

## **GODS' IMPACT 261**

### Chapter 261 260- Girl Talk

While Zach was busy inspecting Thomas' chick, and the changes in her body, Aurora, Aria, Victoria, and Misha were having a girls' talk in Aria's domain.

Aurora was sitting in the middle of the throne, and Aria and Victoria were sitting on each side. Misha was sitting beside Victoria, as she knew her better than Aria. Misha and Victoria got along really well, but not because they were in the same guild, but because they were friends in school too.

Aurora was leaning on the back of the throne as her body was still unable to move much without the support. Her hands and legs weren't working, but her spine was. Therefore, she could move the upper part of the body— including her head.

When Aria, Victoria, and Misha first entered the portal, Aurora was already awake and sitting on the throne. Seemingly, she was waiting for them to arrive soon.

Aurora greeted them with a warm smile on her face and asked them to get on the throne.

Aria and Victoria had been on the throne before, so it was easy for them, but for Misha, it was her first time.

Aria tried to assist her, but Misha refused her after saying, "I can do it."

Unlike Aurora, Aria, and Victoria, Misha wasn't a high-ranking player. Sure, she had leveled up a few times after the demon invasion, but she was nowhere near the other girls.

Misha and Kayden had only defeated the rank-1 demons, who were the weakest and on the similar strength level as level 10 goblins— at least, according to Zach.

It was hard for Misha to get on the throne as it was very high and floating in the air. And as the player's ability to run and jump was dependent on their stats, Misha couldn't get on the throne.

Even though Aria tried to help her, she turned her down, but she accepted Victoria's offer.

Aria felt as though Misha didn't like her, but couldn't figure out why.

'I don't think I have done something bad to her. And wasn't she getting along with me on her wedding day when we went to her house? I wonder what suddenly happened that she feels distant now,' Aria thought to herself.

After getting on the throne and sitting beside Victoria, Misha spent the first 10 minutes apologizing to Aurora for not being able to protect her.

"You fought with your life on the line and protected us, and your condition got worse because you were the only one fighting seriously. If it wasn't for us, you would have easily protected yourself from any harm," Misha said.

"That's not true! If it weren't for you, I would have been killed by one of the three brothers. Even though Kayden was severely injured, you still chose to protect me." Aurora smiled at Misha and continued, "And you were even ready to die for me, and you would have died if Zach hadn't come at the right time. If he was even a split-second late, you..."

Misha hugged Aurora and said, "You are so sweet."

"Hey, be careful. Don't hug her too tightly as her body is still recovering," Aria asserted.

"It's okay, Aria. Your painkiller spell is working fine," Aurora responded to Aria in a calm voice.

"It's not about the pain. Even if you don't feel pain, your body is still hurting. And just because I have cast the spell, doesn't mean your body doesn't take the damage. You simply don't feel the pain as the spell blocked all your sensory system," Aria stated.

Aurora turned to Aria and said, "Sheesh~ You are so strict, Aria. You remind me of Milo."

"..." Aria stared at Aurora with a confused look on her face as though she couldn't understand what she meant.

'Was that a good thing or a bad?' She wondered.

After that, they all talked for a few minutes until Misha asked them a certain question.

"So I have been meaning to ask you this for a long time, and now that all three of you are here, I will ask." Misha stared into the girls' eyes and asked, "What's your relation with Zach?"

After hearing that, the faces of the three girls turned pale. This was their first time being asked that question.

They hadn't thought too much about what people and the world would think about their polygamous relationship with Zach. And honestly, they didn't care what others would think.

However, they forgot about their friends and family.

Aurora was a princess and her father himself had a huge harem, so there was a chance that her family wouldn't mind it once Zach has proved his love for Aurora to them.

Aria had no parents, so she had nothing to worry about. But Victoria's case was complicated. She had already broken many rules she was given by her parents, and now she was in a polygamous relationship with a boy.

Victoria was sure that her parents would disown her if they got to know about it. But she didn't want that to hinder her love life. She wanted to enjoy her present without worrying about the future.

"I know that Aurora and Zach are lovers, but what about Aria and Victoria? What's their relationship with Zach?" Misha asked.

Of course, Victoria and Aria could easily lie, but that would leave Misha suspicious. Besides, they didn't want to lie to their friends, regardless of what they thought about their relationship.

"I am Zach's girlfriend," Victoria asserted.

"And I am his wife," Aria uttered with a proud face.

"..." Misha turned to Aurora and asked, "And you are...?"

"I am Zach's fiancé who is going to marry him soon."

"..."

"He also has another fiancé in the sea realm," Aria quipped.

"Wow. So... a harem?"

"I am surprised you know that word..." Aria remarked.

"Well, everyone knows it. But... I didn't expect Zach to opt for a harem," Misha uttered in a low voice.

'I thought he hated his father because he had a harem, so I was sure he would never opt for the harem, or at least, that's what mother told me...'

Chapter 262 261- Aria's Suspicion Grows Even More

"What do you mean by you never expected Zach to opt for the harem?" Aria asked with a judging look on her face.

"Well..." Misha quickly thought of an excuse and said, "Zach used to come to my house and watch Kayden play those visual novel games. Zach didn't like to play games, but he liked to watch them as it felt like a movie to him."

After a brief pause, Misha said, "So Kayden always selected the harem ending, and he used to say 'Why should I make other girls cry by choosing one girl? I would choose all the girls and make all of them happy.' And Zach hated that and always said, 'I hate harems'. So... I was surprised to see Zach chose harem..."

"Oh!" Victoria exclaimed and said, "Yeah. I remember the boys in our class talking about that and how they said a new visual novel game was going to launch that also had a VR function that would also allow them to dive into the visual novel game and play as the main character."

SIGH!

"Seriously..." Misha let out a weary sigh and said, "Boys will always be boys..."

"I know right!" Aurora seconded.

"..." Aria squinted her eyes at Misha and thought, 'Something feels off.'

After inspecting Misha with her eyes for a couple of seconds, Aria realized something.

'No, it's not that she is acting strange. She is acting perfectly normal, or rather, that's how she acts when Zach is not around.'

Aria recalled that Misha acted friendly with Aria whenever Zach was around, and today was her first time without Zach.

'But why? She doesn't seem like a bad girl, and she acts like a completely different person in Zach's absence. Or is it just me?' Aria wondered.

Unlike Aria, Misha was already friends with Victoria, and Aurora was on good terms with her too. But Aria didn't want to think too much about that as it could change her opinions of Misha.

