

Esper 391

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Chapter 391: Preying the Predator

"Can you stand up for a second? My legs feel numb, so I think I will stand the rest of the way," Rudy said calmly.

"Don't you think it's too late to ask that?"

"It's a normal phenomenon. I cannot help it."

Lucy leaned her back on Rudy and said, "I don't mind it."

"...."

'We are talking about numb legs, right?' Rudy asked himself.

After a few minutes of riding, Lucy got off from Rudy, and Rudy got off the bus. They walked their way to their house and took the shortest route to reach there as soon as possible.

Lucy hurriedly opened the door and went in, but Rudy stood outside.

"What's wrong?" she asked while looking back at him.

"I will be there in a second."

Lucy shot a glance at Rudy's crotch and said, "Yeah. Come in when it's calm down."

"..."

Rudy placed his hand on his little brother and muttered, "I can't remember the last time I had abstained this much."

He patted his little brother and said, "Don't worry. I will let you out to explore a cave soon."

"Angelica, are you awake?" he asked calmly.

But there was no reply.

"Angelica?"

He waited for a few seconds, but he was met with silence.

'What is it?' Angelica suddenly spoke, but her voice sounded sleepy.

"Did I wake you up?"

'Yeah. But I had a nice sleep. What's up? Why are you outside the house? Are we going to gamble already?'

"No. We still have two hours and a few more minutes."

'So why are you outside? Wait...!' After a brief pause, Angelica came out of Rudy's body and said, "Don't tell me you made moves on your mom, and she kicked you out?"

"No. Of course not. Why would you even jump to such conclusions?"

"The last time we talked, you were talking about making moves on her. So I thought..." Angelica shrugged her shoulders without completing her sentence.

"I didn't. Not so soon. Also, I don't think she would kick me out even if I made moves on her, you know?" he said with a confident look on his face.

"Oh? You seem awfully confident about that. Why don't you go inside and kiss her on the lips to prove it?"

"No thanks." Rudy smacked Angelica lightly on the head and said, "I went out with Lucy."

"A... date...?" she asked with a baffled look on her face. "Ever since you returned from the vampire world, you have become... more of a man of culture. First, you make moves on your mother and now on your sister. You got the entire family package."

"..." Rudy smacked Angelica once again and said, "I just went with her to the next city to fetch the cat from the vet."

"Oh! A real pet?!" she exclaimed. "Why did you get a pet? You already have me as your pet, and I provide you with everything you need!"

"Not my pet, you idiot. I am talking about Lucy's cat."

"Hmm? She has a cat? She didn't seem like a person who would have a pet."

"Don't fall for her looks. She may look innocent, but she is... like a toned-down version on you," he said awkwardly.

Angelica frowned her face and said, "What do you mean?!"

"She is secretly a closet pervert. But only sometimes. It's like her horny switch suddenly gets on at random times."

"She is Paul's sister, so maybe she is just like him?"

"Nah. She is innocent from inside and doesn't mean any harm."

"I wonder how Paul and Lucy turned out to be like that. Certainly not after Joe since he is like a.... I don't know if it would be offensive to say, but he is like a beta character you would often see in anime."

Rudy shook his head in disbelief and uttered, "I will have to decrease your watch time. It's influencing you."

"What do you mean?! Then you should also stop watching porn! It has influenced you so much that you lust after your mom and sister!"

Rudy was glad from the bottom of his heart that no one could hear Angelica.

"I don't even watch porn ever since I had sex with you."

"But you did in your past life, right? And what about the adult visual novels you play at Eric's house?" she asked with a knowing look on her face.

"Anyway." Rudy dodged the topic like a professional and said, "Lucy might have taken after her mother. I mean, she left Joe after he became impotent, so..."

He shrugged his shoulders and continued, "I am not judging her, by the way."

"When did he become impotent, though?" Angelica asked curiously.

"I don't know. But I think it was a year after Lucy was born. So... seventeen years ago?" Rudy wondered.

"So she must be young at that time. I guess it makes sense that she left him."

"Oh, she didn't leave him right after he became impotent. She first had to settle down and even raised Lucy."

"Well, I don't really care about all that. Let's go in." Angelica puckered her lips and said, "I just woke up, and I need breakfast."

"I am not sure if the dinner is ready or not. It's not even 7 PM yet."

Angelica rubbed Rudy's crotch and said, "I am talking about this breakfast."

"Oh. Yeah. Then forget about breakfast. I will give you supper and dinner too. But first, I have to take care of something," he said while looking at the sky.

"What?"

"Just watch."

Rudy took a deep breath and blew air from his mouth. It was so powerful that he pushed all the clouds away from the sky and revealed a beautiful starry sky.

"Hehe!" He smirked and said, "Lucy, you think you are playing with me. But you are wrong. I am the one who is playing with you. You are not a predator, but a prey."

Rudy entered the house and went straight to the bathroom to take a long bath. Although he did something else with Angelica in the bathroom.

Seriously, he was putting the bathroom to good use.

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Chapter 392: Gambling Time

It was nighttime, and Rudy was about to leave for the VIP club tournament at the casino. However, it wasn't 9 PM yet, and Lucy was awake, watching television downstairs.

Rebecca had already left for her work after eating dinner, but Lucy wanted to watch her favorite show. She invited Rudy, and he would have loved to join her, but he had more important things to do.

Rudy quietly walked down the stairs and peeked from the corner to see Lucy was immersed in watching the television. Normally, he would have teleported directly near the casino, but he couldn't with Lucy in the house.

If she needed something and went to his room only to find it empty, things could get messy, so he had to inform her that he was going out.

After reaching the living room, Rudy cleared his throat to make his presence known.

Lucy muted the volume and glanced at Rudy with a mixed expression on her face.

"What?" she asked. She tapped her hand on the couch beside her and said, "Come. Sit."

"I am not. I am going out and will be back by the morning."

"Wait, what? Where are you going at night?"

"I have things to do." Rudy could have just lied and said that he was going to Eric's house, but he didn't want to lie when there was no need to.

"Well, I don't want to pry much, so... good luck, I guess?" she shrugged.

"Thanks."

"Wait, does your mom know about it?"

"She probably does but not mentioning it."

"Okay."

