacob was ready. The moment he reached the surface, he stored away the thunder whale, took out the flying ship, and set its destination towards Unique Plains.

After all, even if Ice Fiend Locust Queen sent millions of her minions, only the Unique Rank ones would be able to enter the Unique Plains, and then killing them wouldn't be just his problem, would it?

'Now, I should test that mask. Its importance is too much just to ignore it...'

Jacob's eyes shimmered with anticipation as he flipped his hand. A white faceless mask appeared in his hand, which seemed extremely ordinary. There were no eye sockets in



this mask, and it appeared like a mask carved from white wood. It was the Gluttony Mask he got from the treasury of Witch Palace in the Epic Plains!

'According to that palace AI, the Witch Queen found this mask in a no-return zone, and its rank is unknown. This mask has two functions.

'The first one is that it can feed on the corpse of a living being and then polymorph into that exact same being that it devoured. But the moment it feeds another corpse, the previous disguise will be overwritten with the new one.

'The second ability is the most troublesome one. It can evolve its rank by consuming powerful corpses, but apparently, it can also affect the user's mind the stronger it gets and might even devour the user's mind.

'However, I don't think I should have any problem with it since I had already awakened my soul force, and Nyx's soul defense is also there to protect my mind. I would be fine as long as Gluttony Mask won't evolve into Legendary Rank....'

After Jacob made up his mind, he didn't delay. Hex mana started to pour out from his hand, covering the white mask. The process of imprinting the Mystic Signature was quite simple; it exists within the owner's magic energy.

If the user awakens the mystic signature and the items can accept it, the mystic signature will automatically imprint on the items. At least, this was the known method of using the mystic signature.

Furthermore, a powerful mystic signature can easily overwrite a weaker one, and if the previous owner of the mystic signature is dead, the process is even simpler.

Lastly, if the mystic signature owner is still alive and someone else with a powerful mystic signature erased the former's mystic signature, they will suffer a backlash, hence instantly knowing about the destruction of their mystic signature.

Although Jacob didn't know how strong his mystic signature was compared to the others, he was sure that it was quite powerful. After all, he easily got rid of those two quasi- legends' mystic signatures like they were nothing and without much effort.

But still, he needs more input, especially against a mystic signature of a living being. However, few treasures could use a mystic signature since the method of making a mystic signature treasure was strictly controlled by factions or powerful entities.

Even the space rings with mystic signatures were quite rare, and they barely hit the public market before they were already distributed among the high-ranking members.

The moment the hex mana touched the smooth surface of the gluttony mask, it suddenly came alive and trembled as it started to absorb the hex mana like a sponge.

Jacob was a little startled, but he didn't stop and continued to pour more hex mana. At this moment, he noticed something. Dark crimson lines started to appear on the forehead of the mask, slowly forming a peculiar shape.

When the peculiar shape was completed, Jacob was shocked because it was a dark crimson infinity symbol. He found that the outline of this infinity symbol was made with an extremely tiny, complex glyph structure.

'Is this how my mystic signature looks?' Jacob wondered as he saw the mystic signature slowly start to fade away, and the mask stopped absorbing his mana.

Jacob frowned slightly because the mask didn't change at all, and it still looked ordinary. However, right at this moment, the mask trembled slightly, and something foreign suddenly surfaced in Jacob's mind, astounding him.

When he focused on something foreign, he was even more shocked because it was memories related to the gluttony mask. It actually contained the method to use it and even information about its two abilities.

'So, the first ability is called the Gluttony Shapeshift, and the second, the Gluttony Genesis...' Jacob looked at the Gluttony Mask with shining eyes as he wasn't expecting something like this to happen.

Nonetheless, now that he knew how to use it, he didn't hesitate any more and directly put it on his face. The moment the mask touched his skin, Jacob felt as if he was wearing an extremely thin cold membrane. Despite the lack of eye sockets or breathing space for his mouth, he could still see and breathe fine as if he weren't anywhere above them.