Misha was Zach's friend, and she was like a sister to him, so Aria wanted to get along with her or at least stay on good terms with each other.

Misha turned to Victoria and asked with a curious look on her face: "Putting Zach aside, I never thought you would be okay with sharing him."

"..."

Victoria didn't know what to say in response, so she kept her mouth shut. But she thought she would lose her pride if she didn't say anything.

"I... had no other choice..." she said without thinking.

"I think you are asking the wrong person here," Aria quipped and continued, "Aurora is the queen of Zach's harem, so it's her who has to be okay with sharing Zach with other girls, not Victoria; she is just the newest member."

"That's right," Victoria seconded Aria. "Back then, I was his girlfriend, but we broke up. So I don't have any say in this."

Victoria shrugged her shoulders and continued, "After meeting him again, I realized I still loved Zach and I can accept him with all his flaws, just like he accepted me with all my flaws. So We got together again, and I knew that if I wanted to be with him, I would have to be part of his harem, so... I joined his harem."

"Wow. You said it so casually without any change in your expressions, and that implies you are totally up for it." Misha bit her lips and got lost in her thoughts.

Meanwhile, Aria couldn't shake the feeling of uneasiness. She rarely felt any emotions, and she was not a fan of them.

She thought that mundane emotions and feelings make one weak.

'I know I might get in trouble for doing this, but that's how I am,' Aria uttered inwardly and called out to Misha.

"So, Misha, it has been more than two weeks since you and Kayden married. So how is your marriage life going?" Aria asked curiously with a gentle smile on her face. "Did anything change from when you were just lovers?"

Misha shot a soft glare at Aria as though she didn't want to answer her question.

"Yes, I am curious too," Victoria said.

"Well... nothing has happened between us yet..." Misha responded reluctantly.

"What, why?!" Victoria exclaimed. "Are you kidding me? You have got to be kidding me, come on~" she groaned.

"Yeah, I think so too." Aria nodded and said, "They both are married and nothing has happened between them? Considering how fast human relationships work in this era, it's too strange for us to believe."

The soft glare in Misha's eyes was no longer soft, and Misha wasn't even trying to hide it.

"Misha? Is everything alright?" Aurora asked with an anxious look on her face. "If you feel uncomfortable talking about it with us, then it's okay. We understand. You have your private life, and we don't want to force you to share them."

"Even though we shared ours," Aria remarked.

"Kayden said we are still in high school, and as my mother is religious, he doesn't want to do anything until he gets her permission," Misha stated with a sigh.

"But you two are married, right? Why do you need your mother's permission? And how would you even take her permission?" Victoria asked with a curious yet confused look on her face.

"After we clear the game. Until then, we won't do anything," Misha said with a forced smile on her face.

"..." Aria raised her brows and thought, 'I swear I overheard Kayden and Zach talking about this topic on his wedding day. And Kayden mentioned he is marrying her, so he could do it with Misha.'

'So unless Kayden said that as a joke, or... Misha is lying.'

Aria glanced at Misha and found her glaring at him with a frowned face.

'I want to mention that, but I think Something bad will happen if I do that....'

Of course, Aria wasn't scared, she simply wanted to keep her relationships as good as possible.

Chapter 263 262- Misha's Secret

After talking with Aurora and Victoria for a while, Misha left Aria's domain.

Victoria and Aria also left as Aurora had fallen asleep. They met up with Zach, who was acting strangely— for some reason— after seeing Aria.

Meanwhile, Misha met up with Kayden and went back to their house, which they got as a marriage gift.

After entering the house, Misha sat on the couch of the living room, while Eric was drinking water in the Kitchen.

SIGH!

After seeing Misha sigh like that, Kayden raised his brow and asked, "What's with that long sigh?"

"It's Aria... I think she has gotten suspicious of me..." Misha muttered.



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

"She kept asking questions about our relationship. She also asked me how far we have gone now that we are married. And when I told her we haven't done anything, she asked why. Honestly, what's her problem?" Misha groaned.

"I want to know that as well. Why haven't we?"

Misha frowned at Kayden and said, "Don't forget our marriage was fake, just like our parent's marriage. It's meaningless! I only think of you as a brother."

"Yeah, yeah. I hear this at least 10 times a day." Kayden let out a loud groan and said, "Seriously, you don't have to remind me of that. It's kind of sad, and I feel hurt that you played with my feelings."

"I didn't."

"Yeah, you did. If you wanted us to stay as brother and sister, you should have turned me down when I confessed to you in the park on Zach's birthday," Kayden uttered in a disdainful tone.

"Well, Zach was present there and I... I couldn't turn you down. Otherwise, he would see how 'well' we get along," Misha snickered. "And by 'well' I mean bad."

"As if I didn't know that."

"And we only got married in this game to complete the special quest and get this luxurious house and a lot as a reward."

Kayden looked at Misha from the corner of his eyes and asked, "So, what is it going on with you and your mother? Who are you two?"

"Stay out of my private life," Misha responded with an annoyed look on her face.

"Wow. You have been getting more and more distant with time. What's your deal? No, seriously, I am genuinely curious what you and your mother think of me and my father?" Kayden asked with a serious look on his face.

"..."

"Do you think we are some kind of simps? Or fools who can't speak back to defend their self-respect?" he uttered with a judging look on his face.

Misha looked into Kayden's eyes and asked, "What do you know of your biological mother?"

"What's that have to do with my question?"

"Just answer me, please..."

Kayden let out a weary sigh and uttered, "When dad found me or should I say, took me in after finding out I was his blood-related child, I was around seven years old, and there were many things I didn't understand."

"But after growing up and thinking back about it, I found out that my mother was a prostitute who died for STDs..." Kayden responded in a calm voice.

"Who do you think informed your father about your existence? You don't seriously think that some miracle happened, and he suddenly found out about you, right?" Misha uttered with a knowing look on her face.

"Oh..." Kayden's eyes widened in realization and murmured, "So it was your mom..."

Misha shrugged her shoulders and said, "If she hadn't done that, you would still be living the life of a homeless person, or worse, you might have already died."

"..."

After a brief pause, Misha said, "This world is a cruel place, and surviving in it is hard. And even after comparing it with God's Impact, I still think that the real world is worse in every way."

"By worse, I assume you are not talking about the graphics and textures, am I right?" Kayden asked with a soft chuckle.

"Obviously. This is all an illusion, but still... It's fascinating. Of course, only because it's made by gods."

"So... what exactly do you mean by worse?" Kayden asked curiously.

"Everything in general," Misha scoffed as though she found her joke funny.

