Cheat. A 281

Chapter 281: Chamber of Shadows

"Ugh, where am I? My body felt like lead weights slung across my limbs, dull exhaustion seeping into my bones... But I was fine before jumping into that black hole, right? Wait something wasn't right, why everything is... wet? as if I were submerged in some thick, alien fluid..."

Myne gathered his thoughts as he regained consciousness after blindly leaping into that mysterious black hole. He attempted to open his eyes, but an extreme level of tiredness hit him as if he had been working nonstop for a week without any rest. What shocked him even more was the sensation of lightness and wetness enveloping his body, as though he were submerged in water.

"Huh? There's something in my mouth! Is that a pipe? And my nose is sealed... Am I really underwater?" Myne, slowly gaining control over his body, felt as if his mouth were open and something inside it. With considerable effort, he moved his right arm to his mouth, discovering a metal mask tied around it with a tube-like pipe in the middle.

"Where the f*ck am I? What's happening to my body?" Myne took a deep breath through the tube providing him oxygen, fear, cold and slithering, coiled in his gut. Swallowing a lungful of the filtered air, Myne cracked open his eyes.

Opening his eyes was a struggle. He felt heavy, shrouded in a paralyzing inertia. The sight that greeted him was more nightmare than reality. He was suspended in a chamber but through the haze, he glimpsed his own reflection on the cocoon's door which was made of a transparent material, though not a mirror, but still transparent enough to see his reflection and glimpse the outside.

Trapped within a cocoon-like pod, filled with a swirling green-and-black liquid. Tubes snaked in and out originated from the top of the cocoon, one clamped firmly over his nose and mouth, feeding him air with an alien tang.

Outside the surroundings was a dark room filled with similar cocoon-like pod instruments, devoid of any signs of living things—perhaps the luckiest thing for Myne.

"I have to get out of here." Myne surveyed the room, finding no one else present. He activated his Strong Arm, Rock Skin, Power, and Physical Strength Enhancement skills, then punched at the cocoon's door with all the remaining strength he had. To his surprise, he could hardly make a dent in it.

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"Seems like I have to try another method... If I use that skill, I will surely get out of this thing, but my only worry is that the skill makes too much noise. Better this time, I'll control my MANA input.

After mustering up 10% nervousness and 90% excitement, as if a child is about to play with a new toy, Myne first uses the Unbeatable skill to protect himself, and then he employs his most powerful skill.

"Unique Magic • Lightning."

Inside a black room filled with row after row of cocoon-like pods, each 2 to 3 meters in size, connected to a large empty bed-like pod resembling a spear placed in the middle of the room, is visible. The room is eerily silent without any kind of activity...

"BOOOM!"

Suddenly, one of the cocoons bursts open like a balloon, spreading the weird green and black liquid everywhere. Even the person inside wouldn't save himself from the impact and kisses the ground quite passionately.

"Woo," Myne grunted, but the groan quickly shifted into a giddy laugh. "I've fallen in love with this skill. If only it didn't consume so much MANA, I could probably go rampage wherever I am," He said excitedly while ripping off the mask and yanked the tube from his mouth, then peeled the nose clip from his pale face, savouring the clean air before standing up weakly.

As he gets out of that cocoon filled with a weird unknown liquid, his Ultra Regeneration skill finally kicks in and starts showing its effect. Myne's pale face and hollow body regain a bit of vitality, but his stomach is still roaring like a beast in a cage in urgent need of something to feed.

Ignoring his stomach's crying voice, Myne first looks at himself. He is completely naked with a thin body, as if affected by malnutrition, revealing his ribs and veins on his hands. The previously growing tummy is nowhere to be seen. His short hair has grown quite a bit, indicating that he was inside this cocoon for quite some time.

"Just how long have I been inside this thing?" Myne wonders, confusion and horror are evident on his face. The question whispered through his mind as he stumbled towards another pod. He wiped away the grime, peering through the transparent wall. Unlike his green liquid, this pod held only a swirling mass of inky blackness, impenetrable and ominous.

Myne's heart hammered against his ribs as he swiftly checked the other cocoons around him, each one a swirling vortex of inky blackness.

Myne's heart hammered against his ribs as he swiftly checked the other cocoons around him, each one a swirling vortex of inky blackness. "What the hell's goin' on here?" he muttered, a knot of unease tightening in his gut. He was about to move towards the next pod, praying to find Velvet amongst the silent forms when a flicker of movement within one of the black pods snagged his attention.

Squinting, he focused on the swirling liquid, trying to pierce the murky depths. Just as he thought his eyes were playing tricks, a horrifying, skeletal face materialized within the pod, sending Myne flying back with a startled cry.

"Frickin' hell!" Myne roared, adrenaline pumping through his veins. He braced himself for an undead abomination to erupt from the pod and attack, but to his surprise, the horrific visage flickered, then drifted back into the black liquid with a soft thud.

"So... just a dead body, huh?" Myne gasped, placing a hand over his wildly thumping heart. He took a shaky breath, the scare still clinging to him like cobwebs.

"Are all the cocoons filled with black liquid having dead people inside?" Myne questioned himself. A grim investigation confirmed his suspicions, and indeed, all the cocoons with black liquid had dead people inside.

"Someone is coming!" Myne, who was about to check other cocoons to search for Velvet, stopped suddenly as he heard a weird voice with an unknown language quite similar to the Demonic Velvet language she had used to speak before.

"Damn, it would be big trouble if that thing finds out that I escaped from the cocoon. I have to do something," Myne muttered while hurriedly running toward his destroyed cocoon. There, he first used the cleaning skill to clean all the mess and hid the destroyed cocoon-like pod inside his Inventory.

Then he used the Realize skill to create a fake-looking cocoon with a dummy of himself floating inside the green liquid. After checking everything, he used the Stealth, Concealment, and Illusion skills to hide himself in a dark corner behind a random cocoon.

Myne breath hitched in his throat as a section of the wall swirled open in an Uzumaki shape, and a two-meter tall slug-like creature of obsidian hue oozed its way into the chamber. What made Myne literally vomit on the spot was, instead of the typical hard shell on its back, there was a purple, jelly-like mass clinging to its back.

If it was just that, then Myne might not have been so shocked and disgusted. However, Inside the pulsating jelly, a thin naked human figure was being slowly digested, his flesh dissolving in the acidic bath; many of its body parts were eroded and looked extremely disgusting.

Myne could even see the inner layer of the man's skin, but what surprised him more was that even in that condition, the man had a happy, satisfied smile on his face, as if he was having a sweet dream.

(Weird? Everything seems normal; where did that booming sound come from? Could it be from another location?)

(A/N: From now on, every creature Myne encounters will speak in their native demonic language, which Myne and Velvet couldn't comprehend. But now since we didn't have our translator (Alban) with us, I will write the sentence's meaning in front of it.)

The slug-like monstrosity, its elongated eyes scanning the chamber with chilling precision, suddenly shifted its gaze. It locked onto the direction of Myne's destroyed cocoon, an unsettling curiosity twitching in its slimy folds.

(Odd. Has someone entered this chamber without permission? Otherwise, Why else would this pod be so pristine and even the vitality liquid appears remarkably pure?)

The snail-like creature muttered in its peculiar language, leaving Myne utterly baffled, it cast another suspicious glance around the room before sluggishly retreating towards the entryway.

As the peculiar creature exited, the walls exhibited strange movements. Just as the passage opened, it closed seamlessly, leaving no trace of a door.

"Phew," Myne whispered, wiping a bead of sweat from his brow. "When that thing looked toward me, I literally thought it spotted me, but thank goodness it was just my imagination. However, the way it observed my cocoon suggests it had some doubts. Without any proof, it could only retreat.

It probably didn't take it seriously," Myne reassured himself as he emerged from his concealed corner, and quickly started searching for Velvet.

In total, there were 25 cocoon pods inside the chamber, with a central main pod connecting them all. It took three minutes before Myne finally located Velvet at the centre of the last row.

Like everyone else, she was encased within the cocoon, a tube inserted into her mouth. Naked and suspended in the green liquid, unlike Myne, her green liquid was now 90% transformed into black, only some parts of him retained a hint of green. Although Myne had no idea about the nature of the liquid, witnessing the conditions of others made him apprehensive.

Once the green liquid turns black, Velvet might be in serious trouble, and in the worstcase scenario, she might also turn into a corpse as well like others.

Chapter 282: Alban's Stuck Naming Talent

"Alright, how does this thing even open?" Myne muttered, frustration gnawing at him. The excitement of finding Velvet had waned, replaced by the cold sweat of a mounting crisis. The pod, resembling a glistening cocoon, refused to reveal its secrets. He scrutinized it, searching for a handle, a latch, anything resembling an opening mechanism.

Minutes crawled by, punctuated by the echo of his increasingly heavy breaths.

"This doesn't look good. The door is solid enough to withstand any casual attack. If I use too much force, it will not only harm Velvet but also attract that weird thing's attention. That's the last thing I want in my life was that damn ugly thing chasing behind my ass." Myne concluded, the words tasting like ash in his mouth.

"There must be a way to open it; otherwise, how did they put Velvet inside? I just have to understand it... Think, Myne, think," Myne growled at himself, suddenly slapping his forehead. "Yes, how could I forget about that thing? Staying inside that thing for too long makes my brain slow."

Hope flickered in his chest, like a fragile flame in the wind. With trembling hands, he focused on the pod, desperately use the appraisal skill to work its magic.

[Name: Dreamstrucker Pod

Grade: ???

Attribute: Dark

Description: A special pod created by Albangarous Lomanhelishin Malethraxelotharionis to extract his prey's emotions, such as fear, happiness, excitement, etc., and vitality and soul slowly, to be fully enjoyed by the person inside the Main Hub leaving only a hollow shell behind.