When he let go, the mask was directly attached to his face. The next moment, a black flash of light suddenly pulsed on the mask, and it started to fade away, revealing Jacob's face again.

However, Jacob could still feel its presence; he knew the mask was now completely attached to his very soul, and it could only be taken off when he died, or he willingly took it off by removing his mystic signature.

No one would be able to tell its existence unless they could directly peer into his soul, for it was a Soul Artifact!

## **Chapter 696 The Gluttony Mask**

With the information Jacob got from the Gluttony Mask, he noticed one thing; it was called a Soul Artifact. Although he didn't know what a Soul Artifact was, he was sure that it was deeply interconnected to the soul, which was quite obvious by its name.

Jacob still took a mantle note to inquire about it from Immortika once he can summon it again. For now, he was more curious about testing the Gluttony Mask's abilities.

'Well, I don't have any corpses from the surface, nor do I have much variety... and I don't know if the Gluttony Mask will directly evolve into a unique rank treasure if I directly feed it a unique rank corpse since there is no in-depth information about these two abilities. Let's try...'

Jacob then took out a dry siren corpse he found in the Ocean Oracle space ring. The next moment, he touched the corpse and thought, 'Gluttony Shapeshift; Gluttony!'

The moment he thought about activating the Gluttony Shapeshift function's first aspect, the Gluttony, an astonishing scene took place. From Jacob's hand that was touching the corpse, a black hole suddenly appeared in the middle of his palm and instantly sucked the entire corpse in!

Jacob was startled for a moment, but he didn't lose his focus, and the next moment, he felt the gluttony mask on his face release a cold sensation that lasted for about ten seconds.

Once it was gone, Jacob tried using the Shapeshift aspect of the Gluttony Shapeshift function, but this time, nothing happened. A faint frown appeared on his face.

'Just as I thought, the 'entire corpse' means it shouldn't have its vitality missing. This also means the puppets that Autarch personally devours would have the same reaction. Pity; I had already devoured other magic puppets.

'Still, I should check once I find a puppet for Autarch to devour. Otherwise, it should work on the corpse I killed without removing its vitality.

'Moreover, the mask's rank didn't increase either, and it's still at the basic epic rank. So, I can be sure that it also required a complete corpse to raise its rank.

'However, I don't feel any kind of mantle instability from the mask yet. It might be because it's too weak right now; I need to do more experiments, especially with the three steps of legend corpses; only then would I truly know this mask's effect on my mind...'

Jacob wasn't too worried since he would be able to put his theories to the test very soon once he arrived in the Unique Plains. Now that he had already put on the Gluttony Mask, he wouldn't be at ease until he knew its limits.

But one thing Jacob still didn't understand was why the Witch Queen left this mask behind. After all, despite its flaws, the benefits were simply too great, and that's what made Jacob somewhat apprehensive about it.

Despite that, he knew he needed this mask now more than ever because his transformation happened as he was competing in the final stage of the first phase. So, to keep himself and his secret hidden, he had to take this risk!

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At this moment, on the floating island, the Ice Fiend Locust Queen's eye suddenly shimmered with dense killing as her gigantic body stirred the caldera of volcanic ice, and millions of Ice Fiend Locusts became restless, mirroring their queen's rageful mood.

"The thief finally left his molehill!" She mumbled in her eerie metallic voice before she issued an absolute command, "Steer the island towards the thief! I want to see how he can escape this time. Taking my things is not easy!"

The next moment, the floating island suddenly trembled before it started to drift towards Jacob. It looked just like a huge cloud of mist, but whoever came in its way would not be able to live to tell the tale!

This was just the start of another calamity brought by the Faceless Ancient upon the entirety of Unique Plains!

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Somewhere far, far away from the Lesser Galaxy of Taurus was a beautiful palace on top of a mountain peak.

