

# Extras 251

## Chapter 251 Rabbit Vs Elemental [Pt 1]

"GHUUUU..."

A colossal creature made purely of rocks stood like an unshakable monolith.

It was at least ten meters tall, and its overall build resembled that of a buff warrior who had completely maxed out its defense.

The dark earthen armor of had on complemented the lighter lines that could be seen around the joints and slight crevices within the full-body armor.

Even the Elemental's face was shrouded in armor, leaving only a slit for vision.

The Grand Earth Elemental had a massive shield on one hand, and a mace on the second hand.

Both of them appeared remarkably heavy.

"T-the hell!"

"That's crazy huge!"

"Unbelievable!"

Many people marveled in both awe and intimidation as they witnessed the massive Titan take its first step forward.

The ground shook, and everyone trembled.

Even though they now stood a considerable distance from the massive thing, they could still feel the tremors it caused.

After experiencing all of this, they couldn't help but look in the direction of the little one who was to face the Goliath.

The tiny rabbit—Alicia's cherished Snow.

"Does he stand a chance, though?"

"Isn't Sir Ralyks being a bit... unfair?"

"Alicia might lose her Familiar at this rate. Damn!"

As they watched the rabbit also approach the opponent that looked infinitely bigger and stronger than it.

Right now, a massive dome covered the large area that would serve as their battleground, courtesy of one of Ralyks' Skills.

The Otherworlders all sat as they waited for the match to start with growing anxiety.

They had just met this rabbit minutes ago, but not everyone wanted to see it get squashed so easily.

Alicia looked especially focused on her Familiar, though the expression on her face wasn't that of fear or nervousness.

... It was excitement!

Rey sat beside her, and they both watched the match as Ralyks stood close to the barrier in order to coordinate the whole thing.

"Now then..."

As Ralyks said this, both the Earth Elemental and the cute Familiar were now about one or two meters from each other.

They stared at each other, with the rabbit straining to look up, while the noble earthen warrior found it similarly difficult to gaze so low.

Still, they both acknowledged the other with a nod.

"... Let the match begin!"

~VWOOOOSH!~ free webno vel

The first to move was the mace of the Grand Earth Elemental.

It descended with a mighty roar, causing the winds around it to cry. With a heavy pressure, the colossal weapon neared the white rabbit.

In the eyes of many—if they could even see the attack—it would hit the smaller creature in no time.

However...

~BOOOOOOOOMMMM!!!~

The mace landed on the earth, causing tons of debris to scatter all around the arena.

However, the rabbit wasn't among any of the debris, nor was it crushed by the overwhelming force of its opponent.

No... what happened was quite simple.

"Kwii..." A squeak of the rabbit echoed from behind the Grand Earth Elemental.

It stood there, with two of its limbs on the ground, and its forelimbs raised a little higher.

For a moment, there was silence.

Then—

"W-what just happened?"

"I couldn't see a thing!"

"Did any of you notice what just happened?"

"No! I just saw blurs."

"You saw blurs? I just blinked and this is what happened? How?"

No one could properly explain the phenomenon.

Even Adonis squinted his eyes and focused his attention just so he could follow the fight.

And even he had only seen the blurry movement of the rabbit.

"It... moved so fast that it was almost like teleportation..." Adonis whispered as he stroked his chin.

It was a straightforward move—nothing too special.

Yet, the Hero couldn't help but smile.

"Amazing..."

While many gawked at the sight, Alicia was stunned by her Familiar's speed as well.

She never expected to be unable to follow at all.

This series of amazement was merely the start, though. Many more shocking revelations were yet to come.

~BOOOOOOMMM!~

Another echo of destruction reverberated in the air, and the Otherworlders realized that the area where the rabbit had stood was once again destroyed.

The question was... where did the bunny go?

Fortunately, this time no one needed to ask that question for too long.

It was standing directly on top of the mace, completely unscathed by the attack that was meant to crush it.

The Grand Earth Elemental noticed this and tried to take action by smashing the mace's surface to the ground.

However, before he could do anything, the rabbit sped away from its previous position and rushed towards the armored Goliath.

It sent one of its legs forward for a powerful kick, but the Elemental reacted faster and used its shield to block the assault.

The shockwaves caused by the impact of the tiny rabbit hitting the massive shield caused the air around to vibrate.

Once again, amazement filled the air.

Even though the Otherworlders could barely see what was going on with their eyes, the snippets they caught with their naked eyes—and the very fact that they couldn't see most of the fight—told them of how amazing the conflict was.

At this point, no one referred to the white rabbit as "little guy", or "tiny thing... or even "cute bunny."

No... they were way past that now.

Everyone referred to Snow by her name, and the image they had of her was now completely different from just earlier.

"She's so fast..."

"Strong too! Didn't you feel that impact?"

"C-crazy!"

This white rabbit was beyond decent in its abilities.

It was strong!

Still, they had gotten excited too early.

After all, this was just a warm-up—some kind of greeting between both parties.

There were yet to be Skills involved.

However, that was soon going to change with the Grand Earth Elemental taking its battle stance and Snow also changing posture.

She took a sprinting position, and both targets stared at each other from their distance.

Tension was palpable in the air.

Then—

~BOOOOOOMMMM!~

~WHOOSH!~

Destruction trailed behind the Elemental as only a cloud of smoke and a trail of wind followed Snow with her sheer speed.

They closed the distance between each other in one move, signaling the true dawn of their clash.

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## **Chapter 252 Rabbit Vs Elemental [Pt 2]**

~BZZTZZ!~

White lightning sparked from the Snow as she got closer to her target.

Her crimson eyes glowed even brighter as she neared the colossal opponent that cast a dark shadow over her.

The black markings on her body glowed pure red—as bright as her eyes—and all the hair that made up her fur stood upright.

It was the signal of a Skill.

[Rush]!

~WHOOOSH!~

Her speed nearly tripled as she became a blur, even by speedster standards, leaving only a trail of red lightning.

The energy condensed in her small body exploded to create a burst of kinetic energy that seemed impossible given her mass.

Then—

The shield neared her as she thrust her leg forward to hit her target.

—She made impact.

~BOOOOOM!~

The shockwaves that echoed throughout the area was far greater than the one earlier.

And the results were different as well.

The shield shattered from the point of impact, sending the earthen rubble flying to several points in the massive battlefield.

If not for the dome that contained the fight, there was no doubt that the earthen chunks would have flown to several areas across the entire compound.

However, despite this jaw-dropping feat, Snow was not done with her actions.

She flipped in the air, taking care of the recoil caused by such extensive damage, and her body emitted great steam as she released an incredible amount of energy.

As she recovered in midair, the Elemental's mace was already nearing her fragile-looking body.

It had gotten too close for comfort, and so, dodging at such a distance seemed highly implausible.

But... this was a Grand Beast.

Snow activated her next Skill, [Bounce], which practically allowed her to become a cannonball—even in midair—and shoot to multiple locations at once.

~WHOOOOM!~

Her body became an epic blur as the markings on her body turned purple and sparks of purple electricity coated her white fur.

