

Death Guns 1411

1411 Chapter 1411

Back to Gandor's city.

...

Fortunately for Nileera, she was the matriarch of the fifth family and her prestige hadn't completely gone down the drain yet. Upon hearing her rage, the dark elf mages in heated arguments and about to roll up their sleeves for a fist fight closed their wide-open mouths. They looked at one another anxiously. After venting their frustrations, the dark elves also knew that they were wrong to behave this way. They acted simply like moronic fans who hurled punches at naysayers to protect the image of their idols.

But the problem was that they had no form of 'worship' toward those enemies at all.

'What should we do?'

Nilerea kept considering this question. She hesitated whether she should pull out her forces, but even she wasn't aware whether she could do it in time. She also didn't know whether she held the authority to negotiate with the enemies because they were simply too powerful. Besides, judging from the situation, negotiation didn't seem to be able to bring the enemies any benefits. So what if she were to give them countless compensations? The enemies were still capable of barging into the treasure house of the fourth family and pillaging everything inside, wasn't it?

No matter what the situation seemed helpless. It was then one of the matriarchs opened her mouth and suggested.

"Let's just have them go to that 'place'."

Red, straight hair tight in a ponytail reveals a thin, frowning face. Glinting blue eyes, set gracefully within their sockets, watch enthusiastically over the wildlife they've been isolated from for so long.

An old tattoo of a bear paw is subtly placed on the side of her left cheekbone and leaves a painful burden of redemption.

This is the face of Faith Evatt, a true pioneer among giants. She stands common among others, despite her delicate frame.

There's something obscure about her, perhaps it's her sensitivity, or perhaps it's simply her odd friends.

She is the matriarch of the seventh family.

"You can't be seriously suggesting that?" Another matriarch shouted.

"You have a better idea other than sending our men to their death? Frankly speaking, we don't the depth of their strength. Do you think that we could get rid of them without paying a heavy price?" Faith said with a heavy heart.

The others couldn't disagree with what Faith said.

There was a momentary silence in the hall before the 1st matriarch, the most powerful matriarch decided to talk and approve Faith's idea.

Light blue, wavy hair tight in a ponytail reveals a chiseled, menacing face. Piercing gray eyes, set high within their sockets, watch longingly over the others they've seen grow up.

A tattoo of a wolf paw is subtly placed on the left side of her neck and leaves a fascinating memory of a former life.

This is the face of Lelselea Nightgaze, a true warrior among wood elves. She stands gracefully among others, despite her skinny frame. She is the first matriarch, the strongest among them.

"Let's follow Little Faith's suggestion. We can use this opportunity to gauge their strength while at the same time preparing for countermeasure."

"Old Lelee, you mustn't be suggesting that we call for help right?" Another matriarch asked.

"Indeed. We can't be hesitating because it's our survival that is at stake here. The enemy is more dangerous and more cunning. I bet they are sent here to get rid of us using the excuse of investigation." Lelselea explained to the others, most of them had arrived at the same conclusion after seeing how violent Maria's group was.

Pa* Pa*

Clapping her hands twice Lelselea announced.

"Then it's decided. Let's invite them, no let's send Nileera and Faith to announce to them our decision to let them explore our named dungeon: The Cave."

Both Nileera and Faith's face twitched and they both glared at each other before harrumphing. Even if they hated each other to the bone they couldn't go against the strongest matriarch's order, therefore they stood up and left to inform Maria's group of this decision.

...

Four hours later, Maria's and the other location.

Stars light the sky like snowflakes in the night, yet appear still, like an old photograph. Maria smiled, feeling the wind blow her hair into a tousled mane. Were she out there in space, riding the limits of the known universe, they would be a choreographed blizzard. How the stars would move, the galaxies tumble and dart. But for now, with her arms around the branch of a windswept tree and her head leaning gently on the bark, the starlight kept its familiar pattern. The constellations, who'd witnessed centuries and millennia just the same, watched over this tiny moment

As Maria was silently enjoying this peaceful sight. Sakuya suddenly appeared and sat beside her. She also watched the night sky and as if entranced she mumbled.

"Stars shone as sugar spilled over black marble, glistening in the sun. The night sky was such a welcome sight, appearing like magic at each sunset, promising to return as she faded in dawn's first light. There were times in the daytime, under skies of blue. When younger I would think of those faraway stars and how they'd return after the shadows blended into the dark."

Maria stopped watching the stars and gazed at her friend for a moment. Sakuya became uncomfortable under those piercing blue eyes, so she couldn't help but ask embarrassed.

"What?"

"Nothing, I just felt like being a writer suit you more than slaughtering people and monsters."

"Hmph!" Sakuya harrumphed at her sister's joke.

The two joked after that before Sakuya suddenly brought up the matter of the named dungeon.

"What do you think of their suggestion?"

"Obviously, we are accepting even if it is a trap. A group will go while the others will stay behind. You'll be going together with Gracier and Pandora." Maria informed Sakuya of her decision. The latter stayed silent for a moment before nodding. She seemed to have understood Maria's intention.

.....

The following morning.

Sun rays come as nature's easel, giving brilliant color to what was hidden even under the passing starlit night.

Sakuya's group departed into the named dungeon under the dark elves' guidance.

They quickly entered and proceeded to the tenth floor in a flash, they didn't encounter a boss like it is usually the case but instead found the entrance to the eleventh floor, after passing through the door they appeared in what seemed to be a cave.

An underground limestone cave.

Sakuya, Gracier, and Pandora were walking along a limestone cave as they made their way up the silent underground.

It was completely silent around them, not a single noise to be heard. There was something shocking above their heads. Numerous statues above their heads.

Gracier looked up at the cavern ceiling and couldn't help but whisper.

"Bis sister Mio, I'm scared looking at these weird statues."

Sakuya and Pandora looked up.

The two of them looked up and examined the stone ceiling, it was filled with statues.

These statues included humans, beasts, elves, elementals, and various other species of the outside world. All of them had shocked expressions on their faces, clearly struggling to run towards the small path the trio was walking on.

However, their feet were solidly stuck to the top of the limestone cave, making it impossible for them to move, being forced to remain still.

If it was only that, Gracier wouldn't have been scared. The main issue was that they'd already been walking for half an hour, but there wasn't a single living creature in sight. The only thing above their heads were these statues, and the further they walked, the more of them they saw, making it impossible for her to not be scared.

"Sakuya, do you think they used to be alive, or were they carved this way?" Pandora asked, feeling a bit interested.

As someone who had seen her fair share of weird things, Pandora wouldn't feel scared just because of some eerie statues.

"Since they were all making the motion of fleeing, they must have experienced the same thing."

Sakuya commented after a moment of contemplation.

"What exactly did they experience then?" Pandora asked.

"I don't know, we will need to find out. This place seems to be holding a secret. Maybe it's because of this secret this dungeon became a named dungeon."

Sakuya explained before disappearing and the next moment she was already in the sky silently hovering in the air in front of one of the statues.

The man's facial muscles were heavily distorted due to extreme fear, his mouth was opened wide as if screaming or crying hysterically.

He was using both his arms and feet, making a mad dash downwards, trying to land on the limestone cave on the path.

However, he had already been frozen completely still.