At this moment, within this palace, sitting on a massive throne, was an imposing woman wearing nothing but black. She was as beautiful as a fairy, but her eyes were exempt from any warmth as she was impassively looking at the kneeling figure of a humanoid beast with fox ears and two tails.

"Your Imperial Majesty, the Legendary Key has been acquired by your loyal subjects from the plain trials, and they are on their way with it as we speak!" The man stated with a hint of ecstasy; he was clearly very excited about acquiring the Legendary Key!

The woman's eyes shimmered when she heard it, and she nodded in acknowledgment, "Excellent. Prepare approximate rewards for their service. You may go now and make further arrangements for the opening of the path of legend. Bring the key to me once it arrives."

"This subject won't disappoint you." The man quickly nodded, but a hint of hesitation appeared in his eyes as if he wanted to say something before leaving.

The woman noticed it and said coolly, "Is there something you want to add? Speak without restrain."

The man pulled a difficult expression before he finally decided to speak, "I seek your majesty's forgiveness for what I'm about to say. I just received a message stating that the delegates of the three factions want to negotiate with Her Majesty to enter the path of legend!"

The woman's eyes turned deadly cold as she sneered, "They just wouldn't learn, do they? First, they tried to suppress me and assassinate me but failed and got beaten back miserably. Then, they even formed an alliance among themselves to resist me, and again, when they were beaten like dead dogs, they ran away.

"Only after that did they acknowledge my rule, and I even spared them since I didn't want to commit genocide, and now that they had the gal to negotiate with me when they found I got the legendary key? Do those shameless dogs think I'm so gullible?!"

The man trembled when he sensed the rage behind the woman's words. He took a deep breath and bowed his head. "I understand! I'll send your reply right away." He quickly got up and started to head towards the exit.

The woman's eyes flashed with a peculiar hint as she watched the man leave before she suddenly said, "Tell them, if they want to enter the Path of Legend with me, I want complete command over their troops. Before this could happen, I want all the secret information they are hiding about the Path of Legend as well as all the information they had on the middle galaxies!"

The man suddenly stopped before he looked back at the woman with shock. He was mesmerized by her beauty, but he quickly snapped out of it when he saw her eyes become deadly sharp, and he quickly averted his eyes since he knew that woman would kill anyone who looked at her like this.

He quickly said before leaving, "I will send your decree right away!"

The moment the man left, the woman was alone, and at this moment, she couldn't help but sigh, "About god-damn time, I got that troublesome key!" She completely lost her dignified air and appeared like a frustrated woman who had overworked herself.

However, right at this moment, a deep voice suddenly rang in her head, "Legatee, I just sense my correlate Universal Godly Artifact being activated by someone in one of the lesser galaxies!"

## **Chapter 697 A Hope (1)**

Jacob reached the Unique Plains without a hitch and couldn't help but feel slightly nostalgic after seeing lush plains without gravity or water.

However, he knew this peace wouldn't last long because if his guess were right, the Unique Plains would soon plunge into chaos, and in truth, for him, chaos was a huge opportunity.

Nonetheless, he still had some unfinished business he needed to take care of in the unique plains, so he steered the flying ship in another direction, which was his next destination. Moreover, he was also on the lookout for some living beings to experiment with the Gluttony Mask.

At this moment, Jacob suddenly thought of Zoe and Sofie, whom he hadn't contacted for over two decades. He was supposed to help Zoe become the Dark Duke, but then his circumstances changed, and he left the dark city and the surface.

He knew Zoe and Sofie had tried to contact him several times during his seclusion, but he completely ignored everything and stowed his star watch in the infinity pendant.

Now that he was back, he decided to try contacting Sofie again to get some up-to-date information about the Unique Plains or what had been happening since he was in the deep ocean. But he wasn't too hopeful about her picking up.

However, to his surprise, she picked up the moment his call connected with her, and Sofie's anxious voice rang, "My Lord! Is that you?"

