

Esper 51

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Chapter 51: Multiple Bets

"..."

'Heh! If he had won that one too, I would have blacklisted him and had him kicked out of the casino.' the dealer smirked inwardly.

He took the chips from the table and uttered, "It seems you ran out of luck."

"Shut up!" Angelica yelled vigorously at the dealer, but of course, no one could hear Angelica.

Angelica turned to Rudy to comfort him, but Rudy had no change in his expression.

It was as though Rudy was well prepared for this.

'It didn't affect me much since I am still on the profit side. But I guess I should make bets on multiple numbers now, so I will have a higher chance of winning,' Rudy decided.

'But...' Rudy looked at the numbers on the table and wondered, 'Should I bet on two numbers or three?'

'Two will give me 17x, while three will give me 1x of the original bet.'

Rudy pondered for a while and thought, 'Or maybe I should go with a corner, that is four numbers? But then I will get 8x of my bet.'

Rudy placed chips worth 1k\$ on number 11 as single and chips worth 1k\$ on number 26 and 29 as split.

'Even if I lose, in both of them. I would still have 1630\$ left. And... I might cheat if I don't see any way out. I don't want to go back without earning 10k\$ tonight.'

Rudy could easily ask Angelica to move the ball for him even without using his telekinesis power, but Rudy wanted to play fair and test his luck.

The dealer spun the wheel, and the ball stopped on 26.

'Yes! I will get 17x of 1k\$' Rudy rejoiced and grinned at Angelica.

The dealer took the chip worth 1k\$ that Rudy had betted on number 11. And gave him the chips worth 17K to Rudy.

'I have nearly 20k\$. A lot more than my target,' Rudy uttered to himself. 'I shouldn't test my luck anymore and withdraw the money.'

"I will be—"

Suddenly, the black dress girl stood in front of Rudy and leaned on the roulette table to look at Rudy.

"..." Rudy sighed after seeing her and thought, 'What's with her, though? Is she trying to extort me or something?'

'But she has a lot more money than me, so that's probably not it.' Rudy raised his brows and asked, "What?"

"I have been watching your game since the start," the black dress girl said with an alluring gaze in her eyes.

"Okay..." Rudy uttered awkwardly.

"It was an interesting game," she said with a smile on her face. "Would you like to play a game with me?"

"I will pass," Rudy rejected her casually.

"..."

The girl furrowed her brows and said, "Why don't you play with me?"

'Because I don't want to!' Rudy let out a weary sigh and said, "I am happy with what I won today. So I don't want to make any more bets and lose them."

Rudy was talking in a respectable manner since he didn't know anything about the girl.

'She is probably from a wealthy and powerful family. It would be best if I don't get involved with them,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

The girl closed her distance with Rudy and said, "What if I pay for you too?"

"...?" Rudy raised his brows in confusion and asked, "Why... would you want to do that?"

The girl puffed her cheeks and said, "I just want to play with someone."

"..."

"So...? Will you play with me?" The girl asked with a curious look on her face.

Rudy pondered for a while and asked, "What if I lose?"

"Nothing," the girl replied with a shrug.

"And.. what if I win? Who gets to keep the winnings?" Rudy asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"You can keep them since it's you who won," the girl replied nonchalantly. "But I will ask you to pay me the betting amount back to me."

"Only if I win, right? I don't have to give you anything if I lose?" Rudy wanted to make everything clear before deciding on the girl's offer.

"Yes," the girl nodded in reply.

'What's with this girl? She is giving me a golden opportunity. This is too good to be true! This girl has to be planning something, but obviously, I can't ask her, and she won't tell me her true intention.'

'Should I accept her offer? I can just use my powers if things get messy.' Rudy pondered for a while and thought, 'I also want to test my luck since it has been abnormally good beyond my expectations.'

Rudy glanced at Angelica to see what she had to say.

"Why don't you agree to play with her?" Angelica asked. "I know she sounds shady, but if she is truly planning something, then you can cheat and win."

She shrugged her shoulders and said, "I will be keeping a close eye on her too."

Rudy nodded at the girl and said, "I would be glad to accept your offer."

"Nice!" the girl jumped and said, "Finally, I can play with someone of my age."

The girl rushed to the counter and bought poker chips worth 100,000\$. Out of that, she gave 50,000\$ to Rudy and said, "Good luck!"

"..."

She placed the chips worth 2k\$ on number 12, 2k\$ on number 23, 2k\$ on number 33, 2k\$ on number 35, 2k\$ on number 19, and 2k\$ on number 5.

"Straight on all!"

'Too many bets!' Rudy exclaimed inwardly.

The girl turned to Rudy and said, "Your turn."

'Since it's not my money, and nothing happens if I lose...' Rudy placed six bets on the numbers 2, 11, 20, 29, 13, and 6.

"Not bad..." the girl said after looking at Rudy's bets.

'Well, I just copied your layout,' Rudy scoffed softly.

The dealer spun the wheel, and after a few seconds, the ball stopped.

However, it didn't stop on any of the numbers the girl had placed bets on, nor did it stop Rudy's number.

It stopped at 0, and both Rudy and the girl lost their bet that was worth 24k\$ in total.

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Chapter 52: Uh Oh!

'Well, that started with a big oof...' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"Tsk!" the girl clicked her tongue and muttered, "I always lose the opening bets."

The girl placed her bets on the same number again and said, "Straight, again!"

Out of curiosity, Rudy also placed the bets on the same number again.

The girl looked at Rudy with a weird glare in her eyes and said, "You better not be taking this lightly."

"I am not."

"Hah!" Angelica laughed out loud and said, "You are clearly messing around since it's not your money!"

'Shut up!'

The dealer spun the wheel, and once again, the ball didn't stop on any of the numbers Rudy and the girl had betted on. They lost 24k\$ again.

Furious, the girl placed the bet on the same number again.

Rudy was baffled by the girl's action. She was either too clever or too stupid.

However, Rudy didn't bet on the same number again. Instead, he placed his bet worth 2k\$ on the number 17.

"I will go single," he said.

The dealer spun the wheel, and it spun for a few seconds before slowing down.

The tension in the air was unimaginable.

The ball rolled on the number and eventually stopped on number 17.

"...!" Out of all four of them, Rudy was the most surprised since he didn't even think before placing the bet.

