

Esper 451

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 451: Ultimate Risk

Rusher did as Rudy asked him to do and closed his eyes. He could hear the twitching noise coming from the zapping sound of the lightning. And he noticed it was becoming louder and louder with every passing second.

Out of overwhelming fear, Rusher opened his eyes and saw pure white lightning that was brighter than even a sun seen on a sunny day from the surface.

Rusher's fear grew drastically as the lightning became brighter and brighter as it increased in size. Then, he did what one would do out of fear; he closed his eyes.

Pssh!

All the noises stopped, and Rusher felt cold air touching him. When he opened his eyes, he found himself outside the ball. However, instead of relief, he was met with even more despair.

He was surrounded by hundreds of thousands of masked assassins wearing black suits, and it didn't even take a second for Rusher to realize who they were.

"Under Blades?" he muttered.

'Wait... why are there so many of them? I thought there were only one hundred Under Blades at a time. But here there are.... thousands if not, even more.'

He glanced around and saw he was in a massive hall room that was almost ten times bigger than the Ross estate, painted in white marble with golden patterns.

'Where are the others?!'

He glanced to his sides and sighed in relief after confirming his wife and parents were with him.

"Do you recognize this place, Rusher?" Rudy asked.

"No..."

"Do you see Maria?"

"No."

"Do you see their boss or someone who seems like a leader?"

"No..."

"Is there any clue around? Where do the Under Blades live?"

"They... I have no idea, actually. No one knows that."

SIGH!

"Alright, I will find you guys. Just buy me as much time as you can. Do anything, but don't let the enemy make their next move. I will be there soon," Rudy stated in a solemn voice.

"But how? You don't even know where we are, and you haven't seen much of the underworld."

"I will search the entire underworld."

"What?! It will take you months to—"

"I already started searching even before I made contact with you. Now, do what I told you and keep them busy."

"What have you been muttering all this time, hmm?" a loud female voice asked.

Rusher glanced around to locate the person, but all of them wearing the same masks and suits, and it was impossible to figure out who was speaking.

Even the voice was echoing, and as they were wearing masks, their lips movement couldn't be seen.

"I asked you a question, Rusher Ross. What have you been muttering all this time?"

Rusher took a deep breath and said, "Show yourself first."

"Oh? So you still have some will left to live. Everyone, stand aside. Let this man see the face of the person who is going to end their syndicate, but well... I am wearing a mask, so you wouldn't see me anyway."

With loud, symmetrical, and synchronized footsteps, the Under Blades moved aside and made a way in between. One side had male Under Blades, and the other had female Under Blades. Slowly but steadily, everyone moved aside and revealed a woman sitting on a red throne on a pedestal.

"Now, your turn, Rusher Ross. Answer my question."

"I have a habit of talking to myself when I am nervous. It helps me calm down and find solutions," Rusher responded while looking straight at the woman's mask.

"Hmm? Is that so? Then what are the results?" The woman moved from right to left and sat on the throne in a comfortable position.

"...."

"Did it help you calm down? What solution did you find, hmm? Come to think of it, the ball had begun to beep for some reason as if it had used up all the power. However, it did receive an electric surge before it."

"...." Rusher gulped down anxiously as nothing else was coming to mind. Rudy had asked him to buy time, but he couldn't even do that.

"How did you produce electricity in a completely sealed fourth-dimensional space?"

"It was... my phone."

"Hmm?"

"My phone had a mechanism that it would explode if the wrong pin was entered more than five times. I tried to unlock my phone, but I kept failing, and thus..."

"If that's true, then..." The woman pointed her finger at Rusher's hands and asked, "How are your hands and legs untied? I would understand that removing the tape from the mouth doesn't require much effort, but hands and legs are not possible in such a short amount of time."

"You underestimate me. I am Rusher Ross, and I have been trained for situations like this. Getting out of it is a child's play!" Rusher asserted in a loud voice.

"It seems so. Well, it doesn't matter. Even if you manage to free your hands and get out of the ball, it doesn't matter. You can't escape from the Under Blades. You are well aware of their prowesses, right?"

"Why are you doing this?! Isn't Under Blades supposed to protect the syndicates and ensure peace?!"

"Oh, that's what I am doing. I am doing all this to maintain peace."

"What... do you mean?"

"Don't play dumb, Rusher Ross. You can't hide anything from the Under Blades. I am well aware of all your crimes and sins, including your incestuous relationship with Ria— your twin sister."

"....!" Rusher glanced at his right to check whether his wife or parents heard it or not.

"There has been peace in the underworld for the past twenty years, and you were slowly, slowly, destroying it. If you keep doing what you have been doing, your syndicate will perish by your own hands, and the underworld will be at war.

Do you understand, Rusher Ross? We Under Blades are tasked to ensure peace and to do that, we will take any measures possible. Even if it meant sacrificing an innocent."

The woman raised her hand in the air, and all the Under Blades pointed their guns at Rusher and his family.

"It is time... to die, Rusher Ross."

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Chapter 452: In the Name of Peace

"Prepare to die, Rusher Ross; this is the end of your syndicate. In the name of peace, I, the leader of the Under Blades, hereby adjure you and your family a death sentence!"

"Before you kill me, may I ask where Maria is?" Rusher asked in a low voice.

"Don't worry about her. She is safe. And we don't intend to kill her. She has nothing to do with this. However, if you keep resisting, then sadly, we will have to end her too."

"So if I let you kill me, my wife, and my parents, will you keep Maria from the wrath of the underworld?" Rusher asked with a serious look on his face.

"Indeed. But then again, if you agree or disagree, you don't have a say in this. You all are going to die anyway, so die a painless death instead of a painful one."

Rusher took a deep breath and nodded a couple of times before closing his eyes.

"I am ready."

The woman lowered her hand, and all of the hundreds of thousands of Under Blades pressed the trigger to shoot Rusher and his family. The bullets closed their distance with Rusher as they got closer.

Even if most of them missed the target, it was inevitable that at least one or two bullets would hit them, which could be enough to kill them.

"Oh, come on, father-in-law. I asked you to do one thing— to buy me time— and here you were about to die. Seriously, you never fail to disappoint me."

