Esper 691

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 691: Two Selves of the Two

Even though Angelica couldn't be seen in the pictures, she could see her reflection in the mirror and other reflective objects. Hence, she knew what she looked like. And that's precisely why Angelica was shocked to her core.

The girl in the video looked exactly like her.

"Jessica...?" Angelica muttered.

[Yes.]

"Why do you look like me?" she asked in a nervous tone.

[Because I am you.]

"...!"

[I was you before you died and became a ghost.]

"Wha...t? I don't understand. Why are you at Rudy's house, then? And... how are you alive if I am dead?"

[I am talking to you from 1999. I died in the year 2000, which is why I am still alive. And as for why I am at Rudy's house... it's my house too,] she responded with a shrug.

"What... do you mean? How could it be your house?"

[You must have seen the pictures in Rudy's phone of his one-year stay in 1989. Am I right?]

Angelica nodded a little without saying a word.

[There should be two... well, three girls. One of them is sis, one is me, and the third is Lilim.]

"I thought one was Rebecca."

[Yes, she is my sister.]

"..."

[That also means she is your sister too. And before you ask— no, Lilim isn't our sister.]

"You are lying! I am not Jessica! I am Angelica!" Angelica hissed.

[I never said you aren't. But Jessica and Angelica are the same. Just because you don't have your memories, that doesn't make you a different person.]

"Excuse me! I am dead!"

[That you are, but that's not the point of this conversation. We are contacting you for something important, something you would want to know.]

"I still don't believe a single word you say. You could be Rudy's enemy who has the power to change forms, and you took my form to deceive me."

[What would be the point of doing that? I will gain nothing by deceiving you. You can't even exist without Rudy.]

[Hey! That was mean!] the boy said to Jessica.

[Shut up. I don't care if it was mean or if she was hurt by the truth. She keeps asking stupid questions. And I am talking to my other self so I can talk to her however I want.]

Jessica looked at the camera and said, [I am done talking to you nicely. I should have known talking to your calmly wouldn't work since you are spoiled as fuck, just like me. You need to be yelled at and scolded.]

"No one scolds me!"

[Whatever. Now listen carefully, I have a task for you. I will give you—]

"I won't do anything you want, especially after you yelled at me. And I will tell Rudy about this, and he will find you and beat you!"

[No! You mustn't tell Rudy about any of this. He doesn't know it. He is not supposed to know it.]

"Oh, I will tell him everything. I will ruin whatever you are plotting." Angelica smirked and said, "That's what you get for messing with me. Now show your true self and reveal who you are."

[...]

"There is no way you are from 1999. How can someone from the past have a live video chat?"

[You yourself said that Rudy can do anything.]

"But 1999 has passed. It doesn't exist anymore."

[For you, yes. But for us, we are living in it.]

"How does that make any— wait..." Angelica looked at the boy and quoted, "Rudy can do it."

[...]

[....!]

"Does that mean that kid is Rudy?!" Angelica exclaimed in whispers.

The boy took off his mask and glared at Jessica.

[Well done. You had one job, which was to not reveal our identities, and you still couldn't do it. I know Angelica is not dumb, but you sure are one of the dumbest people I know.]

[How is it my fault? She tricked me into saying that. I wasn't prepared for her smart questions.]

"..."

SIGH!

The boy sighed and muttered, [What's done is done. There is no going back now.]

He looked at the camera and said, [Yes, I am Rudy.]

"Why... Why is your hair white?" she asked curiously.

[That's the first thing you ask, seriously?]

"How can you be Rudy? He is at the party."

[This is... 1999. Why would you even ask something so obvious,] he groaned.

"So... you are not my Rudy...?" she asked with a curious and confused look on her face.

[Ouch. That hurts. We both are the same.]

"No. For instance, I would believe that Jessica and I are the same, but I would never believe that you and Rudy are the same."

[That doesn't matter.]

"Are you the Rudy from this world before Rudy transmigrated to this world— in your body?"

[Yes, and no. Let me explain in the simplest words. This might get confusing, so I will refer to 2008's Rudy as your Rudy.]

"That's a fact."

[Your Rudy time traveled to 1989 and spent a year there. Then, he fought his greatest battle in space and died.]

"...!"

[He had lost his physical body and turned into pure energy, a part of the cosmos, to be one with the universe. When he died, he created a big bang that would have destroyed everything in existence.

His soul had shattered into billions of fragments and scattered all across the endless space— which would have created a new reality— a new universe. However, something strange happened, and the process was somehow reversed to the moment the big bang occurred.

His soul was divided into two equal pieces. One part returned to 2008— your Rudy— and continued living. While the other part was sent to the womb of a pregnant human woman in labor.

And that is me. I have all the memories, and so does Rudy. We both are part of one Rudy, living in different timelines at the same time. And we will merge again in 2008, which was also the moment he was transmigrated to my body.]

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Chapter 692: Divergence Point

"In other words, you are the owner of the body which Rudy is currently living in, right?" Angelica asked with a knowing look on her face.

[That is correct, but it was our body, to begin with.]

"But you two are different."

[No, we aren't. It seems you have watched too many anime, Angelica. Your Rudy and I have the same memories and personalities. Nothing has changed. I can't even call us clones.

Of course, if we both existed in the same timeline in two different bodies, I wouldn't dare to say that we both are the same. That would be an entirely different case.]

"Let me get this straight." Angelica raised her brow and said, "You said that both Rudy merged when Rudy transmigrated to this world— which has already happened in this timeline, so doesn't that mean you two are already one?"

[Yes,] he nodded. [But then he time traveled to 1989, fought Asura, and our souls have divided into two parts again— which is me.]

"This is... confusing. So currently, you and my Rudy are not merged?"

[No. We won't stay merged. It's a paradox loop that can't be solved, but the loop will break if we do something that's not supposed to happen— Which is why we are contacting you.]

"Why do you think I will help you out? If the loop breaks, there will be two Rudys."

