

GODS' IMPACT 351

Chapter 351 Partners in Crime

"He lived in an apartment building, and I killed him so brutally that it was obvious at first glance that it was a murder and not an accident. I could have run away, and the cops would have never found any clue.

But... Siesta saw me. Turns out she followed in her car to give me my phone which I had left there. And... she saw me flying and recorded everything on her phone.

She then entered the apartment building and came to the apartment I was in. She saw the dead body, but her reaction wasn't as I expected. She didn't seem shocked or surprised. She just gave me my phone back and asked me to leave.

However, since Siesta had entered through the apartment building, she was recorded on the CCTV. If the cops had found the body, Siesta could have been suspected.

So... we got rid of the body by shopping into small pieces. He had three dogs, so we fed them the flesh. We mixed his internal organs such as his heart, intestines, liver, and stomach and minced them together— and flushed them through the toilet.

Once the dogs had finished eating the flesh, we bleached his bones and packed them in a bag we found in his house. Then we cleaned the place spotless. Siesta left empty-handed, and I went through the balcony with the bag.

We met outside the block, and I got into her car. I was honestly baffled by what I did. I had never killed anyone like that or gotten rid of their bodies in such a way. It was all Siesta's idea, and I went along with it.

I was afraid that Siesta might tell someone, but she assured me she wouldn't do anything like that. I have always been on good terms with her, and she was like a sister to me.

She dropped me at my house and went away. I don't know what she did with his bones, but I was happy that everything was taken care of. However, I was wrong.

The next day when I was on my way to school, her limo stopped in front of me, and she asked me to hop in. I again thanked her for the help and asked her not to tell anyone.

Instead, she threatened me that she would tell everyone. She black-mailed me and asked me to be her boyfriend, but I turned her down as I was... well, I was in love with you.

She said I was making a big mistake, which pissed me off. I told her she could do anything she wanted, and no one would believe her. However, she showed me the video of me flying.

If it was only that clip, I wouldn't have cared since anyone could edit, and no one would believe such a thing. But... I don't know when but she recorded me chopping his body.

That scared me. I couldn't risk getting caught. I couldn't leave mother and Zoe alone, but... I couldn't date her. The only girl I loved was you, so I told her the truth, and she changed her condition.

She asked me to date her for 2 weeks, and then she would delete the video. I had no other choice but to trust her. I thought two weeks would pass by in a blink, and everything would get to normal.

But... somehow, we ended up dating on the same day. I wanted to tell you everything, but I was afraid. I was a killer, and no girl would ever love or date a killer. I didn't want to lose you, so I kept it a secret.

To be honest, I didn't think much of it until Siesta demanded that she wanted to make out with me. For the record, that was basically my first time. I couldn't say no to her for obvious reasons.

And... that lasted for two weeks. I felt so stressed out and guilty for those two weeks that I couldn't look you in the face."

Victoria's eyes widened after hearing all that.

"Is that... is that why you never talked to me even after we started dating?"

Zach nodded in response.

"Is that why we never went or returned from school together?"

"Yeah. Siesta was always there to pick me up and drop me off. And we always made out in the car. But I swear I never went all the way with her. Nor did she ask me to."

"Then... I blamed you for nothing. I said so many mean things to you even when it wasn't your fault." She grabbed Zach's shoulders and shook him as she yelled, "Why did you keep this a secret from me?!"

"...."

"Why are you trying to take all the responsibility by yourself?! How many more things are you hiding?! How much pain are you enduring?!"

Zach placed his hands on Victoria's hands and said, "No more. I have told you everything. I wish I could tell you sooner. I was looking for a perfect time, and after our break and patch-up, I was... scared. I didn't want you to leave me again, so I waited until our relationship improved."

"It's fine. I am not angry. Even if you had cheated on me with your will, that all happened in the past." She kissed Zach on the lips and said with a gentle smile on her face: "We started a new relationship after we patched up."

"Yeah."

"You could have kept it a secret, and I would have never found out about it. But you still told me. I appreciate that, really."

She hugged him and continued, "Seriously, though. We have come a long way. We both were so bratty a few months ago, and now we have become mature."

"You think so? I think I am still bratty sometimes, and I can definitely act immaturely when needed. And it's not a bad thing. As long as we are happy and enjoying our life, we should be ourselves."

After that, they talked for a few minutes until Aria came to call them as the summit was about to start soon.

Chapter 352 Undeads' Report

"Let's go," Victoria said as he walked to the door.

"You go. I will be there in a few," Zach replied calmly. "I also need to change my clothes."

"Okay."

"Don't forget to close the door."

"Yeah," After saying that, Victoria left the room.

Zach looked at the closed door and suddenly fell to his knees. He coughed blood and laid down on the floor because of the unbearable pain.

He told the girls that he was perfectly fine and had no side effects of using the Demon King's blessing, but he lied. He didn't want to worry them, and he couldn't get the summit canceled.

It was important for him to gain new followers as they increased his soul powers. He had already used more than half of his soul powers when he transformed into a demon.

His body had become crippled from inside and outside, but he managed to move using one of the demons as a shadow cloak and ordering it to move as per his commands.

"Cerberus, you bastard! Why did you tell them everything?!" Zach yelled at his shadow.

[Unlike you, I am not a good liar,] Cerberus replied.

Zach's face twitched from the sides as he said, "Hiding something doesn't make you a liar."

[I am not sure about that.]

SIGH!

"And because you told them the truth, I had to lie to them about my condition. They often say you tell 100 lies to protect one, but it became the opposite here. Or maybe not since I lied on my accord.

But I had no choice. I can't slow down. I have wasted more than enough time. I have to get even stronger and clear this game as soon as possible. I have to save everyone. I have to... save my father..."

His voice became faint as he spoke, and his breath turned slow. He closed his eyes and passed out but woke up a few seconds later and changed his clothes.

'I almost passed out there, didn't I?'

He got up and left the room while walking slowly with the help of the shadow clock.

