

## Dungeon S 1391

### Chapter 1391: Corney Gatling

“There is no need for us to fight this on our own.” Yue Han said as he already sent an SOS for nearby Pandawans to come. The voice chat within the group’s channel was immediately filled with Deng Long’s vows of revenge asking them not to kill Gnawbones yet but the Blind Bat Cultivator had already muted the channel except for important announcements.

He needed to concentrate as Corney Gatling started up his gun once more. “Sis! Hide now!” The Blind Bat generated a ball of black shadowy chi and threw it down to the ground, creating a smokescreen to block Corney Gatling’s field of view.

Yet, the Variant Chimaera did not stop and continued to shoot randomly around the battlefield, spraying through the smoke in hopes that the siblings would get hit by his attacks. And even if they did not, he would expect to hear some popping soon enough.

“POP BOOM!”

The explosion was more than enough of a signal to indicate where the Pandawans were. He quickly changed the mode on his gatling gun to make his ‘corn’ bullets lope over obstacles like how a grenade launcher works. And because it was a gatling gun, those corn bullets were being shot out at such succession that the explosions blanketed the area. Corney Gatling assumed that this would effectively kill the cultivators but Gnawbones thought otherwise.

The earth began to tremble as the Air Force General fiddled with a controller. Soon, a robot in the same colour as Aegis Gundam, the Supa Robot that he had previously kidnapped, began to emerge from the earth in front of him. However, aside from the paint job, the robot didn’t resemble the Aegis Gundam in terms of appearance. Its head was disproportionately large relative to the rest of its body as if to make up for a flaw in the design of the machine.

“Bwahahahahah! To think that those insane coat rats were able to complete this in less than 24 hours. They must be really inspired by that flying mechanical being!” Gnawbones shouted with hysteria in his tone. “Thank you humans for giving me this golden opportunity to test it on you all!!!”

Corney Gatling stopped his attacks not only because he assumed that the cultivators were killed but it was also to allow Gnawbones to work on his new toy. It also gave the Variant Chimaera some time to laugh at the absurdity of the machine that came crawling out of the ground.

But what he did not expect was that even before Gnawbones was able to press another button on his controller, an unnatural gust of wind blew downwards on him, forcing him to look up.

And before he knew it, the Demon Rat heard a thud on the ground which he presumed that he must have dropped the controller because of that gust of wind. Gnawbones was bleeding profusely when he looked down and saw that both of his hands had been severed and were laying on the ground beside his broken controller.

“Fuck! Did not expect that he would look up at that point in time.” Yue Han thought to himself, knowing that the assassination was a failure when he saw that his opponent was still alive screaming. Yet, there

was no time to hesitate as he had to go for the second target instantly, focusing on the opportunity that Corney Gatling was stunned by the current development.

The Variant Chimaera utilised his gatling gun to repel the assault due to his confidence in the durability of his gear, but he was erroneously optimistic.

“Advanced Healing Maiden Arts! Trifold Buffing!” Yue Wen emerged from the dispersing smokescreen as her sword cane glowed brightly upon activating her arts. Orbs of coloured energies flew towards Yue Han at that particular instant, giving him Bear’s strength, Eagle’s agility and Cat’s luck for ten seconds.

“Advanced Sword Arts! Ascension Sword Strike of the Blind Bat!” Yue Han shouted as bat silhouettes emerged from the chi that was accumulated around his sword, causing his strike to look like a stream of bats flying upwards.

It was then Corney Gatling thought it was a bad idea that reacts by using his gun to block the blow. Nevertheless, its battle instinct was so acute that his tail retaliated for the Variant Rat and Yue Han was not expecting it.

Still, it would be a waste to stop his attack so he decided to risk it all and finish the strike but upon doing so, both the cultivator and the Chimaera Rat were heavily damaged. The Rat’s tail stabbed through the side of Yue Han and to make it worse, it was strapped with the very same corn bullets that were used.

It caused his wounds within him to explode, releasing a gush of guts towards the Rats as the Blind Bat Cultivator lay on the ground unable to move. In the meantime, Yue Han’s ascension sword strike managed to cut one of Corney Gatling’s arteries on his neck. It could completely be the luck buffed by his sister but he believed he would not be lucky to survive the attack.

“Ha...ha...Even with Yue Wen’s current abilities, I doubt she would be able to save me unless she used the instant resurrection skill.” Yue Han thought to himself but he knew that his sister had already used more than enough chi to create a multi layer barrier to stop the popping attacks before the assassination attempt.

“You will pay for this!!!” Gnawbones shouted in agony once again, as he used his tail to slap the dying Blind Bat, not allowing him to die in peace while he ran towards his beloved robot. The back of its head suddenly opened and the Demon Rat jumped right into it.

“Fuck, that rat still can survive even after losing two hands?” Yue Han could not believe his eyes as he threw his last breath away cursing that asshole Rat activating the robot in that kind of condition.

Looks like Deng Long still has a shot at killing that General.

### **Chapter 1392: Corpse Catcher**

Even with both of his hands bleeding profusely, the moment he connected to the mechanised being, bits of metal and wire turned ‘alive’. It reactively attempted to connect to Gnawbones and the moment the wires touched Gnawbones, they stung him with needles and connectors.

At that point in time, Gnawbones could feel that his entire consciousness was being transferred to somewhere else while his body was being fed into the robot as fuel. There was nowhere else for the Air Force General to run and he thought that hiding within the robot was his best way of surviving.

“I do not want to die! I do not want to die! What is happening to me?! Those lab coat traitors! What did they do to me without telling me?!” Gnawbones said as he felt that he had melted away while his body was being taken apart by the robot.

But what he did not know was that he was being reborn as the robot started to feed itself data from Gnawbone’s body structure. It was initially a corpse catcher robot where the lab coat Demon Rats had the idea of stealing the abilities of the cultivators and turning them into data for the robot to grow into.

For example, if Yue Han had been kidnapped by the big headed robot, the robot would then assimilate his DNA data and mould itself to be a clone of Yue Han with his skills, replicating as much as it could from the data itself. At the same, it would kill the cultivator that was within it. This was not something that the Research Demon Rats could think up in 24 hours rather it had already been a work in progress for some time.