The dealer gave Rudy chips worth 70k\$, plus the original bet.

"..."

Rudy glanced at the girl, hoping she would be frustrated that she had lost three times in a row. But instead, she was grinning at Rudy.

"I knew it!" she said. "You have super luck!"

"Uhh..."

"It's like you have a superpower that gives you super luck!" Angelica yelled in Rudy's ears.

'I... don't think luck is a superpower, though. And don't yell in my ears!'

The girl turned to the dealer and said, "What do you think, Matthew?"

"I have been a dealer for ten years now, and I have to admit that this guy's luck is exceptional," Matthew asserted.

"See?" the girl smirked at Rudy.

'Why are 'you' smirking?! He is talking about me, not you.'

Rudy opened his mouth to say something, but Matthew interrupted him and said:

"But I don't think there is such a thing as super luck. Luck is a charm," he stated.

Angelica squinted her eyes at Rudy and said, "Luck is a superpower, right?"

The girl turned to Rudy and said, "What do you think?"

Matthew looked at Rudy and said, "Luck is a charm."

"No, it's not." Rudy furrowed his brows in annoyance and said, "Luck is not a charm, nor a superpower. Luck is... luck. Don't freaking make it more complicated than it already is."

"No." Angelica shook her head and said, "Luck is a superpower."

'If it was truly a superpower, then I wouldn't have lost the other bets...'

The girl placed her bet on the six numbers Rudy had betted in the first two rounds, but instead of 2k\$, she betted 2.5k\$ on five numbers and 2k\$ on the last one. Now, the girl didn't have a single chip left to bet.

She looked at Rudy with a smile on her face and said, "Your turn."

Rudy placed a 2.5k\$ bet on the number 31.

Matthew spun the wheel, and the ball stopped on one of the bets the girl had chosen.

"Yay!" she jumped in joy.

Matthew took Rudy's and the rest of the chips from the table and gave the chips worth 87.5k\$, plus the betting amount, to the girl.

She lost 47.5k\$ and won 87.5k\$ in return.

The girl turned to Rudy and said, "One last game."

She placed a 2.5k\$ bet on numbers 26 and 29 as singles. And Rudy placed the bet on number 20.

Matthew spun the wheel, and the ball didn't stop at either of their numbers.

"Oh, come on~!" the girl groaned loudly with a sigh.

Rudy scoffed softly and said, "Are you satisfied now?"

The girl nodded and said, "Thanks for playing with me."

Rudy gave all the chips worth 67k\$ to the girl and said, "Here is all your money, including the original amount and the winnings."

"But... that wasn't the deal..." the girl muttered.

"Yeah, it wasn't. But I don't want them," Rudy said in a calm voice. "It was a nice game."

Rudy didn't want to have any involvement with the girl or any favors. Besides, he could earn the same amount, if not more, if he wanted. He could cheat his way and win every game, but Rudy had planned to earn 10k\$ only, although he ended up earning nearly 20k\$.

The girl moved her hand forward to shake hands with Rudy and stared at him with an innocent smile on her face.

"Once again, thanks for playing with me," she said in a calm voice.

Rudy shook hands with the girl and said, "It was a pleasure."

"Can I know your name?" she asked with a curious look on her face.

'I... don't want to tell my real name, but... it shouldn't matter since there could be many more Rudy in the world. Furthermore, even my appearance is different, so they wouldn't be able to find me even if they wanted to.'

"My name is Rudy," Rudy replied while shaking hands with the girl. "May I have your name?"

"My name is Maria. Maria Ross," the girl replied with a grin on her face.

"Nice to meet you, Maria." Rudy shot a glance at Angelica to see her pouting for some reason.

After shaking hands with Maria, Rudy took the chips and made his way to the counter to get them exchanged.

Rudy gave 15 Maroon chips, five purple chips, 20 black chips, 12 orange, and two red. All the chips were worth 19630\$.

"Would you like to receive them in cash or online deposit?" the man at the counter asked.

'I don't have a bank account yet, so I will go with the cash.'

"I would like them in cash, please," Rudy responded in a calm voice.

"Alright." The man placed the money on the counter and said, "Show your ID and take the money."

"..."

"Uh oh..." Angelica covered her mouth in shock.

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Chapter 53: Wayouts

'This never happened in movies!' Rudy cried out loud but inwardly.

Rudy came to the casino to get rich. He could easily earn millions if he cheated, but he wanted to play righteously without misusing his powers.

Since it was his first time gambling in the casino, Rudy aimed to earn at least 10k\$, which he considered as an average monthly salary according to his standards. Rudy was offered 30k\$ per month as a salary in his previous life before he got into the tragic accident, so it was fair for him to assume 10k\$ as an average salary— although he knew it was a great amount.

Rudy won and lost, but he won more than he wanted to. But then, Maria offered him to play with her, and he agreed.

After all that, Rudy took the chips he had won to the counter and asked for the payout in cash. However, the man at the counter asked for ID verification.

"What are you going to do now?" Angelica asked with a curious yet anxious look on her face.

In this world, there was no one who knew Rudy better than Angelica. And she knew how Rudy was feeling after finding out about the ID verification during the checkout.

Rudy looked at the man behind the counter and said, "I will be right back after taking a short leak."

The man at the counter stared at Rudy with a judging look on his face. Then, he took the cash from the counter and placed it back under the counter.

"Sure."

Rudy went to the washroom, but all of the cubicles were occupied except the last one.

Upon entering the last cubicle, Rudy could smell a familiar scent; the smell of the perfume the brother and sister were wearing and the stench of male and female juice.

Normally, one wouldn't be able to smell that because of the scent of the perfume. However, Rudy had a super sharp sense that allowed him to smell even a faint smell.

Angelica placed her hand on the wall on the side and said, "This is where the man had pushed his sister. And she had wrapped her legs around the man's waist."

"Stop it. I don't want to hear someone's sex session," Rudy muttered with a sigh.

"The brother was rough, and his pp was big too," Angelica added.

Rudy raised his brows with a curious look on his face and asked, "Bigger than me?"

"Of course not. He was nowhere near you, not in roughness or the pp size."

For some reason, Rudy felt a sense of victory after hearing that.

Angelica placed her hand on her cave and started playing with herself.