"Lock the doors after I leave and call—"

Lucy interrupted Rudy and said, "Call you if anything happens. Got it."

"Heh." Rudy chuckled and left the house.

Angelica came out of his body and asked, "Your mom knows that you are sneaking out at night?"

"She has to know. You noticed that she always tries to dodge or avoid the topic whenever I try to tell her about my powers and stuff. And she didn't even ask where I was when I was in the vampire world."

"It's like... she doesn't care..." Angelica muttered.

"Or maybe the contrary. She cares, and that's why she doesn't ask."

Rudy teleported near the casino and called Maria.

After a few rings, she picked up the call and said. [I will be there in five minutes. Wait for me in the lobby.]

After saying that, she hung up the call and didn't even listen to what Rudy had to say.

"What are you going to do about your hair?" Angelica asked curiously. "You are pretending to be a girl, right?"

"I can just wear a hoodie like I did in the bank," Rudy shrugged.

He walked past the guards while waving his casino pass and went straight to the counter.

"Hey there, how are you doing?" he asked the man at the counter.

SIGH!

"You again. What do you want? The matches are on the other side, not here," the staff uttered in an annoyed tone.

"I wanted to ask about something."

"What?"

"Do you know anything about the VVIP underworld tournament?"

The man's face turned pale after hearing that. He gulped down nervously and said, "We don't talk about it."

"That's why I am asking."

"I don't know anything about it." The man turned around and walked away to the other side of the counter after saying, "You should ask the ones who have been in the underworld."

'Well, I didn't expect an answer in the first place, so I can't say I am disappointed. I was just trying to pass some time while Maria arrived.'

SIGH!

He let out a short sigh and watched the game of the other gamblers. For Rudy, watching was a part of learning. He was memorizing their way of playing and the pattern of bidding.

Of course, he heard their thoughts, too, but his telepathic ability was still unreliable. He always used mind reading whenever he wanted to read someone's mind, but he had to touch the said person to do that, and he wouldn't want to touch strangers.

Rudy waited for two minutes, and Maria arrived earlier than the promised time. She rushed to Rudy and said, "Sorry I am late."

"It's okay. The tournament hasn't started yet. And I am sure you were doing something important that you arrived late," Rudy said calmly.

"Yea...h..." Maria said while averting her gaze.

'Oh... well, well. Looks like it wasn't an important thing,' Rudy uttered inwardly and then asked, "What were you doing, by the way?"

"I was... er... handing some crucial stuff about the future of the syndicate," she replied awkwardly.

"Oh. I see."

"Fine, I was lying." Maria looked into Rudy's eyes before breaking her eye contact and said, "I was watching television."

"Heh!" Rudy scoffed softly and patted Maria on the head. "You are just like a normal girl, after all."

"But it's not my fault! The show aired 10 minutes later than the usual time, and then I—"

"It's okay." Rudy smiled gently at Maria and said, "You don't have to explain everything. I am not your dad."

"But I am your sugar mama, right?" she asked with a knowing look on her face.

"Let's not talk about that."

Maria looked at the time and said, "The tournament has started. Let's go."

Rudy and Maria walked into the VIP club room with hundreds of other gamblers.

"How many participants are there today?" he asked curiously.

"More than a thousand. And there will only be one winner."

"And that's going to be us." Rudy paused for a second and said, "Once we have won this, we will enter the underground gambling tournaments."

'Just one more step! After tonight, I will have access to the underground! My plan will finally be in action, and it will take the entire underground by a storm!'

"Don't get too excited. And don't underestimate your opponents. They are more or less used to gambling, while you are... well, I can't really call you a newbie, but you don't know everything about gambling yet," Maria remarked.

Rudy sucked his teeth and made a 'tch!' noise before saying, "I bet to differ."

"That's supposed to be 'I beg to differ'," Maria corrected Rudy.

His sarcasm had failed to reach Maria.

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Chapter 393: VIP Club Gambling Tournament

Ten hours after the VIP club gambling tournament began.

There were all kinds of games and gamblers. It was a one-versus-one match against each other, and the selection was made randomly.

There were a total of 1138 players when the tournament started ten hours ago, and only half of them, 569, qualified for the second round. One after another, the players either got disqualified or entered the next round.

After ten hours, only 4 players remained, and it was the semi-final match.

Rudy was sitting in the chair with a haughty look on his face while Maria was quietly sitting beside him.

They were looking at his opponent, who was the winner of last year's VIP club gambling tournament, and she was supposed to win this year, too, if she hadn't crossed her path with Rudy.

Rudy smirked and said, "I bet one million dollars on this round."

"Wha..."

"Call it and face me. Or fold it and save yourself from the humiliation," he added.

His opponent gritted her teeth and said, "Call."

"Heh."

The dealer raised his hand and said, "Reveal your cards."

Rudy's opponent placed her card on the table and laughed out loud with an arrogant smirk on her face. She had the '4-5-6-7-8' cards.

"Too bad! I was just acting like that, so you would bid higher! I had a straight flush! And there is no way—"

Rudy threw his card on the table and said, "Royal flush."

His opponent's face turned pale as she looked at the cards.

"10-J-Q-K-A!" She read with a baffled look on her face. She slammed her hands on the table and said, "Impossible! How can you have those cards! You can't be that lucky!"

Rudy simply shrugged his hands in return.

She turned to the dealer and yelled, "You are cheating!"

She pointed her finger at Maria and said, "This girl is the sister of the owner of this casino! You all are in this together and preventing the real gamblers from winning!"

The leader stared at the girl with an emotionless face and said, "Cheating in gambling and casinos is a normal practice. But not in this casino. I have no need to prove it to you, but if you have any problem, you can go to Master Rusher himself."

"I..." She let out a sigh and glared at Rudy. "Don't get so cocky because you won against me. You still have to fight that 'man' in the finale, and no one has ever beaten him in the club tournament!"

"How about you stay and witness how I defeat him?" Rudy scoffed arrogantly.

She flicked her hair and said, "There is no need to. I only care about myself. And I lost to you. I have no interest in who wins if I am not the winner."

After saying that, she walked away.

"Wow. She was so arrogant even after she lost," Rudy commented.

"That's why I asked you to play arrogant to get on her nerves." Maria shrugged her shoulders and said, "Sometimes, the medicine itself is poison."