She really sounded worried, which made Jacob feel something foreign that he seemed to have forgotten, and he couldn't put his finger on it. Still, he completely ignored it and said in an impassive tone, "Indeed, it's me, or do you think someone else can use my Star ID?"

"Thank the heavens that you are alright. We were really worried about you when we weren't able to reach you," Sofie said, sounding both relieved and indignant.

"You don't have to worry about my safety; I'm not that easy to harm." Jacob impassively stated.

"Just, where were you?" Sofie asked in exasperation.

Jacob wanted to refute and shut her down for some reason as he didn't like her tone for some reason. But he didn't because he knew Sofie and Zoe were valuable pawns, and falling out with them while he was at fault would be an idiotic move.

"Something came up, and I had to go under. I apologize for my lack of contact, but it was necessary, and even if I had contacted you, there was nothing you could've done, and I would've been able to help you. I just got back and decided to contact you and ask

if any peculiar events happened while I was away?" Jacob impassively stated as he subtly explained his reason for remaining hidden all these years.

"Then, did you solve your problem?" She asked with a hint of worry, but she didn't ask what the problem was since she knew Jacob wouldn't tell her if he didn't want to, and she would only annoy him if she pushed further.

"Not yet, but that problem is no longer threatening, so there's no need for you to concern yourself with it."

"Then that's great." Sofie sighed in relief before she said, "If you want information about the events that took place in the unique plains while you were away, then please contact Lady Zoe; she'll be able to explain more accurately."

"Furthermore, she was also very worried about you and my lord. She had endured quite a lot because of your sudden disappearance from the Unique Plains Dark City. Please help her; she's not a bad person." She solemnly stated with a hint of concern.

She knew that for Jacob, Zoe might be just a pawn; after all, she wasn't any different, but she really hoped that Jacob would treat her a little nicely, not indifferently. Although Jacob had removed the parasite gem from her as well, and she was no longer his slave, she still considered herself his subordinate.

Jacob's eyes flashed with a peculiar light before he replied, "I'll see what I can do. After all, I promised her that I'd make her the Dark Duke when she agreed to come here with me. You don't have to worry; if she won't betray my trust, I'll do what I can. Now I'll contact her. Thank you for your input."

Jacob was about to end the call when Sofie spoke in a hurry, "Wait, my lord!"

"Is there anything else?" He asked with a frown.

"N-nothing... it's just... will I be seeing you soon, my lord? I can now properly serve you since Lady Zoe helped me with my bloodline. Now, I'm a Tier-8 Unique Rank Sorceress and Advanced Unique Rank potion, rune, and pill alchemist. Moreover, soon, I'll break through to Tier-9!" She asked with an expectant tone, and she sounded quite proud when she told him about her progress.

Jacob was also a little surprised to hear that Sofie had managed to reach almost a peak unique rank and three alchemist fields in over two decades.

After mulling it over for a moment, he replied, "If you really want to follow me further, you have to become an expert in the three steps of legend. Unique Rank is nothing in front of me anymore, nor do they serve any grand purpose in the place where I'm heading."



"What is Three Steps of Legend?" Sofie was baffled by those words since it was the first time she had heard them, and she couldn't help but feel her heart racing since Jacob hadn't directly refused her and even told her she could really follow him.

"That's for you to find. If you can't even find this information, then I don't think you have any chance to progress. Now, I'm hanging up." Jacob impassively stated before he cut the call this time without waiting for Sofie's reply.

But he frowned deeply, 'Why did you give her hope? Are you really planning on letting her tag along? What the hell is going on...'

Jacob's eyes narrowed as he felt something he hadn't felt for anyone in this place ever since he had come to the Zodiac Plains: anticipation!

## **Chapter 698 A Hope (2)**

Afterward, Jacob called Zoe, and like Sofie, she sounded quite shocked and also relieved that Jacob was fine and alive. Jacob felt annoyed for some reason, but he didn't know why, and he subtly explained why he hadn't been available all these years, just like he did with Sofie.

