

GODS' IMPACT 391

Chapter 391: Spatial Ring

[That is indeed a weird nickname, My liege. What's that supposed to do?] Cerberus asked curiously.

"Well, I doubt it would scare players away, to be honest. I just wanted to hide my real name. Let's say, for privacy reasons, maybe? And..." Zach shrugged and said, "Can you think of a better nickname?"

[Nickname fitting for my liege...] Cerberus pondered with his three heads for a while and used his snake tail to rub the chins.

"..." Zach wanted to comment something after saying that, but he stayed quiet and waited patiently for Cerberus to suggest a better nickname.

[What about HaremLord?]

"Uhh... how is that supposed to intimidate the players or NPCs or anyone, in that matter?"

[Oh... then... What about Monster Lord?]

"No."

[Slayer Lord?]

"No."

[Star Lord?]

"Anything but that, please," That nickname reminded Zach of Star Lord from the sea realm, whom he had killed and chopped into pieces.

[What about the God Lord?]

"Would you stop with the 'Lord'?"

Chapter 392 Unexpected Rage

DING!

[Congratulations! Your skill 'Dominators Touch' has reached the threshold limit! It is now upgraded to 'Deus' Authority'!]

«Deus' Authority- Allows you to cast your semi-domain for a radius of fifty meters.

In your domain, you can control everything. Once you have cast your domain— unless someone with a stronger domain enters your domain— it will last for five minutes.

If someone with a stronger domain than you enters your domain, your domain will be devoured, and all your MP and HP will be sucked.»

"...Cerberus..."

[My Liege?]

Zach tilted his head to the side and said, "Go hide in the shadows."

[Okay.]

"...."

—

BOOM!

"...."

BANG!

The entire Angel's castle was obliterated into pieces as Zach walked out of it unscathed.

Cerberus couldn't help but tremble in the shadows after witnessing that. He wanted to ask Zach why he suddenly let out the rage that was storming inside him, but he was afraid to even let out a whimper.

Zach was connected to all his undead, not physically nor emotionally, but when they were in his shadow, they could sense his emotions such as happiness, sadness, and rage.

Cerberus had felt Zach's rage and it surpassed all his rage so far.

"..."

Without speaking a word, Zach opened the portal to Aria's domain and jumped inside.

Milo quickly approached Zach and said, [Master! You arrived at the right time! Lady Aurora woke—]

Zach lowered his gaze at Milo and uttered, "Sorry, Milo, can you leave me alone with Aurora for a while?"

[S-Sure..!]

Milo flapped her dragon wings and flew away.

Zach dragged himself to the throne and saw Aurora sitting there, seemingly waiting for him with a smile on her face.

He jumped and landed on the throne beside Aurora.

"Milo told me you came here earlier in the morning," Aurora spoke first.

"Yeah."

Zach sat beside Aurora and placed his head on her shoulder.

"Hmm? What's wrong? You seem to... sad."

"Something terrible and unexpected just happened..." he muttered.

"Wha...t?"

"I went to fight the main realm boss after reaching level 100. I made it to the boss and defeated him. I got a few rewards, and my DT skill got an upgrade," he spoke in an emotionless voice.

"Then... isn't that great? It's a power up."

"It is great."

"So why so down?" she asked anxiously.

"The name of the ability is now 'Dues' Authority'."

"That's... your father's name, am I right?"

"Indeed."

"Why... why would the game give you an ability based on your name?" Aurora asked with a confused look on her face.

"Remember when I told you my father had marked me?"

"And because of that, you were in a deep slumber?"

"Yeah. That wasn't marking; it was a blessing." Zach looked into Aurora's eyes and smiled wryly before repeating, "It was his blessings. He blessed me at that time."

"I... I don't understand what you are trying to say. Please be clear..." Aurora hesitantly muttered.

"I was blessed by many beings, and their blessings are lately being activated as my body adapts to them or I reach the requirement to trigger them. I believe you already know that much.

Phoenix's blessings got activated because I met Xie Lua again and her feelings for me were too strong. The Demon King's blessing was activated because I used my demonic powers. Then there are Sea God's blessings and others.

My father had also blessed me, but his blessings were never triggered. Technically, it should have activated when I used his skill for the first time— which was the Devourer's Touch.

That was his ability that I copied, but nothing happened. After that, it evolved into Dominator's Touch. And at least to the Dues' Authority."

"Wait..." Sweat poured down Aurora's forehead as she muttered, "You don't mean..."

"Yes. The ability won't activate if the source doesn't exist, in this case, my father." Zach hugged Aurora and asserted, "There are high chances that my father is dead."

"..."

Aurora hugged him back and tried to say something, but she had no idea what to say. Her words could hurt him more, but she couldn't bear to see Zach suffer alone.

"All this time... I thought he was dead. But after seeing the memory in the slumber, I had new hope. I got a new reason to be motivated. I was excited to meet him again after clearing the game. I wanted to save him, but... my hope was crushed."

Zach hugged Aurora tightly and muttered, "What should I do now, Aurora?"

"Well..." Aurora gulped down anxiously and said, "There are chances that he is still alive. Maybe you are just overthinking and being paranoid?"

"You might be right. But... I am scared to have hope again. I don't want it to be crushed again."

Aurora stroked Zach's back and calmly said, "My mother used to say, 'You can see the stars even though you know you can't touch them. Does that stop you from seeing them?"

No.

But sometimes, the sky is hidden behind the clouds, but do you hate the clouds?

No. Because they save you from direct sunlight.

So why is it that one is often worried and afraid about something they are not sure of? What's the point of it?

If one was able to touch the stars, the stars would lose their essence. They won't be special anymore. Sometimes, it is best to watch them from afar and enjoy the time.'

I don't know if that helped you, but she told me this every time I was scared or sad. There are many more things she taught me, actually. I always thought she was a poet or a writer."