Sakuya reached her hand out to touch the man's statue. Indeed, these statues were too life-like, too real, forcing Sakuya to ponder, they almost didn't have any information on this dungeon.

Meanwhile, Pandora had her arms crossed, obviously bored.

But Gracier was still shaking a bit, even her face had gotten a bit pale.

"They're only statues, but they look very lifelike!"

Sakuya praised, then flew back down.

Patting Gracier's shoulder, she smiled: "I've seen some carve marks, their knife skills were seriously impressive, conveying such clear emotions"

Hearing that, Gracier patted her chest and sighed in relief.

"It's a mystery, who would be so bored that they would carve such things in a cave? Some huge pervert for sure" She muttered.

Gracier was no longer shaking.

Sakuya secretly winked at Pandora.

The latter was about to ask something but immediately stopped after seeing that.

Her expression became serious.

"So they were statues, I'm quite interested in statues as well. Alright, I'll take a look at them as well."

Pandora casually said. She was playing along.

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Sakuya and Gracier continued walking ahead leaving Pandora behind as she was thinking of something.

However, she was forced to stop her thoughts as the surrounding turned more silent, the sounds of the other two walking wasn't heard anymore.

For some unknown reason, Pandora felt a chill run down her spine and when she lifted her head much to her horror she found both Sakuya and Gracier frozen, turned into statues.

"!"

'No good things have gotten terrible. I wonder how the others are faring outside. Better than us I hope.' Pandora thought before moving forward to deal with the unexpected situation.

...

Meanwhile, in the outside world, inside their rented room at the old man's Inn.

Maria sat with both Saeko and Luna sitting across from her.

"So Big sister, why did you let those three head into that place?" Saeko was the one that raised this question.

"Well, I was throwing a bait," Maria explained without going into the details.

Saeko thought for a moment before suddenly nodding as she seemed to have understood something.

"You are cunning big sister." She said with a smile. Luna simply watched from the side not saying anything as she also understood her sister's intention. Because they sent the most troublesome of them into the dungeon and because the rest hadn't displayed their true strength, the enemy must think they'll be easy to deal with. They would probably try something in the days following the others' departure, however, Maria did not plan to wait for them because she had a certain goal in mind.

Suddenly, she rose from her seat and declared.

"I will go out and do some exercise." She declared before vanishing.

A few moments later a certain auction house, the biggest owner of the most prosperous slave market was destroyed. Several small and big companies were destroyed. The city's economy took a big hit.

The matriarchs quickly learned what happened and held another emergency meeting.

Meanwhile, Maria returned to the inn as if nothing had happened.

The others were waiting for her and as they were about to talk their noticed someone's presence.

"They are sure fast." Luna smiled while Saeko shrugged her shoulders as if to say it was to be expected they don't have a choice.

"You have a visitor," The old man said behind the door.

"Let's her in." Maria simply stated.

A female dark elf walked in.

"Greeting-"

"Speak outside."

Before the dark elf finished her sentence, she waved her arm and interrupted her words. Upon hearing her reply, the dark elf was taken aback. Then, she gazed at the other two, and seeing their menacing glare she turned around, and left immediately.

"Greetings Miss Maria."

The latter observed her for a second before stopping.

Blue, sleek hair hangs over a strong, lively face. Squinting golden eyes, set handsomely within their sockets, watch honorably over the woods they've become enchanted by for so long.

Soft skin charmingly compliments her nose and leaves a delightful memory of her luck.

The dark elf with the blue hair bowed to Maria respectfully again in the corridor and said.

"I'm the matriarch of the Moonwalker's family of Gandor City, Felerai Moonwalker, the matriarch of 3rd family. We apologize on behalf of the reckless actions of the fifth family... I represent the council in offering our apologies. We didn't realize the intention of the fifth family beforehand, which brought forth such troubles and offended you."

As expected of dark elves; the ability to sell out their companions was always maxed out and they could even betray the whole fourth family. As for the dark elves and families who died in the civilian and lesser-noble districts, Faith simply skipped over them with the casual mention of the word 'troubles'.

"Alright, cut the crap."

Maria waved his hand to disrupt Faith's words. She did not have too much time to waste on meaningless words. Now that she had forced them to come again she ought to go straight to the point.

"I'll get straight to the point. Are you ceding your territory or paying indemnity?"

"Huh?"

Felerai was taken aback by her question. As a dark elf, she wasn't comfortable with such direct and uncomplicated negotiations. She initially intended to pull some nonsense but eventually decided to abandon this thought. She knew that Maria was the one who attacked without speaking a word from their quick investigation.

'If I continue with the nonsense, I'm not even sure if I can leave this place in one piece.'

At this thought, Felerai couldn't help but ask cautiously.

"Miss Maria, what you mean is..."

"Indemnity; and that is to hand over all the good stuff in Gandor City to compensate for our mental loss. As for the amount..."

Maria pondered and calculated the dark elves' wealth from their investigation. As dark elves had a whole lot of worthy items, especially magical equipment, and treasures that left one in envy. Since she was already here, she wouldn't be standing at the ceremony, of course.

"... It shall be the assets of Gandor City, and just 60 percent of them will do."

"..."

Upon hearing his words, Felerai felt a shiver run down her spine. She swallowed her saliva and stared at Maria carefully.

"What about the territory?"

"Simple."

Maria responded calmly as though she had already made up her mind a long time ago.

"As long as all of you are willing to submit to me and become a part of the empire, we will have no issues."

Facing Maria's response, Felerai was completely speechless.

She was mentally prepared. When she heard her request, she heaved an inward sigh of relief. Matriarchs were most afraid of not knowing what was going on inside the other negotiator's head. Even though the matriarchs correctly guessed that Maria was surely plotting something with Gandor City, for safety's sake, if the other negotiator said.

"I don't want anything. I just dislike dark elves like you" The matriarchs could only head home and weep helplessly.

But now, Felerai felt restless because Maria mentioned her conditions so effortlessly. It would be within the dark elves' expectations if she overwhelmed them with one aggressive statement or spoke calmly to give them a chance to make decisions. But now, Maria's tone of voice was entirely as though she were saying: "Since I'm here, it would be a waste if I didn't get my hands on something before heading back."

There was no need to guess the true meaning behind that intention and it left Felerai depressed because she couldn't figure out whether Maria was joking or being serious.

No matter what, since Maria gave them two choices they could only choose one no matter how unwilling they were.

But the dark elves disliked both choices.

Maria said she wanted 60 percent of Gandor's assets, which was a huge amount.

Of course, the dark elves could take their time, but Maria wasn't amused. Felerai was also aware that Maria wouldn't wait for them, she wanted 60 percent of their assets, but would seize all of them instead, before returning the remaining 40 percent to them...

And they weren't sure if she would even return the 40 percent.

Therefore, this was entirely a joke. Maybe Maria only spoke casually because the operability was truly too low and she couldn't possibly understand it.

Rather than waiting for the dark elves to hand out their assets, she would rather annihilate them all and take her time to recover the assets, wouldn't she? At least, judging from the current situation, Maria was capable of messing over all of Gandor City.

The reason why she gave them two choices was entirely for cover. But everyone knew that it was apparent Maria intended to lay hands on the city.