The bullets stopped in mid-air by an invisible force as Rudy's voice echoed in the massive hall room.

All the Under Blades glanced round, pointing their weapons with confused yet curious expressions on their faces behind the masks.

"Hey, hey, stop pointing guns at each other. What if you accidentally shoot someone? You will die! And I can't let that happen because the one who will kill you all is me!"

"This voice... I believe it's you, Rudy Ross?" the leader of the Under Blades asked.

"Oh my. The leader of the Under Blades knows my name? I am honored. Now I must honor you back somehow."

"Stop this game of hide and seek and show yourself to me."

"Oh? Stand aside, everyone. Let this woman see the face of the person who is going to end her life, but well... I am not here, so you wouldn't see me anyway," he scoffed out loud as he imitated what the woman had said to Rusher a while ago.

"What do you want, Rudy Ross? Shouldn't you be at the VIP underworld tournament? You had made a challenge, right? You are already late, and if you miss your match, you will lose and be disqualified.

And I believe you are smart enough to know what would happen if you lose. You will have to pay them one hundred times more than they bet on you. So one hundred times seven billion dollars would be seven hundred billion dollars.

How will you pay that large amount? Let me guess, you will respond with 'I will let Ross Syndicate pay for it'? If you don't know already, allow me to inform you that the Ross Syndicate doesn't have that much money.

They were 'once' the wealthiest syndicate in the underworld, but not anymore. The previous leader, Rusher Ross, used almost all the money. They have less than ten billion dollars fortune with them.

Why do you think I am doing all this? Because I like it? Do I look like a third-grade villain to you? No!

The Under Blades was created to ensure peace between all the syndicates, organizations, and gangs; in short, to ensure peace in the underworld.

Do you know why we are called Under Blades? A shield is to protect, and a blade is to cut. We are Under Blades because we don't have to protect the underworld to make peace; we just have to get rid of those who disturb the peace, which currently is Rusher Ross.

That is our job, and that is why we exist. Please don't compare me to everyone you have fought so far, Rudy Ross. Or should I call you, My Lord?

Since I have told you all this already, let me tell you what Rusher Ross did with all the fortune of the Ross Syndicate. He used them all! As I already said earlier, they now have less than ten billion dollars, which would be used in a month.

No one knows about it, and he worked hard to keep it a secret. He gave the regular fees to the syndicate members and acted normal. I watched him and his actions and kept silent. I thought he would stop one day, but he didn't.

He destroyed the syndicate. If the other members learn about it, they will leave the syndicate and riot against the Ross syndicate. There will be wars. The other organizations and syndicates will also take advantage of it.

There will be a war! And war is not peace!"

"Since you said so many things, why don't you mention where he spent all the money? I am curious, actually."

"Safety. Protection! Security. Bla bla bla. He was afraid of getting assassinated by someone. He was afraid of losing a family member. He invested money and gave 80% of the fortune to a merchant in return for the security.

And that merchant scammed him and ran away with all the money. His stupidity and cowardice destroyed the very syndicate he was trying so hard to protect!

He forgot one thing that the syndicate members are part of the syndicate because of what they get. A dog is a calm dog if you take care of it, but once you stop feeding it, it will bark and bite you, no matter how loyal it once was.

Humans are worse. They seek something in return all the time. Dare I say it is not a bad thing, but it certainly isn't good either. The underworld doesn't have rules and regulations, and everyone is free to do whatever the hell they want.

They can kill, beat, or commit any crimes. However, their death warrant is issued once they disturb the peace!"

"I am going to stop you right there," Rudy asserted as he suddenly appeared there out of nowhere.

He had gained a new ability to transport.

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Chapter 453: Tough Choice

When Rudy had fought Jane for the first time in the forest, she had used the vampiric ability that allowed her to change her forms. She turned into a bat and also into a fog.

Rudy's power was to create an ability based on logic, principles, foundations, or even a strong belief and faith. He had to convince himself somehow to make the ability work.

However, he had no need to do all that if such ability already existed with someone.

Rudy had to search the entire underworld to look for Rusher and the others, but it was too big and the time was close to none. At first, Rudy flew as high as he could and used his 'all vision' ability to scan the entire underworld at once, but he failed.

When he had used 'all vision' for the first time, he had gone blind instantly. When he used it for the second time in the Ross estate, he was able to use it for one second. But when he used it for the third time to scan the entire underworld, he became blind in three seconds.

To Rudy, that was a development as his eyes were getting used to it. Rudy constantly and passively evolved rapidly ever since he went back in time and came to this world. And so were his powers and mental strength.

After becoming blind, Rudy plucked and got a new pair of eyes. At that time, he looked up at the cloud and remembered how Jane was able to turn into smoke.

Of course, that was a vampiric ability, which only a few high vampires had. But Rudy could create a similar ability with minimal effort.

Rudy already had the ability to change his body, so he simply had to break down his body into small particles. He couldn't turn into the fog as he initially planned, but he separated each and every cell of his body and scattered it.

The wind carried and spread in the entire underworld. That was his first step to achieving Omnipresence; He was present everywhere in the underworld.

However, he still couldn't find Rusher and the others. At that time, Rudy realized that they weren't in the underworld in the first place.

Rudy could use 'find my prey' and teleport small things such as a ball and a letter. Thus, he used that ability and first teleported his vision, voice, hearing, and all the other senses. After that, he slowly teleported his cell to one place and conjured his body.

He was simply buying as much time as he could to complete his manifestation, and he succeeded without a hitch.

All the Under Blades pointed their guns at Rudy and prepared to fire, but the leader raised her hand and stopped them all.

"Let's not waste our ammunition."

Rudy nonchalantly stretched his body in the air as he felt stiff after pulling such a bizarre ability. Now, he no longer needed to be at a place and mark it once to teleport there. He could now teleport anywhere he wanted as long as he could see that place.

However, Rudy had decided not to use that ability unless it was an emergency. That ability was extremely slow and tedious.

"I don't care about a single word you said. I am a selfish asshole who only cares about his loved ones. However, you were right about one thing, my father-in-law is indeed a coward," Rudy stated.