This pod is always filled with vitality liquid, which not only weakens the mental defences of the person inside but also allows them to stay alive without the need for sustenance. The person inside the pod can live for two months without needing anything. However, if the person inside is provided with food from other sources, the time limit can extend to four months.

The pod is connected to the Main Hub, from which it is operated. Any change in settings or shutdown processes can only be done from there.

Special Note: Please don't try to forcibly bring out the person inside the pod; otherwise, their consciousness can be lost in a dream world, and their real body would go into a coma state until the end of their life.]

"F*cking hell! Lost in a dream world? Does such a place even exist?" Myne spat the curse a bitter tang on his tongue. He wiped the cold sweat clinging to his forehead, the words from the appraisal echoing in his skull like a death knell. Thank God he hadn't acted impulsively, tugging Velvet out of that pod. The consequences, he shuddered to think, would have been a lifetime of regret.

Myne gaze darted around the room, searching for the "Main Hub" mentioned in the inscription. Soon, his eyes snagged on the solitary, imposing pod in the center, its sleek

surface bisected by a thick, pulsating tube that coiled up like a venomous serpent. The pieces clicked into place. This, this was the key.

Every Dreamstrucker pod was connected to this central unit, a monstrous spider weaving its webs of terror.

[Name: Dreamstrucker Pod's Main Hub

Grade: ???

Attribute: Dark

Description: The operator and main power unit of the Dreamstrucker pod. It is a special controller created by Albangarous Lomanhelishin Malethraxelotharionis to control 25 Dreamstrucker pods. All kinds of energy absorbed by the Dreamstrucker pod are sent back to it and stored in a storage unit.

When the host lies inside it, the storage unit immediately starts purifying these energies and sends them inside the host's body to enhance it. The Main hub can operate on both MANA Stone and Soul Stone. 100 high-level Mana Stones or 1 Soul Stone are enough to make it run for one Hell Year nonstop.

There are many different settings in the main hub from which the host can decide what to do with energy, like enhancing the soul, body, vitality, or lifespan—anything can be done. The Main hub currently operates in the native demonic language, but it can be changed with enough authorization.

After the host lies inside the main hub, he will be sent to the dreamscape from which he can control or create new dreams for the people inside the Dreamstrucker Pod...

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To get out of the dreamland, the host has to pronounce "\\$ <f\" (Ghrøkk-shtæm).]

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"Whoever wrote this much nonsense deserves a deep bow... It was undoubtedly the first time my Appraisal skill had presented such a detailed description of anything; previously, introductions were brief, and cases were closed with just a few words. It seemed even my skill knew a thing or two about discrimination...

But I had to admit, Alban's naming skill was truly stuck," Myne a nervous chuckle escaped him, a desperate attempt to bolster his courage. He already knew everything he needed to and was ready to save his sweet little kitty from the nightmare world before she lost more of her vitality.

With such thoughts in mind, Myne pushed aside the hatch atop the Main Hub and prepared to climb in, when a sudden realization hit him. He hurriedly got out of the main hub, attempting to push it, but it seemed as if it were glued to the ground. No matter what he did, he couldn't move it an inch. Sighing helplessly, Myne immediately moved to plan B.

Instead of shifting the main hub aside, he used his Realize skill to create a copy of the main hub in front of it, then concealed the original one with his illusion skill.

"I hope this level of preparation will save me a few minutes if something unexpected happens," Praying Lady Luck that he will even become her boy toy if she bestows upon him enough luck to save Velvet without any problems. Finally, he slid into the Hub, the hatch sealing him in with a soft click.

As soon as he closed the hatch, a mysterious energy started releasing from every part of the pod, entering Myne's body. Right at that moment, a few words, presumably in the native demonic language based on the description, appeared inside his mind. Curious to know what those words meant, Myne realized he had to choose one for the next phase.

Mentally clicking on the largest-looking word, he shivered in enjoyment as if experiencing an orgasm. The feeling mirrored the relief of abandoning hard work in the summer sun, running towards the bathroom, and pouring cold water on a hot body to soothe the soul.

"Moan... This is so wonderful," Myne, making a face that could even make the biggest pervert in the world feel shame, wanted to relish that incredible sensation. However, suddenly, everything in front of him turned dark, and he lost consciousness.

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"Damn it, I wanted to enjoy that feeling more," Myne, who hadn't even opened his eyes after regaining his senses, immediately started complaining like a child.

After venting his frustration, Myne slowly opened his eyes. To his surprise, what greeted him was complete darkness in front of him. He looked left and right, but nothing had changed; everything was covered in darkness.

"Now, what's the matter with this situation? Is something wrong because I'm not a demon?" Myne muttered, frustration simmering into worry. Suddenly, he noticed something strange under his feet. He glanced down... and down... and down...

The ground had vanished, replaced by a dizzying expanse of nothingness. Myne's face lost all its colour as he realized he was hovering probably thousands of meters high in the sky.

"Haaa, haa, haa, haa, f*ck, why am I in the sky?" Myne, while trying to calm down his heart, cursed loudly. He looked down again, only to realize one thing – he was scared of extreme heights, especially when he knew that he couldn't use his teleportation skill.

Myne, who was having a panic attack, tried to think of any way to get down to the ground. However, due to fear, his brain had already stopped its job, hiding in a random corner and writing its will.

This process lasted for the next few minutes. Even then, with no sign of falling like a meteorite, Myne couldn't help but boldly start thinking of braver things.

"Wait a minute. If this is the dream world created by the main hub, and currently, I am the main operator, then won't I be able to do what I want just by thinking?"

Suddenly, a weird thought came to Myne's mind. He focused a bit and thought about slowly flying toward the ground.

Myne's thoughts were inexplicably whimsical, lacking any semblance of logic, yet within the enchanting confines of this magical realm, filled with wonders of all kinds. As the notion crossed Myne's mind, a sudden gust of air brushed against his face, and his body began a gradual descent toward the ground.

Upon reaching a certain height, Myne beheld the very same haunting town from his dreams, shrouded in darkness and devoid of any signs of life. Myne took control of his descent, hovering over the town in search of Velvet. Along the way, he couldn't help but notice a peculiar change – previously, in his dreams, whenever he reached a certain height, three-eyed crows would aggressively assail him.

However, now, even if he approached them directly or circled around behind them, they simply ignored him, as if he were invisible.

"You damn crows! You caused me quite a bit of trouble before. What's the matter now? Don't feel like pecking me to death with your beaks? Huh? Why the silent treatment, you wretched crows?" Myne exclaimed in frustration.

"Tsk, cowardly crows. Go f*ck yourselves!" he vented, releasing the accumulated frustration from before, before slowly start flying away from the flock of crows.

Chapter 283: Velvet's Despair

"Tsk, cowardly crows. Go f*ck yourselves!" Myne vented, releasing the accumulated frustration from before, and slowly started flying away from the flock of crows. However, fate, it seemed, had a twisted sense of humor, what he never expected was that crows would turn out to be very obedient.

No sooner had the curse left his lips, with a loud cry, crows instantly started jumping on each other without caring about gender.

Myne, who had hardly flown a bit away, was shocked beyond words at the scary sight of hundreds of crows crazily jumping on each other. He beat a hasty retreat, leaving the cawing chorus and acrobatic obscenity behind.

"Shit, what the heck were those crows doing? Did this happen because of my casual words? Wait, doesn't this mean I can control all the being here with just my words alone?" After entertaining such a weird thought, Myne quickly looked around and found another flock of crows chilling around on the roof of a random house.

Taking a deep breath, he unleashed his newfound power. "Find me a girl," he commanded, his voice firm despite the tremor in his stomach. "Black tail, long pointed ears. Report back if you find her, understood?"

To his astonishment, the crows didn't simply caw or ignore him, as if they had mastered hume language, they cocked their heads, beady eyes studying Myne up and down, then, with a series of sharp caws, took flight, scattering into the dark sky.

"They really understand my command? Dreamworld crows are quite smart, I have to say. Now that I have helpers, let's take a break while the crows are searching for Velvet and think of a way to deal with the next problem."

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"30 minutes later."

"Crowww..."

Half an hour had bled into existence, time smeared thin by Myne's anxious ruminations. He lay splayed on a rooftop, worry weaving furrows in his brow. No plan, no escape, just the suffocating silence of the dream world pressing down on him. Suddenly, a sharp "Crowww!" pierced his brooding, a feathered herald perched on his head.

"Have you found Velvet?" Myne asked with a frown, clearly not in a good mood as he couldn't formulate any reliable plan to escape the troublesome place.

Upon hearing Myne's question, the smart crow simply nodded its head and started flying in a certain direction, disregarding Myne's gloomy mood.

Ignoring the rude crow, Myne quickly followed it and soon arrived at a small stone house that looked quite sturdy from the outside, surrounded by a large, man-made thorny fence to prevent undead from entering.

"Now, this is something my girl could do. As expected, neither of my girls is easy to mess with... But where the hell is she?" Myne looked around and soon noticed commotion a few blocks away from his location, rapidly approaching his direction.

Myne waited for a bit and soon saw the person he desperately sought. Velvet, wearing tattered clothes on the main parts of her body, messy hair as if she hadn't washed it for months, covered in wounds from head to toe, carried a small bag on her shoulder, rushing toward the stone house.

Behind her, a few dozen or so undead were chasing her, but in front of Velvet's cat-like speed and nimbleness, they were clearly helpless to catch her.

Upon reaching the thorny fence, she ran toward the house beside it, climbed the 3-meter tall wall, and without hesitation, jumped into the stone house. After entering the courtyard of the stone house, she gave the middle finger to the undead who were chasing her and entered the house.

"I taught her that move. Girls really grow so fast," Myne chuckled, genuine warmth suffusing his voice, emotionally addressing the crow beside him, which shook its black wing with a poker face and flew away.

Accustomed to those weird crow-human-like behaviours, Myne looked around and couldn't help but frown a bit. "Where am I? Since I have a copy of fake Velvet in my dream world, then shouldn't Velvet also have a fake version of mine as well?" Myne, while flying toward the stone house, thought confusedly.