Zach looked into Aurora's eyes and smiled for the first time in a while without pretending or forcing his smile.

"You are right. Thank you, Aurora. It was the right decision to come to you first because I didn't want to go back to girls with a bad mood. Today is supposed to be a celebration since we are all going to ascend soon."

"Then you should go and enjoy it."

"I will. And you will too."

"Huh?"

Zach carried Aurora in his arms and jumped off the throne.

"You have taken enough rest. I need you with me now."

"...!"

"It is the time of ascendance!"

Chapter 393 Homecoming

Zach walked towards the exit of Aria's domain while carrying Aurora like a princess in his arms.

"Oh.. right."

He looked back and said, "Milo, come. We are leaving."

Within a few seconds, Milo flew across the sky and landed beside Zach.

"Where to, master?" Milo asked.

Zach pondered for a few seconds as he didn't know what to call that place. But after a while, he smiled slightly and said:

"To home."

"Hmm?"

"You have never been there, right? So just Follow my lead."

Zach walked out of the portal and uttered, "Cerberus."

[At your command, my liege!] Cerberus said excitedly.

He had never come out so fast as he did just now. Seemingly, he was waiting for Zach to call him out for a ride.

"Wow... you have grown so much..." Aurora muttered.

[All thanks to my liege's grace!]

Cerberus placed his paw and head on the ground so Zach could climb on him easily.

"Come, Milo," Zach gestured to her.

Milo locked her eyes with Cerberus and said, "I would rather fly on my own."

"...okay."

Zach got on Cerberus, and Milo flew as Cerberus ran. Halfway through the portal of the realm, Cerberus increased his speed as Milo got ahead of him.

Cerberus and Milo were having a competition to assert their dominance.

Zach was holding tightly onto Aurora, so he didn't have to worry about her falling off. However, Zach wanted a medium-paced ride.

"Cerberus, run slowly so Aurora can see the scenery of the higher realms," Zach ordered.

Cerberus slowed down on Zach's command and said, [As your wish, my liege.]

If Cerberus wanted, he could travel in the shadows and defeat Milo effortlessly if he wished to. However, he took it slow because Zach was with Aurora.

Milo also slowed down as the reason she flew fast was that Cerberus was ahead of her at first.

After half an hour, they reached the portal.

"What do you want to do, Aurora?" Zach asked calmly. "We can descend directly to the second realm. Or we can descend one realm at a time and enjoy the sceneries of this beautiful world?"

"I... don't know. A part of me wants to enjoy this date with you, but the other part of me wants to meet Aria and Victoria as soon as possible."

"Well, choose one. I will do as you say."

Aurora puckered her lips and puffed her cheeks after hearing that. She looked up at Zach and said, "That's like choosing between fingering and kissing."

"I can do both at once. So give another example."

Aurora puffed her cheeks even more and squinted her eyes.

"Okay, okay." Zach poked her puffed cheeks and then moved his hands to squeeze her breasts as he said, "We will go home first then. We can do sightseeing at any time."

"Hmm."

"Cerberus."

[I heard you, my liege.]

Cerberus descended to Zach's realm and waited for Milo to pass through.

'She should be able to pass through as the undead could, too,' Zach uttered inwardly.

"Milo?" he called out to her.

"I am here, master."

Zach looked up in the sky and saw Milo flying high sky, unlike above the ground.

"Why are you there?" he asked.

"This place has more players compared to the higher ones. I don't want to run into them, so I will follow you from the sky."

"Alright." Zach patted Cerberus and said, "Let's go."

As Cerberus passed through the streets and buildings, the NPCs and players stopped doing what they were doing and came out to watch Zach. For them, it was like their favorite celebrity walking on the street.

Meanwhile, Aurora was surprised as to what was going on. She had no idea that the realm now belonged to Zach, as his religion was spreading like wildfire.

The benefits and rewards were too much for the players and NPCs, and they couldn't resist the temptation. And now that the NPCs had become players, the real players were helping them out in leveling up and the rest of the things.

That was what Zach had demanded from them after he had marked them with his shadow sigil.

"What's all this?" Aurora finally broke her silence and asked, "Why are they looking at us like this?"

"I will fill you up later."

After a few minutes, they finally reached the church. Cerberus once again placed his head on the ground and his paw in a position of stairs so they could easily get off.

Zach carried Aurora, but after he got off Cerberus, Aurora nudged him and said, "Put me down."

"Hmm?"

"I want to walk on my own. Actually, I want to surprise them," she grinned slightly. "You haven't told them anything, right?"

"No."

"Nice. You should go first and act normal. And then I will surprise them!"

"That's actually a nice idea. But can you walk on your own?" Zach asked with a concerned look on his face.

Aurora grinned and said, "Why don't you put me down and check for yourself?"

SIGH!

"Your cheekiness is still the same."

Zach slowly let go of Aurora, but he didn't completely let go of her until her feet touched the ground.

"..."

Zach watched as Aurora managed to stand still without wobbling like a jelly.

"Wow."

"Ehehe." Aurora giggled. "I have been secretly practicing. Milo also helped me with it. I actually wanted to surprise you, but you surprised me by bringing me out."

"I see..."

"I can even walk freely and even run slowly. It's just like having a fever and feeling weak, except I don't have a fever, nor do I feel weak," she added.

"Alright then. I will go and act normal." He turned to Cerberus and said, "Go back to my shadows. No, wait..."

He glanced around and moved his face close to Cerberus' ears to ask, "Any updates from Urluk?"

[Not yet.]

Cerberus returned to Zach's shadow after whispering something in Zach's ears.

"Milo, take care of Aurora, okay?"

"Yes."

Zach entered the church like always and acted normally. He was excited to see how the girls would react. However, he then remembered that they had left for the dungeon and the tower in the morning.