The dealer transferred the money into Rudy's casino card and said, "The final match of this tournament will start in ten minutes. Prepare yourself. Of course, you can also forfeit now if you want, and you will have all the winnings you have won so far."

"You should say that to the other guy."

Maria and Rudy left and relaxed on the couch. There was a huge television on the wall, and it was live streaming the matches from the other casinos all around the world.

"Not going to lie, I had no idea this gambling market was so huge..." Rudy muttered.

"One often knows nothing about something unless they search for it," Maria stated.

"Wow. Thanks, Miss Obvious."

Maria puffed her cheeks and glared at Rudy.

Rudy poked his fingers on her puffed cheeks and said, "You know, you don't have to accompany me in all the matches. You can just chill and relax."

"I love watching gambling matches, especially the ones you play. You always turned the table around at the last moment. It's so fun to watch your opponents' faces turn pale!"

"I won't deny that. Gambling is indeed fun and addictive, but only if you are the one winning. Fortunately, I haven't lost even a single match."

Maria leaned on Rudy and said, "That's because of your super luck."

"You are still hung up on that?"

"Come on. How else would you explain that? No matter how professional a gambler you are, you are bound to lose at least one match." She nudged him repeatedly and said, "Luck plays a significant role in gambling."

"Okay, Sugar mama."

"Argh!" Maria let out a short groan and uttered, "I am not really sure if I am your sugar mama now or not. I didn't make fun of you today, and you still managed to win three million dollars today."

"We will win more soon."

"At this rate, you don't need me. You can do everything alone," she muttered with a gloomy face.

"Not true. I need you beside me, or I wouldn't be able to stay calm."

Maria glanced at him and asked with a judging look on her face, "Is that so?"

"Yes. You keep saying I am super lucky, but maybe you are my lucky charm?" he asked with a grin on his face.

"...!" Maria's face suddenly flushed red after hearing that. She buried her face under her knees and hugged her legs.

"That was clearly a pick-up line, you know?" Angelica commented, who had been running around the casino and watching everyone's matches.

Rudy shrugged his shoulders in response as he couldn't say anything with Maria sitting beside him.

"Are you aiming for her too?" Angelica asked curiously. "Not going to lie, she will be a fine harem member. You will have tons of money and security too."

Maria peeked at Rudy from the gap and muttered, "Say, do you want to gamble with me?"

"What type of gamble?" Rudy asked calmly.

"A gamble of life," she asserted.

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Chapter 394: Gamble of Life

"A gamble of life?" Rudy repeated Maria's words and asked, "What's that? We gamble for our life?"

"Yes," she nodded without looking at Rudy.

"Uhh... I have no interest in betting my life, and I am not going to let you bet yours either," Rudy asserted in a solemn voice.

"Oh, no. My bad. I don't mean a gamble of life and death. It was more like a gamble where the winners got to owe the loser their entire life. They make every decision of their life," Maria stated.

"That sounds like slavery which is super illegal," Rudy remarked.

"You can call it slavery, and it's not illegal in the underworld. When someone loses the gamble or life or if they have run out of money or the things to bet, they become a slave until the debt has been repaid.

Sometimes, fathers sell their daughters, husbands sell their wives, mothers sell their sons, and they sell themselves too. It is not a rare occurrence in the underworld. I wish I had never known this dark side of gambling," she said in a low voice.

Rudy raised his brow and asked, "And still, you want to do that with me?"

"Because... I want to..." she muttered. "That's the only way."

"Just curious, what would you do if I won?"

"I will become your slave, and you will owe me. You can order me anything to do," Maria replied with a shrug.

"And... what if I lose?" he asked with a judging look on her face.

"I will order you to do something you otherwise wouldn't do. But I won't order you around..."

"Oh?"

"To be honest..." She looked into Rudy's eyes and said, "It will be a win-win situation for me regardless of who won."

"And what would you make me do if you won?"

Maria puckered her lips and said, "I would ask you to kiss me..."

Rudy couldn't help but chuckle after Maria's innocence.

"Why are you laughing?!" She hissed. "It's not funny! It took me so much courage to say it out loud, you know?!"

"I am laughing at how pure you are. You would have the opportunity to make me do anything you want, and you would waste it for something like a kiss," Rudy scoffed softly.

Maria puffed her cheeks and uttered, "Even that is too much for me. What would 'you' ask me to do if you won? I doubt you would ask for money since you had countless chances to use my card and spend millions if you wanted money."

"Hmm~" Rudy hummed in wonder while smiling at Maria and said, "I don't know what I would ask you to do. But know that it wouldn't be something so pure as a kiss. I would ask for much more illicit things."

"..." Maria gulped down nervously and said, "Like...? You would ask me to make a baby with you?"

"Ahaha!" Rudy laughed out loud while repeatedly banging his hand on the handrest on the couch. "I knew you would say it like that, but still... It was so funny and cute!"

Maria furrowed her brows in anger and moved away to the other side of the couch.

Rudy stopped laughing and slowly moved towards Maria. A few seconds later, he got beside Maria and wrapped his arm around her shoulders.

"Go away! I am angry at you."

"Is that so?" He moved his face close to her ears and said, "And here I was thinking of agreeing to play the gamble of death with you."

"Really?!" Maria suddenly lost all her anger and turned to Rudy with a happy smile on her face.

"No, I was joking," he replied with a grin. "You will have to promise me that you will never play such games, no matter your circumstances. If you ever need help, just hit me up. I will be there in less than a second," he said solemnly.

"Okay..."

"And if you want to kiss me, you can just ask for it, you know?"

"Nice joke. I bet you will make fun of me again. Hmph!"

"No, I am not. If you truly want to kiss me, then as long as you do that by the count of ten, I won't stop you."

After a brief pause, he began the countdown: "Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six—"

"Wait, wait, wait! It's too sudden. You need to give me more time to mentally prepare myself!"

"Time doesn't wait for anyone, Miss Maria. You may never get another chance if you don't grasp the opportunity given to you at the right time."

"...."

"Five. Four. Three. Two—"

"Wait, wait. I am ready. I am ready, so stop counting. It's making me more nervous."

Rudy stopped counting and waited for Maria to kiss him.

"Go ahead."