'Fortunately, the only thing I need to do at the summit is to give a speech. I can speak without any pain or problems, so the summit itself is not going to be terrible. I just hope that everything goes right and I get at least a few thousand followers.'

The realm Zach was staying in was the second most populated realm after the beginner's realm. While the number of players ascending was increasing day by day, many players had given up and were happy with what they had.

They didn't want to ascend and risk their lives. They had money, a place to stay, and food to eat. And they completed personal quests, NPC quests, and Guild quests to earn a living.

They preferred to live a slow and peaceful life without any risk. And they were the people Zach was targeting his religion at. He wanted to make their life even better without asking anything in return.

Zach walked to the stage and sat on the chair to relax himself.

'Nice. Staying in one position is my biggest relief right now. As long as I am not moving my body, I feel relaxed.'

The NPCs worshippers had already arrived and gathered on the sides, while only a few players had arrived.

Ninia came to check on them and left after a few seconds.

'She is getting worried more than she has to. There are still around 10 minutes left for the summit to start, and I know the humans. They won't come at the given time at such parties and functions.'

They always come late because they think the others will come late too. They all have the same mentality, and thus, everyone comes late and delays the function.

Well, whatever. I shouldn't say much. After all, I was one of them who was always late.'

Five minutes passed, and the players had begun to arrive. As expected, Ninia looked happy and relieved when Zach glanced at her.

'I think I understand why she is so sensitive about all this. She is my prophet and has taken the responsibilities she shouldn't. If something bad happens, I bet she would blame herself. If the summing had flopped, she would have blamed herself.'

I already warned her about this before, but I guess it didn't have much effect. I have to do something to at least decrease her responsibilities. But what?

If I got a second prophet, she would think that I wasn't satisfied with her. Damn, this is actually tougher than handling the harem.'

As Zach was lost in his thoughts, a group of undead demons— whom Zach had sent on the dungeon expedition— returned and appeared in front of Zach.

"You guys came at the right time." Zach tapped his finger on the chair and said, "Cerberus, come out in your puppy form and help me commute with them."

Cerberus emerged from Zach's shadow, not in a puppy form, but in the mini form. He didn't want to look weak in front of the other undead.

"..." Zach shook his head in disbelief and said, "Translate them for me, will you?"

[Of course.]

Zach looked at the undead army and asked, "How many of you died?"

A rank five demon, whom Zach had appointed as a leader for the undead demons, said something to Cerberus.

[He said five were severely injured, so they retreated to the shadows, and ten were mildly wounded. The rest of them are unscathed.]

"That's good news. I will heal the injured demons if they aren't automatically healed by taking the rest by tomorrow."

"How many floors and dungeons did you clear?" Zach asked.

[All of them, or so he says,] Cerberus conversed. He then scoffed out loud and added, [He is probably lying to get your praise.]

Chapter 353 Long Awaited Summit

Zach looked at the undead and said, "I don't think Cerberus is telling the truth, but if you cleared all the floors of the remaining dungeons, I should have gotten some EXP. But I haven't received anything."

[He is saying that you should get them once they return to your shadow. They are carrying the EXP with them.]

"Did you guys level up?"

[They did.]

"Hmm. I can't see their levels for some reason. Go in my shadow, and one of you will come out again," Zach ordered.

All the undead demons, including the injured ones, went into Zach's shadow, and one of the rank demons came out as Zach ordered him to.

[Leveled up!]

[Leveled up!]

[Congratulations, you have surpassed level 100!]

[New events are now unlocked!]

[New locations unlocked!]

[New realms unlocked!]

[All the limitations and requirements of items have been removed!]

[Congratulations, you have gained a reward for reaching level 100!]

Zach looked at his level and muttered, "I was expecting to level up by one, but I leveled up by two. Not bad. Good job, you guys. I am honestly impressed."

Cerberus pushed the rank five demons aside and said, [If you had sent me with them, I would have had you leveled up by 10.]

Zach chose to ignore Cerberus and turned to the rank five demons: "As promised, I will name three demons who had the most kill count. But I have decided to name five instead.

Three who had the most kill count, and two who assisted the most in the killing. Can you call them out?"

The demon nodded and called out to the four demons. They stood beside each other in the line and lowered their heads.

Zach pointed his finger at the rank five demon and said, "You step forward."

The demon knelt down in front of Zach to honor him. Zach placed his head on the demon's head and uttered, "For now onwards, you shall be called Urluk."

Zach glanced at Cerberus and Victoria, who arrived a few seconds ago, and asked, "How is it?"

"I don't really know. They are demons, so maybe those names suit them?" Victoria responded.

"I suck at naming, so my confidence is lower than ever," Zach muttered.

"How about you? Do you like the name?" he asked the demon.

The demon nodded in response and his body shined as he evolved after being named by Zach.

'My soul power decreased again as soon as he accepted the name!'

Zach was planning to eventually name all the demons as they evolved, but he confirmed that his soul powers were being used whenever he named someone.

'Is it because now we are connected by soul? Soul contract, huh?' he wondered. 'Aria and I had signed a Soul pact, which was similar to this one, but since it wasn't me who named her, it remained unchanged for the most part.'

The second demon knelt down in front of Zach and named it "Udril."

The third demon did the same, and Zach named it: "Yagdril."

The fourth demon knelt down, and Zach named it: "Vyul."

The fifth demon did the same, and Zach named it: "Olurd."

'Damn! I lost too much soul power. I hope naming them would be beneficial in the long run.'

Zach clapped his hands and said, "You may go now."

The demons disappeared into Zach's shadow to rest.

"Hmm. The given time for the summit has almost ended, but the numbers of players didn't increase much compared to the last five minutes."

Zach decided to look at the supposed reward he received upon reaching the level 100.

'What the—!'

The reward was the third piece of the '????'.

"Now I need the last piece, and hopefully, I will get something I can use," he muttered.

Ninia approached Zach from the side and said, "My Lord, it is time."