"Anmh~" she moaned.

"...what are you.... Doing...?" Rudy asked with a completely baffled look on his face.

"I watched them have sex here, and so I got horny. But I controlled myself. But now that we are back here... I am horny again..."

Angelica cat on Rudy's lap and kissed him on the lips a couple of times before saying, "Can you fuck me?"

"No," Rudy rejected Angelica's offer with a straight face.

"Why not!" Angelica yelled desperately.

"You deserve this punishment." Rudy furrowed his brows and said with a smug look on his face: "You preferred to watch them have sex instead of coming with me."

"Furthermore, You got turned on by watching them. You ignored your master. So just like any master would do, I am going to punish you," Rudy said with a smug look on his face.

Angelica puffed her cheeks and continued kissing Rudy. She thought if she kissed Rudy enough times to make him hard and horny, he would fuck her. But that wasn't going to happen because Rudy was in a major dilemma.

Rudy stopped Angelica by placing his hands on her shoulders and looked at Angelica with a serious expression on his face.

SIGH!

Angelica sighed and stopped trying to get Rudy in the mood, but she didn't know that Rudy was already in the mood.

"What are you going to do about the ID?" Angelica asked Rudy.

"I can do many things, but that would lead to either me getting banned from this casino or penny less in the end."

"What do you mean?"

"I can go back to the counter, grab the money, and teleport back to my house. But that would expose me and my powers. I might even get mentioned in the news, and that would end up me getting banned from not only this, but all the casinos in this country," Rudy stated.

"However, that's not a problem, because I can change my appearance to some degree and make myself look like a totally new person. But then I would need an ID card to enter this or any casino," Rudy uttered with a deep sigh.

"What are the other options?" Angelica asked out of curiosity.

"I can mind control the man at the counter and make him give me the money without any ID, but I want to avoid mind-controlling people..."

"Let's keep that option as our last resort, shall we?"

Rudy nodded and continued, "Another decent option is that I teleport back to my house without taking any money. But then I would have to pull some tricks to enter this casino again."

Angelica and Rudy discussed that matter for a while and went back to the counter. He didn't want to spend more time in the washroom, or the man at the counter could have gotten suspicious.

"So we are going to mind control him?" Angelica asked Rudy to confirm.

After talking and pondering for a while, Rudy had decided to go with the last option, which was to mind control the man at the counter to give him the money he had won.

However, when Rudy went back to the counter, he saw Maria exchanging the chips that Rudy had given her.

"I have got another idea," Rudy muttered and hurriedly walked to the counter.

He stood beside Maria and smiled at her.

Maria noticed Rudy and said, "You are still here?! I thought you left already."

"Yeah..." Rudy scoffed and said, "I ate something weird before coming to the casino, and.... You know the rest. I need to go to the washroom again and again because..."

SIGH!

Rudy's acting had gotten a lot better, and everything he said looked real and natural.

"Yeah, I feel you..." Maria nodded in agreement.

Rudy closed his distance with Maria and whispered, "Hey, I need your help."

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Chapter 54: Master Rusher

"I need your help," Rudy said to Maria in a calm voice.

"Yes?"

Rudy got closer to Maria and whispered, "I don't have my ID with me, and as you know, we can't checkout without ID. So do you think you can do something and help me out?"

"Umm... even though I use my name or my family name, we still have to follow the casino rules..." Maria said with an awkward smile on her face.

"Oh..." Rudy sighed with a dejected look on his face.

'I guess I will have to use mind control, after all,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

Maria raised her brow with a judging look on her face and asked, "Can I ask how you entered the casino without an ID? Surely, they had checked your ID when you entered, right? So why don't you have your ID with you right now?"

'Things got more messy than they should have. But I guess this was bound to happen eventually when I had talked this out with the man at the counter.'

'I know this sounds like a lame and dumb excuse, but it should work.'

Rudy turned to Maria and said, "It was in my wallet. But when I went to the washroom for the first time, and when I stood up, my wallet fell into the sink, and I flushed it without noticing. When I went there again, I saw the contents of my wallet floating, but everything was a mess. And my ID got flushed with several other things."

Maria gave Rudy a weird look as though she didn't completely believe him, but regardless of what she thought of Rudy's reasoning. But she knew Rudy wasn't a bad guy since he gave her his winnings— although he won using her money.

Especially when they lived in a world where one could kill another for a few bucks.

However, Rudy's kind action was enough to gain Maria's trust and respect.

Rudy had landed a hit on a big shot without realizing it.

"But let me try what I can do." Maria tapped on the counter to get the man's attention.

The man was busy with other customers, so he ignored Maria.

".."

Maria was a little frustrated after that, but she understood why he did that.

The dealers, the man at the counter, and the manager who sits in the back office had the toughest job in casinos. While the dealer had to supervise the games, the man at the counter had to focus on the customers dealing.

However, the manager who sits in the office had to supervise everything and also keep their eyes on the dealer and the man at the counter.

Once the man at the counter had dealt with the other customers, he turned to Maria and Rudy.

"Yes?" he looked at Rudy and said, "Your ID please."

"Hey, Carry." Maria called out the man and said, "His wallet got flushed by mistake. And his ID was in it."

"She knows everyone's name," Angelica remarked

'Of course, she would know everyone's name!'

"Oh?" Carry looked at Rudy with an amusing look on his face and said, "No problem. We can open up the sewer for you."

'I knew it would come to this.' Rudy prepared himself to use mind control on Carry, but Angelica stopped him.

"Wait for a second," she said and pointed her gaze at Maria.

"I will take the responsibility of this man," Maria said to Carry. "Give him his cash."

Carry furrowed his brows at Maria and said, "And who are you to take responsibility?"

"You know me, I am Maria Ross," Maria uttered with a confused and puzzled look on her face.

"I know that. But who are you?" Carry asked.

"You don't hold any power, or you don't have any base to use your authority. You are nothing but a little girl," Carry said with an arrogant look on his face.

'Oh, you shouldn't have done that...!' Rudy uttered inwardly with a disappointed look on his face.

One of the things Rudy hated the most was people looking down on someone for no apparent reason.

'If they can't respect someone, then don't disrespect them either.' This was a rule of thumb for Rudy, and he followed that.