"It's not weird for me to see people laughing at their own joke, but yours wasn't funny; not in the least," Kayden remarked.

"Exactly! And that's why it's hilarious."

"What... do you mean...?" Kayden muttered with a confused look on his face.

Misha stretched her arms in the air and said, "You can take a nap or something if you want. I am sure Zach would have bored you to death."

"What will you do?"

"I will take a bath and then cook dinner for us," Misha responded without looking at Kayden.

"I can cook for us if you want me to," Kayden shrugged.

"It's my turn today, so I will cook."

"Aren't you tired too?" Kayden asked with a knowing look on his face.

"Not really."

"Fine~ but let me at least prepare the ingredients," Kayden groaned with a sigh.

"Okay."

After saying that, Misha made her way to the bathroom and closed the door behind her. She stood in front of the mirror and stared at her reflection.

She recalled how annoying Aria was with her, and gritted her teeth before frowning her face.

"What's her problem? Did she get suspicious of me?" Misha wondered.

Misha then took off her clothes and stared at her body through the reflection on the mirror.

"I hate her. Goddess of death and destruction..." Misha clenched her fists and muttered in anger: "Why did Zach fall for her? Did she maybe charm him or cast a spell on him?"

GASP!

"What if she tricked him into signing a soul pact with her, and then dominated the contract? And now she is treating Zach as her man slave?"

'No...' Misha shook her head and muttered, "Zach is smart enough to protect himself from such schemes."

"Aria..." Misha frowned her face even more and uttered, "She is supposed to be the exact opposite of her sister, Erza. Yet... she is nothing like I was told."

The glare in Misha's eyes slowly turned soft as her facial muscles relaxed. She once again stretched her arms in the air and admired her beauty in front of the mirror.

Then, she jerked her shoulders, and golden wings sprouted from her back.

FLAP!

Chapter 264 263- House

"..."

Zach was sitting under the gazebo, and Aria and Victoria were sitting in front of him.

"..."

"..."

"How long are you two going to stare at me? It has been 10 hours!" Zach said to Aria and Victoria.

"It hasn't even been ten minutes, Zach. And it's only past 9 PM right now," Victoria retorted. She squinted her eyes and said, "I got to know a few things about you from Misha that I wasn't even aware of."

"Oh? Did she maybe tell you I am a good chef?" Zach asked with a knowing look on his face, very well aware that he is a bad cook.

"No, but she told me how close you were to her."

"What... do you mean close? Our houses are in the same area, if that's what you meant. Other than that, nope." Zach shook his head and said, "And honestly, I don't even know if she really said this, or you are making this up."

SIGH!

"I was making this up," Victoria sighed.

Zach turned to Aria and said, "Come on. What's up with you? If you want to stare at me, then stare in the restaurant. I am hungry."

Aria raised her brows with an amused look on her face and said, "How many times have you been at the restaurant today after we descended here?"

"Umm... five?"

"And you are still hungry?" she asked with a judging look on her face.

"Don't underestimate the hunger of a teenager who is currently being bullied by two scary yet gorgeous girls," Zach responded with a grin on his face.

Victoria glanced at Aria with a confused look on her face and stared at her without saying anything.

Aria nodded at Victoria as though she understood what she wanted to say.

"Yup. He acts like this sometimes..."

"Argh!" Zach let out a loud groan and walked out of the gazebo.

"Hey! Where are you going?!" Victoria asked.

"I am hungry~"

Aria and Victoria watched Zach leave the garden, and they followed him. On their way, Aria nudged Victoria and asked, "Don't you think he is acting strange?"

"Huh? When does he not act strange?" Victoria asked with a confused yet curious look on her face.

"Well, you are not wrong. But he is acting extra strange today for some reason."

"You do know that I can hear you two, right?" Zach asked without looking back at them.

Victoria tried to divert the topic, so she asked, "Are we not going to ascend? You came here to pick me up, and I am with you. So we can ascend now, right?"

After a brief silence, Zach uttered, "It's late night. We will leave tomorrow after I meet Ninia and my followers."

"So we are going to stay at the inn for tonight?" Victoria wondered.

Zach finally turned around and looked at Aria and Victoria before saying, "Well, to be honest, we can simply ascend now and descend again tomorrow, but that would be useless."

"Why...?"

Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "Aria and I live in the inn."

"What happened to Aurora's house? If I remember reading it correctly, players can exchange their houses in any realm, and pay a little extra if they want a bigger one," Victoria stated.

"Yeah, but without Aurora, I can't exchange a house in the high realm. And there is no point in me buying a new one since Aurora would be healed soon anyway."

"I am talking about her house in this realm..."

"Oh!" Zach exclaimed. He facepalmed himself and muttered, "Right. I totally forgot about that."

The houses in the capital of all the realms were expensive and always bought by the rich players. Some owners even rent the house to the other players to make passive money.

Aurora had promised to sell her house to Kayden and Misha, but they got married and got a house of their own. So now, Aurora's house was vacant with no one living in it, but it was still owned by Aurora.

"You know, I would cook for you, but I doubt there are any ingredients left in the house. And currently, it's a little too late to go shopping," Victoria uttered while fidgeting.

"The house was destroyed in the demon invasion, and it was automatically rebuilt 24 hours later like the rest of the capital and... everything..." Zach uttered with a dejected look on his face. "But I would like to eat your cooking."

"...!" Victoria's face flushed a little after hearing.

Zach grinned at Victoria and said, "I have eaten Aurora's cooking a lot of times. I have also eaten Aria's cooking. But not yours."

Aria thought it was the best time to say something, so without wasting a single second, Aria commented, "And she was your girlfriend."

Victoria immediately glared at Aria and said, "I thought you were on my side!"

"Hah?! What gave you that idea?" Aria scoffed out loud and said with a smug look on her face: "The first rule in the harem is.... Don't trust anyone."



Zach smacked Aria on the head and said, "Stop it."

"Heh!" Victoria smirked after seeing Aria getting scolded.

SMACK!

Zach smacked Victoria too and said, "No fighting."

Of course, it was a light smack, and it felt like a poke to them. But that was enough for Aria and Victoria to understand that he didn't want them to do stupid things to get his attention.

After walking for a while, Zach, Aria, and Victoria reached the restaurant.

"Welcome, my lord~" the owner and the waitresses greeted Zach with wide smiles on their faces.

"Welcome, umm..." the waitresses struggled to greet Aria and Victoria as they didn't know how to refer to them.