He employed the power of his imagination, which he was slowly becoming accustomed to. After rendering himself invisible, he passed through the wooden door like a ghost.

"So cool... If I had both of these skills in the real world, I would surely become the world's richest man alive in a matter of a few years," Myne sighed helplessly, dismissing futile thoughts from his mind as he began observing his surroundings.

Being the abode of a responsible, hardworking girl, as one would expect, the house was as clean as the summer sky. Every piece of furniture was meticulously arranged, devoid of even a speck of dust. Windows were sealed with wooden planks, and a small fire flickered in the fireplace, casting a warm, red glow throughout the house and dancing shadows on the walls.

Burning candles adorned the living room, while the clattering of utensils resonated from the kitchen.

With a mix of amazement and helplessness, Myne walked toward the kitchen. He had no words for Velvet being clean frank, even Aisha was no expectation, girls just don't like dirty thing, of course, Sylphy was an exception.

Inside the kitchen, Velvet had already emptied the small bag she was carrying on her shoulder. It contained a few candles, some pieces of bread that clearly didn't look edible, dried-up meat jerkies, two bottles of water filled with dirt as if she had extracted it from mud, five crow corpses, and two crow eggs.

"Sigh, finding supplies is becoming more and more difficult. This is the last amount of water I can gather from that little pond. Now I have to find another source to get water," Velvet muttered, her voice raw with exhaustion. She opened the cupboard door and placed the dirty water bottle inside it beside a few clean water bottles.

Then, she picked up one of the crow corpses, plucked it, and roasted it whole in the fireplace. Since she didn't have any vegetables or seasonings, she did it in the old-fashioned way, like a primitive human. In her eyes, Myne saw the glint of desperation, the stark reminder of her dire situation.

Velvet's crow-scrounged dinner done, she rose from the creaky chair, her gaze falling on the hidden cellar door.

Confused, Myne, who was still contemplating how to surprise Velvet, silently followed her. Upon entering the basement, however, his mouth couldn't help but twist in embarrassment. There, he finally found the fake version of himself. Inside the basement, a small bed lay in the middle, occupied by a young man wearing shorts and a bare chest. Arcane-looking books cluttered a rickety desk, a rusted toilet huddled in a corner, a single water bottle stood guard, and an army of candles dotted the dusty floor. Seeing Velvet entering his room with food, the young man hurriedly ran toward her.

Like a gentleman, he guided her to his bed, paying no heed to the food. There, he first set aside his meal, took out what looked like a lotion from under his bed, and began applying it to Velvet's fresh wounds.

"How was today's raid, honey? Did you find any way to escape from this hell hole?" The fake Myne, with a voice filled with concern, asked.

"Sigh, Nothing... There's still no clue. It's as if this entire town is a big maze trapping us and refusing to let us escape. Even the entrance we came in through has vanished, and the walls surrounding the town have become 30 meters tall—literally impossible to climb. God knows what's wrong with this wretched town," Velvet sighed tiredly.

She gestured for Myne to stop applying lotion and lay down on his lap.

"At least you are with me; otherwise, I don't know what would have happened if I stayed all alone in this hell hole... I might have gone crazy by now."

"Please don't say that. Now you're making me feel bad. After all, I do is just sit in this small room, and enjoy the food and water you brought while risking your life. Sometimes, I wish I could go out with you, and help you deal with those horrific things.

But this damn phasmophobia phobia of mine just freezes my body at the sight of their horrific faces," The fake Myne said, shedding crocodile tears, holding his head between his legs, and speaking in a crying voice, completely melting Velvet's soft heart.

"Just don't think about these useless things. You're with me, and that's all I need. We'll surely find a cure for your phobia. Just don't lose faith. Now, you eat your dinner. I'll go out and make some preparations for tomorrow's raid," Velvet said reassuringly.

With that, she gave the fake Myne a sweet kiss, eliciting a pang of jealousy in the real Myne, who had been silently observing their drama from the corner, before walking out of the room.

Thub!

Myne waited until the basement door thumped shut before springing into action. With a swift gesture, he sealed the room with an invisible sound barrier so that Velvet wouldn't come in and discover what he was about to do with the fake version of himself. He then revealed himself and, in front of the cowardly fake Myne's horrified eyes, moved towards him while rubbing his fists.

"Let's talk a bit, shall we?" Myne growled, his voice a low rumble. "And we'll start with how much trouble you've caused to my little kitty. By the way, have you also slept with her while pretending to me..."

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"Sigh, sometimes I miss the time when Myne was absolutely powerful and reliable in my eyes. I could trust him with my eyes closed, knowing that he could handle everything.

Although that was all my imagination, I just can't stop myself from imagining Myne as that strong figure," Velvet muttered with a desperate smile as she sat in front of the fireplace, watching the flames dance in a graceful manner.

"Well, if you had, instead of f*cking me all day long just after seeing me, fought with me at least once, then you might have had a strong, reliable, smart, handsome, and absolutely powerful Myne under your ass..."

Chapter 284: Sweet Talk

"Well, if you had, instead of f*cking me all day long just after seeing me, fought with me at least once, then you might have had a strong, reliable, smart, handsome, and absolutely powerful Myne under your ass instead of a coward making your life hellish..."

Myne's voice broke the quiet stillness, a playful edge dancing around the teasing remark.

Velvet's head snapped towards him, surprise crinkling seeing Myne sitting beside her, eyes reflecting the dancing flames in the fireplace, a picture of nonchalance.

"When did you come here!? I didn't hear any movement. Quite weird," Velvet, breathing a sigh of relief, asked as she observed Myne up and down for some reason.

Myne shrugged, a hint of a smile playing on his lips. "Just long enough to hear you lamenting the hero you already have, but somehow don't see. I still can't believe I have such a weak, cowardly, and selfish image in your mind... Why do I suddenly feel like I wasted quite a few months for nothing?"

"Where did you get those clothes? Don't all your clothes get lost?" Velvet, as if not noticing the sadness in Myne's tone, asked with a frown.

"Amm... From my storage bag? Otherwise, Where else would I find such exquisite attire in this shitty town?" Myne replied hesitantly, smiling awkwardly and avoiding eye contact.

"Storage bag, huh?" Velvet's voice held a hint of suspicion, but the corner of her mouth twitched upwards. "Finished your crow dinner, then?"

"Honey," Myne drawled, leaning back in the chair, "as much as I love you, even my valiant stomach has its limits, unless my life is really on the line because of a food shortage, I am not going to eat something like that. Also, maybe it's time I let you meet Aisha and you learn a few dozen things about cooking from her.

Your cooking talent is not much higher than mine," Myne calmly replied with a poker face, not caring that his words, filled with absolute truth, could bring him a good beating.

"Aisha? Cooking ... Hahahaha ... "

Velvet, already quite confused by Myne's sudden change in behaviour, burst into unexpected laughter, startling Myne, the sound echoing unsettlingly in the quiet room.

F*ck! Don't tell me that demonic entity has entered in original Velvet dream as well, Myne thought, confused and nervous, as he watched Velvet laughing like a madwoman.

"Velvet? Honey, are you alright? You're scaring me..."

"Sorry, sob, sorry, I was just carried away in excitement and couldn't stop myself. I thought it would take you a few more months to come to rescue me, but it seems like I underestimated you too much. I am truly going to be your worst girlfriend ever, that is for sure," Velvet, covering her face with her hands, spoke.

Myne, silently watching her with a shocked expression, soon noticed crystal-clear tears streaming from the corners of her eyes, a revelation that surprised him for quite some time.

Sighing helplessly, Myne stepped up, walked toward Velvet, lifted her, sat down on her chair with Velvet on his lap, and gently started stroking her head to calm her down.

"Don't worry, since I am with you now, no one can separate us anymore. We will surely get out of this alive, marry each other, go on various adventures... Well, forget about adventures. After this, I just want to take a rest, lock myself in my house for some time, with the company of all three wives of mine."

"Adventures? After this mess? Forget it! You nearly gave me a heart attack with your grand entrance, and that's after promising a simple date. Who knows what kind of mayhem would erupt on a real adventure? Maybe next time we have an evil god chasing us with its entire army." Velvet replied, wiping away tears.

"So, how did you find out that I was the real Myne and not the fake one?" Myne gently stroked Velvet's head, a smile playing on his face—a smile he had momentarily forgotten upon discovering that Velvet in his dream was a mere doppelganger.

"Well, I figured it out just the second day after we entered this town. Your behavior was too odd to go unnoticed. Though I didn't know how powerful you were, the aura around you was always formidable enough to deter people. But upon entering this town, it seemed as if you lost that aura, becoming just a random guy, giving off a feeling as if something was missing.

At that point, I had my suspicions, so I used my skills but still everything seemed normal until I noticed another thing—your magic trick. Remember, before entering this town, every time we met, you always conjured something out of thin air. No matter what it was, even when I needed something, most of the time, you had it with you.

So when I asked your fake version about it, he started behaving as if someone else did it, not him. That's when my doubt turned into confirmation. Still, I didn't dare to risk you just based on my suspicion. After finding this location, we settled here. I went out while your fake version, due to his so-called phobia, stayed in the basement.

Although I always knew he was fake, I couldn't shake the doubt that maybe he was real, and I was overthinking it. I never comforted him, behaving as if everything was normal..."

"Would you believe me if I said that I have full faith in you, that you'll come to save me?" Velvet, burying her head in Myne's chest, raised her head, looking at him with puppy eyes before asking.

"Hehehe, oh my little kitty, you're so naive. If I still believed in this level of nonsense, wouldn't it be better for me to stay in that basement for the rest of my life?" Myne lightly kissed Velvet's dry lips before speaking with a light chuckle.