She ricocheted through the air and towards the dark and dreary helmet of her opponent.

~BAM!~

Her body made impact, and she instantly ricocheted to the next target, almost as if she was landing on a trampoline.

From the helmet, her white body landed on the earthen arm of the opponent, and then towards the chest, and then... the mace.

Snow's acceleration increased exponentially, and the purple bursts of power rose to an impeccable degree.

Then... IMPACT!

~BOOOM!~

The earthen mace shattered instantly as she broke through it, finding her footing on the floor not long after.

All of this barely lasted seconds, and the Grand Earth Elemental had been too confused by so many actions to act appropriately.

In the end, it lost its shield and mace—its only two weapons—while also having cracks on the armor it wore.

Snow exhaled, mist coming out of her mouth, as she still kept her gaze on the opponent she had to defeat.

That was when she noticed something peculiar.

The Elemental's damaged armor restored itself in no time, and just by stretching out its hands, a new shield and mace appeared.

It appeared as though Snow had done nothing at all.

She narrowed her gaze as she looked at the haughty gaze of the earthen creature before her.

Of course, Elementals weren't truly alive, but it honestly seemed like the thing was mocking her.

Snow couldn't have that.

~VWUUUUUMMMM!~

Like an engine roaring to life, Snow began to release her stockpile of Mana, causing the air around her to vibrate due to the pressure.

None of this affected the Elemental, though, as it readied itself for another round.

As long as it could keep regenerating, despite being damaged, there was no way it could lose.

Snow also had to hit it very hard for any serious damage to be done.

Thus, a conundrum was born.

Snow was faster than her opponent, and she could definitely damage the target without much issue.

However, no matter what damage she did, it would heal nearly instantly.

The only way to win seemed apparent: the Elemental had to be destroyed in one shot.

But, could Snow—with all the amazing feats she had displayed so far—manage such a thing?

Well...

[Leap]!

... Everyone was about to find out.

This time, blue energy swirled around her in the form of violent electricity.

She jumped from her position just as the mace hit the ground, sending her flying upward, like a rocket that could not be stopped.

In one swift move, she broke through the helmet of the Elemental and shattered the whole of its earthen head.

If this was a human being—or even a massive monster—they would already be toast.

But, Elementals weren't living beings

A head was merely an accessory that could be replaced through regeneration.

As Snow floated above the Earth Elemental, she could already see the massive stone being recovering from the extensive damage.

If no care was taken, her efforts would be in vain.

~BZZZZTTZZZZ...~

As the sparks around her body became purple, Snow activated her Exclusive Skill.

[Replicate]

In an instant, the single white rabbit became two.

Then four.

Then eight.

Then... finally... she became ten.

~WHUUSH!~

Purple sparks and blurs descended from above in ricochets, as Snow—or rather, the ten Snows—bounced on and off the colossal body of her enemy.

Their rapid-fire movements and destructive dances were too much for the Grand Earth Elemental.

Chunks of its massive form began to shatter apart before it could even realize what was going on.

Its shield broke, its mace was destroyed, its armor was obliterated, and finally... its earthen flesh was riddled with multiple holes as streaks of purple burst out of them.

Until finally...

~BOOOM!~

... It was completely annihilated.

The rubble descended upon the ground, and Snow walked away from the cloud of smoke as the triumphant one.

No one could really tell if a rabbit was smiling or not, but the look on the Familiar's face made it certain.

The little rabbits—all now converging back to one—were grinning widely as they exited the powerful dome.

"Kwii..."

All the spectators could see her skills for themselves.

Snow was the real deal.

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Chapter 253 End Of The Exchange

"Today was just a prelude. For the rest of the few days of your training, I'll be pushing you all to the limit, so get ready."

Ralyks stood in front of all the Otherworlders, addressing them in his strict, yet calm and understanding tone.

"Is all that understood?"

"YEAH!" The Otherworlders exclaimed with pure energy.

It seemed like seeing a rabbit display more power than they could ever dream of mustering had awakened something within them.

They wanted to try more.

"I'll be leaving you all for today. Make sure you rest well on preparations for tomorrow." Ralyks added, his gaze flowing to one person in particular.

"Also, Rey Skylar... I'll need to do something about your current pathetic state. You're coming with me right now."

The moment he said this, three people displayed the most shock.

Alicia, Adonis, and Rey himself.

"R-right now?" Rey responded with a bit of uncertainty in his tone.

"Yes. Don't worry, it's for your own benefit. I also have permission from the Royal Council, so there's nothing wrong here."

Ralyks had been granted so much authority over them that it wouldn't be strange if he chose to take all of them to the Royal Dungeon at that very moment.

Fortunately for them, he was a very reasonable man.

"The choice is yours, though. I don't force people to grow strong. If you wish to remain the weakling that you are, then that's also fine."

Once Rey heard this, his countenance changed from uncertainty to resolve.

The change was a little too swift and unnatural, but those who looked at him could understand the cause of his expression.

Compared to every other Otherworlder that chose to remain in the Royal Estate, Rey was too weak.

It was probably for the best for both them and Rey that Ralyks had personal training sessions with him. At the very least, so he could keep up.

"I'll do it! I'll come with you!" Rey said, his fist clenched as he raised it in determination.

Ralyks hooded his head and turned to the rest of his wards.

"You all did well today. But, as long as you can do better, then there's no need to settle for less."

Everyone nodded in agreement.

"Good. Looks like we have an agreement. Let's go, Rey!"



Rey stepped forward and was about to leave with the Dark Adventurer when Alicia reached out to him and nearly touched him, but he managed to evade her grip at the last minute.

"At least pet Snow before you go."

As soon as she said this, Snow shot her another quizzical look and looked at Rey with narrowed eyes.

Ray's expression was unexplainable, but it seemed to border on the realm of nervousness and indecisiveness. Before he could make the choice, though, he vanished from his position.

In a split second, he was right beside Ralyks.

"He'll do so when he returns." With those words remaining in the air, a portal opened behind the two of them.

They were swallowed by the spatial distortion, taken to a place no one knew.

For a moment, there was silence.

Alicia's face appeared downcast, almost as if she could sense something was wrong.

'Did he do it on purpose? Is he... avoiding me?'

Rey didn't really seem scared of the rabbit, so it had to be her that he was running away from.

He even avoided her touch.

'Is it because I kept what happened with the kidnapping a secret? I... I just...'

She couldn't properly think about the whole thing, and the more she suspected Rey of drifting away from her because of that reason, the more her heart ached.

'Maybe...'

Before she could complete her thoughts, though, someone appeared right in front of her.

"Alicia, mind if I pet Snow?"

It was Adonis, with his charming smile and genuine interest in the Familiar she cradled close to her chest.

"O-oh...? Really?" She appeared a little hesitant, though her friendly smile remained.

"Yeah! It's really amazing how cute and adorable she looks, yet she could most likely beat me in a fight."

"Come on, Adonis. You're kidding. I don't think Snow could take on someone as strong as you."

The moment Alicia said this, Snow—who had kept her eyes closed—shot Adonis a competitive glare.

