

D. of Pride 301

Chapter 301

Looking at the loads of carts that have now become rusted at the corner, it seemed that the mine was used for excavating something.

"Let's follow the track, we can use it to come back here in this place in case we get lost," Simon said taking a step forward.

"You all should be careful. Although the message on the door did not say anything about it, but from the eeriness and the faint smell of iron, there, might be monsters lurking inside this place" Lucine warned.

Simon stopped in his tracks and deliberated over her words, though she did not say it clearly, he who was aware of her origins knew more than just to simply ignore her words. Since she had put it like this, there might really be monsters inside.

"Why don't we do it like this. Instead of spreading out and going our individual way, we can group up and scout the place together. The trail this time does not have that annoying snow nor are we on a countdown. If there really are monsters lurking inside, it would be foolish to divide our strength" he reasoned looking at the two people.

Perhaps, they too felt like his reasoning was plausible, Lucine and the little boy agreed with him. The group had just taken a few steps in when the heavy metal door automatically closed with a bang.

When Simon turned around to see if there was anything out of ordinary with the door, from the corner of his eyes, he spotted something that looked like shallow claw marks on the backside of the door.

Presuming that it was made by some monster lurking here, he increased his gaur and spread his senses while proceeding forward.

The cavern was truly deep and gigantic just like a catacomb. Even after walking for over more than an hour, Simon and the others couldn't find anything out of ordinary that marked the start of their trail.

Simon opened his [Mental Map] skill, by now he had marked quite a large portion of the cavern and was in the midst of mapping more. The place somehow reminded him of the cavernous floors of his dungeon which was similarly also designed like this to confuse the sense of the intruders and brimmed with monsters that finish off the ones stranded behind.

However, unlike his dungeon, this place showed no signs of monsters even after they entered the place for so long. His [Detect Presence] and [Heightened Senses] skill that was on high alert, couldn't even find a single hostile or foreign presence near them.

'Were they mistaken in thinking that there would be monsters here? Or was the trial about something else entirely?'. As these thoughts hovered up in his mind, Simon suddenly noticed a large room ahead of them.

An invisible barrier just like the one in the hall back during the second trial, enveloped the entrance and the entire room within it. The moment the group spotted the entrance, they immediately knew that once they stepped through it, the trial would start immediately.

Another noticeable thing was the rail track that they have been following up until now, ended at this point. There were also marks and hints of being used left behind a long time ago.

The group stopped in front of the entrance, looked at each other before entering in.

ZZzzz... a static sound echoed within Simon's mind and before he knew it, his entire vision was enveloped with a white light. When the Light settled, he found himself in the very same place with his two teammates beside him.

However, what preoccupied his mind was not this but the illusory state of their body. At this moment, the three of their bodies were in an incorporeal and ethereal state like a ghost with no form.

He wasn't the only one who was amazed by this scene as the little boy beside him was gawking and touching his body with a stunned expression.

'What was going on?' before Simon could think further, he felt voices of people coming from behind him and hurriedly turned around. The moment he did, his eyes widened beyond their limit at the scene that lay in front of him.

Seated not very far from here on top of a large boulder, was a group of children wearing ragtag clothes. They each had a loaf of bread and a cup of water in their hands as they hastily ate it. One could say that the food that they were having was extremely bland with no taste whatsoever.

Nonetheless, with the way these children were eating them so happily, told otherwise. Loud clatter of laughing and chatting came from them as their voice filled the room.

"Mister is so good, he not only saved me from starving in that alleyway and brought me here, he is also providing us with food," said a boy with a bob cut hair.

"Hehe, Bell is right, mister is the nicest person in this world," a thin girl with black hair said.

The boy who was called as Bell, glanced at the tall guy in the middle of their group and asked "What do you think Glenn, isn't Mister very nice? I heard from Chloe that you were left behind by your parents in a monastery because you have some illness. Did the mister bring you here to also treat your illness?".

Glenn the tallest boy amongst the group of children, nodded his head a little shyly. He was brought here not too long ago and hence felt a little embarrassed to talk in front of them.

The black-haired girl named Chloe kept on throwing furtive glances at Glenn and would immediately break it away when their eyes met like a frightened rabbit.

Noticing this Bell made a silly smile and poked fun of her "Don't tell me Chloe that you like Gle... gugh".

However, before he could continue, a punch came digging his abdomen from the girl.

"Hey, why did you do that?"

"Hmph".

The silly back and forth quarrels of the trio attracted the attention of the other children as they laughed merrily and made fun of each other. The other children just like the trio, were wearing ragtag clothes which indicated that they were similarly brought in here by the mister they were talking about.

In this gloomy space, where not even the rays of the sun could reach them, their carefree and pure laughter brightened the surrounding.

Simon and Denzel wore stunned looks in their eyes as they gazed at the children who seemed unaware of their presence.

"What is going on" Simon couldn't help but utter the words he previously said once again. No matter how he stressed his senses, he couldn't detect even the slightest presence from them.

Contrary to their stunned looks, Lucine made a distressed expression, her eyes held a slight trace of sadness within them.

"Chronos Magic- [Historia]" she silently mumbled.

Maybe her words reached him, Simon turned around and questioned her with his eyes as to what she meant.

"[Historia], a powerful advanced tier time magic that recounts the tale of what had transpired in the place a long time ago. It is a highly complex spell that only a handful of people in this world can cast".

"Remember, not to mix reality with what is going to happen next. You must absolutely stay away from the time rift and not get caught up in the endless flow of time or else you will forever remain here" Lucine took a deep breath of air and cautioned everyone with a serious stone.

It was the first time Simon had seen the woman who always had a playful character, make such a serious face. That in itself told him how grave of a situation they were and cannot afford to make even the slightest mistake.

The scene played on as the three of them were caught up in a situation, a group of men wearing a white bloated suit that covered their bodies from head to toe walked in. The children delightedly began lining around them as these men did a headcount.

"Alright, there are fifteen of them. Inform cardinal Royce that we can start the experiment once again" one of the men said to his colleague near him.

"Say, when is that good mister gonna come?" Bell asked trying to find the person who had saved his life and his friends amidst the group of men.

"Cardinal Royce is a little busy but he will make sure to come and visit you all. So you all should also do your best and help us okay?" One of the men in white suit said.

"Un" all of the children delectably nodded.

"Alright now, those who will do as we say, will be given new sets of clothes. Make a line and those numbers that we call out will come with us".

When the group of men called out '3153', '3167' and '3172', three children two boys and one girl stepped forward before being escorted towards a different section of the room that led further in.

It was only now that Simon and the others noticed that all of the children were imprinted with a number on their shoulders.

"Are they being taken away to get treated? Will they come back again?" Chloe asked, one of the two boys that were called, was her friend Glenn who was brought here not too long ago.

"Yes..yes, they are going to get treated so that they won't have to suffer from illness anymore" one of the men in white suit patted her head and said smilingly.

Simon glanced at the smiling expression of the men and narrowed his eyes. For some reason, he had a bad premonition that something was going on over here.

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He looked at the three children who were being escorted by these men in hazmat suits and wanted to follow when he realised that the barrier enveloping the room did not allow him to go out.

This was the first time that Simon had experienced the wonders of the time magic and he couldn't help but marvel at it with amazement when he realised that the flow of time around them started to flow faster.

In a few short moments that felt like a couple of minutes, two days had passed. The children that were kept inside this room, were restricted from stepping deeper inside the cavern. They passed their time mining, playing and eating before going to sleep.

At a glance, one could see that the children were being used as miners to dig up ores from the surrounding tunnels which were then transported to the surface through the rail track. But Simon had a suspicion that something else was going on over here.

That was because out of the three children that were taken in, only the tall guy came back and instead of looking healthy like before, his complexion was palely ill. It was not like his friends did not notice but they had enough faith in the white suit men that they believed that it was because of his illness and he would be cured soon.

The scene played on as if someone had pushed the fast forward button and before long it was the seventh day. The white group of men came back again to take three more children with them for treatment.

"Chloe I'm going inside to get treated, I'll come back soon. We can continue our game then, next time I'll win" A girl with curly brown hair and faint pockmarks on her nose, held the hands of her friends before being escorted inside.

"Un, I won't lose Risa," Chloe said waving her hand.

Clap..clap...

"Alright children you have been very obedient in the past few days as a reward, we are handing out new sets of clothes. Wear them when Cardinal Royce comes to visit you in a few days" one of the men clapped his hands to get their attention.

"What? Mister is coming to see us?" Bell asked, from his facial expression one could see that he was very excited to meet this person.

All of the children shouted in joy when they heard that the person who had saved their life and brought them here, would soon give them a visit.

Time flowed on and in the blink of an eye, three days had already passed. During these past few days, none of the children returned from the facility deep inside the tunnel and the only person who did, started showing peculiar behaviours.