Maria took a deep breath and puckered her lips as she moved her face closer to Rudy. She closed her eyes out of embarrassment and held Rudy's face in her hands.

"Rudy. Rudy!"

However, just when Maria was about to kiss Rudy, Angelica called out to him and said, "Someone is coming this way!" she said.

Rudy glanced in the direction Angelica was pointing her finger at and saw Rusher was on his way.

'Oh great!' Rudy pulled Maria close to her, and instead of kissing her, he hugged her.

"...!" Maria was shocked, and she thought Rudy was teasing her by playing with her feelings. But when she noticed Rusher standing in front of her, her face turned pale, and she gulped down anxiously.

"Hello... brother..."

Rusher frowned his face and asked, "What's going on here?"

"Uhh..." Maria was unable to speak. She had never been in such a situation and wasn't mentally prepared for that.

Rudy turned to Rusher and said, "She was helping me."

"How was that helping?"

"You see, now I am going to the final match of this tournament, and I am so nervous. Maria was just reassuring me that everything will be alright," he asserted in a feminine voice.

"Oh... right. I won't blame you for being nervous. After all, you will fight the all-time champion of underground gambling."

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Chapter 395: Finale of the VIP Club Tournament

"All-time champion of not the VIP club tournament, but the underground tournament?" Rudy asked.

"Yes. His name is Roid, and he even reached the VVIP underground tournament a few years ago. But after losing in the first round, he took a break from gambling for a while and finally returned this year," Rusher stated.

"Are you implying that I will lose?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face.

Rusher shrugged his shoulders and said, "There are high chances of him winning, yes."

"Hmm~" Rudy hummed in amusement and said, "Then I guess you will be disappointed because I am going to win."

Rusher looked at the clock on his wrist and said, "The final match is about to start. Let's go."

"You are coming too, brother?" Maria asked curiously.

"You have never been in the VIP club tournament, so you may not know this, but the dealer of the final match of the VIP club tournament of the casino is always the owner of the casino," Rusher stated with a smile on his face.

'He made a simple sentence so complicated,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"It's a custom," Rusher shortly added.

'You should have started with that!'

Rudy, Maria, and Rusher made their way to the innermost room of the casino, where no one was ever allowed, not even the VIP club members. That room was used when high-ranking gamblers reserved it for gambling. And during the final match of the VIP club tournament.

No one was allowed in the room other than the participants. Only Rudy, Roid, and Rusher who was the dealer of the match. Even Maria wasn't allowed to enter there and had to watch the game from a transparent wide window like everyone else.

However, Angelica was obviously getting a special treat and seat, which was Rudy's lap.

Rudy and Roid sat in front of each other on their respective chairs, and Rusher stood between them alongside the table.

"What game would you like to play?" Rusher asked while glancing back and forth at Roid and Rudy.

"I am fine with anything," Rudy replied.

He did to make himself look confident enough to waver Roid's confidence.

Rusher turned to Roid and asked, "What about you, Roid?"

"I am also fine with anything. But let's do rock paper scissors."

'Rock. Paper. Scissors? Is he being serious?' Rudy uttered inwardly. 'This is the final match of the VIP club tournament, and everything is at stake. Yet, this guy wants to play rock, paper, scissors?!'

"However, it won't be the simple old rock, paper, scissors," Roid added. "We will play that with a card. You and I will be given cards, and then we will draw each of them out at the same time.

The standard rules of rock, paper, and scissors are, of course, applied here too. Paper will beat the rock, the rock will beat the scissor, and the scissor will beat the paper.

The only twist is that neither of us knows what card we choose. It will depend solely on luck."

Roid explained the game.

"How many rounds? Best out of three?" Rudy asked curiously.

"No. As long as the opponent runs out of money, or he gives up," Roid responded. "Of course, if it ends up being a draw, we will keep playing."

"Sounds good. But one more question, you said we will be given cards. So what if we never get a beating card? What if I get three papers while you get three scissors? Then I am bound to lose. How is your game going to justify that?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face.

"An excellent question. To prevent that from happening, there will be a deck of cards on the side from where we will draw an extra card. However, that won't be for free. One card will cost 10% of the betting amount.

For example, if you bet one million and I bet one million, the winner will win one million. Obviously. But if either of us takes one card from the deck, you will have to pay One hundred thousand for each card."

"Hmm."

"It's fair now, right? The deck will obviously be shuffled in every round, and it will be on our luck if we draw a good card. However, it doesn't really matter if you don't know what card your opponent will play."

"Again. It depends on luck." Roid spread his arms and uttered, "I call this game a gamble of luck where the luckiest one wins."

"Indeed," Rudy nodded.

"What do you say, are you ready?" Roid asked.

Rudy looked at Rusher and asked, "Is this game valid?"

"Yeah. The rules check out everything, and this is not a new game. Just a variation on an old game. The thing is, the real rock, paper, scissor game was banned in the casino as some players were able to read the opponent's next move by looking at their hands.

So they invented this new rock, paper, and scissor game based on the cards. But no one actually played it that much as it was heavily focused on one's luck," Rusher stated calmly.

"I see."

"Are you okay with this game? You can add your own rule to this game if you want to. Or change the game entirely."

"I have one last question." Rudy raised his brow and asked, "How many times a player can draw an extra card from the deck?"

"You can add a limit to it or let it be unlimited draws," Roid replied.

"I am up for this. This game sounds exhilarating."

This game was the one true way for Rudy to confirm whether he held the ability of super luck or not. If he won without losing a single game, then he wouldn't be able to deny the fact that he possessed super luck.

However, the theory would be invalid if he lost in the end. But, if he won almost all the rounds and lost a few, he thought he would be able to get away with the fact.

The results of this final game of the VIP club tournament were going to prove the magnanimity of his limitless powers and draw a path for him to the underworld.

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Chapter 396: Rock. Paper. Scissor.

Rusher held the deck of rock, paper, and scissor cards in his hand and shuffled it at an inhumane speed.

"How many cards would you like? Of course, you can get more from the deck later, but you will have to pay for them. Also, don't forget that the money you use to draw the card from the deck will never be returned even though you win. The more cards you have in the beginning, the better."

Rusher stated while tossing the deck from one hand to another while shuffling in between the air.

"How about we toss the coin, and the winner will get to decide how many cards to distribute?" Roid suggested. "From the next round onwards, the winner of the previous round will get to decide the card distribution."