"This is the Master I always love and dream of living together with... By the way, hearing your casual tone regarding the fake version of yourself, it seems like you also had a similar experience as me. So, what's your story? How did you find out that the Velvet beside you was fake?" Velvet, to hide her embarrassment, quickly changed the topic, speaking like a shy girl.

"There were three points that made me realize the Velvet beside me was a fake. Unlike the fake version of myself, who was clearly a novice in his work, she was very professional. If it weren't for a big accident that shouldn't have happened, I might never have realized she was a copy of you. And believe me, I really had a pay a very big price if I didn't find out about her identity."

"The first point—when she mentioned my mother's name. I distinctly remember never telling you anything about my mother, let alone her name. So, her knowing about it raised the biggest suspicions. The second time was when I casually mentioned your mother's ring.

Her reaction was as if it was normal for me to know about it, which it shouldn't be, as you never mentioned your mother to me and one day when you were talking to your late mother, I just silently listened to your talk and learned how important that ring for you... Sorry about that, Myne apologises while holding his ears.

Velvet just rolled her eyes at Myne's apologies while giving a pinch on his cheek. "No need to apologize. It's not a big deal. Even if you had asked me directly, I would have told you everything about my mother's ring. It's not some kind of national treasure I had to hide from everyone until my last breath anyway. So, what was the last point?"

"Hehehe, the last point was very obvious. I just subconsciously always ignored it. It was that you became too obedient and well-behaved, like an honest wife. You started doing what I told you without any of your own thoughts. Never once did you try to deny my orders, as if what I said was absolute. You always spoke in my favour, either motivating me or joking around to make me feel good.

No matter what kind of situation we were in, you were always optimistic, and ready to do anything, anytime, anywhere. You literally became my dream girl without any flaws, which was the biggest flaw in itself, as no one can be so perfect, especially a girl who is an uncontrollable emotional being.

At first, I thought it was my own inner charm that made me like this after experiencing those scary things. But when those doubts cleared, my vision became clear, and I noticed how creepy all your acting was..."

"I still get goosebumps every time I think about it," Myne shivered while thinking about demonic Velvet's smile suddenly appearing in front of him.

"By the way, have I told you that we are currently inside your dream world?" Myne, whose hands were now caressing Velvet's head, somehow having changed their path and moved to rest on top of her breasts, continued to speak.

Chapter 285: Bringing Velvet Out From Her Dreamworld...

"By the way, have I told you that we are currently inside your dream world?" Myne, whose hands had now changed their course, caressing Velvet's head before moving to rest on top of her breasts, continued to speak.

"What?!" Velvet not caring about Myne's perverted actions exclaimed, voice tinged with disbelief. "So... I've been sleepwalking this whole time?"

"Not just you, but me as well. I just got out of my dream world and hastily came into yours to rescue you. By the way, have you met a pervert old geezer?" Myne asked, suddenly remembering a certain Oscar-winning actor.

Velvet frowned, tilting her head in thought, "I don't think so. As far as I remember, there were always just the two of us. So who is that old man you are talking about, and most

importantly, how did you escape from your dream world? I tried every possible way but couldn't find any way to get out," Her hands, nimble and insistent, found their way to his collar, urging him to share his secret.

Myne smiled, a touch of amusement softening his gaze. "Easy there, my curious kitten," he teased. First of all, that old geezer I am talking about is a big actor and the world's most shameless person alive, who likes to be humiliated by others. Oh, and he is also the person behind all of this mess. Sigh, he is super powerful as well.

If we encounter him, then our game would surely be over once and for all. After all, no owner likes to see his pets he caught to play with easily get out of their cages, run around wildly in his house, and make havoc, right?"

Velvet's frown deepened. "So that old man is keeping eyes on us? But if he really so powerful how'd you break free?"

"After finding nothing in the town, I ventured into the fog," Myne said, his voice taking on a distant tone. "I wandered alone in absolute darkness for maybe months before accidentally smashing into an invisible wall in the middle of nowhere. Then I destroyed that suspicious wall, creating a ball hole, and I jumped into it before opening my eyes in the real world.

Believe me, if it wasn't for my good luck, I'd probably still be lying inside that fog world."

"Okay, now enough chit-chat. We are already tight on time. We have to get out of this before that damn old geezer returns from wherever place he went." Myne gently spanked Velvet's rounded ass, making her stand up from his lap before he himself stood up, ready to leave.

Velvet's smirk twitched with a hint of suspicion. "What happened to your imposter, then? That mischievous grin every time you mention him piques my curiosity. He was you, after all, even if just a copy." Her finger poked playfully at Myne's stomach, a playful glint in her eyes.

"How dirty. I didn't expect you to be so perverted, Velvet. Tsk, tsk. And for your information, I didn't do anything wrong with him, except changing his face and leaving a few bulky friends with him to accompany him. After all, staying alone in a room all day could be very boring without a few friends to entertain him.

He might surely be happier now than before," Myne spoke with an evil smile, pulling Velvet into his embrace and hugging her tightly.

The next moment, before Velvet could say anything, a sudden sensation of spinning seized her. Just when she felt like vomiting, she noticed that she had already appeared on top of the town, suspended in the air, bathed in an eerie, ethereal glow.

"F*ck! Is your teleportation skill working again?" Velvet, after calming down, asked Myne, who was playing with her ass, with a surprised expression.

"Of course not. If my teleportation skill were really working, then why didn't I take us directly home instead of bringing you here? It's not like there's a wonderfully romantic view to watch in all this darkness anyway," Myne chuckled, rolling his eyes. He felt like Velvet's mind had become too relaxed after meeting him, it is not as sharp as it was when she was with the fake version of him.

"Then why are we here? Didn't you tell me that we're running out of time and we have to get out of this mess?"

"Sigh, so much nonsense. Couldn't you just calm down a bit and let me do my work silently?" Myne said in a helpless manner, shaking his head before looking at the sky and yelling out a word loudly.

"EXIT!"

...?

..."

"Is that it? Are we already out of the dreamworld?" Velvet asked in confusion, looking around and then at herself before moving her gaze with a frown at Myne, who was still staring at the sky.

"Cough, I think I need to issue a complete command... 'I WANT TO EXIT FROM THIS DREAM WORLD'..."

F*ck, so embarrassing, Velvet probably laughing at me right now, damn it, why it doesn't work, Myne in a crying manner thought not to dare to look down and face Velvet.

"Now you're making your own joke. Do you even know how to get out of this dream world? Have you properly read the instructions about getting out before coming in?" Velvet asked with a poker face. She really wanted to beat her idiotic boyfriend, but alas, she loved him greatly and still had to rely on him to get out, so she couldn't just start beating him right away. "Wait, instructions, yes, now I remember. The word we had to pronounce in order to get out was never in our language. It was something in a symbolic language. But there was also a notice about how to pronounce those symbols. Let me think a bit... It was something like 'ghrosako,' or 'ghrsam'..."

"Yes, finally I remember. Now, hold me tightly. We are going to get out of it. But first, give me a sweet kiss for better luck," Myne said, not caring about Velvet's approval. He passionately kissed her, like a thirsty traveller at a water pipe, before loudly proclaiming the special words to exit the dream world created by the Main Hub.

"Ghrøkk-shtæm!"

•••

Crack!

Thub!

Myne cautiously opened his eyes. The pod hatch gaped open, revealing the familiar interior of the Main Hub. Relief washed over him as he clambered out, a wide grin splitting his face. He rushed towards Velvet's pod, anticipation bubbling in his chest. However, Alban, who created those pods, clearly didn't care about the feelings of people inside them.

As he reached near it, Myne saw Velvet, along with all the black and green liquid inside the pod, now lying on the cold ground, struggling to get up. "Velvet!" Myne's carefree demeanour vanished, replaced by raw panic. He scooped her up, her fragile form cradled in his arms. "Honey, are you alright? Can you hear me?"

Velvet's voice was a raspy whisper. "I am okay, just feeling very tired. It's as if we've had continuous sex for months without eating and sleeping. My eyelids are heavy and I'm feeling very sleepy. I can hardly feel my legs, though my arms are still moving, but it's not an easy task. A weird vibration and chill are running down my entire body.

My stomach is making weird noises, your most favourite breasts have shrunk due to a lack of nutrition, as well as the skin on the rest of my body... I look like a grandma right now, hehehe..." A dry chuckle escaped her lips, fragile and laced with humour.

Myne chuckled, a light melody against her exhaustion, "Hahaha, don't joke around. If all grandmas started looking like you, then I might not be able to stop myself from having fun with a few of them. And although your boobies have indeed shrunk a bit, they are still my favourite.

They just need some fat, which I will make sure they get from time to time until they recover completely to devour their young brother in between them while skimming."

"Now, before you catch a cold, let me dry you up and help you to wear some clothes," Myne said, waving his hand in the air he took out a fluffy towel seemingly out of thin air, with a playful smile on his face, making Velvet weakly roll her eyes.

"Magic, such a wonderful thing, don't you think so, dear?" Myne asked gently dabbing the strange liquid clinging to Velvet's skin, his touch feather-light despite the urgency in his eyes.

"Yes, for sure, especially when you're the only one who knows the trick behind it. So, what's the next plan?" Velvet, with a smile on her face, weakly asked, letting Myne take care of the cleaning work.

"First, I'll try to make you stand on your own two feet before thinking about a way to open that wall-like door. Okay, now you're as clean as my handsome face. So, tell me, what kind of colored dress do you want to wear? I have quite a few colorful dresses," Myne asked, licking his lips suggestively as he took out an erotic sky-blue bra and panty from his Inventory before helping Velvet put them on.

"Are those Aisha and Sylphy's clothes? Wouldn't they be angry if they found out that I not only stole their husband but also their clothes?"

"Nah, they're not so cheap that they'd fight with you just for a few puny clothes. You can rest assured. But if you really have that much of a problem, you can also wander naked in this weird place. However, be aware not to attract unexpected trouble because of your beauty. So, should I remove this panty?"