"..."

"But what makes one a man and what makes one a coward? Different people will say different definitions, and all of them might be right. However, for me, only my definition is true.

They would say 'doing something one couldn't do' would make one a man. While that is indeed true, it is not valid. Honestly, anyone can do what someone couldn't do. It's not an achievement.

If someone did something and didn't take any responsibility for their actions, then he is not a man; he is a coward. Rusher got his sister pregnant; that was something no one could do. Did that make him a man? Obviously not.

He didn't have the guts to take responsibility for his actions. Did that make him a coward? Definitely yes."

Rudy was simply buying time by spouting whatever came to his mind. Only half of his body cells had been teleported, and half were still being teleported. He needed his full body to use his powers accordingly.

"Why are you giving me that lecture?" the leader of the Under Blades asked. "I don't need you to teach me what is what and who is who. And you didn't answer my question, Rudy Ross.

Shouldn't you be at the VIP underworld tournament? It already began more than an hour ago. You have so much at stake if you lose. How will you return the money to them?"

Rudy shrugged his hands and asked, "Why do you care so much about me?"

"Oh, don't flatter yourself, My Lord. I am simply doing my job. You see, if you lose, you will have to pay a hundred times the betting amount. And I know you won't be able to pay them.

And if you don't pay them, there will be riots against the Ross Syndicate. Thus, the peace will be disturbed. Hence, my workload will increase. I am just trying to prevent something that can be easily avoided."

"Well, that's none of my concerns," Rudy snickered. "That's your job, so you have to handle it."

"Now, Now, Rudy Ross. Are you sure you want to talk to me with that attitude? I have Maria and your little demon in my custody. My one signal, and they will be killed. I truly don't want to do that; they both are innocent."

"..."

"Oh, that's right!" She snapped her fingers and said, "I have a proposal for you, My Lord. If you leave now and return after winning the tournament, I will give you Maria and Lilim as a reward.

Of course, they will be alive. However, Rusher and the rest will be dead. It's your choice, Rudy Ross. Would you rather save Rusher and let Maria and Lilim die, or save Maria and Lilim after winning the tournament?"

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Chapter 454: Rudy's Choice

"Before I make my decision, I would like to ask one thing," Rudy stated.

"Yeah, I know. And I also know that you are only trying to buy time. But that doesn't matter. I do not want to make enemies with the Lord; I am not that stupid," the leader of the Under Blades said.

'Well, you already did. If you hadn't threatened to kill Maria and Lilim, I would have let you live after a few thousand punches. But your death warrant has also been issued!'

"Go ahead and ask whatever you might want to ask," she added.

SIGH!

"I understand your reasoning and passion to protect the— oh, my bad." Rudy raised his hand and quoted, "To keep 'peace' in the Underworld."

"That's great."

"But how would killing Rusher and his family bring the so-called peace in the Underworld? It won't miraculously make the Ross Syndicate wealthy again."

"Indeed. That's why, their death will be a sacrifice to maintain the peace. If I don't kill them, the rest of the syndicate members will learn about the truth, and it will spread like wildfire in a forest. There will be riots and wars, and still, Rusher and the rest will die by their hands— including Maria, Ruby, and Lilim.

Here, I am trying to save the ones I can; that is Maria, Lilim, and Ruby, who is currently out of the country. If I kill Rusher, his wife, and his parents, I can attest that they were 'mysteriously' killed by someone and the killer took all the money.

That way, the syndicate will remain intact. There will be no wars, and the peace will continue. Of course, the Ross Syndicate will get tight security after that for Maria, Lilim, and Ruby.

Do you understand now, My Lord? I am doing dirty work to save the innocents. I am playing the role of a bad guy... well, a bad girl so that no one else gets hurt.

Rusher and everyone is going to die anyway, so instead of letting them all die by other people's hands, I am saving the ones I can and killing the culprits," the leader calmly explained.

"Okay, that makes sense now. But why is killing Rusher necessary? You can simply say 'his body was never found' or maybe arrange a fake dead body?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face.

"..."

What Rudy suggested was obviously a working strategy, and if one wanted, it could be easily put to work.

"That thought did cross your mind, right?" Rudy scoffed softly.

"There is one problem with your idea, Rudy Ross. The Underworld won't just accept someone's death if I attest to it. They will obviously ask for proof. Let's say I do as you said and let them all go. However, what if, one day, someone catches them?"

That would cause greater havoc in the Underworld. Would you take responsibility when that happens? Would you carry the guilt of endangering the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocents?

Why should someone fight with a sword when they have a gun? It is simple logic. Imagine what would happen if the Underworld realized that the Under Blades lied to them?

They put their trust in us and fear us for what we are. If we betray that, they will lose their faith in us. Forget that, they will stop fearing us and rebel against us. We will lose our purpose to live and the reason for our existence."

The leader of the Under Blades stood up from her throne and bowed down to Rudy.

"My Lord, please, I beg you, do not steal that from us."

'Why would someone go that far to protect something?' Rudy wondered. 'And what the hell is the purpose of living and reason for existing? That's exaggerating it too much, isn't it?'

And yeah, she is indeed telling the truth. If she doesn't kill Rusher and the rest now, there will be riots and war. And not only the Underworld but the outside world would also be affected by it.

I thought about it when Maria dropped me off when we met for the first time. A few years from now, when I was in university, there was a huge war. This was probably the reason.

In my past life, I obviously didn't meet Maria or anyone from the Underworld, so things must have gone differently, and the Under Blades had failed to get rid of Rusher. But there is no proof.

What if the Under Blades 'did' get rid of Rusher, and the war still happened? Regardless, I am not letting either of that happen.'

Rudy raised his hand and raised all the 'fired bullets' up in the air. Then, he lowered his hand and rained the hundreds of thousands of bullets on the Under Blades.

The Under Blades might have missed Rusher as a target, but Rudy didn't miss a single of them.

In a mere second, Rudy had killed all the Under Blades except for the leader and her three subordinates, who were standing alongside her.

"..." The Under Blades leader looked around at her guards' dead bodies and asked, "What is the meaning of this, Rudy Ross?"