Felerai's guess was right. Maria had indeed decided to do it. This is her real aim.

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Noon.

When the matriarchs of the council received the news from Felerai, they fell into silence.

They didn't feel relieved after receiving reports from the front. It could be seen that Maria had no intention of stopping her assault even though she was in the midst of negotiation with them.

Luna and Saeko each took a district and wreaked havoc. Luna was more ruthless than her gentle side showed. Judging from her aggression, perhaps the core district she was in would collapse like the other districts in just two hours.

Felerai passed on to the council the two choices that Maria had raised. Of course, the matriarchs treated the first choice as a joke and were more focused on the second option. Dark elves were naturally cunning and had a strong desire for authority. That was why they quickly realized that the reason why Maria gave such choices was that she needed their strength in some areas.

"Is this the only choice for us?"

But even so, the matriarchs were unconvinced.

But there was nothing much they could do. Their earliest plan to contact that person was postponed as Maria's group of three didn't give them the time at all.

"I think we should make our decision now."

Feleraï spoke softly. She swept a glance at the other matriarchs and smiled in her mind. Just a few moments ago, she came up with a rather decent plan. If she succeeded, she could regain the status of the first family in Gandor.

"Everyone. Our choices are limited, aren't they?"

"Of course."

At that moment, the dark elf clad in a black robe and sitting in the center of the table spoke. Upon hearing her voice, Feleraï narrowed her eyes.

The first family; the biggest obstacle to her progression.

And now, what would the first family do?

Would they give up on their authority?

"We, the first family, have decided to accept that woman's proposal."

At that moment, the dark elf, the first matriarch and most powerful among them Lelselea Nightgaze announced her decision.

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Back to Maria's location.

While Luna was sightseeing outside Maria and Saeko were having a conversation.

"The dark elves have decided to surrender?"

When Saeko heard this news from Maria, she was astonished beyond words. Shortly after, this Saeko puckered her brows and gazed at her the beautiful ice beauty in uncertainty. She sized her up and tried to get a read on her face, but it was a pity that her face was as emotionless as ever.

Therefore she couldn't stop her curiosity thus raising a question.

"Big sister, surely you don't believe in the matriarchs' promise, right?"

"Why can't I?"

Facing Saeko's question, the corners of Maria's mouth perked up into a confident smile.

"Dark elves are a bunch who keep their promises; at least, that is the case in certain aspects. Nonetheless, I think we do need a labor force, don't you agree?"

"I know however one must remain cautious in any situation. They capitulate too quickly."

Saeko gazed at Maria speechlessly. She felt like his smile concealed a hint of oddness as though the situation wasn't as simple as she imagined. Although Maria was confident in Maria's abilities, destroying the dark elves was one matter, while manipulating them was another, especially in the current situation.

"Let's thoroughly make use of them." Maria declared with a strange smile before disappearing leaving Saeko to wait for Luna's return.

.....

On the other side, in the meeting hall.

"We, the first family, have decided to accept Miss Maria's proposal."

A crisp, melodious voice echoed in the meeting room. Everyone couldn't help but turn around and stare in bafflement as soon as they heard the first family's matriarch's decision. Many among them were doubtful as to why the first family's matriarch made her decision so quickly. Felerai was the only one whose heart sank slightly. It was apparent that the first family's matriarch was the same as her. They realized the rich, hidden benefits and opportunities, which was why she made this decision.

'I wonder what the other matriarchs think about it.'

At this thought, Felerai shot a look at the other matriarchs. At that moment, they were stumped as though they didn't expect the first family to give up their authority and position. Of course, no one was sure how many of the matriarchs were putting on an act to disguise their surprise, that was.

While the matriarchs exchanged looks, a voice shattered the silence.

"I'm glad all of you made a smart choice."

"Who's there?!"

Upon hearing the voice, the matriarchs turned toward it, gripping the swords and snake whips hanging on their waists instantly. The thick shadow before their eyes warped. At the next moment, a woman donned in beautiful medieval clothes sauntered out of the shadows.

Her fancy dress flowed from top to bottom and has a sweetheart neckline, which lightly revealed the rather simple dress worn below it. The smooth, corset-like tied fabric of her dress covers her stomach where the continuous flow is broken up by a long ribbon worn high around her waist.

Below the ribbon, the dress opens up to the right and reveals the dress below. The front of the top dress reaches the ground generously, and the back continues to flow a small length behind her and ends in a narrow rectangle.

Her sleeves are slightly shorter than her arms and have a comfortable fit, their flow is broken up well below the elbow where they're divided by long, stylish bands, these are the same fabric and color used to outline the neckline of the dress.

Upon witnessing his emergence, the matriarchs tensed up. There was only one person who was powerful enough to slip into the secret meeting room guarded by dozens of secret spells.

"Y-Your excellence Miss Maria."

The matriarchs stuttered. They didn't know how Maria learned about this place and managed to enter. But this wasn't the most important right now. Judging from her decision to arrive here, it was apparent that she wasn't interested in waiting for their final decision. To the dark elves, apart from making a decision immediately, they didn't have any other choice.

"Seems like you've made up your mind?"

She unveiled a strange smile, sweeping a glance at the matriarchs. Upon sensing her gaze, the proud matriarchs couldn't help but lower their heads. It wasn't that they were trying to express their loyalty, but the moment Maria turned around, her overwhelming aura enveloped the entire meeting room. If it weren't for the matriarchs' years of experience, perhaps they would have already plopped to the ground.

"Your excellence, we..."

One of the matriarchs puckered her brows and tried to speak under the suppression of Maria's full strength. But Maria merely swept a glance at her and she shut her mouth instantly.

Shortly after, another matriarch knelt on the ground, lowering her head respectfully. They already knew that since Maria came knocking on their doors, any resistance against her was futile.

If they didn't want to die like that bunch of idiots, the best choice for them was to surrender.

"We're willing to accept your conditions and become your most loyal followers, Your excellence Miss Maria, a woman of the most powerful man on the continent."

"Great, you seemed to have done your research well. I'm pleased with your choice."

Upon hearing the matriarchs' answer, Maria gave a short reply. She was not surprised that they managed to find out her identity, not that she bothered to hide it, to begin with. She deliberately didn't hide it. All of this was used to put pressure, no means to easily convince the other party not to mess with Alex's women, and above everything else she was certain if this city had a connection with the Chaos Organization, the latter wouldn't stop them from accepting Maria's proposal as they could use it against them. This decision of hers could be considered a double-edged sword but Maria wasn't worried because she would put them to good use.

Maria narrowed his eyes, scanned the surroundings, and nodded.

"Seems like you've agreed to submit to me. In that case, I shall not mistreat you. I shall bestow upon your my blessings."

She spoke and extended her arm. Along with her words, a dark gold parchment appeared.

The dark gold parchment was ripped apart and turned into a strange mark, this mark gradually took the shape of a black rose midair. Upon witnessing the mark, the matriarchs couldn't help but lift their heads. It went without saying that they sensed the pure, powerful energy brimming from it, or was a suffocating energy, who could they not understand what this marking entails? They shivered at the sudden realization.

At the same time, Maria's deep voice rang in their ears.

"You better not resist my gift or else I don't know what might happen."