Unlike in the higher realm, where Zach and Aria stayed in the inn and did everything outside, they still didn't have to worry about the NPCs as Zach's religion was only spread in the first realm.

After eating dinner, they made their way to Aurora's house.

"How are we going to open it? Do you have a key?" Victoria asked with a curious look on her face.

"Umh... about that..."

Chapter 265 264- Darkness Within the Shadows

"You seriously don't have the house key?" Victoria asked Zach.

"How am I supposed to have the key? We were in the dungeon expedition during the start of the demon invasion, remember?"

"But why don't you have any spare key or something?"

"That's not how it works in this game." Zach let out a weary sigh and uttered, "The door automatically gets unlocked when the owner is near, or if the owner has permitted access to the house."

"Let me guess..." Victoria squinted her eyes at Zach and said, "Because the capital was destroyed and rebuilt, you lost your access?"

"I don't know." Zach shrugged his shoulders and tried to open the door, but it didn't open.

"It's not opening, so I guess that's the case," he sighed.

"So you brought us all the way here only to go back to the inn?" Victoria asked in disbelief.

"Hey, hey. We were supposed to go to the inn in the first place. It was you who suggested coming here, not me," Zach remarked.

"Yeah, so? I simply suggested it, and you are the one who brought us here," Victoria retorted with a shoulder shrug.

Zach and Victoria glared at each other for a few seconds and turned to Aria.

"See? This is how we were before we broke up," Zach said to Aria. "Who do you think is at fault here?"

"..."

Aria stared at both of them with an annoyed look on her face. Seemingly, she was bored and wanted to get some sleep.

"Let's discuss this tomorrow," she said.

Zach, Aria, and Victoria made their way to the nearest inn and rented two rooms.

"..."

Zach wanted to rent one room so they could sleep in one bed, but then he remembered something and let Aria and Victoria get a separate room.

"Good night," Victoria said to Zach before closing the door of her room.

"Good night!" Aria yelled from behind the closed door.

SIGH!

Aria didn't waste a single second and jumped on the bed, falling asleep in a few seconds.

"..."

Victoria raised her brows at Aria and thought, 'She was cheerful when we were eating dinner, but then suddenly her energy died down.'

Victoria changed her clothes to a nightdress to sleep comfortably and laid down on another bed beside Aria's bed.

'I wonder why Zach booked two rooms. This room is big enough for four people to stay, and even the beds are big enough for two people to sleep in one,' Victoria thought to herself.

Victoria had an exhausting day from running away from the guild, meeting Zach, and spending the rest of the day meeting her friends.

Leaving the guild wasn't an easy task for Victoria. She had friends and classmates in the guild, who were close to her, and she felt bad for leaving them behind in Elliott's hand. But it was their choice to stay in the guild despite knowing everything.

Victoria closed her eyes and fell asleep after a few minutes.

Meanwhile, Zach was sitting on his bed in a dark room with his eyes wide-opened. He was staring at the wall in front of him with an amused look on his face, seemingly thinking of something interesting.

SIGH!

Suddenly, he sighed with a groan, as though he lost interest in whatever he was thinking.

'I have already made my plans for tomorrow. But what after that? Now that Victoria is with me, I don't have to worry about anything else.'

Zach pondered for a while and muttered, "I also want to complete some unfinished business before Aurora is fully healed."

"I will have to make sure she doesn't get in danger."

Zach closed his eyes and recalled everything that had happened today. He woke up early to clear the dungeon, met with Aria, met with Aurora, met with Victoria, met with Ninia and his followers.

Then his unwanted and unnecessary encounter with Elliott, the boring ten battles, and chatting with Shay. Of course, it wasn't as though Zach never had a worse day than today, but the impact was still fresh on him.

"It's not like it was my first time killing humans... I have killed a few in the real world, too. But it still feels weird knowing I killed them. What if they were a better person in a real-world?" Zach wondered. But then he shook his head and uttered, "That doesn't matter, as it's not changing the fact that they were in the wrong."

Zach then recalled Thomas' Chick, who didn't seem like a bad person to him. She was betrayed by everyone she trusted and cornered to fight with Zach to prove her strength.

"The world is full of all kinds of people. It's truly a good luck to meet the right people at the right time."

Lost in his thoughts, Zach fell asleep while sitting on the bed.

It was a dark room with no source of light in the room. Even the window was closed and covered with a curtain. The room was filled with silence, and the eerie atmosphere grew intense as time passed.

The room was on the third floor of the inn, and Aria and Victoria were staying in the room next to him.

Zach's breath was quiet, and his body movement was still. But suddenly, the curtain moved a little.

One would expect it moved because of the wind, but the window was closed and there was no other source of the wind. And besides, the curtain moved from inside the room.

Zach was fast asleep by that time, and he had no idea something was lurking in the darkness of his room.

Once again, the curtain moved, but this time, a little aggressive, as though it was moved by someone.

For some reason, the windows illuminated a bright light into the room, straight on the bed Zach was sleeping in. But suddenly, the window was covered by a black mist that obstructed the light from falling on Zach.

However, the mist didn't stop there. It gathered behind the curtain and slowly manifested a shape. But a tiny ray of light managed to pass through the mist and fell on Zach's eyes.

"..."

Zach slowly opened his eyes, confused about what was happening and what caused him to wake up.

As soon as Zach opened his eyes, the mist faded away into the darkness of the shadows.

Naturally, the first thing one would do after waking up in the middle of the night was to look around the bed, look at the door, and then the window before going back to sleep again.

Zach did the same thing, and after inspecting everything was clear, Zach laid down on the bed and fell asleep.

Chapter 266 265- Slumber

After waking up in the morning, Victoria and Aria greeted each other in the morning and left their room. They knocked on Zach's door, but he didn't respond.

"Weird. Why is he not responding?" Aria muttered.

"Maybe he is still sleeping?" Victoria wondered. "I am not sure about his sleeping patterns since I haven't spent much time with him in the game. But in the real world, I always had a hard time waking him up."

Aria squinted her eyes at Victoria and commented, "Stop flexing about your relationship with him."

"I am not!"

SIGH!

Aria opened her menu and messaged Zach, but he didn't reply to her messages either,

"..."

This wasn't Zach's first time doing that, and he sometimes went to explore the world in the middle of the night because he couldn't fall asleep if Aurora wasn't by his side.

"Maybe he went outside?" Aria went downstairs to the counter to ask the man at the reception about Zach. "Have you seen a black-haired man going out in the middle of the night or in the early morning?"

"Most of the players have black hair, so I am not sure who you are talking about," the NPC replied without looking at Aria.