It was only with Gnawbones’ continuous pestering that they had decided to give him the prototype and threw in a Chimaera Variant they made haphazardly so that he could stop bothering them. After all, they started to think that they were looking at defeat with each day of the invasion.

Some of them even had the gall to think of defecting to the other side but most assumed that they would not survive the extermination should the humans have managed to reach their labs. Yet, behind the backs of their Demon Rat leaders and generals, the Head of the Demon Rat Research, Transquick Foulscratch had decided to take a gamble should the Cultivators and Monsters had reached the deepest level of the Demon Rat Research.

They would attempt to parley for their lives and if it does not work out, the least they could do was to detonate the entire facility to kingdom come. What was dangerous was that the deepest level of the Demon Rat Research was close to a major node of the lifestream of the Farming World.

But detonating the area also means destroying the lifestream node and it could have serious repercussions to the Northern Region and potential backlash on the planet in near future. This was the only trump card they had on their sleeves and the only way to secure a proper negotiation with the humans.

However, all of those did not matter right now as they continuously pumped out all the prototypes they had been storing for months and were releasing them against the humans. Dr Transquick believed that if the humans still had to cross the trial of fire set by them so that they could be worthy of their knowledge even though he had reluctantly admitted to himself that some of the human’s technology was superior to his team by ten fold.

So by sending his teams’ military prototypes out to the field, it was like a desperate attempt to demonstrate that the Demon Rat Research might prove to be useful if they were to be taken in. Naturally, many of them had pledged loyalty to the Demon Rats’ society as a whole but after looking at the technology used by the humans, they could not help to wonder if they could reach that pinnacle someday.

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Once the Corpse Catcher Robot had digested and assimilated Gnawbones, it started to shape as the Air Force General himself. The latent powers of Gnawbones started to surface and a backpack rocket began

to emerge from the back of the robot as if the metal robot was some living evolving unit. The general's resource was a missile rocket, which was also one of the reasons why he had been chosen to be the Air Force General, not because of his merits.

Mini rockets started to grow from his phalanges not just from his fingers but his toes and tail too. And once prepped, the Corpse Catcher immediately shot out an entire load of rockets into the entire field, slaughtering Yue Wen in the process before the rest of the Pandawans could assist.

"What the hell! Gnawbones had some form of new armour?!" Deng Long responded as he took cover from the barrage of rockets that continued the moment the other Pandawans arrived at the scene.

"I heard someone very familiar!" Corpse Catcher Gnawbones boomed his voice through the robot's loudspeaker. "Give me that flying machine once more and I may yet spare your life!" It was taunting everyone within the vicinity so that he could search for any unnecessary movements and annihilate them once it got into range.

And Deng Long's agitation from his provocation was exactly the thing that the Corpse Catcher needed.

It immediately reloaded the entire arsenal of rockets and shot out indiscriminately, causing a carnage of explosions. Thankfully, Deng Long was a defensive cultivator and his techniques along with the equipment he bought from Jin were able to shield most of the kinetic knockbacks. But as the Corpse Catcher enjoyed unleashing its rockets to eliminate one sole Pandawan, Gnawbones had forgotten that he was way too exposed hovering in midair unleashing his burst of missiles.

That allowed Jing Ru, the Gunning Giraffe Cultivator to be hiding in between the rubbles and took a clean sniper shot at the Corpse Catcher. One deep breath and a slow trigger push were all that was needed to put the annoying Gnawbones down to the ground. With all the noise on the battlefield, her sniper rifle shot was merely another note in the War Symphony that Gnawbones failed to notice in his ecstasy of delivering punishment against Deng Long.

But as he fell to the ground, the other Pandawans rushed in to confirm his death before moving forward. To them, it was Demon Rat that was worth quite a few points but to the Demon Rat High Command, they were finally relieved of that annoying general and continued with their fight.

### **Chapter 1393: Wanting The Corpse Catcher**

While Deng Long was relieved that he was not able to kill Air Force General Gnawbones, he was thankful that he was still in the fight and able to receive some raid points for participation. There was no doubt that he did grumble quite a bit in the group's channel but he knew that this was a raid instance with it mimicking it close to a warzone.

So, he moved on without much commotion when Jing Ru reported that there was a group of Demon Rats coming toward him. As for the people overseeing the entire raid, Jin was surprised that the communication chatter between the Demon Rats High Command had been rather nonchalant with Gnawbone's death.

But overall, the Dungeon Supplier expected a more difficult fight between the Pandawans and the said general in question, especially when he saw how the Corpse Catcher robot took form. Even if it was a

sacrifice done according to the System's reading, he could not help but notice that the technology the Demon Rats used was unique.

Imagine he could incorporate this corpse catcher technology with his VR technology without killing the user in the process. He would practically have a replica army of cultivators under his belt without using the excuse of a Dungeon Raid Instance when they were fighting in outer verse worlds.

He figured that the cost of making these Corpse Catchers would still no doubt be cheaper than paying to get the resources needed to reincarnate the cultivators, further reducing the expenses he might have. Given that the System had to actively catch the 'soul' outside of the dungeon instance, it also utilised quite a fair bit of the System resources to retain thousands of souls within the vicinity.

So with such a thought in mind, he quickly told one of the nearby minions to retrieve the Corpse Catcher Robot as soon as possible. The head might have been blasted away by Jing Ru's technique but since the rest of the body was still intact, Jin believed that there was a chance the System might be able to reverse engineer the technology. Even if it could not, the Science Team could have a few tricks or two under their sleeves to incorporate the technology into theirs.

The System eventually queried Jin's action and the Dungeon Supplier explained his intention. Making the idea of using the Corpse Catcher technology a potential money saver for the store had given the System much pause to think about analysing the benefits while processing all the other backend requests.

"Affirmative. There is indeed a probability that such an idea might work but we need more samples either by capturing the Demon Rat scientists to fully understand their work or acquire fully intact corpse catchers to reverse engineer it." The System said and suddenly from the corner of the shadows, a smile emerged.