Hearing Myne's playful voice, Velvet raised her arm with great difficulty, intending to give him a love fist. Sadly, her hand could only reach his chest before falling down due to a lack of energy.

"I hate you..."

Chapter 286: Piggyback Ride

"Okay, you can hate me as much as you want after we get out of this, but now tell me how much MANA do you have?" Myne, after dressing Velvet in a pink one-piece dress with black leggings, nodded in satisfaction before speaking. "MANA? What... cough, what is that?" Velvet, hearing this strange name for the first time, couldn't help but ask in confusion. Because she was too weak to speak, her voice, once so vibrant, was now a raspy whisper.

"Easy, don't be too excited. MANA is just another name for magical energy. I have a special skill that can heal any kind of injury a person has, no matter what it is. Of course, it also has a price, but the price is very cheap—only a sufficient amount of Mana. That's why I ask, how much Mana do you have? Got it?"

Listening to Myne's explanation, Velvet weakly nodded her head, a spark of understanding in her eyes. She then closed her eyes to focus a bit. After a few seconds, she opened them again and spoke with an uneasy expression.

"I...only have enough Mana so I won't pass out on the spot right now. But if I use any kind of skill, then I will surely become a pure burden on you," Velvet sighed helplessly.

"Ohh, worry not. I already expected this outcome. Here, drink this." Myne materialized a shimmering glass bottle filled with a sky-blue liquid. "Pure magic water. Not only will it ease your fatigue, but it'll also boost your own mana reserves pretty quickly."

"You might not believe me, but in my dream, at the start when we just entered the town, the fake version of you, while saving me, became injured and fell into a coma. In order to save her, I had to feed her this magic water from mouth to mouth for the next three entire days. If you were there, you would surely laugh to death seeing my salve-covered lips at that time.

But thank God, that was the fake you, who was a good girl and didn't laugh at me at all," Myne said emotionally, recalling the challenging days when he had to feed the magic water to Velvet while battling the evil desire of his little brother. These wonderful days he never wanted to experience again. However, Velvet clearly didn't think so. She, who was about to drink the magic water, immediately dropped the bottle and lay down on Myne's lap again like a half-dead patient.

"Sorry, Master. I couldn't drink that. My hands also stopped working as well as my mouth. Seems like I can only trouble you to do the same thing you had done with my fake version..."

"Are you serious?" Myne asked with a poker face, watching Velvet's third-class acting, which even a little child could see was fake. "You know we don't have much time to play around, right? The more time we waste here, the more complicated the situation outside will become if anyone finds out about us."

"If that is the case, then what are we waiting for? Instead of wasting time on that nonsense, wouldn't it be better if you quickly start feeding me this magic water, Mother Myne?" Velvet spoke playfully, although she was too weak to move her body. This also gave her an advantage, since Myne couldn't be angry or forceful with her as well.

After all, she is ill, and ill people always get better treatment from everyone in the family; this is a simple fact.

"Just you wait. Once you've fully recovered, I will surely take revenge for this," Myne said irritably while picking up the magic water bottle from the ground and pouring a mouthful of water into his mouth.

"Hehehe, sure. I am waiting for your revenge, my cute Master..."

Velvet continued her teasing, but Myne who was now tired of her nonsense, grabbed the back of her head and sealed her lips with his.

"Haa..."

"How is it? Do you feel anything?" Myne, initially intending to transfer the magic water into Velvet's mouth, after their lips touched and tongues collided, Both of them lost in passion, their simple water-transferring kiss turned into a real, intense one that lasted until they couldn't hold back their breath anymore.

"Yes, I felt a heat inside me rising, which I hadn't felt for months, and it was so wonderful..." Velvet began speaking until she stopped, staring at Myne with a fiery gaze, and Myne reciprocated.

As if they could read each other's minds, Myne once again filled his mouth with magic water, and another round of intense kissing sessions commenced in a horrific room filled with rows of experimental dead bodies.

"I miss you so much. I thought I had lost you forever when I found that the one beside me was a fake," Myne rasped, tears glinting in his eyes as he pulled away. His voice was raw, the emotion he'd held back bursting forth in a torrent. He held her close, the warmth of his embrace a stark contrast to the cold ground under them.

"Don't worry. Now I am with you, don't I? Also, a man shouldn't cry. Otherwise, if even you start crying, then what am I going to do? Grow a little brother between my legs and take your place? Hehehe, that would surely scare the hell out of you, right?" Velvet joked to lighten up Myne's mood.

The joke seemed to work well as Myne imagined Velvet with a 7-inch little brother hanging in front of her cave, causing him to shiver a bit and immediately let go of Velvet.

"Okay, joke aside... Never mention such a creepy thing again... So did you recover your Mana?" Myne replied with a dead serious face.

Velvet shrugged, a playful pout adorning her lips. "Thirty percent, maybe? Enough for you to try your fancy healing trick, I think."

Nodding at Velvet's suggestion, Myne hurriedly transferred the Regeneration skill to her, since the Ultra version was a bit too powerful for Velvet. Soon, white steam started gushing out from her body, which only lasted for a few seconds before it stopped.

"What happened? Why did it stop? I was feeling quite better when that steam was coming out from me," Velvet asked confusedly to Myne who was rubbing his chin and pondering seriously.

"I think my skill stopped working because you are already fully healed. Look at yourself. Do you see any kind of wound on your body? No, right? It means you are not injured, but your energy, or more specifically, your vitality got sucked away from you during the time you were in this pod.

If my estimate is right, then what we need is not a healing skill but something that can restore your lost vitality or something like life energy. If it was outside, it would only be a matter of a few scolds, and I could surely make you stand on your feet in minutes.

But here, it seems like you need someone else's feet from now on until I find something else." Saying this, Myne gently lifted Velvet up and placed her on his back tightly. He

then took out a rope and tied her to himself in an X and = shape, so even if he did some difficult movements like running and jumping, she wouldn't fall off accidentally.

"Ready for a piggyback ride, princess?" Myne asked, a playful smirk playing on his lips.

Velvet chuckled weakly before moving her face near Myne's ear and whispered, Always, my knight, just don't make me fall, otherwise, this princess might have to find another knight."

"Ohh, sure, let's me see in this life who dares to steal you from me. Anyway, now, remember, hold me tightly the entire time. Don't speak too loud in my ears, and open your eyes to see anything uniquely good-looking.

Then, inform me so we can see if there is anything in this shitty place that can help you recover," Myne instructed Velvet and was about to walk toward the exit wall, when he suddenly stopped, recalling the unsettling feeling he had when entering the Main Hub.

Hesitantly looking back at it, his good conscience urged him to stay away from the demonic objects that could ruin his life or other's life, while his evil side suggested they were just objects, their impact dependent on how they were used.

Just as Velvet was about to ask what was wrong, Myne made up his mind, turning around and walking toward the real Main Hub behind the fake one he created for safety.

Upon reaching the Main Hub, Myne placed his hand on it and directly transferred it into his Inventory. Almost at the same time, all of the pods, deeply connected to the Main Hub by various pipes thin as legs, also transferred into his Inventory, causing the entire chamber to appear less cluttered.
"WTF! Why did you destroy all of them for no reason? Won't this make us more easily noticeable?" Velvet cried out in surprise, observing Myne's peculiar behaviour. She couldn't understand what was going on in his mind.

"But those things give us so much trouble. How can I let them stay here and ruin someone else's life as well? Those evil things shouldn't exist in this world in the first place. And as for getting noticed without them, don't worry about it. I already have a plan for this. Just give me a minute..." Myne explained.

After saying that, he snapped his fingers and used the Realize skill to create fake replicas of 25 Dreamstucker pods, placing them back in their original positions. He didn't forget to create a fake Velvet and a real special note as well.

"What did you write in that note?" Velvet asked curiously, resting her chin on Myne's shoulder.

"A small experiment. If it works, then maybe we'll get a few more hours to explore and get out of this place. Otherwise, we better find a good hiding spot, as Alban is surely going to be pissed off a lot," Myne chuckled evilly before walking toward the exit wall.

Chapter 287: Forbidden Pleasures: A Twisted Discovery

"Myne! Are you sure this is the right way? You've been touching this wall like a pervert for the last 10 minutes, but this wall isn't showing any sign of opening as you said," Velvet complained with a bored look on her face, sitting on Myne's back.

"Ssss... Don't disturb me. I can feel it. I'm not far from unlocking it... Ahhh, here it is. Now you'll see how smart your future hubby is," Myne puffed out his chest and said proudly. He pressed a block-shaped stone on the wall, and it went in a bit before the wall suddenly started shaking.

The chamber vibrated, a low hum resonating through the air. Then, with a flash and a groan, the wall before them split open, revealing a dark corridor painted in red colour.

Velvet's jaw dropped. "Holy moly," she breathed, "the wall just... disappeared? How did they make something so magical? This doesn't make any sense!" Velvet exclaimed, her eyes wide open as she stared at the newly formed entrance. She looked around to find the extra stone, but alas, there was nothing on the ground.

Clearly, whoever made this kind of wonderful entrance was a meticulous craftsman who wanted everything perfect.

"Stop your nonsense. You'll attract someone you shouldn't. Now we're going out. Stay as hidden as you can, got it?" Myne covered Velvet's mouth with his hand as he said that. Getting a nod from Velvet, Myne took out an oversized robe from his inventory and covered himself and Velvet in it.

"Can you see from it?" Myne, with the hood on his head, asked in a low voice as he made his way out of the chamber. The scent of ozone clinging to their nostrils. When the colours subsided, they found themselves in a dimly lit red corridor, shadows snaking along the damp walls.

"I can, but not very clearly. However, it shouldn't be a problem to assist you. By the way, there's something written above your head," Velvet whispered, craning her neck to peer into the gloom. Myne, who was looking left and right in the dark, gloomy corridor, paused suddenly. He quickly looked up and saw a signboard hanging in mid-air by what looked like a spider web with a symbol on it.