Of course, Rudy didn't force his motto on others; that was a lame thing to do. But it wasn't as though it was wrong.

Rebecca had done an excellent job raising Rudy. Even though she was a single mother, she gave Rudy proper guidance and taught him the rights and wrongs in life.

Of course, Rudy wasn't a saint, and he did many wrong things in his past life. But getting mature after living his life as an adult, Rudy could differentiate between right and wrong.

Maria gritted her teeth and clenched her fist in frustration.

Rudy felt bad after seeing that because Maria was insulted and disrespected only because he asked her for help.

Rudy was going to open his mouth to back Maria up, but he had no need to.

"You are right," Maria said. "You are absolutely right."

Maria frowned her face and said, "That's why, I will call my brother."

After hearing that, Carry's face turned pale.

'He is still here? I Thought he left already!' Carry panicked.

"What's wrong?" Maria smirked and said with a smug look on her face: "Did you see a ghost or something?"

'Technically, there is a ghost standing with us...' Rudy uttered inwardly and smiled at Angelica.

Carry began sweating after hearing that. He realized he had made a big mistake.

'Oh, I love this!' Rudy shouted inwardly. 'He insulted Maria by saying she had no authority or power, but instead of getting angry over it, Maria showed him his place by showing her authority.'

'But still...' Rudy looked at Carry and thought, 'If he is freaking out like this, her brother must be someone who holds enough power to scare a casino worker. They are trained well for this type of situation, and still...'

"There is no need to call Master Rusher. I would be glad to help this man out," Carry said in an obedient tone.

"Master...?" Rudy muttered.

"Yes." Maria turned to Rudy and uttered, "My brother is the owner of this casino."

"Of... course..." Rudy said with an awkward smile on his face.

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Chapter 55: Sugar Mama

'Her brother is the owner of this casino?! That man who was fucking his own sister?!' Rudy exclaimed inwardly.

"I see." Rudy took a deep breath and said, "I saw your family playing the roulette game, so I assumed you were also another customer."

"Well, he owns many casinos, but this one is my father's favorite ever since he was of your age. So my brother bought this one, and now he brings him here once in a while," Maria stated with a smile on her face.

"They always brought me with them but didn't let me play until I turned 18," she added.

"I mean... that's good parenting..." Rudy muttered under his breath.

Maria squinted her eyes at Rudy and said, "I thought you were different than them, but in the end, everyone is the same."

"You shouldn't have said that, Rudy. You made the girl sad," Angelica remarked while laughing out loud.

'She gets so annoying sometimes that I feel like railing her rough for an entire night!'

Rudy didn't know that Angelica was doing that on purpose to make him angry, so he could nail her later and be rough with her after remembering all the annoying comments and remarks she made during the entire day.

"Here is your cash," Carry said while placing the money on the counter.

Rudy was about to take the money, but a sudden thought crossed his mind that made him take a different action. He turned to Maria, who was glaring at him with puffed cheeks.

Beside her, Angelica was standing with the same expression on her face, seemingly trying to imitate angry Maria.

Without thinking, Rudy tried to slap Angelica lightly to 'poof' her pouting cheeks, but Angelica jumped back, and he ended up 'poofing' Maria's cheek.

'This was an extremely stupid move.' Rudy knew it was too late to do anything, so he did the same with his other hand poofing Maria's other cheek.

Now, Rudy was pressing his hands against Maria's cheek, and her face was in his hand.

Maria's face flushed a little as she said, "What do you think you are doing!"

'I honestly don't know myself!' Rudy yelled inwardly.

"Your cheeks looked like they were about to explode, so I tried to stop that," Rudy uttered with a soft scoff.

Maria shrugged Rudy's hands from her face and said, "Don't touch me without my permission."

"Ahahaha!" Angelica laughed out loud and said, "This is so funny!"

Angelica was rolling on the floor, quite literally.

"Ahahaha!" She continued laughing. "I love when you get yourself in a situation like this!"

'I have got a sadist in my harem! I hope she won't turn into a yandere down the path. But I don't think that wouldn't happen since she was the one who suggested that I have a harem,' Rudy thought to himself.

"Umm.. I need your help," Rudy said to Maria.

"Again," he added.

"What?"

Rudy pointed his gaze at the money and said, "How about you take this money too?"

"...what?" Angelica asked with a confused look on her face.

"....?" Maria didn't say anything out of surprise.

"Let me explain." After a brief pause, Rudy continued, "You take my money, and in return, you give me your card."

"..."

"I won't use the money. And even if I do, I won't use more than what... more than the money I am giving you..." Rudy explained in an awkward manner.

Maria stared at Rudy for a while and uttered, "So, in short, you are asking me to become your sugar mama?"

"No..." Rudy shook his head with a sigh and said, "I can't keep cash with me. So I want you to have my money, and you give me your card."

Maria pondered for a while without saying anything.

"You can limit card transactions to the money I am giving you," Rudy added to reassure Maria.

Sure, Rudy was asking too much to a girl he had met a few hours ago. But he felt like Maria would agree because she seemed gullible and innocent to him.

"Well, I don't mind." Maria shrugged her shoulders and said, "And you can use as much money as you want. In fact, I use my father's card, so... I don't care either way."

"Is that okay...?"

"Yeah, we have too much money, so a few millions wouldn't affect us. It's like mere change for us," she said with a proud face.

Maria opened her purse and gave Rudy a black card. However, just as Rudy was about to take the card from Maria's hand, she pulled her hand back and smirked at Rudy.

"...." Rudy raised his brows and thought, 'I don't like this look and smirk on her face.'

"You know, if I give you the card just like this, it would be an easy win for you. How about you do something to earn it?" Maria uttered with a curious look on her face.

"Like what? I am already giving you my money..." Rudy wondered. After pondering for a while, Rudy said, "How about you give me your phone number?"

Maria's face flushed a little after hearing that.

'This looks like I am trying to woo her. I should have phrased it better.' Rudy let out a weary sigh.

"Or I can give you my number," Rudy rephrased his statement.

"But... why... do you want my number?" Maria asked with a curious and confused look on her face.

"You can call me anytime you want to play with me. And I will come within 5 minutes," Rudy asserted.

"But you can only call me once a week."

Maria raised her brow with a curious look on her face and said, "What if you don't come within 5 minutes?"