"Did someone say to capture a certain Demon Rat alive?" Kraft, who had been staying in the shadows watching the developments of the war, had begun to be way too bored of waiting. To be on constant standby forced him to occupy himself and his unit of Dark Elves to be rather restless. In fact, Jin was surprised that the Devil himself was willing to wait and not cause unnecessary havoc to the current war situation.

He was half assuming that Kraft would do his thing and cause mischief in the Demon Rat High Command the moment Hou Fei found it, killing all who would potentially stand in his path and ending the war early. But he did not and Jin was increasingly worried that the fox himself was doing something behind his back that the Dungeon Supplier was not well aware of.

Thus, for him to emerge at this opportune timing was favourable to not just the System who proposed such an idea but to Jin who now could monitor Kraft on the screens whenever needed.

"Yes, Kraft, if you could. Capture all the Demon Rat Scientists and their assistants. Kill the rest if you need to but if you saw any Birth Mothers along the way, save them as well. They are potentially the key to breeding a brand new Demon Rat society under our care." Jin said, which made the fox chuckle.

"You think they would not have animosity against you, especially when you are the one who slaughtered these many Demon Rats?"

“I trust in your ‘charisma’ to charm them so that they can work for me without grudges. Granted, we should not wipe their history away but with the System and you to make them amicable to my bidding would no doubt be a task as easy as taking the trash out.”

“Heh, I guess you never know how hard taking the trash can is, even more so if one is lazy and has no incentives- Oh wow. You did learn your lessons well.” Kraft said as he suddenly saw that the System points in his ‘e-wallet’ skyrocketed.

“This should be more than enough to finance another basement for your night foxes to work with. Who knows? Maybe the Demon Rats might have more than babies for you to have a few Night Rats to work for you as well.” Jin decided to entice the Devil Fox and the bait was more than just a fat carrot.

It was a golden fat carrot with the smell of opportunity.

“When you put it this way, there is no way I can reject it right? Now I am looking forward to punishing those Demon Rats.” Kraft clasped his hands together repeatedly and with a smirk on his face. The Dark Elves Narris and Tinda who were beside him, nodded their heads with obedience, disappearing in the shadows without a sound with the intent to relay the messages for the Night Foxes to get ready,

“The System has found the possible location where the Demon Rat Scientists are residing and will pass the coordinates to Original Bellator Kraft.”

“What the heck? An underground facility when we are already ‘under the ground’? Looks like they took their rat nature very seriously.” Kraft shrugged his shoulders and gave a slight sigh, ever so quickly to change his mood. “Oh well, one deep underground facility is better than searching the entire Undercity, so let’s get this over and done with.”

“Thanks, Kraft and good luck. System, remember to put up a special point reward for the capture of those Corpse Catchers in case the Demon Rat Scientists route goes south.” Jin said and the System acknowledged.

“Looks like this will be a long night,” Jin said to himself as he anticipates the new development.

#### **Chapter 1394: Demon Rat Researchers**

As the hours continued to drag into the night with lots of senseless fighting and the Demon Rats defending every inch of the Undercity, the Night Foxes were not able to go through the battlefield in subtlety.

Even a distraction was not capable of distracting their targeted audience mainly because of the chaotic fighting that was happening all around the place. But that was assuming they were going through the route that had been cleared by the Zombie Horde and the Pandawans.

Kraft had decided to pay extra points to the System for a straight drop right into the defensive bunker those Demon Rat Researchers were hiding into. Yet what irritated Kraft was that the System demanded more System Points for the portal if Kraft wanted to teleport right beside the researchers as if it had a hidden agenda making the Night Foxes walk through the undergrounds.

“You rascal. This amount is basically the same as Jin’s rewards offer.” Kraft cursed under his breath and decided to take the initial offer for teleporting at the top of the defensive bunker. Why bother paying so much when all they were going to take was a minor detour?

“Be warned Original Bellator, the System has detected a few formidable guards in the area. While the System had determined that the Night Foxes are more than capable to defeat them, it is paramount that speed is-”

“Stop yapping System. Why are you always stating the obvious?” Kraft forcefully closed the System’s Channel and moved his Night Foxes into the portal the moment it was opened.

“Here we go again...” Tinda said as she shrugged her shoulders knowing that Kraft was going to force them to fight a bunch of crazy stuff as usual.

“If only we will have things going our way for once,” Narris said to her as both of the Dark Elves entered right after Kraft.

And to their surprise, all of the Demon Rats that were supposed to rush towards them in frenzy were standing in wait. In fact, they were actually holding their weapons in such a way that it was denoted as if they were welcoming the entire group.

“Took you long enough, we have been waiting for your group for some time.” the loudspeaker said as the lifts at the far end of the corridor were opened.

“Wow, if this is a trap, this might be the first time I had seen such a welcoming one,” Tinda replied as she and the rest of the Night Foxes placed their hands near their weapons waiting for an ambush.

“Relax. They do not have any killing intent in their eyes.” Kraft said as his hands were in his pockets rather than near his holsters. “Let’s take their invitation earnestly.”

While the Night Foxes were relieved that they did not need to fight for once, they could feel that if things were too peaceful, their Devilish leader would have a chance to make it worse. Thus, even when they were attempting to follow the orders from Kraft, all of them kept their alert in case things went south.

The lifts they took went deeper into the complex and it never stopped until it reached a basement where it was not even in the selection of buttons at the side of the lift. And yet instead of panicking, the Night Foxes and Kraft stayed their cool and waited for the lift to reach its destination.

Once it stopped, the lift doors opened slowly and a group of Demon Rat Researchers were standing behind a row of Demon Rat Variants similar to Corney Gatling in case the invaders knew no reason.

Thankfully for both sides, Kraft was not as bloodthirsty as they thought he would be and stepped forward to even introduce himself. It was then the Head of Research who decided to do the same and make his presence known to his enemies despite the risk.

“I make things short, are you planning to defect?” Kraft asked as he immediately conjured up a table in the middle of the two groups, asking Transquick Foulscratch whether his intentions were sincere.