"Yeah." He took a deep breath and grabbed Ninia's hand, which surprised her.

"...!"

"Yes... my Lord?"

"I want you to repeat my words, but loudly."

"Okay."

Zach gave his well-planned speech and told them the merits and demerits of joining his religion. Ninia relayed his words to everyone without changing even a single word.

Zach could have done that himself, but he was well aware of Ninia's fame in the kingdom. Many players purposely injured themselves just so they could come to church to see Ninia and get healed.

Zach used that as a trap to hook most of the players. After hearing the benefits of joining his religion, they didn't pay attention to the disadvantages.

The summit lasted for three hours, and many players joined it afterward once their friends called them.

A total of 100,000 players stayed in the kingdom, while most were in different cities. Out of 100,000, 96,900 attended the summit, but 6000 of them left in between the summit, and 5000 left after the summit ended.

Out of the remaining 89,900, 75420 players joined Zach's religion, and 10480 didn't.

Zach assumed that those who left in between and after the summit, as well as the ones who didn't join his religion, were already worshiping one of the Gods' Impact gods. So even if they wished to join Zach's religion, they couldn't, as the punishment for leaving a religion of the Gods' Impact's god was death.

'Holy shit! My dream goal was getting fifty thousand players, but I somehow ended up getting over seventy-five thousand! My plan to use Ninia as an anchor worked!'

Zach had already prepared the sigil for his religion but had yet to find a way to mark his worshippers. Even if it took Ninia, Victoria, and Aria's help, marking 75,420 players and over 1000 NPCs was going to be time-consuming and exhausting.

'I will find a better way by tomorrow,' he uttered inwardly.

"Hopefully," he then added.

He asked the players to drop by the garden again tomorrow to claim their rewards.

One by one, the players started leaving, and before they knew it, the garden was empty.

Chapter 354 After the Summit

"You all can go into my shadow," Zach ordered.

Cerberus and the demon who was shadow cloaking Zach disappeared into Zach's shadow.

Zach looked at Victoria, Aria, and Ninia with a smile on his face and asked, "So? Any comments?"

"I am honestly surprised by the numbers of followers you received," Aria commented.

"I am too. But hey, having followers and worshippers is a different thing. If they only follow my religion and don't worship me, it won't change anything."

"True." Victoria nodded and said, "Is there a way for you to know who is worshiping you and who is not?"

"Currently, no."

"But what if they only take advantage of the perks of joining your religion and never worship you?" Ninia asked with an anxious look on her face,

"I will never know," Zach replied with a sigh.

"Isn't that bad? You will be losing many resources like that."

"True. But there is nothing I can't do. And to be honest, I lived among humans, and I didn't expect much from them. Even if half of them worship me, I am content. And besides, I can't force them to worship me even if they join my religion.

And... I don't know how the soul powers increase when they worship me. I don't know the ratio and proportionality. I don't think it would work if I forced them to worship me. They must do that out of loyalty and faith or fear."

Zach uttered in a solemn voice.

Aria stood beside Zach and muttered, "I never needed such things, so I can't help you much with it."

"I know." Zach smiled at her and said, "You worry too much. Remember, this is my problem to solve. You do not need to feel bad or sad if you cannot help me. Just because we love each other doesn't mean you should expect all kinds of help from your partner."

Zach turned to Victoria and said, "It's just like a scenario where an engineer girlfriend asks her doctor boyfriend to check the blueprints. No matter how much he loves her, he can't do that. He may try to help her, but he won't be able to actually help her."

"I understood that... in a hard way..." Victoria nodded.

"Same..." he said with a short sigh.

Zach was about to call a shadow to help him get up, but he stopped when he saw someone was still in the garden even after the summit had ended.

"Hmm?" Zach squinted his eyes and recognized the person right away.

It was Misha.

"That's Misha. Aria, call her for me."

"Urg... why me...? I have a feeling that she doesn't like me. So even if I call her, she will ignore me."

Zach raised his brows in confusion and wondered, 'What happened between Aria and Misha? Weren't they getting along just fine?'

"I will call her." Victoria walked to the edge of the stage and placed her hands over her mouth before loudly calling out Misha's name.

Misha squirmed a few times as though she wasn't sure if she should go there or not, especially after her fight with Kayden.

However, she eventually decided to go there.

"Hey...." she said awkwardly while getting on the stage.

"Sup? If you were here, then you should have informed any of us. You would have gotten a special seat," Zach said with a grin on his face.

"I was actually planning to do that, but some things happened last night, and I slept late. Thus, I woke up late and arrived here when half of the summit was done," she said with a weary sigh.

"Some things?" Victoria quoted 'things' with her finger and teased Misha with a grin on her face. "We know what you and Kayden were up to."

"Argh!" Misha rolled her eyes and said, "It's not what you are imagining, really."

"If that's the case, then why is Kayden not here?" Aria asked with a judging look on her face.

Misha gritted her teeth and took a deep breath before smiling at Aria and replying, "He didn't want to come."

"That's weird. Isn't he Zach's best friend?"

"Leave it, you two," Zach quipped. "We shouldn't interfere in someone else's household. And you girls wouldn't want that either, am I right?"

"...!"

"...."

Neither of them could say anything in response.

"So, Misha? How was the speech?" Zach asked jokingly.

"It was good."

"Oh? Then do you also plan to join my religion?"

"Sure."

Zach was grinning a while ago, but now it had vanished.

"I was just joking. Please don't join my religion. It would be weird to have my sister worship me," Zach quivered with a disgusted look on his face.

Misha's face twitched from the corner as she heard that.

'Why do I always get so angry when he calls me his sister? I am not your sister!'

Misha then recalled Kayden's words where he accused Misha of loving Zach.

'No... way... right? There is no way I love Zach. I mean, I do love him, but as a friend. I don't love him romantically, right?! Argh! This is all Kayden's fault for messing with my head! Now I feel conscious of Zach!'