"You gave me a choice to choose Rusher and the others or Maria and Lilim. I don't like when someone gives me such options. I don't like when I get tested. So..." Rudy spread his hands and uttered, "I always make a third option, and this is my answer to that choice."

"How bold of you to do such a thing when Maria and Lilim's lives are still at my mercy."

"Oh, I know you don't mean to harm them. If you truly wanted to hurt them, you had plenty of chances already. In truth, you just wanted to get me out of the way."

"..."

"You know I am the Lord and what I can do. You obviously fear me, so there is no way you would intentionally anger me. I know who you are and what you are behind that mask.

Allow me to reintroduce myself. My name is Rudy Ross, and I am the Lord. You said you don't want to lose the purpose of your lives and reason for your existence, but you won't have to worry about a single thing if you are dead!"

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Chapter 455: Unmasking the Leader of the Under Blades

"What makes you so sure that I won't hurt Maria and Lilim?" the leader asked curiously.

"It's simple, actually." Rudy shrugged his shoulders and said, "You wouldn't want to anger me. You wouldn't want to taste the wrath of the Lord. You know very well that I will bury the underworld if I get angry, and if I do that, what will be left for you to protect?"

"..."

"What's wrong? No comebacks now? You knew that you had lost the moment I entered the conversation. Still, you remained nonchalant. Are you so confident in your skills that you think you can threaten me and stay alive?" Rudy scoffed out loud.

"You are right..." the leader muttered, "You turned the tables when you made your presence known. I had the suspicion but had I been aware that you were the Lord, I wouldn't have abducted them in the first place. Or better yet, I had killed Rusher and the others in the estate or before your arrival.

However, you are wrong about one thing. I did all this for peace, but there was one more reason; a personal reason. And that was..." The leader pointed her finger at Rudy and said, "...to meet you."

"We have already met— although it's our first time meeting face to face," Rudy responded.

"Indeed."

"So, what's all this drama about? To lure me here and kill me or something?"

"Oh, of course not. No one can hurt you, physically at least. And I have no intention of giving you emotional pain. Just as the coin has two sides and it lands on either one, I also flipped a coin, and it was going to land on either side."

"Sometimes, the coin lands straight. And you get neither side," Rudy stated.

"My one side was to ensure peace by killing Rusher and the others— if you hadn't arrived here. And the other side was to bring you here for my personal selfish desire."

Rudy swiped his finger in the air and chopped the two subordinates of the leader. Now, the leader was with only one guard.

"Wearing masks and hiding your faces in my presence? How Rude," Rudy uttered as he swiped his finger slightly.

The mask of the leader's remaining guard cracked and fell down.

"Say, dealer Kim, shouldn't you be at the VIP tournament?" Rudy asked with a smirk on his face.

It was the dealer from the last tournament's semifinal and final match, who was also the same person at the gates of the amphitheater that had stopped Rudy for checking and had touched Rudy's snake to confirm the bulge under his pants.

Kim covered her face and said, "You should have killed me instead of revealing my face."

"Oh? So your identity matters more to you than your life?" Rudy scoffed softly with a sigh.

Rudy gazed at the leader and said, "Now, it's your turn."

"There is no need." The leader moved her hand to her mask and took it off as her voice slightly changed.

"...!" Rusher's eyes widened after learning the identity of the leader of the Under Blades.

"Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Heim Lu Bela, chief of the Underworld Board council and the Leader of the Lu Bela Syndicate. And also the leader of the Under Blades."

"What?!" Rusher exclaimed.

"Well, I already knew who you were, so it wasn't that impactful to me," Rudy shrugged.

"Stay back, Kim." Lu Bela pulled a sword from her throne and walked down the pedestal. "Let's settle this, Rudy Ross."

"Hey, Hey. Weren't you the one who said, 'Why fight with a sword when you have a gun?' a while ago? So why are you using a sword now?" Rudy remarked jokingly.

"I know the guns won't work on you."

"And you think a sword will?" Rudy snickered and raised his hand in the air as he dashed at Lu Bela.

He snatched the sword from her using telekinesis and slashed her neck, beheading her in one strike. Her head flew in the air as her blood painted the floor. Her body stumbled aimlessly before falling to the ground into the pool of her blood.

Rudy threw the sword in the air and walked towards Kim while cracking his neck left and right.

"It's your turn now, Miss dealer. Don't worry, I will make it painless."

"Now, now, Rudy Ross. Why so fast?" Lu Bela's voice uttered.

Rudy stopped on his track and turned around with a confused look on his face.

He saw Lu Bela's headless body standing up from the floor and walking towards her head. She picked up her head and placed it on her neck as the skin and flesh began to connect and heal.

"Now that's what I call impactful," Rudy muttered.

'All this time, I thought they just had advanced technology. But I guess that was only for the show. No technology would allow someone to reattach a severed head.'

"Allow me to reintroduce myself. My name is Heim Lu Bela, but I am also known as Helm Lubel Ark."

"Uhh... I have no idea what that is. Sorry, not impactful," Rudy commented with a puzzled look on his face.

"Well..." Lu Bela pointed her gaze at Rusher and said, "It looks impactful enough to me."

Rudy turned to Rusher and saw him sweating buckets.

"Umm... no offense, but this guy gets shocked at almost everything," Rudy remarked.

"Aren't you a little too rude to someone who is soon going to be your father-in-law?"

"Am I? As long as this person doesn't have the guts to tell the truth to Maria, I don't actually acknowledge him as my father-in-law or consider him a man. Although, I do respect him for his decision to be ready to die for his family," Rudy stated in a calm voice.

"Fair enough. Then let me tell you who Helm Lubel Ark is." Lu Bela gazed into Rudy's eyes and uttered, "I... am the founder of the Underworld, and I am what you could call an artificial human."

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Chapter 456: Artificial Humans

"Artificial humans?" Rudy raised his brow with an amused expression on his face and asked, "Are you made in a laboratory or something?"

"Before I answer, let me tell you my personal selfish reason for calling you here." Lu Bela took out a gun from her suit and knelt in front of Rudy.

"..."

She moved her hands to Rudy and uttered, "Please, kill me."

