

GODS' IMPACT 121

Chapter 121

Once the dinner was over, the servants took away all the tables and plates within one minute.

Aquitius the sixth clapped his hands, and the lighting of the hall changed into disco lights, but in a slow mode. A familiar acoustic dance song started playing, and the couples started dancing.

Of course, not all of them were couples, but only pairs.

Zach was pushed away by the swarm of people, and he ended up losing sight of Aurora and Aria.

It was dark, but not too dark to see. The dim lights were beautifully illuminating the surface and a stunning chandelier on the ceiling.

However, Zach was able to spot Aurora within seconds because of her dress. Her dress reflected lights, and there was only one person with that dress.

Zach tried to walk past from between, but he was pushed aside by the dancers.

By the time Zach glanced back at the spot Aurora was standing, it was empty. He looked around and saw Aurora dancing with someone else.

Zach was jealous but not angry. Of course, this was a custom of the party to dance with everyone and take turns.

Now, Zach had to find a girl who was alone so he could ask to dance with her, but the only girl who wasn't dancing was Aria.

'Well, I am glad it's her...' Zach sighed in relief and carefully walked forward to ask Aria to dance with her, but he was too late.

Another man approached Aria and asked her to dance with him, and as Zach had expected, Aria turned him down.

Zach scoffed and muttered, "That's more like it."

However, when Aria noticed Zach was approaching her, she took the man's hand and agreed to dance with him.

"..." Zach furrowed his brows and muttered, "You have got to be kidding me."

'She saw me, right?! She saw me approaching her and then she agreed to dance with that man! What's with this feeling?'

Suddenly, a man bumped into Zach and tripped on the floor. Seemingly, he was drunk.

Two waiters arrived and carried the man away.

'People are drunk. What if someone...'

A girl placed her hand on Zach's shoulders from behind and said, "Let's dance, prince charming."

Zach turned around to see a girl in a black dress smiling at him

At first, Zach squinted his eyes upon seeing her because she looked awfully like Rilu.

Just to make sure, Zach glanced at the stage and saw Rilu was sitting beside Aquitius and Aquarius.

"Are you thinking, why do I look like the queen?" the woman asked with a grin on her face.

Zach grabbed the woman's hand and started dancing. He didn't want to break the chain and continue the rhythm so he could get to dance with Aurora after a couple of swaps.

"To be honest, all the fish look similar to me, so maybe that's why your human forms are also similar?" Zach responded with a soft scoff.

"I am Aquarius' aunt, Ruli," the woman replied.

'The word 'aunt' triggers me for some reason.' Zach let go of Ruli's hand and pulled her close after letting her go.

"So you are the queen's sister. No wonder you look the same," Zach remarked.

"I am actually her twin sister," Ruli said. "The older twin."

"But... you look way younger than her. You look like you are in your early twenties." Zach let go of Ruli and grabbed another girl to dance with, but Ruli kept looking at Zach while dancing with the other man.

After a few swaps, Zach finally got a chance to dance with Aurora.

"You seemed to be having fun dancing with other men," Zach remarked as he grabbed Aurora's waist.

Aurora brought her face close to Zach and uttered, "Yes, I was."

"..." Zach was annoyed by that, but he wasn't angry. He was aware that Aurora was teasing him.

"I saw you staring at my way this entire time. Were you that eager to dance with me?" she asked with a grin on her face.

"Yes. And I was also worried."

"Oh." Aurora raised her brows and asked, "So you were worried that someone might touch me in a weird way and take advantage of me?"

"That's too extreme, but yes," he nodded.

Zach would have razed the man who dared to touch Aurora in a weird way.

Aurora chuckled softly and said, "Don't worry. I am used to these parties. We had them once every two weeks in the palace. Although I didn't take part in all of them, I had to participate in the important parties."

"No wonder you are good at this dance," Zach commented while pulling Aurora close to him and feeling her body.

"What about you?" Aurora asked with a curious look on her face. "You are awfully good at this too."

"Let's say I have a horrible memory about this," Zach replied with a wry sigh.

"You know..." Aurora moved her face close to Zach's ears and whispered, "I have danced with many men, and they have touched me too."

Zach frowned his face and said, "Are you taking revenge on me because I am getting close to other girls?"

"Kind of?" she kissed Zach on the cheek and said, "Don't worry. I was joking."

"I was aware of it."

"You are the only male who has touched me on my private parts," she said in a calm voice. "My father had assigned many female guards for me, including my masters. They always kept their eyes on me from all sides to make sure no one was harassing me."

Zach moved his hand from Aurora's waist to her butt and said, "I am going to touch you more once we go back to your house."

"It's 'our' home."

Zach squeezed Aurora's butt and said with a nod: "Our home."

"But you know, there was this son of the richest businessman in my kingdom. He touched my butt while dancing, and my father had him executed in front of all the guests, including the boy's parents."

Zach kissed Aurora on the lips and said with a grin on his face: "It seems I would get along with your father."

Chapter 122

"You can't be serious," Aurora uttered after Zach said he would get along with her father.

"Why not? He sounds like a nice guy."

"I do agree that he is a nice father. And he is a nice king too. But he is a terrible husband," Aurora sighed. "He makes too many mistakes and doesn't even realize them until someone points it out."

"Well, he is the king, and he has a huge responsibility to run the kingdom," Zach snorted. "Give that man some slack."

Aurora squinted her eyes and said, "I seriously can't believe you are taking his side."

"I am not. But I can sympathize with my future father-in-law," Zach sneered.

"Wow, great. Now you have already started calling him your father-in-law," Aurora groaned.

Zach licked Aurora's cheeks and said, "So, do you not want me to call you my future wife?"

"How dare you touch me like that!" a familiar voice shouted in the crowd.

Zach recognized the voice even without looking. It belonged to Aria.

"What happened?" someone from the crowd asked.

Aria pointed her finger at the man and said, "This man tried to touch me on my back."

"But that's how the dance is supposed to be," the man retorted.

"I can tell the difference between the touch," Aria remarked. "I danced with five other men before you, and it was a pleasant dance. But—"

"Enough!" the man yelled. "Who invited this bitch to the party?"

"What did you just call me?!"

Zach let go of Aurora and grabbed the man from behind.