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Upon hearing the voice, the matriarchs turned toward it, gripping the swords and snake whips hanging on their waists instantly. The thick shadow before their eyes warped. At the next moment, a woman donned in beautiful medieval clothes sauntered out of the shadows.

Her fancy dress flowed from top to bottom and has a sweetheart neckline, which lightly revealed the rather simple dress worn below it. The smooth, corset-like tied fabric of her dress covers her stomach where the continuous flow is broken up by a long ribbon worn high around her waist.

Below the ribbon, the dress opens up to the right and reveals the dress below. The front of the top dress reaches the ground generously, and the back continues to flow a small length behind her and ends in a narrow rectangle.

Her sleeves are slightly shorter than her arms and have a comfortable fit, their flow is broken up well below the elbow where they're divided by long, stylish bands, these are the same fabric and color used to outline the neckline of the dress.

Upon witnessing his emergence, the matriarchs tensed up. There was only one person who was powerful enough to slip into the secret meeting room guarded by dozens of secret spells.

"Y-Your excellence Miss Maria."

The matriarchs stuttered. They didn't know how Maria learned about this place and managed to enter. But this wasn't the most important right now. Judging from her decision to arrive here, it was apparent

that she wasn't interested in waiting for their final decision. To the dark elves, apart from making a decision immediately, they didn't have any other choice.

"Seems like you've made up your mind?"

She unveiled a strange smile, sweeping a glance at the matriarchs. Upon sensing her gaze, the proud matriarchs couldn't help but lower their heads. It wasn't that they were trying to express their loyalty, but the moment Maria turned around, her overwhelming aura enveloped the entire meeting room. If it weren't for the matriarchs' years of experience, perhaps they would have already plopped to the ground.

"Your excellence, we..."

One of the matriarchs puckered her brows and tried to speak under the suppression of Maria's full strength. But Maria merely swept a glance at her and she shut her mouth instantly.

Shortly after, another matriarch knelt on the ground, lowering her head respectfully. They already knew that since Maria came knocking on their doors, any resistance against her was futile.

If they didn't want to die like that bunch of idiots, the best choice for them was to surrender.

"We're willing to accept your conditions and become your most loyal followers, Your excellence Miss Maria, a woman of the most powerful man on the continent."

"Great, you seemed to have done your research well. I'm pleased with your choice."

Upon hearing the matriarchs' answer, Maria gave a short reply. She was not surprised that they managed to find out her identity, not that she bothered to hide it, to begin with. She deliberately didn't hide it. All of this was used to put pressure, no means to easily convince the other party not to mess with Alex's women, and above everything else she was certain if this city had a connection with the Chaos Organization, the latter wouldn't stop them from accepting Maria's proposal as they could use it against them. This decision of hers could be considered a double-edged sword but Maria wasn't worried because she would put them to good use.

Maria narrowed his eyes, scanned the surroundings, and nodded.

"Seems like you've agreed to submit to me. In that case, I shall not mistreat you. I shall bestow upon your my blessings."

She spoke and extended her arm. Along with her words, a dark gold parchment appeared.

The dark gold parchment was ripped apart and turned into a strange mark, this mark gradually took the shape of a black rose midair. Upon witnessing the mark, the matriarchs couldn't help but lift their heads. It went without saying that they sensed the pure, powerful energy brimming from it, or was a suffocating energy, who could they not understand what this marking entails? They shivered at the sudden realization.

At the same time, Maria's deep voice rang in their ears.

"You better not resist my gift or else I don't know what might happen."

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"You better not resist my gift or else I don't know what might happen."

An endless chill suddenly rose from their back upon meeting Maria's cold gaze.

It was as if the matriarch's skull had been ripped open, and cold water poured directly into their bodies. An even more frightening cold air swept through their four limbs, almost causing their entire body to feel cold, and they stood there in a daze.

Never would they have expected to be subjected to the same treatment as the slaves they looked down upon. To think such a day would come and they would turn into slaves.

Even though they knew what fate would befall them, they were helpless against it, they could only silently endure hoping later to find a way out of this.

The black rose hovering in the sky turned into small black roses which selected each one their target before entering the host's body, turning into a black rose tattoo on the matriarch's body. For some, it was on their necks, for some on their wrists while some even got it on their lower belly.

Instantly, they could feel a connection between them and a certain terrible entity, a giant wolf trying to swallow the entire planet, this scared them, putting off any rebellious idea they secretly abhorred. They have submitted for good this time.

They were truly afraid of death. Compared to staying alive being a slave was nothing. One could say that dark elves despite being cruel and vile truly love their lives, they could do anything to live one day more, Therefore it was not too shocking for them to give in so easily when their survival was on the line. Dark elves are your typical B-rate villain, strong before the weak and weak before the strong.

Pleased with the result Maria smiled before announcing.

"I'm happy for you to cooperate so easily with me."

'Cooperate easily my ass, you simply forced us.'

This was what the matriarchs thought but didn't dare to utter it as it could warrant their death.

As if she expected them to react Maria stopped after saying those words but unfortunately, the matriarchs were well behaved forcing our ice beauty to click her tongue in disappointment.

"What a bunch of well-behaved dogs." She uttered in disgust but the matriarchs showed no reaction which showed how much they cared about clinging to their lives.

'We heard you loud and clear but we are not falling for your trick.' They both had this thought.

Maria nodded, very pleased with this. It was worth all the trouble and she would need to thank Noire later as things worked because of this parchment.

"In return for surrendering to me, I shall bestow strength and honour upon you. Your strength will grow and those that performed well will be handsomely rewarded."

The profit-driven matriarch's eyes shone and those who were reluctant before now completely thought it would be a great choice to wholeheartedly follow this woman.

"Great, I see the enthusiasm in your eyes and do hope you'll work hard and not have any weird thoughts, or else the consequences will be disastrous," Maria stated before releasing all of her strength.

Boom!

Then, the entire world before them changed instantly!

The sky, earth, and everything from before disappeared. All of it was enveloped in pitch-black darkness and only dots of starlight flickered around them. It seemed as though Maria had thrown them into outer space at this very instant. Everything started to be covered in ice as if the world was turning into a frozen world.

"!"

Right now, they felt a shiver go down their chilled backs.

The matriarch's hearts tightened and a chill went down their backs as cold sweat covered their hands and feet; a feeling of unease clawed at their hearts.

'This strength is not that of a Demigod expert!'

Upon realizing it, the matriarchs revealed a flustered and stunned expression. They realized that the power previously by this ice beauty wasn't her real strength. Could this be the legendary False God realm that existed above the Demigod realm?

Gulp!

They gulped and their backs were soaked in sweat. They stood no chance since the beginning because with this kind of strength, forget this city not even the other cities and kingdoms could offer any resistance. This is how mighty False God realm experts are, they are the ultimate powerhouse, standing at the summit of everything. They could singlehandedly fight an empire and win if possible. If Demigod is comparable to an Atomic bomb capable of annihilating a kingdom then False God is comparable to a Thermonuclear bomb capable of erasing an entire continent.

One should note that Thermonuclear bombs can be hundreds or even thousands of times more powerful than atomic bombs. This example denotes how strong the entity known as False God is. Because of this, this realm could not be easily reached even before Bahamut put a curse on the world, only the most talented and blessed individuals could achieve the feat of stepping into this realm, the limit of strength in this world and the middle realm.