Glenn would be in an irritated mood all the time and the slightest of argument with anybody, would erupt into a fistfight. One time he had beaten up a boy simply because the other person was concerned about his health a bit too much.

If not for Bell and Chloe who were kind of the tacit leaders of this group, the situation might have escalated. On the fourth day, Glenn started showing behaviours of not being able to sleep and his skin started to take on a unique shade of blue.

When all of the children started panicking that something was wrong with him, mysteriously the white suit men appeared at that exact moment and took him inside the facility once again.

"Will he be alright?" Chloe asked looking worried.

Bell followed the white-clothed men taking Glenn inside with his eyes before they were no longer visible to him.

"Don't worry, mister is a nice person. Glenn is simply ill, he will come back soon" he assured the girl beside him.

The next day, there was some movement from the surface, a man wearing ceremonial clothes, entered the room. The moment he stepped in, the children wearing their new sets of clothes crowded around him.

"It's the good mister, good mister is back" the children bustled.

The man who was referred to as good mister, was a middle-aged man with a kind smile. He had grey ageing hair, was wearing a pristine clergy robe and carried a staff that had a huge core stone embedded on top.

The way he carried himself and the aura he released, gave others a good impression of him.

When he was playing with the children, the white suit men (Hazmel suit) came out of the facility inside to greet him "Your Eminence, Cardinal Royce".

The good mister referred to as Cardinal Royce, nodded his head at their greetings.

"I hope they have been taking good care of all of you? Do you eat your meals everyday?" he asked looking at the starry eyes of the children.

,m The children nodded their heads like baby chicks at those words of the cardinal.

"Mister is kind, we have been living good, we have a place to call home and we even get meals two times a day" Bell said adding in from the side.

Cardinal Royce glanced at the children and noticed the boy with the bob haircut. "Ah you are that boy I saved from that alleyway... come here".

Bell complied after being beckoned by the good mister and felt his hands caress his hair. Immediately, the boy who was foreign to these affectionate touches, became happy and rub his nose..

The other children too huddled around the cardinal in hopes of receiving his affection.

Cardinal Royce caressed the hair of every child while having a comforting smile on his face. Seeing one of the girls acting nervous and uneasy in the distance, he called out to her.

"What happened, you don't seem too happy to see me?".

Chloe fidgeted around a little before gathering her courage to speak up.

"U-um mister... that is... my friends... they have gone inside to receive treatment and haven't come back yet".

Her voice was soft nonetheless it was audible for all the children and the good mister to hear it. Cardinal Royce made an expressionless face, his eyes deeply observed the little girl in front of him before a smile popped up on his face.

"Hehe, little girl, don't worry. Your friends have already received treatment and were taken to a different place. You will be able to meet them once your treatment is over".

"Really?!" hopes ignited in Chloe's eyes as she asked for confirmation.

Cardinal Royce smiled, waved his hands towards the children before walking towards the interior of the cavern with the men in hazmat suits.

This time, she clearly saw it. The barrier that was stopping them from going further inside the cavern was easily dispelled by a triangular badge these white suit men carried with them.

Days passed just like that, every few days the white suit men would come to take a few more children with them and before long, out of the initial fifteen children, only six remained.

During this time, the loud laughter and chatter that the children would make, have died down a lot with the decrease of their number. They would eat, work sleep and repeat the same thing over and over again until the appointed time arrived and the white suit men came once again to pick three more children.

This time, one of the numbers that was called out, happened to be the boy named Bell. He and two other boys were picked out amongst the remaining six children, one of which was Chloe.

Seeing her dejected and gloomy face, Bell couldn't help but poke fun at her saying that she was a cry baby and all. However, when even these methods which usually worked didn't help out, he patted her head and told her not to worry too much.

After they get treated, they would be able to see each other again. Chloe nodded her head, though she was not fully relieved yet.

She observed the white suit men, for some reason, there were only two of them this time who came to pick them up. She walked towards one of them before suddenly arching her body and assuming a fetal position.

"Wh-what's wrong? Are you sick?!" the white suit man freaked out not expecting a scene like to play in front of him.

"Hey Miles come over here, we have a big problem. One of the kids is sick".

The other man named Miles, immediately dropped what he was doing and came near "Dammit, if she is really sick then it will be us who will be blamed for this. Tch, I told you to be careful with their meals, now see what you have done".

Hearing Miles put the whole blame on him, the other guy couldn't help but defend himself in an aggrieved manner.

While the two were bickering back and forth, the other children also came near worried for their friend. Nobody saw a small hand surreptitiously going into the pocket of one of the white suit men and pickpocketing something.

Chloe clutched her stomach for a while and her complexion only relaxed and came to normal after she took a rest on her bed. Seeing this, the white suit men sighed in relief and left with the three children.

Ba-dump, ba-dump... when they reached the barrier leading further inside the facility, Chloe's heart pounded like a drum. She opened her eyes slightly only to see them passing through the barrier without suspecting anything.

She propped herself up and immediately got out of her bed evoking a squeal of surprise from the other two girls. When they asked her if she was alright, she told them that she was just pretending.

The two girls were shocked at her response; however, when they saw Chloe take out a triangular badge for her clothes, they immediately understood what she had done.

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"Chloe wait, don't do this. If you sneak in like this, they will surely be mad" the girl with the blonde hair said.

"Alice I know. But I cannot just wait for my friends to disappear one after the other. I have made up my mind, you two can decide whether to follow me or stay behind".

After saying whatever she wanted she walked towards the interior of the room where a wide tunnel covered in a translucent barrier led towards the deeper part of the facility. Chloe brought the badge which even she did not know was the token to pass through the barriers and observed it.

Carved on the badge, there was a cross and a beautiful staff depicting purity and holiness. The moment the barrier came in contact with the token, it fluctuated with many ripples surfacing on it and after a moment, like a thin cloth, the barrier spread apart.

Chloe immediately stepped in but when she turned around, she saw the other two girls also tag along with her. It seemed that they too were anxious about all of this and hence made their choice.

The moment all of them disappeared inside the tunnel, Simon, Lucine and Denzel who were watching the scene from the sidelines, felt a jolt and opened their eyes wide only to realise that the room that they were currently in, although looked the exact same as the one they had seen in the [Historia], its current appearance was dingy with destruction and an unknown putrid smell drifting everywhere.

The three of them hurriedly pinched their nose and watched their surroundings in solemnity. Everything had been eroded by the expanse of time so there was no evidence or anything to be found.

However, the foreboding and eerie sensation that they were feeling in their hearts only multiplied. While only a couple of hours had passed, they had seen months and days of life of these little children.

"Let's go" Simon said walking towards the tunnel that the three girls had taken.

Previously inside the [Historia], they couldn't pass through the place because of the barrier engulfing the room. However, now that it was gone and they have returned back to the current timeline, there was no such restrictions barring them from entering inside.

On the contrary, Simon felt like the trial was telling them to proceed forward and witness the rest of the story. Lucine complied without a word, while Denzel looking a little hesitant, he knew he had to finish the trial and stepped forward.

The moment they stepped inside the tunnel, the same feeling as before where a white light covered their vision and they soon found their bodies in an ethereal state. In front of them, a little distance away were the three girls who had successfully managed to sneak in deep towards the facility.

Perhaps because it hadn't been long after the white suit men entered the tunnel, they could hear multiple footsteps echo out from the depths. The three girls followed their footsteps while Simon and the other silently walked behind them.

After an hour of walking and crisscrossing turns, they finally reached a wide area with numerous pillars holding the place from collapsing. At the end of the area was a five-meter big double doors carved with the same sign as the one in the badge.

When the white suit men came near, the door automatically opened, allowing them and the three boys behind them in. Seeing them disappearing inside, Chloe followed by the two other girls, sneakily trailed in.

This was the place they called home after being taken in by the good Mister; however, even they did not know what was deep inside the cavern. Matter of factly, none of the children did. They were always told by these people wearing white suits, not to step away from their room and those who disobey, would be punished by having to sleep hungry at night.

They had once tried to ask Glenn what was deeper inside the cavern, the answer they got was bland and not out of their expectation. Beyond the door, was a well-lit room with many equipments, peculiar machineries and big capsules that seemed to contain something within it.

Although Chloe and the girls couldn't see what the things inside the capsules were, they could hear the bubbling and gurgling of water from inside. The three girls hid themselves behind one such capsule and eyed the two white suit men taking the boys into a different section of the room.

"What are those things? Are we going to receive treatment here?" Bell who was silently following the two men in front, asked after observing the room.

One of the guy whose name was Miles, dully answered "You don't have to mind what those things are. You all will be taken to a different room where there are multiple people waiting to treat you. Although the process might be a little painful, you must hang on if you want to get better".

He walked up to the plain metal door in front and inserted his badge into the slot. Immediately, with the sounds of some gears turning, the metal door slid open.

"Come on, let's go in" Miles beckoned and slightly pushed the three children in. following which, the doors shut closed as if already programmed like that.

