

GODS' IMPACT 81

Chapter 81

Zach, Aurora, and Aria were on their way to the guildhall after eating breakfast in the morning.

"So, why are we going to the guild hall? Aurora asked. "To get information?"

"No. We are going to complete some NPC quests to gain the knowledge of the secrets on the realms," Zach answered. "And I think the best place to get information are taverns and restaurants," he scoffed.

After reaching the guildhall, Zach looked through the NPC quests on the quest board, but he was having a hard time deciding on the quests.

"Which one are we doing?" Aria asked excitedly.

"Can we take multiple quests at once?" Ziro asked Aurora.

"Five is the limit," Aurora answered.

"Well..." Zach glanced at the quest board and uttered, "All of these quests are lame, to be honest. It's either find this or find that or bring this or bring that."

"We should take the one which has high rewards," Aria stated.

"Why are you stating the obvious?" Zach snorted.

After looking through the quests for a while, Zach selected five quests.

«NPC Quest- Find the lost cat.»

Time- 1 hour.

Reward- 10% completion on the secret locations on the maps.

«NPC Quest- Gather yellow petals of the plant in the forest.»

Time- 1 hour.

Reward- 10% completion on the secret locations on the maps.

«NPC Quest- Fish 20 silver scaled fishes.»

Time- 2 hours.

Reward- 20% completion on the secret locations on the maps.

"This quest looks like it's from the restaurant," Aria uttered.

«NPC Quest- Harvest 1 Acre worth grains from any farm.»

Time- 2 hours.

Reward- 30% completion on the secret locations on the maps.

«NPC Quest- Water 6 Acres of land for the crops.»

Time- 3 hours.

Reward- 30% completion on the secret locations on the maps.

"By completing these five quests, we can get all the secret locations of the capital," Zach asserted.

"I think we should split up because the time limit is too low," Aurora suggested.

"Yeah," Aria nodded and said, "I was thinking the same."

"Alright, then." Zach turned to Aurora and said, "You find the lost cat."

"Okay..."

After noticing reluctance from Aurora's voice, Zach asked, "I can give you another quest if you want to."

"No, it's okay. It's just... finding a cat in one hour, especially in the capital, is almost impossible," Aurora groaned with a sigh.

"By my knowledge and experience, the cat should be in the alleys. And there are only a few alleys in the capital," Zach advised.

"At the west side? Got it."

After saying that, Aurora left to look for the cat.

Zach then turned to Aria and found her looking back at him with a grin on her face.

"What's with that face?" Zach asked with a disgusted look on his face. "It doesn't suit you."

Aria frowned her face as her grin vanished.

"Now that's the face that suits you," Zach scoffed with a grin.

"Give me my quests already," Aria uttered in a disdainful tone.

"You mean 'Give me my orders, master', right?" Zach sneered.

Aria rolled her eyes and shook her head in disbelief. She let out a weary sigh and said, "Give me my orders, master."

"Can you do two quests?" Zach asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"Sure."

"So... you are doing the 'fish the silver fish' and 'gather yellow petals'," Zach stated. "The forest and the river are side by side, so it should be time-saving."

"I will message you when I am done."

After saying that, Aria left.

Zach let out a deep sigh and muttered with a chuckle: "I guess I am a farmer now."

Zach walked his way to the door where he heard the player saying, "Hey, is it true that the entire guild was annihilated by the world boss?"

Zach stopped in his tracks after hearing that. His body froze, and his mind stopped working.

"Yes."

Zach felt a sharp sting in his heart.

He rushed to the player and grabbed him by his collar before asking, "Is that true?!"

"Whoa! Who are you, dude?!" the player uttered with a surprised look on his face.

"Is that true that the entire guild was annihilated?!" Zach asked again with a concerned look on his face.

"Yes..." the player replied. "Some of my friends were in the guild. Were your friends in it too?" the player asked.

"Where is the location of the world boss?" Zach asked with a furious look on his face.

"Don't tell me you plan to go—"

"Where is the location of the world boss?" Zach asked again with an emotionless expression on his face.

The player opened his map and circled the area after saying, "It should be around here."

Zach dashed out of the guildhall and rushed to the location.

It was within the mountains.

Zach ran with only one thought in his mind: "Victoria... Shay...."

Zach didn't have time to think of anything, and even if he had, he had no idea what to do.

After reaching the location, Zach conjured a fire sword in his hand and uttered in a solemn voice, "Fill the second slot with the magic weapon too."

Another fire sword appeared in Zach's other hand.

Even though it was a bright sunny day outside, it was night there because the sunlight couldn't reach deep within the mountains.

However, upon looking at the uniform of the guild members, Zach noticed it was different.

"That's not the uniform of Victoria's guild..." Zach muttered as he retracted his swords.

"Didn't that player say the top 3rd guild?" Zach wondered. "And Victoria's guild is number three... right?"

The player who was talking about the number three guild wasn't aware that the guild had become the number two guild.

It was all a misunderstanding caused by the player.

However, now that the number two guild was annihilated, the number three guild— Victoria's guild was now at the second position.

Zach sighed in relief and muttered, "I almost lost my cool there."

'Wait...' Zach raised his brows and wondered, 'Does that mean I can get that legendary spell scroll if I defeat the world boss?'

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"That means I can get the legendary spell scroll if I defeat the world boss, right?" Zach asked himself the obvious question.