"Why not? I want to worship you and get the advantages of joining your har— religion!"

'What's wrong with me?! I was going to say 'join your harem', wasn't I?! This is bad! At this rate, I will fail the mission!'

"Well..."

Misha squinted her eyes and said, "So are you telling me that you will help the strangers who are nothing to you but not your childhood friend?"

"Hey, I didn't say that. Don't put words into my mouth."

"You asked me to not join your religion. Which is the same as saying you don't want to help me."

"Oh, come on~" Zach groaned and said, "Why do you always twist words of—"

Zach stopped when he sensed something approaching him at a crazy fast speed.

Chapter 355 The True Side Effects

"Something is..." Zach suddenly started to struggle to speak.

He wanted to order his undead army to come out, but his voice wasn't coming out. He fell off the throne on the stage as his body became unresponsive. His soul was breaking apart and sucking itself in.

Cracks began to appear on his body, and his flesh had lost its softness. He looked like an old stone statue with cracks all over his body. He struggled to breathe or even think about something as simple as blinking his eyes.

His vision got blurry, and he eventually became blind.

All this time, Zach thought he was already suffering from the side effects of using the blessings. However, in truth, the real side effects had just started.

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

Aria and Misha glanced at each other and then looked in a certain direction, almost as though they could also sense something but not see anything.

Victoria, who knew nothing, could only stand silently. She wanted to help Zach, and she knew that crying over her hopelessness wasn't going to help him.

The thing Aria and Misha were sensing came closer than with the speed they could ever imagine. It was faster than the speed of light.

The only thing they could see was something shiny and pointy was thrown toward them.

It all happened so fast that they had no time to react. However, Aria and Misha weren't humans and far surpassed normal boundaries.

Aria didn't have any weapons, and her class was a Gunslinger who could only use the ranged weapon. But she tried to stop that object using her bare hands.

She grabbed it, but it was so fast along with the massive force it carried, only to realize that it was a spear. However, she was able to slow it down by a split second.

Misha took out her sword and slashed it into two. But it still kept moving forward as only the back of the spear was cut.

Victoria, who knew nothing, still struck her sword right after Misha and cut the remaining part of the spear. However, they couldn't stop the tip of the spear from hitting Zach.

The tip pierced Zach in the chest, which sent him flying to the other side of the garden, and stopped after colliding with the gazebo.

All that happened in less than a second.

It was understandable for Aria and Misha to react quickly to the attack as they could sense it and were ready for it. But Victoria surprised them all by striking her sword at the last second even though she couldn't sense or see the spear.

"Zach!" All the girls yelled at the same time.

They all jumped and rushed to Zach, whose body rolled down the gazebo onto the grass.

Ninia was the first one to reach, and she placed his head on her lap.

Aria and Misha reached soon after, and Victoria was the last.

"Did you see who shot him?" Misha asked Aria.

"Oh. I just sensed it."

Victoria placed her sword back into the sheath while saying, "Whoever it was, they mustn't have gone too far. I will go check and—"

"No. Did you not see that attack just now?!" Aria shouted at Victoria. "What if the same attack hits you? You are not going anywhere. I will go."

"I will come with you!"

Aria and Misha ran in the direction the spear came from.

"What should we do?" Ninia asked anxiously after looking at Zach's body. "Why does this keep happening to him?!"

"Let's get him to the church first. We are in danger as long as we are outside." Victoria looked at Zach's shadow and said, "Cerberus, come out fast!"

Even after calling for Cerberus dozens of times, no one came out. The connection between Zach's shadow and the monster's space had cut off. They couldn't hear or sense anything.

"Let's carry him ourselves," Victoria suggested.

"No. It's risky." Ninia shook her head and sobbed in tears as she said, "Look at his body. It's filled with cracks. What if we accidentally drop him and he breaks apart?"

'She is in despair. Even if I somehow manage to convince her that we won't drop her, she is in no condition to carry him.

I know what despair feels like and what it does to the person. I felt it on the 75th floor. I felt hopeless. I feel the same right now, but that will not help me right now!

I want to yell! I want to cry! But I can do that later when no one is looking. If I end up doing it in front of Ninia, then who is going to comfort her?!

Victoria clenched her fists and said, "I will go call some NPCs from nearby."

Victoria rushed to search for the NPCs while Ninia constantly healed Zach even though his HP was already maxed.

"Wake up, my Lord..."

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she wailed.

Suddenly, Zach's eyes opened, and he took a deep breath to fill his lungs so they could provide oxygen to his decayed, dying body.

He sat up without moving anything in his body and looked at the wound in his chest, where the tip of the spear was still stuck.

"Argh!" He yelled in pain as the cracks on his body widened.

The tip of the spear got absorbed by Zach's body, and he began to cough blood. A few seconds later, he coughed out the tip of the spear from his mouth.

"..."

It was like a crystal with a red and black shade, and it reminded Zach of something similar.

'This is...'

"My Lord!" Ninia called out to Zach and said, "Your wounds. They are healing!"

The cracks on Zach's body closed up, and his pain faded away within a few seconds. He was completely healed, both physically and spiritually.

"That attack... was to help me heal...?"

Chapter 356 Please Continue

"Are you okay, my Lord?" Ninia asked with a concerned look on her face.

"Yeah. I feel..." Zach stood up while looking at his hands and body and said, "I feel fine."

'I don't feel any pain whatsoever.' Zach looked at the tip of the spear, which he had coughed a while ago, and noticed it was slowly turning into ash.

"No, no!" Zach grabbed the tip, but it turned into ash in his hand.

SIGH!

"My Lord, please sit under the gazebo and have some rest," Ninia suggested.

"Yeah."

Zach and Ninia sat under the gazebo, but Ninia sat beside Zach and hugged his arm.

After a few minutes, Aria and Misha arrived, and when they did, Ninia let go of Zach's arm and pretended that never happened.

"Oh! You are awake now?!" Aria sighed in relief and said, "We couldn't find anyone. We interrogated every player and NPC we saw, but..."