[Breaking the loop doesn't mean changing anything. Remember, we are from the past that has already passed for you in the 2008 timeline.]

"So you two won't merge?"

[If there are two equal forces in the same plane, one will automatically disappear. Once the loop breaks, my body won't have any soul in it, and your Rudy will keep living in my body— which he is.]

"What will happen to you? Will you die?"

[No. I will simply become a part of the cosmos.]

"That means you will die."

[That's not how it works. Souls are forms of energy, and my soul is a cosmic energy— which is the universe. Lord is born from a part of the universe, so I will become the power and will eventually return to Rudy.

To be honest, it's for the best that our original soul is divided into two parts. Had it stayed one and Rudy had returned to 2008 with one soul, his powers would have started leaking again, and the same thing as 1990 would have happened.

Now that our souls are divided, Rudy will have more time before his powers leak. Until then, he will have to find a solution. I have already asked someone for help, and she is trying her best to find as much information as she can.]

"Who?" Angelica asked curiously.

[Unfortunately, I cannot tell you everything. If you let anything slip off your tongue by mistake and Rudy learns of anything he isn't supposed to, everything will be ruined.]

"Don't you find it amusing why the original soul was divided into two parts and not three or more especially when it had shattered into billions of fragments? That's not a coincidence, is it?" she sharpened her gaze with a judging glare in her eyes.

[Indeed. An external factor was involved, and I have to find out who. From the very start, someone has been pulling strings, leading to a chain of coincidences. Nothing bad has happened and whatever happened was in Rudy's favor.

Hence, it's safe to say that the external factor is helping us, but the question is why?]

"It... could be the universe...?" Angelica mumbled.

[I said the same thing to him,] Jessica glanced at the kid Rudy.

[I thought of the possibility. It could also be the Lord's power. We don't know, which is why I asked Nyxia to.... shit!] He covered his mouth, but it was too late.

"So the person who is looking for the information is Nyxia, huh? That also explains why she travels so much around the worlds," Angelica smirked.

Jessica shook her head at Rudy in disappointment and remarked, [And then he called me dumb when my tongue accidentally slipped.]

[She tricked me!] Kid Rudy hissed.

SIGH!

He rubbed his face in frustration and looked at the camera.

[I never knew you were this sly.]

"Excuse me, it's not my fault if you fall for my trap."

[I think we have told her more than enough. Let's do what we have to do and end this session. We are short on time.]

"Wait, I have one last question." Angelica looked at Jessica and asked, "Who killed me?"

[We don't know. Mind you, this is 1999. Jessica died in the year 2000. Also, I can't save her.]

"Why?!"

[If she is dead in 2008, that means I was unable to save her, even with my powers. Jessica will die regardless of what I do. That's the turning point. That is a harsh reality I had to accept... yet... I can't. When she dies... I will die with her.]

[No, you won't. You don't have to feel guilty about not being able to save me. We will meet again in 2008 anyway.]

Angelica lowered her gaze and uttered in a low voice: "But you won't remember anything. You will become someone else. You will become me."

[Precisely. And that's where I came up with a solution— which is also the main reason for contacting you like this.]

"And that is?"

[Rudy will give all my memories —up to today— to you, so you will regain your memories of when you were Jessica. You will become me.]

"What... will happen to me... then?"

[Nothing. You will just get your memories back. Nothing will change,] Jessica shrugged. [Think of it as you had amnesia and you lived a few months without your memories. But when you get your memories back, you don't become a new person; you simply remember everything.

It's like using old save files in a new device or a new version of the game.]

"That... makes sense."

[I leave the final decision to you. Do you want your memories back and become Jessica again? Or do you want to stay with no memories and live as Angelica instead? Give your answer quickly. We only have a minute left.]

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse Chapter 693: Angelica's Decision

[Have you decided? The clock is ticking.]

"Even if you say you are only giving me a minute to think about it."

'I have always wanted to know about my past, and now that I am given an opportunity, I am having second thoughts! But if I let this chance pass, I will never know anything about myself, and I am going to regret making a wrong decision here.'

After a pause of two seconds, Angelica quietly said, "Yes. Give me my memories back."

[Thank you. I am going to die next year and become a ghost who will be trapped in that tunnel for eight years. That's going to be tough, but I would have long forgotten who I was. And then... I will become you.

Had you said no to my offer right now, You and I, we both would have lived with no memories about ourselves. You are not only regaining your memories, but you are saving me from dying too. You are saving us. We will be born again.]

Angelica smiled bitterly at Jessica and said, "Good luck with life. It's going to be tough."

[I will endure it. After all, the reward is well worth the suffering.]

[Angelica, place your hand on the screen. I will transfer Jessica's memories into you,] the kid Rudy said.

Angelica placed her finger on the screen and closed her eyes without asking.

The kid Rudy turned to Jesicca and asked, [Are you ready?]

[Yes.]

He placed his hand on Jessica's head and pointed his other hand at the camera.

[I am starting now.]

The spot where Angelica's finger was touching the screen glowed as her body also became a little bit translucent. The light traveled through Angelica's body and went to her head, slowly turning her hair white, just like Jessica's.

Jessica passed out on Rudy's shoulder while Rudy struggled to speak.

[Remember, you can't—]

Before Rudy could finish speaking, the connection was cut off, and the video file was automatically deleted without a trace, as though it had never existed in the first place.

Angelica's hair remained white, but her body had stopped glowing. She slowly opened her eyes and looked at the phone's screen, only to realize the phone's screen had turned off.

"It... worked...?" she muttered.

She let go of the phone and held her head with her hands.

"Argh. I feel like someone is pulling my brain nerves!" She grunted in pain.

A few seconds later, Angelica looked at her hands and touched herself.

"I... I have my memories back! I am slowly remembering everything!" She covered her mouth and laughed in excitement. "I know about my past. I remember Rudy came to visit us in 1989 and stayed with us for a year.