The moment they disappeared, Chloe and the others came out of their hiding place and inspected the room in curiosity. They had clearly heard Bell asking what this place was but rather than giving a reply, those people directly changed the subject.

"Aren't those things...?" Simon narrowed his eyes when his gaze landed on those capsules. They who were following the three girls, entered the room at the same time as them.

Lucine silently closed her eyes but did not comment further; whereas, Denzel was a little agitated when he realised what those things inside the capsule was.

It was at this moment, when the three girls were observing the place trying to figure out what these equipments were used for, another door leading to a different section of the facility, opened once again and a group of three people wearing the same old hazmat suit from head to toe, came out.

"See I told you we were late, those three new children have already been taken to the transplantation chamber. We could suffer some serious consequences in the next inspection if we don't hurry up before the operation start"..

"Don't worry I don't hear any screams yet which could only mean that it hasn't started yet. Did you already forget the beast heart assigned by Cardinal Royce for this lot of children"

"You don't mean? I see, you are right, if the operation to transplant the heart of the level 590 Dark Abyss Tiger had already started we would have already heard them wailing and screaming".

"Haha, you are right. We did have a lot of trouble getting a successful assimilation with the previous batch of children as well. The Dark Abyss Tiger and the Infernal Scaled Python have a too strong of a life force".

These men came near one of the capsules and inserted crystals the size of a thumb and of varying shapes and colours into the slots of a nearby mechanism. Following which the murky water-like substance in the capsule cleared up to reveal a person; No, it would be right to say a being.

Yes, the being in the capsule was half-human and half-beast. It had the upper body of a human and the lower half of a goat. The goat part of the being was covered in a thick black fur and thorns grew out of its hands and shoulders, giving it a menacing appearance.

Although the appearance of the being would give anyone a scare, from its size it could be easily recognisable that it was a child. The moment it appeared, the three girls who were spying on their conversation from behind a mechanism not far away, took shocked gasps of breath.

It was not only them but even Simon, Lucine and Denzel had a shocked look in their eyes. That was because the being or rather the child inside the capsule, was one of the children they had seen in that room who was taken away by these people more than a month ago.

"Glenn..mmph" Chloe who was too shocked by the appearance of one of her friend appearing in this unseemingly condition was about to shriek out and hurriedly tried to suppress it by pressing her hands on her mouth.

"Hmm? Did you hear that? I heard a girl's voice just now" one of the white suit men said.

"What nonsense are you spouting? There is a barrier separating their room and this facility. Without the entry pass, they cannot come in here. Besides these stupid children are naive enough to think that they are being treated here and if they don't behave, they won't get any food.. hahaha"

"You are right, it might be me hearing things... haha"

"You two don't get distracted from our objective. This specimen here by far showed the highest rate of assimilation with the level 650 Three-Tail Demonic Faun. If he fully assimilates with it, we will have our 8th success in dozens of years."

The three men fell silent, they knew how important having a success was for their facility and for their life.

"Let's go, today's test subject is a little special in that even cardinal Royce has its eyes on him. If we can successfully create two hybrids, we can easily cover for decades of our failure and please his eminence at the same time".

While casually chatting, the three of them opened the sliding metal doors and disappeared into the same passage where Bell and the others were led into.

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Huff.... Huff... perspiration mixed with tears, dripped down the trembling and horrified faces of the girls. They who had gathered up the courage to sneak inside the facility, were finally aware of what kind of place this was and what these people were doing to them using the excuse of treatment.

They were so shaken by the words of these white suit men who they thought were a group of nice people who helped homeless and abandoned children like them. However, reality seemed to be far different than what they thought. They were being used as test subjects and experimented upon by them.

"Uwwwwaaahh.. sniff..sniff" One of the girls broke down into crying, following which the other girl too. Chloe was no exception, the picture of the white suit men that she painted as kind people, was immediately broken down.

Days after days when these people came over and took her friends away using the excuse of treating them, when in reality they were being exposed to such experimentation.

Knowing this broke her heart and she couldn't find the strength to stand back up. Her knees trembled and tears continued to drip down her face. She was about to give up and break down like the two girls beside her, when she realised that her close friend was taken inside the facility and if she did nothing, that fellow who kept on believing in that good mister would no doubt have the same cruel ending.

Making up her mind, Chloe grit her teeth and stood back up using the capsule as a support and started walking towards the door beyond which her friend who was completely clueless about the schemes of these cruel people was taken in.

"Ch-Chloe? Where are you going?" the blonde girl named Alice cried.

"I had this feeling for some time but I wanted to believe that it was false; however, when things are put so plainly in front of me, how can I still live in my own bubble of dream?" Chloe said wiping away her tears.

"I'm going in to save my friends no matter what. You guys can sit there crying all day and blame yourself and everything or you guys can come with me and save those idiots who have been taken inside".

Chloe's words like an arrow, struck deeply towards their heart and mind. Their pale white faces turned a little solemn and amidst their indecisiveness, they made up their mind.

Just as the three girls approached the door that led to the transplantation chamber mentioned by those people, a sudden noise that almost made them shriek out, came from one of the capsules.

When they turned around to see where the noise originated from, they saw the capsule inside which Glenn was held captive, writhe around. The way he spasmed sporadically, made it seem like he was alive somehow.

"Glenn... he is alive! What do we do?" Alice asked seeing that one of the boys she knew was somehow still conscious even when his body was turned into something like that.

Chloe bit her lips and pondered for a while, she then stepped towards the capsule where Glenn was and looked for any mechanism that can free him out of it. The other two girls similarly searched the place for anything that might help the boy get out of the capsule.

"I found this that looks like an iron bar," the girl named Sophie said holding a thick iron bar that seemed to be a component of some machine.

Chloe's eye lit up when she saw that, she took the bar from Sophie and banged it on the capsule. DONG... a dull sound echoed around the room, making them anxious about the noise pulling the attention of those white suit people.

Although Chloe was not a warrior and did not even receive her first class, she was still more than level 30. After seeing the cracks on the surface of the capsule, she kept on banging it with the iron bar a few more times until the glass-like substance broke apart and its contents flowed out.

THUD... Glenn's body fell limply on the ground, if not for his ragged breathing they might have considered him dead with how different he appeared from a month ago.

"GUH..BEGH..." Glenn threw up a mouthful of liquid and painfully opened his eyes. The moment he saw the light, his eyes teared over and he cried with a tone of desperation.

"Please no more... it hurts".

"Glenn, Glenn... it's us. Don't you recognise us? What happened to you?" Chloe shook his body trying to wake him up from his trance.

After hearing the voice he have not heard for more than a month, some reasoning returned to his otherwise blank and hollow eyes. The moment he saw Chloe, he understood that he was not in that chamber any longer.

"Chloe?!" he uttered.

"That's right it's me. Thank god you can recognise us" Chloe and the two girls sighed in relief. However, before they could become too complacent over saving their friend, the words that he spoke next, turned the atmosphere in the room completely silent.

"Run...run away. This place is not what it looks like, they are not treating our illness here. It is very painful, the good mister is conducting some research on us. All of our friends who have been taken inside, have either been killed during the test or turned like me. Run...".

As tears and snot dripped down from his face, Glenn curled his hands into fists and started bawling. The room became silent with none of them uttering any words. It was just like those three people in hazmat suit had said, they were nothing but experimental subjects for them.

All the children that have been taken by them, were not cured and taken to a different place but rather have become like Glenn or died.

"How could they do that to us, I thought that the good mister was a kind person" Alice mumbled, her voice cracking at the end.

"Glenn calm down and please listen to me. Have you seen Risa? What happened to her?" Chloe asked while tightly clenching her hand. She was the third batch of children who had been taken inside the facility. Thereafter, there was no news of her.

Even with all the evidence in front of her, she still wanted to believe that her friend was still fine and alive.

Glenn looked lost for a while, his eyes unfocused and his brows locked. He appeared like he was thinking very hard about something.

"I am not sure, all the others that have been brought here had either died or become something like me. That's right, there is a special assembly room here where they bring children who have already gone to the transplantation chamber to contain us. If Risa survived she might be there".

Hearing his words, some hope finally returned to Chloe's eyes, she appeared to be thinking very hard and finally reached a decision after a long contemplation.

Seeing her quickly changing expression, Glenn couldn't help but ask "You aren't thinking about going there are you? Don't, if they catch you, they will throw you inside the Transplantation chamber. Just run".

Midway through his sentence, he suddenly realised how stupid he sounded. There was no point in running, even if they sprinted out right now, there was no way they could pass through the barrier.

"Wait... how did you reach this place? Were you also brought here by those people to be sent to the transplantation chamber?"

Whenever he mentioned the chamber, his body would visibly tremble and his eyes would become frightened.

"No... I stole this pass from those people and sneaked behind them to come here" Chloe explained how they were the only ones among their group remaining in that room and how worried she was after seeing her friends disappear one after the other.