'Too many things happened today, so it slipped my mind.'

He messaged them and asked them to return as soon as possible. He then rushed outside and brought Aurora to his room so they could surprise the girls from there.

Chapter 394 Surprise

"Are they here yet?" Aurora asked impatiently. "It's been five minutes since you sent them a message,"

"There is no way they can get here in five minutes from the dungeon. Victoria might return first as she went to clear the tower, but the rest will take at least fifteen minutes if they hurry or get a ride here," Zach responded calmly.

Aurora was sitting on Zach's bed. While Zach was crafting potions, he hadn't given any supply to Xie Lua for the past few days.

"What are you doing?" Aurora asked curiously.

"Making potions."

"How do you make them?"

"Well... just think of filling water in the bottle."

"That sounds easy." Aurora laid down on Zach's bed and sniffed his pillow.

"Pervert," Zach commented without looking at her.

"You can't blame me. I have been meaning to do this for a long time now."

"Oh, I am sure you were," he chuckled softly. "By the way, do you want something to eat? We might have leftovers in the morning."

"Yes, I do." Aurora grinned and said, "I want to eat your essence."

"Sure, I will make you a pill later."

"No. I want to drink it directly from your peepee."

"I don't think I will be able to hold myself back if we get intimate again. The last time when I fingered you, I barely held myself back. It's dangerous to do it in your current condition. And before you say something, yes, I want to fuck you badly."

Aurora puckered her lips and asked, "Then why don't you do it?"

"You can barely walk properly without stumbling. If my snake crawls between your legs and enters your cave, you will be unable to walk again. Don't forget the main point of recovery is to rest and not do something reckless.

And before you say 'you can be gentle', then that's not the point. It's your first time, and the first time is painful for girls. If this wasn't our first time, then I obviously would be fucking you right now despite of your condition, as it wouldn't be as painful.

Not to mention, there is no way I can be gentle with you. I wanted to see my dick inside you ever since we ascended together from the first realm. And judging by your recovery speed, you should be able to jump and participate in the dungeons in a week or two.

However, I will grant your wish. I will have you suck my dick and swallow my essence. Happy? But not right now, of course. Later at night. And yeah... you are sleeping in my room and on my bed with me."

Zach's explanation mainly was in consideration of Aurora's condition, while Aurora was thinking about Zach's condition.

"Zach," Aurora called out to him in a low voice.

"Hmm?"

"You said you have done with Aria, Victoria, and Ninia. Did you ever feel like I wasn't useful to you when you needed me the most?"

After a brief silence, Zach shrugged his shoulders and responded, "Why do you think I would ever feel that way? I am a selfish person, as you know. And if I needed you, I would come to you. Like today, for example. I was feeling conflicted, so I ran straight to you so you could comfort me."

"As for me, I always feel like I am dragging you down," Aurora muttered. "If we had never met, you would be in the last realm by now."

Zach smiled wryly at Aurora and said, "Don't say scary things, my love. I would have become a demon lord if I hadn't met you."

Zach and Aurora talked with each other for a while until the girls returned.

The first one to come was Victoria, as Zach had expected, but Aria, Ninia, Noah, and Elina returned soon after. Zach stayed in his room as he was having a moment with Aurora, but he had to leave. Otherwise, any of the girls would come to his room to check and see Aurora, which would ruin the surprise they had planned.

"I will keep them busy talking and ensure they don't see you leaving the room. And I won't close the door completely, so it doesn't make a sound when you open it later," Zach said to her.

"Hmm. But..." Aurora squirmed a little and said, "I know it hasn't been long since I last met them, but a surprise is a surprise. What should I tell them once I surprise them?"

"Why are you acting like a shy girl from a class who has a crush on the most popular boy in the school..."

"Forget I asked..." Aurora sighed.

"I was joking. Just be you; it will be alright."

Zach left his room and made his way to the gate to greet the girls.

"Yo!" He welcomed them with a wide smile on his face. "How are you doing?"

"We are doing okay. Thank you for asking." Aria was the first to reply.

They made their way in and sat on the pew to relax. Zach stood on the side, blocking their view from his chamber, so they didn't see the door opening or Aurora coming out of it.

"I defeated the boss of this realm. We can now ascend at any time. Also, I called the black slime a while ago to learn more about the upper realm, as the information was unlocked once I defeated the boss.

Apparently, those who ascend to the second main realm can't descend to the first main realm again.

"What?!" Noah suddenly exclaimed. "Does that mean we will never see you again?"

"Let me finish." He opened his menu, took off his glove, and wore the spatial ring. After that, he opened a black portal and said, "Do you have something I can throw?"

Noah handed his dagger to Zach and said, "I bought it yesterday."

Zach threw the dagger into the portal, and it came out from another portal behind him.

"Wow! That was so awesome!"

"Was that spatial transportation?" Aria asked with a knowing look on her face.

"Yes. Using this, I can teleport anywhere I want, but it's kind of wacky and doesn't take me to the exact spot I want."

Zach was planning to show them later, but he had to keep them immersed in the conversation, so Aurora could catch them off guard and surprise them.

"Surprise!"

However, when Aurora stood beside Zach, the girls barely had any reaction on their faces.

Chapter 395 Getting Together

After receiving no reaction from the girls, Zach turned to Aurora and said, "I am sure they are thinking, 'Oh crap? Aurora is back! Now she will take Zach by himself, and we won't get to spend time with him!' or something similar to that."

"We are not!" Victoria hissed.

"You girls didn't react to her sudden appearance. How else would she interpret that?"

"What do you mean? How else were we supposed to react?" Aria asked with a puzzled look on her face.

"I don't know. She surprised you, so you would have acted surprised or at least pretended to be happy."

"Wait... that was a surprise?" Victoria sighed and glanced at Aria.

"Hmm?"

SIGH!