"Haha... stop." He quickly raised his hand in surrender. "I'm actually... not that strong."

There was a tinge of sadness in his tone—one that Alicia could relate to.

It caused her to smile sweetly and hold one of Adonis' raised hands.

She guided it to her rabbit's soft fur.

"Sure. You can pet her." She gave a genuine toothy grin.

To Alicia, her pets were sacred.

She hardly allowed strangers anywhere near them, talkless of touching them.

Conversely, if she had someone she considered a true and close friend, she wouldn't hesitate to let them touch her pets.

In fact, she would prompt them to do so.

'I wanted Rey to be the first, but...' As Alicia looked at how Adonis stared very excitedly at Snow, she couldn't help but smile.

He was doing it right, and Snow also seemed to be enjoying herself.

It made her glad.

'I'm not very close to him—not like before—but it seems he still has a soft spot for animals.'

Adonis was very kind. That was what made her fall for him back on Earth.

Things were a lot different now, but she was happy that he hadn't grown haughty due to him being a Hero.

'I initially misinterpreted his intentions, but he really is a good guy, huh?' She nearly laughed at herself.

"About Rey... please try to understand him."

Adonis' abrupt words caught Alicia off-guard, and she found him looking at her with his bright golden eyes.

"He desires to be strong. He probably feels even more of that now that you have Snow and everyone seems to be getting stronger at a rapid rate."

Adonis patted the rabbit's head and ceased his action.

"I know you care about him and want to protect him very much, and he probably also feels the same about you."

Alicia didn't realize she had made her intentions or emotions so obvious.

Perhaps Adonis was just very good at reading her.

Thankfully, his tone was low, so none of the surrounding students heard anything.

They were all talking with one another, but it was clear that they were waiting for their turn to pet the new member of the group.

"He's weak right now. I can relate to how frustrated he must be feeling right now... wanting to be better."

Alicia wasn't sure about Adonis being able to relate to Rey, but she said nothing and continued to listen.

"The best thing we can do right now is grow strong—all of us in our own way. We should also encourage others to do the same."

He slightly used his fist to hit Alicia's shoulder in a casual, friendly manner.

Typical Adonis behavior.

"So, yeah. No need to overthink it. We all have work to do."

Once he was done speaking, he stroked Snow a little more before walking away.

"Later then."

"W-wait!" Alicia yelled out, before realizing how loud her voice was.

She awkwardly looked around and found her classmates looking at her—but quickly turning away.

It was so embarrassing.

She continued with what she wanted to say, though.

"Thank you, Adonis."

Despite her cheeks red and flushed with embarrassment, she uttered the words anyway.

"No problem." He waved, walking away as he did so.

Alicia felt a slight relief in her heart as a result of her conversation with him.

'I feel much better now.'

Right as Alicia had this thought, she could already see the rest of her classmates close in on her due to Snow's overwhelming cuteness.

Billy inconspicuously walked away, but everyone else was subtly—but also not so subtly—hinting at their intentions.

However, Alicia wasn't going to have any of that.

Not with these people.

"Oh? What's that, Snow? You want to see my room right now? Let's go, then!"

Hence, Alicia was able to escape the mob of Otherworlders and safely keep Snow away from the clutches of her classmates.

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## **Chapter 254 Meeting Esme Again**

'I hope Alicia didn't take it the wrong way.'

As Rey teleported to the official KariBlanc Premises on the surface, he had that thought swirling in his mind.

'I just can't afford for her to find out...'

Rey pondered on why he just couldn't tell her about his identity as Ralyks, but he reckoned it was the same reason why she didn't tell him about the entire thing with Billy.

'It'll lead to a whole spectrum of conversations.'

Rey would have to reveal some of his involvements, by consequence, and she might not approve.

The truth was... he was telling too many lies.

'It's a risk. I just... don't want her to see me any other way...'

Rey entered the reception area of the building and was greeted by a pretty woman who recognized him well.

He was donning his Ralyks costume, after all.

"Sir Aldred and Lord Blanc aren't present at the moment." The lady said with an official smile.

Whether it was on the surface or in the Black Market, Ralyks would always be treated with utmost respect.

As a result, even the lady before him was trembling as she spoke.

"Where are they?" Rey's deep voice went forth as he tried not to look at the lady too much so as not to make her too uncomfortable.

"They're in the Black Market sorting through a few things. They told me to make you very comfortable and entreated that you wait for them... if that pleases you, of course."

Rey slowly nodded as he crossed his arms and sighed.

'Seems there's a lot to be done. I guess that's understandable...'

He found it to be a waste of time to simply wait around for them to arrive. Hence, he found another way to while away time.

"Where is the residence of my... partner here?" Rey found it difficult to utter the words, but he did so anyway.

"Partner, Sir Ralyks?"

"Yes. The very beautiful lady that is affiliated with me."

Rey couldn't call her "Esme" or "Half-Elf" since no one here properly knew of her identity.

'Come to think of it... I don't think she knows that I know.' Rey stroked his chin a little.

'[Absolute Appraisal] allows you to see the surface-level Stats of your target, but since my own Appraisal Skill is under [Doppel], she probably doesn't know I have access to her Status Window.'

In essence, Esme probably didn't know that he knew her name or identity.

'Should I change that?'

"A-ah! Yes, she is in her quarters in this building. The Lord thought it would be safer and better to move her to the surface."

'Yeah. Rebal already told me...' Rey shrugged.

He wanted to see her, so he jumped to his feet and looked at the woman who stood beside him.

"Take me to her quarters."

It would be unfair if she had to constantly dress up to meet him. He just wanted to have a brief conversation with her and see how she was doing.

'Just a casual discussion, I guess...'

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It only took a few moments, but Rey now found himself in front of the girl's door.

The hallway was luxurious, as expected of the KariBlanc Group, and the entrance before him was painted white, contrasted with obsidian black and blue designs all around.

He was here, at long last.

'Ahh...'

It was at this moment that he remembered one very crucial information.

'... I've never entered a girl's room before.'

This was the first time he would be doing such a thing. He felt nervous as hell, but thankfully, that didn't stop him from drawing his hand close to the door to knock.

'What am I doing? It's not too late to turn back now.'

Rey didn't know why he was feeling so awkward all of a sudden.

'Esme is a cool person... right? I saved her life, and it doesn't seem like she has some sort of snobbish personality.'

In fact, remembering the last time they spoke, she was pretty open with him.

'There's no need to be anxious.'

The moment he thought like this, all the tremors within his body vanished.

It felt like Magic.

'I suppose [Dead Calm] had something to do with it. Once I've decided on something, it helps numb the detrimental emotions associated with it.'

Once his thoughts settled, he took in a deep breath and proceeded to knock on the do—

~CREAK~

—or.

Rey's hand was already in motion, so despite the door opening on its own, he had already begun to move his wrist.

The result of that was disastrous.

"Owww..."

He ended up knocking Esme's forehead.

'A-ahh!' Rey instantly took a few steps back as soon as he noticed what he did.

