

DEMONS 991

Chapter 991 Getting Ready to Mess with Some Bitches!

Sue's taking the wheel

Sue was ready. A slight touch of lipstick, a nice dress, hair perfectly combed and a reasonable amount of magical tape. That last item might seem a bit weird, but when you're wearing a dress that's designed for people with a cup size two less than you own? That tape is going to save you from flashing everyone. Which of course, to Sue meant it wasn't a necessary item most of the time, but this was supposed to be a high society party and randomly flashing guests would be a bit too much for their poor delicate noble sensibilities.

*Still, it was hilarious the first time I pulled that off. Three ladies actually FAINTED. The men were barely any better, one knocked over the buffet table, another fell through the window, and two smacked into each other... right on the lips too. There was much screeching. It was so funny when I left because the person who hired me paid me extra for that little performance while requesting I never do something like that ever again.

Of course, I only agreed not to do such a thing on their world... but I've never been back to that dimension so it's all good. Ah, memories. I also can't wait till someone makes a snide comment about 'being too poor to fit into my dress' or something. Those sorts of setups are always the best. Hopefully whoever asks me is nearly flat. I've got the perfect retort all lined up for them.*

"Please inform Bodeir that I am ready to leave at his convenience... or more likely please inform Hromdir that I am ready to leave and that I should be notified five minutes in advance of departure," said Sue as she posed slightly in front of the mirror, watching with a wicked smile as the fabric of her dress strained against her assets. The poor younger maid was bright red. The older maid was way too used to this type of shit.

The outfit Sue had chosen was completely indecent on someone of her build. It was designed for someone with a slim build and decently sized breasts. B cup at the absolute most, C cup if you were feeling brave. Sue of course, was very brave and had no shame so she outsized it by a considerable margin. The thin triangles of fabric that reached up to cover her breasts were really only hiding her nipples from show. Luckily it wasn't strapless, with said straps going up from the triangles and wrapping around her neck.

Her back was mostly exposed with only a few strings of fabric keeping the dress together at the back. The sides were split just above the knees revealing a decent amount of leg, and the sleeves travelled all the way down to her elbows, with a good bit of excess fabric hanging off the bottom of her wrists to emphasize her movements. Her ass barely fit into the dress but it was at least completely hidden unlike her top. It wasn't all that comfortable, being 'compressed' like she was, but Sue had pulled off this trick so often that it was a negligible amount of effort to just ignore.

Her hair was tied off into two sections starting at her shoulders, allowing it to flow behind her shoulders then wrap around her waist as a makeshift belt before continuing down to frame her legs. Her hair actually wrapped around her waist twice over to prevent her hair from being too close to the floor. No sense in giving people an excuse to 'accidentally' step on her hair. Sure it wouldn't do any damage to it,

not really... but that didn't mean the sensation was pleasant. Plus, with a large number of cultivators amongst guests they could probably make it painful.

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Sue was just about to do a small 'stress test' on the dress to make sure that if she had to move it wouldn't just tear itself to pieces when there was a knock at the door. "Come in, I'm decent,"

The door opened to reveal Hromdir who took one look at Sue and retorted, "I hardly consider that 'decent'"

"Well everything is covered isn't it? They can't see anything I'd rather keep private either," Sue shot back.

"I suspect there isn't much you'd rather keep private when it comes to your body. Alas, you do technically meet the regulations for such parties even if socially what you are wearing is completely indecent. I suspect that is at least partially the point considering there was no way for you to notice the outfit is... ill fitting," grumbled Hromdir.

"Ah, it'll be a good way to get under everyone's skin, don't worry about me Hromdir. I'll make sure that we come out on top," said Sue.

"Understood Miss. I've come to inform you that as a demon yourself you can choose to sit with the cultivators when they eat, or with the civilian dates, as technically you are not a fighter yourself," said Hromdir.

"Which one will give me more chances to fuck with people?" asked Sue.

Hromdir grimaced... but he was just a butler and decided that it was his duty to answer the question. Hopefully the patriarch knew what he was doing sending a girl like this to keep his son in line. "Probably the cultivators. While the civilian dates will take considerably more offence at your... state of dress and general existence they are less likely to complain about it if they realise you are a demon, something I suspect will be spread around quite quickly,"

Sue shrugged, "It's no trouble. I'm sure I can make my own fun wherever I go!"

"Of course Miss. Bodeir is prepared for the event... but has not decided to leave just yet. I will retrieve you when it is time," said Bodeir.

Sue nodded as the butler walked out and then used this as a chance to test just how robust her outfit was. A twist here and there, a twirl... and cartwheel revealed that they didn't skimp on the construction of the dress. It did mess up her hair a bit though, so Sue along with the maids spent some time fixing that up after completing all her tests.

Eventually, Hromdir called her to attention and Sue slid over to Kat's room. Sue was glad she didn't send a maid to wake the two up. Not only was Lily currently in human form... but it was such an adorable sight. Lily and Kat were hugging each other tightly with their tails wrapping around each other tightly. Kat was of course having more success with that, having a considerably longer tail. With Kat on her side, she had the top wing extended over to cover most of Lily as well.

Sue could hear that even in her sleep, Lily was purring, clearly having a grand time cuddle up against Kat. Her ears would twitch occasionally and Lily would shift slightly whenever Kat did to make sure her face was pressed against some part of Kat's body. Probably for the extra bit of Kat's scent. On Kat's end, it seemed that even in her sleep she couldn't resist petting Lily a bit. Kat's fingers slowly rubbed the sides of Lily's ears, causing them to twitch occasionally, but rarely away from Kat's wondering fingers.

Honestly I should've come in here to watch these two adorable muffins sleep. They're so cute together. Though... the temptation to divebomb on top of them is strong. I'd definitely do it if I had time to fix my hair and dress again after I made the attempt. Alas, it is time to leave. Sue walked up to the pair and shook them roughly to no avail. Shrugging at that, Sue slapped Kat on the ass. This too, did nothing.

That's when Sue made a minor mistake in judgement. This time, Sue slapped Lily on the ass. There was a slight shriek and then a moment later, before Sue could process anything she was pinned against the wall with a hand crushing her throat. *FUCK! Note to self. DO NOT WAKE THEM UP THAT WAY EVER AGAIN.*

Kat blinked, eyes widening in shock as she took note of what she was actually doing. Leaping back as if she was burned, "I'm so sorry Sue... I don't know what came over me..." whispered Kat, slightly horrified by what she'd done.

"No no, that was my bad. I chose a poor way to wake you both up. It's understandable you'd react badly. If I also bring up the fact that you were up all night fending off attackers then I feel silly for going about it this way," said Sue, carefully phrasing things to imply it was only that Kat was wound up from all the ambushes.

"Still... um... I'm sorry..." mumbled Kat.

"Eh, it's fine. I don't bruise too easily and you're grip wasn't too bad," said Sue. *But only because I've experience a few people who are a bit rough on the throat during sex. Honestly I was scared enough to activate my barrier on myself. Sure it was a bit late on that, but if Kat had kept going I would've been safe. Not amused, but safe.*

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Sue's still having fun. I mean, Kat's just going to be standing off to the side with the other totallynotbodyguards in the designated corner for them during the event. She'll be spending most of it chatting mentally with Lily if you're wondering.

Sue sat down, draping the light scarf around her neck. It was a recent addition to her attire just in case Kat's attempt at strangling her left a visible bruise. It was probably fine... purple skinned demons didn't tend to show their bruising all that easily so it wasn't a big worry... but better safe than sorry.

The carriage they were being provided was more reminiscent of a limousine crossed with a snowmobile. It ran with higher energy and seemed to be built with comfort in mind. The seats were softer than the bed she'd been assigned, there was a large fridge set into the floor filled with an assortment of drinks, the lighting was a soft afternoon haze, but had an adjustable nob to change it to the rider's preference. That was the last thing. The ride. If Sue couldn't see the scenery moving past outside, she'd think they

were still sitting parked in front of Bodeir's temporary mansion. It was buttery smooth and the engine had enough sound dampening enchantments to stop the sound of a volcano going off if necessary.

The carriage was also split into two sections, and Bodeir had taken the other one. Sue was unsure why that was, especially considering Bodeir had been staring at her tits rather intently since she showed up dressed for the ball. The fact that he still took his own carriage with the servants made her a bit suspicious. What she didn't know was that Bodeir was having an awful time in that other carriage.

As per his father's orders, the butlers and maid were cramming all the important information, and pre-planned responses they possible could into Bodeir's thick skull. While Sue was relaxing in comfort and sipping slightly alcoholic fruit juice, Bodeir was strapped to the seat and forced to answer increasingly complicated questions with high accuracy, else he'd be forced to watch a series of increasingly more embarrassing videos. This was made worse by the fact that Hromdir, and his partner maid had picked new staff that had yet to see this videos as an audience to encourage Bodeir to put in maximum effort.