Aria sighed and said, "When you asked us to return, we immediately left the dungeon and rushed here. On our way, we heard people talking about something. Then, we stopped at the restaurant to buy lunch as we all were tired, and none of us wanted to cook lunch.

I met Victoria there, who was talking with the NPCs, and she told me that the NPCs told her about you and Aurora riding a three-headed monster.

So we already knew Aurora was here, and in fact, we were waiting for her to show up. We had no idea she was trying to surprise us."

"I expected that was the case..." Zach muttered and turned to Aurora, "Our surprise plan had failed even before we made it."

"It's fine... I guess. It's kind of our fault for not thinking of that possibility."

Aurora looked at Noah and asked, "What is your name?"

"Noah!" Noah cheerfully responded.

She then turned to Elina and asked, "What's your name?"

"Elina."

Noah and Elina had nicknames, so Aurora couldn't see their real name.

"You two look awfully young to be in this game. How old are you?" Aurora asked curiously.

"I am 13!" Noah replied. "And she is 14."

"What...?" Aurora shot a glare at Zach and said, "They are off limits. You can't go after kids."

Zach's face twitched after hearing that. He smiled forcefully and said, "It seems your head didn't get fixed even after all that rest."

Aria also shook her head in disbelief.

Aurora glanced at Ninia, who had been hiding behind Victoria all this time.

"Why are you hiding?" Aurora asked calmly.

"She thinks you will eat her alive," Aria responded.

Aurora smirked at Zach from the corner of his lips and said, "There is only one thing I am interested in eating in a living person."

Zach grabbed Aurora's hand and dragged her to the side after saying, "You girls, set the table. I will smack some manners in her."

Zach took Aurora to the last pew and said, "Would you stop talking dirty in front of kids?"

"But I wasn't talking dirty," she said with an innocent look on her face.

"No matter how you look at it, your comment just now was about eating my dick."

"No." Aurora averted her eyes and said, "I was talking about your handmade cooking."

"Don't lie. I can't even cook properly."

"Come on~" Aurora hugged Zach and said, "Why are you being so mean and strict to me? I was hoping you would spoil me after all this time."

"I wouldn't have said anything if Noah and Elina weren't here. Anyway, no dirty talks in front of kids, okay?"

"Okay. But who are they anyway?"

"I told you about them, didn't I?"

"I don't think so. Or maybe you did." Aurora shrugged her shoulders, "I have been sleeping a lot, so my memories are also jumbo mumbo. I am having a hard time deciding what was a dream and what really happened."

Aurora pondered for a few seconds and squinted her eyes. He poked Zach's cheek and asked, "What if this is a dream too?"

Zach squeezed Aurora's breasts with both of his hands and said, "It's not a dream."

After telling Aurora about Noah and Elina, they joined the lunch with the others.

Aurora was surprised to know that Noah was a boy. For some reason, she thought Noah was a girl because of the way he talked and acted.

While eating lunch, Aurora repeatedly glanced at Ninia as she wanted to talk with her, but whenever her eyes met with Ninia, Ninia averted her gaze and avoided eye contact with Aurora.

'I don't know why, but this is very amusing!' Zach uttered inwardly.

Zach was sitting in the middle, Aurora was sitting to his right, Victoria was sitting to his left, and then Aria and Ninia.

Usually, Aria and Victoria would sit at each side, but Aurora had taken her position back. Aria and Victoria had no qualms as Aurora had specifically given them time to be with Zach in her absence.

After eating lunch, Ninia immediately rushed to wash the dishes even though Zach asked her not to. And Aurora took that chance to talk with Ninia.

Noah and Elina had gone to their separate rooms, and Aria and Victoria were talking about their adventure in the dungeon and tower.

"I see. So Ninia also chose archer as her class. Not going to lie, whenever I thought of elves, they always seemed to be the archer type. I can't wait to go on an adventure with Ninia."

Zach said in a neutral tone.

"For some reason, I am having the same feeling I did when Aurora and I first started clearing the dungeon together," he shortly added.

"Just admit it that you want to fuck her in a dungeon," Aria commented.

"No. Of course.... not..."

"It's obvious from your face."

"Wow. Now that Aurora is back, you girls are going to tease me all the time."

[My liege, there is an update from Urluk,] Cerberus uttered from Zach's shadow, and only Zach could hear him.

"You girls have fun. I will take a walk around the church."

Zach left the church and asked, "What is it?"

[He has reached the flying castle.]

"Oh! Nice!"

Zach smirked maliciously and uttered, "I wanted to take care of that trash before ascending to the second main realm."

Zach... had sent Urluk to the flying guild castle to assassinate Elliott.

Chapter 396 Zach's Scheme

Before Zach went to fight the angel in the castle, he had summoned his army of the undead and asked them to not interfere in his battle. Of course, Cerberus was against it, but Zach had different plans.

"Cerberus, I want you to do something else in the meantime. I have been talking about ascending for a while now, yet, doing nothing. I don't want to stay here long. I will surely leave tomorrow, so I have to finish up some unfinished business."

[What is that, my liege? Just tell me, and I will risk my life to complete your task!] Cerberus said with his utmost loyalty to Zach.

"When Noah and Elina became my followers, I promised them something that the second realm is my realm, and there will be no evil deeds, but I can't be sure of that. However, I will have to ensure that, so I want the lesser-ranked demons to spread across the second realm and kill every bad guy you see.

Remember, they will have a red name tag, but make sure they are bad. They can be good guys who killed someone in self-defense or otherwise by mistake. Things can happen.

The third and second-rank demons will spread to the higher realms and end all the possible evildoers. Once my followers ascend higher, they will spread my religion even more, and I will promise them the same thing.

Cerberus and Urluk, I will give you the toughest task of all."

[I am excited, my liege.]

"Take Urluk to the flying castle and assassinate Elliott."