"It's fine. Whoever it was, I am sure we will find that person again." Zach turned to Misha and said, "You should go home. It's not safe out here."

Misha bit her lips and nodded before saying, "Okay. I will drop by the church later."

After saying that, Misha left with a gloomy face.

Zach glanced around and asked, "Where is Victoria?"

"She went to call someone for help," Ninia responded. "I will go inform her—"

"There is no need to." Zach opened his menu and messaged Victoria to come back.

Immediately after a few seconds, Victoria replied with, [On my way.]

Zach messaged her again with: [Come directly to the church. We are heading there too.]

Aria, Zach, and Niania returned to the church, and Victoria arrived a few minutes later.

She checked Zach's body by patting him everywhere and asked, "Did Ninia heal you?"

"She did heal me, but my condition got better because of that spear," Zach responded.

Victoria turned to Aria and asked, "Did you find that person?"

Aria simply shook her head in response.

"How do you feel?" Victoria asked Zach with a straight face, but she was hiding her emotions behind. She wanted to cry and fall into Zach's embrace, but she didn't want to be selfish.

"I feel a lot better. Just a little numb. Kind of like how one feels after recovering from a fever."

"Go rest in your room. We will call you when the dinner is ready."

"..."

Now that Zach was completely free from the side effects, he wanted to resume his ascendance and challenge the main Realm Boss. However, he quietly walked into his room and lay on the bed.

SIGH!

He looked at the ceiling and muttered, "What am I doing? I wanted to take all the hurdles away from their path, so I decided to go alone. But I ended up worrying about them more."

I am... reckless. But I can't ascend without being reckless. Everything in this game is reckless. Some players in this game are risking their lives to ascend and clear the game. They are normal humans, unlike me, who is a monster hybrid. I should do better than them. I should be the first one to—"

KNOCK~ KNOCK!

"Come in."

The door slowly opened, and Ninia walked in with a flushed face.

"Did I disturb your sleep?" she asked calmly.

"No. Of course, not."

She walked to the bed and said, "Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Hmm~" Zach pondered for a few seconds and said, "How about you talk with me?"

"..." Ninia puffed her cheeks and muttered, "What type of request is this?"

"Then why don't you ask me to do something?"

"You promised some things when you started your religion..." Ninia quietly muttered.

"Oh. Are you talking about the goals I set?"

"Yes. You said if you got 5000 followers, you would make me your prophet, and you did. And then you promised if you get 10,000 followers. Now, you have almost ten times that amount of followers. So don't you think it's about time you change your NPC followers into players?" Ninia asked calmly with a slight smile on her face.

"About that... I don't really know a way to do that. But I promise you, I will find a way before I ascend to the second main realm," Zach stated with a confident look on his face.

"You also have to find a way to mark your player followers. They are too much in number to be manually able to do that," Ninia remarked.

"Yeah. I have already thought of a way." Zach moved his hand towards Ninia's face and touched her soft cheeks before saying, "I will use my undead army. They are more in number, and they don't feel exhausted either."

Ninia closed her eyes and leaned her face on Zach's hand. She rubbed her cheek on his hand before opening her eyes and staring directly into Zach's eyes.

"..."

Zach slowly moved his thumb to Ninia's pink, juicy lips without saying a word. He gulped down nervously and continued rubbing his thumb on her lips.

On the other hand, Ninia looked into Zach's eyes with an alluring gaze. Her face showed no sign of feeling uncomfortable. In fact, it was blushed red.

Zach's gaze moved from Ninia's lips to her chest. She was wearing her night clothes, and since she was in Zach's room, she hadn't covered her body like she did when she was out in public.

He looked at her cleavage and gulped down before glancing back and forth between her eyes, lips, and chest.

"My Lord..." Ninia finally broke her silence and called out to Zach.

Zach pulled his hand back, thinking he had made Ninia feel uncomfortable.

"Yeah.. sorry. I was just..." Even Zach had no idea what came over him.

'I always found Ninia attractive and hot, but since when did I start...' He recalled a few events where he had become extremely close to Ninia, such as when he had woken up from a slumber. At that time, he had felt her voluptuous soft body, which had awakened something inside him.

"Why... did you pull your hands?" Ninia grabbed Zach's hand and placed it on her breasts as she said, "Please continue."

Chapter 357 Zach and Ninia

Ninia placed Zach's hand on her chest and said, "You can do whatever you want to do."

"What are you doing?!" Zach asked with a surprised look on his face.

Ninia smiled at Zach and said, "I belong to you. My body, my soul, and my everything is solely for you. Please, use my body to satisfy your needs."

Her voice sounded more sweet than usual and calm as always.

Zach gulped down nervously as his hands coped the feel of her soft breasts.

"Do you even know what you are saying?" he asked with a judging look on his face.

Ninia's face flushed a bit as she averted her gaze to the side and muttered, "Do I need to say it out loud?"

After hearing those words from Ninia's mouth, Zach felt as though the door to the forbidden realm that was sealed with countless locks and shackles suddenly opened wide and welcomed him warmly.

Zach gently squeezed Ninia's breasts, to which she let out a soft moan.

"Mnh~"

Then, he moved his other hand and squeezed Ninia's breasts. When Zach looked into Ninia's eyes, she averted her gaze out of embarrassment.

"If you can be daring, then you need to be shameless too. Look me in the eyes while I do... while I massage you," he said with a grin on his face.

Ninia looked into Zach's eyes, but she broke eye contact the next second.

"Actually. Sit on the bed."

"Why...?"

"Just sit."

Ninia sat on the bed while Zach got up. Her face was directly in front of Zach's crotch, and she couldn't help but stare at it.

'It's not hard...' she uttered inwardly and asked herself, 'Am I... not attractive enough?'

Zach hadn't got a boner yet because he was nervous, and even though his body had healed, it was still experiencing some after effects.

Zach placed his hands on Ninia's shoulders and slowly moved them to her breasts. He squeezed them, but this time not as gently as before.