Only then did Zoe get to the main point, "Please, if you ever decide to hide again, at least inform me or Sofie. Although I know you don't expect much from us, we are not as incompetent as you think of us. Still, I'm glad that you still remember us.

"Anyhow, about the information you want to know, I know you only want to hear about events on your level, and I had a feeling that you might contact me to know about them if you ever decided to come back."

She sounded somewhat sarcastic, making Jacob grimace, but he remained silent and let her continue.

"The first thing you know is about the Dark Duke. After you abruptly left the Unique Plains Dark City, the Dark Duke came to find me and inquired about your whereabouts, which I had no idea about myself. Even my uncle seemed quite flustered about your disappearance. I don't know why they were both so interested in you, but knowing my grandfather, I can assume his interest in you wasn't anything but good.

"However, since I don't know anything, he had to give up, but I never expected that he would make me sign an oath contract just to confirm if I'm telling the truth or not, and he even made me contact you forcibly..." Her tone was icy cold at this moment since she was clearly quite displeased and no longer trusted her clan.



"But just as I said, I had no idea about your actions, so he got nothing. But his expression wasn't good when you didn't pick up my call, and even after leaving, he assigned some people to keep an eye on me and Sofie.

"After that, something happened around nine years after you leave, and this was quite a shocking event; the Three Absolute Factions suddenly announced their alliance, and this caused quite a ruck, especially because of the alliance between life and dead factions.

"But this was just the start because soon after that, they all started a mass search all over the Unique Plains. As for the target of their search, I couldn't find out even to this day. But anyone with the slightest suspicion was taken away by the three factions and never heard from again. You can even find the results of this mass search to this day.

"Furthermore, from what I found out from my connections, you were also the target of that search, and the person who gave your name was also the Dark Duke. Moreover, that search scale wasn't just limited to the Conflict Plains; even the territories under the three factions were searched thoroughly.

"This search stopped suddenly around five years ago, and no one knows the reason for it. However, something even more shocking happened afterward. I don't know about other factions, but the Dark Kingdom suddenly sent out its top force somewhere, and that includes the Dark Duke and many other high-ups of the Dark Kingdom.

"But if I'm not wrong, it wasn't just the Dark Kingdom that suddenly sent their top force somewhere; the other facts might've done the same. However, I can tell you for sure that they are never seen in the Unique Plains; it's as if they had vanished into thin air.

"Even to this day, the Dark Duke and those higher-ups have yet to return, and the current person who oversees the Dark Kingdom is none other than my father. These are the only noteworthy events that I could think of that you might be interested in," Zoe stated solemnly.

Jacob's eyes narrowed dangerously when he heard the Dark Duke was targeting him. Although he already knew about Fulwood's tricks he tried to use on him back in the Dark City, he still found it a hassle to eliminate him.

But now that he thinks about it, it seems the Dark Duke was involved with Fulwood from the start. He didn't mind collecting some 'new blood,' and he still hadn't forgotten about the spirit tree nectar. However, Jacob's attention was more on the three factions' strange movements, and he could only think of one that could possibly bring them together.

'Were they searching for the Legendary Key? But what could they be doing now?' Jacob mused, finding all this very suspicious. He wasn't as reckless as before after encountering those two hourglass bearers.

He knew there were too many hidden powers, and they were far more dangerous than the ones in light. Anything could happen if he weren't careful.

'Well, if that bug bitch reacted the same way as I'm expecting her to, then I can wait and watch how those factions would react to it. I might find something unexpected with Autarch's assistance.

'And having Zoe in the Dark City has proven to be quite beneficial for me now. Once I entered the middle galaxies, I needed more pawns like her since I had to be even more careful there. I have to change some of my habits...'