"I am fine with that," Rudy responded.

"Very well." Rusher placed the deck on the table and tossed a coin in the air. "Who will do the honor?"

"Tails for me," Rudy uttered.

The coin flipped and landed on Rusher's hand. He glanced back and forth at Rudy and Roid before revealing the result of the coin.

"It's a tail."

'Welp. My luck struck even before the match started.'

Rusher picked up the deck and asked, "How many cards?"

Rudy started into Roid's eyes and uttered, "One to each."

Rusher's eyes widened after hearing that. He had already mentioned that the key to winning this game with maximum profit was to have as many cards as possible at the start of the match. Yet, Rudy did the exact opposite and asked for only one card.

Rusher threw one card at Rudy and one at Roid.

"How much are you betting?" Rusher asked.

Roid placed his underworld VIP casino card and said with a wide smirk on his face: "I bet one hundred thousand dollars."

"Right off that bat!" Angelica exclaimed.

They looked at Rudy and waited for his response.

"What will you do? Call or fold?"

Rudy placed his VIP casino card on the table and said, "Five hundred thousand dollars."

"...!" Everyone watching the game from the outside was baffled at Rudy's action.

Roid had seen his card as soon as Rusher gave it to him. However, Rudy hadn't even bothered to check it. Not because he already knew what his card was, or he had seen Rusher's card. He was leaving everything on his luck.

"Your turn, Roid."

"..." Roid glared at Rudy and drew two cards from the deck. But he pulled one more and then one more.

After that, he tapped on his casino card and said, "I will add three hundred thousand dollars more."

Rudy did the same and said, "I will add two hundred thousand more. Making it a total one million dollar bet."

"..."

"As expected of the finale of the tournament!" someone from outside said.

"Yeah. They have money to burn!"

Maria shook her head at them and muttered, "This is why you guys always lose. Your mentality is broken beyond repair."

Rusher turned to Roid and waited for his next move, but Roid was busy glaring at Rudy. While Rudy was casually sitting on the chair.

"Call or fold, Roid?" Rusher asked. "We don't have all day. You have to make a move within a minute after your opponent."

Roid tapped his card and said, "Call."

"Rudy, are you ready to reveal your card?"

"Of course."

"One the count of three. Two. One."

Both Rudy and Roid revealed their cards at the same time, and the results shocked everyone.

Roid's card was a stone. And Rudy's card was also a stone.

"..."

'What a great start. All the impact is ruined...'

"It's a draw. Either reveal another card or increase the bet," Rusher stated.

Rudy had no other choice but to draw a card from the deck, but he didn't look at the card this time either.

"I will increase the bet by five hundred thousand dollars," he then said.

Roid tapped on his casino card and said, "Call."

"Reveal your cards."

Rudy and Roid placed their cards on the table, but this time the results were completely different from the first time.

Rudy's card was paper, and Roid's card of stone.

"The winner of this round is Rudy!" Rusher announced.

"Eek! That guy is crazy!" a gambler said from the next room.

"Not crazy. He just got too much money to bet. These people are loaded with money, and even the millions are nothing but a change for them," someone remarked.

"Could it be that you don't know?"

"Know what?"

"That other guy is a newbie. My first match was with him today, and he started with only five dollars."

"Are you kidding me?!"

"Wait, what?" Are you for real?!"

"Yeah. He made millions from just five dollars. I don't know whether he is extremely lucky or he is hiding something."

"I bet he is somehow cheating."

"Now that you mention it. The mafia girl always accompanied him to his matches. Maybe all this is a setup?"

"Yeah, that has to be it. These casinos are always the number one cheaters."

"Hey!" Someone whispered violently.

"What is it? And why are you whispering?"

"Watch your mouth. The mafia girl is standing on the other side of the room. If she heard us, we would be killed!"

The watching chamber was soundproof, but the room Rudy was gambling in wasn't. They could hear everything happening inside; it was a safety measure so no one could accuse them of cheating.

However, no one from the gambling room could hear what the viewers were talking about except Rudy. Even though that room was supposed to be soundproof, Rudy could easily listen to them.

He felt angry at how easily they jumped to conclusions and accused one another. If Rudy had lost that bet, they would have made fun of him and called him stupid. Those types of people only needed a reason to shit on someone, and they felt good thinking they were better than the other. There was no salvation for them.

Rusher grabbed all the cards from the deck and asked, "What now? Are you going to continue?"

Rudy nonchalantly stretched his hands in the air and said, "Ask him. I have already won."

Rusher turned to Roid and waited for his response.

"..." Roid gritted his teeth and slammed his casino card on the table, saying, "Of course, I am going to continue. I will continue until I win this tournament!"

"Then you better be ready to empty your pockets!" Angelica taunted.

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Chapter 397: Mad Gambler

"The winner of the last round, Rudy, will get to decide how many cards to distribute," Rusher stated.

"How many cards, Rudy?"

Rudy smirked from the corner of his lips and uttered, "One, of course."

Rusher distributed one card to Rudy and Roid, and as always, Rudy didn't bother to check.

He placed his casino card on the table and said, "I bet two million."

"Holy shit! He bet two million in the first round!" someone from outside yelled in astonishment.

Roid had no other choice but to bet that amount as he couldn't afford to be humiliated in a finale match of the VIP club tournament, which— just like every other finale match in the casinos all over the world— was being broadcast live worldwide.

Unknowingly, Rudy had already made his name well known in the gambling community.

Roid placed his casino card on the table and said, "Call."

Rudy tapped on his card and uttered, "I increase it by one million."

"...!"

"Damn! That guy is crazy! Who is that guy, again? What family does he come from?!"

"No idea. But since he is hanging out with the mafia princes of the Ross syndicate, he must be someone who holds power in the underworld."

"But I have never heard of anyone named Rudy in the underworld."

"I might have heard Ruby, but that's clearly a girl's name."

"Maybe that guy is the soon-to-be husband of the mafia princess?"

"That has to be it!"

Maria's face flushed as she heard that.

'W-Wh-What are they saying! He is not my husband... yet. But... we were about to kiss back there... right?' She placed her hand on her chest and muttered, "What if he was just teasing me?"