"Mnh~"

"Look me in the eyes, Ninia."

Ninia lowered her gaze and said, "But it's embarrassing."

Zach raised his brow and said, "It's an order."

Ninia's only weakness was Zach, and her strength was his orders. Zach used both of them and made her vulnerable and conflicted at the same time.

She glared softly at Zach and muttered, "That's cheating."

Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "You made me do it. Now, keep looking into my eyes and don't break eye contact until I say so."

"What if I want to blink?"

"You can blink, of course."

Zach began squeezing Ninia's breasts ever so gently and slowly increased his speed and pressure. Ninia's face flushed even more as now she was looking into Zach's eyes.

After squeezing her mountains for a while, he touched her lips with his finger and rubbed his thumb on them. That was something he always did to his girls to make them desperate. Whether it was effective or not, only Zach knew.

Zach inserted his finger into Ninia's mouth and said, "Suck it."

Ninia's eyes widened as she never expected the sudden development. She slowly began to suck Zach's finger while locking her eyes with him.

"Alright, that's enough. You can look away if you want to."

Ninia's face immediately fell on Zach's crotch, and she smiled slightly after noticing a bulge.

"My Lord..."

"Okay, first of all. Stop calling me that."

"But you are my Lord. How else am I supposed to call you?" she asked with a curious yet calm look on her face.

"By my name, obviously. In fact, you should always have called me that. You are no ordinary worshiper or a stranger."

"Then what should I call you, other than your name?"

"Just call me by my name. And that's an order."

Ninia shook her head and said, "Even if you ask me that, I won't comply with that order. I just can't call you by your name. It would be disrespectful and humiliating for me."

"Uhh..."

"It's just like how a child would never call their parents by their names," she added.

"Alright, alright. I got that. I won't force you." Zach pondered for a while and asked, "Would you call me if there is a word after my name?"

"No." She shook her head and said, "Your name shouldn't be there."

"Wow. You managed to make me speechless." Amid his thoughts, he remembered the very obvious thing he should have asked for. He looked into her eyes with a serious look on his face and said, "Call me daddy."

"..." Ninia stared at Zach in disbelief but refused to comment anything.

"What? Don't look at me with this judging gaze. And if you don't want to call me that, you will have to call me by my name."

Ninia gulped down nervously and opened her mouth to say that, but she didn't. Zach's ears and eyes were yearning to see and hear her call him that. He patiently waited until Ninia had gathered enough courage to speak.

"Dad...dy..." she said with an innocent face.

After hearing that, Zach's snake awakened to the second stage and was having trouble staying in his pants.

"Can you say it again?"

"Daddy..." she said reluctantly with her sweet voice.

'Even though it's only one simple word, it's so effective...'

"Daddy... Daddy.. Daddy. Daddy~"

He placed his hand on Ninia's mouth and said, "Whoa! Calm down, or I will ejaculate in my pants."

"But you are the one who asked me to do that."

"And now I am asking you to stop."

"Can I... request for something?" Ninia asked hesitantly while squirming left and right.

"Sure."

"Since you want me to address you as daddy, I also want you to call me something other than Ninia. Oh, don't get me wrong. The name— Ninia that you gave me is the most beautiful name for me. But... I just wanted you to call me something that no one does..."

"Okay. What do you want me to call you?"

"I don't know." She looked at him and asked, "What am I to you?"

Chapter 358 God-Zoned

"What am I to you?"

He caressed her face and said, "You are the prophet of my religion."

Ninia bit her lips and asked, "Am I only that to you...?"

"Well... you are also my friend."

"And...?"

"And a nun."

"...."

Zach chuckled softly and kissed Ninia on the lips.

"...!"

After the kiss, Ninia placed her hand on her lips and stared at Zach with a dumbfounded expression on her face.

"That was..."

"Hmm? Do you want another?"

Ninia quietly nodded in response.

Zach leaned in to kiss Ninia again, but he stopped and asked, "Before that, answer my question. Since you asked what are you to me, what am I to you?"

"You are my God."

"And?"

"And nothing. You are my everything."

'Are her feelings for me genuine? What if they are just a form of loyalty? What if she simply thinks it's her duty to let me use her body? Does she actually love me? If... I wasn't her God; would she still have said the same thing?

This is actually frightening, not going to lie. Thinking someone loves you romantically, and it turns out it was a normal love. But what about me? Do I see Ninia that way?

Do I love her, or am I just lusting after her? She is cute, hot, and innocent. Not to mention, she is a nun. A forbidden fruit that shouldn't be tasted, but I can defile her on my command.

Should I think too much about this? Probably not. I have made many bad decisions in my life, but ultimately, they ended up teaching me good lessons. I hated harem at first and hated my father for it too. Now, I have a harem of my own, and I understand my father had it rough. Honestly, getting a harem was one of the best decisions I made. So...'

Zach kissed Ninia again and muttered, "Having you wouldn't be bad."

"Hmm?"

"What do you want me to do with you?" Zach asked Ninia.

Ninia laid down on the bed and spread her hands before saying, "You can do anything you want. My body belongs to you. Please, use it as per your need. I have no complaints or second thoughts."

"I would appreciate it if you ask for it. And how do you feel about me?" he asked calmly.

"What type of question is that?"

"Do not think I am dumb. I have noticed you showing hints of jealousy when I flirt with the other girls, and I don't think that's normal. I have also seen you getting aggressive sometimes as well as possessive. Why do you do that?"

"I... don't know. I just feel this tight and stingy feeling in my chest, and I..."

Zach lowered his gaze and smiled slightly before saying, "I know that the NPCs in this game are real. They have emotions, intellect, and everything a normal human would have. But they are not born; they are created— which I don't think is true.

You can't create something and give them realistic feelings and emotions. Sure, you are created by the gods and all, but it doesn't sit right with me. There are things you don't remember, such as your name and even your identity.