"He has golden eyes!" Aria added.

"Unfortunately, I don't look at the customer's eyes. If you can describe the clothes of your companion to me, then maybe I can help you," he said.

"He was staying in room number 69! We came here at night and rented two rooms on the third floor."

"Oh! You are talking about Lord Zach?!" the NPC exclaimed.

"..." Aria let out a weary sigh and nodded, "Yes."

"No, he hasn't left. But I will ask the woman who was at the reception at night," he said in a calm voice.

The NPC called out to the woman and asked, "Did you see Lord Zach leaving at night?!"

The woman shook her head and said, "No. But the weather was bad last night."

"Huh?" Aria raised her brows in confusion and turned to the man to ask, "What is she talking about? If the weather was bad, I would have noticed it. And what does she mean by bad weather?"

"I am not sure..." The man glanced outside through the door and said, "Weather never changes in this place."

"Exactly!"

After feeling uneasy, Aria immediately rushed upstairs to see the door of Zach's room was open.

"..." She stealthily walked towards the room and peeked inside to see Victoria shaking Zach to wake him up.

SIGH!

Aria sighed in relief and walked inside without letting her presence known. She stood beside Victoria and asked, "So he was sleeping, after all."

Victoria jolted after hearing Aria's voice and turned to her with a glare in her eyes.

"What?"

"Something is wrong! He is not waking up!" Victoria panicked.

"Didn't you say you always had a hard time waking him up?" Aria remarked with a soft scoff and walked forward. She smirked at Victoria and said, "let me teach you how a wife should wake up her man."

"..."

Victoria was frustrated by that, but she couldn't care less as long as Zach was alright.



'What's this tight feeling in my chest?' Victoria placed her hand on her chest and muttered, "I feel exactly the same as I felt I broke up with Zach. What's this feeling?"

While Victoria was trying to understand the reason behind her anxiousness, Aria was trying her best to wake Zach up. But to no avail, Zach didn't wake up.

Now, both of them were freaking out.

"What do we do?" Aria asked Victoria with a concerned look on her face.

"I don't know! What happened to him?!"

"How am I supposed to know? I was sleeping in the same room as you!" Aria yelled.

"But aren't you the almighty goddess?! The creator of the world and mother of all humans!"

"I am not a doctor or a detective that I can tell what's wrong by looking at someone!" Aria retorted.  
"And besides, I don't have my godly powers. I am as strong as you are."

Aria placed her hand on Zach's forehead and tried to examine him, but clenched her fists and ended up shouting celestial curses.

"..."

After seeing Aria enraged like that, Victoria didn't dare to talk back to Aria.

"I can't examine him! We have to go to my domain, but only he can open it!" Aria informed Victoria, who was clearly taken aback by the sudden change in Aria's mood.

"So... what do we do now...?" Victoria asked reluctantly in a low voice.

Aria glanced at Zach's body once more and inspected it with her eyes.

"There is nothing wrong with him, visibly and physically, so we have no other choice but to get him examined by a healer," Aria stated with an anxious look on her face.

"Huh?"

"I mean, NPC healer," she added.

"Oh..." Victoria pondered for a few seconds, and Ninia's face flashed before her eyes.

Aria and Victoria looked at each other at the same time, seemingly they both thought of the same thing.

"But where are we going to find her?" Aria asked.

"Church, duh!"

"But she can't possibly be at the church for 24 hours, right? Maybe she has a house of her own, and perhaps a family too?" Victoria wondered.

"We will get to know all that once we take Zach there."

Aria carried Zach on her back, and Victoria held him from behind to make sure he didn't fall. They slowly got off the stairs and reached the counter. But everyone was giving them a weird look.

Of course, it was a suspicious scenario to see two girls carrying an unconscious man from the inn.

"My Lord!" The NPCs who were Zach's worshipers noticed Zach and rushed to them and panicked:  
"What happened to him?"

"We have to take him to the church. Do you have something that can help us get there faster?" Aria asked in a calm voice.

"We...don't..."

She wanted to be polite, so they wouldn't refuse to help, but they weren't of any help either.

Aria ignored the NPCs surrounding them, and Victoria cleared the way.

After getting out of the inn, Aria turned to Victoria and said, "I guess we will have to carry him to the church."

[There is no need for that!]

Cerberus came out of Zach's shadow and bowed down in front of Aria and Victoria.

[I have a message for you,] he said.

"What message? And from whom?" Victoria asked with a confused look on her face.

[By my liege, of course.]

Chapter 267 266- Beyond Normal Boundaries

Cerberus bowed down in front of Aria and Victoria before saying, [My liege had given me permission to enter or leave his shadow when he is in a vulnerable state.]

"What is the message?" Aria asked impatiently.

[I just said it...]

"Oh..."

"How is that a message?" Victoria commented.

[I can hear and sense everything from my liege's shadow, so when I heard you two trying to wake him up, I was curious because my liege didn't wake up. I assumed something was wrong, and I wanted to come out from his shadow, but you were in the room, and my size is bigger than the room. So if I had emerged from his shadow in the room, I would have destroyed not only the room but the inn too.]

[I waited for you two to carry him out of the inn, and here I am,] Cerberus said in a calm voice.

He looked at unconscious Zach on Aria's back and said, [Please, make use of me, and climb on top of me. I will take you to the church.]

Cerberus placed his head on the ground so Aria and Victoria could climb on top of him without having any need to jump.

Aria carried Zach in her arms and sat on top of Cerberus. Victoria sat beside Aria, and they both placed Zach on their laps.

"Cerberus..." Aria called out to Cerberus and asked, "You said you can hear and sense everything from Zach's shadow all the time, right?"

[Not all the time since I need to rest too, but most of the time, yes,] Cerberus responded as he started walking towards the church.

The NPCs and players who were walking around, doing their daily routine, were baffled after seeing Cerberus walking on the street.

No one dared to come in between, and everyone stepped back in fear.

"So did you hear or sensed anything strange at night?" Aria asked Cerberus.

[I am afraid I didn't. I was awake when my liege went to sleep, and he was perfectly fine at that time.]  
After a brief pause, Cerberus said, [But I can hear and sense to a certain limit.]

"What do you mean? Like only between a certain distance or something?" Victoria asked curiously.

[Yes. You can say I can sense and hear everything in the room if my liege was on the bed. So there are chances that something or someone did this to my liege outside my range,] Cerberus stated with anger in his voice.

However, he was angry at himself for not being able to save his liege.