"Umm... you can block the card?"

"Heh!" Maria scoffed out loud after hearing that. "You are so funny!"

"Am... I..?"

"Yes, you are!" Angelica yelled from behind. "You should become a comedian."

'I swear I am going to fuck her senseless tonight!' Rudy cursed and swore to punish Angelica tonight. However, it was more of a pleasure than a punishment.

"Alright, fine." Maria handed the black card to Rudy and said, "The casino blocks cell towers, so I will have to write my number on your phone."

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Chapter 56: Friends

"Give me your phone so that I can insert my number," Maria said to Rudy.

Rudy took out his phone from his pocket and handed it to Maria after unlocking it.

"..." Maria was baffled after seeing Rudy's phone's condition.

'The phone's screen has so many cracks, and it is so unresponsive! How does he even use this?' Maria wondered. 'And even the phone model is outdated and eight years old.'

Maria opened the contact list to add her number. While adding her number, she thought, 'Does he not have enough money to buy a new one? Come to think of it, his starting bet was also only 5\$.'

Maria handed Rudy his phone back after entering her number.

'I can buy him a new phone with the latest model, but maybe there is a reason he is using this old one?' Maria thought. 'Like maybe it was given to him by someone close to him? Maybe brother or sister? Or perhaps his parents?'

Maria inspected Rudy from head to toe and thought, 'Even his clothes look old and short for him. Is he from a poor family?'

'But his luck is super! And he earned decent money tonight. Wait... he didn't even know the rules of betting. Could it be that it was his first time here?' Maria uttered inwardly.

Maria was watching Rudy play as she had said to Rudy when she approached him with an offer to play with her, so she could hear his conversation with Matthew.

'I don't think I should mention it, though. It might be a sensitive topic for him.' Maria smiled at Rudy and thought, 'I don't want to lose my only friend in the world.'

'Wait...!' Maria raised her brows and thought, 'We are friends... right?'

Maria wanted to ask Rudy if they were friends, but she was afraid to hear his answer.

Maria had spent her entire life at home. She wasn't allowed to go out, and even her education was home tutored.

Rudy was the only person around her age that she had talked to outside her household, and she felt a weird feeling in her heart after spending time with Rudy.

'Should I ask him?' Maria asked herself.

However, she was worried for nothing.

Rudy could hear every word Maria had thought because of his telepathy ability which was randomly activated for some reason.

However, Rudy had a faint idea why it was triggered.

'It's because she was thinking about me and wanted to ask me something. Just like how it was triggered when the principal wanted to tell me to take rest.'

'But.. it was already triggered when the taxi driver asked me to give 500\$ as a taxi fare. And I highly doubt he wanted me to hear it...'

Rudy wanted to think more about the sudden trigger of his telepathy, but he had something else to take care of first.

He cleared his throat and moved his hand towards Maria to shake hands with her.

"..." Maria shook hands with Rudy with a confused look on her face, but she didn't say anything.

'I thought she would say it if I took the initiative, but I guess I will have to say it now...' Rudy sighed.

Rudy looked into Maria's eyes and said, "Let's hope our friendship gets deeper the more time we spend with each other."

"..." Maria's face flushed a little. But she nodded with a grin on her face and said, "Yes."

'I tried to copy the line someone said to me in my past life, but I think I fucked it up a little...' Rudy uttered inwardly.

Angelica hugged Rudy from behind and said, "You know, that looked more like you were trying to make your relationship more than that of a friend. Like, you said you wanted to deepen your friendship, but that could easily be misunderstood as a proposal.'

'What the fuck are you talking about?! No matter how I look at it, it's obvious that you are trying to pull my leg here.'

Rudy tried to shrug off Angelica from his back. But instead of moving back or making some distance with Rudy, Angelica moved her hand down to Rudy's crotch and stroked his snake from the outside.

'...!' Rudy took a deep breath and slowly exhaled to act normal.

"What's wrong?" Maria asked.

"Nothing." Rudy shook his head and pointed his gaze at the money on the counter after saying, "How about you have that money deposit in your bank account?"

"There is no need for that," Maria scoffed. "I spend that amount of money on homeless people."

"Oka..y..."

Maria turned around and walked to the counter to take the cash.

At the same time, Rudy turned around and squeezed both of Angelica's breasts to calm her down. And it worked, but not the squeezing.

She stopped because of the glare in Rudy's eyes.

It wasn't as though she was scared of Rudy, but she realized that she had crossed the limit.

However, Rudy wasn't truly angry at Angelica. The only reason he acted like that was that, as with any normal male, if their snake was stroked regardless of where they were, they would get hard.

Rudy wanted to avoid getting a boner in front of Maria, especially when they became friends and shook hands.

Maria walked back to Rudy while placing the cash in her purse. She stood in front of Rudy and stared at him with a smile on her face.

"..."

"..."

They both stared at each other without saying anything because neither of them knew what to say. While Angelica glanced back and forth between Rudy and Maria.

"Uhh... I should leave now..." Rudy said with an awkward smile on his face.

"Yeah. Wait..." Maria closed her distance with Rudy and said, "How do you plan to go back?"

'Teleporting, of course. But as if I could say that.'

"I am going to take a taxi..." Rudy responded.

"Then how about I drop you off?" Maria offered with an innocent smile on her face.

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Chapter 57: Maria's Family Background

"Then how about I drop you off?" Maria offered with an innocent smile on her face.

'But when she was playing roulette with her family, didn't she say if she won the game, her father would have to buy her first car?' Rudy thought to himself. 'So she shouldn't have a car, right? Unless, of course, she is talking about her family member's car.'

Rudy nodded in agreement and said, "Why not."

"Yay!" Maria jumped in joy and took Rudy out of the casino from the backdoor.

"What about the rest of your family?" Rudy asked curiously.

"They already went home," Maria replied with a shrug.

"But inside, you said your brother was... oh..." Rudy realized that Maria lied to help Rudy out.

"Shall we go now?" Maria said with a grin on her face.

She took Rudy to her car, and Rudy was genuinely surprised to see it.

It was a black Limousine.

'Wow. Why am I even surprised?' Rudy asked with a soft scoff. 'I should have expected something like this.'

Maria opened the car's door, and eight men wearing black-suit walked out.