For a cultivator that knew the value of 'face' it was a particularly harsh punishment. If any of the staff decided to blab about the contents of the video then Bodeir's life would become significantly more difficult. With his father's influence it wouldn't be over... but his father was encouraging this punishment so if word did get out Bodeir the elder wouldn't spare Bodeir Jr from any but the worst consequences. Truly a harsh punishment. Luckily for Bodeir this wasn't the first time he'd been quizzed like this, and while he wasn't terribly bright his memory had improved over the years with rigorous training. It still wasn't up to the level Bodeir the elder would hope, considering Bodeir Jr's cultivation level... but it was enough for this.

Lily was sitting in the cabin with Sue, while Kat was out in the cold at the front with the driver. It was closer to Bodeir, and the large wrap around window that extended a bit above the height of the rest of the carriage let her keep watch everywhere in case they were attacked. Sue had tried to talk her out of it... but after all the attacks last night Kat wasn't willing to compromise on safety. She did let Lily experience the wonders of comfortable seating, but Sue didn't need the Memphis to be in her human form to tell she wasn't impressed with Kat's decision.

The ride was mostly silent. Lily didn't want to risk transforming, and so she just mentally chatted with Kat. Sue was mentally reviewing her list of insults and burns for people that would inevitably confront her, as well as her extra spicy list for the ones that decided to pick on some poor girl that was in way over her head. Sue's smile turned savage as the building they were aiming for came into view. It was massive, and was going to hold so many opportunities for her to fuck with people.

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Their carriage pulled up at the front entrance, and Sue stepped out. It wasn't too crowded, and Sue used that to her advantage, skipping over to Bodeir as soon as he stepped out from the carriage and pulled his arm around her waist... making sure that his hand was low enough to cup her ass. Technically indecent, but if people called her on it, they'd have to admit to also staring at her ass. It was a nifty little trick and a better way of doing things then just shoving the guy's arm in between her tits. Oh sure it worked... for beginners. It was too obvious for a fancy party like this, and if the guy didn't have the courage to just own it, things would become awkward.

Bodeir instinctively squeezed down a bit and Sue leaned into Bodeir's arms a bit further to give him a bit of subtle encouragement. Already, most of Bodeir's plans to find someone his father hadn't set up for him shattered under the rush of hormones and lust he felt in that moment. Sue had been planning this moment for days. Little bits of teasing, sleeping nearby but not with him. Now it was time to let the poor boy's imagination run wild... and probably fuck him before the night was over. Nobody said that had to be off the menu and Sue WAS trying out the ride before the Contract was over. Perhaps it'd even be good?

The venue was stunning once you were inside. The main chandelier was a wonderful construction of ice with gold drops in the centre of each crystal of ice. The very centre though, was a shifting rainbow colour flame that acted almost like a disco ball. Now, the room was much too well lit for that effect to be shown off right now, but perhaps when the lights dimmed?

There was snacks lined up against the walls but it was all finger food. Waiters ran around with glasses of either a clear, bubbly liquid that was probably the local alcohol, or a collection of brightly coloured drinks with a slice of fruit stuck to the edge. Sue was on the fence, regarding the alcohol content of those. Might just be fruit juice... but hard to say.

Bodeir gave Sue a light kiss and made to move off to a group of guys he could see in the corner. Before he could let go completely though, she pulled him into what looked like a full kiss. It wasn't, she was just going for his cheek... right next to his lips. Then she pulled away and gave him a nice pat on the back, letting him walk off to his friends.

The instant he left, a woman beelined it to Sue. She was dressed up in a gaudy dress with jewels all over it that really didn't add to the look. Her necklace looked like it was heavy enough to snap her neck if she moved too fast and her hair was more a collection of jewel studded pins than actual hair. And then she went and said it. "Are you and your boyfriend too poor to buy an outfit that fits you? Such a sad state of affairs for a premier cultivator from the Mountain Shaker sect"

Oh thank you, you gaudy bitch you. You've made my night. Right as I walked in the door, and the setup. Oh the setup, it's just so fantastic. Sue grinned a sultry smile that looked just a little bit like a shark that could smell blood in the water, "Oh no... I had to settle for this dress because I couldn't find anything that fit properly," said Sue as she took a slight step forward, pressing her chest out as she did so. With the heels she was wearing and her natural height, it put her boobs right into the gaudy woman's face.

Sue paused her words to look down, very clearly at the other woman, eyes specifically focusing on the chest area. Now, the woman in question had reasonably sized breasts. She was in no way lacking in that department... but she was faced to boobs with a well endowed Succubus. She had no chance and well... Sue knew that a lot of women were weak to comparison. "I'm sure you've never had to bother with such an issue. Why I guarantee everything you buy fits perfectly... though perhaps not around the stomach,"

"Get those big lumps of fat out of my face!" hissed the woman in question. "This is a regal get together for cultivators, not a place for whores to advertise their wares!"

Sue looked down at the girl, projecting as much pity as possible into her gaze. "Oh you poor thing. You might be daddy's favourite but at least I enjoy a good romp in the sheets. Heck, I even get paid. Did daddy even ask if you wanted to be betrothed to your fiancé?" Sue had noticed the ring on the woman's

finger, a gem twice the size as nearly every other gem on her body. "That's ok. I'm sure when you spread your legs for him, it's your face his seeing. I promise,"

They shrieked in rage and made to jump at Sue only to be restrained by one of the other guests, "Attacking someone at a formal event? Mureale, I'm disappointed in you," said the newcomer.

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Sue... blah blah, you know the drill.

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They shrieked in rage and made to jump at Sue only to be restrained by one of the other guests, "Attacking someone at a formal event? Mureale, I'm disappointed in you," said the newcomer.

If the poor girl's name is actually Mureale I'm not entirely sure I feel comfortable picking on her anymore. Her entire life is already a joke. Not sure I'm wanting to add to that massive pile.

Sue's was mostly joking with her thoughts as she turned to the newcomer and couldn't help but be a bit stunned. Here was a girl, no, a woman that knew how to play the game. The first thing Sue couldn't help but note was that she was flatter than a pancake. At least those had some bounce. The woman in front of her only had anything up top because she had defined pectoral muscles. The thing is though... the girl looked pretty good. She clearly knew what she was doing.

It was clear that she'd carefully crafted her muscles before taking to cultivation and preventing the easy formation of muscles. She'd also balanced it well across her body. Her back was noticeably light on muscles, and her arms had well defined muscles that were still quite small for that. Sue wouldn't be surprised if she had a six pack under that dress, but it wasn't visible for the moment. Her legs though, in contrast to her arms, looked like they could snap Sue in half. They were packed with muscle and looked more like they were chiselled from stone.

The woman clearly knew what she was going for. What really brought her whole look together was the pure confidence that she radiated from every pore. This was a woman who had her shit together. Sue knew her usual tactics of abusing her more impressive physical assets would never work against this potential foe. They had clearly gone for their own style, and Sue's soft and squishy look had a completely different kind of appeal.

The thing that raised Sue's eyebrows though... was that the newcomer also had purple skin. It wasn't a common colour, but she'd plenty of demons with it over time. It didn't quite match her own. If Sue would say, somewhat narcissistically that she had royal purple skin, this newcomer had skin more closely matching an eggplant. Now, despite the potentially unflattering comparison, that didn't mean Sue thought the colour was bad for the woman. No, it went well with her muscley aesthetic.

Mureale was struggling in the newcomer's grip but she wasn't making any progress getting through. Sue stopped examining the competition and started puzzling out what she wanted to actually DO about it. *Because that's the question isn't it. How do I want to play this? Whoever she is, she's got her own style and more confidence than someone our age normally has to just rock it. A quick glance around the rest of the room shows that outside of the men and the bodyguards she's the only one with this sort of aesthetic...

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Still, she can easily weather the storm if it isn't in fashion just because of the charisma and confidence she seems to radiate. What is she though? She doesn't have the pointed ears I'd expect from a dark elf, and she's much too tall for a undertow dwarf. I'm also pretty sure she can't be human... they don't tend to go purple no matter the world. Hmm... I wonder if it's just something to do with her cultivation technique?

Damn. It doesn't really get me any closer to knowing how to deal with her. Perhaps I should just start to see how things go. I mean, this is only a temporary assignment. If we click well... two purple chicks causing trouble seems like more fun than just the one right...?*

"Let me go Tess!" hissed Mureale "I'm going to make sure this whore gets it!"