"Thank you for this information, Miss Zoe; I really appreciate it. You have also suffered quite a lot because of my sudden disappearance. Tell me, what are you required to become a Dark Duke? I see what I can do to help you. Since the Dark Duke is absent, this might be a good chance for you to rise to become a Dark Duke and take over the Dark Kingdom." Jacob stated impassively.

Zoe didn't reply for a few moments, as if startled by his words or just contemplating her next words.

She finally spoke in a grave tone, "If you can really help me, then I won't hide it from you. I have already reached the required merit for becoming Dark Duke no longer ago. However, what I hadn't expected was that there was another secret requirement that only came to light after I completed the merit requirement.

"The requirement is to become an expert in the Inception Legend Rank. From what I gathered, there seemed to be three more ranks above the Unique Rank, and they are known as the Three Steps of Legend. I wonder if Mr. Jack had heard about them."

Jacob was startled when he heard those words and couldn't help but wince his brows because he knew just how difficult this requirement was to clear!

## **Chapter 699 A Vicious Cycle...**

Nighttime, the hidden headquarters of the Treaty of Legends.

At the edge of a cliff, a tall woman in a black gothic dress stood as strong, humid winds of the ocean brushed past her curvaceous figure, fluttering her long black hair in the air.

She looked at the half-moon in the starry sky in a daze as if in deep thought. She was the leader of the Treaty of Legends, Queen!

At this moment, the Queen suddenly snapped out of her thoughts, and her eyes behind her mask suddenly narrowed dangerously.

She coldly uttered, "What it is, Diminutive?"

Almost instantly, a midget suddenly appeared beside her and cackled in his impish voice, "I thought I would find you here. What, admiring the waning moon again, or is there something bothering you again, my fair lady?"

The Queen's eyes turned icy, "Even if we are alone, you don't have the right to speak to me in this tone. If you are here to waste my time, then scram!"

If the other members of the treaty were here, they would've been absolutely shocked after seeing Diminutive get away with just a retort but not lose a limb or two by talking with the Queen like this. Everyone knows just how dangerous and short-tempered this woman is, and no one had the guts to talk with her like this, but Diminutive was doing just that.

Diminutive, however, didn't back down and cackled again in amusement, "Heh, as feisty as ever, I see. But this just makes you even more charming in my eyes; there is really no one like you in this fucking dump!" He was literally playing with tiger's whiskers at this moment!

However, the Queen still didn't decapitate his head and only released her bone-chilling aura in warning, "Are you sure you want to continue? I'm no longer like my past self!"

Diminutive lips curled up, revealing his sharp fangs. He clearly wasn't bothered by her aura, but suddenly, he raised his hand in surrender and playfully said, "Alright, I'll try another day, I guess. We have all the time in the world, and by fate, we are stuck together."

"Unfortunately." The Queen scoffed as she retracted her aura since Diminutive could no longer spout more nonsense and asked again in a cold tone, "Now, out with it."

"How beautiful..." Diminutive clicked his tongue, and before the Queen could go on a rampage, he quickly continued without teasing her anymore, "Well, my fair lady, the good news is, the formation is at its final phase of completion. The bad news is, the Fog Island above the Vicious Calamity Fog Zone had left the ice plains for some reason, and it's heading directly in the direction of the Conflict Plains!" The Queen's eyes suddenly widened with surprise. She knew about the Vicious Calamity Fog Zone, especially the true reason it was declared a no-return zone: the floating island, which they called the Fog Island!

Furthermore, since this news was coming directly from Diminutive, she knew it must be true because this guy might look like the weakest of the treaty. In truth, he was unfathomable and just liked to hide under sheep's clothing.

After all, the Vicious Calamity Fog Zone's Fog Island was even bad news for her, but he could easily spy on it, and this was just one of his mysterious abilities. If she weren't

wary of this midget and not confident enough to beat him, she would've long gotten rid of him because he was simply too dangerous and manipulative.