"Uhh... I think you should mention details on what the fuck you are trying to do."

"I want you to kill me."

"That's the next level masochist I have ever met," Rudy remarked.

"I was not made in a laboratory; I am made from magic. Let me tell you some of the things humans did to rival the other races," Lu Bela said calmly.

"...okay."

"Long ago, and I mean really, really long ago, when all the races used to live on one globe, the humans were powerless, weak, and in every way inferior, even to the animals.

Humans wanted to become strong, but sheer physical strength was nothing compared to the mighty magic of others. So, the other races decided to share their powers with the humans as an experiment. They tried it on a few—"

"Yeah, I know about that," Rudy interrupted Lu Bela and uttered, "The experiment was successful, and the humans became greedy, which then led to a war."

Lu Bela's eyes widened in surprise, but she lowered her gaze and chuckled wryly before muttering, "I guess it makes sense if you know everything. After all, you are the Lord."

"You bet I do," Rudy said haughtily, even though he learned everything from Nyxia.

"Since you know that, I will skip and come to the main point." After a brief pause, Lu Bela continued, "After the separation of all races, the humans decided to take revenge on them."

"Uhh... what? Why would they want to take revenge?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face. "If anything, humans were at fault, weren't they?"

"Indeed. But the humans were left alone to survive after the separation. They had to get their own food, make their own shelter, and survive alone. The humans had realized that even after getting their powers, they were still weak, and their bodies couldn't adapt to the power properly.

Thus, they decided to make artificial humans using forbidden spells and witchcraft from those who had stayed behind for their loved ones. Artificial humans were made to adapt and evolve. They were just like humans in every way but better.

Perfect gene sequence, better systems, and overall a true human form. We were made genderless, so we didn't even have a proper pronoun."

Lu Bela explained calmly.

"And you are one of them?"

"Yes. Since artificial humans didn't feel pain, get sick, or die, they did everything for humans. They used us like a slave to do their things. However, they were our creators who gave us life and everything, so we had no complaints.

Humans had a short life span, and I don't mean the current era's life span. Back then, even humans used to live for hundreds of years, but it has been slowly decreasing.

The artificial humans didn't function to age, so we never died. We served humans for generations and generations, but we were never connected to them. They treated us like we were just a tool for their daily life.

Centuries passed, and the humans eventually forgot about the primary goal. We kept serving them, but everything ended one day.

Even as artificial humans, our bodies needed core energy to survive, and we ran out of it once a day and died. Since the humans in that era knew nothing about anything. We were thrown away like a doll to die.

However, that did not happen. We have lived long enough, and we were the only ones who had knowledge of the lost times. We utilized it and repaired it ourselves.

Years passed by, and we became more and more advanced. We lived in the shadows of humanity and witnessed everything. We didn't seek revenge for what the humans did to us. We simply wanted to live.

As technology advanced, there were new ways to make artificial humans. We could have a new body, a new form, by leaving out the old shell and installing our data in the new one— which was better than reviving the core.

That was a way for us to gain immortality. I was one of the few from the failed experiment that couldn't adapt and evolve. But I had the right to live. The other artificial humans helped me.

Unlike immortality in humans, they could lose their loved ones and regret achieving immortality. They had to see their loved ones die again and again. They would lose the will to live.

However, we had nothing of that sort. We don't have a heart. We don't understand human emotions or feelings. We are nothing but living dolls with no purpose in their lives.

My fellow artificial humans gave up on getting a new shell. They chose to die. In the end, I was left alone with several others like me, who were defective and couldn't contain any power in their body.

I... wanted to die too. There was no purpose for our living, no reason for existing. However, I was the only one left with enough knowledge and intellect from the lost times. If I died, everything would be lost.

The other artificial humans would know nothing about how and why they were created. They will become like me, but they didn't have enough intellect to process a single thought. Thus, to save them from suffering, I became their leader and lived and lived and... lived.

I thought about dying many times, but I couldn't bring myself to do it. Suicide wasn't in my system, so even if I tried to kill myself, I would fail. I cannot kill myself, thus... I came to you.

The Lord is said to grant everyone's wish. The almighty and all-knowing. So please, Rudy Ross, I may not be one of your creations, but please, grant my wish. Kill me and release me from the pain and suffering of this forsaken world."

[Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

Chapter 457: Secrets of Underworld

"So... let me get this straight. You did everything to get killed?" Rudy asked to confirm.

"Yes..."

"You kidnapped Rusher and everyone to maintain peace in the Underworld. You suspected I was the Lord, so you purposely brought them all here. If it turned out I wasn't the Lord, you would have killed Rusher and the others.

If it turned out your suspicion was right and I was indeed the Lord, you would have asked me to kill you, or I would have killed you in rage. It was a very win-win situation for you as you had nothing to lose... that reminded me of myself.

But keeping that aside, now you want me to kill you because you expect me to sympathize and pity you on your sad story?" Rudy scoffed softly.

"..."

"Do you think I am a joke?" he asked with a lifeless glare in his eyes.

Lu Bela puckered her lips and muttered, "If you don't kill me, I will kill Maria and Lilim."

"There are so many things wrong with this threat, but first..." Rudy pointed the gun at Lu Bela's head and asked, "I just chopped your head off your body, and you didn't die. What makes you think you will die by this gun?"

'I scanned the gun, and it's nothing special. It's a normal gun that you can find anywhere in the Underworld,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"The core of artificial humans is connected to our brain. It feeds and processes using the brain. So if you shoot my core, I will die," Lu Bela responded.

"And..." Rudy glanced around and shouted, "All of you, stop pretending to be dead! Wake up!"

The dead bodies Rudy had shot before stood up as though nothing had ever happened.

Rudy pointed his gaze at them and said, "Earlier, you said you didn't kill yourself for their sake. What about now? If I kill you, what will happen to them? Or could it be that you no longer feel sorry for them?"

Lu Bela smiled gently and uttered, "That was when they didn't have a reason to live and purpose to exist. But now they do— which is protecting the Underworld and maintaining peace."

"Oh... so that's why you kept repeating it again and again and made it a big deal."