"It's not very nice to call someone a whore Mureale," the newcomer now marked as Tess, was able to make use of Mureale's name as if that alone was an insult. Sue was in agreement, that it really was. "I thought after last time you'd be on better behaviour. I can't keep having this talk with you,"

"I'll catch up with you in cultivation one day Tess, then you'll learn just what I really think of you!" hissed Mureale.

"Now, now," said Sue as she stepped in, making sure to position herself just so that Mureale had to deal with having Sue's breast resting lightly on her head. Mureale couldn't even struggle too much or risk loosing one of her dozen trinkets weaved into her hair. Fancy they might have been... but there was too many of them to all be secured properly. "Technically speaking I am being paid as a... let's call it... a private escort," Sue smiled lightly, "So even if Mureale isn't being the kindest about it, that IS my job,"

Let's see how she responds to that. I've given her an easy avenue of an attack. Will Tess take it?

"Ah, but I'm quite certain Mureale wasn't guessing at your profession. Personally, I see no reason to denigrate someone for that sort of work... but trying to force a label on someone who wasn't doing anything wrong, well, that's the sort of bad attitude that gets people kicked from these parties," said Tess with a smile.

Mureale carefully extracted herself from Tess' grip. It wasn't easy with Sue's... position nearby... but she managed it. "Fine. Whatever, you win Tess. I'll leave. I'm sure you'll enjoy each other's company," said Mureale before she rushed away from them both.

"You know, that was almost a good insult for someone of her level of intelligence," offered Sue as stared at a retreating Mureale.

"That's a bit rude. Mureale's got special needs and we shouldn't be making fun of idiots. We'd be so strapped for entertainment without them," offered Tess in turn.

Hmm... Tess seems a bit brutal but I wasn't exactly being kind either. I'm honestly not sure that I could go toe to toe with her in this arena. She likely knows a lot more about the local politics. Still... she doesn't seem the type to get too into politics. A bit too much time sculpting her body for all that nonsense.

"I suppose I can see where you're coming from... but when they set things up so perfectly you just have to take those openings. I'd already planned out exactly what to say to the first person who commented on my ill-fitting dress," 'admitted' Sue.

Tess rolled her eyes, "Calling your dress 'ill-fitting' is like saying it's warm outside tonight. Technically speaking, it IS warm for this time of year, but we both know that's not what's important. That dress is exactly what you wanted for a night like tonight, and I bet you've got your own tricks to keep it on for the night,"

"Who knows? I could be dying to take this off..." suggested Sue.

"I'd make a bet it's tape," said Tess with no hint of shame, and her gaze locked on Sue's tits, making it clear what Tess knew what she was talking about.

"Most girls wouldn't admit to knowing what I'm doing, especially not in a crowd like this," said Sue. "But yes, it IS tape. I don't really know of anything better for things like this. Tape is easy to find, easy to remove, and secure enough that I'm not scared of dancing around... but if I really wanted to... give people a show, I'm not really prevented," explained Sue.

"My mother preferred to use a complicated mess of magnetic broches to keep things together... but did rely on tape in a pinch. I of course, don't have the same issues," said Tess with a gesture at her body.

"I see, I'm sure your mother knew what she was doing. And while I agree you don't have those... issues, you've certainly got your own style. The sheer confidence you manage to emanate is impressive. I'm confident in my looks yes, but compared to you..." Sue let her words hang in the air with a shrug.

"That's because you lack confidence in your future," said Tess after a few moments.

"What?" asked Sue, a bit stupidly. Tess had just said it with such confidence that when Sue couldn't understand the question she had to ask, as if she was speaking to an older friend or cousin.

Tess stared at Sue for a few moments, letting her gaze hang there. "It's because you lack true confidence in yourself. Your body is something I doubt you worked at much. You trust it. You trust your attitude... but you doubt yourself. You question your future, and you lack confidence to be able to survive anything the world throws at you. I've fought and bled for scraps. I've pioneered my own style. I'm one of the cultivation geniuses of this generation. I know that I will succeed in the future... or die trying. You... well... you can't see your future, and it scares you. Can't be confident if you can't deal with your fear,"

And with that Tess left, weaving her way through the crowd. Bitch.

Chapter 994 Exploring Opportunities for Antagonistic Behaviour

Sue.

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*I can't believe that bitch. She might be completely correct about everything she said, and honestly gave advice... but still. What a bitch. You can't just slap someone with the truth like that and then walk away! Completely unprofessional! That's not how you're supposed to play the game! You've got to give me at least some time to splutter incoherently and fail at a comeback before I run off. You 'won' this

conversation, why are you leaving! That just leaves me with a sour taste in my mouth and nothing to do but rant in my head.*

Of course, Sue was ignoring the fact that these cultivators were from Bodeir's generation, and whatever race Tess might be, the chances that she was multiple times Sue's age was actually pretty high. Sue was right about one thing, this wasn't how you were supposed to play this sort of social game. Tess wasn't playing the same game. Even though she left the conversation early, nobody, especially not Sue, was going to take that as an admission of surrender. Tess had managed to stop a brawl, insult a two competitors, and leave Sue feeling like she'd eaten a lemon. All without really coming off as a bad person in the eyes of everyone else.

Sue shook her head and moved over to grab a bite to eat. Hopefully a bit of sugar would clear her mind. When Sue got to the snack table, she was surprised to find a section dedicated to jelly cubes. *Hmm, it's not really my thing... but Kamiko would be so disappointed in me if I didn't at least try some and report back. Plus... I'm sure I can use it for some good jokes.*

Sue grabbed the plate and a spoon before taking a small bite. *Hmm... I don't really know what I'm supposed to say about this. It tastes like jelly. Not as good as the stuff that Kamiko has at her house... but that's really not a surprise. The thing is... I can't really determine anything else about this jelly. It's not like I've got much to compare it to. It's... fine? I clearly didn't think this through.*

Sue wondered around for a bit as she tried and failed to come up with a good way to explain the test of this jelly to Kamiko. It wasn't really working, so she was glad for the distraction provided by a newcomer. This time it was a guy approaching her, in fact... Sue narrowed her eyes slightly.

The man was in a suit and tie and looked like he was practically bursting out of it at the seams. She could actually see skin through some of the stitching. She wasn't sure she'd ever seen a better fit for the description 'Gorilla in a suit'. Then Sue realised what was niggling at the back of her mind. This was the man she'd seen hanging out with women during their shopping trip, the one Bodeir gave strange advice to.

"Fancy seeing you here," said the man, big toothy smile on display. It was clear he was trying to be suave... but the outfit ruined it for him.

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"Indeed. I suppose it could be a surprise for you... but on the other hand this IS the main event going on at the Holy Wind Sect, and I'm here with Bodeir, the man who gave you those tips the other day. Still, I don't mind keeping you company for a bit," said Sue.

"Oh? Company, of Company?" asked the man as he stepped a bit closer.

"Well, I can offer you a bit of my time now... and once I've finished my time with Bodeir I'd love to offer you a chance to be more intimate... that is the size of your muscles match the size of your package," Sue offered with a wicked grin.

The man didn't falter, instead he said, "Ah, well... I'll keep that a nice little surprise for you. I've got to incentivise you somehow. The mystery will be a much better grab than simply bragging,"

Sue raised an eyebrow, impressed by the answer. *Hmm, seems like this guy actually does know a thing or two about flirting. I thought he just grabbed a few hussies to hang off his arms... but perhaps he's a bit more than that...* "That it is... though... what happened to your other company?"

The man actually sighed at that, "Fools. Told me they were cultivators and could handle going a few rounds with me. They were BARELY cultivators. They had Qi in them but no training whatsoever. One of them is still passed out, and the other is stuck in the hospital with some... unpleasant bruising. I warned them, but well... I guess the temptation was a bit too much for them,"

"Oof," said Sue with a wince. "Not a mistake I've made personally but I can imagine it. Still, I'll be fine,"

"Are you sure? No offence, but you don't seem all that strong and after being overly cautious for years... my first time letting loose a bit and it turns out they were writing cheques their asses couldn't cash," said the man.

Sue smiled, and flicked her shield on. "Give my arm a good punch,"

The man sighed but did as asked, it wasn't a terribly strong hit, about 10% of his overall power, but Sue's barrier managed to absorb the damage without issue. Sue grinned and showed her flawless skin across her arm, "Can't say that was a proper punch... but it should ease your mind a bit,"

The man nodded, "Indeed... I look forward to our future rendezvous," he said before walking away. Sue was a little annoyed with that but she noticed that something below his waist was threatening to destroy his pants. Probably for the best he left.

Oh that looks tasty. If that's full size, I'll already be pretty happy... but he left before I could tease him properly... so perhaps that's not all he's got to show off? Oooh, this mission has been a good run. My little surfer boy, Bodeir potentially, and that wonderful morsel that's walking away now. Wait. He didn't tell me how to find him! Shit! Or his name! Hmm... I wonder how intentional that was. I'll give him a tentative black mark for that one.