"If not, I would have caused the alarms to go off by now and alert the Demon Rats High Command." Dr Transquick said and with a snap of his fingers, the Demon Rats Guard behind him brought a group of Birth Mothers to the front.

"As a gesture for peaceful negotiations, I had gathered all the Birth Mothers in the facility. You can take them." Transquick, as his name suggests, had already proven to be smart enough to know what the invaders wanted from this particular research facility.

"Hmm. Thank you." Kraft said as he too had a few of the Night Foxes to take the Birth Mothers away but instead of fully trusting the Demon Rats, the Night Foxes were already searching the Birth Mothers with both magical and physical inspection to ensure that there were no explosives on them.

"Interesting and I might have done the same as well." Transquick chuckled when he saw the scene that denoted their distrust for the Demon Rats.

"Not just for you. It's a routine check we always do." The moment Kraft laid back, Tinda proceeded forth and conjured a set of tea for the two to partake. Once she poured the 2 cups for the leaders negotiating the meeting, she drank from Transquick's cup.

The Research Leader was at first surprised by their actions and understood that they were doing that to 'show' that the cup was safe to drink. Yet, Kraft also gave Transquick the opportunity to let his subordinate have a sip at the cup to determine that there was no poison in it.

"It's okay. I might not look like it but I have some magical tools to discern whether the drink was poisonous or not." Transquick said as he pulled out a piece of glass meter and placed it in the drink.

He apologised for being discourteous but Kraft was not stopping him, in fact, he found it amusing to see the Demon Rats in a different light. They were usually barbaric in nature and yet the one in front of him was a copy of all those science nuts he knew.

Once he was happy with the results, Transquick took a sip and continued with the negotiations even though it seemed like it was a move to delay more time.

"Reason for defecting?" Kraft asked straight to the point after the niceties had been performed.

"Insufficient materials to research. The curiosity about the coexistence between man and monsters. We thought that we were the best but it seems like the quote 'the world is bigger than we know' applies here."

"Oh? Not blatant abuse of staff, lack of money?"

"We have everything and can do anything. Like these chimaeras. We still have a few at the back in the process. All those lost arms and legs that you humans left behind during the fight, we took them and tried to replicate them with the Demon Rat Variants." Transquick said but a few of the researchers hoped that he would restrain himself from saying such things to the invader.

"Bold of you to say all of this right in front of my face."

"I would like to see how far you humans are willing to go with the research. If I have to dissect my stomach, I will do so to find a breakthrough. In our eyes, there are no boundaries to research and if you



are not able to stomach this, then we are not compatible and rather fight to the death right here and now.”

Kraft laughed loudly and clapped his hands at Transquick’s assertiveness but all the Night Foxes knew that there would only be a thought brewing in the Devil’s mind.

A group of knowledgeable rats that holds no bars when it comes to research? It merely spells disaster.

### **Chapter 1395: Betrayal of the Research Rats**

It was no brainer that Kraft would eventually decide to take the Research Demon Rats into his ‘care’. However, he has to complete what Jin and the System had asked for him.

“The corpse catcher...? Ah, Prototype CXVV. The one that eats people to gain their abilities temporarily. I forgot those Demon Rat Generals loved to give fancy names to our subjects and imagined that they had complete control of it. They had forgotten that they were also Demon Rats that had mutated and some might have used the chance to bite back at the owner’s hand.” Transquick then asked one of his assistants to get the data drive with regards to the Corpse Catcher.

“This is awfully too easy. I can sense red flags coming up already.” Tinda said as she was baffled by how the Demon Rats Researcher and Kraft had come to an agreement way too smoothly.

And just as Tinda had predicted, there was no doubt a twist to the entire situation. The assistant who was about to give the data drive suddenly got stabbed by another Demon Rat Researcher.

“You! How dare you betray us! I finally caught you in the act Dr Transquick! You will not leave this room alive as well as the oth-” Before he could finish his sentence, Kraft already sent a bullet right into his brain and walked forward to pick up the data drive from the injured Demon Rat Assistant.

At that point, a few of the assistants immediately revealed themselves to be assassins sent by the Demon Rat High Command and attempted to pounce on the scientists. Yet, their actions were instantly detected by the Night Foxes as their not so subtle movements were more than enough to prompt the Dark Elves to react.

Arrows flew even faster than the Demon Rat Researchers could even see and all the assassins were down to the floor without a sound.

“Guess, you need to vet your people even more thoroughly,” Kraft said as he shrugged at Transquick, waiting for an answer for this betrayal.

“Heh. If I was killed by this encounter then it’s my fate. But it looks like my gamble has paid off. And to be frank, I am actually surprised that all of my other assistants are alive...though I think some had no idea that this happened.” Transquick surveyed the area and saw some of the Demon Rat scientists were shaking in their knees.

“See. I told you that this agreement was going way too smoothly.” Tinda told Narris as she walked to a dead rat and kicked it. A few trinkets came out from the dead which she assumed that it indicated the rat’s allegiance to the High Command. She pulled the trinkets out and showed them to Transquick, allowing him to decipher.

“Ah. The Mage General. I did not expect the one who is sponsoring us the most would be the one who will kill us compared to the other Demon Rat Generals but I guess it made sense.” Transquick said as he told the rest that the trinkets were some sort of transmitter and there would be no doubt that the Mage Battalion would be here in no time.

“Then I believed that you need the rest of your data drives out here to prove that you all are useful to us?” Kraft asked and Transquick nodded his head, happy to know the humans caught on quick.

“If you are able to reach here undetected, I trust that you have an escape plan too?” Transquick asked and Kraft merely snapped his fingers and a portal emerged right beside him. The Head of Research laughed loudly and began shouting at his team.

“Everyone. Get all you can pick up and throw them into the portal, we can sort them out later! If the long ears can help us, it will be app-” Transquick suddenly felt like a thousand knives being pressed onto his body.

“Oh. Don’t call them Long ears. They usually kill anyone who calls them that since you are ignorant of us, I guess they would let you off with a warning this time around.” Kraft smirked and told the group to assist them while he opened a few more portals up so that the ‘grand moving’ would be a tad faster.