"What did you just call her?" Zach asked in a raspy and emotionless voice.

"Who are you?!" The man yelled. "You don't know me! I am the—"

Zach choked the man's neck and made him unable to speak. The man struggled to breathe and tried to break free from Zach's grip, but he couldn't even budge Zach's finger.

Zach clenched the man's neck more and said, "How are you! Do you know who I am?"

The man could barely move his limbs as the light in his eyes slowly started fading away.

The longer Zach looked at the man's face, the angrier he got.

However, five guards came and tried to stop Zach from killing the man, but even they couldn't do anything. Then, Aquitius the sixth got off the stage and placed his hand on Zach's hand that was choking the man.

"Stop this instance," he said. "This man is an important guest."

Zach glared into Aquitius' eyes and said, "Look at me and tell me, does it look like I give a shit about that?"

"I understand why you are angry, but you cannot kill him," the sixth said in a calm voice. However, his legs were trembling in fear.

"He insulted my... my wife!"

"I will make sure he will apologize for that." The sixth stared into Zach's eyes for the first time and said, "If you kill him, his clan will hunt you and your loved ones down. They are in contact with the real world too."

After a while, Zach threw the man's body into the chandelier, and he was stabbed to death by thousands of needles of the chandelier.

"Oops." Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "My hand slipped because of the dark."

The sixth's hands trembled after seeing that. He shook his head in disbelief and muttered, "May the sea god save us from what's coming."

Zach turned around and glanced at everyone. The hall was silent, but the music was still playing, making Zach look like a performer who was about to perform a trick because everyone's attention was focused on him.

"My hands are very slippery, so it may slip again. If you don't want that, then keep your distance from me," he asserted in a solemn voice.

CLAP! CLAP!

Someone clapped from the other side of the hall, and everyone's gaze turned to the sound.

A young man walked out of the crowd and stood in front of Zach with several other men behind him.

Zach and the man stared into each other for a while until Aquitius the sixth quipped in.

"I will take responsibility for Zach's action," he said.

"Oh, there is no need to, my king," the man said in a humble manner. He then pointed his finger at the dead body hanging on the chandelier and said, "My name is Maxim, and that thing over there is my little brother."

Zach raised his brows and uttered, "So you are here for revenge?"

"No, no. What you did was reasonable. If someone tried to take advantage of the dance and touch my wife indecently or insult her, I would give them a more cruel death than this," Maxim said with a smile on his face.

"So why are you here?"

"The thing is..." the smile on Maxim's face vanished, and his face slowly frowned as he said, "You touched my wife too."

"...for a dance?"

Maxim shrugged his shoulders and said, "You should know better."

Zach noticed a stain on Maxim's shoulder.

'Where have I seen this stain before....?'

"Oh..." Maxim was none other than the person who had bumped into Zach when he was looking for a partner to dance with.

'His wife was most probably Ruli, the queen's twin sister,' Zach uttered inwardly.

'I do see how that dead fish was an important person. Suppose the queen is from a royal or noble family. In that case, that means her sister would also be married into a noble family. So I just killed a rare species of fish.'

Zach furrowed his brows and uttered, "What are you implying?"

"My wife told me you touched her too," Maxim responded in a haughty tone. His characteristics and personality suddenly changed from understanding to arrogant.

Of course, Zach was more than certain that he didn't touch Ruli with impure thoughts. He didn't even need to ask Ruli to confirm because when Zach glanced at Ruli, who was standing behind Aurora, she had a shocked expression on her face.

'So this is what they call framing, huh? I don't know how other people deal with it, but I sure know how to handle this situation.'

Zach cracked his fingers using his thumb and asserted, "It's cooking time."

Chapter 123

"You should stop!" Aquitius uttered in a loud voice.

Maxim turned to Aquitius and said, "Are you favoring an outsider over your important guest?"

"It has nothing to do with favoring anyone," the sixth replied.

"Oh! I see, now. So you are taking his side because you want him to marry your daughter," Maxim remarked in a loud voice so everyone present in the hall could hear.

"I am not stopping you alone. I am stopping both of you," the sixth said in a calm voice. "You two should talk this out, just like any other responsible adult would."

"Adult?!" Maxim scoffed out loud and laughed at the sixth while glancing at Zach. "How does this kid look like an adult to you?"

He furrowed his brows and said, "I can crush him under my feet like I would crush the worms."

Zach raised his brows and said, "And then you eat those worms?"

"...!"

Zach smirked and said, "That's what fishes eat, right?"

Maxim's face twitched in anger as he clenched his fists and prepared to hit Zach.

"Wait a minute!" Ruli— Maxim's wife came rushing and said, "What are you talking about?"

"Zach didn't do anything weird to me," she said.

"You are too foolish to understand it," Maxim remarked and glared at Ruli as though he was trying to scare her and shut her up.

"You weren't even here when I danced with Ruli, so how did you—"

SLAP!

Before Ruli could speak any more words, Maxim slapped her on the face and shut her up.

"Don't you dare talk back to me!" he yelled.

Rilu— Ruli's twin sister and the queen of the Ribel kingdom shot a glare at Maxim for slapping her sister like that. But she had to keep quiet for reasons.

Maxim cracked his neck to make himself look intimidating and said, "Since you killed my brother for insulting your wife, it's okay if I kill you for touching my wife, right?"

"By that logic, there are thousands of fishermen who touch fishes every day," Zach sneered.

Of course, he was joking. He wanted to provoke Maxim more and force him to attack first, so even if something happened afterward, Zach could say that it was Maxim who started the fight.

Maxim said Zach did the right thing by killing his brother and that his actions were understandable and reasonable. But he only said that because he wanted to do the same to Zach. He simply needed a reason to start the fight.

"Remember this, Maxim. If something happens to you, the blame will be on you," the sixth asserted in a solemn voice with a serious look on his face. "I tried to stop you."

"You should worry about your son-in-law instead of me!" Maxim yelled and punched Zach on the stomach.

However, Zach didn't even budge from his spot.

"You...!" Maxim charged his fists with lightning and punched Zach on the face, but Zach blocked it using his hand and upper-cut punched Maxim.

Maxim was set flying in the air. He broke through the ceiling and all the other ceilings of the palace. His body ended up in seawater as he struggled to stop himself from going up.