His widened crimson eyes noticed Esme rubbing her pale forehead as she looked at him with one of her cool blue eyes.

The second was closed, probably due to her wincing in pain.

'I think it has reddened a little.' Rey's thoughts echoed inside him, and all the comportsment he thought he had built up ended up vanishing.

At this point, he remembered that [Dead Calm] wasn't active at all since he chose not to keep it on during his activities in the Black Market—or such related matters.

He had no emotional crutch for such a situation.

"S-sorry..." He managed to mutter, his gaze totally captured by her once again.

She had a pure white shirt—one that looked casual. It was oversized, exposing a great deal of her shoulders while also reaching the very end of the shorts she wore.

'About that...'

Rey looked at her shorts, and they were very low. They barely neared her knees, so a lot of her pale skin was displayed in front of him.

She was also barefoot, and her pretty little toes felt strangely alluring.

'What am I even thinking? Why am I looking down there?' Rey quickly raised his head and saw Esme's face.

She was smiling at him.

'Did she notice anything?!' He wondered, once again glad that he had his mask on.

"It's fine. This much is nothing." Her voice was clear and calm, and her calm smile told him that.

'This much...? Ohhh! She's talking about her forehead!'

Rey looked at the spot he accidentally knocked, and the redness had vanished.

He heaved a sigh of relief instantly.

"Ufu... you're quite honest, aren't you?" She chuckled, her delicate fingers slightly covering her mouth.

'Well, damn.'

Rey somehow felt frustrated in front of Esme.

'She pretty much knows who I am, and it seems like she can pretty much see through me.'

In that way, at the very least, she was in the opposite position of Alicia.

"You should come in." Esme smiled invitingly, opening the door even more as she walked into her room.

Rey stood at the entrance for a few more seconds, preparing himself for the experience.

'My first time. This is my first time.'

He had wanted it to be with Alicia, but it couldn't be helped this time.

'Let's go!'

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## **Chapter 255 The Girl's Room**

'Smells nice...'

That was the first thought Rey had when he entered the room.

Esme's room—or perhaps all girl rooms—had a certain ambiance that his room could never compare to; no matter how tidy he was.

He began to feel embarrassed for all the times Alicia stayed in his room.

'Did it smell inside? Was it too untidy?' Rey was panicking within.

Thankfully, the scent of flowers, and the relaxing atmosphere around him, caused his anxiety to mellow out a little.

Her room was pure white, with layers of blue and bright velvet splattered about.

The carpet was blue, with white strewn all around, and the painting consisted mostly of white, with velvet curtains, alongside murals that were both colors.

Rey could go on and on, but the sight around him was fascinating.

'Is it because this is the KariBlanc Group, or because she's a girl?'

Rey knew the most logical position to have was the former, but his bias tempted him to pick the latter option.

"Over here, Rey." Once again, as she called him by his name, he felt a little stirring within him.

Rey always put himself in the "Ralyks" zone when coming to these parts, so it was always strange for her to disrupt the flow.

He turned in the direction that she called him to, and lo and behold... it was her bed.

"Sit." She patted the space beside her as she sat on the big and luxurious bed.

'Ahh...' Rey didn't know how to describe the bed.

It was large and luxurious, sure, but it also had those curtains or veils that he often saw in dramas back on Earth.

They were capable of covering the three exposed sides of the bed with ultra-thin linen that allowed only the shadow of the one sleeping to be seen.

'I sense Mana from them, so it's Enchanted.' Rey realized it was probably a defensive measure taken by the KariBlanc Group to protect Esme in her sleep.

Plus, since the curtains were all drawn to one side, Rey could clearly see Esme and sit beside her comfortably.

He walked towards her bed, feeling the lovely aroma of the room get even stronger as he approached.

"You really should call me Ralyks. That's what everyone calls me here." Rey muttered as he sat where she told him to.

"Really? Why?"

"Because I'm hiding my real name from them." He responded, almost as if stating the obvious.

"No, I mean... why should I call you that? We're all alone now, right?"

As she emphasized that fact, Rey felt something hot on both sides of his cheeks.

He ignored the sensation, though.

"Yeah, but..."

"I don't speak when you're not around. And the only reason I'm talking is because you assured me that no one would be listening in to our conversation. I believed your words, so were you lying to me?"

"No! No! I wasn't lying!" Rey swiftly raised both hands and waved them.

He was caught under Esme's scrutinizing gaze, and before he knew it, he completely broke out of his 'Ralyks' character.

He just couldn't maintain that identity with Esme. She knew too much.

Ultimately, he was always going to be Rey.

"Then it's fine, don't you think?"

"H-huh?"

"It's fine for me to call you Rey. You can call me Esme too, so it's fair."

Rey didn't know what to tell the girl in front of him. There were many reasons he wanted to keep his identity a secret and keep pretending to be a badass Dark Adventurer.

But he couldn't think of any that applied to her.

After several moments of silence—when he couldn't take the tension and awkwardness any longer—Rey collapsed on her bed and gave a heavy sigh.

"Fine! Whatever! I guess we'll just address each other normally then." He yelled out.

He couldn't believe what he was doing...

"Whoah! This bed is unbelievably soft!"

Why was he showing such an uncool side of himself to this girl?

"Smells nice too!"

It almost felt like he didn't care any longer.

Why?!

"Ufufufu..." Her giggles reached his ears, and he saw her smiling so pleasantly at him as he said those things.

Somehow, he didn't feel embarrassed.



Rather, it felt liberating—like she was encouraging him to be more like himself.

His true self.

"It feels better, doesn't it? Being honest with someone and speaking your mind." As her soft voice radiated throughout the room, Rey couldn't help but agree.

She fell on her bed too, her two hands on her stomach as she looked at the ceiling of the bed.

"I wish more people were like this, you know?"

As Rey, who was right beside her, looked at her warm smile, he found himself smiling as well.

'She's really honest, huh?'

After a few seconds of silence, with both of them just enjoying each other's presence, Esme broke the silence again.

"You know I'm a Half-Elf, right?"

A moment later, Rey responded.

"Yeah." He noticed her smile deepened as he said this. "How did you know?"

"Who knows? I just made a guess."

Rey jumped back to his seated posture and protested instantly.

"No way! So you just guessed that?"

As soon as he said this, Esme giggled some more. It felt like, despite the mask, she could see his expression quite well.

"I mean, you didn't react to me telling you my name, so I figured you already knew about it. And if you know my name, there's a good chance you also know my Race."

An "Ohhhh" leaked out of Rey the moment she analyzed the reason behind her guess.

"I was going to tell you anyway, so it doesn't really matter. I've never met an Elf before, so it hasn't been an essential part of my life before."

The only way her Elven identity affected her was in relation to Stats.

A slightly sad smile played on her face at that moment.

"Sometimes... I want to see one. An Elf. Maybe it's just wishful thinking, but... I don't know."

Every word that flowed out of her lips were genuine, and her eyes, previously distracted by the ceiling above, finally settled on Rey.

She looked at him with her honest blue eyes, as if boring deep into his soul.

"What about you? Do you desire something that you think is wishful thinking?"