They stood on each side of the door to make way for Maria to enter the car. But they took out their weapons when they saw Rudy following him.

"He is with me," Maria said to the guards.

"But miss—"

Maria frowned her face and said, "He. Is. With. Me."

"With all due respect, I will have to let your father know about this," one of the guards said.

"I am just going to drop him off on the way," Maria stated. "Come one! I am 19 now! Give me some freedom!"

"..."

"..."

All the guards glanced at each other and nodded.

"Alright, miss."

"And I am going alone with him. You all can call another car from home," Maria asserted nonchalantly.

"...!"

"That's dangerous—"

Maria interrupted the guard and said, "I know what you are trying to say. But you should know that I have been trained to defend myself, right?"

"..."

The guards sighed and turned around to face their backs to each other. As though they were pretending not to see anything.

Maria beckoned Rudy with a smile on her face and said, "Come."

Rudy reluctantly sat in the car and closed the door behind him.

Rudy told Maria his address, but he didn't tell her the exact address.

Maria pressed the switch on the handrest of her seat and uttered Rudy's address.

[As you say, miss Maria,] the driver spoke.

The car started driving, and Rudy and Angelica made themselves comfortable on the seat while Maria looked out of the window.

'Her guards allowed it?! Seriously?!' Rudy couldn't believe why the guards would allow Maria to go with a complete stranger they had never seen before. That seemed highly unlikely since Rudy knew no bodyguards would do that.

'Unless she really means what she said a while ago...'

Maria wasn't kidding when she mentioned her training. She was truly trained in all types of combat, and she could easily defeat the elite guards in 1 vs. 1 combat. Of course, she would have a tough time fighting more than once.

However, even if all the guards tried to fight Rudy at once, they wouldn't even be able to touch him.

Rudy glanced around the interior of the car and saw it was completely different from the outside.

Sure, it wasn't his first time in the limousine. Anon had a similar car, and Rudy had traveled in it many times in his past life.

But this one was a lot different.

There were champagne bottles and all the necessary things for the parties. There was a disco light and automated seats that could be controlled with the remote.

However, what Rudy was the most surprised by was the guns in the drawer.

Rudy didn't mean to see them, but he was staring at the interior of the car so much that it activated his see-through ability, and he ended up seeing the things he shouldn't actually see.

Of course, Rudy acted normal and stayed calm. It wasn't as though his life was in danger anyway since he could easily blow up the car with a simple snap.

"What's wrong?" Maria asked. She tilted her head to the side while looking out of the window and asked, "You are silent all of a sudden."

"I was just wondering who you are. Your family is rich, and you have bodyguards. So you must be a celebrity or a daughter of the business—"

"No." Maria laughed out loud and said, "You are wrong."

"Oh..."

Maria finally looked her eyes with Rudy and said, "I am a mafia."

'Now, I am surprised!' Rudy yelled inwardly. 'But I should have predicted that already. There were lots of clues.'

That thought didn't cross Rudy's mind because of how loving their family was. It was highly unlikely that a mafia family would get along so well.

Furthermore, upon seeing and hearing her family members interact with each other, they seemed like a normal family.

'It's rare to see family members getting along—' Rudy stopped when he remembered how the brother and sister of the family got 'too' intimate with each other.

'I don't think anyone in the family knows about their incestuous activity.' Rudy looked at Maria and thought, 'And Maria doesn't give off mafia vibes, to be honest.'

'She said she donates to homeless people, and I don't think mafias care about anyone.' Rudy clenched his fists and muttered, "I know it because of a certain incident in my past life."

"Hmm? Did you say something?" Maria asked with a curious look on her face.

Rudy shook his head and said, "I guess there are good mafias too."

"Well, I wouldn't consider our syndicate as 'good' but yeah, we are the least violent among all the other syndicates," Maria asserted.

'I can know more about them through Maria.'

Rudy played dumb and asked, "How many syndicates are there in the underworld?"

"There are 12 pillars of the underworld. But there are many syndicates. Some are small organizations that are not in any syndicates, and then there are small gangs you see on the streets."

After a brief pause, Maria said, "Out of the 12 pillars, my family— the Ross Syndicate is the wealthiest. But we are not the strongest."

Meanwhile, Angelica was masturbating in front of Rudy to distract him from his conversation with Maria.

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Chapter 58: Underworld's History

"Your syndicate is the wealthiest, but not the strongest? That doesn't make sense," Rudy uttered.

"Money doesn't relate power and strength, you know?"

"Yeah, but they are indirectly related to each other." Rudy changed his position on the seat and sat beside Maria.

"If your syndicate is the wealthiest, then other syndicates must also know about it, right?" Rudy asked with a curious look on his face.

Maria nodded and said, "That's why we are called that."

"That means, the smaller organizations who aren't part of any syndicates would surely want to join your syndicate. Hence, it would naturally also increase the manpower of your syndicate," Rudy asserted without taking any pause.

"Of course, I am not saying this based on any proof. It's just a theoretical assumption," he added.

Maria covered her mouth and giggled to stop herself from laughing.

"...did I say something funny...?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"No." Maria shook her head and said, "I am just surprised that you came to that conclusion after knowing one thing about my syndicate."

"..."

"But you are right. On paper, we are not the strongest, but we do have a lot of organizations in our syndicate. And besides, the underworld has been at peace for the last twenty years, so no one truly knows what strength one possesses."

"That's a good thing?" Rudy wondered and thought, 'In my past life, there was a major underworld outbreak a few years later. I don't know what caused it, but the entire underworld was turned upside down.'

"You know, when my father was around our age, he was so evil to the core. He did so many evil things that I can't describe without feeling disgusted. He was like that for years. Even after he married my mother to gain the power of her family organization, he didn't love her. He slept with dozens of women every day and treated my mother harshly. He never paid attention to her. He killed all the women who got pregnant with his child to avoid future drama. He wanted only one heir— a son."

"He had threatened my mother that if she gave birth to a daughter, he would kill her and the child. But luckily, my mother gave birth to twins. One was a boy, and another was a girl," Maria scoffed as she said that.

"Father was confused. But since mom gave birth to the son, he didn't do anything to the daughter and my mother. Years passed by, and he still remained evil. He taught my brother and sister how to kill and conquer."