"Still, you should be able to know if someone did something to him, right?" Aria asked.

[Perhaps, you are right.]

"Wait, there are chances that Zach was already affected by it before that? Maybe he ate something weird?" Victoria wondered.

"That's not possible. The dinner was served by Zach's loyal worshipers, and we ate from the same dish," Aria retorted.

"Could it be that was the reason why Zach was acting extra strange last night...?" Victoria wondered.

[I don't believe that's the case,] Cerberus quipped.

"Why...?"

Cerberus regretted quipping, but he did that to defend Zach since he knew the reason why Zach was acting strange.

Zach had used necromancy on Thomas' Chick, on a player who was a human, and Aria had warned him not to. But curiosity got the best out of Zach, and he ended up doing the unforgivable

With the series of events one after another, Zach interfered with the cosmic flow of life and triggered the fourth impact.

Of course, Zach wasn't aware of that, and he felt a little guilty after going against Aria's warning. Because of that, he couldn't look into Aria's eyes, as he had betrayed her trust.

However, according to Cerberus, that had nothing to do with Zach's current condition.

After reaching the church, Victoria immediately jumped from the top of Cerberus and rushed to the Church's door.

Surprisingly, it was open, so she dashed in without knocking and yelled, "Is someone there?!"

The church was empty, but the candles were lit near the altar. Victoria wasn't sure if it was normal or not, since she had never been in the church, not in the game or in the real world.

However, it wasn't as though she didn't believe in god. She had faith, and she was certain that there was someone out there who created the world and humankind, But, she never considered that someone a god.

"Is anyone here?!" Victoria asked again, this time in an even louder voice.

A few seconds later, Ninia walked out of the chamber and stared at Victoria with a confused look on her face.

"You are..." Ninia recognized Victoria, as she had seen her many times with Zach. "Why are you here?"

Ninia glanced around to look for Zach and asked, "Where is my Lord?"

"We need your help." After saying that, Victoria pointed her finger toward the door and said, "fast."

Ninia sensed the panic in Victoria's voice, so she rushed to the door and saw Zach lying unconscious in Aria's arms.

"My Lord!" Ninia yelled. "What happened to him?"

"We are here, so you can examine him," Aria responded.

"Quickly! Get him inside!"

Aria followed Ninia into the church and entered a small room with a bed in it. She placed Zach on the bed and turned to Ninia before asking, "Can you examine him?"

"I need time." Ninia placed her hand on Zach's forehead and checked his eyes, but everything seemed normal.

She then started taking off Zach's clothes without saying anything, and that startled Aria and Victoria.

"What are you doing?" Victoria asked.

"Shut up! I am performing a body check-up on him!" Ninia shouted at Victoria.

"You can just say it or ask us before doing anything!" Victoria yelled back.

Ninia glared at Aria and Victoria and said, "You are always with him. He loves you so much. He trusts you so much! Yet, you failed to protect him! If it was me with him, I would never let him get hurt!"

"..."

It was at that time when Aria realized, that Ninia's dedication and devotion towards Zach had far surpassed the normal boundaries.

Chapter 268 267- Curse Mark

Aria and Victoria waited as Ninia examined Zach's body. But even after 15 minutes, Ninia couldn't figure out what was wrong with him.

"Are you even doing anything, or simply using this chance to touch all over Zach's body?" Victoria commented, feeling furious at what Ninia told her a while ago.

Victoria and Aria expected Ninia to snap at them, but instead, she ignored them and continued examining Zach.

In truth, Ninia wanted to touch all over Zach's body, but currently, she could only touch him on the chest and stomach area as only his top was removed.

A few minutes later, Ninia's gaze fell on the side of Zach's nape that had the sigil representing a demon.

"...!" She stepped back in shock and ended up bumping into Victoria.

"What are you doing?!" Victoria yelled at Ninia.

Ninia pointed her finger at Zach's neck and said while stuttering, "There is a sigil representing a demon on his neck."

Of course, Victoria and Aria already knew about that, but it was Ninia's first time seeing it.

She was also surprised when Zach unleashed the demons during the ten battles, and just like Zach's other worshippers, she was scared of Zach. But her devotion towards Zach was so high that she never doubted him.



After meeting with Zach yesterday, Ninia walked around the capital and met Zach's followers. She explained to them his necromancy powers and convinced them that Zach had nothing to do with the demon invasion, and he was their savior.

Some believed Ninia, but some were reluctant. Ninia understood their reasons, and she didn't try to force them to join the religion.

However, she just saw a demon sigil on Zach's body, and she couldn't help, but think of the unspeakable things.

Blasphemy.

"What's wrong?" Aria asked Ninia. "I thought you were better than us. Was your faith that shallow? Where did your devotion go? Where is your loyalty?"

"..."

"When you worship a god, you have to worship them without any doubts in your mind and heart. It's okay if you don't have a pure heart or mind, but don't let it get corrupt..." Aria uttered in a low and calm voice, but with a distant smile on her face.

Talking about faith and devotion reminded Aria of the time when she ruled the world with Erza.

Aria's words struck deep in Ninia's heart. She felt disgusted after doubting her faith in Zach.

'How could I do something terrible? He is my lord. He gave me everything. He promised me that he would make me his prophet. He called me by my name. He saved everyone. He is so kind to everyone. Yet... I...!' Ninia clenched her fist and bit her lips with a painful expression on her face.

The physical pain wasn't more painful for her than the sting she was feeling in her heart.

'I don't deserve to be his first follower. If I doubt him, who will trust him?' Ninia asked herself.

'I said to his mistresses that I could have protected him better than them, yet I failed to understand the true meaning behind the relationship. It's not about protecting, it's not about love and devotion, it's about knowing and understanding each other.'

'I don't have what they have in common. But... one day... I will...'

While Ninia's faith might have wavered for a moment, her will to devote her soul and body to Zach hasn't changed. And because her faith wavered, it was now stronger than before. But she was worried about what his followers might think when they got to know about that.

Now that Ninia's mind was clear, and her heart was longing to help Zach, she tried her best to find out the reason behind Zach's slumber.

A few more minutes later, Ninia turned to Aria and Victoria and said, "I think someone has marked him."

Aria raised her brows with a curious look on her face and asked, "What type of mark is it?"

"I am not sure, but that's the reason why Lord Zach isn't waking up."

"I did think of that possibility, but I never thought someone would actually be able to mark him..." Aria muttered.

"Wait, what are you two talking about? What is mark, and what the hell is going on?" Victoria asked with a confused and curious look on her face.