Even though Maxim was a sea creature, he couldn't stop in the sea after receiving a heavy blow from Zach.

By the time Maxim stopped himself, Zach had already jumped and caught up to him.

Zach could fly for three seconds. While floating was different, Zach used his flight ability to move faster in the water.

In the first second, Zach caught up to Maxim.

In the second, Zach punched Maxim again and threw him out of the seawater. Zach's punch sent Maxim towards the direction of the arena that was five minutes away from the palace. However, Maxim reached there within a second.

In the third second, Zach landed in the arena before Maxim could hit the ground and punched him in the air again.

Then, Zach jumped in the air and grabbed Maxim by his leg.

Maxim had passed out after receiving the second punch from Zach, but he regained consciousness after the third punch.

Zach swung Maxim in the air and slammed him onto the ground with a dropkick.

BOOM! BANG!

The drop kick was so hard that the ground shattered, and the cracks grew wider.

Zach landed on the ground and muttered, "I hate this game."

Sure, Zach had dealt enough damage to Maxim, but he was still alive. Part of the reason was that Zach's attacks were limited by his stats. So even if Zach punched him lightly or hard, the damage would still be the same. Or at least, that's how it was supposed to be.

However, it wasn't as though Zach hadn't dealt any damage to Maxim. It was Maxim who was robust enough to take the damage without getting severely injured.

Maxim stood up and cracked his neck while asking, "Are you done?"

Zach placed his hand around his mouth and responded in a loud voice. "You can't cook fish in 30 seconds! Have some patience!"

"You insolence!" Maxim summoned a lightning bolt in his hand and shot it at Zach.

Of course, Zach easily dodged it by jumping in the air. But Maxim shot another lightning bolt in the air.

Zach was barely able to dodge it because it was in the air. When Zach landed on the ground, another lightning bolt came at him.

"..."

'He is predicting my moves and shooting lightning bolts even before I move!'

In the next 3 minutes, Maxim shot over hundreds of lightning bolts, but Zach had dodged them all.

'Some of them might have hit me if I hadn't dodged using my flight ability,' Zach uttered inwardly.

"What's wrong, you monkey?" Maxim asked. "Tired of jumping around?"

"What about you, fish? Do you need some water?" Zach snorted.

Zach had already thought of many plans to fight against Maxim, and he was testing them all out.

Chapter 124

Zach's fighting style had five options depending on the opponent he was fighting.

His first option was to fight back. His second option was to dodge. His third option was to block. His fourth option was to absorb opponents' magical attacks. And his fifth option was to do nothing.

Zach had realized that dodging attacks wouldn't work, so he chose the fourth option.

The third option was to block the attacks, but it was a useless strategy against Maxim since he was predicting Zach's move.

The fourth option was to absorb Maxim's lightning attacks and tire him up before beating him unconscious.

Zach couldn't use the fifth option because it was stupid.

Of course, Zach would have used the first option and killed Maxim if he wanted to. But he thought the sixth would get in trouble.

Sure Zach didn't care much about the sixth, but he was worried about Aquarius and the kingdom, who could get into a mess because of Zach's actions.

He was trying his best not to let his hands slip as they did before when he killed Maxim's little brother by throwing him into the chandelier after choking him. However, Zach didn't regret doing that.

Anyone who insulted his girls or tried to do anything to them would end up dead in the cruelest way possible.

In the next five minutes, Zach had absorbed over hundreds of lightning bolts, and his gloves had almost turned purple.

'Do sea creatures never run out of MP?!' Zach exclaimed.

'My gloves can only absorb ten to twelve more attacks. After that, I will have to release all the magic.

Zach had already planned what to do with Maxim, but his plans changed when he heard a familiar voice.

"Zach!"

'Aurora?! What is doing—' Zach jumped and glanced back to see it wasn't only Aurora.

Aria, Aquarius, Ruli, Rilu, Aquitius the sixth, Maxim's guards and clan members, and the sixth's guards, were all in the air on the carriages and mattresses.

Maxim's clan members and guards and the sixth's guards were hostile towards each other for obvious reasons.

"Heh!" Maxim summoned a giant lightning bolt and threw it at Zach, or so it looked like. While in truth, Maxim targeted Aria and Aurora, who were standing next to each other.

"...!"

Zach immediately jumped in the air and tried to stop the lightning bolt, but it passed by Zach's shoulders and went to Aria and Aurora at full speed.

"....!"

"It won't stop until it hits them!" Maxim snickered. "Even if they dodge it, it will change its direction and hit them!"

Aria used her bow skill, and Aurora used her Lyda strike to stop the lightning bolt that was headed towards them, but they only managed to slow it down.

"...!"

With every passing second, Zach's face turned more and more pale.

Out of nowhere, Aquarius jumped in between and ate the lightning bolt.

"What—!" Maxim exclaimed with a baffled expression on his face.

Even Zach was surprised, but he didn't have time to show his reaction.

He turned to Maxim and uttered, "You shouldn't have done that."

Maxim gulped in fear and yelled at his guards to help him.

Maxim's guards jumped down on the ground and dashed at Zach to attack him. At the same time, Maxim turned around and started running towards the mattress so he could escape.

"Not so fast!" Zach summoned a colossal hand made with lava and grabbed Maxim in it.

'I can't believe this really worked.' Zach uttered inwardly.

He had summoned the hand as a weapon shaped like a colossal hand.

Zach released all his remaining 11582 MP in the colossal hand and burned Maxim to death. However, he didn't stop at that. He threw Maxim's body in the air and released all the lightning attacks he had absorbed at Maxim's dead body.

Maxim's body exploded, and his burned body parts scattered all around the shattered arena.

After looking at the arena and Maxim's body parts, Zach sighed and muttered, "I suck at cooking."

"...!" Zach had forgotten about Maxim's guards.

When he turned around, he saw they were about to hit him. Zach could have summoned any magic weapon and blocked their attacks, but he had used all his remaining MP on the last attack.

He could have judged their attacks too, but they had surrounded Zach from all sides.

'Well, it doesn't matter. My martial arts—'

Suddenly, the sixth's guards jumped behind Maxim's guards and killed them in an instant.

"..." Zach looked up and saw the rest of the sixth's guards were killing Maxim's clan members.