"Wait... I don't see Bell with you, don't tell me he was taken inside by those horrible people". Chloe could only bite her lips and look dejectedly at the ground.

The nightmare that she was having for the past few days, had really become the reality. Had she known this earlier, she would have stolen the pass earlier to prevent her friends from being made into something like that one after the other.

Glenn did not have to think hard to know what her silence meant, he simply glanced at the ceiling absentmindedly.

How and where did everything start going so bad for them? They were just children with no parents or whose parents have abandoned them. Day by day they used to live by scrounging the trash thrown by the rich and powerful, some even resorted to stealing and some simply accepted their fate and died of disease or hunger.

One cannot say that kind of living a life, but they were somehow getting by day after day even with that kind of lifestyle. Although they troubled the others simply by being around or trying to live their life, were they bad enough to have this kind of ending?

"Glenn... please help us, I must save that idiot, Risa and everyone".

While he was drowning in his sorrows, a soft voice that still held hope and refused to give up, sounded.

Glenn looked up and saw the determined eyes of the girl. The room descended into silence before it was broken by the noise of Glenn trying to stand up.

His body was now very different from how it was used to before, thus he was having difficulty standing still on his goat-like legs. The moment he stood up, he towered over everyone else around the room.

His height which was previously tall for a child, had now reached the point where he was comparable to an average adult. Even his thin and lanky body had become bulkier. Chapter 305

"Let's go... I don't know how helpful I can be but just like you, I hold the same sentiment of wanting to save my friend" Glenn declared before walking towards some of the capsules and breaking them with just a simple punch.

SHATTER..SHATTER... the capsules were blasted apart and two bodies that looked like a mixture of a beast and human, dropped down onto the floor. On a closer look, their faces seemed familiar and it didn't take time for others to realise that they were their friends who had been taken to the facility to be experimented upon.

"They are...?" Sophia asked covering her mouth, her face pale.

"They are the ones who had been experimented on alongside me. I don't know if they are alive or not since have been discarded as failures by those white suit people".

"Alright, before we go and save them, you all must promise me one thing. No matter what you see inside, you must not break down" Glenn said turning around to face the three of them.

Only after seeing them nod, did he proceed forward towards the door leading to the Transplantation Chamber. He never thought that he would willingly visit the place he abhorred so much and even had nightmares of.

"Are we just going to leave them like that?" Alice asked.

Glenn glanced at the two bodies lying on the floor and made a pained expression, he then shook his head stating his intention "Let them rest here, taking them with us in this condition might slow us down plus we don't know if they are still alive or themselves or not"

Although the reply Alice got, didn't explain much, from those words many things could be interpreted.

Chloe observed their group of four and felt relieved, she was now even more determined to save all those friends of hers with which she had spent such splendid times with.

Taking out the badge she stole from those people, she was just about to insert them in the slot on the door, when a scream filled with agony and bloodcurdling pain, resounded from inside.

The hand that was holding the badge, stopped midway and Chloe's face which was already pale from being anxious, whitened even more after that wail.

"W-what was that?!" the two girls muttered nervously.

Chloe turned towards Glenn only to see the latter make a contorted face that was a mix of all the emotions.

"It seems we are a little late, the operation has already started," He remarked looking a little sorrowful at the girl beside him.

"No..no it can't be" Chloe hurriedly opened the door and was just about to run through the passageway when suddenly a hand that was as ugly as a beast grabbed her shoulders and stopped her.

"You promised me not to act without thinking" Glenn commented, his eyes glowed a mysterious blue.

After being reminded like that, she could only dejectedly hold her impulses even though her heart was worried anxious about the boy.

Glenn stepped forward, his towering build, unlike any child, appeared absolutely menacing. The rest of them followed behind him.

Simon sighed heavily and closed his eyes, they who were in a ghost-like form, watched the scene with a complicated expression. They observed the room, witnessed the decision of the children to brave forward even while knowing the risk and rescue their friends.

When the [Historia] ended and the place returned to its current state, a sickening and nauseating scene laid in front of them. Hundreds of broken capsules lined up the room, blood and gore that had already decomposed and left behind some stains, filled the place.

Corpses of the white suit men who were no more than skeletons now, littered the place. A dreary and heavy aura lingered in the room with none of them uttering a word.

"Huff... huff.. where can I find the Transit stones? I don't want to continue this trial" Denzel broke the silence sounding gloomy and tired.

Nobody blamed him for backing out, the trial this time was very peculiar in that, it heavy exhausted them both mentally and emotionally.

Lucine did not reply, she did not know where the transit stone was and where it spawned, she simply knew it existed.

Denzel clenched and unclenched his hands a few times, before walking towards the door that the children used without waiting for anyone. Simon and Lucine did not speak and silently followed behind him, they could tell what the boy was feeling as they were all currently experiencing the same thing.

The feeling and the emotions the children were feeling, thanks to the Chronos magic [Historia], were transmitted to them, weighing heavily on their conscience.

STEP..STEP... with Glenn taking the lead, the children proceeded forward. While on their way, they heard many death screams and wails of desperation.

The passageway from where they walked from, had many adjacent rooms with transparent crystal windows. The scene and the things inside them were so disturbing that some of them immediately threw up.

Hooked in the ceiling of one of the rooms was a hybrid with human, beast and some of the races that they were not even aware of into the mix. The entity had a wide pair of bat-like wings, a base with six bulky legs giving it a strong centre of gravity, a scaled tail just like that of a dragon.

The monstrosity had the barely recognisable upper half of a human with green scales covering most of its body. It had no skin and its muscle was visible through its scaly exterior.

Since it was restricted with hooks and chains, they couldn't tell if it was dead or alive. Before they even reached the transplantation chamber, the scene that lay in front of them was enough to dishearten these children and break their wills.

Perhaps the owner of this facility planned it like that or wanted to achieve this reaction, that he decided to put things like that.

The transplantation chamber was a huge hall at the end of the passageway guarded by two humanoid metallic golems designed like knights.

[Searching for key... key found. Access Granted] a flat mechanical noise sounded out from the golems as they approached near and a ray of light scanned their bodies and resonated with the badge like thing on Chloe.

Although afraid at first at the sudden activation of the golem, the children steeled their minds and continued on without stopping.

The door to the hall opened without them having to show the key again. A heavy scent of blood along with tired wails and cries of children created a disheartening euphony.

The hall was divided into different rooms that were adjacent to each other with numerous white suit men walking around busily.

GRrrrr... a beastly growl leaked from Glenn and his eyes inadvertently took a murderous glow, a desire to rip these horrible men apart, sprouted in his heart. But fortunately, he managed to somehow reign in his impulses and sneakily stepped inside.

Chloe was the next to enter followed by Alice. When they turned around to look at the last girl Sophie, they saw that she was trembling from head to toe and was too afraid to enter.

Chloe beckoned with her hands but the latter was too terrified. Sophie shook her head and ran back towards the room they came from.

Running away, though it was the most cowardly choice, it was the easiest and the most simplest to make out of all the choices. At this moment, every one of them wanted to run away, their consciousness was telling them to escape from this place.

Nonetheless, they advanced while holding their fears because the friends they had spent precious time with, were inside.

Hiding behind one of the walls of the room where they kept the massive corpses of the beasts, they peeked through the window. A group of five people were dissecting a nine meters huge beast that looked like a tiger with striking azure stripes all over its body.

From its appearance to its body, it looked absolutely intimidating. Currently, these people were dissevering its innards, blood, core stone and everything. A huge red crystal about half a meter in size that was pulsating with a berserk and brutal energy, was kept on a table nearby.

"Its gallbladder is quite huge for the boy, we might have to reposition some of his organs to make space".

"Don't be in a hurry, we have just transplanted the heart and injected the spinal fluid. But in my entire life, I had never seen the level of assimilation the boy had shown"

"I can see why he is his Eminence's favourite".

"Right compared to the other two who failed to even endure the pain, that boy might really turn out to be our greatest success".

The group of white suit men discussed while dismembering the bloody corpse of the beast. The pungent smell that lingered around the surrounding of the room, made the three priers want to barf their guts out.

Since the room was not soundproof, the two girls clearly heard what those people said and their complexion became pale white.

"Let's move," Glenn said indifferently, complex emotions flashing in his eyes.

They sneakily moved from one room to another and finally found one of the boys that was taken along with Bell.

The trio hurriedly entered the room seeing that there was no one inside. The room the boy was kept in, was plain with a simple bed, a few equipment and trays filling up the place.

Glenn came forward and observed the boy with whom he had played once and shared a meal with. The condition his friend was in, could only be described with one word, horrible. He was missing all of his hair, his hands and legs were switched with that of a beast and veins bulged all over his body.

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From the way he was bandaged all over and from the lingering scent of blood, it could be seen that he was just recently finished with his transplantation.

Glenn shook the guy but did not receive any response.