When Rey was asked this question, he didn't know why the first thing—or rather, person—he thought of was Alicia.

He wanted to show her his strength. He didn't want to seem pathetic before her. He also wanted her to like and respect him.

But...

'I don't want to take that chance.'

With Esme, he really had nothing to lose by acting in his 'Rey' persona.

But for Alicia...

'I've killed over a hundred people already. I've dealt with people who have employed slaves—the same thing she was nearly a victim of.'

And the worst part was... Rey didn't think he was going to stop.

Of course, Rey didn't think he would ever stoop to the very low level of the criminals he associated with or eliminated.

Still... he couldn't help but worry about her perspective.

'I guess... I'm scared.'

That was the honest truth.

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## **Chapter 256 An Engaging Conversation**

"It's fine if you don't want to talk about it."

Esme's voice woke Rey up from his drawn-out thoughts.

He turned behind and saw her slowly rising to a seated position too, a friendly smile written on her face as she rose.

"A-ah, it's—!"

"I understand. It's about a girl, right?"

"W-what? How can you be so sure!" As soon as Rey said this, and also saw Esme's smile widen, he realized the ugly truth.

'I've been tricked! Damn it!'

It was too late to realize it at that point, though. He had been careless, and now the price had to be paid.

"I just made a guess. But it seems like I was spot-on."

Rey wanted to ask Esme for the reason behind her guess this time, but before he could say anything, she told him.

"That man... Asher... he referred to you and I as a couple the last time."

Rey remembered how he noticed Esme's face twitching back when it was mentioned.

She didn't say anything after then, but since she was mentioning it now, Rey knew he had to vindicate himself.

"I told him we weren't a couple. No, it wasn't even that! It was—!"

"This isn't meant for me, is it? It's meant for the girl you're thinking of." Esme brought out a necklace from her pocket.

There was a ring at the center of the silver-like chain.

It was the White Ember—or, something similar.

The ring this time still had a frosty white surface, but the gem at the center peered more aqua than ember.

It was a glowing blue gem.

"They designed something a little different for me. It matches my eyes, don't you think?"

"Y-yeah..." Rey managed to say.

The necklace, as well as the ring attached to it, looked exquisite.

"If you don't mind, could you help me put it on?"

She handed the necklace to him and packed her long black hair to the side.

'Is she even giving me a choice in the matter?' Rey wondered as he stole a good look at her delicate, pale neck.

Esme was really pretty, and her skin had a major role to play in that.

Before Rey realized it, he was helping her to put on the necklace. As he did so, his fingers brushed past her skin a few times.

'So soft...' He thought to himself as he did so.

It was no wonder her forehead had a pink shade despite his knock being very mellow.

'I guess she's very delicate.' He found himself laughing internally until he was done.

Once he was done, she flailed her hair back into place, using her fingers to push aside any stray hair that would block the necklace from being seen?

"So? How do I look?"

She was right beside him—a dozen inches apart maybe—and her surprisingly stoic face as she asked the question made his heart nearly skip a beat.

"It looks good on you. Truly."

A small smile formed on her face and she nodded slowly.

"Is that so? Thanks. Even though you didn't mean for something like this to be made for me, I still appreciate the gesture."

'She knows about that too?!' Rey wanted to pull his hair out with the way the girl pulled at his heartstrings.

This time, though, he said nothing to confirm her suspicions.

Esme noticed this and giggled a little.

"Don't be so wary. This isn't a gusss. I know the White Ember was meant for someone else. But since this isn't that, I think I'll be a bit greedy and have it."

Once again, she was very blunt.

"Is that fine by you?" She cocked her head to the side and asked.

At that point, Rey knew he was only presented with two words as a response.

"Yes" and "Yes."

He struggled in his mind to come up with a third option, until he finally did.

It took all he had, but Rey figured out the perfect response to give.

"I guess so."

"Pffft! What's that response?" Esme nearly snickered as she covered her mouth and laughed out loud.

It was only until he heard her laugh at him that he realized the honest truth.

'I should have just gone with one of the two options I had.'

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Quite a bit of time passed, and Rey found himself slowly getting more comfortable around Esme.

The butterflies in his stomach disappeared, and he found himself enjoying her company so naturally.

It felt amazing!

As people, they couldn't be any different, yet they got along so well.

'It's like with Alicia all over again. No... Alicia and I had books and a bunch of other things in common.'

However, with Esme, everything was so strange and new.

Yet, that was what made things so much fun.

However, all good things eventually end, and so Rey had to steer the conversation into serious territory.

"I'm working on something right now. If it all works out, you could meet some Elves. Maybe even get to know more about your origins."

The moment Rey said this, he saw Esme beam.

"Really?"

"Yup!" He nodded with a reassuring smile—not that she could see it behind his mask.

He wasn't making empty assertions too.

Now that he had successfully taken all the goods from the warehouse, they could continue their sale with the Elves.

'I just have to get rid of all the opposition first.'

"It's possible you could meet your real family and—"

"No, Rey. My real family remains with the Orphanage. With the Elves, it's nothing more than curiosity... I think."

Once Rey heard this, his expression darkened a little.

'I guess it won't be as simple as I thought. To help her, I'll have to find her Orphanage friends.'

Now that Scylla was the only player in the Black Market, it was possible that they were already sold off into slavery.

Perhaps even...

'No! Let's not think like that!' Rey swallowed his saliva and looked at Esme's resolute expression.

"Yeah, you're right." He nodded.

'For her sake... I can't consider THAT as a possibility.'

\*

## **Chapter 257 Reaching An Agreement**

"Is there any progress with finding any member of my Orphanage?"

Rey shook his head at the question.

To be honest, he hadn't even gotten to that issue yet. The Criminal Underworld was vast, and there were a lot of things to settle first.

If he didn't, things could spiral out of control.

"I figured." She heaved a sigh.

It wasn't one of disappointment or frustration, but more like her reaction anytime she got something off her chest.

"Thanks for all of this, Rey. I appreciate it greatly."

He shrugged, smiling under his mask.

In the past, he only really bothered because it was an imperative given by the System. But, at the moment, his disposition had changed a little.

'I genuinely want to help her.'

"I'll keep searching, don't worry." He gave her an exaggerated thumbs-up, which made her giggle a little more.

He still couldn't believe that the same girl he thought was an emotionless doll could display such emotions.

'I wonder what face she makes to Asher and the staff at KariBlanc.' Rey found himself thinking amusedly.

He quickly shook off the distracting thoughts and returned his attention to the serious present.

"Is there anything I can do to help, though?"

'Hm? Where's this coming from?' Rey wondered as he stared at Esme upon hearing her abrupt question.

"I don't want to keep on being a liability. Besides... things are pretty boring and uneventful here."

Esme explained how she never really did anything but stay in her room all day.

She was also lonely and tired of having to stay quiet. Plus, her unease was building up every time she had to be with the 'bad people.'

There was also the fact that she felt anxious about her friends and family, yet she wasn't actively doing anything for them.

"I know it's selfish, but I really want to help in the search."