Myne squinted at the glowing symbol, his knuckles white against the rough fabric of his hood. "I think this word is written in the native demonic language," he muttered, frustration lacing his voice "but sadly, we don't have a dictionary to translate it. And even if I had one, I have no desire to learn this creepy language," He sighed, his shoulders slumping slightly.

He was about to start pondering which direction to go next when a thought popped up in his mind.

Thinking that he had nothing to lose by trying, Myne cast appraisal on the signboard.

[A Random Signboard

Grade: Poor

Attribute: None

Description: A tattered wooden signboard on which '09' is written in the native demonic language. Nothing worth mentioning.]

"Huh? This word means '09,' but what does this number refer to?" Myne said confusedly. Although he was happy that he could use his appraisal skill to translate this weird demonic language, he frowned, contemplating the information he had just obtained.

"Maybe it's the number of the room we were in?" Velvet poked her head out of the robe beside Myne's neck and commented.

The question echoed in the dimly lit corridor, the answer lost in the shadows. Myne pondered for a moment, his gaze settling on a room a few meters down the hall.

"I don't think so. Look around. There are many rooms, but only in front of this one is there a signboard. This doesn't seem right," Myne said, pushing Velvet's head back into the robe. He hurriedly walked toward a room a few meters away.

Clearly, the chamber in which Myne and Velvet were locked was a special case, as all the other rooms only had a simple 2-meter-tall metal door with a small glass window in the upper middle part to peek inside from outside, instead of a magical door lock system.

After looking left and right and confirming that no one was coming, Myne hurriedly peeked inside the room to see the interior and find if there was anything worth mentioning.

Inside the room was quite small, as if it were some kind of storage space, filled with around 50 large wooden boxes that looked suspicious. Unable to resist his deep curiosity and old habits, Myne quickly opened the door, entered, and, after ensuring no one else was in the room, lifted the lid of one of the wooden boxes.

In the wooden box lay two large 5-litre capacity glass bottles filled with dark green liquid.

[Nutrient Solution

Grade: Low

Attribute: None

Description: A special nutrition solution created by an intelligent demon to support his slaves for an extended period without the need for too many resources. After soaking a hume in this liquid, they can survive for 1 week without necessary daily basic needs. Can be mixed with water.]

This seems like the thing we had inside our pod, in which we were floating, but the quality seems lower than the one used on us, Myne pondered thoughtfully. While Velvet was still inside his robe, he quickly stashed all the boxes with the nutrient solution inside his inventory.

"Better to use on something effective rather than letting it rot here. Anyway, without those devices I stole, these solutions seem useless... If only I could find out how to make this thing, then I can use those pods without any worry. Currently, one box has two nutrient solution bottles, meaning I can experiment on 100 people. This doesn't seem sufficient.

Better to find more." Making up his mind, Myne hurriedly walked out of the room and went toward the next room.

Moan!

"Ahh, ahh, ahha, ahh, ahh..."



In excitement, Myne was about to open the door of the next room after taking a brief peek. His hand stopped on the door handle as he heard a loud sound he was very familiar with, although no one had made this kind of sound because of him for months.

"Is this the sound of someone having fun?" Velvet, hearing the weird sound, poked her head out again and, after focusing a bit, asked with a red face. Although her face was pale as paper due to a lack of vitality, it looked no different.

The question hung heavy in the air, a stark contrast to the lewd noises emanating from beyond the door. Myne's hand tightened on the handle, a war between morbid curiosity and cautious instincts tugging at him, "Yep, and it seems the other party is enjoying a lot... Shall we take a look? It can be quite dangerous if they spot us?" He murmured his voice barely a whisper.

"Forget about it. Our utmost task is to find a way to get out of this place. Watching someone have sex is not going to benefit us anyway," Velvet replied without any hesitation. She wasn't particularly curious about witnessing someone else's intimate moments.

"Oh, yes, deeper, more deeper..."

he moans intensified, punctuated by muffled cries that sent shivers down Myne's spine... "Did you also hear the thing I heard?"

"Yep, and it doesn't sound like a girl's voice from any angle. Do you think both of them inside are?..."

"Let's take a look. This kind of unique thing doesn't always come into view," Before Velvet could protest, Myne cracked open the door a sliver, a cautious eye peeking through the gap. What unfolded before him was not the titillating scene he might have imagined, but a bizarre tableau that defied categorization.

"F*ck, if this thing gets known by desperate women unhappy with their sexual lives or girls dreaming about big things, it could surely become a dream lover for them. I might even think of giving it a try... Ouch! If I didn't have you... F*ck, next time let me finish before pinching me, otherwise, I will pinch you to death," Velvet angrily replied.

"Sorry, I thought you got hypnotized by that weird creature magic," Myne shamelessly apologized, his eyes glued Inside the room, locked in a twisted embrace, were two figures unlike any they had ever encountered.

One, a muscular humanoid with ram-like horns, black hair, red eyes, crimson skin, fanglike teeth, thin lips, and a harp hairless red tail, overall ugly as f*ck, writhed in apparent ecstasy, spurred on by the ministrations of his... companion

This "companion" was a creature of nightmares, a black abomination with a balloon-like head, 5 white eyes, eight prehensile limbs, and a writhing mass of tentacles where its lower body should be. The grotesque appendage currently occupying the humanoid's groin pulsed with an obscene luminescence, its movements eliciting guttural growls of pleasure from the crimson being.

[Name: None

LV: 87

Race: Halfling (Demon+Hume)

Gender: Male

Age: 135 y/o

Occupation: Slave

Title: None

Status: Excited, Happy, Horny

[Skill]

Illusory Veil

Mirror's Masquerade

Magic • Fire: Fireball

Magic • Wind: Accelerate

[Ability]

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"Ohh, finally, the appraisal is showing something useful. I can finally get back to old business. Only God knows how much I missed it," Myne thought emotionally while stealthily absorbing all the new skills and quickly checking how they worked. This level of exciting things is not something he can hold back and do later.

[Illusory Veil (Active Skill): Allows the caster to wrap a shimmering veil around themselves or others, altering their appearance to onlookers. It can be used until the host has a sufficient supply of Mana. The person or creature whose levels are higher than 20 can easily see through your disguise.

Cooldown Time: None.]

Humm, this can be used as the replacement for invisible or illusion skills if used correctly...

[Mirror's Masquerade' (Active Skill): By invoking this magical skill, a person can reflect the appearance of others nearby, assuming their likeness with uncanny accuracy.

After changing his appearance, the Host's Mana doesn't consume, but the process is extremely painful, so please do it in a secluded location.

Unless the other person is a master of deception skills or has special means, no one can see through your disguise.

Cooldown Time: 2 hours after each use.]

Finally, the skill I am looking for, exploring this weird place can be a little bit easier with this skill, Myne thought excitedly and quickly moved to the last skill.

[Magic • Wind: Accelerate' (Passive Skill): Wind has started liking you. Every time you move, the wind will assist you from the back.

Movement Speed increases by 20%.] Chapter 288: Myne's Stealthy Mastery

[Name: Ombola

LV: 111

Race: Halfling (Demon+Octobus)

Gender: Male

Age: 62 y/o

Occupation: Slave

Title: None

Status: Happy, Horny, Board

[Skill]

Mystic Limb Sculpting

Regenesis Ray

Mystic Abyssal Breathing

[Ability]

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Now things are getting super exciting. Who would have thought that any random slave working here would possess such powerful and wonderful skills, skills that people would die to get their hands on? For the first time in all these months, I feel good about being here, Myne thought with an evil smile as he severed the octopus man's skills.

He quickly peeked at their descriptions, after all their names so weird that he couldn't understand their meaning at all.

[Mystic Limb Sculpting: (Active Skill)

Description: This magical ability enables the user to sculpt and mold the limbs of a person like clay, granting them the power to add or subtract limbs with a mere thought. Be cautious; although new organs created by this skill would be independent and won't cause any problems with the body system, any kind of damage on them will bring real pain.

Cooldown Time: One day on each new creation.

Note: The newly created limb can be removed at any time.]

F*cking hell, this is the skill I've been looking for for such a long time. Finally, it's in my hands. Now I can do what I've always dreamt about—having my dick in both holes at the same time. I can't wait to use this skill; so excited, Myne thought with eyes shining from excitement. Suddenly, he remembered his circumstances and calmed down.

"Velvet is still not ready. I can't play with her, at least not now. Maybe later. But now I have something in my hand that will surely save me from Big Sis Maya's wrath... At least this what I hope..."

[Regenesis Ray: (Active Skill)

Description: Unleash a radiant beam of regenerative energy that bathes the target, kickstarting cellular regeneration and promoting an accelerated healing cascade. The more the Mana consumption, the thicker Regenesis Ray would be, and the faster the healing would be. Can also regenerate lost limbs.

Cooldown Time: None.]

"Hmm, finally, now I don't have to feed people magic water to heal them... It's really too embarrassing to think about it."

[Mystic Abyssal Breathing (Passive Skill)

Description: Enhances the user's lungs, allowing them to extract oxygen from water molecules. The user becomes capable of seamlessly transitioning between breathing air and water, adapting their respiratory system to the surrounding environment with ease.

An underwater breathing skill, huh? I thought it was some kind of breathing technique to make the body strong or something after reading its name. But it seems like I should never judge a book by its cover, Myne thought with a raise of his eyebrow. After taking a last look at the colourful couple enjoying themselves, he slowly closed the door. "Ugh, how could you stand looking at that... that thing?" Those two men, or one man, one creature. Just watching them for a few seconds made my stomach start hurting, although it's already empty for months," Velvet complained as soon as Myne closed the door, wearing an ugly expression. Clearly, she was not as open-minded as Myne.