"Let me explain..." Aria turned to Victoria and said, "Marking is a phenomenon where someone puts a mark on you with a curse on it that affects the soul and puts the person in a slumber."

"That sounds dangerous! How did someone manage to mark him?!" Victoria panicked. "Cerberus said he didn't sense any presence."

"Calm down. It's not as bad as you think, otherwise, more symptoms should already be showing on his body." Aria glanced at Zach's body and said, "Most likely, it is just a normal mark."

"So, how do we remove the mark from him?!"

"We have to find the person who marked him," Ninia quipped.

"But how could someone mark him in the first place? He is strong. He is a God! How can someone—"

Aria interrupted Victoria and said, "It's because of his soul powers."

"Huh?"

"After becoming a god, he gained followers who worshiped him. But with kindness, naturally comes evil," Aria stated.

"So are you saying that someone who doesn't like Zach being a god did this to him?" Victoria asked to confirm.

"Indeed." Aria nodded and continued, "And since it's a spiritual curse, his stats have nothing to with it. His soul defense is still low, and that might be the reason why... this happened..."

Victoria pondered for a while and said, "So how are we going to find the person who marked Zach?"

"There is no way to find that. It's not given that it was done by an NPC or a player. There might be some other beings in the game."

"Uhh..."

"Just like how Zach isn't a normal human, there could also be other players who are not humans, you know?"

Victoria shrugged her shoulders and said, "How is that helping us in this case?"

"I think I know a way to defeat the curse!" Ninia chimed in.

"Oh?"

While Aria, Victoria, and Ninia were trying to remove the curse, Zach was having a trip to his distant memory.

Chapter 269 268- Countdown

Ninia, Aria, and Victoria found out the reason behind Zach's sudden condition, and it turned out to be a curse mark.

Victoria suggested looking for the person who cursed Zach, so they could undo the curse. Ninia, however, had different plans.

"Since his soul defense is low, what if we just increase it?" Ninia suggested.

"That would require him a lot of worshipers..."

"We three will go around the capital and remind everyone of Zach's favor to them. It's preaching time!"

Ninia walked out of the room after saying, "I will be right back."

Aria and Victoria glanced at each other and shrugged their shoulders.

"Not going to lie, when I saw her for the first time, I thought she would be a meek girl who wouldn't dare to raise her voice against anyone, but..." Victoria muttered.

"You might not know, but meek, innocent, and shy people are always the scary ones. You have to be careful of them and not fall into their trap, or you might end up getting fooled by their sham," Victoria asserted in a solemn voice.

"If Aurora was here, she would have shown Ninia her place," Victoria remarked.

"Yeah..."

"That reminds me." Aria placed her hand on Victoria's shoulders and looked into her eyes before saying, "Don't you dare tell Aurora about this, okay? If she gets to know about it, she will get anxious as fuck. And we currently can't even open the portal to my domain. So she will be left alone in my domain. And judging by her condition, this should be the last thing she should experience."

Victoria shrugged Aria's hands from her shoulders and said, "I know that much. And don't worry, I worry about her more than you."

"Oh?" Aria scoffed in amusement and raised her brow with a curious look on her face. "Is that so?"

"You might not know it because of my awkward personality, but I respect Aurora the most in Zach's harem," Victoria declared with a proud face.

"Are you sure it's 'respect' and not something else?" Aria remarked with a knowing look on her face. "Maybe you are just afraid of her rejection. Since you already know you can't win against her as she is Zach's favorite, you are keeping her out of the competition because you realized that you are no match against her."

Aria's words hit the mark, and that was Victoria's intention. After Aria divulged Victoria's plan, she got flustered, knowing that she might not be able to win against Aria either.

Victoria may have been Zach's first love, but it ended abruptly since they both were immature. Now, everything was different, and the circumstances had forced them to become mature.

When Ninia came back, she found Aria and Victoria glaring at each other as though they were about to fight.

"..."

'I don't know what happened, but I feel reassured after knowing that my Lord's lovers don't get along as I thought they would.' Ninia smiled slightly and thought, 'So I don't have to worry about them liking me.'

Ninia was Zach's first believer and follower, and she was the main pioneer of his religion. Without her, everything would collapse. So naturally, she had to make sure that didn't happen.

She loved to devote her body and soul to Zach and worship him all day, as that made her feel good. She considered herself as the one and only suitable for Zach. But when she found out about Aurora during the demon invasion, that dream of her shattered.

However, she couldn't make herself to hate Aurora as she was ready to risk her life to save the NPCs she didn't even know. She accepted Aurora as someone special to Zach.

After that, she met Aria and Victoria, and she couldn't get more infuriated. She realized that she would never be someone special to Zach, even after he made her the prophet of his religion.

While Aria was simply curious how the relationship between Zach and Ninia would turn out since she wanted to know more about the religion.

Aria herself was a god, but she didn't have a religion, believers, worshipers, or followers. She wanted to know more about the relationship between a god and his first follower. And Zach and Ninia were the best examples she could find.

In all that, Ninia came up with a plan.

'If I get along with his lovers, I would naturally become a part of them,' she realized.

Sure, that was true, but for that, she had to get on good terms with the girls, and she didn't have a good impression of Aria or Victoria.

She was worried that they wouldn't expect her, but now, she realized that she had no need for them to accept her since she saw that Aria and Victoria didn't get along either.

'It's okay to be on bad terms with them,' she thought.

Now, Ninia had no need to pretend or act good with them. But it wasn't as though Ninia was a bad person. She was innocent by her body and soul, and pure by her heart and mind. So she was unable to hate or resent someone even if she wanted to. Unless, of course, one dares to speak against her Lord.

"How long are you planning to glare at each other?" Ninia asked with a bored look on her face.

"We are not glaring at each other!" they both retorted in unison.

"Let's go now," Ninia said. "The time is close to mid-day, if we preach until evening, we might gather enough followers to raise my Lord's soul defense that would automatically nullify the curse mark."

'I will still find the person who marked him.' Aria frowned her face and uttered, "I will show them the real meaning of pain and suffering. I will show them the true hell. I will show them the wrath of the goddess of death and destruction"

Ninia couldn't help but shiver after hearing Aria's words. It was her natural instinct, and that proved that Aria wasn't kidding when she said that.

Ninia, Aria, and Victoria left the church in a hurry.

Outside the church, they met up with Cerberus, who seemed worried about Zach's condition. Aria explained everything to him and told him to guard and allow no one into the church.

A few minutes after the girls left, a winged figure landed near the church and walked past Cerberus, as though he was unable to see or sense the figure.