Ray instantly raised his hand and shook his head in disapproval.

"It's better you stay out of this. The current situation is very dangerous. It's too... gory and unfit for you."

Rey didn't want Esme to see him killing people, or experience bloodshed with her eyes.

She looked too pure to be sullied.

"You don't have to worry about me, Rey. I have seen my fair share of brutality."

Rey was still not convinced.

'She probably feels like a burden and is trying to be tough about the whole thing.'

"Have you ever watched someone's four limbs dismembered as they're raped in front of you. And as the man climaxes, he decapitates her head?"

Rey felt sick the moment he heard such a graphic description.

More shocking was the calm look on Esme's face as she said all of it.

"I have seen things worse than that. The Mercenary Gang... what they did in my town was truly awful."

Rey felt conflicted.

On one end, he understood Esme's request, and he genuinely wanted her to be by his side.

However, he also recognized the dangers.

'What should I do?'

"I should have mentioned this last time, but you have no way of knowing what my friends look like. I know them, and they know me. Wouldn't it be better if I came with you on your search for them?"

That was the last nail on the coffin for him.

Rey no longer had any concrete excuse to keep her away from the battlefield at this point.

"Huu... fine." She appeared excited, almost like a little child, once he said this.

"After considering everything, I suppose you're right. You'll follow me on my next expedition."

Her smile grew bigger and her blue eyes twinkled bright.

It almost made Rey squint just to look at her face.

"Thank you! Thank you so much! I'll try not to get in your way!"

Esme seemed too excited about his decision—to the point that Rey was convinced there was some other reason she wasn't telling him.

He was too tired to address it at the moment, though."

"I'll have to talk to the relevant people in this place to outfit you in something appropriate."

That way, she could conceal her identity when they were on expeditions.

'Enchanted Items should also allow her to somehow keep up with me. I should consider her protection as well.'

Once Rey thought a little, he realized there was no real reason for him to worry too much.

'It'll be fine. If I can let Alicia and the rest go on the Raid, there's nothing stopping me from letting Esme find her friends.'

Both ventures had their risks, but they also had overriding benefits.

"I have a question, Rey."

Rey snapped out of his thoughts and looked at Esme, who now had a curious look on.

"Why do you still wear your mask around me?"

"Eh?"

"You know I won't betray you or anything, right? Plus, you're pretty much acting like yourself now, so there's no need to keep it on."

Rey felt a bead of sweat form on his face as he digested the question he was asked.

Esme wasn't particularly wrong in any sense.

She pretty much already knew enough to render his Ralyks identity obsolete.

It would be more comfortable if he just took off his mask and addressed her like a normal person.

Still...

"I would prefer to keep it on."

"Ahh... I see."

"I hope that's fine. I just... don't wish to show you my real face." Rey murmured.

He had gotten quite comfortable with his real appearance, but someone like Esme would probably consider him ugly.

'I'm also short. Shorter than her.'

Of course, Rey didn't logically believe that Esme was that petty and superficial, but he honestly couldn't help feeling that way.

He was truly the superficial one; and he merely didn't want a beauty like Esme seeing his completely average appearance.

"I understand, Rey. It's fine."

He heaved a sigh of relief, strangely glad that she didn't press on the matter any further.

"I should leave now." Rey said, rising to his feet.

He felt like he could spend forever in Esme's room, but this was time for such.

"Asher and Rebal are back already. There are things to discuss, so I have to leave."

Esme nodded, still seated.

"Okay. Thanks for coming today. It was... fun."

Rey chuckled and mirrored Esme's gesture.

"Yeah. I had fun too."

~VWUM~

Space around him became distorted, and he gave another thumbs up as he vanished.

"I'll come get you when it's time to move out."

In all honesty, Rey was still worried about bringing Esme along.

But...

'Somehow, I also want her by my side.'

\*

## **Chapter 258 Going On The Offensive**

"Oho? So that's what is going on now..."

Ralyks sat on a couch, and opposite him were three seated individuals.

Rebal, Asher, and the girl he saved earlier that morning... Kara Verte.

They had dealt with all the pleasantries pretty early thanks to Ralyks' insistence. Important affairs came before any other thing, so he was more interested in progress.

'How noble...' Kara thought as she looked at her savior with starstruck eyes.

Ever since she was saved by the man of darkness, she couldn't stop thinking about him.

She wanted to meet him the moment she regained consciousness, and now to at he was right in front of her, she couldn't let out as much as a squeak before him.

Right when they met, she was able to thank him for saving her life, but he casually addressed it.

He also apologized for not coming earlier, but she couldn't understand why he was being so dismissive of his actions.

It was all thanks to him that she was able to safely keep all the relevant documents of the Verte House that related to their properties and assets.

Kara's family was very thorough with their paperwork, so the mere fact that their legacy didn't fall into the wrong hands was more than enough for her to lick the sole of his feet.



'Lick... his feet? What am I even thinking!' Kara chastised herself and shook her head.

Right now, she had to behave accordingly. Her parents were dead, and she was the only survivor of their main estate.

'I have to find a way to ally with him personally. To protect my family's assets and our future!'

These were her thoughts as she looked at the brooding Ralyks.

"So, to summarize, you plan on securing the properties of the Verte House and fortifying the positions that have become lax as a result of the loss of manpower on the end of our enemies?"

"Yes. Precisely." Rebal responded to Ralyks, his determined gaze now containing a fire that wasn't present before.

It seemed the recent incident had finally changed his disposition.

"We can't afford to be passive any longer, especially with this window of opportunity you've made for us."

There was already no way the other side would keep quiet once they found out two out of their Executives were killed, and their plans didn't go accordingly.

"Even if we didn't act, we'd only be driven into more of a corner, so it's better we make our moves."

The Mercenary Gang was completely on Scylla's side—as well as pretty much most of the Underworld.

"They've most likely taken control over the Jaune territory, and since there's no tether for us to use regarding that venture, it's best we only focus our attention on the Blanc and Verte house."

They didn't even have enough manpower to spread themselves too thin.

"I understand. So, what do you need my assistance with?" Ralyks asked with a deep, concise tone.

He clearly wanted to get to the point.

"Lady Kara over here would like to secure all the assets of the Verte Group, so it would be really helpful if you served as her guard." Rebal said solemnly.

"Hmm..."

"P-please don't take it the wrong way, Sir Ralyks! I would have sent anyone else if they were capable enough, but it's possible that they might encounter a Head, and this mission is too sensitive to take any chances."

Rebal—the Blanc Councilor—couldn't remember anyone else that he had to grovel so much to.

However, Ralyks was more than worth it.

Right now, it didn't even matter what kind of reward they were going to give him in the end, they needed him far more than he needed them.

With that thought currently at the forefront of his mind, Rebal awaited Ralyks' answer.

"There's no need to be so uneasy. I accepted to help you all out, and I intend to keep my end of the deal, so don't worry about it."

Rebal—as well as Asher and Kara—heaved a sigh of relief.

"I was just wondering if I could take a bunch of detours during my escort missions. Don't worry, it won't impede anything at all."