"He has been tranquilised and had already gone through the transplantation. If we move him right now, he might die" he said with a contorted face.

The two girls wore distressed faces as they saw the horrible condition of their friend.

"Bell..." Chloe silently mumbled the name of her friend who she hoped would be alright.

"Let's find Bell and Tim first," Glenn said looking at a room where the smell of the blood was the heaviest.

The two girls nodded and silently followed behind. As they approached near one particular room, they couldn't help but pinch their nose because of the nauseating bloody smell permeating from that room.

The dreary aura lingering around this room was on a whole different level. The children peeked inside the room from the transparent window only to see their friend Bell restrained on the wall by a piece of huge scary equipment.

His body was hideous to look at to say no less, his eyes were like that of a beast ready to pounce at anyone, even his height and width seemed completely different than before.

Crowded around him were the horrible people in white suits that had made him like that. They maintained a distance from the boy and noted any reaction or activity he made whenever they injected him with something.

Placed in a container on top of the machinery, was a deep crimson colour liquid and judging from the thick smell of iron coming from the room, it was none other than blood. From the volume, it could be easily guessed that blood was from an entity much bigger than a human.

Numerous incisive needles connected to the machine, repeatedly injected him with that liquid after fixed intervals evoking a beastly scream from him.

"Bell?!!" Chloe covered her mouth with her hands as she watched the scene that lay beyond the window. The boy who was completely fine and normal up until a few hours ago had been reduced to this state after being taken into the facility.

From the droplets of blood and that hateful expression on his face, she couldn't even imagine the kind of torturous experiment he had been subjected to.

"Those Bastards... Grrrrrr" Glenn who couldn't keep his calm after seeing his friends being experimented upon one after the other cursed loudly with a deep feral voice.

The blue gleam on his eyes resonated with his body and his black furs started standing out with electricity zipping around him.

"I'll distract them, you two get Bell out of there," Glenn said and stood up from his hiding position.

Chloe wanted to stop him; however, before she could even utter a word, he had already stormed out.

ROOAARR...

A beastly roar that could shake one's soul and make the body go numb resounded across the transplantation chamber.

Inside the room where Bell was held captive.

"W-what? Where did that noise come from?"

"I-I don't know, but for some reason, I got goosebumps from it"

"Yeah, I felt the same. It couldn't have come from the Transplantation chamber right?".

At this moment when these people in hazmat suits were still comprehending what had transpired, a loud booming noise echoed around the room and the entire place trembled for a second.

BOOM...BOOM.. as if announcing that the previous noise was just an introduction, repeated bombarding sounds rang out across the place.

STEP..STEP... sounds of numerous footsteps could be heard approaching the room and before anyone could do anything, the door was hurriedly pushed open.

Seeing their colleagues panicking in fear as they entered the room, the people inside immediately understood that something had went wrong and the booming noise that they have been hearing, was coming from the transplantation chamber.

"Huff... huff deputy head... its that guy, its subject number 3099" one of the men who had rushed inside the room, reported.

The person he was calling as deputy head, went silent for a while before speaking in a dismissive tone.

"Don't be ridiculous, according to my estimates he would still need a long time to wake up not to mention use his powers to rampage around".

It wasn't just a baseless statement, as the deputy head of this facility, he was more experienced in this field than anyone else and had been conducting this research for dozens of years. It could be even said that he was an expert in his field.

Little did he know that three girls had sneaked into their facility and broke the capsule the test subject was in. Nevertheless, from the sounds of destruction, he could tell that these people had no reason to lie.

The deputy head removed his mask and a face that had seen through the vicissitudes of life, came into view. His aged face and white hair, told others that he was the senior-most official in this place. He pushed the people crowding around the door aside and came out only to see the scenes of destruction and the one responsible for it with his own eyes.

The deputy head when he laid his eyes on the form of the half-human- half-goat being that was close to being complete, he couldn't help but shout in joy.

"A success, test subject 3099 is really a success. You see that, I have done it. I have finally succeeded in recreating the Lost Legendary Tier Skill. It is so beautiful" the old man looked as if had gone insane and even started crying in between his sentence.

ROOOAARR... the being opened its mouth wide to reveal a pair of sharp incisive teeth. A blue flash of lightning intermixed with bright crimson flames was spat out destroying everything. The way the being was devastating things around it, was as if it was venting out its vexation.

"Sir deputy head, this is no time to marvel at it. What should we do? From the looks of it, that subject clearly retained his memories and is here to vent its anger" the people behind him urged waking him out of his trance.

The old man cleared his throat and pondered, he then glanced at one section of the chamber that led to the control room of this place and his eyes lit up with an idea.

"You are right, we cannot allow it to destroy this precious place. Make two teams and intercept that thing, stall for as much time as you can before I can reprogram those things outside. Although it's obvious, I'll say it again. Do not kill it" saying that, the old man made a beeline towards one particular direction.

Hearing the words of the Deputy head, the fearful eyes of the white suit people changed from surprise to realisation. They who were just some officials of the facility, did not have much attainment in the field of combat prowess. So asking them to engage the monster in front of them, was clearly suicidal and foolish.

However, it was a different thing if they were asked to stall it. They who were geniuses in their field, have their own way of protecting their life, which meant that they had their own unorthodox weapons to protect their life.

Soon after, they left the room in preparation to engage with the monster. Seeing them leave the room one after the other the two girls who were hiding behind the walls, came out from their place and glanced in the direction where Glenn was.

To create them an opportunity to save Bell, he had decided to reveal himself to the people who had made him like this and attract all their attention to him.

Chloe determined her will to save her friends once again and entered the room with Alice. The moment they approached a few meters near Bell, he started becoming agitated and his rubellite eyes looked at them as if they were his mortal enemies.

His brawny body which was now more than double their size, coupled with the pressure of a beast he released, petrified them from stepping any closer.

"Bell it's me Chloe... wake up. I know that they have done some horrible and painful things to you but we must get out of here. Glenn is out there risking his life to help you so please Bell... wake up" Chloe urged trying to bring him to his sense.

However looking at his body that had been tampered with so severely, even she felt it would be a miracle for him to remain sane after all of this. Nonetheless, she kept calling his name trying to bring back his memories since there was nothing else she could do.

Perhaps, her voice got through him but he showed slight signs of calming down and his beastly eyes had slightly less killing intent on them.

Seeing that, Chloe's eyes lit up, the two girls approached near the machine to unloose Bell who had been tied to it for who knows how long.

ROAARRR...

Glenn roared and incinerated everything around him, the place reminded him of the horrible experiments those people conducted on him. He loathed this facility, this transplantation chamber very much and hence he instinctively wanted to erase everything in it.

Possibly because the facility was built inside a cavern, the infrastructure was extremely sturdy and withstood all of his attacks with minimum to moderate damage.

The tests and experiments these people had done on his body, made him able to dish out powerful attacks and erupt with strength unimaginable to him before.

At this moment when he was just about to release a powerful breath attack and incinerate one of the beast corpses kept in a room, a powerful blast of energy came from his side and hit him squarely.

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Similarly, two other attacks targeted him from two different sides and managed to hit his back resulting in a powerful shockwave.

Twenty or so white suit men surrounded him with each holding a piece of weaponry that looked like a blaster with a hose connected to a huge cylinder behind. Whenever they pulled the trigger, the blaster would shoot out a condensed beam of flame that was generated by the core stone of a fire attribute monster inside the cylinder.

Waves of attacks continued to be released out from those blasters and targeted Glenn pushing him back. The black fur on his body was burned and his skin was scalded red from the heat.

BANG... with the power of the five blasters, he was slammed into the wall unable to go against its powerful force.

His gleaming blue eyes when spotted the white suit men firing something like a laser on him, he couldn't help but get even angrier. Thick amounts of killing intent that materialised itself permeated the place and every single one of these people felt his intimidating glare on them.

"ROOAARRRRR" Glenn's chest inflated sucking all of the air in, he spat out a deafening roar so powerful that it actually made cracks in the ceiling and walls.

The crystal glasses of every room in this chamber, was shattered into pieces and anyone or anything that was in the immediate proximity of his, was blown back.

The white suit men reeled in pain as they hurriedly removed their masks and covered their ears. Droplets of blood could be seen leaking out from their ears from suffering the full brunt of that roar.

Nevertheless, the main purpose of the shout was not to decapitate them but to...

KLACK...KLACK.

"T-The Plasma Flame Blasters have stopped working!!"

"What?!"

After these people barely steadied themselves from that nerve-racking attack, they were flustered by another surprising event. The core stone placed inside the cylinder had become unresponsive with numerous cracks on it.

The core stone was the very power that was fuelling their weapons, now that they were rendered useless, these officials without any an iota of combat prowess or experience were just like sitting ducks.

Glenn roared, he felt a vast amount of power hiding within him and the more he tapped onto it, the more powerful he became. His height which could be said as very tall for a child, grew even taller and before he knew it, he was a hulking fellow more than three meters in height.