The figure made its way into the church and entered the chamber Zach was resting.

"...." the figure was none other than Misha.

She looked at Zach with a gentle smile on her face and rubbed her finger on Zach's bare chest.

"Hey there, Zach..." she muttered Zach's name and stared at him for a few seconds before retracting her golden wings.

Then, she climbed on top of Zach and placed her hands on his chest as she looked at him with an alluring gaze in her eyes.

After that, she placed her hand between Zach's chest and muttered something that revealed the curse mark on Zach.

Misha inspected it and muttered, "So this is what Erza and mom told me about."

Misha pressed her finger on the mark, and it changed its color from blue to purple. And a few seconds later, Misha's gaze fell on Zach's lips, and she moved her face close to him.

She puckered her lips to kiss him but stopped after recalling the memories where Zach intentionally avoided body contact with Misha.

"Stupid..." she muttered under her breath.

She moved to his ears and whispered, "The time has come for you to learn the truth, to unleash your powers, to awaken the key of annihilation, and to begin the countdown."

Chapter 270 269- Distant Memory



Void— where nothing existed.

Zach's eyes were open, at least he thought so. But he couldn't see anything. Everything was dark. He could feel he was standing on a hard surface, but he couldn't walk forward.

His body was stuck in one place with nothing else to do. He started to doubt if his eyes were truly open, or had he become blind.

Suddenly, a bright light enveloped Zach and blinded him for real.

The episode reminded Zach of what happened when he logged into Gods' Impact for the first time.

He was confused, but he eventually gathered his thoughts and remembered the last thing he was doing; sleeping on the bed and waiting for the night to end.

CRACK!

Zach felt something break inside him, but that made him able to move his body freely. He touched his face and chest before moving his hand between his legs to confirm something.

Zach's eyes were still closed, and he was afraid to open them, as he didn't know what he would see. Sure, it could have just been a dream, but Zach didn't want to wake up in a dream either.

He wanted to hear Aurora's voice, maybe Aria's too, and perhaps, Victoria also.

"Zach," a female voice called Zach's name.

Zach couldn't help but open his eyes after hearing that voice as it sounded awfully familiar.

When he opened his eyes, he saw Erza standing in front of him, staring at him with a judging look on her face.

"Mother..."

"Zach," she called Zach again.

"Yes, mother?"

"Zach! Listen to me!" she yelled.

"I am listening, mother."

Erza frowned her face and said, "Zach, this is your last warning. Don't cry if I scold you later."

"What are you talking about—"

Erza walked forward and passed through Zach's body.

"...!" That's when the full scenery came into Zach's sight.

He was standing in his house, but not the one he currently lived in before the Gods' impact occurred.

Zach turned around to see what Erza was doing, and his eyes widened in surprise after seeing the kid version of himself.

"What's happening?" Zach asked himself.

Zach turned 8 that day, and he was playing a game on his PX69.

Erza has been calling him for minutes, but he was so immersed in playing the game that he didn't respond to her. Naturally, that got her furious and caused her to snatch the controller from Zach's hand.

Zach immediately jumped on Erza and tried to get his controller back, but Erza easily pushed him away by flicking her finger on his forehead.

"Stop playing games all day!" she yelled. "And I have been calling you for minutes!"

However, Zach didn't care about the pain he experienced after getting his forehead flicked, nor did he care what Erza just said. He simply wanted his controller back.

"Be glad that I only took the controller. You can resume playing anytime I want. If you keep this up, then I will pull the cord, and you will never be able to play again. I will also sell the console," Erza warned.

'This was the last time I ever played a game, after that, I started hating them. Rather than memories, it's bringing back my traumas.'

"Give it back!" he said as he jumped on Erza again.

"What's all this commotion about?" a hoarse voice asked.

Zach's face immediately turned pale after hearing that voice, and he pulled the power cord before dropping to his knees in front of Erza.

"..." Erza shook her head in disbelief after seeing that.

"Hmm?" the voice walked into the living room.

It was a man who looked in his late twenties, wearing casual clothes and a cool hairstyle. He was carrying a one-year-old girl in his arms, who was Zoe.

"Deus, look at Zach. He was—"

Erza stopped when Zach suddenly grabbed Erza's leg, seemingly trying to beg her to not tell Deus about Zach's behavior.

"Hmm? What did he do?" the man asked as he looked at Zach. "And why are you on the ground again?"

Zach gulped down in fear and slowly looked up at Deus, but he couldn't make eye contact with him.

"I was helping mother sweep the floor," Zach uttered in a low voice.

Deus glanced at Erza, whose face told him everything, even though Erza didn't speak a word.

SIGH!

Deus let out a weary sigh and handed Zoe to Erza. Then, he slowly moved his hand towards Zach.

Zach closed his eyes in fear, thinking he would get punished, but instead, he received a pat on his head.

"Get up, my son. It's your birthday today. You can do whatever you want today," Deus said with a gentle smile on his face.

Zach's face cheered up after hearing that. He immediately looked into Deus' eyes and said, "I want to play the game with you."

"Uhh... why a game? I don't mind playing outdoor games, but video games are not exactly my expertise..." Deus stopped when he saw Zach pouting.

"Why do you want me to play video games with you? You know I am bad at them and I will simply hinder your progress, nothing else," Deus said in a calm voice.

"Everyone in my class talks about how they play games with their parents. I also want to do that..." Zach uttered in a low voice.

"But we are different from them, Zach. We are not meant to be part of human society," Deus stated.

Zach bit his lips and said, "Even though you promised you would do anything."

"Okay, fine, sheesh~" Deus groaned. "You are just like your mother— Lilith when it comes to being stubborn."

"Uhhh..." Erza judged Deus with a troubled look on her face.

Deus didn't get it at first, but then he realized what he had done.

Zach sniffed and wiped tears from his eyes, but more tears just kept rolling down.

"Even though it's my birthday, she didn't come. She doesn't care about me!" After saying that, Zach ran out of the room.

SIGH!

Erza shook her head in disbelief and said, "You had to say that, huh?"

"I forgot about it, okay."

"Can't you do something, though? I am sure you can pull some moves and bring her here," Erza wondered. "Even for 5 minutes."

"I can't. I closed all the gates between hell and the mortal realm. No one can enter or leave hell to enter the mortal realm. And besides, I went to visit her a few days ago, she is busy ruling hell," Deus stated.

"..." Zach, who watched all that from a new perspective, listened to their conversation and muttered, "Why am I seeing this? What's happening?"