Upon hearing this, Rebal's eyes sparked a little in curiosity.

"I trust you, Sir Ralyks. Is it perhaps related to the Slave Trade Warehouse you mentioned the other time?"

Ralyks nodded, confirming the question.

"Well, I have had my men working on preparing a map for you that pinpoints every known and speculated Warehouse of the Slave Trade Union." Rebal added.

He and Ralyks had already had a thorough conversation on his interests in these Warehouses prior to their current conversation, so Rebal's men were done with their task.

'I suppose he wants to dismantle the Slave Trade Union, which is Scylla's major source of wealth and power.'

Rebal appreciated Ralyks thinking far ahead, and he was truly grateful to have him as an ally.

'I must never make this man an enemy!' He told himself for the umpteenth time.

"I'll also be bringing my... partner along with me. I'll talk to Asher about the details, so we don't have to discuss that now."

Everyone in the room already knew their place in the alliance they had formed. That meant Kara knew Aldred's true identity—

though not his real face.

He still had his 'Aldred' appearance, after all.

"There's no problem at all, Sir Ralyks." Rebal nodded, and so did the other two.

"I'm curious about one more thing."

This time, Ralyks turned his gaze to the only female in their midst.

"What do you plan to do after this conflict is resolved, though? Rebuild the Verte House as a Criminal Empire?"

This question had a lot of weight to it, considering the current state of the Black Market—as well as what it would end up as eventually.

"If we succeed, everything will be in shambles. The KariBlanc Group intends to become a legitimate business group. So, what about you?"

There was no doubt that the Verte House still had employees and affiliates in other areas aside from their headquarters.

Kara was not alone, and it was indeed possible to rebuild.

It all depended on what she wanted.

"I... am not sure yet." She muttered, her clouded face showing a mix of confusion and sadness.

"I just want to secure my family's legacy for now."

Ralyks nodded, and Rebal smiled alongside his son.

That in itself was the most concrete and realistic goal anyone could have given the current situation.

"Very well. I suppose we ought to act fast." Ralyks rose to his feet, his cloak of darkness dancing with him as he did so.

The rest followed his lead.

"Our enemies would have realized their loss by now. That means they'll make their next move pretty soon." Rebal added.

They just had to be prepared for the wrath to come.

'I'm not frightened or uneasy, though.' Rebal smiled as he shook the hand of the man before him.

Was there really a need to feel anxious at all?

No... not at all.

'After all, we have Sir Ralyks!'

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## **Chapter 259 Scylla's Wrath**

[Meanwhile...]

"DAMNIT!!!"

A loud voice echoed from the lips of a particularly beautiful woman, making her appear awfully ugly as a result.

As her long blond hair swayed, her white teeth were displayed in pure rage. She was grating them very loudly, and the wrinkles on her face caused her to appear even more hideous.

"H-how could all of this happen?!" She hissed, growling like a hungry predator who desired nothing but devastation.

Fury, mixed with anxiety and a hint of fear, rose from her pretty body.

This lady was Scylla—the Head of the Slave Union, and also the Leader of the New Order.

Her fury coat and black gown would have made her appear to be one of the classiest ladies in the world, but the crass way she currently spoke, and the curses she spewed thanks to her current dissatisfaction, made her seem more vulgar than she appeared.

Fortunately, only one other person was in the room—her personal guard.

His pure white mask had a dull glow as he watched her from a corner, like a statue.

It was almost like he wasn't there at all.

That allowed Scylla to continue her tantrums without feeling watched or scrutinized.

"Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! Damn it!"

The reason for her current frustrations lay in the fact that her entire framework of plans was collapsing.

For one, the Eastern Warehouse was suddenly attacked by a Dragon, and it killed every single worker there.

Phobio, one of the Nine Heads of Destruction, had managed to escape with his life—barely avoiding the wrath of the beast or the jaws of death.

'If not for our patrol agents, we wouldn't have found his naked, unconscious body on time.'

If this was all, though, then Scylla would not be in such a frenzy.

Having a Dragon suddenly invade a major hotspot of resources was bad—incredibly so—but it wasn't impossible to resolve the problem.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the only issue.

'Ogun, another Head, is dead. Same as Anukus, who was a wild card, but was also one of the Deadly Three...'

Scylla also got news that Fernand was able to make it back safely, though all his men had suffered an unlucky fate at the hands of an incredibly powerful foe.

'It seems the Blanc House has gotten their hands on someone pretty strong. For him to cause Fernand to retreat, also killing all his subordinates...'

Scylla wanted to know who it was!

'Even the whole incident with the Dragon can be labeled as a coincidence, the other incidents can't be so easily dismissed.'

In three other locations that were considerably far from each other, some of her strongest pawns had been eliminated or nearly done in.

'I want to know why!' This didn't just mean that they had lost strong men—a commodity that was very rare—but also that their plans regarding those incidents had collapsed.

'The resources that were meant to be distributed to the Mercenary Gang had been compromised, thanks to what happened in the Eastern Warehouse.'

Sure, the Nine Heads of Destruction could be dispatched there to subjugate the Dragon, but that would spread them too thin.

According to Phobio, the Dragon was far stronger than him.

'It's probably a three-horned one. Fenrir should be able to manage if he has his subordinates with him.'

The problem was that it would leave her, and the rest of her assets, vulnerable.

There was also the possibility of suffering more casualties—something they couldn't afford at the moment.

Scylla began to bite her nails very aggressively.

'I already took the combat ability of the KariBlanc Group into account, and there's no one among them that can beat a Head of Destruction. Maybe Rebal Blanc himself, but there's no way he'd be on the front lines.'

That meant there had to be at least three individuals who were hired by them; considering the three different locations where their members were killed.

'Out of the nine, I only have seven left. Adding Fenrir, that's eight. It's not a major loss, but...'

The mission was supposed to involve retrieving documents and swallowing territory.

It was meant to push the KariBlanc Group into a single corner—the Capital.

'But now... they'll begin to spread their wings for sure!'

Scylla screamed and cursed some more, almost as if she was courting insanity.

"I should calm down. Yeah... let's find a solution to this issue."

The lady considered the most pressing matters at the moment, and she recognized them to be the recovery of the Eastern Warehouse, as well as the recovery of their lost resources.

They also had to deal with the strong forces of the opposing side.

'We need to get rid of that Dragon quickly, or else it'll be difficult to appease theMercenary Gang.'

There was only so much a rule by fear could do.

'I have the strongest card with me, so dishing out the stuck isn't an issue. Still, I have to ensure the carrot remains as well.'

That meant searching for a way to recover the Eastern Warehouse.

'If it truly is a three-horned one, then we'll have to concentrate all our attention on that for now.'

That meant they would have to halt their advancements and give the Blanc House room to breathe, as well as an opportunity to strike.

'The issue remains... how to completely get rid of them.'

By consuming everything around them, she had inadvertently backed them into a corner, which caused them to strike back ferociously.

'If I account for their forces to be as strong as the Deadly Three—perhaps even stronger—then this will be a tough run.'