Before Sue could think on it too much, another girl had approached and said, "You should stay away from that guy. His name is Xanthar, and he's known for picking up and dropping women constantly. You're not going to get anything you want from him, best to just leave him alone,"

Sue turned to see this new girl, she was dressed rather conservatively. Her dress was puffy, and she had a high collar and gloves on. The only visible skin was her somewhat tanned face. She was slightly taller than Sue, without counting horns of course, and she was much less well endowed. Still, she seemed like a rather nice classical beauty. Thin nose, slender neck, and moderate assets. Hard to say what her hands and legs were like under all those layers. "I'm sure I can handle myself," said Sue.

The girl sighed and said, "Look, he's a strong cultivator. I'm not sure who you came here with, but he's surely a better catch than Xanthar. He might seem like a meat-head but he's known for getting into women's pants and running. He doesn't have a bone of commitment in his body..."

"That's a shame, there's at least one bone of his I'd rather like committed to the inside of my body," said Sue.

The girl looked scandalised by her answer, "Don't joke about things like that. People will take it the wrong way and it will lead you nowhere good in life. Some cultivators even know how to steal

cultivation through sex. I don't think Xanthar can... but I heard he left his last lover in the hospital. It just isn't worth it girl,"

Oh this poor naive little girl. "I'm not joking. I want him to shove his cock deep into my pussy and slam me into the bed. If there's some chocking during the act, I won't complain, and if I have to take a few bruises to ride a dick as big as he's packing? I'd consider that a worthwhile trade. I'm also not the slightest bit interested in commitment, I want one or two good fucks, then we'll go our separate ways, hopefully happily."

The girl in front of Sue's eyes grew wide in increasing horror. "You... you harlot! To think I was trying to save you from a life you've already fallen into... I'll pray for your soul," said the girl before turning and practically fleeing.

"I am a Succubus you know!" said Sue to the girl's retreating back. *I feel a little bad now. I was just trying to mess with her for a bit... and she actually was trying to help me. Wasn't using backhanded compliments... she actually tried to do the right thing...*

Am I off my game or something? I'm feeling like I've had nothing but missteps since that first encounter. Tess might have thrown me further off my game than I thought...

Chapter 995 Retreating to Friendly Territory

Sue

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Sue moved the short distance back to the buffet table to grab a few things that she thought Lily and Kat might like to share before heading over to the bodyguard session and handing out her easily-gotten gains. Sue held back a grin as all the other guards standing around locked their eyes on Kat and Sue.

This was a good idea. Even if I really do need the break and I was just being polite... it seems like it was an excellent idea.

"I've got a few things for you," said Sue, "Apparently, I need a bit of a break. Honestly... I've not been doing as well as I'd planned..."

Kat smiled and took the plates from Sue, holding the one filled with salami up for Lily to munch on from her shoulder. "Not to sound ungrateful... but Bodeir does seem to have a few women hovering around. Is now the best time for this? Also what do you mean 'not as planned' things seemed fine from here..."

Sue shook her head, "First off, one of those girls watching Bodeir is definitely gay, I caught her staring at my tits and ass at least twice already when I was checking over at Bodeir. Secondly, they're all cultivators. I can tell that much based on how they walk. They aren't really the type of people I'm supposed to be keeping off Bodeir. Any cultivator that's seriously interested in him isn't going to jump into his bed tonight, even if they have less than honest intentions..."

"Well, except for those dual cultivators but I can easily deal with them. Demonic energy does horrible things to them so most know to avoid demons in general. Just having us both around should keep those types away from him. In fact, the only person that I've seen talk to Bodeir that might be a threat to his chastity was one gay guy... but I'm pretty sure that Bodeir wouldn't appreciate me 'saving' him from the

other guy. Plus, I'm not in the mood of outing people like that if the guy in question wasn't out of the closet. Not sure what he sees in Bodeir, but it might be different for people used to mountain elves,"

Kat nodded, taking a bit of the cupcake she'd been offered before frowning. "What IS this? I think this might be the first thing I've tried from another realm that I haven't liked the taste of. It... I don't know how to describe it but... not good is the answer..."

"Pass here?" offered Sue, willing to give her own opinion. Kat shrugged and did as she asked and when Sue bit down on the cupcake she instantly agreed with Kat. Shoving the plate back into Kat's arms Sue dashed off to the buffet table, filled two cups with punch and then came back before downing the whole thing in one swig and handing the other off to Kat. "God... that's... that's AWFUL. I have no idea what they did wrong... hmm..."

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Sue looked over to one of the bodyguards, "Do you want to try this? See if it's just us?"

The nearby bodyguards, sorry, the 'totally-normal-guests' all looked at Sue like she was an idiot. Sue just shrugged, "Well, that's fine. If you don't want to test it out it's no trouble for us,"

Kat rolled her eyes at that assertion and said, "Don't let their disinterest let you think I've missed you dodging my second question. What do you mean by things aren't going to plan?"

Sue glanced at the bodyguards and, to her disappointment, they were all clearly paying attention now. Kat might have been good at spotting threats, but she wasn't the best at understanding the danger of social situations. Sure she knew not to share sensitive information, and how to take no for an answer... but it was clear that in Kat's mind, Sue having a less than stellar night wasn't something that would be worth keeping secret.

She was wrong, at least in Sue's opinion. Social dangers were insidious and the idea of admitting such a large weakness was ridiculous... at the same time... this was the only ball they'd be attending while she was in charge of Bodeir's love life. Perhaps answering wouldn't be a complete disaster... *Hmm... to share or not to share. Kat wouldn't hold it against me if I don't explain it to her...*

At the same time, it might not be all that valuable. It's my own personal failings, not Bodeir's, so Bodeir Senior has no reason to come after me for talking about it. Heck, Kat might have some naive, but insightful information. On the other hand... I could just tell Kat it should wait till we're back our accommodation. Hmm... no, I'm not doing well here, if Kat can help me, however unlikely that might be, I'll take it. No offence Kat. I know you can't help me, but in depth social manipulation isn't your strong suit.

"I came in here ready to play noble politics with all the fancy people around. I can abuse the fact that not only am I beautiful, I lean more towards the indecent side of things. Especially considering the size of my 'natural assets'. These are things most girls, or women, are envious of. Plus, with my lustful appearance I can normally attract the attention of the men in the building. I don't need a good personality for that, I just need to be showing more boob than anyone else, and their eyes will follow..."

"But it just isn't working. The one guy that talked to me is known for sleeping around, which I AM all for... but he's the ONLY guy who came up to me. The girls have been a mixed bag... but I feel like I lost

every encounter except for the very first one... but even that... now I'm wondering if I was the one who was set up, because everything after that has been poor form on my end. I just don't know what's going on. It's like nobody here wants to play the same game as me..."

Kat raised an eyebrow and said, in a slightly confused tone, "Isn't that because they AREN'T playing the same game?"

What? "Elaborate?" asked Sue.

Kat shrugged and said, "Look, I don't know that much about these guys... but isn't Qi all about enlightenment and stuff? So it's probably much less socially acceptable to openly gawk and your tits, or even complain about it. These people aren't nobles, their nobles AND cultivators. On top of that, the people here who aren't cultivators? They clearly used to hanging around cultivators, and I imagine you don't quite fit in with either the unpowered group or the cultivators..."

"So nobody knows how to interact with you. I've seen two calls for duels break out and we haven't even been here an hour. Sure there hasn't been a duel just yet, but I imagine there will be. That's the difference, I think. For a cultivator, if you go over their bottom line? They'll break your legs. A normal noble party wouldn't allow that,"

"That... that... huh... is it really like that? I've been to noble parties in world with Qi before though..." grumbled Sue.

Kat just shrugged again, "I can't really say without knowing exactly what you've done before... but my guess is that even though the higher energy source was Qi, you haven't been to a proper cultivator gathering before. Plus, they might just be more comfortable with themselves. Can't cultivators get like... heart demons or something if they get too annoyed?"

"Eh... it's not quite that bad but yes... heart demons are a major issue for cultivators. That... could explain things? Quite a lot actually. They're probably all taught how to avoid that sort of thing years in advance and without any fancy stuff like pheromones, illusions, or the like I might be just a bit too normal. Beautiful I may be but... perhaps not enough to shake their foundation?" thought Sue aloud.

Kat just shrugged again. *Well, despite Kat's lacking in follow up help... her initial premise could be correct. I don't really remember just how many cultivators were at those other parties. With such a different culture I guess the fact that I'm failing isn't a big surprise... though I am disappointed in myself. When did my social snob skills degrade to such a point that without having my conversation partner drooling or fuming I can't get a leg up on the opponent?