"After spending millennia, I decided to create a purpose in life. I... created the Underworld for people like us who had no reason to live. But that changed too, and it became a new civilization.

Everyone in the Underworld thinks that the Syndicates and organizations created the Under Blades to keep the status quo between them. However, it was always the opposite. The Under Blades created the Underworld," Lu Bela calmly stated.

Her voice had become so calm that it seemed like a person speaking before going to sleep.

"Can't you order them to kill you? Why do all this?"

"Would your mother kill you if you ask her?"

"...good point."

Rudy moved his finger to the trigger and asked, "What will happen to Rusher and the others if I kill you?"

"As you said, the Under Blades will announce that the Ross family was assassinated. But note that you bore all the responsibilities. If anything goes wrong, you will be to blame."

"Throwing everything on my head, threatening me, and then asking me to kill you. You are using me for your own selfishness...."

"..." Rudy furrowed his brows and said, "What about your promise, then?"

Lu Bela raised her head and asked, "What?"

"You promised you would gamble with me in the VVIP underworld tournament. But I am most likely disqualified from today's tournament, so I won't enter the next one. Thus, I won't be able to gamble with you," Rudy stated.

"You... want to gamble with me?" Lu Bela asked with a surprised look on her face.

"Yes. You got a problem with that? You are still the top gambler of the Underworld, so I can sleep peacefully if I know I am a better gambler than you, the Gambler Queen."

"What type of gamble is this, and what happens if I win or I lose?" Lu Bela asked curiously.

"It's a death game. We will take turns and fire guns ourselves."

Rudy raised the gun in the air and fired two times.

"Now, there are four bullets in this gun. So there are now 66% chances of dying upon firing the gun. If we hit the bullet, we die. If we don't, we live," Rudy shrugged at his explanation.

Lu Bela raised her brow in confusion and asked, "But... why would you play such a risky game for no reason?"

"Oh, no. It's risky for you only. A bullet can't do shit to me. So the only one who will die is you." Rudy spun the gun in his finger while saying, "What do you say? Since you want to die, you will die either way. And if you don't, I will kill you in the end!"

"..."

"And... I also know that killing you won't actually kill you," Rudy smirked. "Something that is born can be killed, but something that is created can't be killed.

I am sure you have your clone bodies somewhere that will wake up if I kill you now. Am I right?"

"Heh." Lu Bela chuckled softly and muttered, "You really do know everything."

"I also want to know one thing. Tell me everything you know about the merchant who is selling futuristic gadgets," Rudy ordered.

Had he asked her nicely, she would have made a condition that Rudy would have had to follow to get his answers. He didn't like it when someone else was holding the strings; he wanted control over everything.

Therefore, he proposed a condition to Lu Bela to get his answers and perfect revenge.

Rudy would never forgive his enemies, no matter who they were. He killed the enemies, but he liked to see them suffer. However, Lu Bela was an odd case; she wanted to die. Still, Rudy had already decided what to do with Lu Bela to make her suffer.

'Give them hope and crush it!'

[Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

Chapter 458: Death Game || Perfect Revenge

Rudy and Lu Bela were sitting on the chair in front of each other with a gun on the table in between. He turned to Kim and said:

"It's your turn to work, Miss dealer."

Kim slowly moved her hand to the gun and spun on the table.

SPUN!

After a few seconds, the gun stopped pointing at Rudy.

"Wow." Rudy groaned. "I don't need luck in this game."

Rudy grabbed the gun and placed it in his hand. He could see what bullet he had by scanning the gun, but he didn't. He wanted to enjoy the thrill of the game even though he knew nothing could happen to him.

Rudy slowly moved his finger on the trigger and pressed it.

CLICK!

However, it turned out empty.

'Now, there is an 85% chance that the next bullet will hit Bella,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

Rudy tossed the gun to Lu Bela and said, "Your turn."

Lu Bela looked at the gun and said, "There are high chances that I will die. So do you want to know anything?"

"Tell me about the merchant."

"The merchant wears a mask, so I don't know his identity, but his voice sounded manly, so I assumed he was a man. Moreover, he was not a resident of the Underworld," Lu Bela said.

"Where can I find him?"

"He comes to the merchant zone to sell the advanced stuff. The last time he came was two months ago. So you will find him next week," Lu Bela responded honestly.

"Do you have any contact information or any means of communication with that merchant?"

"No."

"I see."

'I can still track the woman with the chip I had marked, but that won't lead me anywhere. I now know the location and arrival of that merchant, but waiting for a month? That's a long period.

However, there is no other way. Maybe I will do something else in that period? I have to go pick up Rias, Jane, Niti, and Vriti at the end of this week. And that portal only stays open for an hour, so I will have to hurry.

I don't think I have anything else to do. Renovating Reina's waterpark will take time, so I guess I will have to find a contractor who can help me design the world's best theme park.'

Rudy was making plans for the future in the middle of a death game.

Lu Bela pointed the gun at her head and asked, "Do you not want to know about my clones, or should I say, Shells?"

"How long would it take for your data to be uploaded into a new body?"

"About twenty-four hours."

"That's enough time. I assume Miss Dealer knows where your shells are, am I right?"

"Indeed."

"Then fear not. If you die, you won't ever wake up. I will destroy your data and all your shells within the next twenty-four hours," Rudy said in a solemn voice.

Lu Bela closed her eyes and pressed the trigger.

CLICK!

However, it was also empty.

"Talk about luck."

Lu Bela gave the gun to Kim, and Kim spun the cylinder before giving the gun to Rudy.

'Great. Now the probability has reset. Not going to lie, this game is actually exhilarating for some reason. I know I won't die even if the bullet hits me, but still... it's giving me an unfamiliar sense of feeling.'

Rudy placed the gun on his neck and pressed the trigger.

CLICK!

SHOT!

"....!"

That was a clean hit.

Lu Bela gulped down anxiously with a baffled look on her face and slowly opened her mouth to ask, "Are you okay?"

Rudy removed the gun and showed her the squished bullet on his neck. Not only that, but the muzzle of the gun had also broken because of the high pressure with immense force.

SIGH!

Rudy let out a short sigh and tossed the gun to the other side of the massive hole.