There was something Fernand said about his opponent possibly being a Dragon, but Scylla couldn't believe that.

The Blanc House couldn't have been able to tame a powerful Dragon... right?

'And this Reaper guy... I don't know who he is, but there's no way he was responsible for all those events.'

They occurred simultaneously, far away from one another.

There was just no way.

'Still... I can't deny his strength. If there are two others like him, then it would be difficult to properly intercept them.'

"Unless..." Scylla began to grin widely as she slowly sat on her office chair.

'... I guess I'll have to use my last resort!'

It was a bit early, but she didn't care at this point.

"Once the Mercenary Gang is done eliminating the Dragon to the East, I suppose we'll go full throttle." She whispered and began to chuckle to herself.

"Kukuku... kukukukuku... kukuahahahaha!!!"

She now had the perfect way to trap the fools who had chosen to defy her and derail her plans.

'Enjoy the next few days of peace, Blanc. It'll soon be over.' Scylla closed her eyes, and a wicked grin completely replaced her look or rage.

"Once I'm done, everything you have... will be mine."

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## **Chapter 260 Discovering New Possibilities**

"Skill details." Rey mumbled to himself as he sat all alone in a luxurious suite.

He was waiting for the final preparations by the KariBlanc Group before leaving with Kara Verte to secure her family's properties.

They would be doing all of this for the next few days, so Rey had prepared himself for it.

His suite was incredible—almost as amazing as Esme's room—and it was too vast for him alone to occupy.

At some point, Rey felt a gnawing pang of isolation and boredom as he just waited.

'Esme really had a point there, huh?' He had thought, after experiencing something similar himself.

Thankfully, this feeling didn't last forever.

It was at this point that Rey remembered he got new Skills from Snow—Alicia's new Familiar—so he decided to check them out.

[Skill Details]

[Replication]

Tier: A

Ability: The ability to split yourself into multiple identical copies, though your overall ability is halved whenever you do so.

Ability is split evenly among all copies since you are all meant to be identical.

Current Limit: 9 Copies

[End Of Information]

"I see. So that's how it works..." He murmured as he went over the details.

Normally, Rey would be jumping for joy, but there was no reason to do that at the moment.

After all, he already saw the Skill in action.

'I was pretty excited to see a cloning ability. Nearly jumped in excitement back then...'

However, now that he was looking at the details, he could understand why it wasn't an S-Tier Skill.

'I knew it was too good to be true. So this is the caveat, huh?' He smiled as his mind flowed into the limitations of his abilities

This was an amazing Skill, sure, but every time he cloned himself, his ability was halved.

"So, if I have nine clones, that means I'll only have ten percent of my full power left."

That was awfully inconvenient, but also not particularly a bad trade-off.

'It says nothing about distance, so that means I should be able to maintain the clone over a long distance... right?'

Rey also wondered how he would go about controlling the clone.

'Does the copy have a mind of itself? That would be a little problematic.'

'Looks like I'll have to test out this Skill. But first, let's look at the other Skills.'

Rey had gotten [Rush], [Leap], and [Bounce] from Snow as well. They were all B-Tier, hence making them very useful Buff/Attack type Skills.

He looked over the details of the three and ended up combining all of them to form a new A-Skill. [Godspeed].

'Then, there's also the [Bonding] Skill I got from watching Alicia use her Class Privilege.'

With that, Rey had three new Skills that made him just a bit stronger.

'Ah... there's also those Skills I got from that Fernand fellow. I should combine them too.'

[Swift Blade], [Swift Mind], and [Elevate] were combined into [Swift Zone].

As for the [Aura Sword] Skill, Rey left it as it was, thinking he would probably need it someday if he wanted to show off a lower-ranked Skill.

'With that, it looks like my allocations are complete.' He smiled and nodded.

"With this, I have 47 Skills. That's not bad at all..."

There was only one thing left for him to do now was test out his [Replicate] ability and see what it was all about.

Rey rose up to his feet, taking a deep breath as he did so.

'Here goes nothing...' In a single thought, he activated [Replicate].

Essence left his body, almost like a blur. Rey could feel it... how his strength and overall power diminished as the misty energy rose away from his flesh

It danced away Rey, forming something right in front of him.

'This could be dangerous. If it has a mind of its own, and I have to fight it, we'll be evenly matched.'

The only advantage he had was that he was the original, and so he could just cancel the whole thing when he felt like it.

'I just don't want such a complicated situation. Please...'

The process was short, but to Rey it had taken forever.

~FSHUU...~

Mist rose from the naked body that stood in front of him, and the fully-formed copy stared blankly at Rey.

The boy didn't look like Ralyks, or any other disguise Rey had.

It was simply Rey's true form.

'Ahh... I see. So it replicates how I truly am. That's good to know.'

The fact that he was naked also proved the fact that the Replicate ability didn't work on Items or any other Non-Rey thing.

Other than that, the entity before him was a perfect clone.

'Now then, I guess now is the moment of truth.'

Rey had to know if the clone had a will of its own, so he utilized his [Absolute Appraisal] on it.

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Rey Skylar [Copy]
- Race: Clone (Otherworlder)
- Class: Anomaly (A-Tier)
- Level: 50 (8.76% EXP)
- Life Force: 43 (+161)
- Mana Level: 100 (+161)
- Combat Ability: 70 (+161)
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): [Doppel]
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): [Fusion/Fission]. [Merger]. [Dead Calm].
- Alignment: Nil

[Additional Information]

A blank canvas of Rey Skylar (Original). Command it to do your bidding.

[End Of Information]

"Whew!" Rey held his chest and heaved a sigh.

It seemed all his worst fears about the Skill weren't true. That was more relieving than he thought.

'It seems like it also has the full effect of my Class. That's a good thing.'



The rest of its Stats were halved, though.

"Status Window." He murmured in order to check his own Stats.

Unsurprisingly, everything had also been cut into half.

'This isn't a useful ability against a stronger opponent—all things considered.'

[Replicate] was best used when one wanted to perform a lot of tasks or overwhelm multiple enemies at once.

'Snow used it to target multiple areas of the Earth Elemental, so that's also a good use.'

He still wasn't sure if his Skills would be as effective since he was duplicated, but since the Skill depiction said 'overall ability' then he guessed they applied.

If they did, then what about Classes? Why weren't they affected?

These questions were being noted in Rey's mind as he stared curiously at himself.

'I'll need to do a lot of tests.'

The bottom line that Rey found was that it wasn't the best Skill available, but it had solved one essential problem had been consistently having.

'With this, I can actually manage my dual lives a lot better.'

He telepathically commanded his copy to use [Mimic], and the Rey opposite him did so instantly.

He became Ralyks—at least, his form.

'What a handsome guy...' Rey found himself smiling sheepishly.

He felt like a child who wanted to try out new things.

'Imagine turning into a naked lady or something...'

~PSHUUU!~

All of a sudden, the copy in front of Rey did as the original thought and became a naked woman.

The body mimicked someone Rey had always been curious about.

And now... her ebony body stood in front of him.

"T-Trisha...?!"