'Still... I couldn't believe I was going to kiss him. When I asked him about his love life, he said it's complicated. I wonder what he meant by that. I wanted to ask him but was afraid to know the truth.'

It must be some kind of forbidden relationship if it was complicated. Wait... what if the person he loves is actually me? And since I am a mafia and he is a normal person... our relationship would be complicated. Yeah, that has to be it!

Maria shook her head and let out a short sigh as she muttered, "What am I talking about? This is not a romantic tv show. Such things don't happen in real life."

Rusher turned to Roid and asked, "What's your move, Roid?"

Rusher tapped his finger on his casino card and said, "Call."

'I had three million dollars before the finale, and I just won one and half million in the last round. I now have four and half million to bet. I don't know how much Roid has, but my plan is working perfectly,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"Rudy, are you going to increase the bet or reveal your cards?" Rusher asked calmly.

Rudy tapped his finger on his casino card and said, "I will increase it by five hundred thousand dollars."

"Call!" Roid responded instantly.

'Heh!' Rudy smirked and uttered, "I will add two million dollars more. Making this bet worth four and a half million dollars."

'I have used all the money I earned today. Let's see what Roid does now.'

After a brief silence and receiving stares from everyone, Roid quietly uttered, "Call."

'Look how his arrogance has shattered, and his confidence has vanished!'

"Holy crap! They are crazy!"

"No, no. Only the guy in the hoodie is crazy. The match is in his control!"

"True, true. He is holding the rope of this match!"

"What do you think he will do next?"

"I don't know. But I think he will reveal his cards now!"

"Who knows? He is crazy. He might add another million or two."

Maria gulped down nervously and muttered, "He has used up all the money he earned today. So now he can't increase the bet even if he wanted to. Not to mention, if he loses, he will lose everything and be disqualified from this tournament."

So many things were at risk, and everything was in Rudy's hands. The betting money, the winning money, access to the underground, his plans, Maria's dreams, and many more things.

However, Rudy was unfazed. He knew how his powers worked. He needed logical reasoning and convinced himself that something like that was possible. His faith gave birth to his powers.

Thus, he needed to have faith in his luck, and his super luck would come into existence. Sure, he had super luck so far as Maria was claiming him to be, but Rudy wasn't convinced, and that's why he wasn't working at its full potential.

But now, Rudy was utterly focused on winning and depending on his super luck.

"Rudy, you are running out of time. What will you do now?"

Rudy raised his brow and wondered, 'I can just reveal my card and end this game. But... it won't be fun. Roid still has the will to continue the fight. Even if I won this round, he would continue in the next round.

I don't have that much time. It's already morning, and I am getting late for school. I also want to see, if possible, touch mom... maybe hug her, before leaving for school. But if I get late, she will go to sleep, and I will have the chance.

I have already decided to make slow moves on mom and then make big moves when the time is right. Well, putting all that aside, that won't be possible if I don't end this tournament in this match.

But... How do I break his will to continue fighting? I would have increased the bet, but I am out of money. Hmm, I guess I have no other choice but to pull my ace card.'

Rudy took a deep breath and placed a black card on the table.

Rusher's eyes widened as he immediately recognized the card.

Rudy tapped the black card and uttered, "I increase the bet by ten million dollars."

That day, Rudy gained the title of 'Mad Gambler' among the entire gambling community including the well renowned underworld.

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Chapter 398: The Winner of the VIP Club Casino Gambling Tournament

Roid slammed his hands on the table and got up from his seat as he yelled, "Ten million?! Are you out of your damn mind?! Even the reward of winning this tournament is 5 million, and you are betting fourteen and half million in one round?!"

"Oh, my bad." Rudy tapped on the black card and uttered, "I will add five hundred thousand more, making it a fifteen million dollars bet."

"You...!" Roid gritted his teeth and glared at Rudy.

"Roid. Mind your manners. It's your turn now," Rusher stated in a calm voice. "Call or fold?"

Roid drew two cards from the deck on the table, then pulled two more and one more.

After a brief silence, he sighed softly and uttered, "Call."

"Ahem!" Rudy cleared his throat and said, "I increased this bet by fifty million dollars."

"....!" Roid was obviously baffled, but even Rusher was left speechless by Rudy's action.

"See? I told you!" Someone from outside said.

"That guy is a mad gambler! No one would bet 50 million on a game that has a five million reward."

"It makes no sense to bet that much."

"That guy is either super crazy or just utterly stupid."

"Maybe his goal wasn't to win this game?" someone wondered.

"What do you mean?"

"Yeah, that makes no sense."

"Why would someone play a game if they don't want to win?"

SIGH!

Maria let out a weary sigh and shook her head at their dumbness.

'Rudy wanted to win, but not just win. He had to make his name known in history. Everyone present here and all those who witnessed this match will remember this match.

Rudy will already be famous when he enters the underworld because of what he did today. That's what Rudy is planning. He had already won this tournament the moment he decided to take out the black card.'

"Your turn, Roid." Rudy smirked widely and said, "Didn't you say you will keep playing until you win?"

Roid clenched his fists and glared at Rudy like never before.

"Roid, your turn," Rusher uttered.

Roid took a deep breath and exhaled sharply before saying, "Fold."

Rudy smirked from the corner of his lips and asked, "Shall we play another round?"

"I am done."

'Good. Very good! I have done what I had to do. Now, whenever they look at me, they will fear me.'

Rudy had won the finale of the tournament without even revealing his card. If the gamblers didn't have a reason to fear him now, they were destined to be doomed.

Rudy glanced at Rusher and asked, "So do I get the fifteen million dollars he had called before folding?"

"Obviously."

"And I have won the tournament, so how much do I currently have in my casino card?" he asked curiously.

"Are you going to count the amount you bet from the black card too?"

"Uh.. no. Excluding the betting amount, not the winning."

"You had four and half million before you used the black card, and you won fifteen million. The reward for winning this tournament was five million, so you currently have twenty-four... let's just make it

twenty-five million. You get an extra five hundred thousand dollar reward from the house for showing me an interesting match."

Rudy shrugged his shoulders and said, "I am honored."

"Do you want to take out the money in cash like the last time or keep it in the card?" Rusher asked while picking up the deck of cards from the table.