Nonetheless, he was still one of the reasons the Treaty of Legends could be reached at this point, and without his help, it would have been very difficult to control the Unique Plains!

"Has someone provoked the Locust Queen? No, there shouldn't be anyone who could provoke her and then live to tell the tale. Why is she up to after all these years of peace, why reacting like this now?" The Queen asked in a serious tone as she knew just how grave this matter was, and if the Locust Queen really wanted to raise hell in the Unique Plains, then it might thwart their plans. Diminutive shrugged his shoulder dismissively as he said, "Who knows what's going on in that insect's mind? I'm pretty sure there wasn't anyone who had visited the Vicious Calamity Fog Zone, and there was no trace of battles in the Ice Plains. But I'm not completely certain since I can't always keep an eye on that insect. I would rather keep my eyes on you, my fair lady."

The Queen's eyes narrowed dangerously, "You still have a mind to play your mind games? This is no longer a matter that we can ignore. If, by any chance, Locust Queen went on a frenzy on the Conflict Plains, we both know the three factions would have acted, or the SAAI would make sure to strip them of their lofty statuses. Without their connections and status, they are nothing but a useless waste of space for us!"

Diminutive didn't refute her words and sighed, "It's quite ironic, don't you think? Those ignorant mortals think that the Star Network is there to protect them and make their lives easier, but the reality is they are just like sheep who were being raised for someone's entertainment. Even more ironic is that those fools were willing to become the shepherds.

"The moment this sheep farm was threatened, those shepherds would have to protect it even with their lives, or they would lose everything, and they didn't even know about it. Hahaha!" the Diminutive lampooned as he burst into chilly laughter filled with deep resentment and hatred. He didn't appear as carefree as before.

The Queen knew why Diminutive was reacting this way and commented in a profound, bitter tone as deeply looked towards the vast endless starry sky, "Nothing is free in Zodiac Plains. If you get something, then you have to prove you are worthy of keeping it, or it will take it back just like it gave it to you in a heartbeat. But when it takes back, it will also take back your life as compensation.

"Only by breaking free from this vicious cycle can you truly be free. Otherwise, we are all just puppets dancing for its entertainment until we break!"

## **Chapter 700 Cardinal Spirit Church**

In the Neutral Plains of the Conflict Plains, a lusty mountain range was located, known as the Holy Mountain Range, because here was located the branch of the Cardinal Spirit Temple, the Cardinal Spirit Church. The Cardinal Spirit Church was different from the other powers among the three factions because only the Faery Humans held true power there, while the others could only be believers of the Temple's faith, the Holy Justice God.

Despite their small numbers, the Cardinal Spirit Church and its main temple still controlled huge power, and their influence was even deeper than that of the other factions, especially among the common folks.

One of the main reasons for the Faery Humans' influence and tight control over the temple was their innate affinity with the Light Element and their heritage of Holy Magic, which could only be performed using the Light Element.

Gravely injured and afflicted people from all over the conflict plains come to the Holy Mountain Range to seek the church's help in healing, and some even come here to cure various poisons and curses.

Although there was also Alchemy for these purposes, it was simply too costly, and some alchemy ingredients were too hard to find or in various dangerous places. Even if someone had both wealth and the means to gather them, there was still a chance that they might never be able to reach the alchemist or that the alchemist failed in the process, hence wasting the materials. That's why the Cardinal Spirit Church held such influence.

However, for this exact reason, entering the Holy Mountain Range was very troublesome. At one time, thousands of people gathered outside the mountain gates just to wait for their turn.

Because there was a rule that each day only 5,000 people could enter the Holy Mountain, and then they had to leave within 3 days, or they will be detained and deported out of the mountain range while also entering the blacklist of the church, never able to step inside again.

At this moment, just like always, the entrance of the Holy Mountain Range was filled with a myriad of people and their temporary tents as they waited for their turn.