[Who is that again?"]

"Wow... that was savage..."

[No, seriously. I don't remember the names of the players or NPCs. I only know yours and the ladies' names.]

"The guild leader who I fought."

[Ummm...]

"The one who was after Victoria."

[Oh! The one who we fried in the metal box!]

"Yes. That shit," Zach nodded. "I want you to kill him."

[I don't mind, but why of all times? If you truly wanted to kill him, you could have killed him that day with your own hands. You would have felt more satisfied.]

"I didn't kill him because Shay asked me to. I can't do something he doesn't want me to, and he won't do something I don't want him to. It's our thingy. I have made the same promise with Kayden, and that is why it's kind of awkward when Misha is around. But now that they are married, I don't have to worry about them.

Putting all that aside, if I wanted, I could just ride you, go to the flying castle, and kill him myself. But I can't because I promised Shay. However, I never said I won't send someone to kill him.

All this time, I was contemplating on whether I should kill him or not. Because even if he is an asshole, hundreds of thousands of lives depend on him... or rather, on the guild.

Ultimately, I decided to kill that asshole because I didn't want to regret not killing him when I had the chance."

Zach patted Cerberus on the head and said, "I will wait for the good news."

[My liege... what about you?"] Cerberus asked hesitantly. [I know you don't want anyone with you, but at least take someone who can help you out. By no means am I not saying you will need help or you are not strong enough to defeat the realm boss by yourself.

However, I am simply worried about you. What if you went berserk again? There are many risks you need to consider. And I don't want to go back to the ladies and give them the bad news. Lady Aria will kill me if I allow you to do something reckless again.]

"I don't mind anyone coming with you, but you and Ulurk are the only ones present here." Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "You obviously can't assassinate Elliott as the guild members would recognize you, and they will realize I am the one who got Elliott Killed.

Even if you travel in the shadows, I am sure there is tight security around Elliott, and they will see you. I could send Ulurk alone, but he can't reach the flying castle alone as there is no shadow to reach there. And he cannot fly so..."

The moment Zach uttered that, Ulurk spread his wings and said, [I have wings now, my liege.]

"Well..." Zach stared at Cerberus' smug face and sighed, "That's embarrassing."

Ulurk knelt down and uttered, [My liege, let me go alone. I will bring his head to you.]

"No, no. You don't have to bring his head. Just make sure he is dead and his HP has hit 0! The others will most likely think it was done by one of the guild members, so leave a clue behind that it was done by an outsider," Zach suggested.

[A clue, such as?]

"Uhh... a note or something? Or maybe make it like a revenge kill. Yeah... do that..." Zach nodded and said, "Leave a note saying 'This is for what you did to my brother!' or something. And it would look like a revenge kill. I am sure there are many or maybe even all the guild members who want him dead, so it's not a big deal anyway," Zach scoffed softly.

[As you wish, my liege. Now, I must leave. I must find the flying castle first as it ascended not long ago. And there are chances that the guild leader won't be at the guild. However, I will make sure to complete your task. I will not return until I have killed the human and the player named Elliott!]

Urlurk spread his wings further and flapped them before flying away.

"..."

Zach turned to Cerberus and said, "I have a plan to play with the realm boss."

—

After around two hours, Urlurk finally found the flying castle and managed to infiltrate it. He traveled in the shadows and began the search for Elliott.

Chapter 397 Elliott's Assassination

After getting to the Guild castle, it was a matter of time before Urlurk assassinated Elliott. However, he first needed to find him.

Back when Zach was exploring Victoria's cave, he had taken a map of the flying castle and studied it thoroughly. Initially, he planned to go himself and kill Elliott, but it was risky as he could be seen by someone.

He didn't want to leave any strings behind, especially when a few of the guild members were also Zach's worshippers.

Zach had explained all the routes to Urlurk and told him all his strategies to get to Elliott's room. He had learned that Elliott spent most of the time in his office and his chamber, while he was missing in action for a few hours in between, and no one knew anything about it.

Since Victoria and Misha were guild members in the past, they knew about the flying castle more than anyone. Especially Victoria, who was the vice-captain and Risen warrior's guild.

In fact, she was the one who had raised the guild to its current status, but she never got credit for it. Victoria regretted investing her time and mind in the guild as everything was under Elliott's control now.

Victoria also blamed herself for the demise of the guild members, who wanted to leave the guild but couldn't because they had nowhere else to go.

Zach was going to end that terror soon.

['My liege has advised me to scout the area first. This is my first time here, but this place is truly magnificent! My liege should get himself an even bigger flying castle for him!..']

Thus began Urluk's scouting of the flying castle.

['I also have to plan an escape route first. As my liege had mentioned, there are guards in every corner. The guild members are training, while most of them are arriving and departing the flying castle to complete their quests and missions..']

Urluk was moving in the shadow, so the scouting to Elliott's chamber was completed in a few minutes.

['The biggest issue my liege addressed is that Elliott needs to be alone when I assassinate him. If someone were to see me, they could know it was done by my liege.

Most of them have seen me and the other undead. I somehow managed to connect to Cerberus and updated him about my status, but I lost contact again. Only there was a shadow connected to this flying castle and the surface.

If I had a stable connection with Cerberus, I could ask him to ask my liege about tips. This is my first time performing an assassination, so I know little about it.

Ultimately, if I don't get an opening, I will kill Elliott in front of the humans. And then I will kill those humans too. So there will be no witnesses! Yes! What a fantastic plan!

Why didn't my liege think about it?'] After pondering for a while, Urluk continued, ['But if my liege hasn't asked me to do that, I shouldn't do it, right? Wouldn't that be against his order? This is conflicting. Why must it be so hard to make even a simple decision?']

Urluk was hiding in the shadow of the statue in front of Elliott's office. He was waiting for Elliott to come out for lunch so he could follow him and assassinate him when no one was around.