I know he was Miss Elena's lover. Looking back at it from an adult perspective... They both were having sex whenever they were alone. They have had more sex in the house than I did after I became Angelica.

But... who is Miss Elena? I haven't seen or known anyone by that name. Rudy never mentioned her, either. Sis must know who she is. But... Miss Elena... she.... oh! Could it be that she is Eleanor?!

Wait... does that mean Eric and Erika are... Rudy's children? I don't remember anything about the early years yet. But I am slowly remembering. I need a nice long sleep to rest my mind, but..."

Angelica picked up the phone and got up from the bed.

"There is something I must do first."

She left the pool house and flew away, disappearing behind the clouds.

A few minutes later, she landed in front of the convenience store Rebecca worked at. She watched Rebecca from a distance and smiled slightly.

'Even though I saw her at the house this evening... I feel like it's been years. I am sure Rudy felt the same when he returned to this timeline after living in the past.'

She took a deep breath and let out a big sigh.

"I feel so nervous right now. I am genuinely curious about what she thought of me when she caught Rudy and me having sex in the bathroom earlier. Maybe that's the reason she was that furious?

Come to think of it, when we met for the first time and talked... I felt an instant connection with her, and I thought we could get along fine. Rudy knew I was Jessica after he returned from time traveling, and that is why he introduced me to sis so we could share a moment.

She knew I was Jessica and I... talked with her about Rudy and the harem. I even told her my exciting sex stories. Argh! Just kill me now! That's so embarrassing! I can't show my face to her!

Maybe I should keep pretending I haven't got my memories back! That would make it easy to interact with her. But... wouldn't she be happy when she learns that I have regained my memories?"

Angelica gathered her courage and made her way inside the store. However, the sensor didn't activate, and the glass door stayed closed.

"Stupid door."

Angelica passed through the door and stood in front of Rebecca, who was the cashier. She was busy counting the money and thought a customer had walked in.

"..." Angelica waited for a few seconds for Rebecca to look at her, but that didn't happen, so she made her presence known by tapping on the glass counter.

Rebecca shot a quick glance at Angelica and focused on counting money again. A second later, she looked at Angelica again and stared at her for a few seconds.

"Angelica...?"

'Of course, she would think I am Angelica... and I actually am.'

Angelica bit her lower lip and nodded, "...yes."

"I almost didn't recognize. What's with your hair? Why are they white? Are you trying to have a new look?"

"Huh?" Angelica looked at her reflection in the glass and realized what Rebecca was talking about.

'I didn't notice my hair color had turned white. But that's not important right now. I have to find a way to tell sis that I have regained my memories.'

She gulped down nervously.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 694: Memory Lane

"So... why are you here?" Rebecca asked. "Since the door didn't open, I didn't notice someone had walked in."

"I see..."

"Are you here for shopping?" Rebecca chuckled softly. "Or to haunt the store?"

"Umm..."

"Hey..." Rebecca asked in a whisper, "Can anyone else see you, or are you invisible to others?"

"I am only visible to you."

"I see. So I better talk to you in a way it seems that I am talking to myself. Oh! I just got an idea!"

Rebecca took out her wired earphones and plugged them into the 3.5mm jack.

"Now it will seem as though I am talking to someone on the phone."

"Yes... Umm... so... Rudy is currently at the-"

"Wait, wait. I don't want to know what he is doing. He is an adult, and he has all the freedom he needs in the world. Also, you didn't answer my question, why are you here?" she asked with a curious look on her face.

"I was watching movies on Rudy's phone and..." Angelica showed Rebecca the photo of Rudy with Rebecca, Jessica, and Lilim.

"...!" Rebecca's face immediately turned pale, and she thought Angelica had come to her for answers. She would gladly tell her everything, but she couldn't do that without Rudy's permission.

"You shouldn't sniff around someone's phone, you know?" Rebecca remarked, acting normally.

Angelica pointed her finger at the kid Rebecca and asked, "This is you, right?"

Rebecca's eyes widened after hearing that.

"H-How could that be me? You can see Rudy as he is now, so I should also be—"

"This picture is from the past when he time traveled to 1989." Angelica interrupted Rebecca and continued, "I know he went to the past."

"Of course..."

"So this is you, right?"

"Yes," Rebecca nodded.

Angelica then moved her finger to kid Lilim and asked, "And this is Lilim?"

"...yes..."

Ultimately, she moved her finger to Jessica and asked, "And this is-"

"I think you should ask that to Rudy yourself. I don't want to get involved in something I have no knowledge of."

"I was just going to ask who this girl is."

"That is... my sister."

"I thought so. Where is she now?"

"She... she died."

"I see. Do you miss her?"

"Every day," Rebecca replied instantly.

"What would you do if you found that she is somehow alive?"

"I don't know."

"What if she appears in front of you, but she has lost her memories and forgotten everything?"

Angelica's questions weren't vague anymore, as if she wasn't even trying to hide anything.

"I would... talk with her."

"Would you..." Angelica paused for a second and hesitantly asked, "Would you still... consider her your sister even when she has changed completely and become a different person?"

"Of course. Even if she doesn't remember me or recognize me, she will still be my sister, no matter what happens. Even if she steals the man I love from me or if she hates me."

"I don't hate you!" Angelica retorted immediately.

"You are not going to deny stealing my man, eh?" Rebecca grinned slightly.

"At that time, I didn't know he was your man."

"So, had you known, you wouldn't have laid your hands on him?" she asked with a judging look on her face.

"Maybe in a different way."

Rebecca smiled slightly and calmly asked, "Did you get your memories back after looking at the pictures of our past?"

"No... it's a long story."

"What matters is that you remember everything now."

"Well... yes. I wonder how Rudy will react."

"I wonder too, but I know for sure that he would feel apologetic for not telling you about your past."

"Why? I mean, what was he supposed to tell me? And to be honest... I don't think I would have believed him if he had told me that you were my sister and all. It would have come with a shock."