“Then Boss, I assume you are going to have all the fun to yourself,” Narris asked Kraft as he pressed the elevator. He merely smiled and waved back at him.

“Of course, I am the boss after all.”

And when he entered the elevator, the Devil already sensed a variety of magical auras from the top. “So they do have teleport magic as well.”

“Don’t worry. The assassins probably already disabled the anti magic barrier at the higher levels but I always have a backup plan.” Transquick heard Kraft’s comment and went to the closest computer to activate software module, allowing a few barriers to pop up just in time to interrupt their teleport magic.

Unknown to the group who were hurrying to clear the research lab, the emergence of the backup anti magic barrier caused not just the Demon Rat Mages’ teleport magic to be interrupted, it even killed a few Demon Rat Mages who were teleporting halfway by causing them to be lost in ethereal space.

Kraft could sense the number of auras decreased drastically and though the help was not necessary, the kind gesture ironically warmed his heart knowing that the Research Head was trying his best to make relations with the Devil.

Thus, the trip to the top of the underground bunker was uneventful to the point that Kraft even had time to load all his guns without the use of any chi. “Sometimes, the feel of loading the gun does bring satisfaction to me, knowing that I had a hand in killing them personally.”

But without any doubt, the moment the elevator door opened, the Demon Rats had no chance of winning at all. Each step the Devil took, each second that had passed, bodies dropped to the ground without a care. Bullets were spent and the smile on Kraft’s face grew ever larger.

**Chapter 1396: The Remaining Assassin**

While Kraft was holding the enemies at bay (or mere toying with his enemies), things were a lot more hectic at the Research Lab's deepest basement. The busy moving of resources from the lab into the portal was quite a sight to behold. The Demon Rat Researchers and the Dark Elves were working together to get cardboard boxes of papers to be thrown into the portals. With the exception of some delicate apparatus, the Dark Elves assisted in carrying machines twice the size of them into the portal.

Only those with storage rings like Narris and Tinda had decided to use it solely for documents that were indicated 'Top Secret'. That alone had made Dr Transquick want to learn their technology even more upon learning that it was not a magic artefact but a product that was readily available to plenty of them. It was pretty obvious that there was a brand new world for them if the Demon Rat Researchers could safely join the humans.

Some of the researchers thought that this was a move by their top to infiltrate the humans like how the assassins had managed to become long term researchers to betray them at the final moment. However, the majority of them were relieved that they could live to see another day mainly because they knew that the current battle against the humans was more or less a loss.

If the humans had decided to eradicate the entire Demon Rat Undercity, all they could rely on was the Birth Mothers under the human's care. No doubt there were some who had their pride hurt knowing that they were not able to defeat these humans beyond the seas despite reassurance from the North and South Scholars that the technology from other countries was inferior to theirs.

Right now, they could see that the scholars either made a wrong judgement or they lied to them that the humans beyond the seas were strong.

In the meantime, while they were breaking out all their locks to move their documents and pushing precious machines into the portals, there was actually a Demon Rat Researcher whose movements were out of the norm. And naturally, that caught the eyes of not just one Night Fox but every one of them within the vicinity of that particular Demon Rat Researcher.

Clearly, he was with the rest of the dead assassins on the floor but he had decided to hold his weapon. A backup assassin in case things went awry for the first group. Borat had never expected the backup group to act aggressively alongside with the first but he believed it was well justified since the Night Foxes had presented a menacing aura that he had never felt during his years of assassinations and hunting of humans.

They were of a different level and Borat could feel it in his bones. In fact, if not for the fact he had kept his cool, he believed he would be gone alongside the backup group who thought it was a wise choice to aid the first group of assassins.

But now with the leader of the backup assassins all alone in this particular situation, he thought it was best to bury this entire underground lab by exploding the lifestream that they initially wanted to use as a bargaining chip against the humans.

If not for Kraft's quick acceptance of the negotiations, Borat thought that they would have the chance to kill off Night Foxes. But now that he realised that they had portals leading to their homeland, he thought that it might be a good idea to destroy the exposed lifestream and spread the explosion through the

portal as well. At the very least, the destruction should destroy whatever documents that the Demon Rat researchers had desperately wished to save for the defection.

“Your mind is so easy to read,” Tinda said as she and Narris stood right behind Borat.

“What are you talking about?” Borat maintained his cool and began to pick up a few documents from the side of the table. “Please do not disturb me, Dr Transquick had already said that we do not have much time on our side.”

“That is why I told you to wait until we catch him in the act.” Narris sighed as she said placed her hands on her hips as if signalling to Tinda that her blatant rash behaviour to catch the spy before he did his act was a futile attempt.

“I honestly do not care. We have no place for betrayers and besides, having a live specimen would be better for Kraft. He said that he wanted to try some new torture methods against the Demon Rats if they do not comply. Also, having a spy in denial is better than a dead spy.” Tinda said as she moved her index finger with magic pulsating through it.

It immediately cast a spell to bind Borat up and even forced his mouth to be wide open while his tail bounded to his body. Through their experience, they knew how some of these rats were adamant about not giving information to the point they were ready to suicide by biting their tongues or even sending their tail right through their heads. (Yes, it was surprising enough that they could harden their tail enough with sufficient blood pressure and pierce through their brain.)

It was to the point the Night Foxes had devised a way to bind the Demon Rats and quickly extract information from them rather than doing the usual method of interrogation. (Since most of them knew that Kraft loved to play with their victim’s emotions and tapped into their pool of fear but that would not work if they could kill themselves before revealing any information.)

The Demon Rat Researchers were undoubtedly frightened by the sudden capture of their own people but seeing how the Night Foxes had concluded that he was one of the assassins, reminded them that they were still at the mercy of their enemies.

### **Chapter 1397: Death to the Assassin**

Dr Transquick came over almost immediately to see the ruckus but before he could make any sound in the attempt to protect his fellow Researcher, Tinda reached into his body and tore a patch of skin from Borat.