I think this is another example of, I want the sex, but I NEED to be more than just the sex. I've even boiled down my social strategy to 'flash tits, then react accordingly'. Where's the examination of their clothes? Their stance? Wheedling out their history and guessing at past trauma and accomplishments? Perhaps this was a good slap in the face. I've clearly been slacking on this sort of thing. I wish I knew when it happened though... I can't really think of any one moment... must have been a gradual thing. Annoying... but hopefully fixable.

Chapter 996 Forgettable Girls

Sue

Being more mindful, it turned out, was actually rather hard. It also involved a lot more sitting in the background listening than she'd experienced in a long time. Sue had tried to properly join into a few conversations but it was always stilted and questionably received. After finding the first few groups too hard to follow and impossible to properly integrate herself with, Sue moved off to other groups and hovered around the edge, picking up what details she could.

It was... something, but it wasn't really the sort of thing Sue wanted to know. Most of the groups stuck to light topics of no real consequence. They weren't talking about business deals, hot button topics, or having fun quipping at each other. Instead it was just... a superficial routine to her eyes. They'd talk about what they'd done during the week, or month, clearly leaving out any of the interesting bits or secrets that they didn't want to share... and then the next person would take their turn.

Sometimes, and Sue would impress on any who asked that it was VERY rare that there was an interruption of any kind. Honestly, Sue felt like she was watching a bunch of actors in an amateur play, all taking turns to say the correct lines before letting someone else talk. Sue went around to a few groups before concluding they were all more or less the same. Unless she wanted to go over to the cultivators... but they were just bragging about fights they'd been in.

They weren't even being original about it. Sue was certain she heard the same story at least three times in her brief visit to the edge of the cultivator crowd. It was a little suspicious because while the same person had repeated the story twice in her hearing... it was also told by a second, completely different person before Sue dipped out of that mess. She did not want to spend the night talking about fighting techniques.

Though, she would admit that the cultivators were at least more active in conversations. They'd offer advice, criticism, mockery, basically everything and more as someone retold the story. In fact, it seemed many cultivators had the most fun by extolling just how much better they personally could have done in the fight. Which... was a thing. The fact that the story tellers seemed happy with that sort of interaction, even if they defended their own position, implied this was normal things.

Still, Sue wasn't exactly liking this less confrontational style of socialising from all across the ballroom. She didn't know enough about fighting to join the critique... bragging thing that was going on over there and the non-cultivators were even WORSE. It was one thing to lose a verbal argument and run away in a huff, but it was another thing entirely to walk away from boredom alone.

Urgh. I can't believe how... empty headed these people all seem to be. Would it kill them to have an opinion? Sue then remembered that they were surrounded by cultivators that liked to challenge anything remotely threatening and not too scary. *Ok maybe it would kill them. Though... that might be a bit of an exaggeration? Then again... surely there's at least one idiot right? Though... she-who-should-not-be-named from earlier isn't around anymore. Can't hear her endless supply of jewels clacking together either. Then again...

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Was she even real? Tess was obviously a cultivator but I don't know about Mureale. She seemed too stupid to not constantly be bullied. Though now I'm wondering if she was even a real person. I'd love to say no... but I'm not certain that anyone would bother going to that much trouble just to mess with me.

I'm not important, and anyone who knows anything about demons know how rare it is for us to be resummoned without a beacon.

I'd suspect Bodeir was the target but it's not like he was firmly with the other cultivators. Mureale approached me right by the door. So if she wanted to do something with him she could've. Or if whoever put her up to it, assuming they exist, wanted to mess with Bodeir there have to be better and less expensive ways of dealing with it. I wish I could sense cultivation. Perhaps that would answer some of my questions.

I just find that I don't really know what to do here. I feel like I should be picking a fight but honestly... is it just that cultivators all have shit taste in women? I want to say 'Boobs big and heavy, head empty in light' but nobody here has larger tits then me so I can't even say that's where all the nutrients in their bodies went. Honestly, half of the girls here are a disgrace. The other half are cultivators.

Actually, that's another thing. Where are the men? I don't think I've seen a single male civilian guest. It's all women, and cultivators. Not that there aren't female cultivators... but everyone who isn't a cultivator is either a woman, or part of the staff... and a lot of the staff have to be cultivators. I may not be able to tell much, but when I see a waiter barely stumble on a cultivators leg when they were 'accidentally' tripped it makes it clear that something is up.

Is it just that most female cultivators prefer male cultivators as lovers? What's the split anyway? It looks like... maybe 60/40 at worst? Grrrrh. I don't understand this culture. Not sure I want to either.*

Sue's thoughts were interrupted when she noticed Bodeir and the rest of his group were heading for the courtyard. Quickly moving across the floor, Sue grabbed a drink from one of the nearby waiters and made her way over to Bodeir. He wasn't quite at the edge of the crowd but it was no issue to slide up next to him and hand over a drink. If someone had 'mistakenly' grabbed her ass as she did so? Well, that wasn't a problem with Sue.

Bodeir took the glass without really thinking about it, and Sue almost wanted to slap it out of his hands just on principle. Still, keeping him alive was Kat's job, not hers. "Bodeir, what's going on here?"

Sue had noticed that Bodeir, while in the discussion groups rarely voiced anything. He was actually doing pretty well acting like the aloof cultivator, even amongst his fellow cultivators. That mask cracked a fair bit when he looked over at Sue with a large dose of confusion in his eyes, "It seems that there is to be a duel before our meal. As to what it's about well..." Bodeir paused and looked around at fact he was in a large group, "I wouldn't want to mischaracterise any of my fellow cultivators by speaking for them,"

Which of course means that you have no idea either.

"Right of course. I wouldn't want to force you to speak for someone who's so close by. I'm sure they can talk about their reasons if they want. I mean, who would fight for no good reason?" said Sue clear, missing exactly none of the wincing going throughout the crowd. Bodeir clearly wasn't the only one who was simply interested in the fight.

Once they were outside it was easy to find a spot in the gardens that was clearly marked out for fights. It was a large ice slab that had been aggravated to provide decent grip. It might not have been the best place to fight... but considering there was a small stand full of seating nearby, it was clear that the duo was going to be cajoled into fighting here if they didn't just accept it.

Sue didn't actually pay much attention once the fight itself started. Nobody was using weapons, and one guy even handed off their sword before the whole thing started so that was clearly intentional. Sue found the whole thing somewhat dull in truth. Oh sure, she was happy to see too men beat the shit out of each other as much as the next girl... but there was nothing on display that caught her interest.

Mostly because there was no live weapons being used. See, without a sword, how could their outfits be cut, ripped or torn properly. It was just basic fabric with no proper defensive capabilities. The duo in the arena were just punching each other. All in all, it was a 'clean' fight that didn't show off any nice muscle anywhere. Sue felt herself zoning out and used it as an opportunity to rest on Bodeir. He was already paying more attention to her than the fight. Even if he was trying to pretend otherwise.

That was when a bit of the ice cracked. Not a surprise, it'd happened a few times during the fight and Sue was sure the hosts would be able to fix it up. This time though, it was a moderately sized piece, and the fighter that broke it off hurled it like a javelin at his foe... who dodged it letting it sail right towards the stand. Sue had a moment of 'should I catch this?' Before Bodeir simply grabbed the ice spike from the air and casually tossed it off to the side.

Huh.

Chapter 997 Introducing, the Twin Heirs of the Sect

Sue

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The duel ended not long after... as a draw. Both knuckleheads decided it was a good idea to go for a finishing headbutt in an attempt to break their opponents nose. They timed it a bit too well and managed to slam their skulls into each other rather hard. Sue felt she was lucky she had so much hair, it might have been pushed out of place otherwise. With the duel finished, two of the knuckleheads friends grabbed them and tossed them over their shoulders, before heading off somewhere else. Presumably the infirmary.

As they started to make our way back, Sue noticed Kat was off to the side, clearly watching the entire thing. Sue held back, letting the group step passed her until Kat noticed her and sped up, away from the rest of the bodyguards milling about. There was only two outside with Kat. So clearly not everyone had a bodyguard assigned to them. "I'm pretty sure I know the reason, but why didn't you stop that bit of ice?" asked Sue.

Kat shrugged, "Those guys fighting were Rank 1 cultivators at best and Bodeir is a Rank 2 cultivator. I doubt Bodeir Sr would put up with so much of Bodeir's shit if he was so weak to be done in by a stray projectile from a cultivator a Rank below him. Plus, at worst Bodeir would've lost an arm, it wasn't heading for anywhere important,"

"Yeah... a bit brutal but yeah..." said Sue.