His pitch-black fur emitted a crackling sound similar to thunder and he left deep hoof prints on the ground whenever he moved.

Seeing the monstrosity that they had created approach closer and closer, these people in white suits started panicking and dispersed everywhere like a headless chicken.

Glenn's beaming blue eyes murderously looked at these people and he lifted his foot to squash one of them beneath his foot.

SPLAT... blood and gore splattered everywhere on the ground painting the scene extremely unsightly. However, that was just the beginning.

Glenn who felt the presence of a powerful strength within him, allowed its beastly nature to surface. He felt delight in killing them, relief in venting his anger out and the sweet taste of power flowing within his body.

BANG.. BANG... he repeatedly stomped his foot and slammed his hands breaking and killing everything in his sight. How many of those evil men did he kill? He did not know, what he knew was that he was enjoying this very moment.

As he was getting drunk more and more on his newfound powers, from a different direction of the chamber, he heard a panicked filled shout of a voice that couldn't be any familiar to him.

Glenn immediately came back to his senses when he heard Chloe shout, he shifted his gaze towards the room where Bell was held captive and hurriedly ran there only to see an unimaginable scene occur.

Bell his best friend was glaring and snarling just like a wild beast, his hands clenched onto the neck of Chloe who was desperately gasping for breath. The scene was so surreal to him that he was stunned still for a while.

"Bell... please come back to your senses, it's me Chloe," she said in a coarse voice.

There was a look of intense struggle flashing inside Bell's deep rubellite eyes as he gazed at his friend. For some reason, there was an extreme amount of anger currently rampaging within his body and he was grabbing the neck of the girl who was one of his closest friends.

He tried to release her, but his anger which seemed to be in possession of his body, wouldn't let him. Scenes from the past flashed in his mind, their time together playing, eating and even making fun of each other.

However, all this scene was broken abruptly by a sudden memory influx where he was taken to a revolting place and subjected and experimented upon even while he screamed his guts out. He saw his other friends getting similarly getting experimented on and discarded in case they failed to endure.

Yes, they killed his friend. His friend Tim, who he had formed a strong bond with, was thrown away like a bag of garbage when they saw his heart was no longer beating.

These people in hazmat suits, they were not the nice person he had thought. They made fun of him while he cried his heart out, made jest of dead friends all the while continuously experimenting upon them.

'Stop... don't hurt Chloe' Bell struggled to control his body which felt strangely foreign. Right now, he had so much power rampaging within his body that with just a twitch of his fingers, he could snap the neck of the girl.

"Chloe... run" he helplessly called out, tears streaming down his face as he slowly unclenched his hands.

"Cough...cough..." Chloe repeatedly coughed after being released from being choked but instead of running, she stood still and resolutely looked at Bell.

"I can't leave when my friend is suffering so much. Didn't you always used to say 'It will be alright, don't worry'. Bell you can relax, everything is alright now".

The boy widened his eyes, his body that was stretched taut, relaxed a little and his overflowing anger receded. The moment the emotions driving him all this time vanished, his body shuddered and he fell face-first onto the ground.

Seeing that Bell had come to his senses, the two girls hurriedly helped him and were shocked to find how much his body changed during this couple of hours he was kept here. His muscles felt like steel and his weight was way over what a child should have. The same went for his height which almost reached two meters.

"Those people they used us, we are nothing but test subjects to them" Bell said dejectedly, his voice contained no energy.

Looking at the gloomy eyes of her friend which previously used to be spirited, Chloe consoled "I know, they were bad people who did horrible things to our friends".

She knew how much he used to look up at good mister who picked him up who was abandoned in an alleyway. The revelation and the evidence in front of him might have been too much for him to take at once.

Glenn who came over after hearing the commotion, sighed in relief when he saw Bell come to his senses. He was just about to step closer and greet them when suddenly his instincts which have become extremely acute after the transplantation, sent warning signals of approaching danger at him.

BANG... BANG..

With deep dull sounds, he saw two humanoid golems that were standing guard near the entrance of the chamber, enter inside. Their intricately manufactured body, was as big as his and radiated with a destructive light that even gave him chills.

"Hahaha, hahaha... as expected of my creation, to be able to harness the power of the Doombringer Faun to this extent, marvellous" the old man who was the deputy head of this facility, laughed.

The surviving personnel who had barely dodged their doom from pursuing them, gathered near him.

"Deputy head..." they wanted to ask him something but the old man stopped them with a gesture of his hand.

"I know what you want to say... don't worry I have reprogrammed the Custodian Golems, they are now under my control" the old man to prove his words, pointed with his finger and the golems immediately started moving.

The researchers rejoiced after seeing this, these golems were no ordinary golems and were the latest model that showed the advancement their empire made in the field of magical engineering.

Each of these golems were capable of dealing with a level 500 monster or above and had enough power to flatten a small city. Cardinal Royce placed them here in case their facility ever faces a crisis like their current one.

"Engage that beast" the golems stepped forward and charged towards their enemy which had already noticed their presence.

"You all don't just stand there, take out the Ice Blasters and restrict its movements" the deputy head ordered and the group immediately dispersed to carry their orders.

BANG..BANG..

The chamber trembled as the huge golems charged towards the Doombringer Faun, their momentum like a fierce tornado that swept everything around it.

Faced with the charge of the two golems, Glenn summoned the power hiding deep within him and his body immediately erupted with numerous lightning bolts.

BOOOM... He sent forth a lightning charged punch towards a golem and sent it flying back a few steps but because he was still not used to his new body, the other golem manage to ram into his body.

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BOOM.., with a loud crashing noise, his three meters body fell onto the ground crushing the various equipment and machineries beneath him. Glenn immediately tried to stand up, but was hit by a cold blast of beam that froze a part of his skin and arm.

GRRRR... growling in hatred, he shot lightning bolts at his assailants and fixed his gaze on the golems.

RUMBLE... RUMBLE..

"What is happening? Why is the place shaking so much" Chloe asked feeling the tremble that reached till their room.

"It's Glenn, he is fighting those golems" Alice replied looking out of the room.

"What Glenn is?" An out of ordinary alarming voice sounded out from Bell and he willed his tired body towards the exit of the room. There he could clearly see the silhouette of his friend that had changed so much that he could barely recognise him.

However, rather than his form, what he was more concerned about was the golems he was fighting. Those Custodian Golems if he were to believe the words of those evil white suit men, they were made of Mythrill, were incredibly powerful and never tiring constructs.

As long as the power source of this entire facility remains intact, they will never run out of energy. When he told the two of them what he heard from those people, their eyes couldn't help but cloud over with worry. They did not want Glenn to be injured and at the same time, if he lost there was no way they would be able to get out of here.

Recognising this, Bell glanced at his friend fighting for their sake and the two girls who were brave enough to risk their lives to come to his rescue. He immediately made up his mind and ran out of the room while leaving a few instructions for them.

"Run towards the assembly room at the end of the facility. There must be an exit point there, I will bring Glenn and meet up with you all there".

Although he wasn't sure if there was an exit there, but recalling the time when cardinal Royce visited this facility, he never exited from the same place he entered from. That is to say, there had to be a different exit separate from the entrance.

If they could find that exit, they wouldn't have to go all the way back to that room all of them were kept in and dwindle their time solving the winding tunnels of the cave.

"What do we do now?" Alice asked sceptically, now that the situation had become so chaotic, they had no other choice but to get away from here. With their power and levels, if they stayed, they would only get in their way.

Chloe observed the situation analytically for a while before running towards the room beside them where another one of their friends was held unconscious.

"We cannot leave him here, let's carry him to the assemble room and leave this place together," she said looking at the unconscious boy who was brought here along with Bell.

The two of them shared his weight and carried him towards the door at other end of the chamber. Meanwhile, Bell who had joined the battle, saw the injured body of his friend and increased his pace.

"Glenn are you alright?!".

Glenn turned his head in surprise when he heard Bell's voice, he was just about to tell him to run away from here while he holds them down, when two beastly roars sounded out from the entrance of the chamber.

GROWWLLL:... two beasts more than three meters huge, entered the place and emitted their intimidating aura.

One was a huge buffalo with part rhino in the mix and the other was a spotted leopard with wings and having three tails. The only thing common between these two beasts was their crimson eyes and the thick bloodthirsty aura they released.

Their fangs and mouth were covered with the blood of the meal they just had. The moment they entered, all the attention was attracted to them. The place descended into complete silence and every eye focused on the two beasts.

"H-how did they come out of their capsules?" the eerie quiet was broken by one of the white suit men who was shooting at Glenn with an Ice blaster.

The old face of the deputy head contorted, from the looks of things, the situation did not look good for them. It was fine if it was just the host who had achieved a successful integration with the Doombringer Faun.