Aquitius the sixth's carriage landed on the ground, and he walked out with Rilu and Ruli.

Aquarius, Aria, and Aurora also came out of their carriage and rushed at Zach.

Aurora, of course, hugged Zach tightly and didn't let go of him until he hugged her back.

Aria also looked a little worried, which was unusual for her.

She then remembered her conversation with Aurora, where she remarked to Aurora about worrying about Zach against his match with Starlord. To which Aurora had replied, 'You won't understand it because you don't love him.'

Now, Aria had realized what Aurora was talking about.

Zach simply smiled at Aria and said, "Why are you making that face?"

Aria averted her face and muttered something under her breath that no one could hear.

Zach then glanced at Aquarius and asked, "Did you seriously eat a lightning bolt?"

"Ahem!" Aquitius the sixth cleared his throat and said, "You..."

SIGH!

The sixth sighed and uttered, "Elite four, I summon you!"

Four figures landed between Zach and the sixth. Three guards were males, and one was female.

Aquitius looked at the first two and said, "Go and annihilate Maxim's entire clan. Don't leave a single one alive!"

The two guards bowed down and left.

Then, Aquitius turned to the female guard and said, "Take care of my daughter and the other two girls."

The female guard nodded and took Aquarius, Aria, and Aurora back to the palace.

Zach looked at the fourth guard and wondered, 'Is it just me, or does this last guard look a lot like Starlord?'

Chapter 125

"What are my orders, my king?" the last guard asked.

The sixth stared at the guard for a while and uttered, "You already know it."

After saying that, Aquitius, Rilu, and Ruli got in their carriage and returned to the palace.

The last guard turned to Zach and said, "My name is Stinglord, and I am... was Starlord's brother."

Zach stood in a defensive stance and uttered with an awkward smile on his face: "Of course..."

"Don't worry. I don't hold a grudge against you," Stinglord uttered in a calm voice. "What you did was the right thing to do."

Zach glanced around the burned body parts of Maxim and uttered, "He said the same thing."

"Starlord went against the rules and tried to kill you, so your actions are justifiable," Stinglord stated.

"And besides, if you managed to kill Starlord, who was, unfortunately, the strongest champion and part of the elite five (now four), then I don't think I stand a chance against you," he added.

'No. You can easily kill me right now. I don't have any MP left, so I can't summon a weapon. I can fight with martial arts, but his skin looks more robust than the Starlord.'

Zach raised his brows and asked with a judging look on his face: "So you are saying that you are not angry or sad over his death?"

"He might be my brother, but we guards have a code, and we have to live by it." After a brief pause, he said, "Even if Starlord had managed to kill you and he had won the match, I would have killed him myself for breaking the rules."

"You know, I don't know how serious you are about this, or if you are actually being honest. But I wouldn't have killed your brother if he hadn't tried to kill me first," Zach asserted in a solemn voice.

"Yes, I am aware of that," Stinglord nodded in response.

Zach was telling the truth. Starlord had tried to kill Zach by trapping him into a water domain. He also made the water denser, so the viewers weren't able to see the inside. And he took advantage of the situation to kill Zach.

However, even after that, Zach didn't kill him and simply protected himself.

Zach spared Starlord's life and gave him one chance to live and redeem himself. But instead, Starlord tried to kill him again, and Zach was forced to kill him.

Starlord did not do that for the glory, but he did that so he could get to marry Aquarius. While Aquarius was disgusted after seeing Starlord's natural form, so she wouldn't have married him even if he had won.

In the end, Starlord died for nothing, and the cause of his death was his own stupidity and inflated ego.

Stinglord pointed his finger at the mattress and said, "Let's go back to the palace. The party must continue."

"Yeah. Aquarius' birthday cake looked delicious," Zach nodded.

On their way back to the palace, Stinglord noticed Zach was lost in his thoughts.

"Is something worrying you?" he asked.

"Umm... well, I kind of killed two NPC, but my nametag hasn't changed to purple," Zach uttered. "I killed Maxim in the battle, so it shouldn't count. But I killed the... uhh... What was his name?"

"Minum," Stinglord answered.

"..." Zach let out a weary sigh after hearing that name. "I killed Minum, and I didn't get the purple nametag."

"Hmm..." Stinglord pondered for a while and answered, "Mabe the game registered it as a battle?"

Zach shrugged his shoulders and muttered, "Well, it's good that I didn't get the purple nametag."

The NPCs managed most parts of the game. There were NPCs at food places, lodging places, parks, guildhall, and all the shops in the city and kingdom. So if they saw a player with a purple nametag, they would know that person had killed one of their kind, and they might become hostile towards them.

'I would prefer to have the red nametag rather than the purple,' Zach sighed inwardly.

Soon, they reached the palace and entered the hall where everyone else had already resumed dancing.

Zach looked up at the chandelier and noticed Minum's body was no longer there. Then, he gazed at the ceiling that had broken when he punched Maxim, but it was fixed too.

'They are fast!' Zach was genuinely surprised, but then he remembered they were in a magical world, and everything was possible using magic.

Zach searched for Aurora and Aria and found them resting on the chair. He walked to them and asked, "How nice of you to wait for me."

Aurora shot a glare at Zach and uttered, "Do you enjoy making me worry?"

She looked sad and anxious.

"I don't. But I love when you get overprotective after that," Zach replied with a grin on her face.

Aurora furrowed her brows and asked, "I will get angry if you make me worry next time."

Zach caressed Aurora's face and kissed her on the lips before saying, "I will try my best not to make you worry."

"Now then..." Zach held Aurora's hand in his hand and said, "Shall we dance?"

Aurora shook her head and said, "I am not in the mood."

"..."

Aurora pointed her gaze at Aria and said, "Why don't you dance with your wife?"

Zach turned to Aria and uttered, "Want to dance with me?"

Aria bit her lips and said, 'His way of asking Aurora was entirely different from the way he is asking me.'

Aria reluctantly grabbed Zach's hand and said, "I guess I have no other choice."

Aurora watched Zach and Aria leave for a dance. She saw them dance and smiled as she thought, 'Just a few hours ago, I found out they both are gods. I am lucky to have one as my friend and one as my love. I

am sure they would protect me from any danger and help me beat the game together so that we can meet again in the real world and stay together, forever.'