'I don't need cash. And I plan to use this money to bet in the underworld tournaments. I expect strong and rich gamblers there, so I must have as much money as I can.'

Rudy pointed his gaze at his casino card and asked, "Can I use this card in the underworld too?"

"No. You will be given another card. But the money will transfer. If you win the underworld tournament, too, you will get a new card, which holds the most value. Not only that, but the underworld casino card has its own merits.

For example, if you run out of money to bet, you can take out a loan in an instant, but of course, the interest charge will be high too."

Rudy handed his casino card to Rusher and asked, "How much money can I loan with the underworld casino card?"

"Ten million dollars and you must pay it back in a week. The next card, or rather, the last card, will be the underworld VIP casino card, which you can use to loan fifty million dollars," Rusher responded calmly.

"What about the VVIP club? It doesn't have its own card?" Rudy asked curiously.

Rusher's eyes widened after hearing that. He shook his head and replied, "No. I will go handle the transaction and announce the results of this tournament— although I am sure everyone must have already seen it.

Also, I need to register your name to the underworld. Be ready for a whole new experience. The underworld is a place for those who are prepared to lose everything."

Rusher left the room after that.

SIGH!

'He makes it sound like it's hell. I have nothing to fear. I have no reason to fear.'

Rudy got up and walked to the door with Angelica.

"Hey, wait..." Roid called out to him.

"What? Are you going to threaten me or something?" Rudy asked with a lifeless glare in his eyes.

"No." Roid lowered his gaze and asked, "Are you aiming for the VVIP tournament?"

"What if I am?"

"You shouldn't. It's not worth it."

'Maria had said the same thing when I asked her about the gamblers of the VVIP tournament. Roid should be one of them, but why are they so afraid of the VVIP tournament? I get it that it would be a massive event where only the best of the best gamblers from the globe can enter.'

Rudy raised his brow in amusement and asked, "What types of games are in the VVIP tournament?"

"I cannot... tell you. WE signed a contract before taking part in it..."

'That sounds fishy. Some shit must be going on in the VVIP tournament,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"And even if I tell you, it wouldn't matter. The games are random and decided by the mafia lord himself," Roid added.

Rudy threw a smirk at Roid and uttered, "Then you should feel honored that you got to play with the winner of the VVIP underworld gambling tournament. I will avenge you by doing what you couldn't do."

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Chapter 399: Sexting in the Casino while Gambling

Rudy was sitting on the couch in the casino while being surrounded by many gamblers. Some were taking pictures of him, while others were standing in a line to gamble with him.

Rusher had told Rudy that transferring the money and registering him into the underworld would take at least an hour. At first, Rudy decided to go home and fetch the card later as he did with the money, but he noticed he was already late for school.

So he messaged Lucy and asked her about Rebecca, only to find out that she had already fallen asleep. Lucy also said that she was on her way to her school and the doors of the house were locked.

Then, Rudy messaged Alice and told her to go to school alone. Of course, Alice was a little upset, but she didn't mind much.

Since Rebecca had already gone to bed, and he was already late for school, he changed his plans and decided to stay at the casino until his card was ready.

However, he was getting bored of waiting, and the gamblers present in the casino kept bothering him again and again. To avoid that, he challenged all of them to a match.

"Play any game you want with me. And the one who managed to defeat me will get one million dollars. If you lose, you will have to spread my name wherever you can!"

That was a tempting challenge for everyone. The gamblers had a chance to decide to challenge Rudy with the game they were best at, and they could bet any amount. Of course, if they lose, they would lose the money, but if someone managed to win, they would get one million dollars as a reward.

The biggest incentive for them to challenge Rudy was that if any of them managed to defeat him, they would be known as a 'gambler who defeated the mad gambler',

So far, one hundred and sixty-nine gamblers had challenged Rudy, and all of them lost in a matter of seconds.

They were only allowed to have one match, and they chose the shortest and easiest type of gamble: rock paper scissors.

Rudy wasn't even paying attention to his opponents. He was gambling while playing with his phone, and it was Maria who was monitoring his matches.

She was a little annoyed at the gamblers as they ruined her alone time with Rudy.

So far, Rudy had won three hundred thousand dollars from gambling with them, and the waiting line wasn't going to end anytime soon.

Angelica was staring at Rudy's phone and reading his chats with Alice.

[Why are you using your phone in class?] he asked.

[I am not in the class. I am in the bathroom, so it's okay,] Alice replied.

[Didn't you go to the bathroom like five minutes ago?]

[Yeah. But that was a different lecture. The period just ended, so...]

[Wow. So you are now skipping classes, huh?]

[No. I am a scholar student, so no teacher can say no to me when I ask to go to the bathroom.]

[Great. Now you are not even trying to deny that you are skipping classes.]

[When will you come back, by the way? Please don't tell me that you are stuck somewhere for weeks.]

[No, I am not. I am using my phone, so that's obviously not the case.]

[Where are you right now? You better not be fooling around with girls while I am worried about you.]
Alice sent an 'angry' emoji after the message.

[No. Well, not exactly. Angelica is sitting on my lap. I am in the casino, making money.]

[Again?!]

[Yeah. Guess how much I made today.] Rudy asked with a 'grinning' emoji.

'Typing...'

[Last time you earned like two million dollars, I guess it would be higher this time. Maybe five million dollars?]

Rudy first sent a 'smirking' emoji and replied, [You are not even close.]

[Give me a hint. Is it more or less?]

[More, obviously.]

[Ten million?]

[No. More.]

[Twenty million....?] She added several dots before the question mark.

[More.]

[Fifty million?!]

[Why would you jump that much? It's 25m.]

[That's a crazy big amount! What are you going to do with that much money?] She asked before sending a 'thinking' emoji.

[Make a bed of money and have sex on it.]

[...]

[That was obviously a joke.]

"But it sounds tempting..." Angelica looked up at Rudy and said, "I want to try that."

"We will do that one day."

[I am going to make more money using this money.] Rudy replied to Alice.

[I figured.]

Rudy wanted to send something, but he saw Alice was typing, so he waited for her message.

After a few seconds, she sent a message that said, [You know I am in the cubicle, right?]

[Yeah?]

[Do you want me to send a picture of me?]

[I don't have a fetish to see someone pissing.]