"My father was feared in the entire underground. His enemies left the fights whenever they heard he was coming. All the organizations wanted to join our syndicate. The other syndicates also wanted to make a peace pact with our syndicate. Our syndicate had become the most powerful in the underground." Maria looked into Rudy's eyes and said, "And that's how our syndicate became the wealthiest in the entire underground."

"That makes sense," Rudy nodded after hearing that. "But he didn't give off evil vibes in the casino."

"He changed 20 years ago and turned into a big-hearted man. No one knows what happened to him, but he became a kind person. He started taking care of everyone. He apologized to the families of the people he had killed and gave them money. He donated funds to charity and did many good things." Maria shrugged her shoulders and said, "Maybe he saw a devil that made him realize the true meaning of evil."

"Or maybe he changed because you were born?" Rudy said with a judging look on his face. "You are 20 years old, right?"

"Heh!" Maria snorted and said, "That's not possible."

"Why not?"

"There are no pictures or evidence of my birth. Normally, parents record those moments because they are precious and memorable moments for any parent." Maria smiled wryly as she continued, "I don't know what happened to him twenty years ago. But there was an underground war that happened around the same time."

Maria was awfully calm and open while talking with Rudy.

Even Rudy found it strange, but he recalled how awkward she felt while calling Rudy her friend.

'She doesn't know the boundaries of friendship. She is naive and innocent on this side,' Rudy scoffed softly and smiled at Maria.

Maria squinted her eyes and said, "What are you laughing for."

"You are not like other mafias, or should I say... you don't look like one."

Rudy said that because the entire family had a background.

According to Maria, her father was an evil lord. She didn't talk much about her mother. While her brother was married and had a healthy relationship with his wife.

Rudy came to that conclusion because Rusher was flirting with his wife when they were playing the game.

Maria's sister didn't get along with her husband, and she drugged him every night to subdue his lust. She was having an affair with her brother, which was extremely immoral.

Considering all that, Maria was the only one with no secrets and peculiar habits.

Maria looked into Rudy's eyes and said, "Do you truly think I am different from the rest of my family?"

"Yeah...?"

"I knew it." Maria bit her lips and said, "I always felt out of place with them. You know, I think I am not truly my father's daughter."

Rudy raised his brows with a curious and confused look on his face and asked, "Why would you think that?"

"Sometimes, I just feel like I don't belong there. Like there is no connection between me and the rest of my family members..." Maria muttered with a disdainful tone.

"You look awfully a lot like your sister, though. So I am pretty sure you are part of the family," Rudy reassured.

"If you look close enough, all humans are the same."

'Not, they are not...' Rudy sighed and tried to say something, but he thought it would be best to keep his mouth shut since it seemed to be a sensitive case for her.

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Chapter 59: Comforting Maria

Rudy looked at Angelica, who was still masturbating, and his eyes widened in realization as he recalled something he had heard in the cubicle.

'Are you trying to get me pregnant again like you did 20 years ago?' Rudy remembered what the woman had said.

He turned to Maria and asked, "Where were your brother and sister twenty years ago? Or rather, at the time you were born?"

"As I said, there was an underworld war going on 20 years ago. So my father sent them overseas to not involve them in all that," Maria answered.

"That's why even they don't know why father turned into saint from a devil," she added with a shrug.

'I get it now. Everything makes sense...'

Rudy smiled at Maria and thought, 'I think Rusher got his sister pregnant when they were hiding overseas 20 years ago. And Maria is their child.'

'That explains why Maria looked a lot like her sister... her mother....' Rudy was having a crisis in his mind after thinking all that.

'That also explains why Maria's parents... grandparents, didn't have any photos of her birth,' Rudy uttered inwardly. 'Her biological parents, the brother and sister, returned with a child with them. I don't know what they said to their parents, but I don't think they know the truth.'

Angelica also realized that. Even though she was masturbating, she was paying attention to Rudy and Maria's conversion.

She looked at Rudy and said, "So Maria is the product of incest."

'This is so cruel...' Rudy uttered inwardly. 'I can't imagine how Maria would feel when she gets to know about this...'

"It would be for the best if she never gets to know about this," Angelica said to Rudy.

Rudy nodded in response without saying anything for obvious reasons.

'She already feels distanced from her family members. I mean, she was actually right. You can easily tell the difference between parental love and the love of a guardian. Her grandparents don't love her as parents but rather as guardians. And there is a huge difference.'

'Like how mom loves me as my mother. And Joe would also love me as a father, but that would be a little different.'

Rudy thought he should say something to Maria to make her feel better. He wanted to say something, but he couldn't put his feelings into words.

In the end, Rudy decided to take a natural approach.

He held Maria's hand in his hand and said, "Does it matter?"

"Huh?"

"Does it matter?" Rudy asked again.

"Wha..t?" Maria couldn't understand what Rudy was trying to say.

"You just said it, right? You feel like you don't belong there. So does it matter if you feel like that?" Rudy asked in a gentle voice.

Maria's eyes widened after hearing that as though she had heard the words of wisdom. She realized that she was worried for nothing.

Maria smiled and shook her head in response before saying, "My life wouldn't change, not even a bit. So it doesn't matter."

"Then stop worrying about it," he said with a smile on his face. "Nothing good comes with worry. Live your life to your fullest and don't waste a single opportunity because one lost opportunity is equal to one lifeline."

He squeezed Maria's hand and said, "You won't get a chance to live your life again. You only get one life to live, so make sure you don't waste it worrying about the things that don't matter."

After hearing Rudy's words, Maria couldn't help but tear up.

"..."

"...."

"Aww, you made her cry," Angelica commented.

'Shut up! And stop masturbating, you horny ghost!'

Maria ended up crying because of the emotions Rudy had put behind his words. Since Rudy had experienced what he had just said, Angelica could feel his sadness and despair in his words. That made Maria realize how lucky she was to have everything in her life.

She had parents who loved her, siblings who were her biological parents, money, fame, everything. However, she didn't have respect and authority. That was something she had to earn. And now, she wanted Rudy to help her with that.

"I need your help with something. Can you help me?" Maria asked with a reluctance in her voice, as though she wasn't sure if she shouldn't ask him or not. No, it wasn't because she didn't trust Rudy, it was because she didn't want to involve Rudy in the underworld matters. But it was too late now.