Chapter 126

"I am surprised you agreed to dance with me," Zach remarked with a curious look on his face.

"I had no other choice," Aria responded with the same thing as before.

"What's that supposed to mean?" Zach scoffed softly.

Aria looked into Zach's eyes with a flushed face and uttered in a low voice: "I belong to you."

Zach's heart skipped a bit after seeing and hearing that.

"As a servant," Aria then added.

'This is bad...' Zach averted his face to the side as he continued dancing with Aria.

'This is truly bad. I am being charmed by her. I am getting attracted to her. I am... falling in love with her.'

Aria noticed Zach was acting weird, so she asked, "What's wrong?"

"It's nothing," Zach responded without making eye contact with Aria.

Aria bit her lips and muttered, "Do you want to dance with Aurora that badly?"

"Huh? Why are you bringing up Aurora here?" Zach wondered with a puzzled look on his face.

Aria assumed Zach was acting distant because he didn't want to be with her. While in truth, Zach was acting like that because he was getting close to Aria.

"You don't want to dance with me, right?" Aria asked in a disdainful tone.

"What gave you that idea? If I didn't want to dance with you, then I wouldn't dance with you even for a second," Zach responded in a slightly annoyed voice.

"Then why don't you hold me like you were holding Aurora when you were dancing with her?"

"Well..." Zach didn't know how to answer, or rather, he didn't know what answer. He himself was looking for an answer to that question.

"See? I was right after all!"

"Argh!" Zach groaned and placed his hands around Aira's waist. "Why are you girls always like this?"

It wasn't as though Zach was treating Aria indifferently, but he didn't want to break the boundaries of their relationship.

"You can hold me tighter..." Aria uttered in a low voice with a flushed face.

Zach moved his hand further down and pulled Aria close to him. Now, their bodies were touching each other, and their faces were only an inch away from one another.

They could kiss anytime if they wanted.

Aria looked into Zach's eyes and asked, "Why did you defend me? You could have just stood there and watched. Besides, I would have handled it myself."

"There is no way I would have just stood there and let someone insult you. While we might not be a couple, you are still my wife. And I didn't kill him for that, I killed him because he touched you indecently," Zach asserted in a solemn voice without breaking his eye contact with Aria.

After hearing that, Aria's face flushed a little, but it looked as though she had gotten used to that.

"Still, you have my thanks for helping me." Aria smiled wryly and said, "No one has ever done anything for me. So you are my first benefactor."

"Technically, I am your first in many things, you know?" Zach grinned. "I am the first man you touched, hugged, kissed, and many more."

"..."

"Just curious, where did Minum touch you?" Zach asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"On my butt," Aria answered with a disgusted look on her face. "He squeezed them too."

Zach and Aria were dancing on the rhythm, and no one was swapping partners anymore because the dance was about to end.

Zach stared into Aria's eyes and said, "You said no one did anything for you, but what about your sister?"

"She is not with me anymore." After a brief pause, she added, "And I doubt she loved me."

"Why would you think that?"

"If she loved me, she would have stayed with me. She was always loved by humans, and I was hated by them," Aria scoffed wryly. "No one liked death and destruction, so I was hated. But I was happy as long as my sister was with me. But in the end... she left me and chose humans over me, who later killed her."

'She reincarnated, though,' Zach uttered inwardly. 'I should clear up her misunderstanding.'

"You said your sister visited you in your dream, right?" Zach asked with a knowing look on his face.

Aria nodded in response without saying anything.

"Maybe that was her farewell message to you?" Zach wondered. "Maybe she wanted you to live your life by yourself?"

"I don't know... I thought about it for thousands of years. I searched for her for thousands of years..." Aria sighed. "But well... it doesn't matter anymore because she is dead. And those humans who killed her died a long time ago. So there is no point in me holding a grudge against the rest of the humans."

"You and your sister were high-ranking gods, so that means she must have reincarnated again."

However, there was no scheduled time for reincarnation. They could reincarnate the minute they died, or one week later, one month later, one year later, a decade later, a century later, or even a millennia later. There was no fixed time.

"I did think of that possibility, but if she truly reincarnated again, then that further proves my point." Aria bit her lips and uttered, "If she truly loved me, she would have returned to me after her reincarnation."

'That's not true. She always mentioned you in her stories and said how much she loved you. I don't know what exactly happened between you two after you both were exiled, but I am certain that mother cares about her deeply.'

Zach wanted to tell that to Aria, but he had to wait for the right time. He had decided to tell her when they got back home.

Aria squinted her eyes and asked, "Why are you suddenly curious about me?"

Zach moved his hand further down and touched Aria's butts before answering, "A good husband should know at least a little about his wife's family."

"Your hands... they are touching... my... butt..." Aria managed to stutter without breaking her eye contact with Zach.

"I am simply marking you as mine. So no one else can dare to touch what belongs to me."

Chapter 127

After dancing for a few more minutes, the dance ended, and the song slowly faded away as though it never existed.

Then, the lights turned on, and all the guests, including Zach, Aria, and Aurora, celebrated Aquarius' birthday.

Aquarius cut the cake with Aquitius and Rilu, and they fed each other. After that, the cake was given to all the guests.

Even after serving two slices each to over 500 guests, 30% of the cake was still left uneaten.

Zach noticed Ruli wasn't there, so he assumed she must be sad over Maxim's death.

'She was his wife, after all.'

Aurora ate five slices of cake, and she wanted to eat more, but Zach stopped her. Aria ate two slices while Zach ate four.

Once the celebration ended, most of the guests left, but the guests who came from far away stayed the night in the palace.

Now, only Aquitius the sixth, Rilu, Aquarius, Aria, Aurora, Zach, and the guards were present in the hall.

The female guard of the elite four was also with them.

"So, Zach... have you decided yet?" Rilu asked.

"Yes..."

"What is your answer?" the sixth asked with a curious look on his face.

Zach glanced at Aurora from the corner of his eyes, then turned to Aria before finally looking at Aquarius.

Aquarius seemed anxious because she was worried about Zach's decision.

Zach took a deep breath and looked straight into the sixth eye with a soft glare. He then exhaled slowly and uttered, "I have decided that..."

Zach purposely stopped to make the suspense deeper.