You were told to become the nun, and you took that role. You weren't created for that role, but you couldn't oppose the gods' will. Even your appearance is not normal. You have this pale blonde hair that no NPCs do. Your ears are pointy, unlike the others who look exactly the same.

I have seen the nuns from the lower and the higher realms, and they don't look the same as you. So why do you? Was us meeting us and me making a religion just a coincidence? Even if it was, why is it so special?

My biggest gripe with the NPCs is that they think of themselves as a tool for the gods. Not in this realm as I have become their God, but the other realms are getting heated by the 12 gods' religions. It will be tough to spread my religion there, and that's why I wanted to ascend somewhere no player has ascended and become the first one.

When I asked you what I was to you, you replied, with I am your God. I felt... sad and conflicted. You are special to me, but you don't think of me the same way, do you?"

He asked with a gentle smile and a calm voice.

"I..."

"Actually, you don't have to answer. I don't blame you. You don't have to feel bad or guilty. I think the gods made it like the NPCs would never feel sympathetic towards the players. No strong emotions, no strings attached.

You think our relationship is that of a God and a prophet. The NPCs think my relationship with them is of a God and worshippers. Of course, that is true. But Ninia..."

Zach caressed Ninia's face before kissing her once again on the lips. He looked into her eyes and uttered:

"I don't want you to think that. I don't want to stay your God. I don't want our relationship to be of a God and a prophet. I..." he paused for a second and said, "I don't want to be God-zoned."

"But that's what I exist for! That's my identity! You can't steal that from me!" She said with teary eyes.

"I am not. You can still be the healer, the nun, and my prophet. Just add one more thing." He kissed Ninia's hand and uttered, "Become my lover too."

"What..." Ninia's face flushed for a few seconds before going back to normal. "What are you saying? That's not possible. I can never do that."

"Why?"

"Because you are my God. You can't be my lover and a God at the same time. That's not possible. It's just like having a father and a brother as the same person," she retorted.

"You are getting better at giving examples." Zach furrowed his brows and stared solemnly at Ninia before saying, "Ninia. I order you to become my lover."

Chapter 359 Pure Hated

There was a chance that the gods had locked the genuine emotions of the NPCs when they were brought into the Gods' Impact. And there was only one way to fix that.

To rule out that order.

That's why Zach ordered Ninia to become his lover. There was no other choice for Zach if he wanted Ninia to truly love him by heart, not as her duty.

"Ninia, I order you to become my lover," he said again.

"..." Ninia had a dazed expression on her face as though those words had turned her switch off.

"Ninia?" Zach calmly called out to her, but he received no response.

"..."

"Hey, are you okay?"

"..."

Zach shook Ninia's body, but she still didn't reply. Her body also felt lifeless with no resistance. He shook her harder, and her body fell to the bed.

That's when he finally saw her face, which looked expressionless. Her eyes had no light, and her breathing had stopped.

She seemed like a lifeless doll with flesh.

"Ninia! I order you to wake up!"

Ninia's body suddenly began to jerk, and her eyes rolled. She lifted her body before dropping to the bed again and passing out.

"Ninia?"

A few seconds later, Ninia opened her eyes and stared at Zach with a curious look on her face.

"Who... are you...?" she asked.

"....!" Zach's face turned pale in less than a second. Sweat rolled down his forehead as he slowly opened his mouth to say, "I am Zach."

"Zach? Why does that name sound so familiar?" she asked.

"Are you... are you okay? Why are you acting like this? Do you not remember who I am?" he asked with a panicked look on his face.

"No. Have we met before? And..." she glanced around the room and asked, "Why am I... here? What is this place?"

'Did she lose her memory after what I did? Did she get reset or something? It all happened because of me.' He gulped down nervously and said:

"This is a chamber in the church. And you are the nun. This world is made by the gods to punish humans. It's a game, and there are NPCs such as you and players like me.

I became your God and made you the prophet of my religion. We were discussing some things, and this topic came up. I... ordered you to become... become someone you didn't want to be, and then you started acting strangely and eventually passed out.

And now... it seems that you don't remember any of that."

"No. I remember all that. I can't remember you, but I... I feel like we have met before."

'Could it be that she forgot everything about me?!'

"Do you remember Aria?"

"Aria, the goddess of death and destruction? Of course, everyone knows her and fears her. Why would you ask such a question? Even saying her name aloud can bring you destruction, you know?" she asked curiously.

"Do you know Victoria?"

"No. Who is that?"

"What about Misha?"

"I... don't."

"What about Aurora?"

"Aurora. Aurora... I feel like I have heard this name before."

SIGH!

Zach sat on the bed beside Ninia and let out a weary sigh. He held her head in his hands and muttered, "You don't remember anyone. But you somehow know Aria's true identity, which no other NPCs do. Even you didn't know that up until now. What have I done?"

"Are you okay? I can feel many sad emotions emitting from you," she asked calmly.

"...."

"Not only sad. But you seem to be in pain too. Do you need my help?"

" ... "

Ninia hugged Zach and pressed his face against her breasts.

"You must have suffered a lot." She patted his head and continued speaking, "But it's alright. Everything happens for good. You don't have to endure everything. You are meant to let it go. Everything will be okay sooner or later.

You are in a long battle that will never end, a war that can never be won. But what matters is that you participated in it. You are not alone in this. Everyone has lost, and they have gained too.

You all must stay strong and fight together. Ultimately, everything shall be worth it, one way or another. And once everything has ended, you will look back at what you have lost and what you gained, and you will realize that what mattered was the journey and what you did on the way, not the destination itself.

So you must not lose faith in yourself. You have your followers believing in you and your words. Please, I beg you, do not break their trust. They have nowhere to go. For you are all worthy of their prayers."

Her voice sounded so soothing to Zach's ears that he felt like listening to her all day and night.

"You are still the kind Ninia I knew..." he muttered.

"Hmm? Who is Ninia?"

"You are."

"No. My name is Selene, and I am the second princess of the Elf realm," she stated with a puzzled look on her face.