Kat shrugged, "I don't really see it as brutal at all. If I had to step in and catch that projectile for Bodeir, I'd basically be broadcasting to everyone with a brain that one a few things. I don't know Bodeir's strength. Bodeir is so weak it would've taken him out, or that I was poor at judging the lethality of

things. I suppose people might also think I'm trying to set them up... but it's a pretty big reputation hit for Bodeir, probably not worth using as bait,"

Huh... I suppose I wasn't really thinking about how other people would look at Bodeir if his bodyguard had to step in for something 'so weak'. Man I really have been slacking on the social front if I missed something so obvious. All this sex must be reducing my effective IQ. When is the last time I sat down in did some math equations or worked through a proper thought problem?

Sue did not like the answers to those questions when they came to her. It seemed that after she left school... she really had been wallowing. The last time she did anything that was mentally engaging, if you didn't count spending time with Kat and Kamiko, was certainly that rat clearing mission, and even that wasn't particularly mentally rigorous. *Ugh. I'm going to need to ask my grandma for puzzles or something. Hmmm... or maybe go to Lust? Ask them if they have any lewd but mentally engaging things I can get in on? Probably won't be cheap though.*

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Sue continued to think on the matter for a little while... before she realised that the train of people she was following didn't seem to be stopping in the ballroom. Looking around, it seemed that it wasn't just Sue's group, but everyone. Shrugging, Sue just kept following the line of people wherever they were leading. It didn't even take that long to work it out. Just a short walk later and the group was heading into what was clearly the dining room.

It was an extravagant setup just for supplying food but Sue had to admit they did have style. Most of the structure was ice, like the rest of the furniture and architecture, but the table itself was not. The table was made of a white wood, all one piece. It must have been an absolutely massive tree in its prime. The table was easily 100m in length. The fact that all the chairs seemed to be made from the same wood, though perhaps not the same tree, was just an interesting side note.

There was also a number of other, smaller tables laid out to the sides. One of them was filled with drinks, the others all had proper seating at them and while Sue wasn't entirely sure what they were for specifically, she had a guess. One was for the bodyguards, and another for the non-cultivators of the group. Though... as Sue looked around it was clear that a few people sitting down were paired up. Not everyone certainly, but it seemed like everyone who came in a pair was sitting together.

Where does that leave me? Kat will obviously go to the bodyguard table, but am I with the cultivators? I'm a demon, and Rank 1... but a non-combatant. Guess I'll just go to Bodeir's side and see if anyone kicks me out. I don't exactly mind... but the amount of social damage I'd take from sitting with the 'extras' when I don't need to would be massive.

Plan of action in mind, Sue slipped through the crowd towards Bodeir. It seemed her choice was already paying off because Bodeir was seating right near the head of the table. He wasn't quite there, but he was within a few spaces of where the two hosts would be sitting. Sue slid down into the chair on Bodeir's right and waited for him to make a comment but no such thing was forthcoming.

"Do you know the hosts well Bodeir?" asked Sue to get Bodeir talking a bit. Everyone was still finding their spaces. Sue wasn't entirely clear on how they were finding them, but everyone seemed to be making their way to certain spots. What Sue couldn't see, was that each seat was projecting qi in the

shape of the individual's name. They didn't make it visible of course. It was both a way to show the seating arrangements, and give their guests a little test.

Sue was lucky enough to have chosen the correct seat by accident. Her name had been provided before as Bodeir's guest, and she was marked as a cultivator. Or more accurately, she was marked as someone who was currently practicing and could be considered a combatant. Not strictly true, but as a demon no one was going to question her.

Eventually most people had found their seats and the few who hadn't were clearly trying to work out how everyone else knew how to find their own seats. Sue hid a smile when she saw one particularly large man get told off by a smaller female cultivator for taking her seat. The man looked ready to argue, until the neighbouring seats informed him the girl was right, and he awkwardly vacated the seat for her. Confused as to if the seats were actually marked some way, he missed a memo, or if he was just being hazed for being a newer cultivator.

Sue soon felt a shift in the atmosphere. She couldn't feel the qi build-up, but everyone else could and they were reacting accordingly. The sound of cracking ice spread through the room, and soon a man with long white hair exploded from the floor near the head of the table, shifting the ice to look like a water splash as he exited. The man flipped twice in the air before sliding down the ice and next to his chair. It was a fancy, if short display that clearly showed mastery over the ice element.

Then there was the whistling of wind, and a banging sound as the windows to the room were thrown open. A girl with blue hair flew in on a sword, letting the snow follow along in her wake, and drift gently down onto the ground behind the guests. She did a few flips and ticks, before dropping off the sword and letting it fly up to become the centrepiece of the ice sculpture. It bobbed in place at the centre of the formation with snowflakes still trailing around it.

It was an impressive show of coordination from them both. It didn't take long for the man to speak up. "Welcome, to the Holy Icy Wind Sect. For those who do not know us, we are the twin heirs to the sect. I am Feng..." Feng stopped speaking.

"... and I am Bing," with his sister picking up straight after. "Tonight, we have invited you all to enjoy our hospitality. We plan to provide you with the best meals our sect can offer you, before arranging for a small, but hopefully enjoyable tournament in the following days..."

Feng took over again, "The rewards will be quite grand for the winners we assure you. With the grand prize being any technique of cultivation manual available to our own core disciples. Of course, if the winner happens to be from our sect the rewards will change a bit. With lower, and upper sect disciples being raised to core level, and core level disciples will be able to pick a sect elder for personal tutoring,"

Bing jumped in, "But that's not all. Even those who aren't coming in first can receive their pick of some great prizes..."

Sue started to tune said prizes out. Most were cultivation resources of no consequence to her.

Chapter 998 Sue "Enjoys" a meal

Sue

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The first round of food came out and Sue could instantly label it as a salad. Well, that wasn't quite true. It actually looked like someone had plucked holly, leaves and all and then thrown it into the bowl and sprinkled oil over the whole thing. Sue, not being from Earth, had no idea what holly was, nor the fact that holly was quite poisonous. Of course, even if Sue had known she wouldn't have panicked. Everyone had the same food, and their hosts weren't going to so blatantly poison anyone like that.

Kat did tense a bit in the background. Despite intellectually knowing that serving poisonous dishes to your guests was exceptionally poor form no matter the world. Of course, it wasn't only that. If Kat thought a bit about how demons actually ate food and that their stomachs acted not as an acid bath but an incinerator for the most part, she'd know it was beyond silly to worry about something like that. Alas, she still worried. Lily too, sensing Kat's worry and agree that while silly, was worth worrying about apparently.

Sue tried one of the bright red berries and was surprised to feel them crunch in her mouth. A bit more chewing revealed a frozen centre with a bit of ice that melted in your mouth, washing the flavour onto your tongue. It was certainly a unique eating experience. Rich in earthy and floral notes with a bit of a tang from the dressing. *Honestly... not bad. Not my favourite because berries really shouldn't crunch when you eat them and while the dressing does elevate the dish... it still feels a bit bland overall.*

Sue grabbed a leaf this time and was thoroughly disappointed. It tasted like dressing. Nothing else. *Is this meant to be one of those filling salads so we don't eat everything at the buffet table or something? I don't get why they'd bother considering they're still going to serve us the other courses. Aw well, at least as a demon I don't have to worry about it not all fitting in my stomach. I'll still feel a bit bloated if I try, but I could certainly eat it all if I want.*

Sue shrugged a bit and grabbed another bite, with the berries and leaves together. Sadly there was no new taste combinations so she focused on her surroundings. To her surprise, all of the cultivators were really chowing down. Many had in fact already finished up their dishes. Sue even spared a quick glance over at Bodeir to find he was still eating. Somewhat slowly at that. *Hmm... I wonder what that says? Is the dish not to his taste? It looks... about his normal eating speed I think? I wasn't really paying that much attention but he does seem to take his time to enjoy food when its offered.*

Then why do I get the sense that he's not pleased with this entrée either? Sue couldn't really put her finger on it. For all appearance Bodeir seemed perfectly content with his meal, if a bit slow in eating it. Despite that Sue's gut was telling her that Bodeir was unimpressed with the display. Sue glanced at their hosts to find Feng, the brother had eaten the entire thing already while Bing was picking out just the berries to eat, leaving the leaves behind. Feng was glaring at her for this behaviour but wasn't saying anything. Bing acted like he wasn't glaring at all.

With that new information Sue looked around the table and noticed a few ladies that were matching Bing's eating habits... but truly it was only a handful. Aside from a few people who had clearly not enjoyed the taste at all, and were just being polite and forcing themselves to eat a bit, everyone else had consumed, or was in the process of consuming everything in the bowl.

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Sue really wasn't sure what that said about the meal in question. *Considering how fast a bunch of the guests here ate, I'd bet half of them didn't even taste it. I wonder if this stuff is rich in qi or something?