"I have decided that I will..." Zach stopped again.

Everyone had the same reactions on their faces, and Zach was enjoying that.

"I have decided that I will not marry your daughter— Aquarius," Zach responded in a calm yet solemn voice.

"You had to keep us in suspense only to reject my daughter?!" Rilu shouted.

"Calm down, queen. Let me finish what I am saying," Zach sighed.

Zach looked at Aquarius and said, "I will be completely honest with you. I do think you are beautiful, and plus, you are a mermaid and a princess. I want you to know that I am not rejecting you for that. I rejected you because I didn't love you. I don't know a thing about you, nor do you know anything about me. Sure, we might fall in love if we spend time together."

Zach then turned to Aquitius and continued, "However, I don't think this place is suitable to fall in love. The underwater realm is absolutely fascinating, and I doubt any other realm can beat it in terms of beauty. But if I were to fall in love with someone, I would rather do it on land in a normal way."

Zach glanced back and forth at everyone before saying, "In other words, I want Aquarius to join me in the journey. That way, we can spend time together, and if everything goes right, we might eventually fall in love."

"That's preposterous!" Rilu exclaimed. "You want to take my daughter, the princess of his kingdom and soon to be the queen, to the land and follow you?"

"That's what I said," Zach nodded. "And that's my only condition. If you..."

Zach shook his head at Aquitius and Ruli and turned to Aquarius before saying, "If you truly want to marry me, then join me."

"I..." Aquarius shot a glance at Rilu, who shook her head in disagreement. Then, she looked at Aquitius, and she wasn't sure what to answer.

"I am leaving this choice to you, not your parents," Zach remarked.

"But..."

"If you want to come, then say yes." Zach frowned his face at Rilu and Aquitius and said, "No one would dare to stop you, and if they do—"

"There is no need to finish your sentence," Aquitius quipped. "My daughter will join you on your journey. But, after two months."

Zach raised his brows and asked with a curious look on his face: "Why after two months and not now?"

"Aquarius needs to get the Sea God's blessing, so she can manifest her beast form's powers," Aquitius responded.

"But why two months? Can't you adjust the ceremony tomorrow or something?" Zach wondered.

Aquitius nodded and said, "I can schedule it now if I want to, but I can't. Aquitius would turn 19 after two months, and that's when she would be able to harness the power."

"Wait..." Zach raised his brows in confusion and asked, "Didn't she turn 19 today?"

"Aquarius had a premature birth. So according to the custom calendar, there are still two months left for her existence to become 19th." After a brief pause, he added, "Usually, the blessing ceremony happens when one turns 18, but last year was a mess."

Aquitius the sixth was referring to the incident where Aquitius the fifth tried to abduct Rilü and later kept sending his strongest men to kidnap her. And due to that, the sixth never got a chance for the blessing ceremony.

"And it is our custom that the blessing ceremony must be done at a specific period of time followed by the cosmic calendar," he asserted.

"I will come to pick her up after two months then," Zach said in a solemn voice.

"There is no need to. I, myself, will send her to you as soon as her blessing ceremony ends," the sixth reassured.

SIGH!

Rilü sighed and walked out of the hall after saying, "I am not happy with this, dear."

"..."

Aquarius hugged Aquitius and hugged him before saying, "Thank you, daddy! I love you!"

"Now then, you all must be tired after dancing. And especially you, Zach. I believe you are exhausted too. So let's end this celebration now and get some sleep," the sixth suggested.

"Hey... sixth..." After clearing his throat, Zach said, "I want to have a talk with you."

"Sure."

"In private," Zach added.

"Oh!" Aquitius the sixth turned to his guards and asked them to leave.

Zach nodded at Aurora and Aria and signaled them to leave too.

Then Aquitius and Zach turned to Aquarius and said in unison: "You should leave too."

Everyone left, and the door of the hall automatically closed when the sixth clapped his hands.

Aquitius sat on the stage and let out a weary sigh as though he was exhausted after standing for hours. He then glanced at Zach with a curious look on his face and asked, "So... what did you want to talk about?"

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"I want to talk about the order you have to your elite guards. Was it necessary to send them to annihilate the entire clan?" Zach asked in a solemn voice.

"I had a faint guess that you would want to talk about this," the sixth scoffed. "It's not about if that order was necessary or not. I gave that order so I could avoid further casualties."

"How are you avoiding casualties by killing an entire clan?" Zach raised his brows and uttered, "I know I am not in a place to say this since I am responsible for all this mess. But there could be children and innocents."

The sixth quietly nodded and said, "Sometimes, the king needs to make tough choices to protect—"

"That's not what I am talking about!" Zach yelled. "The problem is that you want to kill the entire clan. Sure, you said they could come after my loved ones or me, and that's one thing. But you can't just end their generation like that."

"Zach..." The sixth looked at his hand and uttered in a low voice: "There were only two choices. To do it, or not to do it. If I hadn't made that order, we would be fighting a war against them."

"..."

"How many noble and powerful clans do you think who want to usurp my throne? I think you are mistaken about the sea realm. It indeed has only three kingdoms, but many species and races are living in the colonies, hidden and secluded from the other kingdoms."

"Just as a world works in the land, it works the same here." The sixth looked at Zach and said, "What would you have done if they had joined forces?"

"...it would have turned into a bigger mess..." Zach replied.

"No. This entire sea realm would have turned upside down. Once the war had started, it would have continued for years," he asserted. And then decades for everything to get back to how it was before. As they say, precautions are better than cure."

The sixth stood up and walked to the glass windows. He looked outside and watched his citizens roaming around in the city even though it was past midnight.

"Tell me, Zach..." the sixth looked at Zach from the corner of his eyes and said, "Do you blame yourself for this?"

After a brief silence, Zach answered, "I will say... 50%? First of all, I did not start the fight. Second, I wasn't going to kill Maxim, but he forced me to. And third, I don't regret what I did."

"A king's duty is to think for his citizens' well-being. If he can save hundreds for one life, he shouldn't think twice before saving hundreds of lives. I... couldn't do that," the sixth sighed.

"I had two options. One was to side with you, and another was to side with them." The sixth shrugged his shoulders and said, "I shouldn't say this, but we never had a good relationship with Maxim's clan. So the best and the smart option was to choose you over them."