However, the two beasts before them, the Gale Demon Leopard and the Storm Charging Bull had clearly failed to achieve so with their hosts and were considered a failure. Test subjects that have turned into the beast that they were integrated with and had no mind of their own..

They were killing machines meant for slaughter, if they were not put down, they would end up destroying the whole facility. The deputy head ordered one of the golems to keep the two new

beasts busy while he and the other officials took out their ice blasters and aimed for the Doombringer Faun.

No matter what, he cannot allow the first successful test subject that he had in dozens of years to hurt itself.

While he was mentally preparing himself to incur some loss, out from the corner of his eyes, he spotted the test subject 3093 who had shown the most resilience during the transplantation and was by far the most ideal subject, approach the Doombringer Faun.

As far as he knew, there was no way the boy could move away from that machine after the surgery unless someone releases him. At this moment, the old man finally realised that there was someone else other than them inside the chamber who had sneaked in.

'But who could it be? There is no way anyone would dare to intrude in a place owned by Cardinal Royce' while he was busy thinking who the main culprit behind all of this was, the two beasts started attacking the charging golem and quickly overwhelmed it with their numbers.

Although unlike the Doombringer Faun, they were fully taken over by the beast they were assimilated with, but the power they erupted out with, couldn't be underestimated. Even the ice blaster that managed to freeze a portion of Doombringer Faun's body, was easily shaken off by them.

Overwhelmed by the sudden turn in the situation, the other officials also tried to fire their ice blasters at the beasts only to get outmanoeuvred by them.

They were just about to fire a second round of barrage when two powerful beastly roars that shook the very foundation of the chamber, sounded out destroying the core powering their weapon. The scene was just like what had happened with the Doombringer Faun, the roar was definitely a skill that disrupted the mana around the surrounding.

Now that their ice blasters were rendered useless and their most powerful weapons, the golems were locked down in a fight, these officials who never had to worry about their life, started fearing the worst.

The deputy head threw the ice blaster in his hand and with an ugly face, he ordered the officials near him who were scared witless.

"Wake up test subject no 2777".

The moment they heard the deputy head bark those words, these people couldn't believe their ears. They blankly looked at him before asking for confirmation.

"But Sir, the subject no 2777 was deemed as a failure by you. If we wake it up, the tragedy from all those years ago, might happen again".

"I'm well aware of the consequences. However, we do not have the leeway to think about all those things if we don't contain the situation right now, we might not have a future to worry about. No. 2777 is the most powerful test subject my predecessors ever created, only it has the power to contain the at present." he shouted in annoyance.

The officials nodded and finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel. Two people immediately went to a certain corner of the chamber to execute the plan.

"What is happening? Where did those two beasts come from?" Bell asked perplexed by the sudden turn of events.

On the contrary, Glenn didn't seem all so well, when he looked at the stains of blood on their mouth and claws. Sophia who ran back to the capsule chamber must have come across the two of them, which could only mean that... his eyes had unknown sadness and emotions whirling within them.

"They are not beasts but our friends who have been made to look like that" he said looking at the two beasts who were his friends. Them turning like that could only mean that they have failed to endure the pain.

"What?! How can this be aren't they fully..." Bell's eyes widened as he stood stupefied.

"Not everyone is like you and me who can still retain their human form and memories. Those two were brought in the batch after me, I have seen them subjected upon and turned into something like this. I still had hopes that they would return to themselves when they were kept inside the capsule; however, it seems that I was far too naïve. There is no way to revert back the cruel changes that these people have done on us".

Glenn explained closing his eyes at the end of his sentence.

Bell did not speak, he observed his body that still looked like a human but he himself knew how much changes he had gone through in the past couple of hours he was here.

"What do we do? Now that those two are also here, if we team up we might be able to defeat the golems and get out of here" Bell suggested; however, his suggestion was quickly rejected by Glenn.

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"The situation has not changed, we are still surrounded by enemies. Those two beasts that you see there, are not our allies. After the integration, they have completely turned into mindless beasts that are ruled by their instincts. They will attack anyone and everyone indiscriminately regardless of friend or foe".

Glenn stood up preparing to respond to any attacks that might come their way. Fortunately, after the two beasts entered the pressure of the golems on him has significantly reduced leaving him enough time to steady himself.

Bell was also about to join in the fray not knowing what he can do in with his body that somehow felt foreign, when from the corner of his eyes he spotted Chloe and Alice waiting near the door to the assembly room.

He felt his brain being able to process numerous parallel thoughts at once and came up with an idea to make use of this situation. He shared it with Glenn and after a brief discussion, the two decided to follow through with it.

Glenn used a powerful lightning attack that pushed the golem confronting him a few meters back and used this opportunity to run towards the door. Partly due to his inexperience and partly due to his newfound powers, the attack he used in his attempt to blow the golem away, was so powerful that 30% of the area around the chamber was instantly obliterated.

"Hurry" they could see the two girls beckoning them to hurry up. Just as the two of them reached the door, a presence so powerful and distorted that all the hair on their body stood on end came from behind them.

The two turned around in the nick of time to glance at its appearance before the door shut closed.

A revolting sight lay in front of them, even after the [Historia] had ended, the three of them remained silent. No, it would be more appropriate to say that they were forced to don on the silence by the scene that had played in front of them.

A place where humans were experimented on like animals would be quite disturbing for anyone to see especially when the test subjects were the innocent children who did not even know they were being experimented upon until the very end.

Although they knew the facility was nothing good, even they did not expect the scenes that lay inside to be so disturbing.

"What is this place?" Denzel asked gritting his teeth. He could no longer remain calm after seeing those poor children be experimented upon and tortured like this.

This trial had affected his mentality and if not for the warnings that Lucine had given him at the start of the trial, he would have already dashed out to sever the heads of those white suit people.

Out of the three of them, the boy was the only human so it was all the more natural that he felt a strong revulsion from seeing his kin experimenting upon their own.

Lucine sighed seeing the lost and forlorn expression of the little boy.

"I have already told you, these are nothing but scenes from history, a shadow from the past. It is being recreated as a trial in front of us through the advanced tier Chronos Magic – [Historia]. Do not let yourself get lost in the scenes of the past."

"As for your question, this place seems to be one of the many facilities built during the ancient era to research and develop a particular skill. I don't know if you are aware of it but the purpose of this facility is to try and recreate the skill [Beast Inheritance]. A taboo that would end up leading them to their own destruction".

Denzel was a little surprised, he had never heard of this skill nonetheless, the complex emotions within him did not subside at all even after hearing the reason behind all of this.

On the contrary, Simon had a stunned look on his face when he heard Lucine say those words. [Beast Inheritance] he was quite aware of the skill, in fact, he even battled with someone who used the very same skill against him not too long ago.

Adalinda had once told him that humans in their endless pursuit for strength, tapped on the power they should never have involved with and ended up destroying themselves. They not only affected themselves, but even encapsulated others around them.

[Beast Inheritance], a skill exclusive to the beast clan and could only be passed down to others through the beast's own will or from their core stone which sometimes contain their beast inheritance.

She also told him that the [Beast Inheritance] was the manifestation of an Ancient Symbol and how humans during the ancient times tried to imitate it. Their actions are still affecting the world as some of the research and techniques that they have developed, are still flowing and built upon to this very day.

Simon remembered his battle with the butler and how the incomplete skill of the [Beast Inheritance], he used, had completely turned the latter into a mindless beast. The children that were experimented upon, displayed the same signs as the butler which further solidified Lucine's words.

The three of them observed the ruins of the transplantation chamber which was once used to conduct many inhumane experiments. The place was a total mess with many broken equipment and machines that had corroded with time, lying around.

There were no indications of any transit rocks being around and the only thing that lingered around was the dark and dreary aura.

Unlike the previous times, Simon did not hurry the group to proceed forward with the trial and gave them time to sort out their thoughts and compose themselves.

Other than the aforementioned reason, he was also confused as to why the trial was showing them all of this. Was there a particular reason they had to know all of this? Was knowing the events from the past necessary to clear the trial?

He did not know, what he knew was that they had to proceed forward to clear the trial.

Lucine glanced all around, her tangerine eyes narrowing a little. This particular trial had given her a pretty good hint about what that thing was that had created this trial ground.

'Its abilities definitely matches that thing, I'm sure now. The power and ability it had displayed up until now, is enough to attract the attention of all of the powerhouses in this world. No wonder, Grandpa told me about it' she closed her eyes and felt a strong time rift surrounding the place.

She then turned her head and looked at Simon who was chosen as one of the inheritors.

'To be all composed like that, he definitely has skills' Lucine remarked. The third trial unlike the first two, was testing the mental fortitude of theirs by recreating the scene that had transpired in this facility long back in the past.

Although Simon was fine, the same couldn't be said for their other companion. Denzel was tightly clenching the rapier buckled to his waist and his eyes blankly stared downwards. It seemed that the scenes from earlier were still playing in his head making him unable to calm down at all. Perhaps it was a bit too much for a boy like him to take all of that at once.