"He was trying to make you remember rather than telling you. He must have felt nervous when he introduced you to me. Wondering whether it would trigger your memories or not."

"I..." Angelica lowered her gaze and muttered, "I am sorry for yelling at you and saying all those mean things to you earlier in the evening."

"It's fine. I never took them seriously. I guess... I simply wanted an excuse to talk with you more..." she muttered. "But I was serious about what I said, though."

"Yea...h..." she smiled nervously. "Do you... hate me?"

"Why?"

"Because you know... Rudy and I..."

"If it's about your relationship with him, then I don't care. Rudy didn't remember or even know of your existence, while you didn't know anything, either. Also, I am sure you had seen me many times after you started living in his body, and if that didn't trigger your memories, interacting with me wouldn't have done anything either.

Moreover, you lived in the same house, so if anything was supposed to happen, it would have happened a long time ago."

"It just feels... weird, you know? I am Angelica, and Jessica too. We both had different thoughts about the process. I am a... well, a pervert, while Jessica wasn't that much of a pervert."

"I don't think it's about personalities. I don't know Angelica that well yet, but I am damn sure there is no difference between the two of you. You both are the same. What you are referring to is your memories.

You are confused. You don't know who to act like; Jessica or Angelica. You have to choose whom you want to continue living as. But I am sure the memories will settle sooner or later, and you won't have trouble thinking about that."

"Maybe you are right. I think of myself as Angelica, who was once Jessica. My feelings are a bit messy because of the memories, though.

Like, I was the one who encouraged Rudy to make moves on you, but thinking about it as Jessica... I feel conflicted. I feel... embarrassed for suggesting something like that."

While Angelica and Rebecca were talking, a couple of cars stopped in front of the store, and armed men came out of the vehicles.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 695: Welcome To Hel

A dozen men walked into the store and scattered around. They had weapons in their hands, but they were busy inspecting the area first. Once they made sure everything was clear and no one was hiding behind the shelves, the leader ordered their men to grab whatever they wanted while he stayed at the cashier, who was Rebecca.

The leader pointed his gun at Rebecca and shouted, "Hey you! Empty the register if you don't want to die!"

Rebecca opened the cash drawer and started taking out the money.

"Do you want me to deal with them? They can't see me, but I can beat them," Angelica said to Rebecca.

The leader threw a bag at Rebecca and said, "Toss all the cash in there!"

Rebecca shook her head and continued placing the money in the bag.

"Hey! What are you shaking your head for?! Don't try to act smart or be a hero, or I will shoot all the bullets in your skull!"

Rebecca didn't show any change in her reaction and stayed composed. But Angelica was furious. She wanted to kill the thugs but couldn't risk doing anything as they could shoot Rebecca whenever they wanted.

The thugs packed whatever they could from the store and started leaving one by one.

"We are done!" One group said and got into their cars.

"So are we!" Another group said.

"Pack fast! We got other shops to loot on the way," another said.

"Don't get useless things. Focus on the expensive ones!"

Once Rebecca had emptied the drawer, the leader grabbed the bag and left. On his way, his gaze fell on the cameras all over the store and outside surrounding it.

"Hey, hey! What the fuck?! Why does a store in a no-name village have cameras?! We need to get rid of the data, or we will be in deep shit! Get back to the store and grab that cashier!"

The thugs entered the shop again, but Rebecca had closed the sensors and locked the doors. The leader banged on the door and yelled:

"Hey! Open up, or I will kill you!"

Still, Rebecca didn't flinch.

"Shoot the glasses and kill that bitch!"

The thugs shot the glasses and entered the store. While the leader grabbed a shotgun and placed it at Rebecca's forehead.

"What will you do now, huh?!"

Even though Rebecca was an inch away from death, her gaze and expression stayed composed.

She looked at the broken glass of the door and let out a soft sigh.

"You should have just left with the money and items," she sighed.

"Shut up! You are so dead—"

QUAKE~!

Suddenly the ground started shaking, and the rumbling vibrations sent everything quacking.

"What's happening!" The leader yelled.

"An earthquake?!" the thugs shouted.

"Sis! Get out of there and run outside! If the building collapses, you will—!"

Before Angelica could finish warning Rebecca, the ground cracked and began to split.

"What the-!"

The thugs and the leaders ran outside the store, jumping from one spot to another to avoid falling into the crack. The crack seemed so deep that even the street lights couldn't illuminate the abyss inside.

It engulfed its surroundings like a black hole and began sucking everything inside— the cars, trees, other vehicles, street lights, and even the street itself.

It seemed as though the earth had become alive and started to eat everything on its way.

"Boss!" The thugs yelled for help as they, one by one, fell into the crack.

The leader had gotten on his bike and made a run, hoping he would be able to escape, but he was ultimately sucked into the abyss. The cars and bikes' headlights illuminated the abyss as they fell to the depths of the abyss.

Once all the thugs had fallen, the earth stopped shaking, and the crack began to fix itself. Soon, street lights appeared from the ground, and the street was once again paved.

The vehicles that didn't belong to the thugs emerged from the ground without a dust of sand. And the trees grew just as they were before.

Everything was fixed, and no one could tell that a catastrophe had occurred near the store.

"...." Angelica was left speechless after witnessing, and she couldn't comprehend what had just happened.

Her body had frozen, which rendered her unable to speak but tremble in fear.

SIGH!

Rebecca jumped to the other side of the counter and went outside the store to pick up the cash and the items the thugs had stolen.

After picking up the bags, she entered the store and placed everything on the counter. One by one, she began to place the items on the shelves they belonged to. Once she was done with that, she got to the other side of the counter and started putting the money back into the cash drawer.

"All done~" she said with a contented sigh.

Angelica still hadn't moved from her position and avoided eye contact with Rebecca. She was too scared to move or say anything.

"So, what were we talking about again?" Rebecca asked Angelica.

"I..." Angelica gulped down in fear and asked, "Would I have ended up the same way if I had angered you?"