Zach knitted his brows and uttered, "Can I ask you one question?"

"You can ask two," the sixth responded without looking at Zach.

"If... Aquarius did not want to marry me, and I hadn't won the event, would you still have chosen me over Maxim?" Zach asked with a curious look on his face.

"Hmm... that's a very... hard question..." The sixth pondered for a while and nodded before saying, "I think yes. Because regardless of if you hadn't won the event or my daughter hadn't asked me to marry her to you, everything would still have turned out the same."

"Minum would have tried to harass your wife, and you would have gotten angry and killed him. And the rest..." he shrugged.

"Now to my next question. What—"

"I thought you said you have only one question," the sixth remarked.

"And I thought you said I could ask two questions," Zach remarked.

"Well, go ahead. I am sure your next question can't be more troublesome than the last one—"

Zach interrupted the sixth and uttered, "You said you would save 100 lives over the life of the one, right?"

The sixth finally turned to Zach and nodded in response.

"What if that one person was your wife or daughter?" Zach asked with a judging look on his face.

"Would you still have chosen to sacrifice them to save 100 lives?"

The sixth stared at Zach with a dead-panned expression for a while. Then, he let out a deep sigh and muttered, "Only you can manage to leave a king speechless."

"I am just curious to know your answer. You can even lie, and I wouldn't know," Zach shrugged.

"Very well, then... but before that..." the sixth looked into Zach's eyes and asked, "What would you do? Would you save 100 lives over your wife's life?"

The sixth was looking straight into Zach's eyes, but he soon regretted doing that. However, he couldn't break eye contact unless Zach answered him.

He patiently waited for Zach's answer as sweat poured down his forehead.

"Of course, I would save my wife," Zach answered nonchalantly. "I honestly don't care about others. But if someone is dying in front of me, I would save them."

"However, I couldn't care less if I failed to save them. Their lives are theirs to protect, and I have my loved ones to protect. Even if I get to choose between all the players in this game and my loved ones, I wouldn't think twice before choosing my loved ones."

The sixth scoffed softly and smiled at Zach before saying, "Only if I could say those words."

"Does that mean you would choose to save a hundred lives over your wife or Aquarius?" Zach asked with a knowing look on his face.

The sixth shook his head and asserted, "I honestly don't know the answer to that. But... I hope I never get to choose between them."

Zach walked out of the hall room after saying, "Fair enough."

Chapter 129

KNOCK KNOCK!

Zach knocked on the door, and seconds later, Aurora opened the door with a bright smile on her face.

She hugged him tightly even before allowing him to enter the room.

Zach looked at Aria, but she averted her face and turned to the glass window.

"..." Zach raised his brows and thought, 'I wouldn't be surprised if she is angry. I kind of went too overboard and ended up squeezing her butts. I even said a cheeky line to her.'

Zach walked into the room even when Aurora was still hugging him and closed the door without looking back.

"Uhhh... can you let go now?"

"Why? Do you not want to feel my soft body?" Aurora asked in a muffled voice.

"I am exhausted, so if you want to hug me, do it when I sleep." Zach tried to walk, but Aurora still did not stop hugging him.

Zach raised his brows with an annoyed look on his face and thought, 'You forced me to do this.'

Zach hugged Aurora back, or so she thought, but Zach moved his one hand down at her butt and another hand at her chest. Then, he squeezed her butt and caught her by surprise, so she let go of Zach and made some distance between them. At the same time, Zach touched Aurora's chest and squeezed her soft breasts.

That was enough to make Aurora embarrassed.

"Heh!" Zach smirked at Aurora with a smug look on his face. 'That face is a treat to my eyes.'

Aurora was glaring at Zach with teary eyes and a flushed face. However, she didn't look angry.

"I am angry at you," Aurora stated.

"..." Zach stared at Aurora for a while and uttered, "You sure don't look angry, though."

Aurora puffed her cheeks and folded her arms below her bosom before saying, "Why did you stop me from eating more cake? It's not like I was eating from others' shares."

"It just pissed me off because you were fawning over the cake so much," Zach responded in an annoyed tone, as though he didn't want to talk about the topic.

"Why were you... oh!" Aurora exclaimed. She remembered what Zach had told her about his family occupation.

"Right... your family runs a bakery..." Aurora covered her mouth and looked at Zach with a curious look in her eyes. "Wait, are you seriously getting jealous because I praised Aquarius' birthday cake?"

Zach smacked lightly on Aurora's head and said, "Of course not. I just didn't... like it."

"Yeah. And that's called jealousy."

"I am not jealous. I wanted to be the first baker to make you say 'Delicious' but I guess, I won't get a chance now," Zach uttered with a sigh.

Of course, Aurora had eaten various types of cakes in the real world. Even in Gods' impact, she had eaten a variety of cakes. However, she never said 'Delicious' after eating them. She did say, 'It was good' or 'It was tasty.'

Aurora squinted her eyes and uttered, "But you suck at cooking. How can you make a delicious cake?"

Aurora and Aria once let Zach cook the food for them. They regretted their decision to the point that they decided they would never let Zach near the kitchen again.

"You bake the cake. Baking and cooking is a different thing," Zach stated. "If you are not convinced that I can't bake a cake, I will make one for you when we get back to our home."

"I want chocolate flavored," Aurora said with a grin on her face.

Zach kissed Aurora on the hips and hugged her before saying, "Once... once we have beat this game and when we go back to our real world, I will make your favorite crepe. We would eat them every day."

"That sounds like a retirement plan," Aurora scoffed softly.

Zach brought his face closer to Aurora to kiss her, but Aurora stopped him by placing her hand on his mouth.

"What gives?"

"I think we should kiss when others are around," Aurora stated.

"But I already kissed you once, and there is no one else around other than Aria," Zach said as he repeatedly tried to kiss Aurora.

"That's the point. Think about how Aria must be feeling after seeing us kiss all the time."

"What do you mean?" Zach asked with a confused look on his face.

"How would you feel if Aria kept kissing a man in front of your eyes?"

Zach immediately frowned his face after hearing that.

"I am sorry for giving such an example, but it seems like it worked," Aurora remarked.

"Don't use me as an excuse!" Aria jumped on the bed and curled up in the blanket. "I am going to sleep, so you can do whatever you want."