['According to what my liege told me, Elliott leaves for lunch and returns after two hours. No human can eat for that long, except, of course, my liege. He is truly the greatest of all humans and gods. He can do everything!']

Urluk was feeling happy and excited as it was his first real mission tasked by Zach himself. He wanted Zach to praise him so he could flaunt in front of the other undead, especially Cerberus, who apparently was Zach's favorite, according to Urluk.

Urluk was aware that he was given an important task and wanted to make Zach proud by completing it without messing up. Not only that, but Zach also had confidence that Urluk would be able to complete the task.

['Most humans rest after eating lunch. So Elliott will also go to his chamber to rest after eating lunch. I will strike at that time and kill him in his sleep! That would be the best time to assassinate him as he wouldn't struggle or make any noises. Even he himself would have no idea that he was killed!']

Urluk had thought of dozens of ways of killing Elliott; he was simply waiting for an opportunity to strike.

A few minutes later, Elliott finally came out of his office with an annoyed, angry, and frustrated look on his face. He punched the guard standing near the door and walked away.

['Hmm~ Was that a form of humans greeting each other?'] Urluk wondered.

Urluk followed Elliott through the shadows and reached the cafeteria where a few players were eating.

Elliott ordered his special food and ate it in frustration by taking big bites and spilling it all over the table and the floor.

['I don't think that's how humans eat. Why is he wasting food like that? They don't have that many resources as mentioned by my liege, so shouldn't he be saving the food? I don't understand this human. Everything is wrong about him']

Urluk had no idea what type of person Elliott was or why Zach wanted to assassinate him. He only cared about Zach's orders, and that was his command. Whether Elliott was a good person or a bad one, it didn't matter to Urluk.

After half an hour, Elliott got up from the table and threw his half-eaten goods all over the floor. Then, he made his way to his chamber.

['Yes!']

Urluk couldn't hold his excitement as Elliott stepped closer and closer to his chamber. He felt like a kid in a playground, waiting for his turn on the slide.

A few minutes later, Elliott reached his chamber and walked in before closing the door with a loud bang.

The moment the door closed, Urluk came out of the shadow and slit Elliott's throat.

Chapter 398- Mission Accomplished

CLICK!

Elliott closed the door of his chamber and groaned out loud, but he had no idea that groan was the last groan he would ever do before dying.

FWIP!

He heard a sharp sound, but before he could react, Urluk had come out of the shadow and placed his dagger on Elliott's throat.

'An assassin?!' He thought. 'Only assassins can have such ability, but how did—'

Elliott couldn't even finish his thought as Urlik slit his throat all the way to the back of his neck.

"...!" Elliott tried to cover his neck and stop the blood to save his MP from decreasing. He wanted to yell, but he couldn't even let out a whimper without his throat.

Urluk kned Elliot from the back and kicked him on the ground while forcefully pulling his neck by grabbing his hair.

THUD!

Elliott's headless body fell to the ground while his head remained in Urluk's hand.

[Did I complete the task?] he asked himself. [My liege told me to leave his body as it is, so I guess I can't bring his head to him. How would my liege know that I completed the task if I don't give him proof?

I could lie to him, and he would never know. Could it be that he trusted me so much that he knew I would never betray him? As expected of my liege! Not only was he confident that I would be able to complete his task, but he also trusted me that I wouldn't betray him!]

Urluk realized one thing after another, and his happiness increased every time he figured something out.

Urluk thought it would be a good idea to take Elliott's eyes and tongue as proof of his task completion, so he plucked Elliott's tongue and gouged out his eyes from his eyes socket.

Then he threw Elliott's head near his body and said, [I am not going against my liege's order. I left his body as it was. And no one will notice his missing eyes and tongue.]

Urluk lacked common sense and the ability to understand anything. The only thing that mattered to him was Zach's order. While he was indeed strong and formidable, it didn't change the fact that he was hopeless without Zach.

Unlike Cerberus, who possessed the intellect of a high being, Urluk was just a rank-five demon in hell.

[What was the escape route again?] he wondered.

Urluk was about to leave, but he stopped when he noticed a shadow hiding in the corner of the room. He immediately jumped on it and yelled, [Who are you?!]

"Mph hmph phm!"

It was a female guild member who was tied up. Her hands were chained, and her mouth was taped so she wouldn't yell for help.

[Why were you hiding here?!]

Urluk didn't know that it wasn't normal for someone to be tied up like that.

[Oh. no! What should I do?! My liege had warned me to not be seen by anyone, but I was seen. I made a big blunder! Now he will punish me!]

"Phm! Mph!"

The girl tried to speak, but everything was in vain. Her struggles were futile as the only thing Urluk cared about at that moment to somehow undo his blunder. And he could only think of one solution— to kill the girl.

[That's right! I can do that! If I kill her, the problem will be solved! And it would look like these two killed each other or something!]

Urluk raised his hand and killed the girl, or he would have, but he was stopped by someone. Or rather, his hand had stopped responding to him for some reason.

When Urluk looked up, he saw Zach standing there with a furious glare in his eyes. He had stopped Urluk by grabbing his hand.

"What... what do you think you are doing?!" Zach yelled at Urluk.

Urluk slammed his hand in front of Zach and bellowed, [My deepest apologies, my liege! I should have scanned the room before killing that man. My incompetence brought this on myself! Please forgive me!

You trusted me with a task, and yet I failed you. I could not be more ashamed! Please forgive— no! I don't deserve forgiveness for my actions! Please, kill me!]

"...." Zach let go of Urluk's hand and said, "Raise your head, Urluk."

Urluk slowly raised his hand but didn't dare to look into Zach's eyes.

"What had I tasked you with?"

[To kill the human named Elliott, who is the ruler of the flying castle!]

"That's right. And what did I warn you about?"