"Hmm?" Rebecca raised a brow with a curious look on her face.

Angelica pointed her finger outside and at the ground before saying, "You did all that... right?"

"Oh, no. " She shrugged her shoulders and showed her hands to Angelica after saying, "I am just a human."

"Then what was all that?!" She glanced at the sky outside and muttered, "Was it Rudy?"

"No. It was the town."

"Huh?"

"The town's spirit."

"...I don't understand. The town spirit? Like... this town is alive or something? What are you trying to say? Can you be more clear? Or better yet, explain it in simple words with some details."

"I am not sure if I should say the town is alive. That would be creepy. But think of it as a guardian angel watching over the town."

"..."

Rebecca smiled at Angelica and said, "Welcome to Hel."

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse Chapter 696: Hel's Spirit || WWRD

"I still have no clue what you are trying to say."

"Think of it as a... umm... spirit. Like... you know... uhh... how should I explain this." Rebecca scratched the back of her head and muttered, "WWRD?"

"Hmm...?"

"What would Rudy do? He always comes up with the best examples and ways to explain complicated things that even a kid would understand," she chuckled softly.

"Even when he says he sucks at explaining things," Angelica added.

"I was expecting you to understand it since you must have seen many bizarre things as you are living with Rudy."

"I know what you are trying to say, but I don't understand how it works. I mean, I just saw everything, so you don't need to explain what happened. I want to know why and how it happened."

"Magic. Let's settle with that. This town has a guardian spirit that protects its people from any lethal harm. Of course, it protects itself too."

"Are you sure about that?" Angelica asked with a judging look on her face. "It could be that the Hel's Spirit is simply protecting 'you' from the possible dangers."

"I used to think that when I witnessed that happen for the first time, but that's not the case. Otherwise, this town wouldn't be as peaceful as it is. It's not that no major crimes happen in this town, they happened— but the Hel's Spirit took care of everything and removed all the traces of something ever happening."

"But... if someone saw what I just saw... wouldn't they freak out and tell everyone. I know no one would believe them, and I wouldn't either, but there is always proof."

Angelica pointed her finger at the camera and said, "These cameras, for example. They must have recorded everything, right?"

Rebecca turned to the side and said, "Follow me."

She took Angelica to the manager's office, where all the recorded data was stored. She inserted the password and placed the recording from before the robbery occurred.

In the recording, a few vehicles stopped in front of the store, and the same people walked out, but they didn't have any weapons with them.

"...what..."

Angelica watched the recording closely and saw the thugs buying things from the store and leaving without causing any ruckus.

"What?!" she exclaimed.

"When I said 'no traces', I truly meant it. And as for the people who witnessed the happening, their memories get erased and replaced with something else. No one has ever realized the truth."

"What about me?! I remember everything!"

"You are a ghost. Not technically alive."

"Then why do you know all this? Shouldn't you be the same as others?"

"Yes, maybe it was like that before. But after I was exposed to the truth— that is, after Rudy came to the past and then left a year later. I started to see things no one else could. I thought I was going insane, and it was... tough to act normal when one after another anomalies were happening around me."

Rebecca said with a distant look on her face.

"But then I got used to everything," she added with a shrug.

"When was the first time you witnessed this... Hel's Spirit?"

"Not long after Rudy left. Elena was taking care of baby Rudy, and I was at school. When I was returning home, on my way, I ran into a few wild dogs. It was the time when dogs go crazy and bite anyone they see.

I was always careful and never crossed paths with them, but that one time... it was one of the scariest experiences of my life..." she trembled as though she suddenly felt chills after remembering the incident.

"Don't keep me in suspense and continue the story already!" Angelica puffed her cheeks.

"Hehe!" Rebecca grinned a little and said, "Now that's very Jessica-like. Demanding things for no reason."

Angelica puffed her cheeks even more and turned her face to the side after saying, "Hmph! I don't care anymore."

"Aww~ Rudy is going to love your new reactions. I can't wait for him to return from wherever he is."

Angelica frowned and glared at Rebecca as she still wasn't continuing her story.

"Fine fine~ But let's go back to the counter. I can't leave the register unattended."

"Why are you alone, though? I thought there were a total three employees for the night shift at this store. At least, that's what you told Rudy. You could be lying to keep him at ease."

"Oh, no. I had never lied to Rudy about anything, except for when I didn't know anything myself or had to keep it a secret. It's like a delayed... answer. I have now told him everything. Even my... feelings and secrets."

Her face flushed.

"Oh, come on. Don't act like a maiden in love. You are too old to act cute. Just get laid before wrinkles start to appear on your face," Angelica commented with a short scoff.

"Wha—! Hey! I am not that old! I will turn thirty soon, and that's the normal age to get married!"

"I didn't say a word about getting married. I was talking about getting laid. And you know that you are just using that reason as an excuse to reassure yourself. You didn't have the guts to make moves on Rudy when you had the chance and waited for him to make moves on you," she shrugged.

"Are you sure you want to anger me?" Rebecca asked with a knowing look on her face.

"What can you do? Just so you know, Rudy won't always take your side. Especially when I am Jessica. He liked me more than you, even in the past."

"No, you were just annoying. Always demanding things from him. Maybe he will kick you out of his harem once he learns that you got your memory back," he commented.

Angelica and Rebecca began to exchange blows at each other, but verbally. They were taking out their pent-up feelings and behaving like real siblings. However, their remarks changed over time until they got tired and stopped to take a breath.

No one could tell it was the same Angelica who was hilariously nervous to talk to Rebecca after she regained her memories.

In the end, Rebecca never answered Angelica's questions, nor she continued telling her story, and Angelica forgot about it, only to never ask again.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 697: A Challenge For Love

It had been a while since Rias and Jane left the island. They were leisurely flying over the sea, enjoying the view and the cold breeze.

Since the vampire world had no sun, it was always cold, but the human world couldn't match that even at night unless there was a mild storm or it was a seaside.