You'd think if it was everyone would be eating the whole thing, not just the berries... unless it's concentrated in the berries? Does qi make things taste better? I know most things with more higher energy in them tend to taste better because they use that energy to improve themselves...*

But not everything considers 'tasting better' an improvement. Plenty of things go the other way as well, making sure that they taste worse, are more toxic, use less resources to keep existing. That sort of thing. Well, whatever. The qi isn't going to be helping nor hindering me so I can just eat everything I'm served with no issues.

Bodeir and the rest of the 'stragglers' finished their meals after another five minutes. That wave of people seemed to be a sign to the butlers who came in, collected the dishes then started handing out what might be the main meal? Sue wasn't entirely sure, but that was her guess. It was some sort of small bird. Without its feature it was hard to tell what it might have started as, but even without any feathers it was clearly 'bird' shaped.

Sauce was drizzled over the main meal, and there was a number of cooked vegetables ringing the plate. Sue wasn't surprised to see a number of the cultivators simply ripping off pieces of the chicken and eating it that way, ignoring the fact they were dining in a rather upscale environment and that they had knives and forks specifically for this. You might think it was just the men... but sadly, even with the reduced number of girls, there was still a good number of them that chose to go at the bird with their fingers.

It's not that I mind my fingers getting sticky... but why would you choose to use them when the hosts are clearly implying that you eat with your utensils? That line of thought died in the water when she glanced at their hosts... and found both of them eating the bird with their hands. Why the fuck do I even bother with this shit.

Sue glanced at Bodeir, not even sure what she was hoping to see... he too was using his hands. Sue felt like slamming her head into the plate. *WHY DID YOU PROVIDE US WITH SO MANY FORKS IF YOU WANTED US TO USE OUR HANDS!* Sue's internal screeching was heard by nobody, but Bodeir did lean away slightly, making it seem as if he was protecting her from the juices that splattered a bit as he broke off a chunk of food... but he was clearly feeling some unease.

So do I eat it with this fork or not? Because I'm feeling like stabbing someone with it! What the fuck is even the polite thing to do here! The hosts clearly have no issues eating it with their hands. So is that the 'proper' way to eat this dish? I can see a few people just as confused as me... but easily double that simply eating it with their utensils.

Sue heard a loud crunching noise beside her. She realised in that moment that Bodeir was eating the bones as well. Sue couldn't suppress the twitching on her eye. Fuck it. Sue ripped off a leg and bit straight through the entire thing bones and all before swallowing quickly barely tasting the food as it went down. Sue quickly finished off the bird, barely tasting it as she did. Before huffing and looking away from the plate.

Sue didn't see the look of horror on her neighbour's face who'd just watched the whole thing. They were one of the confused people that hadn't started eating yet, and after Sue's display... slowly started to eat just the vegetables on the edges. No sense in borrowing trouble.

Bodeir seemed happier with this meal but he didn't say anything, and despite the chatter that eventually started up around them Sue had no interest in it. She was trying to push down her anger at the hosts, and whoever thought serving that as a main course was a good idea. When the plates were collected, Sue was glad to see that garbage go.

It meant that she didn't see Kat carefully pick off bits of meat for Lily to eat. Not wanting to risk going for the bones like many others. It was an adorable sight, and certainly would've calmed Sue down a good deal. Shame she never looked over at it.

When the dessert came out and it was a spread of normal looking ice cream Sue nearly cried. *Finally something normal. I don't even care if it's average ice cream. It's ice cream. I know how to eat this, and what it is.* Sue grabbed her spoon and tried the purple coloured one before smiling. *This is good.*

Chapter 999 Mistakes... May Have Been Made

Sue

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When the meal was over and everyone started moving off again, most people headed towards Feng and Bing, but Bodeir pointedly moved away from them. Sue got up and followed him, "So... is there a reason you're avoiding our hosts?"

Bodeir let out a long sigh and said, "I'll get around to it before the night is over. The excuse I'll be using is that they were clearly overwhelmed by the number of well wishers I saw congregating around them and wanted to leave them some space,"

"Yeah but that's the excuse, what's the reason," asked Sue, making sure to give Bodeir a hug for the sole purpose of pressing her tits against his back. It was an excellent negotiation tactic. Especially considering it worked.

"I'm not a fan of the twins truth be told. They have... ideas... that I don't really agree with. There isn't any truly bad blood but if I can avoid them for a bit longer then I'll be happy. Especially if they try to keep my attention for too long," explained Bodeir.

"Well why is that?" asked Sue.

Bodeir didn't answer, he just kept walking until they were back in the ballroom. It had been cleared of extra food, though there was extra drinks available now. He continued to not answer until Sue got the point. *Clearly he doesn't want to talk about it... but now I want to know. If I'm not going to get anywhere with the girls here I might as well badger Bodeir to give me juicy information. Perhaps a safer topic?*

"Ok fine, I get that you don't want to talk about it. How about the meal then? What did you think of it?" asked Sue, thinking this was a perfectly normal question to ask considering they'd just finished said meal.

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Instead, Bodeir turned around and glared at her with fire in his eyes, looking like he'd just been slapped in the face... or perhaps a bit more serious than that? Maybe threatened at sword-point? The point was, this had not been a safe topic. "It was perfectly adequate" said Bodeir in a clipped tone.

Yes yes and I'm 'mildly interested in sex'. Fucking nonsense is what those words are. Sue didn't say anything for a few moments, she just continued to give Bodeir a 'really you're going with that' look. He didn't seem to catch her meaning though, considering he turned around and kept walking. Sue however, wasn't willing to let such an obvious dismissal go twice. "Bodeir. I asked a question and I expected a truthful answer, or at least a lie that I could pretend to believe. What did you think of the food?"

Bodeir sucked in a hiss of air, calming himself down for a bit. "It was a disgrace to the local dishes," said Bodeir.

Sue waited...

And waited...

But after a minute of no follow up, and Bodeir just glaring at her, Sue caved first, "Well? Keep going? I barely understand the local architecture and I've seen a whole bunch of it. How would I know anything about the local food? You can't just say it's a disgrace and... I don't know if you were expecting me to understand everything from that or you just don't want to elaborate but... I am requesting you E L A B O R A T E"

Bodeir bit his lips and turned away, heading for the courtyard again. It didn't take them long to be out in the garden amongst the stars. Sue thought it all looked quite wonderful, and could be very romantic in the right circumstances. A shame Bodeir really wasn't her type, or at least, not the type she'd look to for a long term relationship. *But why are we standing out here in the cold? Do I need to summon up my demonic fire and hope it keeps me warm? My outfit isn't attire, it'll burn right through that. Though...*

Sue briefly entertained the idea of spending the rest of the night on fire and pretending she didn't see a problem with it... but she wasn't really feeling up to being that daring. Nor would her demonic energy reserves actually carry her that far. She also wasn't entirely sure she had good enough control over it to avoid burning the ground or everything else. At least she had a bra and panties as part of her attire she could conjure up.

"I think... I think that what the twins showed us was a disgrace to good food," said Bodeir slowly. It was clear that he didn't really want to talk about this, but Sue was listening... and now she was curious. They'd already made it to the far end of the garden, Bodeir was leaning on the railing and looking out at the icy forest below. Once again, Bodeir was making this oddly romantic for some reason. Perhaps he needed the serious atmosphere to keep talking.

"They were telling the truth, each ingredient they served us was wonderful. A true classic of the region... but that's all it was. Ingredients. We were barely served what I would call a meal and they focused only on providing the most technically challenging dishes to us. Not the best tasting, and I feel like they insult the food they provided for us by going about it this way,"

Bodeir paused again, but Sue was willing to let him have it this time. "Take the first dish. It is made using Christmas Berries, but they are actually best served either as a sauce, dipped in chocolate, or frozen and part of other dishes. Instead, they managed to preserve that frozen core and keep the leaves from

withering. That might not seem like much for a normal plant... but for Christmas berries? Especially this time of year?

“The amount of qi, and probably mana that would have to go into preserving and preparing that salad is more than an average household makes in a year...” *Wait, you, Bodeir Jr, heir of the Mountain Shaker sect no what an average person, sorry ‘household’ makes in a year?* “... and it wasn’t even that good! The leaves don’t add anything to the dish taste wise, and really if they were going to use rare ingredients in the sauce they might as well have picked something that would pair a little bit better with it but no!”

Oh dear. I seemed to have found out that Bodeir is actually a food critic. I don’t even know what to think. I’m not... that interested... but like... we already walked all the way out here and I don’t know that I could get him to stop without having his opinion of me drop like a stone.