"I lost."

"Wait... no..." Lu Bela got up from her seat and said, "This is not how it was supposed to happen. You have to kill me!"

"Yeah.

"Then why did you throw the gun? It was still usable even after that!" Lu Bela yelled.

"Yeah."

"Then why--!"

Rudy took a deep breath and slowly got up from his chair while glaring at Lu Bela.

"You see, I don't kill my enemies; I make them suffer hell, quite literally. And if you think you are not my enemy, then you are wrong. Honestly, I would have still forgiven you if your only target was Rusher and the others.

Even if you had kidnapped Maria and Lilim, I would have forgiven you as long as you hadn't harmed them. But you threatened to harm them, which was the limit you crossed.

Usually, I would kill them after brutal torture, but you are different. I can't even torture you because you don't feel pain. You did everything to die. And killing you would be a form of forgiveness.

You want to die. After all, you are tired of this world because you are suffering in this world. Therefore, my revenge on you is your suffering. I will do the exact opposite of what you want.

I will let you live so you can continue to suffer for eternity!"

"But you promised that if I gamble with you, you will--!"

Rudy raised both his hands and formed a fist. Then, he slowly raised his middle fingers on both hands and said, "Why did you think I would fulfill my promise, you bitch!"

"No... way..." Lu Bela dropped to her knees and muttered, "You were my last hope."

"Then keep hoping."

"The Lord is supposed to grant everyone's wish..."

"Well, I am not that kind-hearted."

"Why... Why did this happen? I thought I would finally be released into this world. Artificial humans can't even go to heaven or hell because we are not created by the Lord or God. Then... what am I supposed to do...?"

Rudy smirked viciously and snickered, "Suffer! Keep living as you have been living. Continue your suffering!"

"..."

"Now, tell me where you are keeping Maria and Lilim. Maybe I can still make it to the VIP tournament."

Thanks, @Natz_18, for the gift!

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 459: Meeting Maria and Lilim

Rudy rushed in the hallway to the room where Lu Bela had been hiding Maria and Lilim.

"I am sure they both are frightened without me. Or perhaps not. Lilim is a demon, so she must be trying to break out of the room, but there are chances that she is still passed out.

That maid did say she would be out for 12 hours. Maybe Maria is also asleep. Wait... if both of them are still sleeping, and I take them back to the estate, they would never know all this happened.

Lilim would obviously remember that she was knocked out by the maids, but she wouldn't know she was brought here and how all of their lives were at risk. Well... not really.

I knew Lu Bela didn't mean a single word she said. I was already aware that the leader was Lu Bela since I had seen the dealer— Kim. I wouldn't have tried this hard if I knew that the Under Blades were behind all this.

I had to create and use an annoying ability. I am still waiting for my body to be fully reconstructed. Some of my cells are still lost in the atmosphere. I don't actually need them anymore, as my powers have already healed the rest of my body, but still, that ability is annoying.

I didn't sense any hostility coming from Lu Bela when she mentioned killing Maria and Lilim. However, she was indeed serious about killing Rusher and the others. I am just glad everything worked out."

SIGH!

Rudy stood in front of the room and took a deep breath before opening it. He wanted to use the see-through ability and look inside, but he wanted to surprise himself.

A few seconds later, he opened the door and saw Maria, Lilim, and the two maids playing a card game.

"..."

"You are here!" Maria said cheerfully.

"..." Rudy raised his brow in disbelief and asked, "What are you doing?"

"We were gambling to pass the time."

"Seriously?"

"What's wrong?" Maria asked with a confused look on her face. "Why do you look so... disappointed?"

"Do you know why you are here?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face.

"Well... Lilim and the two maids told me 'you' are the one who brought me here..."

"And you believed it?"

"Lilim said it! I would obviously trust her! And the maids too. I know them very well. They are the head of the security team in the estate," Maria reported.

"Wait... wait... wait, these two maids actually work there?"

"Yeah? They have been working there for about a decade. However, they were shifted to the other team a few years ago as Lilim was going to be the next leader of the security team."

"What the—! I thought they broke in!"

"They did make it look like that, but that wasn't the case," Lilim interjected. "To use that teleportation device, they need unique coordination that can only be generated from a source and destination. So they had to be in the estate to teleport there."

"But, they didn't even know your name."

"I don't know their names either. You wouldn't remember the names of everyone in your school, right?" Lilim asked.

"Yeah."

"Same here. Just like how you would know the names of your classmates, I know the names of my team members. And...." Lilim tapped on her ID card and said, "My name was written right here, and I don't know why they didn't call me by my name."

"Oh, we knew your name," the first maid said. "We are just bad with remembering stuff. We are defected and our memories are limited so we sisters share them to survive."

"Argh, fuck all this." Rudy hugged Maria and said, "I am glad you are okay."

"What's going on? I don't understand."

Maria was abducted in her sleep, and the maids hadn't used spray on her to knock her out. When she woke up, she found herself in a room with Lilim, but she was sleeping.

A minute later, the maids walked in and woke Lilim up with an anti-dose. Then, they explained everything to Lilim and asked her to not worry. Of course, she didn't trust them after what they had done to her, so Lu Bela herself came and told her plan to Lilim.

Lilim pondered for a while and realized that if she wanted to kill them, she would have done it long ago instead of waiting for Rudy to come. They both knew that Rudy was a Lord and his powers were unparalleled.

Thus, Lilim agreed. But when the Under Blades fired guns at Rusher and the others, Lilim realized she had made a big mistake. But it turned out that the bullets were never supposed to hit them. The Under Blades are trained, and they never miss their shot.

Even if Rudy hadn't arrived— although he had been there from the start, watching everything— nothing would have happened to them.

Lu Bela had confirmed that Rudy was the Lord, and thus, she wanted to call him out. And the best way to do that was to pretend to kill Rusher and the others.

"So that Lu Bitch was lying all along?! She was playing with me all this time to get her wish fulfilled?!"

"Forgive me for that, My Lord," Lu Bela suddenly said from behind.

"Oh, I wish I could kill you..." Rudy muttered.