[No! Obviously, I wasn't going to send that. I am not here to do that. I came here so I could chat with you.]

[So what type of picture are you talking about?] Rudy asked and shortly sent: [Are you talking about nudes?]

[Not nudes. But I can send you my boobies picture if you want.]

[Wow. I never thought I would ever do sexting with you. And no. Don't send a picture. It's not safe here.]

[Okay. It's been more than five minutes, so I think I should return to class.]

[Yeah, you should. I will be there in a few minutes.]

[Okay. I will wait for you.]

Rusher returned with a red card in his hand and said, "What's going on here?"

Rudy shrugged his shoulders and said, "I guess I have gained a following."

"Well, you have without a doubt made your name well known in the underworld. They are looking forward to meeting you."

Rusher handed the red card to Rudy and said, "This is your underworld casino pass. You can use it to enter and leave the underworld at any time, and no one will stop you. The same goes for the casinos."

He moved his hand towards Rudy to shake hands with him and said, "Welcome to the underworld."

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Chapter 400: Half Day

After taking the new card, Rudy bid farewell to Maria and left the casino.

"Are you going to school now?" Angelica asked.

"Yeah. I was thinking of attending half a day."

"I will go to sleep then." Angelica entered Rudy's body and said, 'When is the next tournament?'

"Tomorrow night."

'Good night.'

"Good night..." Rudy looked up at the sky and gazed directly at the sun before soaring in the sky.

"I guess I really do possess super luck. Does that mean the other things Angelica theorized are also true?"

'I have always wanted to make moves on mom? It's still hard to believe, but I have no reason to deny that.'

He looked at the time and muttered, "There is still some time left before recess."

He sniffed himself and wondered, 'Should I take a bath? I don't really smell.'

SIGH!

"I haven't slept yet. Still, I don't feel tired at all because I didn't use my powers. I am curious how long I can last without sleeping if I minimize the use of my powers?"

Rudy got bored of flying, so he teleported to his room and changed to his school uniform. He had nothing to do, so he went downstairs to check up on Rebecca.

The door of Rebecca's room was locked, so he used his see-through ability and looked into the room.

"She is sleeping... obviously."

Rudy checked the refrigerator and ate breakfast while heating it before taking every bite.

Once the time was right, he teleported near the school and walked in. Of course, the gates were closed, and he was stopped by the guard, but he said he was taking half a day, so they let him in.

Rudy made his way to his classroom and saw only Alice was there. She was busy reading what they were taught today.

He slowly got behind her and placed his hands on her eyes.

"Stop it, Rudy. I already saw you coming from the window when you were at the gate."

"Wow. What a way to ruin my surprise. I was expecting you to hug me and kiss me all over my face."

"Unfortunately, I am not that possessive." Alice looked at Rudy from the corner of her eye and said, "Otherwise, I wouldn't be letting you have a harem."

"What are you reading?" Rudy grabbed the book from Alice and read a page within a second. "Oh, this."

"Did you finish the homework Rize had given us?" Alice asked curiously.

"Yes. But I will act like I didn't and get a punishment. When is her lecture again?"

"After the recess."

"Oh. I came at the right time."

Alice closed the book and asked, "Do you want to go to the canteen and eat something?"

"I already had lunch, but I can accompany you."

"Hmm..." Alice got up from her chair and sat on Rudy's lap.

"Umm..."

"Let's go to the rooftop. I don't want to get caught by someone."

Rudy teleported to the rooftop instantly.

"Hey... why did you teleport so fast? I didn't get to grab my lunch box."

"..." Rudy teleported back to the room and said, "Take it."

Alice grabbed her bag and said, "Let's go."

After teleporting to the rooftop, Rudy and Alice ate lunch. They made out for a few minutes, and Alice suddenly felt like drinking Rudy's milk, so she gave him a blowjob.

Rudy was ready to teleport if he heard a noise, but fortunately, that didn't happen. The only noise he heard was the bell of the recess ends.

"Just one more minute, and I will cum. Keep going."

Alice increased her sucking speed and used her tongue to stimulate it more.

Even though Rudy had said he would cum in a minute, he came after five minutes and filled Alice's mouth with his fresh milk, which she swallowed with a delighted face.

Rudy patted her and said, "You have become better."

"Let's go now, or Rize will haunt us for the rest of her lecture."

When Rudy and Alice reached the classroom, Rize had already begun teaching.

"Can I come in, miss?" they both asked.

Rize squinted her eyes and glared at Rudy and Alice.

"Where were you two?" she asked with a judging look on her face.

"Canteen."

"Come in."

PHEW!

They sat at their desk and took out the books.

Rudy looked at Rize's desk, and it was empty.

'Did she forget about collecting the homework?' he wondered. 'No, no. I have to remind her, or my plan will fail! But if I remind her and don't hand out the homework, I will look like a clown.'

Rudy nudged Alice and whispered, "Remind Rize of the homework."

"No way. Everyone in the class will hate me for that. I will be labeled as the bitch of the classroom," Alice retorted.

Rudy turned to Eric and tapped on his desk.

"What's up?" Eric asked.

"Have you done your homework?"

"Yeah. I did it on Saturday when I was on the night shift at one of mom's stores. Seriously, she should start hiring more staff than focus on opening up new franchises," he ended with a sigh.

"Can you remind Rize of it?"

"Hmm? Sure, I don't really care, but... have you done the homework?" he asked with a knowing look on his face. "You always forget about such stuff even after being one of the top students in the school."

"That's my charm," Rudy said with a proud look on his face.

"Heh," Eric chuckled and said, "By the way, are you free this weekend?"

"Uhh... no, actually. What happened?"

"Mom is going overseas."

"Oh? Is she opening stores overseas too?"

"That's her plan. But she is going there to fetch Erika from school. Apparently, Erika scored a prize there, and she was granted free education in one of the top universities in the world.

And she is obviously not interested. So they called mom to convince her, although I don't think even mom can change her mind."

'Well, in my timeline, Erika refused at first but later agreed after a few events and went there after finishing her high school here,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"Rudy! Eric! Stop talking in the back!" Rize yelled.

"Uhh... miss, what about the homework you gave us?" Eric suddenly uttered.

"Oh!" Rize exclaimed in wonder.

"Argh!" Everyone in the class let out an annoyed groan at Eric.