"Relax, honey. Their personal lives have nothing to do with us. What they do with their lives is their own choices. If you don't like it, ignore it and move on," Myne calmly cooled down Velvet, who was heating up for no reason, and moved back to the hidden chamber from which they came.

"Why are we going back? Did you find anything suspicious?" Velvet, who had just calmed down from the previous matter, asked with a frown.

"Not in the usual sense," Myne replied enigmatically. "But I remembered one of my skills, which I think would help us move freely in this entire place. But first, we need a secluded place where our voices don't easily get out."

Thub!

After entering the chamber filled with fake instruments, Myne gently placed Velvet on a chair and gave her something to eat. As for himself, he started thinking about the red man since he needed to have a perfect image of that man in his mind to replicate his appearance. After finishing his preparations, Myne quickly used his newly acquired skill, The Mirror's Masquerade.

This skill allowed him to reflect the appearance of a nearby person, but he should have a clear idea about the body structure of that person. However, since the transformation process would be very painful, according to appraisal data, Myne decided to use this skill in a secluded location so no outsider would hear his painful screams.

"I hope the appraisal skill is just joking, and the process won't be painful," Myne mutter nervously, gulping down saliva. He activated The Mirror's Masquerade skill, and the next moment, with a thud sound, he fell to the ground, eyes wide open.

"Ahhh..."

Myne started screaming like a beaten dog, rolling on the ground. His entire body made weird noises, especially his bones as if they were breaking from the inside and reconnecting shortly after.

"Myne! Are you alright?" Velvet, caught off guard by Myne's sudden scream, asked with concern, wanting to go to him. But was stopped by Myne, whose face was filled with tears and sweat but still had a forced smile.

"Necessary process," he gasped, each word punctuated by a fresh wave of pain. "Remember, No pain, no gain..." His voice trailed off into a whimper, a guttural curse escaping his lips.

Ahhhh... F*ck!..."

In the middle of his nonsensical utterances, Myne suddenly felt as if someone had hit a hammer on his head. He quickly grabbed his head and let out an ear-piercing scream, strong enough that even the couple shamelessly engaging in public displays of affection momentarily stopped and looked at each other confusedly.

When they didn't hear Myne scream again, they shrugged their shoulders and resumed their lovemaking.

To prevent attracting more attention to his chamber, Myne took out a wooden rod from his Inventory, bit it down in his mouth, and gave a thumbs up to Velvet, signalling her not to worry, before resuming his rolling on the ground like a fish out of water.

His bones sang an eerie song of splintering and reassembly, muscles twitching like captured prey. Velvet watched, terror warring with a desperate desire to help.

Then, Myne rolled, again and again, a tormented creature adrift in a sea of fire. Every groan, every rasping breath echoed in the cramped chamber, a testament to the price he was paying for this borrowed skin.

•••

10 minutes later...

"Haaahaaa, haaa, haaa... Water!!!"

After what felt like a decade, Myne woke up again. He had lost consciousness in the middle of the third minute due to the pain. The first words he uttered after panting heavily caught Velvet off guard again. Their entire ration was with Myne himself, so how do she give him water?

Facing such a difficult situation, poor Velvet, although not wanting to give Myne more trouble, still said what she had to.

"Water is with you. Just wave your hand, and it will appear beside you."

Myne, lying on the ground like a dead dog, raised his head and looked at Velvet with his new red eyes speechlessly. Whether he wanted to laugh or cry at Velvet's humour, he couldn't decide. Then, remembering that it was not her fault and he had never mentioned anything about the Inventory to her, always presenting it as a magic trick, Myne nodded his head and took out the water.

"You're looking quite handsome in this new look, by the way," Velvet said, eyeing Myne evilly and licking her dry lips.

"Oh, come on, Velvet. You can't be serious about it, right? I am a completely different person now. So, indirectly you're saying I'm not enough for you, and now you like a red man with a small dick? When did you fall to this level? Tsk, seems like I brought an imposter with me again.

Where is my Velvet, you damn copycat?" Myne stood up from the ground, and since all his pain vanished after the transformation as if nothing had happened, he started joking with Velvet while pinching her cheeks.

"Ouch, ouch, ouch! Not so hard!" Velvet cried out in pain, but Myne only rolled his eyes at her useless acting. After acquiring new clothes since the old ones got destroyed again, he put Velvet back on his back, tied her there with a rope, put back that big robe, and used another skill, but this time on Velvet.

"Illusory Veil."

This skill allowed the caster to wrap a shimmering veil around themselves or others, altering their appearance as they liked. Myne's goal was to make Velvet on his back invisible so that he could roam around in this new form without any worry. Even if something bad happened, the final culprit would be someone else, and it had nothing to do with him.

"Good, now you're invisible. So, whenever you want to speak, make sure no one is around, got it?" Myne asked as he walked into the corridor.

"Got it, but I have to say those two guys really have quite a lot of stamina. It's been half an hour, and they are still fiercely fighting," Velvet spoke with her head resting on Myne's shoulder. Since she was invisible, she didn't have to hide her head in the robe.

"Hmm, compared to mine, this is nothing but child's play. Don't forget, once I fought with you on the bed an entire night, and only stopped when you started begging for mercy," Myne disdainfully replied while walking.

"Hey! You promised to never mention that thing again. Here, take your punishment." Saying such, Velvet opened her mouth and bit hard on Myne's ear.

"Ouch, f*ck, stop messing around, Velvet. We are in a dangerous situation, running for our lives under the nose of the enemy, not having a picnic. You are now behaving like a naughty, annoying child," Myne forcefully freed his poor ear from Velvet's jaw and gave her a good scolding.

Chapter 289: Spiral of Despair

After scolding, Velvet, who was attempting to lighten Myne's mood with her childish behaviour suddenly fell silent. He felt a pang of guilt, wanting to apologize, but Velvet's reassurance that it was not a big deal and she was alright silenced him. 'You can never understand a woman,' Myne also get a taste of the truth behind this sentence. The next three minutes of their journey were filled with deadly silence and the sound of breathing, nothing else. It was only when Myne crossed the monstrous mouth-shaped door and entered the world of endless stairs that Velvet opened her mouth again, making him breathe a sigh of relief.

"Fck! What kind of nonsense is this? Did the builders of this damn building leave their brains at home when they created these dangerous infinite spiral stairs? And why the f*ck didn't they think about making railings? Did they think that if someone got tired of living, it would be easy for him to jump down from here and end his life?"

Hearing Velvet's complaints, even Myne, who might in a normal situation try to calm her down quickly, followed suit and vented his anger as well.

"Yes, those damn bastards didn't even think of making some kind of automatic lifting devices or something. Do they really think everyone's legs are made of iron and have infinite stamina to climb all... all of those damn f*cking stairs? F*ck, just by watching them, my head starts spinning..."

Myne poked his head out from the edge of the two-arm-length-wide stair on which he was standing to look down, and the only thing that appeared before his eyes was an endless black hole ready to devour any kind of life in it, along with never-ending stairs in a spiral shape.

Looking up, he saw the mirrored image of the stairway stretching endlessly above, a monument to madness carved in polished stone.

"Now, this is called true despair. Just thinking about climbing those stairs my legs feel like jelly.

And whoever suggested the idea of using shiny marble to make those stairs, just don't fall into my hands, or I'll skin you alive," Cursing a poor ghost who was just doing his job, Myne, after taking a few deep breaths and receiving a deep kiss from Velvet to enhance his luck, started climbing upward.

"Myne, why are you climbing up? Shouldn't we go downstairs?" Velvet, seeing Myne's peculiar choice, asked confusedly and accidentally looked below. However, upon seeing the black hole and endless stairs, she started feeling dizzy, so she hurriedly closed her eyes.

Myne wiped the sweat from his brow, his crimson form shimmering faintly under the dim light filtering through the endless spiral, "Because falling from the stairs while climbing down is many times easier than climbing up. Believe me, if we really fell from here, we could surely enter the hall before reaching the end of those never-ending stairs. And I also wanted to see where we are.

To do this, we need to find a room with a window or something, which shouldn't be difficult since windows are the most common 'must-have' thing in any room, right?"

"But can't we see the view from the room below as well?" Velvet questioned, finding Myne's logic weird but reasonable. Still, she couldn't help but worry about his plan.

"Cough, Ah, sure, we can. But the higher we are, the more solid and detailed view we would get. Anyway, climbing a few floors is not a big deal," Myne replied with awkward laughter, clearly forgetting about the point mentioned by Velvet. To save his image, he quickly decided to change the subject before Velvet could bring up another thing to ruin his excitement.

"So how do you feel? You seem more energetic than before. Can you walk on your feet?"

"Cough, cough, cough. Sorry, Myne. I think I need to take a short nap. My head is feeling very heavy. Please only disturb me if you have anything important. Cough, cough..."

..."

"I knew it. She was faking all along. Sigh, being a caring and loving man is also such a pain in the ass. In the next life, I will surely become a bad guy who just messes with whatever he finds pleasing to the eyes and goes on his way after emptying his stock. Such a carefree and easy life... You will always be my hero, Mr.

Dickinson Pantiman."

"Sigh, I hope till the moment I got out of this hellhole, they would have released the new version of 'The Hero In The Panties.' It's still hard to believe that someone can get powerful just by having sex with various girls. But that guy's character has a big fault.

I mean, who likes a guy who is handsome and selfish enough to mess around with his best friend's mother and his own stepsister, who happens to be his second-best friend's wife with two sons, right behind their backs after they invited him to their house for dinner?"

"But no matter what, that guy must indeed have some charm; otherwise, not every random guy can have seven blockbuster books. Sometimes, I envy his skill that can make any girl fall crazily in love with him just by touching them. That's the skill I badly wanted in my life. However, not all wishes are meant to be granted. Sigh... Oh, finally, another entrance. But why are all entrances made in the shape of monsters' mouths?"