Naturally, he tried to fight back but Borat did not expect that the female Dark Elf that was choking him had so much strength within her that there was no way to fight back through usual means. He initially thought they would be weak considering their slender body and the nimble use of guns in the initial massacre of the assassins but now he understood that he had no chance against her.

The binds were biting on him even harder the more he resisted as if there were magical thorns penetrating his fur and skin. But the most painful was the patch that Tinda had torn out to show Dr Transquick of his betrayal.

“I believe you know this particular symbol?” Tinda said as she continued to squeeze Borat with her thorny binds.

“That’s...that’s the 49th Mage Company Insignia.” Dr Transquick could recognise it despite the fur and blood around the broken patch of skin. He then nodded his head slowly and tried to explain that the majority of the Demon Rat Researchers were also in Mage Companies as well before they became his employees.

“Sigh, so are you saying that my Night Foxes need to do some culling before we are sure we will have no traitors in our midst?” Tinda questioned with a stare that demanded an answer immediately in order to taunt him.

“No. If you kill my employees, you might as well kill me too since I was a part of the Mage Company as well.” Transquick said as he unbuttoned his coat and revealed the very same 49th Mage Company insignia on his right scapula. Some of the Demon Rats stopped their work and decided to show their insignia as a sign of trust for their Research Head too.

And this immediately gave all the Night Foxes the excuse to activate their magic eyes to peel into the Demon Rats’ heads, vetting each and every one of them who had contact with the Mage General or had orders to assassinate the Demon Rat Researchers.

With Borat as their example, Tinda had already given explicit search terms for all the Night Foxes to check whether these Demon Rat Researchers were accomplices. While they knew that their search might not be as extensive as Kraft’s, it should not be as difficult as the ones they were given in their exams where they had to face veteran human spies to dig out specific information.

Knowing the Demon Rat’s history where brute strength and overwhelming numbers were the key to victory over the Northern Region, it was apparent that their level of knowledge when it comes to spying was akin to an amateur stalker.

With each read and double confirmation of the Demon Rat Researchers, the Dark Elves shouted the name of the Demon Rat and stated ‘Clear’ as a sign that there was no need to suspect that particular researcher.

Eventually, it all boiled down to Borat himself even though he was desperately hoping that the mage general was more meticulous to provide the backup group a backup group as well. Of course, with the last Demon Rat which they scanned considered innocent, Transquick had no choice but to accept the fact that Borat, one of his long term trusted employees, was working and backstabbing him at the same time.

“Blo...” Borat tried his damndest to move his mouth. “Blow...it...up!” It was muffled but slightly audible as Borat attempted to stir the remaining mana within his body to force a self destruct, hoping to distract the Night Fox that was holding him down.

However, he had no idea that the Dark Elf right in front of him was superior in all aspects. Physically and magically, perhaps intellectual as well but it was never proven until Tinda who was welding magic at her fingertips suddenly closed them together.

It caused the binds that were holding him to turn into a ball of magic vines and subsequently squeeze him with a velocity and strength that outmatched being hit by the speed of a racing car. His self destruction sequence had initiated but it was contained within the magical ball of vines.

All the Demon Rats could see was a flash of light emanating out of the ball and subsequently, blood dripping out of it. Dr Transquick sighed but told the rest to work hard to move all the items into the portals immediately. The rest of the Night Foxes were feared by the researchers but the researchers were doing their best to remain calm while working hand in hand with their new allies.

It was a brutal show of force but Tinda deemed it necessary although Narris begged to differ. No doubt, all of this were also transmitted in real time to Kraft as he watched it live via the System channel as he trampled the mages who attempted to murder him.

Evidently, the Devil himself was enjoying the show more than he should, knowing that the Night Foxes, especially Tinda had made the right choice to show her might against the Demon Rat Researchers.

“After all, they are going to be mine. Then we will show Jin’s Science Branch that Kraft’s sciency rats are better than theirs by miles... Heheh not to mention all the experimental gadgets they could allow me to use and then I might be able to have a rematch against Jin to have a clear victory.” Kraft giggled to himself as he started to plan a list of agendas for his new science team while he massacred the rest of the mages that popped up.

Whether he forgot it or not, Jin and the System were watching him and his team the entire time. He was relieved that more Birth Mothers were rescued as well as having the corpse catcher technology available for analysis. However, he was a little mixed in the opinion of allowing Kraft to have his very own research team.

“But it could be a good thing...considering how he always pesters Ayse and Weslie to make something crazy for him and delays the rest of the science branch’s main priorities. Besides, some competition might be healthy for the development of the store.” Jin thought to himself and also started to think about what he could do for the coming future.

### **Chapter 1398: A Few Questions**

The third night of endless fighting continued and with the unexpected alliance of the Demon Rat Researchers, Jin felt that he could finally take a breather from the war for a while. The fight would undoubtedly continue through but he felt that he had already gained more than he would have wanted from this particular war.

To be able to find the ‘source’ of the Demon Rats, their Birth Mothers and with the science team under Kraft’s lead, Jin could annihilate the rest with a rush of troops or even hit the big red button and destroy their main communication headquarters. After which, he could easily send a massive bombardment of missiles from all the money he had earned from the entire PandaVerse Festival.

The only problem was that he did not find that it was useful because every single minion under his disposal was vying and itching to have a piece of the fight. Everyone was preparing for this day and it would be an injustice for his minions to not be able to have a taste of the battle that they had been training so hard for.

Thus, Jin had decided to leave it to the System to handle the rest of the fight since he believed it would be best for his second in command to take over while he handled something more ...delicate. For your information, he did not pass it to Kraft because that self proclaimed had no right to it no matter how much he declared that he had the right to do so. Moloch came in to fill in the seat for Jin. (Although it

was evident that the crafty devil always loved to poke his fingers into things that were not his. Thankfully, Moloch had sufficient experience to shoo him away.)

Jin went to the temporary instance in the World of Sanctums, where he housed all of his minions, in order to talk to Dr Transquick who was busy filtering out all the documents they had haphazardly thrown into the instance when Kraft told them to do so. (That Fox had bought more than enough time for them but it was a mere habit of him to rush those who didn't know him.)