[To not be seen by anyone.]

"Exactly." Zach furrowed his brows and uttered, "When did I ever order you to kill anyone other than Elliott?"

[Y-You didn't!]

"So why were you going to kill this girl?"

[I... I did not want to fail you, my liege. This was the first ever task you had given me, so after I realized I had made a blunder, I thought you would be disappointed in me and never give me another task,] Urluk responded without looking up.

"How did you fail the mission? You did exactly as I had asked you to. If someone saw you, that's bad, but you can do nothing about it. You were supposed to run in the case, not kill the witness," Zach stated calmly.

"Listen, I know it will be hard for you to understand, but you can't kill anyone unless I ask you to. I know you weren't ready for a solo mission, but I am glad I made it on time," he sighed in relief.

[May I ask how you came here? The door of this chamber is still locked.]

"After you updated Cerberus about your location, I waited for another update, but you didn't contact Cerberus even after an hour passed. I was worried, but there was nothing I could do.

Then, Cerberus suggested that if we get near the flying castle, he would be able to sense you. And he did. He told me that you were going to kill someone, so I used spatial teleportation and the shadow connection between you and Cerberus and teleported here."

Zach untied the girl and removed the tap from her mouth to free her.

"Zach? Is that you?" the girl asked.

"You are..."

Chapter 399 A Familiar Face

"You are... no..." Zach raised his brow in confusion and asked, "Who are you? I feel like I have seen you before but at the same time... I cannot remember you. You know me so... have we met before?"

"My name is Zendeya!"

"Uhh... that's not helping. How do you know me?"

"School!"

"Oh! Right. You are my underclassman. Umm... we met in the principal's office after I got into trouble. And you were there for... to get permission for a leave?"

"Yes!"

"Oh, okay. Fancy meeting you here... like really. What are you doing here? And by here, I mean, in this guild or rather in Elliott's chamber? You were tied, so obviously, you were not here by your choice."

After looking at Zendeya's condition, Zach smiled at her and patted her shoulders to reassure her.

"You don't have to answer. You are safe now," he said calmly.

"But that thing was going to kill me."

"Yeah... forgive him," he sighed in disappointment. "Anyway, can you get up now?"

"Yeah."

Zendeya stood up with Zach and covered her eyes after seeing Elliott's head rolling on the floor.

Urluk was playing with it.

"Cerberus."

Cerberus came out of Zach's shadow in his mini form and said, [I know what you are going to ask me, my liege.]

"Oh? Surprise me, then."

[You want me to eat that human, don't you?]

"Wow, you actually surprised me. So, can you eat him?" Zach asked curiously.

[I would rather not, but if you want me to, then I cannot defy your orders.]

"Please eat him and get rid of all the evidence of the murder here. I will treat you to something later."

[What about me, my liege?] Urluk suddenly asked.

"You tried to kill an innocent."

[...]

"However, you completed your task. So if you apologize to Zendeya, I will treat you with something too."

Urluk looked at Zendeya and said, [I apologize for my action. It was nothing personal.]

Urluk's words had no emotions inside them, unlike when he talked to Zach.

Zendeya didn't say anything as she was still in a traumatic state.

Cerberus had begun eating Elliott, so they waited for him to finish.

Zach noticed Elliott's eyes were missing, so he squinted his eyes at Urluk and uttered, "Where are his eyes?"

Urluk brought Elliott's eyes and tongue in front of Zach and said, [Here.]

"Give it to Cerberus. The eyes are his favorite part of the body."

Once everything was done, Zach turned to Zendeya and said, "You have to tell everyone that Elliott ran away and ditched his position as the guild leader of this guild because the guild's stats were going downhill.

Not a word less, not a word more. If anyone asks you how you know, then say that you heard him talking with someone about it. Do you understand?"

Zendeya nodded and said, "Yes. I will do exactly as you said."

"Good. Now that Elliott is dead, the next guild leader would most likely be Shay, as he is funding everything in the guild. Perhaps, I should tell him the truth about what happened and ask him to become the next leader."

"..."

"Although I do think disbanding this guild would be the best option."

"Why would you say that? The only bad thing in this guild was Elliott," Zendeya remarked. "When Victoria was here, everything was fine. Elliott was under control, and Victoria was making all the major decisions. And she didn't do it alone; she asked for the votes from the guild members. After Victoria left, everything became worse."

"No. Don't blame it on me or Victoria. Remember, that guy was a piece of shit, and shit will remain shit. It will stink, and even if you spray perfume on it, it will still stink after a while," Zach stated with a frustrated look on his face.

"No, I didn't mean that." Zendeya shook her head and hands violently and said, "I was praising Victoria. Why would I blame her?"

"..."

[My liege, it's best if we leave now. We shouldn't stay here for long,] Cerberus uttered after cleaning up the blood from the floor.

"Just a minute." Zach pointed his finger at the closed door of Elliott's chamber and said, "Do you know why guilds exist?"

"To help people get strong faster and obtain the mutual benefits from the rewards?" Zendeya asked with a puzzled look on her face.

"Exactly. But some players take advantage of that. It's fine in normal games, but this is a death game. The assets and resources of a player are limited. Everyone's afraid to die, but if they stay the same as they are, they will never learn to survive on their own. They can't be dependent on someone else, no matter how pitiable they are.

If they are giving nothing in return or providing no benefits, there is no need for the guild to keep them in the guild. If I were the guild leader, I would have kicked those players long ago as they would be nothing but a burden who would also bring others down to protect themselves."

After saying that, Zach opened the door and said, "But that doesn't mean one can't change. Some people just need a little push before they learn to fly. And remember, nothing comes for free. You have to put your efforts into something if you want it."

Zach was fairly angry at the guild members who were simply taking benefits of the guild for food and shelter and wasting the funds and resources. Of course, Elliott was top on that list.