Flying over the sea at night reminded them of the vampire world. Although they didn't miss the people of the vampire world, they longed for the feeling of it.

Sure they missed Virgil and their friends, but that wasn't a big deal for them. They both were forty years old and had spent their entire life around them, so missing them at such an age was ridiculous.

Still, they were dying to meet their favorite great-grandmother Nyxia.

Rias was flying near the clouds so she could soar above them with a few flaps of her wings. But Jane was flying right above the sea, dipping her hands and legs in the ocean once in a while.

She looked up at Rias and flew close to her.

"The sun will rise if we keep flying so slow. You may be immune to the sun, but I am not. If we don't hurry and the sun rises, I will turn into ash."

"No one is stopping you from flying fast. I didn't ask you to fly along with me," Rias responded without looking at Jane.

'Why do I feel like Rias has been giving me the cold shoulder lately? Did she see Rudy and me together? Or perhaps suspecting us? To be honest, I wasn't sure I would be able to keep our relationship a secret from Rias for such a long time.

I thought she would find out the next day. Either I am too good at hiding, or I am just lucky. However, neither of those cases would help me if Rias learned the truth. I have to tell her before she finds out. But how?'

Jane suddenly had a great idea and decided to try it.

"Hey Rias, how about we race to the pool house? The winner can ask anything from the loser, and the loser has to honor the winner's request," she suggested.

"Hmm~" Rias hummed in wonder.

Of course, Rias was well aware of what Jane was trying to do, and she wasn't going to fall for her trick.

"Why should I?" Rias asked calmly while keeping her sight ahead of her.

"We always used to have such challenges in the vampire world. But it has been a while. We haven't had a challenge since..." Jane stopped as she couldn't speak further.

"Since you came to the human world to take me back to the vampire world so I could be punished for falling in love with a human." Rias finished Jane's sentence and finally looked at her.

"Are you still angry about that?" Jane asked, averting her gaze to the side.

"Why should I? You were simply following grandpa Virgil's order, who was following a rule made by the previous Lords. I was aware of the risk and the punishment when I fell in love with Rudy.

That's what I call love.

But I still chose to because my love for him was far greater than my fear of punishment. At that time, I didn't even know Rudy was the Lord. I thought of him as a human, yet I still loved him.

That's what I call love.

Rudy tried to stop you when you came to take me back to the vampire world. He was only a human, yet he was ready to fight you— a vampire. He knew he could die in a single blow, yet he never stepped back.

That's what I call love.

Even if my punishment was death, I would have gladly died without having a single regret for loving Rudy. We had that type of relationship. We were ready to do anything for each other. We were prepared to die for each other.

That's what I call love.

However... I am not sure about that anymore. He has changed, I have changed, people around me have changed, the world has changed, and the time... has changed. But that change is inevitable.

I am not against the change, whether it be in my favor or not, but I am against the people who try to change that change, who can't accept it. Well, you probably won't understand what I am talking about."

"..."

'She is at least trying to tell me the truth. I will give her this one chance, even if it's in her favor,' Rias thought to herself.

"Okay. Let's race to the pool house. I don't have any terms."

Jane gulped down and asked, "No attacking each other during the race, either?"

"When have I done that?"

"You use everything to your advantage, which can be a disadvantage for me."

"You are a prime vampire, the third strongest vampire in the vampire world— and that is a major disadvantage for me. You can enhance your body and wings using your powers and fly faster than anyone. I am on par with a low-rank vampire who can't fly as fast as you. If that's not an advantage, then I don't know what is."

Rias shook her head in disbelief, seemingly trying to play a weak victim card.

"Don't make it sound like I have won all the races. We have had 11689 official challenges so far, out of which 7586 were air races. You have won 3790, while I have won 3796. A difference of 6 wins, which isn't a big gap.

You always try to play that card to make me feel guilty, that breaks my will to beat you, but it won't work in this challenge. I have placed something important on the line, and I can't risk losing it, no matter what happens."

"..." Rias raised a brow with an impressed look on her face.

They both stood beside each other while slowly flapping their wings to keep themselves hovering in one place.

"No hard feelings, my dear sister~" Jane said to Rias.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 698: A Challange of Love

As soon as the race started, Jane flapped her wings and launched herself miles ahead of Rias. The force released by her wings was so powerful that she sent shock waves to the sea, which caused a mini-tsunami.

Luckily, no habited islands were nearby, so no one was hurt.

Rias, who knew something like that would happen, launched herself up into the sky instead of moving forward. Had she moved forward, she would have been pushed by the shock wave created by Jane's flap.

Jane was already miles ahead of Rias the moment the race started, but they still had a long distance to fly.

Rias had limited vampiric power, so she could do tricks like Jane, but she was a master at using her weakness for advantage and adapted to any situation—just like Rudy.

Although Jane was better than Rias in every aspect, Rias' skills, talent, and experience could beat anyone more powerful than her. Rias was Jane's primary source of motivation to do better.

Rias had almost caught up to Jane in less than a minute, and they both tried their best to get ahead of each other.

However, neither of them was using their full power yet; they saved it for the last. Just like humans, vampires had stamina. If they got the best of themselves and used their full power at the start, they wouldn't be able to do anything at a critical time.

Of course, Rias was at a major disadvantage at that, so she had no choice but to save everything for the last.

'This is one challenge I can't afford to lose... it's my only chance to get Rias' forgiveness. This race is in my favor, but if I end up losing this challenge... I am finished. I don't deserve the title of the third strongest vampire in the world if I can't even win a simple challenge to prove my love.'

Jane was taking this challenge seriously, and so was Rias.

Rias had given one chance to Jane, even though she knew Jane could defeat her. Still, Rias loved Jane, and she couldn't stand to see her in pain, let it be physical or emotional pain.

It wasn't as though they had never fought before; they always did— even for small things such as for the last slice of the blood moon fruit. And they always settled the score with a challenge, leaving no hard feelings behind.