Zach walked past Aurora and sat on the bed.

After realizing that she touched Zach's nerve, she started fidgeting. She stood in front of Zach and asked, "Do you hate me now?"

"At least ask the right questions..." Zach let out a weary scoff.

Aurora sat on top of Zach's lap and kissed him on the lips. Zach was about to kiss her back, but there was a knock on the door.

'It's past midnight. Who would come at such an hour?' Zach asked himself.

Aurora and Zach got up and turned to the door.

"You stay here. I will go check," Zach uttered and slowly walked to the door.

Zach opened the door while thinking, 'I cultivated 100 MP while I was talking with the sixth, so I should be able to fight—'

However, Zach was surprised and relieved to see it was Aquarius.

"What are you doing here?" Zach asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

Aquarius looked past Zach's shoulder and saw Aurora staring at her.

"Are you... are you free to accompany me for a short walk... or should I say short swim?" Aquarius asked with an awkward smile on her face.

She tried to make a joke to ease up the mood, but it backfired instead.

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"Umm..." Zach glanced back at Aurora to ask her if she wanted to go, but Aurora didn't say anything.

"I am inviting you alone!" Aquarius added.

"Oh!" Zach pondered for a while and uttered, "Does it have to be now?"

"If you can." Aquarius quietly nodded and said, "But if you don't want to come, then it's completely okay."

"No, it's fine. I will join you," Zach replied in a calm voice.

"Are you... sure?" Aquarius asked while looking at Aurora.

"Hmm?" Zach looked back and saw Aurora staring at them.

"Yeah, don't mind her." Zach nodded at Aurora and left the room with Aquarius.

"She was glaring at me..." Aquarius muttered.

"You will get used to that," Zach scoffed out loud.

Zach was exhausted, and he wanted to sleep, but he didn't want to say no to Aquarius. He had already rejected her many times, and he didn't want Aquarius to think that he was ignoring her.

"Where are we going?" Zach asked with a curious look on his face.

Zach and Aquarius were walking through the sea palace's hallways.

"I want to show you something." Aquarius squirmed and asked, "Can I.... hold your hand?"

Zach raised his brows and squinted his eyes before saying, "We have already kissed a couple of times, and I even squeezed your boobs not long ago. So why are you fidgeting while asking to hold my hand?"

"I don't want you to think I am touchy," Aquarius muttered under her breath with a wry smile on her face.

Zach sighed and held Aquarius' hand tightly.

"You don't have to worry about such stuff. And besides, I am blunt at everything. So if I find something uncomfortable, I would say it directly to you," Zach asserted. "And you are a princess. Have some arrogance."

Aquarius puckered her lips and said, "I don't think I can be a rude girl." She turned to Zach and asked, "Why do you like rude girls?"

"Umm... I don't know how to answer that, to be honest." Zach pondered for a while and replied, "I think it's because all the girls and women I have met happened to be rude. I mean, they weren't human, so it's given that they would have high ego and pride."

"I am curious to know more about you," Aquarius uttered. "I hope you can tell me more about yourself when I join you on your journey after two months."

"It's going to be a lot of things..." Zach said with a distant smile on his face.

After walking for about five more minutes, Aquarius took Zach to the backside of the palace, where fewer people were around.

Now that Zach knew that the citizens in the palace were also guards, he was a little cautious of them.

"Do you want to go in a carriage, or do you want to ride me?" Aquarius asked with a curious yet calm look on her face.

Zach covered his face after hearing that and thought, 'She is talking about a different ride me, right?'

"What's wrong?" she asked with an anxious look on her face.

"I will ride you," Zach uttered with an awkward smile on his face.

Aquarius' face flushed a little after hearing Zach's answer.

"..." Zach raised his brows and uttered inwardly: 'Why is she blushing?! She didn't mean the other 'ride me', right?!'

"Umm, I have to cast a spell on you so you can breathe underwater without any need to hold your breath." Aquarius pulled Zach close and kissed him on the lips.

"..."

"..."

"The kiss wasn't necessary to cast the spell, right?" Zach asked with a judging look on his face.

"Who knows?" Aquarius replied with a grin on her face.

'I noticed this before, but she does have a hidden naughty side behind her innocent face,' Zach asserted inwardly.

"So, where are we going?" Zach asked again.

Aquarius nudged her head and said, "Hop on my back. And grab me tightly."

"Are you sure you can carry me?"

Zach hugged Aquarius from behind and wrapped his arms around her neck.

"Wrap your legs, too," she said.

"..." Zach reluctantly wrapped his legs around Aquarius' waist.

"Don't let go, okay?" Aquarius started walking and slowly increased her speed. Then, she jumped off the balcony and dived into the water below the palace area.

Zach tried to breathe, and he could breathe normally without any problem. It was as though the spell Aquarius cast was stopping the water from entering his nose and mouth. However, Zach noticed that even his clothes weren't getting wet.

Aquarius's human form changed into a mermaid. Her legs turned into a tail, and the skin of the upper part of her body had turned into scales. Her ears had also turned into fins.

'I did see her in her mermaid form before, but this one is different. That one was probably her half-mermaid form.'

Zach's grip around Aquarius's body was getting loose, but Zach was more focused on Aquarius.

Fortunately, he didn't lose his grip and reached the destination.

When Aquarius stepped on the land, her form changed into a human again.

"Where are we?" Zach asked while glancing around.

The place was as big as the place, and there were lots of statues in every corner. The walls looked dirty, but upon taking a closer look, he realized that the marble on the walls was like that.

"This is the sea temple, and it's like a holy place for all the sea creatures," Aquarius replied in a calm and low voice.

Zach squinted his eyes and asked, "Why are we here?"

Aquarius ignored Zach's question and continued, "This is where my blessing ceremony will take place after two months."

"I brought you here because I wanted to show you something." She turned to Zach and said with a smile on her face. "Something I haven't shown to anyone, nor have I told anyone."

After a brief pause, she added, "Not even my Mama or daddy."

She pointed her finger at Zach and said, "I want you, the person I love, to see me first."

Aquarius took off all her clothes without caring to cover her private parts. Then, her body shined brightly, and it forced Zach to close his eyes.

When he opened his eyes, he saw: "That's..."