But just as he was about to speak to the Demon Rat Research, Kraft suddenly emerged right behind Jin just as he tried to spook Moloch to give his command away to him. "No, Kraft. I am not stealing your 'prized loot' away. I just need to talk to him with regards to the Farming World."

"Damn, and here I thought I could give a grand speech about how I found the perfect being of science and later demanded a trial of honour- a battle to the death for real so that I can have my rematch." Kraft instantly yawned at the current situation and decided to back off.

"I will give you sufficient funds for you to start up your own lab, Kraft. I find that the prospects of having two science teams cooperating and at times doing their own unique projects would bring some healthy competition to the table. Besides, we needed more dudes knowledgeable in engineering and your Demon Rats are actually something I honestly had hoped we could get as spoils of war." Jin told him that he frankly did not believe they would be able to get the Demon Rat Researchers considering their soldiers' behaviour.

"Considering that Mage General Prideblood had decided to dispose of us instead of sending guards to protect us, I figured that it was the right decision for the rest of my research team to change the hand that feeds us. Besides, the contract that our...new leader-" Transquick had to clear his throat after saying those last two words.

"The contract was comprehensive but it was equivalent to submitting to slavery in exchange for generous amounts of funds for our research. Still, I find that this is fair considering that we are guaranteed the same treatment as the rest of your... the monsters under your command." Transquick said and Kraft laughed. Even Jin could not bring himself to say that it was not exactly equal especially when the entire Demon Rat Research Team will fall under Kraft's explicit tutelage.

Still, if they were a bunch of people who were curious about the outside world, they would definitely flourish under his pressuring demands for new and crazy gadgets.

"In any case, the objective of meeting you here is not to goad or confirm your 'slavery'. I am more concerned with information that I desperately need. Things like where are the North and South scholars or what is the objective of digging so deep to access the lifestream. Why do you Demon Rats wish to eradicate the rest of the human population."

"That's a lot of questions to answer even for a smart rat." Kraft joked but Transquick did his best to explain whatever he could since he had already been inundated into the System. The first question was easy to explain especially when he was the few who utilised the scholars' magical artefacts and were able to sense the loss of mana rights from those items.

Even though the news eventually reached him, the research team already knew what was coming and they were cranking up their projects to make sure that they could replicate the effects of those magical artefacts they were using.

“Those Warmongers had no idea the kind of situation that would happen when they killed the scholars. They only wanted power and they got it at the expense of the entire society. That was also when I felt that we might lose the war when we saw the kind of armaments you humans brought into the fight.” Transquick said as he had prepared dozens of escape routes which involved the use of the magical artefacts but Jin’s monsters had unknowingly destroyed them when they raided the caves and hideouts according to the System’s scan of the Northern Region.

Jin asked the System if his minions had managed to acquire any of such magical artefacts and the System said that it did not have the time to sort it out. “All items the minions had looted were stored in a temporary instance and would be sorted out on a later date when the war had been officially concluded.” The System reported.

“Well, that is not as important as the second question you asked,” Transquick said as he asked Jin to follow him. “My machine will show you the answers that you seek.”

### **Chapter 1399: The Lifestream**

“The Lifestream of the Farming World is what sustained this unique world. The plants that grow with the lifestream’s energy were the thing that created the substance it formed.” Transquick said as he asked one of his assistants where ‘that’ machine had been placed in the current instance.

The assistant quickly pointed further south, stating that the machine under the veiled cloth was the thing that the Doc was looking for. “So, upon learning that the lifestream was probably the thing that created us, living beings from plants, we thought that this planet should be ours, not the humans. That thought was further cemented by the now deceased scholars when we later learned that we are the only living things that grew from the ground.”

“The scholar assistants named us as abominations, as demons rather than something of a miracle. Only the scholars knew our worth but if the majority had such perception, we might not be able to live.” Transquick said as he looked at the clothed machinery.

“Then perhaps we decided that we need to craft out a land for ourselves...so that we can call it our home. The northern region was the best choice given how lush it is but the only problem was that there were many dangers lurking within it. But given our nature, the North Scholar decided to shelter us in various hideouts while growing in numbers to kill threats.”

“Soon, we also treated humans as threats since they thought that we were monsters just as how they heard rumours of talking monsters in the south.” He pulled the cloth down and all it revealed was a square metal box. Jin was expecting more but he decided to allow Transquick to continue his monologue.

“Some of the rats thought, maybe it’s because they did not know how it feels to be an animal and my predecessor had somehow managed to concoct a potion through the blood of a unique shapeshifter monster we had killed during our hunts. The only problem with that potion was when the person imbibed it once, the effects would be irreversible.”



“It felt like karma at work when we saw how the humans, terrified of their own people, shapeshifted into another animal. But it got us thinking about how weak minded those humans were and we decided that eradicating them would be the best course of action. Perhaps, those monsters were not the menace to us and rather it was the humans.”

“So we decided to kill them all. But we never realised that those humans played an important factor in the creation of our lives.”

“Hmm... I am guessing it’s something like the third law of Newton erm... there is a certain symmetry in nature.” Jin said and Transquick agreed with what he was trying to imply.

“So we decided to study the lifestream, to see if we can manipulate it to our advantage. To make the story short, the life and death of humans were needed to have a healthy sum of life stream within the Farming World but we found that it was too tedious. Humans needed more time to grow and kill. We do not have the time and the resources to spare for that.”

“If they were ever judged under your international criminal court, their entire race would be eradicated on counts for blatant human massacres.” Kraft was indirectly hinting that Jin was harbouring beings far worse than serial killers.

“Thus, we found the way to fuse human reproduction to our rat race and that was how the Birth Mothers were created. We can skip the lifestream portion but we are not able to skip the consequences of the life and death cycle.” Transquick finally turned on the machine and it lit up to show a woman in stasis within the metal box.

And with a few buttons, machine arms emerged from the sides to take shots of blood from her body.

“We have infused a huge amount of lifestream into a human just for experimentation purposes and we found that it gradually changed the human into something different.”