Rias was well aware that Rudy would have a harem in the near future— when they first met in 1989. So finding out that Rudy had a harem in 2008 didn't come as a shock to her.

However, never in her wildest dream had she thought that her own twin sister would also be a part of his harem. Jane was a cold, merciless, and ruthless girl, and her falling in love with the same man she loved was out of the question.

Perhaps, she was a little envious of Jane as she got Rudy without doing anything. Rias had fallen in love with him in 1989, and even when her memories were sealed, her heart had a hole that only Rudy could heal.

She waited for that to happen for 18 years, and when she finally reunited with him, she was once again separated from him and punished. Her only crime was that she fell in love.

Jane, however, didn't have to go through anything and got Rudy without putting in much effort. Since Rias and Jane always challenged each other for the same thing ever since they were kids, Rias felt betrayed when they had no challenge to have Rudy.

Rias couldn't accept that. She felt it was unfair. She thought she was a victim for no reason. Not to mention, Jane tried to keep a secret about her relationship with Rudy. So when Jane challenged Rias, she was happy.

She accepted her challenge so she could be at ease that Jane at least put an effort for her relationship with Rudy. It didn't matter if she won or lost the challenge, Rias had already forgiven Jane.

Still, Rias had no intention of backing down from her grand plan to take revenge on Jane with Rudy.

Jane was leaving trails of white aura as she flew, while Rias left faint crimson trails. They were flying over a sea— an open area so they had nothing to worry about. They could fly wherever and however they wanted.

'The real challenge starts when we are near the city. That's my best chance to leave Rias behind and win the race, but I will have to make sure that she doesn't pass me. Rias didn't set any terms for this challenge, and there are no rules either.

I could pull dirty tricks such as releasing shock waves or using water on Rias, but I won't. I would have done that if it was an ordinary challenge, but this is a challenge of love. I have to win this to prove my love for Rudy!'

After flying fast for thirty minutes and passing each other once in a while, the city was in their sight.

'I will go all out as soon as we are above the city. I will go above the clouds so I will have an open area. If I stay low, I will run into tons of buildings and such. Fortunately, I have roamed the city in my free time, and I know a straight way to the pool house.

I am sure Rias knows about that too. Rias plans to do the same thing and get above the clouds. As long as I have the headstart there, I will win. I am so close to getting what I want!'

When they reached near the seaport, Jane flew above the clouds and did what she planned to do. She enhanced her wings using her powers and boosted her speed. The trails of her aura had painted the sky white, and they seemed awfully similar to the aurora.

'I love Rudy as much as you do! And I will prove it!'

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse Chapter 699: Jane's Redemption

FLAP~ FLAP!

Each flap of Jane's wings created a powerful sonic wave. Her first flap broke through the sound barrier and made the sound of a sonic boom.

However, each flap generated two sonic booms due to the pressure from both ends, but the difference between the two sonic booms was barely noticeable because the time between the first and the second sonic boom was shorter than a mili-second as she was flying with speed faster than the sound.

The trails created by her aura were a sharp straight line, but the sonic wave created by her wings would break the straight line and scatter in, making it seem like the aurora. But before that, the trail of her aura would look like a shooting star in the sky.

Just like how Rias felt that Jane didn't put any effort into having a relationship with Rudy, Jane felt the same. After all, their relationship started with lust and turned into love.

She felt guilty and thought that she didn't deserve Rudy— although Rudy had changed her mind after he reassured her a couple of times. Still, that wasn't something she could forget that easily.

Jane wanted to win the race, not only to ask for Rias' forgiveness but also to redeem herself. She wanted redemption.

Even at such speed, she glanced back to see if Rias was chasing after her, but she was nowhere to be seen.

'I left her behind?! No, I shouldn't get excited or slow down. I won't stop until I reach the pool house.'

The people on the street were confused by the sound they were hearing above the clouds. They couldn't see what was happening, but they could see something shiny.

It was early morning, so only a few people were on the street. Still, the roads weren't empty. Some of the people present there took out their phones and started taking pictures and videos.

Within a minute, Jane reached the pool house and landed on the empty ground. She stood still for a few seconds to let her body go back to its normal state before moving forward.

She looked up at the sky and muttered, "Rias still hasn't arrived. Did I win...? Does that mean I am now... worthy to be Rudy's lover?'

She was standing in front of the pool house, looking up at the sky and waiting for Rias, but even after a few minutes, she couldn't see Rias anywhere in the sky.

'Something feels... wrong. Rias wouldn't take this long to arrive. She would usually be right behind me or at a visible distance away from me. I should go check.'

Just as Jane was about to jump into the sky, the door to the pool house opened, and Rias walked out.

"...!" Jane blinked a few times and exclaimed, "What?! How?! When did you arrive?!"

"It's been a while. I heard you land and thought you would come in, but you didn't, so I came out to check on you. What were you doing outside?"

"I was waiting for you! How can you arrive before me? I couldn't see you anywhere." She gasped in realization and said, "Don't tell me you cheated somehow."

"No. You flew above the clouds while I flew through the city."

"But I flew straight to the pool house. And how can you arrive faster when you have to move through so many buildings? That doesn't make any sense."

"You were indeed flying straight, but it was a diagonal straight. If you had gone from the other side, the pool house was near the sea. You took a long way while I took a shortcut."

"That's not fair!"

"It's just like jumping down the mountain instead of climbing down." Rias shrugged and said, "What matters in a race is who arrives first."

'I never even considered flying through the city. The city is like a forest where you must make your way through so many trees and try your best not to slam into one. Obviously, anyone would prefer flying over the forest as it's safe and faster.

I thought Rias was at a disadvantage once I used my powers to enhance my wings, but I was wrong. The city was the biggest disadvantage for both of us, but Rias used that as her advantage.

However, even if I had done the same thing as Rias and flown through the city, I wouldn't be able to win as I wouldn't have enhanced my wings. Flying in the city at such a high speed and avoiding hitting the buildings is nearly impossible.