Rudy had already decided to shake the underworld.

"What is it?" Rudy asked. "You helped me out twice tonight. So it would be fair for me to help you out in return."

"Well..."

Rudy realized the reason behind Maria's hesitation, but he genuinely wanted to help her because he could benefit from it too.

"We are friends now, right? And friends help each other out." Rudy rubbed his thumb on Maria's hand and said, "Tell me, what is it?"

"Umm... I don't think you have the power to help me out..." Maria muttered under her breath.

'I have the power to make everything possible. Just say it, and I will make it happen.' Rudy wanted to say that out loud, but it was for the best that he didn't.

After a brief silence, Maria opened her mouth and said, "Every year, a poker tournament happens in the casinos. And the winner gets a huge winning amount. They also get a casino pass and special access to the VIP club of the casino."

"Okay..."

"And the VIP club also has a yearly poker tournament, and the winner gets access to the underworld VIP club and many more perks," Maria asserted.

"So... you want my help for that?"

Maria nodded and said, "You have super luck, so there is a high chance that you will win. Of course, I will be the one providing all the funds, so you don't have to worry about money. And it would be perfectly fine even if you lose."

"But... you are already part of the underworld, right? Why do you want to....?" Rudy had a faint idea what Maria was trying to say, but he had to confirm it by hearing her say it with her own mouth.

"I have access, but you don't.." Maria's face flushed a little as she said, "I want to bring you to the underworld."

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Chapter 60: Thirsty Angelica

After making a small deal with Maria, she dropped Rudy off near the park.

"Are you sure you want to get off here?" Maria asked with an anxious look on her face. "I can drop you near your house if you—"

"Yeah." Rudy nodded and said, "My house is right after the park, so this is a shortcut."

"Okay then, see you... next week?" Maria wondered awkwardly.

"You can call me to play games, but remember, only once a week."

"What would you do if I called you more than one time a week?" Maria asked with a curious look on her face.

"How about you try doing it, and I will show you what I would do," Rudy responded with a smirk on his face.

For some reason, Maria got turned on after hearing Rudy's warning, but she didn't realize it. It was the first time in her life that someone had dared her like that. In most of the dares she got, she was always confident. But now, she wasn't sure if she could dare to call Rudy twice a week or not.

Maria rolled up the window after saying, "Goodbye, and good night."

After that, the black limousine drove off.

Rudy stood between the street for a while and let out a deep sigh. Then, he furrowed his brows and turned to Angelica, who was staring back at him with a slutty smile and an alluring gaze in her eyes.

Angelica squirmed and said, "Don't look at me like that, or I will end up orgasming!"

Rudy shook his head in disbelief, "Where is my old innocent Angelica who got embarrassed on every small thing?"

"You killed her when you injected her with your big pp," Angelica replied with a grin on her face.

"You know, I am angry at you."

"Yes. I did so many bad things." Angelica licked her lips and said, "I have been a bad girl, and bad girls need punishment, right?"

"..." Rudy simply stared at her without saying anything.

Angelica wrapped her arms around Rudy's neck and said a mischievous grin on her face: "Punish me with your injection."

'I knew it. I knew she was doing all that on purpose!' Rudy raised his brows at Angelica and said, "I forgive you."

"Huh?" The grin on Angelica's face vanished, and it was replaced with a dejected look on her face.

'Since she wanted me to punish her, I will do the exact opposite and forgive her,' Rudy smirked.

"Since I won more money than I expected, I am happy today. So I forgive you," he said with a smug look on his face.

"No, no. You have to punish me. Please, punish me~!" Angelica begged.

'This is kind of amazing. It's turning me on!'

Rudy's internal sadist was slowly awakening, while Angelica now looked like a masochist asking to get punished.

"I am sorry I won't cross the limits now. So please, punish me~"

Rudy raised his one brow with a judging look on his face and asked, "Do you promise you would stop when I ask you to stop?"

Angelica nodded violently and said, "Yes."

"And what if you don't?"

"You can do anything you want with me."

'That sounds more like a reward to me...'

Rudy sneered and said, "Let us go back to my house first."

Angelica went inside Rudy's body and said, 'I want you to be extra rough today.'

Rudy teleported to his room and changed his appearance back to the teenager.

Angelica came out of Rudy's body and repeated herself: "I want you to be extra rough."

"Let me go check the house first. There are chances that mom could be back from work."

Rudy got up and walked out of the room. He went downstairs and returned to his room after a few seconds.

"It seems she is still not back."

"That reminds me, why did you not take cash and took Maria's card instead?" Angelica asked curiously.

"I can't just bring that much amount and give it to mom, you know? She would ask me where I got that, and I obviously can't tell her that I went to the casino," Rudy retorted.

"What if you just tell her that you won the lottery or something?" Angelica wondered.

"That was the plan, but then I realized how lame it was." Rudy let out a weary sigh and continued, "Suppose mom believed me. Then, I would go to the casino next week and earn more money. What will I say to mom? I can't use the same excuse all the time."

"That's why, I will keep winning and accumulate the money up to 1 million. Then, I will tell her that I won a lottery," Rudy shrugged. "And I thought about it, and you were right."

"About what?"

"It's normal for parents to work. But of course, I don't plan to let mom work all the time. So I will let her do the night shift at the convenience store, which is a 10-minute walk from here. She works as a cashier, so it's better than all her other jobs."

"Why night shift? Isn't it better if she works in the daytime?" Angelica asked with a curious look on her face.

"If mom does a daytime job, that would mean that she would be home at night. She is going to marry Joe tomorrow, so if mom is home at night, they will sleep in the same room," Rudy uttered in a disdainful tone.

"But Joe is impotent so it shouldn't matter, right?"

"I just don't like the thought of mom getting near another man in a private space," Rudy said in a solemn voice.

"..." Angelica wanted to comment on that matter, but she chose to stay quiet since any topic regarding Rebecca was sensitive to Rudy.

"I will let her do night shifts until I find a new house suitable for all of us to live in," Rudy asserted.

"Now, can we fuck? I have been horny since I saw Maria's parents having sex in the cubicle. I even masturbated, but my thirsty pussy won't calm down until it receives your white, thick dose from your injection."