“Then there’s the bird. That was a genuine thin-boned frost eaglet. Those things are nearly impossible to get a hold of by themselves... and they just served it up like a fucking chicken! They didn’t Bing and Feng didn’t even eat the bones! It’s a fucking waste is what it is! Sure at least one of them was eating it properly but frost eaglet is for SOUP. You let the bones melt into this absolutely stunning broth. It isn’t even hard. Even LUKEWARM WATER is enough to melt the bones, and it will be some of the best soup you ever tasted...

“But NO. Can’t go for an easy dish. No instead they had to cook the eaglet without letting the bones melt into the flesh. It doesn’t even taste better doing that way! And most people didn’t eat the bones. I mean... really I just don’t understand what they were thinking. It’s all style and no substance. If I wanted to eat something crunchy I’d pick up a packet of mixed nuts from a street vendor! Maybe if I was feeling real daring I’d get nut-stuffed turkey from one of the local restaurant...” *I know what I’d like stuffed with nuts.* “...but no. Instead they had to waste time and resources making a subpar meal with excellent ingredients!”

“The ice cream was good though,” said Sue before she could properly considering that statement. Bodeir whipped around, hand clenched and ready to punch her. Sue readied her barrier but... Bodeir stopped just short and sighed.

“How often do you have ice cream?” asked Bodeir.

“Um... I mean... I dunno? Not all that often? It’s not something my parents have all the time but it’s available if I want it? I guess?” answered Sue confused.

Bodeir nodded and said, “Then that’s fine. The ice cream was... acceptable. I’m not a fan of the method used to make that particular ice cream but I can admit it is good ice cream. Unlike the other dishes that are all style and no substance the ice cream was... mostly style but enough substance that I didn’t feel like smashing the plate it came on,”

Well that’s good. I dodged that bullet, “But, let me explain to you all the problems with the method they used. See, I’m certain that...” *Oh god no I didn’t!*

Chapter 1000 is a beach episode special. It is set some undefined time in the future but it will technically be cannon. I want this as both a cool episode and a snapshot of where I see the characters going for you all to enjoy.

It turned out. Renting a whole beach island was expensive... but remarkably easy. Lust had acquired a number of beach islands across quite a few dimensions and hooked up teleporters to them all. It was as simple as putting in a reservation, supplying the ludicrous amounts of money, and then getting the correct number of tickets from the receptionist.

Kat was required to hand them all out personally, well, that was a lie, Lily handed out some of them as well. It wasn't Lust's job though apparently. Kat didn't regret signing up to Lust as her faction of choice. She still didn't really have much to do with Envy and Pride but she found Gluttony and Wrath to really not be to her tastes, while Sloth and Greed were alright as they were... but not factions Kat was interested in belonging to.

Her friends clearly agreed with her. Sue joining up as soon as she managed Rank 3 wasn't a surprise, even if Kamiko's membership was a small one. Sue didn't go on Contracts all that much anymore. Lust was perfectly happy to arrange a long string of 'clients' for her and were more than willing to send the interesting people Sue's way.

Kat shook her head. Everyone else had finally stepped through the transporter, even Lily had gone ahead so that they could change separately and surprise each other. Kat even blocked out Lily's ability to see through her eyes temporarily to make sure it was a surprise. Kat's outfit was a fairly conservative bikini with a bit of extra cloth wrapped around her bottoms. Kat had managed to snap a set with her own trademark style. Black with silvery flowers and red outlines.

Kat stepped through the teleporter and was instantly hit with the smell of salt and sand. She could already hear laughing in the distance. The end point for the teleporter was a short walk away from the beach, but in a small hidden alcove. Standing there, with a big smile on her face was Lily.

She'd gone for an open back one-piece bit of swimwear that Lily would swear up and down was more modest than Kat's own attire... but Kat would disagree. Lily's legs, arms, and back were on full display and the outfit was practically vacuum sealed to Lily's body. Kat already knew every curve perfectly... but the reminder was right in front of her if she needed it. The outfit didn't really do anything to hide that. It was interesting to note that Lily had an odd clear plastic thing over her ears to keep them dry. Not something Kat could remember seeing before.

Lily didn't need to say anything she just jumped forward, letting Kat catch her, and spin them both around. Lily kissed her deeply and Kat couldn't help but feel pleased with all the training it had taken to get to this point. The point where Lily would happily initiate such things, in public no less. She was a bit harder to tease... but only a bit. Kat thought the trade-off was well worth it.

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"Took you long enough Kat. I thought I'd be standing here by myself for hours waiting for you to show up. What took you so long? It shouldn't have been that hard for you to change. There was changing rooms in the teleporter area!" said Lily with faux annoyance.

Kat grinned and said, "Oh, I'm sure you know all about how quickly my clothes can be removed, you've done it often enough after all," Lily was bright red. I've still got it! "I was just a bit lost in thought, I guess. It... weird to think about it but we've never had everyone all together like this. I wonder what it'll be like. Who will get along with who... that sort of thing,"

"It's a shame not everyone could make it," pouted Lily. "We tried so hard to get everyone we know an invite,"

"Well that's hardly fair. Green and Gareth didn't want to leave the kids by themselves, and you know just as well as I do that Kress still isn't a big fan of us," said Kat.

"Green and Gareth could've left the kids with Kress. I bet they didn't want HIM to be lonely. Biggest baby of them all I swear. At least Nixilei was able to come," returned Lily.

Kat shrugged, "I wonder just how much of that is because she wanted to come, and how much of it is because she was ordered to come spy on us," said Kat wryly.

Lily groaned and retorted, "Nixilei promised it wasn't like that. She didn't even tell Green's parents why she was asking for a vacation. Granted I won't promise that she'll never use the stuff she learns here... but she's a good friend and she's not going to air the really private stuff anyway. I'm still annoyed about everyone else that's skipping out though. At least Green and Gareth had an acceptable reason,"

Kat shrugged, "Not everyone is up for trans-dimensional get togethers. Though I do think we could've invited the rest of Kamiko's family,"

Lily shook her head strongly, "Kamiko specifically asked us not to and we respected her wishes on that front. Just because she still gets along with them great doesn't mean that she wanted them on vacation with us,"

"I suppose," said Kat with a shrug.

As the trees parted to make way for the beach Kat took in everyone. Well, everyone she could see at any rate. Callisto and Sylvie had set up a marquee set aside for that damned game. When Kat purchased it for Sylvie, she hadn't realised just how big of a deal it'd become in their household. Of course, Kat was partially to blame. Continually acquiring the expansions for subsequent birthdays... but it was probably fine.

Of course, Sylve and Callisto had undoubtedly set the tent up solely to convert more people to their cult. The fact that Nixilei was nowhere to be seen and neither was Minor or Enuke. Though it was possible Minor was just hanging out inside of Shizuka's head at the moment. Though... considering Shizuka's partner wasn't around it could go either way.

Chekov was of course, also missing but that crazy carpenter was definitely using this as a chance to make something out of rare wood he'd never seen before so nobody had much hope of finding him anytime soon. Kat took another glance over the groups of people around and noticed Bruce missing as well. Probably with Chekov.

What wasn't ok was Roxanne and Sue hanging out together. That was a recipe for disaster. Sue was of course, wearing basically nothing. In the strictest sense Sue did indeed have a bikini on... but it covered basically nothing. Kat nearly wanted to scream. *I mean for crying out loud. The only thing you can't see up top are her nipples and even then I wouldn't be surprised if those still gets flashed. There's barely a few centimetres of fabric there! And the only reason I can't see her asshole at the back is because her ass is big enough to hide it! Honestly Sue.*

Sue had gotten better... well not really. Sue had found more harmony in herself. That didn't mean she had stopped teasing people, or sleeping around though. Hadn't found anyone to settle down with yet. The fact that Roxanne was nearby and trading stories didn't bode well though.

Roxanne had a large sunhat on and was wearing a see-through shawl over a tankini in bright red. She was getting on a bit in years, but she apparently wasn't letting it affect her body much at all. Kat just looked away from the pair, deciding she didn't want to worry about what shenanigans those two were going to get up to.

I wish Gramps had been willing to come. But no... he was all 'you young folks have fun without this old codger'. It's not like we weren't also inviting Vivian's parents, and Lily's grandparents. Granted Lily's side of the family was... less enthusiastic about coming and decline as well but COME ON Gramps. Letting the team down.

Kat glanced over at Vivian and Mai having a very casual game of volleyball against Yang and Xuena while Apep and Xiang watched from the side. Vivian was wearing a similar... wait no, the exact same outfit as her mother. Kat smelled blackmail there. Mai was of course not wearing anything... but as a smile it was probably acceptable. Yang was wearing a fairly daring blue bikini with snowflakes on it that seemed to be a set with Xuena's own bikini that was yellow with petals. Xiang was wearing a pair of boardshorts split between blue and yellow, while Apep had on an emerald green pair.