"You are a— what?!" he exclaimed with a visibly shocked expression on his face.

'A princess from an Elf realm?! So my hunch was correct! The NPCs in this world belong to some other world, and god had abducted them somehow. They wiped their memories, brainwashed them, and gave them a fake role and identity!

Freaking motherfucking gods! They stole their existence! Are they truly qualified to be called a god? With the sins they have committed, they have no right to punish the humans!

Zach's anger and hatred towards the gods had gone over the roof. Now that Zach knew that the gods' actions had no meaning and atonement behind them, he no longer felt the pity he felt for them before.

He wanted to end them and remove them from existence.

"Hmm? Did you not know that already? You seem to know me so well, and I also feel safe and... and..." She placed her hand on the chest and asked with a confused look on her face: "What is this warm yet anxious feeling?"

" ... "

She caressed Zach's face and asked, "Can I ask what type of relationship we had?"

Chapter 360 Selene

"What type of relationship do we have?" Selene asked curiously.

"A complicated one. But maybe it was only me who was daydreaming. Since you don't remember anything about me, that must mean I wasn't important enough for you..." Zach responded with a gloomy face.

"Whoa! Are you trying to guilt trip the person who remembers nothing?"

"That was a joke." Zach shrugged his shoulders with a sigh and said, "I was trying to dodge your question."

"Well, that's so not nice of you. You know I am a weak-hearted person, and I can't watch someone in pain. So if you do me like that, it's going to be... complicated. Hmm, I think I now understand what you meant by 'we had a complicated relationship'," she nodded.

"You did. All according to my plan..." he said while averting his gaze.

"Ehe~ You are funny and cute. I like you."

"..."

'Even her personality has completely changed. It's like she is a totally different person...' Zach uttered inwardly.

"Well, let's go out. I will introduce you to Victoria and Aria."

"Wait... by Aria, you don't mean that Aria, right?" she asked while backing off her steps from the door.

"Exactly that one."

"She is... alive...?"

"Umm... yes? Why would she not?" he asked with a confused look on his face. But then he thought. 'Oh. Is she referring to when she was exiled, and no one knew her whereabouts since?'

"I... don't think I am ready to meet her yet..."

"You have already met her... I mean, Ninia has already met her, and you two were good friends," Zach said calmly to reassure Selene that everything would be alright.

"Is... that so..?"

"Yes. But maybe... sometimes you fought with her..." he shortly added.

"Fought?! I fought with the Goddess of death and destruction?" She exclaimed loudly and asked, "How am I still alive?"

"Oh, no. I don't mean the physical fight." Zach shook his hands and said, "It's more like a verbal fight such as shouting at each other, insulting each other, making fun of each other. Fights like that. Or I would never allow anyone to harm you against your wish."

"What?! I insulted and made fun of the Goddess of death? Seriously, how am I still alive?"

"You are overthinking stuff. She is not as scary as everyone claims her to be."

"Maybe you don't know her well. She can literally annihilate any living being by just wishing for it."

"Oh, I know her well. Both from the outside and the insides," he said proudly.

"Uhh... was that a pun or something? Maybe my sense of humor failed to pick that up."

"Long story short, she is my wife."

"..."

"And I am her husband."

"You have got to be kidding me. You are the husband of death and destruction? I am sure you are cursed by now." Selene turned her back to Zach to avoid eye contact with him and said, "Please leave this room. I suddenly feel scared of you."

"This is my room, for your information. And I am not leaving unless you come with me. You are my responsibility. You are the prophet of my religion, and it's my duty to protect you at any cost," he asserted solemnly and grabbed Selene's hand.

"Wait. I... I want to ask you one last thing before we.. we leave." She stared at Zach with a serious look on her face and asked, "What is your name? If you are the husband, then you must also possess unfathomable."

"I believe I already said it a while ago. My name is Zach."

"Zach...?"

"Yeah."

"No, I mean. Only Zach? What's your family name? What tribe or creed are you from?" she asked curiously.

"Oh, you were asking that. Then... well, Zach is not my real name. It's my nickname."

"Then what's your real name?" she asked while tilting her head to the right.

"Zagreus. My name is Zagreus Astaroth," he introduced himself once again with a straight face. "But no one calls me that except my father, and no one knows about it."

"Zag... reus...?" Selene stumbled on her steps and grabbed her head. "Argh! What's happening? Everything is... suddenly spinning, and there is a voice calling—"

Selene suddenly stopped and fell to the ground, but Zach caught her and carried her to the bed.

He placed her on the bed, but she suddenly opened her eyes in shock and tried to grab onto Zach.

"Hey, hey. What happened?" he asked while patting her.

"That's what I want to ask. What happened? I was talking to you, and then you said something and..." She let go of Zach and asked, "Are you okay, my Lord?"

"Yes, I am— huh? What did you just call me...?" he asked with a frozen face.

"Oh, my bad." She covered her mouth and said "Daddy" with a flushed face.

"Are you Ninia?"

"What else am I supposed to be?" she asked with a puzzled look on her face. "Are you sure you are alright?"

She asked with a concerned and judging look on her face.

"Maybe you should sleep. I will come to wake you up when dinner is ready."

Zach hugged Ninia tightly, which surprised her, but she didn't try to resist or feel uncomfortable.

'I didn't realize it until now, but my entire religion will be hopeless with Ninia. No... that's just an excuse. I don't think I can survive without Ninia. But... she is not real. She is a fake identity created by the gods, and her real identity is Selene, who is supposedly a princess from the Elf realm.

Even though I know that. I don't want to lose Ninia. After hearing my name, I don't know what exactly happened to Selene, but let me be with Ninia for a little longer. I know it's selfish and immature of me, but I don't have the courage to let go of her just yet.'

"Umm... daddy..."

Zach looked into Ninia's eyes and smiled gently at her, hiding the sadness behind his face.

"Let's go out and help the girls," he said.

"Okay."