'Maybe we can achieve this kind of absolute strength?' The matriarchs have this sudden thought and they can see the desire for power in each other eyes. Not even a second they entertained the thought of Maria's strength not reaching the False God realm yet, nor did they remember that Mysthia was under a curse.

To them it might have been Alex's woman as the man was known for achieving the impossible, from zero to hero, the man singlehandedly erased an empire, and he accomplished many things so something like a curse and granting his women and followers the absolute strength must be nothing.

Ironically, there was a certain individual from a certain organization who promised them the same thing but the man was too shady and demanding too much so at the moment the matriarchs have forgotten about this. They would obediently become this woman's dog in order to attain absolute strength even if the chance was slim. Their profit sensor was telling them not to miss this opportunity.

Maria who had been observing them since she unleashed her domain alongside another trick and upon seeing their obedient eyes, was shocked, so shocked that she almost rubbed her eyes as she could swear to have seen the illusion of tails wagging behind them. Things have progressed beyond her expectations. The slave imprint created by her joint effort with Noire seemed to have perfectly settled, meaning she could use them whoever she wanted, for example, order them to suicide bomb.

The mission of investigation and putting them in check was an absolute success.

Maria cancelled her frozen world domain and declared.

"From today onwards slavery of any other races is forbidden, you'll have to release the former slaves and compensate them. Instead of taking 60 percent as I've previously stated, I'll take 50%, and use the rest to deal with this issue as soon as possible. I'll be going, for now, remember to pay tribute to the empire. Someone will come later to tell you my order and you'll have to follow everything he says."

"We will carry your order your excellence." The matriarchs curtsied and Maria nodded before vanishing.

"One useful thing is done, more to go. We must fail this war. I'll do everything to help us, to help you, my love." Maria mumbled while going back to the others.

: Mission Accomplished And More

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1416 Chapter 1416

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"Will everything be fine, Big sister?"

Saeko asked, resting her hands behind her head and gazing forward lazily.

Maria lifted her head, scanned the deep tunnel ahead, and shrugged.

"Who knows? We'll have to leave it Zwei now."

Luna followed behind as the three disappeared into the dark tunnel, trying to explore this forbidden located on the outskirts of Gandor's city.

The path was neither complicated nor long. Despite that, Luna and Saeko became restless shortly after. Not only them, but Maria also gazed grimly at the tunnel exit that was a hundred meters ahead. It was total darkness, which wasn't surprising considering that it was a forbidden shrouded in darkness on the other side. However, what Maria and especially Luna felt wasn't the displeasure against darkness.

But against that mysterious aura instead. I think you should take a look at pantheon-novel.com

They didn't react to the aura while in the deep underground. But now, as they approached the surface, a gloomy aura left them in discomfort. It became denser and was as though eroding them. They also felt like they were walking in smelly sewers, where every movement and breath made them nauseous and giddy. When one breathed in the air, one felt dizzy and even one's reactions became sluggish. In an instant, one couldn't differentiate the directions at all...

"Hmph!"

Maria let out a snort. Of course, she knew what was going on. They faced this situation more than once, it was that vile chaos energy. She was sure whatever on the other side had something to do with the Chaos organization. This zone was so dangerous that even the matriarchs dared not to step closer to investigate and when Maria's group decided to do it, they gladly accepted.

Suddenly, Luna extended her left arm and along with this action, a golden halo expanded with her in the middle, enfolding her group completely. Shortly after, the gray scenery ahead transformed as its colors turned vibrant.

"Phew. I finally feel alive."

Up until that moment, the stifled Saeko let out a long sigh of relief. Maria nodded, pleased by Luna's action. It could be seen that under the influence of Chaos energy missed in the air, the group seemed listless and sluggish. And now, after Luna cast the golden holy halo, they finally returned to their usual selves.

Quickly the group neared the exit of the tunnel, Here the white fog was thicker but they had no trouble walking through it, walking through the exit was greeted them was several mountains covered in a white fog, they walked down and saw what appeared to be a ghost town.

The once jam-packed roads that led to Naporja were unrecognizable as nature had begun reclaiming the now-unused area. Gardens are bustling with insect life who've made their home in the now tall grasses and overgrown bushes.

Remnants of packages and magazines still lay at some of the doorsteps, unopened and long forgotten. At least the animals got some use out of them. Many roofs had collapsed and in some cases had taken the entire building with them. Others looked in decent shape and were simply dirty and filled with bird nests.

Naporja, once a major festival town and home to an amazing night life was now partially reclaimed by nature. The many sounds of wild animals who've made their home in this town are carried in the wind and give it a new sense of liveliness and vibrancy.

The large mill just outside of town still stood, though it was definitely on its last legs. A few animals still took shelter within its hollow walls, but the winds and worst weather had left their mark.

Were it not for the animals that had made their home in many of the buildings this town would've surely been a far more unsettling sight. But despite all the decay and destruction at least there was happiness among the animals. Most had found a relative haven to live in.

The ghost town was covered in white mist. Maria gazed at his surroundings swiftly. At that moment, among the white mist, she heard some strange sounds of friction and deep growls, which were unnatural. Maria hesitated no more. She stared ahead and commanded.

"Let's go."

1417 Chapter 1417

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The group was shocked to see statues of both monsters and humans as soon as they walked into the city.

"Attention!" Luna warned. Abruptly the statues seemed to have gained silver of life as they closed in the group.

At this point, more and more statues were coming to life all around them.

"DIE!"

"DIE!"

"DIE!"

They all screamed out loud as they gathered around the small passage, surrounding everyone within.

They were all ready to attack!

"Step back!" Luna shouted and both Maria and Saeko did as they were told.

Luna took a step forward and extended both arms, white light erupted from her body as the center before spreading forward, enveloping the enemies.

"Holy Tier 8th: Magdala's Blessings!"

"May these people be led away to a better place after death, Namo Ksitigarbha Bodhisattva" (AN: It's a Buddhist prayer!)

Maria's eyes turned round upon hearing Luna chanting a Buddhist prayer. She wondered if the sun hadn't risen from the East. She knew her sister loved Buddhist things but never did she expected her to even incorporate one into her Holy Art. Because those people were already dead, Luna's spell worked fine.

The group didn't waste time as they progressed. Going into the center of the city.

'Let's hope those weird statues don't pop up again.'

At that moment, Saeko's voice sounded once, interrupting his thoughts.

"Big sister Maria, be careful! There's something ahead!"

Swish! Swish! Swish!

The instant Saeko yelled, Maria saw two shadowy figures shutting out of the tunnel. Shortly after, razor-sharp blade air waves scattered, striking straight at her!

The two ambushing blade airwaves were nothing but child's play for Maria.

Without even turning around, she clenched her right hand and swung forward. Her Gift was summoned directly in the form of an Ice sword.

Clink! Clink!

The two shadowy blade airwaves were repelled as though struck by lightning.

At that moment, Maria witnessed the true identity of the ambushers. They were female with delicate and pretty facial features. Despite that, she couldn't treat them as humans. The reason was simple. Their long lizard-like tails, as well as brass-like skin tone, were enough to prove their identity.