SIGH!

"I will have to tell Shay to look into this player and make this guild even better. And without Elliott, this guild will surely top the list."

Zach recalled the number one guild of the game— which was the guild formed by Edens' Dynasty— Aurora's kingdom people.

"Actually, you know what? I will do that right now. Since I am here, I might as well just meet him face to face instead of sending him a message. And since I am going to ascend, I might as well bid him farewell— until we meet again," he muttered to himself as he opened his menu and later the friend list.

He scrolled through the list but couldn't see Shay's name in the list.

"Hmm? He should be on the list. In fact, I talked to him recently after our last meeting. He was asking about—"

Zach's eyes widened in shock as he realized what had happened.

There were two reasons why a player's name would vanish from the friend list. One reason was that either of the players had 'unfriended' the other player. And the second reason was that the said player had... died.

After realizing that, Zach's mind went into a spiral. He had so many thoughts, yet he couldn't proceed with even one of them. He was trying to collect all the clues in his mind and figure out what could have happened.

Of course, he was aware of the two reasons, but he didn't want to accept either of them. However, deep down, he hoped that it would be the first reason.

Chapter 400 A While Ago

A while ago, Shay was in the dungeon of the second realm, clearing floors one by one to reach the 75th floor. He was currently on floor 68, and his HP was 72%.

SLASH! BANG!

He slashed the horned monster and used a firebomb attack to kill the beast completely. His ATK was dealing a little less than the monster's HP, so he needed to use a magic attack to finish the monster.

However, magic attacks cost MP, and MP was precious for all the players other than Zach. They all had finite MP capacity, and the only way to increase the capacity was to use accessible points that were provided to the players upon leveling up— which were also limited.

Players had to decide on what stats they should use for those points. Of course, if the MP capacity was high but the ATK and DEF were low, that player would become vulnerable to closed-range attacks.

In such cases, the players formed a party where each player would play a definitive role. And they would level up and get stronger.

Shay was trying his best to become strong enough to clear the dungeons on his own, but of course, there was a limit to what a normal human could do. Even if a player's level was high and their stats were good, if they didn't have the game and real world skills, it was hard to rise among the countless others.

However, Shay was lucky enough to have all of that above average. He had been training a lot in the last few weeks. He had realized that he would be doomed and left behind if he didn't stand on his legs.

Sure, he had money, and he could hire players to work for him. They could do everything for him, from obtaining rare game items and giving them to him. But unfortunately, nothing would increase his physique.

SLASH! BOOM!

Shay repeated the same thing again. However, he missed the magic attack, and the monster jumped at him. Shay had no time to react or fire another magic attack as he was out of MP.

Suddenly, a few arrows were shot at the monster, killing it instantly.

[Congratulations! You have cleared the 68th floor! Please step through the portal to enter the 69th floor or retreat!]

"Are you okay?!" a female voice asked.

Shay got up and nodded while saying, "Yes. Thank you, Natasha."

The girl was none other than Natasha, who was accompanying him on the dungeon expedition.

"Hmph!" Natasha puffed her cheeks and muttered, "And he had said 'I can do this alone' when I asked to come along."

"Oh, come on, I was just worried about you!" Shay groaned. "I didn't want you to get hurt. I already lost one girl I loved, and I don't want to lose a girl who loves me despite the asshole I am."

Natasha rolled her eyes and remarked, "Why do you keep mentioning yourself as an 'asshole' again and again?"

"Because I am one? And don't even try to deny it, please. I am aware of my terrible personality."

"What's wrong with being an asshole? I don't understand. And the human world is filled with even worse assholes. Don't degrade yourself thinking that doing that would help you in some way. It won't."

Natasha shook her head and continued, "It really won't. It doesn't work that way. Your guilt won't go away. You won't suddenly become a better person by doing that. The only thing that will happen by doing that is self-hate. You will start hating yourself, and that's the last thing one should do."

"Don't act like you know how it feels," Shay retorted with an annoyed look on his face. "You are not like those people or me."

He caressed Natasha's cheeks with his hands and kissed her on the lips before saying, "You are kind and gentle who loved and accepted me despite how I am. You are the reason why I am trying to change. I want to be a better person for you, so I don't end up hurting you, ever."

"You don't really have to do that. And you don't know me that well." Natasha bit her lips and asked, "What if I am not the type of girl you think I am? What if I am just acting to love you? What if I am truly a hideous girl from inside?"

"Hah!" Shay chuckled softly and responded, "That wouldn't matter. And if what you say is actually true, then I guess we are both alive."

Natasha hugged Shay and smiled as she said, "Perfect couple?"

"I wouldn't say that yet. We have a long way to go to become a perfect couple..." He smiled wryly and mumbled, "Like Zach and Victoria."

Natasha was a little annoyed that Shay mentioned his name. She hated Zach more than anyone in the world because he was the only man who had rejected her and wasn't seduced by her.

"Why are you friends with Zach? He is a complete opposite of you, and you two have nothing in common."

"That's not true. But if I have to say it... you can assume... I admire him as an idol? He is perfect in every way. Not talking about, umm... educational or financial field. I am talking about his human nature.

He is a perfect example of the type of person I want to become. He loves his family and takes care of them. He is a good son and a kind brother. Everyone around him loves him. When he passes by his neighborhood, everyone greets him with wide smiles on their faces.

And as for me..." Shay bit his lips and muttered, "I don't get that type of treatment even in my own house. The maids and servants look at me as if I am some kind of trash. I wasn't like this before, but... I ended up like this after living in a bitter environment. But... I am not blaming anyone. I thought if I stayed with Zach, I would get influenced by him and become at least a half-better person than he is."

"He is not exactly as you think he is. Anyway, let's quickly get to the 75th floor and be done with it!"

After that, they both proceeded to the next floor, unbeknownst to what was waiting for them.