They weren't worried about someone else entering before them because they had their entrance token, which they brought from the Star Server of the Cardinal Spirit Church. This entrance token cost 10 million ZC, and once someone turned in, they would receive a message from the star network. Then, they had to report within an hour before their token would turn invalid, and it wasn't refundable.

Among these myriad people, a scared-faced elf with dark hair and ebony skin wearing full body armor was sitting alone on a thick branch of a tall tree. His dark brown eyes

were cold as he watched the colossal mountain gates hundreds of meters away from here with scrutiny. "Would you Mind if we joined you, friend?" A jolly voice suddenly caught the dark elf's attention.

Averting his eyes, he coldly looked down and saw another tall elf with emerald hair and a toned build adorned in clean white robes. Beside him was a small, delicate elf girl with similar emerald hair bound in a ponytail. She looked at him with her big, round eyes filled with curiosity and anticipation. However, despite the summer heat, a thick scarf was wrapped around her neck, looking quite out of place.

The dark elf thoughtfully replied, "Suit yourself; this tree didn't just belong to me."

The wood elf was a little startled by the dark elf's reply before he smiled in appreciation and nodded, "Thank you."

The next moment, he picked up the little elf girl in his arms and jumped, directly reaching the top of the tree, and gracefully landed on another branch a few meters away from where the dark elf was sitting.

He then carefully placed the little elf girl on the branch, took out a strange black binocular with runes engraved on its frame, gave it to the little elf girl, and gently said, "Here, you can watch the Holy Mountain Gates as much as you want."

"Thank you, Daddy!" The little elf girl said in her delicate voice. Her eyes shone with elation as she quickly grabbed the binoculars and placed them before her eyes. The wood elf lovingly creased her head gently before he sat down, looked towards the dark elf, and asked in a friendly tone, "So, what happened to you?"

The dark elf glanced at the scarf around the little girl's neck peculiarly before he finally averted his eyes, looked towards the wood elf, and said a single word, "Poison."

The wood elf's expression became grave as he nodded, "Will you be alright until your turn arrives?"

"You don't have to worry about a stranger like me. " The dark elf impassively replied.

The wood elf smiled in embarrassment, "Forgive me if I overstep just now. Don't worry, we won't bother you anymore. My little girl wanted to see the mountain gates, but there were simply too many people around that place, which would make her agitate. Once she fulfills her curiosity, we'll leave."

"No worries." The dark elf nodded, then hesitated for a moment and asked, glancing at the little elf girl, "What happened to her?"

The wood elf was startled by this unexpected question, and the little girl suddenly peered towards the dark elf.

"Why do you think I'm here for her?" The wood elf asked with curiosity.

"Since the crowd agitates your daughter and this place really isn't for sightseeing, it's quite obvious. Furthermore, the scarf around her neck is too eye-catching, and I can sense a peculiar energy around her neck." The dark elf replied coolly.

The wood elf's eyes widened as his expression suddenly changed, "You can sense the curse around her neck?!"

The dark elf's eyes shimmered in realization, "So, it's a curse?"

The wood elf agitatedly nodded, "Indeed, since her birth, she's been afflicted with this mysterious curse, and because of it, she can't cultivate magic or go anywhere near mana. If she did, then that curse started to torment her for hours.

"I can't afford to seek the witch race's alchemists, so I start saving money to try Holy Magic since it said that holy magic is the best way to cure a curse. However, you are the first one who could sense the curse from her. Do you know anything? If you can help my little girl, I'll do anything!" His eyes shimmered with hope as he looked at the dark elf with an intense, pleading look. The dark elf didn't reply but looked towards the little girl, who was now looking at him with a curious yet hopeful glance.

'Why did my hex core suddenly react when this girl got closer to me? Does this curse have any affinity with me?'

The dark elf, or Jacob, who was now using the gluttony mask to disguise himself as a dark elf, couldn't help but think as his curiosity was piqued!