Lizardmen! No, it's more accurate to call them Lizardwomen!

Before the group could take a good look at the Lizardwomen more enemies appeared. Two types of humanoid monsters, one normal-looking one and the other had more monster parts.

Two enormous eyes examine their surroundings from their wide sockets. A narrow nose rests below, but it's the largemouth below that takes all the attention. A sly smile reveals two pointy canines and a flat tongue.

Long bent ears sit on each side of its average, thin head, which itself is covered in curly and has two curved horns protruding from the top hair.

Its tall fat body stands straight. Two short arms dangle at their sides and end in wide hands with small fingers, each with sharp nails.

Its legs are thin and are slightly bent, each ending in short feet.

Its body is covered in coarse skin and its shoulders are broader than its pelvis, from which a narrow tail sways back and forth.

As for the second type of monster, its description was the following.

Two shiny eyes watch their surroundings from their bulging sockets. A pointy nose rests below, but it's the normal mouth below that takes all the attention. A gentle smile reveals rows of shark-like teeth and a small tongue.

Tiny squared ears sit on each side of its massive, oval head, which itself is covered in tattoo-like markings and has two small antlers protruding from the top.

Its small muscular body stands straight. Two short fleshy arms dangle at its sides and end in webbed hands with long-nailed fingers, of which it has 10 in total.

Its legs are muscular and stand straight, each ending in thin feet.

Its body is covered in smooth skin and its shoulders are about the same width as its pelvis.

"It is me or this is looking more and more like a circus?" Luna threw a joke and the others could not help but throw their heads back and laugh.

"Grww!"

"Kill them!"

The Lizardwomen seemed to be the leader because they gave the commandment to kill Maria's group.

The trio smiled before charging forward as well. Maria went for the Lizardwomen while Luna felt like the second weird monster would be a good match, Saeko took the last one and soon the sound of their clashes resounded through the quiet city but for too long as the monster's anguished cries were soon heard before quieting down for good.

1418 Chapter 1418

While Maria's group was having fun in the forbidden zone, Pandora successfully rescued Gracier and Sakuya who had been turned into statues, the trio successfully departed from the first floor to the second floor.

They saw a door, Sakuya was furious about what happened on the first floor therefore she blasted the door into smithereens.

Boom!

In a loud bang, the heavy door was shattered into bits. But before the smoke dispersed, Sakuya zoomed into the garden behind the door then she suddenly heard a hoarse voice.

"Who's there? Who destroyed my door? You bast*rds! You will pay the price!"

The moment this voice echoed, Sakuya had already led her group and charged into the fog. The true identity of the Boss who was seated in the garden was unveiled on the spot. This Boss had a naked, dozen-meter-long female upper body, while her lower body was in the structure of a gigantic spider.

"Ah, a talking Arachne," Gracier remarked.

Sakuya said nothing because she was busy looking at the small window floating above the spider queen's body.

[Lily, Race: Spider, Level 183]

She didn't have the time to use appraisal on the monster to get more information because she didn't give her the time to do so.

"Are you intruders here to kill my children? No!! I will not let you!"

The bewildered Lily snapped her jaw open and spat white spider silk that metamorphosed into an omnipresent web that enveloped everyone.

"Everyone, firewalls!"

Looking at this scene, even Sakuya was surprised. This was one of the most frustrating tricks of this type of monster. The spider silks she spat were able to shroud everyone within the garden. As long as one was caught in the web, one would have a hard time budging. But fortunately, this wasn't Sakuya's first time taking on this kind of opponent. Therefore, the instant she witnessed the spiderweb, she gave her command.

Gracier extended her arm and small fireballs were created in the air before combining. At the next moment, the hellhound appeared in the hellish blaze, howling as it slammed head-first into the spiderweb. The hellhound let out an anguished wail and self-destructed as flames scattered in all directions and burned large holes in the spiderweb.

The scattered flame gathered together. Walls and balls of flames rose and fluttered into the air, forming a scorching barrier that blocked off the spiderweb. In the blink of an eye, the spiderweb was burned to a crisp completely.

"You won't get away with it. Don't even try...!"

Upon witnessing her attacks being stopped so easily, Lily snarled bitterly, extended her arms, and clawed at the intruders.

But at that moment, Pandora raised her bow she took from her space ring and two red arrows appeared on the bowstring. Shortly after, two scarlet radiances flashed, followed by two loud explosions. Lily, who was attacking their group, let out a howl of grief and covered her eyes. Pandora's special space arrows were really powerful.

Sakuya and Pandora attacked both simultaneously.

The transparent, razor-sharp blade wind was created. The beautiful Japanese Lady lifted the green blade and penetrated Lily's heart. On the other hand, Pandora raised her sword and hacked one of Lily's hind legs. In a loud crack, she inflicted a deadly gash on the thick hind leg!

"Arghhhh!"

Lily let out a blood-curdling shriek upon receiving multiple attacks from the others. Lily spread her arms apart and shuddered, and a massive, invisible force erupted and blasted the surroundings.

"How dare you hurt me! I will seize your lives! My children, awaken! Devour your prey and let their flesh be your nourishment!"

Along with her snarls, everyone heard loud rustles from their surroundings. Shortly after, along with the rustles, hundreds upon thousands of human-sized, poisonous spiders darted out of the bushes and pounced on Sakuya's group!

An overwhelming amount of spiders appeared from all directions. In the blink of an eye, they surrounded Sakuya and the rest. A huge spider trembled as it 'squeaked' and spat its breath. Just the look and sound of it numbed one's scalp. If one were caught off guard by such a large cluster of spiders, the outcome couldn't be any worse. Fortunately, after learning the true identity of the BOSS in front of them, the group had already prepared their response.

,

Pandora raised her right arm and bellowed. Along with her yell, a huge scarlet magical ritual emanated on the flat ground. The spiders who stepped onto it let out wretched screeches. Their massive bodies swayed and crumbled onto the ground, shriveling rapidly. In the blink of an eye, the huge spiders with round bodies shrunk like deflated balloons, turning into piles of dried, rotten corpses.

While she was occupied in her attack, Sakuya wasn't idle either. The moment she witnessed the spiders, she unleashed a combined attack with Pandora, both combined Wind and Water elements.

"Frozen Land!"

A strong gust of blue, chilly wind whistled across the pitch-black land, freezing the ground. In an instant, the land and massive spiders were covered in layer upon layer of white frost. Not only that, but transparent crystals also formed in midair one after another, freezing the spiders entirely within.

Pandora then swung her arm and chanted under her breath, and the flattened ground ruptured. Razor-sharp, stone pillars burst skyward from the ground, like the teeth of ferocious monsters ripping apart

the frozen spiders. Along with a string of loud cracks, the punctured spiders were torn apart and fell onto the ground in chunks of flesh.

Not wanting to be outdone, Gracier created small fireballs in the form of a small ball which she threw in the middle of a swarm of spiders.

Boom!

Along with this loud explosion, a flame column burst into the sky. Sakuya witnessed scarlet rings rippling across the land with an enormous flame column in the middle. The squeaking and dashing spiders were instantly devastated by the red fire rings. They were neither blasted nor burnt to death but were entirely shattered completely instead. Facing the ring of flames that swept across the land, the massive spiders were as though sand, annihilated in a puff of smoke!