Only Rudy can do that.

Which means... I was bound to lose. My plan was a failure from the beginning. Had I enhanced my wings earlier at the start of the race and maintained a safe distance from Rias, I would have won.'

SIGH!

Jane chuckled softly with a smile on her face and muttered, "I have yet to learn more. I admit my defeat."

"And that means I can now command you to do anything, and you will have to follow it, no matter what it is," Rias asserted with a solemn yet knowing look on her face.

"..." Jane gulped down in fear and thought, 'I forgot about that too! Now that she has won, she can ask me to do anything. If she asks me to kill myself, I will have to kill myself.

I know that Rias would never command something like that, but what if she asks me to break up with Rudy? That's even worse than dying...'

Jane had challenged Rias so she could ask her to accept her relationship with Rudy, but now she was in bigger trouble. She had given a sharp dagger to Rias, which she could use to cut any string she wanted.

'I messed up. I messed up a big time. I should have let Rudy handle everything. What should I do now? Only Rudy can save me. Rudy! Where are you? I need you!'

Meanwhile, Rudy was dancing with Maria at the party.

Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

Chapter 700: Underwater Party

Rudy and Maria were dancing in the big Underwater hall with hundreds of other guests. The lights were turned off, but the enormous luxurious chandelier was circling on one spot, glimmering lights in the hall, enough to keep things visible in everyone's sight.

The hall's walls were transparent glass, and even the ceiling and the floor were transparent. They were in a hall made of glass, which just increased the beauty of the Underwater world.

Everyone was exchanging their dance partners while dancing in a circle, but Rudy and Maria were in the center of the hall, right below the chandelier. And they had no intention of dancing with someone else.

Everyone present in the hall was wearing the mask and the dress provided to them, and all of them differed in colors. No one other than Rudy and Maria had a pure black dress and mask. Lu Bela had only given them to girls Rudy brought with him.

"It's dark, but not that dark. I can see everything. Can I have a light like this in my room at the castle?" Maria asked Rudy.

"Are you afraid of the dark?"

"No. I just like to have a little bit of light in my room."

"Well, one's eyes usually get used to the dark and see everything."

"I know that. It's like our eyes turn on a night mode or something."

"You can say that."

Rudy had one hand around Maria's waist, and the other was holding her hand. Maria had the same, and they were dancing slowly, without caring for their surroundings, as though they were in their own little world.

"How long are we going to continue dancing like this? It's already been twenty minutes."

"I have no idea. But let me know if you get tired. We will go somewhere else," Rudy said calmly.

"There is no way I would ever get tired of being with you."

"Oh?" Rudy let out a soft chuckle and said, "Now is not the time to flirt with the cheesy lines, princess."

"But you always use them on everyone."

"I only use them on people I want to use them on."

"Same thing."

Rudy moved his hand from Maria's waist to her butt and squeezed it.

"Hey~!" Maria whispered seductively. "Are you trying to make me horny by doing this? If yes, then it's working."

"You are one little horny pervert, you know that?"

"You can't blame me if you are the one making me horny. And isn't every girl in your harem a pervert?"

"Never say this in front of the girls. But yes, they all have their own pervy side. But you are the only girl who gets horny by simple touching."

"That's because you are so good at this."

Rudy pulled Maria close and turned her around.

"What are you..."

Rudy grabbed Maria's waist and pressed her hips against his crotch, grinding their private parts while rhyming along with the slow music.

Maria leaned her body on Rudy and asked, "Seriously, do you plan to make me orgasm by pulling such tricks?"

Rudy rubbed his cheek against Maria's cheek and kissed her neck.

"I don't."

"Mnh~ You are~!"

"Then do you want me to stop?"

"No~ But let's continue somewhere else."

"We can't leave right now, or we will catch attention. Let's wait for the music to end. I am sure the others are tired too."

Rudy and Maria continued dancing in each other's embrace and changed their dancing patterns once in a while to spice things up.

Maria looked at Rudy's face and asked, "What's wrong? You haven't spoken a word in the last two minutes. Is something bothering you?"

"No... I am just looking for someone," he responded while glancing around the hall.

Maria squinted her eyes a little and asked, "Is it Lu Bela?"

"Why are you bringing her up? I am looking for Mia. She left before us for the market but still hasn't arrived here."

"Are you worried about her?" she asked with a curious look on her face.

"Obviously. She came here with us, so I have to make sure she gets back home safely. Actually, why are you not worried about her?"

Rudy raised his brow and asked, "Last time when she went missing for a few hours, you were panicking."

"It's not that I am not worried about her, but I am confident that she can defend herself. You also sent guards with her, so she is fine."

"Or maybe... she simply wanted to give us some alone time..." Rudy muttered as he remembered the deal he had made with Ruby at the beach the other day.

'Idiot. Why are you not using your chance? She is not redeeming her rewards from the deal. It's like she studied hard for the exam but didn't go to attend the exams on purpose. That's stupid.'

Rudy sighed inwardly.

"I noticed this before, but you are awfully good at dancing and flirting while dancing. Where did you learn this?" Maria asked with a judging look on her face.

"Elise."

"She taught you how to dance?"

"No, we used to go to clubs and parties every weekend and do wild things together. We were just like any other ordinary couple enjoying their youth after their teen years. I spent my teen years doing nothing but studying, so the freedom I got when I was with Elise was a... heaven for me. A true blessing."

"That sounds fun. What was the most daring thing you two ever did?" she asked with a resolute expression on her face.

"Well... we once had sex in a public washroom."

"Outside?"

"Yes. We started outside and went into a cubicle when we heard someone coming. It was like... past 3 AM at night."

"Wow, you two were really wild, huh?"

"But now having sex in a cubicle has become a usual thing," he chuckled softly.

Rudy's ears suddenly twitched as he sensed something. He glanced around with a serious look on his face and sharpened his gaze.

"Still looking for Ruby?"

"No... there is someone here. Someone who is... not a human."