"We can wait if you need some more time to collect yourself" Simon said standing beside the boy.

Denzel shook his head "No need for that, I'm fine now. We should proceed forward without wasting time". After saying that, he started walking towards the door that led towards the assembly room.

Simon looked at the little boy who seemed to be giving off a forlorn atmosphere and sighed. This was the kind of trial that one had to overcome with their own ability and willpower, others won't be able to help you.

It wasn't like Simon wasn't affected, a part of him that was previously a human felt a deep revulsion towards this kind of conduct that was done to these innocent children. He wanted to blast this place to smithereens but because Lucine had told him that all of this was just an illusion, a recount from the past, that he was able to barely hold himself back.

He could only imagine what the boy who appeared to be less than seventeen, was currently going through. From their previous conversation, he could guess that the identity of the latter was not ordinary and this kind of darkness that was hidden deep within a society, was something that he had come face to face with for the first time.

The three of them stepped forward and entered the last stage of the third trial.

As soon as they entered, they saw a great hall triple the size of the transplantation chamber and came to a halt. That was because the scene in front of them wasn't something that they could take all in at once.

Although they had already guessed from the numbers assigned to the children, but the place was still too revolting of sight for them to see.

Thousands of children unknown whether dead or alive, were kept in a frozen cellar in a particular section of the hall and arranged numerically by the number carved on their bodies.

At a glance, it looked just like a huge register depicting the numerous experiments the facility had conducted throughout the years. As if the sight was sickening enough, there were hundreds of beast corpses hooked on the ceiling giving off a pungent smell.

The four children that had entered the assembly room, stood frozen in place after seeing the horrible sight in front of them. At this moment, they have finally and fully seen the true horrors of the facility that they were kept in.

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It also dawned on them at this moment that they weren't the only group of children that have been experimented here. At a glance, they seemed to be thousands of others who have similarly suffered a similar fate.

Chloe who was frantically looking for her friend, gasped in anguish and sorrow when she saw her badly disfigured body frozen in the ice. Tears streamed down her face and her body trembled intensely, if not for the support of Alice behind her, she might have fallen down onto the floor crying.

Bell and Glenn looked at the scene with eyes of fury and disgust. All the children frozen on the wall like a crypt, were similar to their age group and had been likely brought to this facility with the excuse of being treated only to suffer such a cruel fate.

"Can we break this wall of frost?" Bell asked placing his hands on the thick layer of frost covering thousands of bodies.

Glenn did not reply; however, his eyes narrowed when he saw the damaged body of some of those children that have fully transformed into beasts. If one looked at them carefully, those wounds came from a fight and haven't healed yet because of being frozen.

He had seen many of his friends go crazy after transforming like that hence it wasn't hard for him to know what would happen if they break the wall.

"We cannot. From the conversation of those people, this place stores those children that have failed to assimilate with their beast or have transformed into one. So if we break it, all of them will be set free".

Hearing Glenn's indifferent reply, Chloe couldn't help but glare at him amidst her tears.

"Are you saying that we leave our friends and escape all by ourselves?". Her friend was currently suffering inside that frozen wall, so how could she just run away by herself. Unknowingly, her tone had become a tad sterner.

"You haven't seen the moment when they were being experimented upon so you don't know. They are no longer your friends and have turned into a completely different thing" Glenn argued back.

Perhaps because she was anguishing too much or because she was too angry at things turning out like this, but in the heat of the moment, she said something she shouldn't have.

"Are you able to say that to others when you yourself are like that".

Chloe realised the meaning behind her words and immediately regretted saying it. "Glenn... I didn't mean to.."

"It's alright, I know how I look right now. This monstrous body makes me no different than them but even then I still insist on not breaking them free" He started adamantly at Chloe.

While the both of them were bickering, the door behind them started making noise and slowly opened. The children became startled and immediately backed off.

As they stared fixedly at the slowly opening door, a huge shadow that completely dwarfed even the towering figure of Glenn, walked from behind the door. A monstrosity walking on six legs and having aspects of different races, walked out of the door.

It had a wide pair of bat-like wings, a scaled tail just like that of a dragon and an upper body of a human. The moment the four of them laid eyes upon the monstrosity, their eyes widened to their extreme.

That was because they had seen the being kept restrained in one of the rooms in the hallway leading to the transplantation chamber. At this moment, the human upper half of the being was munching on the meat and gore of the two beasts that it had just killed.

The Storm Charging Bull and the Gale Demon Leopard that had wreaked havoc inside the transplantation chamber, were dead, their corpses lying on the ground.

The two golems entered the assembly room next followed by the group of white suit men.

"I was right, some rats did manage to sneak in after all" The deputy head slowly walked in and mockingly glanced at the four children.

"Oh dear, it seems like our facility has been seen through. We can't let this slide now can we? You people not only destroyed our transplantation chamber which holds things whose value couldn't even be measured with money, but also freed my precious test subjects. Sigh, such a disaster. I want to know who was that incompetent who allowed these children to sneak in".

He spoke with a smile plastered on his face. However, to those who know him, the meaning behind that smile was plainly clear, the deputy head was mad, enraged to be more precise.

"Run" Glenn said slowly, his eyes glued to the monstrosity in front of him. Even when just standing still, it released a tremendous presence that made every hair on his body stand on end.

"Run? There is no escape for you all. The moment you were brought inside here, your life belonged to me and I get to decide what to do with it" the deputy head interjected. He waved his hands and the monstrosity and golems immediately started moving.

Glenn stepped forward and shielded the other three behind him, he opened his mouth wide and spat out a thick column of lightning that smashed heavily on the monstrosity. Intense light along with clouds of dust, covered the entity inside it.

Glenn did not bother controlling his strength and utilised the power within him that he could currently harness and threw it towards the monster. He thought that it would at least damage it if not push it back far away.

However, when the dust settled, to his surprise, he saw that the being completely fine with not even a scratch to be found on its body. Its hollow eyes seemed unfazed from the attack earlier as it stood perfectly still.

The officials were amazed by the toughness of the entity, it was only now that some of them who had seen it restrained in that room every day, display its powers.

"Hehe, subject number 2777 although a failure, is one of our predecessor's greatest creations. Even if it's the host of Doombringer Faun, unless he could harness its true power, won't be able to defeat it".

The deputy head arched his chin and said smugly. There was pride and reverence whenever he gazed at its presence.

Contrary to the surprised and delighted expressions of the white suit men, the children wore worried faces as they saw the being come out unscathed from the attack of their friend. This in itself was enough to tell them how dire of a situation they were in.

Bell clenched his hands and grit his teeth in anger, whenever he saw the faces of these people, an unimaginable rage would boil within him and a desire to tear them apart would surface in his heart.

With his emotions going into a turmoil, he decided to fight without putting much thought into it. With a burst of mysterious power which originated from deep within its body, Bell rocketed towards those people he hated and was about to release his anger on them when with the snap of the Deputy Head's finger, the two golems came in front and stopped him from proceeding further.

His attacks in a fit of anger, was easily stormed by the golems and whatever damage they received, got restored in a matter of seconds.

Although the golems weren't as powerful as the subject number 2777, their true powers lay in the fact that they are inanimate, aren't afraid of anything and due to them being able to restore continuously, a perfect soldier that one could find.

BOOM... with a punch from the golems, Bell was sent back and crashed onto the wall on the other end of the hall.

Glenn immediately tried to cover up; however, he was easily overwhelmed by the monstrosity and his body repeatedly suffered multiple wounds.

Seeing the situation turn from bad to worse, Chloe tightly clenched her hands, she fixedly looked at her friend encased in a layer of ice on the wall before turning her head around. There was no way with just the two of them they will be able to hold all those people down, they had to find the exit before the situation turns anymore worse.

BOOM... breaking a good portion of the wall, Bell extracted himself out, his body glowed a strange purple and there were even some red markings on his body.

"He formed it, my god... he really formed it. Those are exactly the markings of early stages of [Beast Inheritance]. Hahaha, I have finally done, I have surpassed my predecessors" the deputy head who was closely observing the Doombringer Faun and Bell who Cardinal Royce had an eye for some reason, saw his changes after only undergoing the surgery a few hours ago.

To relate this to a miracle, would be an understatement. The levels of synchronicity the boy's body had achieved with the beast merged within him, had reached an unimaginable degree and was even higher than the Doombringer Faun.

"Listen to my orders, do what you have to but I must absolutely have those two back. Those two are the most successful test subjects we ever had, if we inspect their bodies and find the reason behind them being able to assimilate so well with the beast, we might be able to improve our success in the future".

The deputy head bellowed, the way his eyes trembled with excitement, was as if he had gone mad.

The two girls face paled when they heard the old man declare such and immediately started running in search of anything that could lead them out of here.

The deputy head mocked their attempts of running away, however, he never said anything about there not being any exit here, if they could find that exit, they would be able to leave this place.