“An entirely new breed, a superhuman. In fact, super is such an understatement that we might as well call them ultrahuman. Able to regenerate not just what we need but also capable of generating additional lifestream energy. It was revolutionary.” Transquick said as he showed Jin his greatest product.

“Oh just in case you are thinking whether I am encasing an ultrahuman in there. You are not wrong or right. It’s a clone cell that somehow managed to look like her. We checked and there was no brain in her at all. There were no other organs except a beating heart. No matter how many times we scanned, no development of peripheral organs was seen. It was filled with just bones and muscles and lots of blood vessels producing a hell lot of lifestream energy.”

“Then the original?”

“Killed. Even the scholars found her too scary an ‘object’ for her to live or be in the wrong hands. Whether it’s in our hands or the humans. The research team concurred but the thing was that the current roster of war generals consumed her flesh before she was incinerated.”

“What are you trying to say?”

“Lots. But to answer your initial question. The fascination for the lifestream energy was to get the Demon Rats out of it and hell, to weaponize as well as you might have already seen in action.”

Transquick answered but Jin had way too many queries within his mind, waiting for Transquick to showcase his product in more detail.

And yet the scariest thing happened as the 'human' started to move and all the rats who were in the know of this particular artefact were all taken aback by it. Some of them even trembled in fear and that included Transquick since he spent all his life trying to unlock the mystery of this particular project left by his predecessor and this was the first he saw the 'human' moving.

"Is it because it was moving because there are humans around? But I have tried that before... unless..."  
The Doc stared at Jin and he might be the key to this mystery.

### **Chapter 1400: Yggdrasil**

The inhuman within the metal box continued to shake vigorously as if actively seeking out something, especially in the direction of Jin. The shaking got even more violent as each second passed and it began to release a dangerously high level of lifestream energy which was unprecedented even to the Demon Rats' knowledge. It was dense enough that the metal box encasing the inhuman started to leak lifestream energy out of it which had never happened before.

The Demon Rat researchers stopped what they were doing and tried to salvage the situation by trying to pick up any device and gadgets that were able to measure lifestream energy and started to do some measurements.

It was initially minimal but it somehow started to increase exponentially that Transquick eventually became transfixed by the whole situation. However, his assistants, who seem to be wary of the danger of the lifestream energy that they tried to fiddle with the metal box's console, attempting to activate additional security locks.

However, the magical artefact created by the previous generation of Demon Rats malfunctioned from the pressure of lifestream energy that had emanated from it. Some of the senior Demon Rat Researchers tried to use some immobilisation devices that they threw into the instance to pacify the magical artefact.

There was a gadget that takes in the lifestream energy like a vacuum cleaner but it was full almost instantaneously. Another gadget used by the senior Demon Rat Researchers tried to encapsulate the problem with another 'metal box' however before it could even be secured, all sides of the 'metal box' flew several metres away. They did not know whether it was the presence of a new metal box artefact or just the exponential pattern of the lifestream energy emanating that caused the new metal box artefact to not work.

The only thing they knew was that it was getting dangerous and everyone desperately tried to run away from it with the exception of Transquick, Jin and Kraft who did not move away from their position since the start of this odd situation. (Funny enough, the Demon Rat Researchers valued their research materials so much that they tried to carry them close to their chest, hoping not to be destroyed by this current development of events.)

The System queried whether any intervention was needed but Jin shook his head.

“I had this feeling before when I was fighting in the Farming World. It was faint but undoubtedly the very same feeling when I was near a Lifestream vein.” Jin said as he too utilised his Maqi in an attempt to connect with the Lifestream energies around him.

Transquick watched how Jin’s internal energies started to shape the lifestream energies around him and mentally noted how they interacted with each other. Considering he had no information on how Jin’s energies were working, he had some inkling that it had to do with all that power that the humans had been portraying during the war.

While he was far from the answer, the fact that he could sense some magic within Jin’s energy caused most of his theories of how magic was not compatible with the lifestream energies to be nullified. Yet, he was amazed by the sight as the lifestream energies began to take shape right in front of Jin.

It was not very obvious at the start but subsequently, they could see the silhouette of a tree being formed from the lifestream energies with the metal box artefact at the centre of it all.

Perhaps, it was due to Jin’s knowledge of mythical lore that allowed the lifestream energies to take the shape of a giant tree spirit but the name ‘Yggdrasil’ had been at the tip of his tongue for the longest time ever since he was touched by the lifestream.

“Looks like it was desperately trying to communicate to you rather than it being a threat,” Kraft said despite the creepiness of a faceless head moving within the metal box. Jin then decided to pour in even more Maqi energies while focusing on the thought of communication, hoping that the lifestream energies could interact with it.

“Than- Thank you.” The tree spirit silhouette spoked and moved as if a spring wind blew through its grand old branches. But at that moment, Jin requested the System to call for Shu, their local magical Treant to be on the site as well.

“What do you call me for? You want more roots and not sending me to battle- Oh Holiest mother of gods. What the heck is that?!” Shu exclaimed as he could feel the pressure of the lifestream pressing him down the moment he got teleported into the instance.

“I thought a tree like you can communicate with another tree better.”

“Are you being a Tree-ist?” Shu said but he could already feel the lifestream energies umbrella over his presence like a mother embracing her child.

“Shit, you are right,” Shu said as he started to receive information from the tree spirit, it was visibly apparent that having Shu around had indeed made things even more convenient for the Yggdrasil to communicate. Despite its intense aura, Jin felt that this was actually its final bit of strength or even perhaps a last ditch attempt to communicate.

“Transmitting the data all to the System, because I am not going to interpret this set of overwhelming information all by myself,” Shu exclaimed and the moment Yggsdrasil completed its transmission, it whispered another faint thank you to Jin before disappearing right before their eyes. All the lifestream energy dissipated throughout the instance however because it was a self contained room, Most of the lifestream energies were eventually absorbed by the Demon Rat Researchers.

However, that did not mean the System did not take the opportunity to gather some for its own analysis. Yet, what was more pressing was the information given by the Life Tree itself.

“Long story short, good job, Jin...?” Shu shrugged his branches and told them that the Farming World was indeed dying from the recent mass exploitation of the lifestream energies.