While various nonsensical thoughts swirled in his head, Myne finally climbed enough stairs and arrived in front of another entrance beside the stairwell. He carefreely peeked inside and found out that this time he appeared in front of a giant laboratory. Everywhere his eyes could see, glass containers filled with weird liquids and body parts of all kinds of creatures were on display.

"It looks like the lab of a crazy dark wizard who does various inhumane experiments for fun in the name of research," Velvet, who knows when, poked her head out from her robe and spoke with a disgusted expression, clearly not having a good impression of the dark wizard.

"Don't talk nonsense. What dark wizard? A laboratory is the first thing on any wizard's Must-Have list. After all, a wizard pursues knowledge, and without a proper lab, how could he conduct his various secret experiments? What if someone enters and messes up his entire year of research if he did that somewhere else?

Then he might not even have a place to cry," Myne corrected Velvet while slowly entering the lab, observing his surroundings to see if there was anything noteworthy he could bring with him, even though he was interested in everything there, but sadly had no idea what their use is.

"Have you ever met any wizard?" Velvet asked with a poker face.

"No..."

"Then stop your nonsense. You know nothing about wizards but are now giving me useless advice. Don't take me for a fool. I've seen a white wizard, and he didn't have any

lab. I saw him conducting his experiments in the open air instead of this kind of gloomy and scary place," Velvet directly exposed Myne's nonsense, giving him a fatal emotional blow.

Next time, he would surely think a bit before boasting nonsense.

"Do you think those are the organs of a toddler? They look quite small. I wonder where the owner of this lab got them." Myne, who had been wandering aimlessly inside the lab, suddenly paused in front of a few glass containers on the table. Inside were various small body parts—legs, hands, eyeballs, hearts, and more.

"I think we should just get out of this creepy place before someone catches us. After all, I don't think the guy whose figure you are using has the authority to enter such an important place. If we get found, even if we don't expose our identity, we'll still surely get punished," Velvet spoke with concern in a low voice.

But as if her words carried some kind of jinx, as soon as she said that, suddenly, with a thud sound as if a jelly-like thing fell from the ceiling, something landed behind Myne, sending ceil in his entire body.

This is what happens when you don't shut up your damn crow mouth in serious situations and speak nonsense without thinking, Myne thought with an angry expression, which he quickly hid and turned around like a robot in slow motion and saw the familiar slug-like creature carrying a human on its back, who now digested beyond recognition.

The creature that had entered the chamber when he got out of the pod was currently standing in front of him in an aggressive manner, its beady eyes burning with unadulterated rage, looking quite pissed off and staring at him.

Panic gnawed at his insides, but Myne swallowed it down, he first looked at the slug monster in front of him, then at the ceiling from which it had fallen, which still showed traces of its ugly green thing. He couldn't help but twist the corner of his mouth. Now, he only hoped that the other party didn't understand his language and hadn't called for reinforcement already.

Otherwise, no one could save him and Velvet from occupying a place on this creature's back as well.

Chapter 290: A Poor Slug's Problems

The slug monster, after getting promoted to the manager of the 10th floor of Abysal Tower Of Albaham by his almighty Master who had summoned him under his wing, for the first time in his life felt so much humiliation. Before this, regardless of the creature, they would either tremble in fear or kneel in respect upon seeing him. Even the arrogant basted in the library showed him respect.

But this was the first time he encountered a slave—a lowly halfling slave, who should beg for mercy upon laying eyes on him, prostrate on the ground, and lick his beautiful feet. Now, from somewhere, the devil knew, the slave had gathered the audacity not only to enter his almighty master's sacred lab but also to look directly into his eyes. This kind of humiliation was unprecedented.

("I am asking, what the f*ck are you doing here, SLAVE!!!")

Myne stared at the slug monster, who was screaming in his weird language with a complicated expression. On one hand, he wanted to make up a lie to escape from this strange situation, like saying he got lost or his master asked him to fetch a few things.

On the other hand, he couldn't understand what the other party was saying, and it seemed the other party couldn't understand him either, creating a complete deadlock

[Name: Sorman Soulbarb Lobaoosu

LV: ???

Race: Abyssal Slug

Gender: Male

Age: 371 y/o

Occupation: Self-proclaimed Manager of Abysal Tower Of Albaham

Title: The Great Bootlicker, Greated Enemy of Hygiene

Status: Angry, Irriate, Rage (Wanted to kill a certain someone in front of him badly.)

[Skill]

Dissolving Mirage

Etheric Marionette

????
?????
[Ability]
???
?????
?????

"Done, we are done for this time," Myne rasped, the words tumbling out like pebbles from a dry riverbed. Not even in his dreams did he expect that this ugly, slug-like creature would be so powerful.

greed gnawed at his insides, yearning for the skills the creature possessed, he knew stealing from such a behemoth was courting disaster, because powerful creatures could always sense even the slightest change in them. Myne had no desire to exchange places with the poor fellow on the slug creature's back.

"Myne, what's wrong? Why are you suddenly shaking? This slug monster, although very ugly, couldn't possibly be more powerful than us, right? Can't we just kill him and move

forward? By the time someone realizes he's missing, we might have already gone far from their reach."

Hearing Myne mumble and feeling his shaking, Velvet thought that he got scared after seeing the ugly slug creature. She started comforting him in a low voice, but to Myne, her voice now sounded no different than a devil's whisper, aiming to kill him to absorb his soul.

Ignoring Velvet's callous proposal, Myne focused on the descriptions of the two skills he could see:

[Dissolving Mirage (Active Skill)

Description: This illusionary skill creates a deceptive aura around the person it is used on, giving them the appearance of a creature made entirely of corrosive acid. The mere presence of the person induces fear in opponents, and the illusion is so convincing that it can cause them to believe the monster's bodily fluids are truly lethal.

Cooldown Time: None]

[Etheric Marionette (Active Skill)

Description: The art of manipulating the invisible strings that connect all living beings, turning them into mental marionettes. Etheric Marionette allows the user to control the movements and actions of others remotely, making them dance to the puppeteer's mental commands.

Note: The host should have strong mental power and will to use this psychic skill; otherwise, it can cause great damage to the brain of the person using it, leading to permanent memory loss or craziness.

Cooldown Time: 5 minutes after each use]

me send you back to where you came from. Damn it, now even the slave starts taking me

Myne, utterly baffled by the slug creature's guttural pronouncements, finally decided to break the tense silence and speak a few words in the hope that at least he could understand normal human language, saving him trouble.

"Ah, would you believe me if I say that I came here to fetch a few equipment for my Master? And sorry, but I really don't know your language, so I have no idea what you are trying to say to me..."

There was a moment of silence in the lab after Myne stopped speaking. The slug monster, who was ready to send Myne to his afterlife, also paused and made a dumbfounded look on his face, which was not so clear because of how ugly his face was.

Anyway, after the slug monster regained its composure, its eyes flared with an eerie luminosity, sending shivers down Myne's spine.

Myne, who finally found out that the other party took his words in the wrong meaning or literally didn't understand like him, was about to move away to make a bit of distance between himself and that slug monster so he could fight more freely but suddenly found that he couldn't move his body at all. Looking down, Myne saw himself enveloped in the same sickly green light emanating from the monster's eyes. The inability to move was only the beginning of his nightmare. The ground vanished beneath him, and he found himself suspended in mid-air, a puppet at the mercy of unseen strings.

"F*ck, Myne, do something! Do you want to replace that man's position on that thing back so badly? Otherwise, why are you cooperating so much?" Velvet, on Myne's back, seeing that he didn't even try to resist, couldn't help but grab his neck and shake him like a small fruit tree to wake him up from his dazed state.

"I know, I know, but what should I do? We are no match for this ugly slug thing. Please calm down for a minute and let me think. Damn it, why does my head stop working in such a serious situation..."

Not caring about Myne and Velvet's nagging, the slug monster slowly turned around. As he did that, Myne floating on his back also flowed over and appeared in front of him. Then, the slug monster lumbered towards the entrance door which led to the endless stairs.

"Since you didn't want to talk, then now I, the supreme manager of my almighty master's magic tower, will banish you from your services by breaking the slave contract with you. Now you can go back to hell and become someone else's nutrition, as from now on, no one is going to summon you again.

I will definitely make sure of it.")

Saying this, the slug monster floated Myne a few meters away from the stairs, directly in the middle of an endless black hole, using his psychic powers. After giving him an evil smile like any third-rate side villain, he was about to pull his power back and let Myne

fall to his death when suddenly he lost connection with his power, and Myne automatically started falling without him doing anything.

("Weird, did I lose control over my power in excitement? Anyway, at least that little shit returned back to where he came from. With a live example, no one is going to mess with me from now on... I should complete my

After giving a final glance at the black hole, the snail creature finally turned around and returned to the lab. After climbing onto the ceiling again, he fell into the dream world filled with humes.

•••

"Phew, I thought that bastard would watch us until we crashed to the ground and became meat paste," Myne, floating in the air with the help of his double-jump skill, said while wiping the cold sweat from his forehead.

"But at least it's a hundred times better than getting in that weird jelly-like thing on his back. I don't understand why he threw us down instead of eating us like that human on his back," Velvet, looking down with an ugly expression, asked curiously.

"Because he only likes to eat humes. Did you forget about my current identity? I am now a halfling, not a hume. So, of course, that slug demon isn't going to eat me. It's the same as how normal humes don't eat other humes or intelligent humanoid beings' meat but eat everyone else's meat without any hesitation.

So maybe those monsters also don't like eating other demons, no matter if it's a halfling or pure one," Myne said while jumping toward the nearest stair, making Velvet nod her head in realization.

"This does indeed make sense. So what now? Are we going to climb up again or go downstairs? I really think we should go downstairs since we fell quite a bit down. Climbing the entire way probably is going to kill your back and legs."

Hearing Velvet's concerned suggestion, Myne hesitated for a few seconds before sighing helplessly and deciding to follow her advice. He turned around and started walking downstairs.

"I hope we won't regret it later..."