"..."

"..."

Both Pandora and Sakuya looked at each other and had the same thought.

'This girl is well suited for the Fire element.'

"How dare you hurt my children!"

Lily blew her top at the sight of her spider army annihilated in the blink of an eye. She raised her head in wrath, bellowed, and spread her arms apart. A green light emanated on the surface of her massive body. In a loud boom, bursts of green fog erupted and engulfed the surroundings, catching Sakuya's group off guard.

"Go to hell, all of you! Wahahaha!"

Looking at their plight, Lily couldn't help but burst into a burst of evil laughter. That wasn't just an ordinary fog, but a poisonous fog coalesced from her essence!

Any living creature would die after being shrouded by the poisonous fog as it entered their body. Their life essence would slowly enter her body and they would eventually turn into her possessions!

"Huh? How did that happen?!"

But just as Lily guffawed, she widened her eyes in disbelief at the green fog around her. At that moment, the poisonous fog had enfolded the entire garden.

At a glance, the place was like an ocean of clouds. Logically speaking, they would have had no chance of resisting and would die instantly from this attack. But she was bewildered because she didn't feel any energy surging into her body!

That's impossible. The flesh and blood of anyone who dies in my poisonous fog will heal my wounded body and restore my strength. But why...!

'What exactly is happening?'

"———!"

At that moment, Julia felt an immense pain in her hind leg. She let out a squeal and her huge body tumbled onto the ground. But what shocked her was that one of her hind legs was chopped off entirely!

How is that possible? In my poisonous fog, how are they able to move about freely and even attack me?

While Lily was flabbergasted, the green, poisonous fog had already scattered.

The scenery revealed itself before her eyes once again. Looking at this scene, she couldn't help but widen her eyes in shock.

Three flickering, defensive barriers merged to form a gigantic translucent shield, with Sakuya's group leisurely standing in it. The rolling green fog was kept out thoroughly. No matter how hard it slammed onto the barrier, it just couldn't break through the defense.

'What the hell? What is going on?'

Looking at this scene, Lily's mind went blank.

They have used some way to stop my poisonous fog from infiltrating, but how did they know? There are warning signs before I release the poisonous fog. Even if their reactions are quick, it is impossible for all of them to avoid my attack!

"Go! Give your all and blast her to death!"

Sakuya shouted, she couldn't be bothered with what Lily was thinking. This wasn't their first time fighting against a monster like this.

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Right after Lily spat that poisonous fog she quickly came up with an idea which she put to use. She activated the poison-immunity enchanted field and gathered everyone to avoid this deadly attack. Not only that but after releasing this ultimate skill, Lily would also enter a cooldown period. And now, she wasn't able to absorb the vitality of anyone and grew more exhausted instead. There wasn't a much better chance than this for their group!

"Everyone, go all out!"

Sakuya commanded, raising her sword high in the air.

"Ô Spirits heard my call!"

Pandora put her bow to the side and summoned her sword and shortly after, a spirit answered her call and spun as it appeared at the tip of her blade.

Shatter!

The spirit bird expanded its wings and cried, metamorphosing into a bolt of lightning that attached to Pandora's blade. She gripped the hilt and slashed from above.

Boom———!

A lightning blade ray exploded from her blade, striking Lily heavily. Electrical currents erupted, wrapping the humongous spider. Lily, who was struggling to stand to her feet, let out a scream and became

paralyzed again. At the same time, Sakuya laughed heartily raised her katana with both hands, and performed an Iai thrust, penetrating Lily's huge abdomen!

"Ahhhhhh!"

Along with Lily's blood-curdling screech, the scarlet katana (A/N: Her second katana acquired in Saeko's hometown) slashed a deep gash on her abdomen. Putrid blood spurted out of the wound as Lily suffered agonizing pain. Lily turned around, fluttered her arms, and tried grabbing the Sakuya but she escaped, Lily was about to attack.

But at that moment, Gracier who had been idling finally acted, she transformed her Gift from bracelet to bow her weapon and aimed at Lily's chest. A large flame arrow coalesced and took shape in her hands. At the next second, released the arrow, and it punctured the enormous spider.

BOOM!

"———"!"I think you should take a look at pandorasnovel.com

The mighty impact blasted Lily backward, disrupting her next move. As she roared in a futile struggle, the overwhelming glow of blade rays and magic enveloped her completely.

Crack!

After a few moments, Lily plunged to the ground. Her body was riddled with scars from top to bottom. Under the relentless attacks by Sakuya's group, Lily, who couldn't replenish her strength and failed to summon her children again, collapsed completely.

"No... I can't die... My nest... My children!"

Along with her hoarse snarl, Lily struggled in despair. But at that point, she was no longer a threat. Her useless struggles were meaningless to everyone. Looking at this scene, Sakuya shook her head and sauntered toward her. Upon witnessing his approach, Lily's dimming eyes glinted once again.

"I summon thee at the price of my life!"

"Oh no!" Sakuya knew something bad was about to happen but it was already too late by the time she noticed it because Lily at the cost of her life summoned an entity, this entity didn't have a proper form, sometimes it showed bird form, sometimes snake-like a form. It was to say it was formless. The only thing noteworthy about this entity would be its ghostly form.

Swoosh!"

Both Sakuya and Pandora launched their attacks simultaneously, They both hacked the mysterious entity's body but strangely nothing happened, it received no damage.

"!"

They put distance between them and the beast in an instant.

The girls feel chill running down their spines, Gracier felt it more. Her dragon were telling her to act quickly if not they would die so she hesitated no more.

"Fire Serpent!"

Gracier created a five-meter-long flame snake and ordered it to attack the mysterious entity.

"Roarrrr— —!"

Facing the fire serpent, the mysterious entity responded with an attack of its own. It spread its arms apart, and shortly after, flames of black and white rose from the ground, forming a solid barrier to resist the fire serpent. The fire serpent crashed head first into the bizarre wall of fire, but what happened left Gracier staring in amazement. The fire serpent she created was actually 'sucked' into the barrier and disappeared to nowhere!?

What exactly is going on? Could it be that this monster has a certain degree of immunity against magical attacks? In that case, this battle will be almost impossible! Based on her instinct, this monster seems to possess extraordinary skills against close-combat classes. But now, long-range magical spells also don't seem to work either. This mysterious entity is truly terrifying.

However, what surprised her even more was still coming.

The moment her fire serpent vanished, the strange barrier surged in size and a fire serpent of black and white flew out and swung its claws at Gracier's group!

Looking at this scene, Gracier was taken aback. She was certain that this fire serpent that was coming for them was the exact one she released earlier.

Everything happened too fast but she was still able to react.

"Return!"

Gracier broke out in cold sweat. She yelled, raised her right hand hurriedly and flicked her fingers as if executing some sort of intricate spell. Shortly after, along with this series of actions, a red magical ritual emanated on the ground, enveloping the fire serpent. The fire serpent let out a howl and struggled in midair for a few moments, before rapidly disappearing into the air.

"Phew!"