"You see, I hate planning stuff ahead as if the plan flopped, it would hurt. But this was an important event for me, and I couldn't risk ruining it in any way. I had thought of all the possibilities, and one of them was you not killing me.

However, I thought of that as forgiveness, but I was wrong. You are indeed formidable, as Rudy Ross and as a Lord. Is there anything I can do for you to compensate for what I did today?" Lu Bela asked in a calm voice.

"What can you do?"

"I cannot use my authority as leader of the UBC or Under Blades. Other than that, I can do anything as a person to help you out."

Rudy turned to Lu Bela and uttered, "I have heard your syndicate is an enemy of the Ross syndicate."

"That was when her... father was the boss. He had disturbed the peace of the underworld. But now, everything is chill. I don't know why Maria still considers me as her enemy," she said while looking at Maria.

"I just hate you for some reason..."

"Oh, by the way, I just got the news." Lu Bela showed her phone to Rudy and Maria and said, "Look who won the VIP Underworld Tournament."

"...!"

[Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

Chapter 460: Winner of the VIP Underworld Tournament

"What?! Ruby won the tournament?! But she was out of the country, right?!" Maria exclaimed in astonishment.

"She was supposed to be, yes." Lu Bela nodded and continued, "I called her and asked her to participate here. Firstly, the only reason she went out of the country was to participate in the tournaments there because Rusher and Rudy were playing from this country.

She didn't want to fight against her own family members, let alone syndicate members, as that would decrease the probability of the syndicate winning. As long as any syndicate member won the tournaments, that would increase the rank of the syndicate.

You see, she has such a huge responsibility on her head at a young age and is trying her best not to let her family down. I sent her a message as a UBC leader and told her that Rusher and Rudy won't be playing tonight, so she got into her chopper and landed here before the tournament started."

SIGH!

Rudy let out a weary sigh and muttered, "I got disqualified from the tournament because of you. Now I have to pay seven hundred billion dollars— which I, or no one have."

"I can provide you with that money if you want," Lu Bela suggested. "However, you will have to forgive me for what I did today. I don't want to be your enemy; I want to be your friend."

"As I said earlier, I would have forgiven you if you had taken a normal approach. If you had just come to me and said, 'Please kill me', I would have done it after asking a few questions— even without listening to your sad back story."

"So you are saying you don't want my money to pay the debt?" Lu Bela asked with a knowing look and a smirk on her face.

"I don't."

"..." Lu Bela's smirk vanished from her face after hearing that. She thought she finally had the upper hand and Rudy would forgive her in return for money, but that did not happen.

"How will you pay off the debt then?" Lu Bela asked with a curious and confused look on her face. "You can't gather such a considerable amount by gambling alone. And you have betrayed your fan's trust once, they won't trust you again that easily."

Also, your Underworld ranking has dropped to #5, and your fans, fame points, and worth are dropping drastically. There are chances that you will lose your citizenship of the Underworld. You will be kicked and banned from the Underworld.

Not only that, but the Ross Syndicate might also suffer because your name is connected to them. Accept my offer and prevent that from happening, My Lord."

"You are right," Rudy nodded in agreement. "Everything you said is right, but don't worry about me. I will pay off the debt and surpass you in the underworld ranking in no time."

"That's impossible!"

"Well... I am to defy the impossible," Rudy shrugged.

Rudy grabbed Maria and Lilim's hand and teleported back to the Ross estate after saying, "Send Rusher and everyone back soon. And yeah, if you want me to forgive you, then you have to try better and offer something precious in return."

Meanwhile, in the VIP tournament.

[The 69th VIP Underworld Tournament ends here! The Winner is Ruby Ross.]

[Also, there is an announcement to make about the infamous Rudy Ross, who didn't make it to the tournament today. There are chances that he was killed by someone or got into an accident because of his challenge the other night.

If that was the case, then the challenge would no longer be valid, and none of them would get what Rudy Ross had promised, that is, one hundred times more money.

However, if it turns out he didn't come here for another reason, then he has to pay what he had promised. You all may go to the Ross Syndicate and demand your answers, but keep in mind that the Under Blades would be guarding the estate.

If you try anything funny, you shall be punished accordingly. And today's winner, Ruby Ross, the new leader of the Ross Syndicate, has qualified to enter the VVIP Underworld Tournament.

She may enter if she wants, but she can also refuse.]

The anchor turned to Ruby and asked, [Ruby Ross, are you going to participate in the deadly VVIP Underworld Tournament?"

The black long-haired, purple eyes, and a tall and slim girl— Ruby Ross, grabbed the mic from the table and smiled as she said, "Of course, I am. And I am going to win that too. I will show everyone that the Ross Syndicate hasn't lost its glory."

Rudy, Lilim, and Maria watched that live on Maria's phone.

"So this is Ruby. Not going to lie, she looks exactly like how I imagined her to be. She is the prime example of a mafia girl," Rudy muttered.

Maria shot a glare at Rudy and said, "Are you implying that I don't look like a mafia?"

"Hehe." Rudy grinned and replied, "I never said that."

"..." Maria squinted her eyes and stared at Rudy without saying anything.

"Don't worry, Lady Maria." Lilim placed her hand on Maria's shoulder and commented, "He is just teasing you to get your attention."

Maria shrugged Lilim's hand from her shoulder and said, "Don't forget that I am still angry at you."

"..."

Rudy watched them and thought, 'It seems this is my fault.'

"Listen, Maria. I know you consider Lilim as your friend, and you feel betrayed after learning that she slept with me, but I am partially to blame. It is true that she came to me, but I did go along with it because I wanted to."

"You are wrong. She is not my friend."

"Hey, hey. That's harsh, you know. Even if you are mad at her, you shouldn't say that."

Maria puckered her lips and muttered, "She is like my sister to me."

"Oh..."

"And I am not angry because she slept with you. I am angry because she hid her identity from me for all these years."

Rudy raised his hands and said, "I had nothing to do with that."

"And... I am a bit angry because she slept with you before me."

Rudy was flirting with Maria and Lilim, unbeknownst to the angry fans marching towards the Ross Syndicate to collect their money.

How would Rudy do what he proclaimed in front of Lu Bela?