After forcefully withdrawing the fire serpent, Gracier let out a sigh of relief. But at the moment, she wasn't entirely relieved yet because this mysterious entity's abilities were so mysterious that they were able to take in her magical spell and use it as its own. It wasn't that Sakuya hadn't encountered something similar from other monsters, but she had never seen one that was so bizarre. After all, most powerful monsters had weaknesses. For instance, if they were immune to magical attacks, their physical defense would be poor. Even if they were immune to both physical and magical attacks, most of them had a conversion process. But now, this mysterious entity was so strange. Even though one couldn't judge a powerful monster with common sense, it would still be too challenging for Gracier to take on the monster who was immune to physical and magical attacks, and so powerful that it could wipe out several powerful adventurers in a split second!

Suddenly, Sakuya had an idea of testing, she took three white scrolls from her item box and threw them up before slashing them from afar using her katanas.

Three dazzling, sacred light columns descended from heaven, enfolding the mysterious entity entirely.

"Arghhh...!"

This time, the mysterious entity finally let out an agonizing screech. It retreated desperately to avoid the holy light. Looking at this scene, Sakuya's eyes glinted with joy.

"Finally, something worked."

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"Finally, something worked."

At this thought, Sakuya ordered immediately. Upon hearing her command, the others who had the same white scrolls and ripped them apart, immediately the sacred light columns shone from above once again.

But this time, the mysterious entity's reaction astonished Sakuya. It was apparent that the mysterious entity was hurt by the Holy Light of Judgement earlier. But now, it didn't move at all. On the contrary, it

hovered silently in the air as though a spirit devoid of determination. Shortly after, the three golden light columns struck the mysterious entity.

Boom!

The golden, holy light columns hit the mysterious entity accurately. But what stunned Sakuya was that this time, it didn't flee and wasn't hurt. The three golden light columns flashed past its body, before vanishing entirely. Apart from the trembling robe, it was as though nothing happened to the mysterious entity.

"Oh no!"

Even though the mysterious entity remained calm, Sakuya was startled.

"Defensive mode asap!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Just as Sakuya's words left her, a mysterious light flashed by. In an instant, the Holy Light of Judgments that were dyed in murky colors appeared out of the thin air above the three, blasting them heavily. The three couldn't stand their ground as they swayed to the left and right, standing unsteadily on their feet. But fortunately, as powerful beings with a high level of defense, their defenses shouldn't be belittled. Besides, Sakuya's reactions were also fast. In just an instant, the protective wind barrier she deployed enveloped them and resisted the following attacks.

Something doesn't seem right.

This time, Sakuya finally realized that something was abnormal. She didn't notice earlier as the fire serpent was forcefully withdrawn by her. But now, she discovered that even though the mysterious entity reflected the magical spell that it took in, its might was much greater than the original's. The original Holy Light of Judgment was just an ordinary offensive spell, whereas, against powerful beings with high defense, it wouldn't work much if not you were from the dark side. But judging from their performance earlier, it seemed like the reflected attack inflicted a lot of damage on them. If it weren't for them who heeded Sakuya's words to activate their defensive skill, they could have been half-dead by now!

Not only is it able to reflect attacks, but it can also strengthen them.

At this thought, Sakuya couldn't help but clench her fists. She felt sweat in her palms. She had more or less figured out why this mysterious entity was immune to the Holy Light of Judgments. But if this were to continue...

However, before she came up with a solution, the mysterious entity spread its arms apart and along with this action, the books in the room emanated an odd brilliance!

It's gonna attack!

Looking at this scene. Sakuya was frozen for a moment, unconsciously she couldn't help but take half a step back and gnash her teeth. She stared as the mysterious entity raised its arms and pointed at her party. Her head was spinning.

What should I do? Continue to defend? Or take the risk and go all-out?

Swish— —!

But while she was making up her mind, an arrow appeared in the air and punctured the mysterious entity's eye. The mysterious entity who was charging up its attack let out a blood-curdling shriek. It stretched out its arm and covered its eye, drifting in midair miserably.

"Get yourself together Big sister Mio and issue a proper command like a commander should."

Gracier's voice rang out inside Sakuya's head, bringing her out of her stupor. She quickly shook her head to focus on the ongoing fight.

'To think I'll momentarily lose focus and get a reminder from little Alexandra, how unsightly. Gotta get myself together.' Sakuya admonished herself but nobody is perfect. So naturally one is bound to commit mistakes sometimes no matter what you do. This is the way of life, it is like when rich people sometimes lose money almost failing before standing back strong on their feats.

Sakuya who had regained her cool immediately acted.

"Another Holy Light of Judgment!"

Sakuya ordered and raised her arms. Along with this action, the fire serpent created by Gracier coalesced from dazzling flames and appeared once again, snapping its jaw open and soaring toward the mysterious entity.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Like before, the Holy Light of Judgments vanished and reappeared to strike the trio. However, Gracier's fire serpent wasn't stopped this time as it sunk its teeth into the mysterious. Shortly after, a string of explosions reverberated. The scarlet flames and blazing heat waves engulfed the surroundings. The mysterious entity was caught in a difficult position, where smoke began to rise from its robe!

"I got it now!"

Looking at this scene, Sakuya's eyes glinted in a flash. She finally understood what exact trait this Boss possessed. It was apparent that even though it was able to reflect spells and be immune to physical and magical attacks, it could only deal with two of them at the same time and couldn't be immune to all three attacks at once!

That is its weakness!

"First, maintain the defensive barrier then please use your general attacks!"

At this thought, Sakuya pondered no more and gave a command. But this time, she didn't make her party unleash their mighty attacks but got them to use their general attacks instead. Through this way, they would be able to decrease the threats of the reflected attacks to the lowest. There were no rules for the three types of reflections. Sakuya's only choice now was to embrace herself and attack!

Shortly after, along with her command, the other two began their attacks. However, compared to the extravagant and vibrant attacks earlier, the attacks now seemed particularly shabby. Gracier and

Pandora used their bows their proudest abilities and went along with firing ordinary arrows. Meanwhile, Sakuya no longer cast her powerful skills and was simply assaulted with the holy light. Gracier also released tiny fireballs under Sakuya's lead, while the three maintained the defensive barrier to resist the reflected attacks.

Sakuya's strategy had an immediate effect. While some attacks were reflected from time to time, they were stopped entirely as their might was already weak, to begin with. Meanwhile, the attacks that the mysterious entity wasn't immune to were blasted at full force. Although those attacks weren't strong, Sakuya's mission wasn't to defeat it, after all, but to contain it in this place instead. From the earlier tests, she discovered that this Boss didn't seem to possess any abilities other than reflecting attacks, nor did it have any proactive offensive skills. In this case, it was still possible for Sakuya to contain it!

One had to admit that this strategy from Sakuya was indeed a bother for the Boss. It did seem like it didn't possess any proactive offensive skills. Facing the weak magical spells, arrows, and even daggers hurled out by Pandora from time to time, the mysterious entity was caught in a horrible spot. This also proved that Sakuya was right about it being unable to be immune to all attacks at the same time!

However, good times didn't last long.

Just when she thought that everything was about to get on track, a low, hoarse voice echoed in everyone's ears all of a sudden.

"You... are unforgivable!"

"...!"

Along with this malicious bellow, something happened.

Boom———!

The solid ground beneath Sakuya's feet cracked and ruptured with gravel scattering in all directions.