'But... if a guild of 3200 members couldn't defeat it, how can I?' Zach wasn't trying to downgrade himself, but he was wondering the possibility of the outcome if he decided to fight the world boss.

"And wasn't this guild only accepting the players who had refined physique? So doesn't that mean they were the descendants of the high-humans who already have a massive advantage over the other players?"

'What type of boss is it, though?'

Zach was asking himself too many questions, and the answer to all his questions was simple; to fight the world boss.

"I have 8000 MP, which is enough to deal 8000000 HP DMG," Zach uttered. "But it's the world boss we are talking about. It probably has a huge ass HP."

Zach walked forward and prepared himself to fight the world boss.

'Once I encounter the world boss, I can't retreat...'

As Zach walked forward, his commitment to fighting the world boss slowly decreased.

He saw hundreds of dead bodies on the ground, each of them missing at least one of their body parts. There were bodies on the ground, on the walls, trees, between the rocks, half-buried in the ground, squashed beneath other bodies, and smashed on the walls.

The ground and everything around was dyed red with the blood, and it was the river of the blood moving with the flow.

It was a truly bizarre sight, and the stench was unbearable even for Zach.

"I think it's not too late to retreat...."

After walking for a while and sleeping on dozens of dead bodies, Zach noticed a bottomless pit in his sight.

'That's the world boss' den.'

Zach cautiously walked further and stopped near the pit.

"..." He raised his brows and muttered, "I was hoping for it to attack me, but..."

Zach walked forward and peeked down in the pit to see a fire dragon inside. The pit was so deep that the dragon's body could easily fit inside.

"Is it sleepy?" Zach wondered. "Maybe it's tired after the fight with the entire guild?"

Zach conjured a fire sword in his hand and another in his other hand. Then, he merged both swords together and formed a long fire sword with two blades.

"I don't want to be called a coward for attacking it when it's sleeping, but this is the best chance I have if I want to fight this thing..."

Zach took a run-up and jumped into the pit on top of the dragon. He aimed his sword at the dragon's head and released 5000 MP in the sword.

However, as soon as the sword touched the dragon's body, the dragon turned into ash.

"Huh?"

Zach landed on the ground and took 8 HP fall damage. If it was another player, they would have taken at least 8000 HP fall damage. But Zach's DMG was close to none because of his physique.

"What just happened?" Zach lanced around with a confused look on his face and retracted the fire sword.

"Don't tell me... the dragon was already dead?"

Suddenly, Zach smelled the foul stench of blood coming towards him. He immediately conjured two swords in his hands and looked up to see what was coming at him.

The entrance of the bit was covered in a red mist, seemingly created by the blood of the dead players.

The mist slowly gathered and began changing its shape. It soon turned solid and transformed into the form of a dragon, but a smaller size.

Zach could see the remains of the fire within the blood mist dragon's body. Its entire body was red, and its eyes were yellow because of the fire.

Zach glared at the dragon and uttered, "Are you the ghost of the dragon who killed all the players?"

[You are... not a... human,] the dragon uttered in an ethereal female voice.

However, it didn't open its mouth. It was as though it was speaking directly into Zach's mind.

"What are you?" Zach asked.

[The remains of the dragon, or you may call me an afterimage of the dragon.] After a brief pause, the dragon said, [I am dead. No need to be hostile to me. I can't do anything to you even if I wanted to.]

"I am so confused right now, but okay." Zach retracted his sword after noticing that the dragon's body was slowly fading away.

"Where is the legendary spell scroll?" Zach asked.

[He took it away,] the dragon replied.

"And who is 'he'?"

[I don't know. He was wearing a mask.]

"So... he is the one who killed you?" Zach asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

[Yes.] The dragon's size decreased more as it continued speaking, [Last night, those humans suddenly came to attack me. I tried my best to not kill anyone, but in the end, I had to kill them; otherwise, they would have killed me.]

The dragon's size decreased even more as it said, [Then, when only a few hundreds of humans had left, 'he' came and killed everyone in one hit.]

"...!"

[I was badly injured because of my fight with the humans, so I couldn't win against the masked man.]

[In the end, he killed me and took the scroll with him,] the dragon asserted in a fading voice.

"Come on~!" Zach groaned loudly.

He sighed and asked, "What was that scroll about anyway?"

[It had a spell of the eternal flames. The flames would protect the caster and burn everything on its way.]

Zach placed his hand on his chin and thought, 'That flames would have worked perfectly with the crimson sword. It's almost as though the spell and the sword were made for each other.'

Zach's guess was correct. The sword was made to use that spell to its full potential. Without the sword, the spell was like a dull-edged sword that could still cut but not sharply.

[Hey you...] the dragon called out to Zach. [May I know your name?]

"You may not," Zach replied. "I know that giving names to higher beings can be a deadly trap."

[I guess you are not wrong, but let me tell you my name.]

"Go ahead."

[My name is Malinda Edna. And I want you to fulfill my legacy.]

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[My name is Malinda Edna, and I want you to carry my legacy,] the dragon said.

"Malinda... Edna? That's a strange name for a dragon," Zach uttered in a calm voice.

[I am a Dragonborn.]

"Oh? So you can change your form to a human?" Zach questioned. "Although I doubt you can change now... cuz you are dead."

[I don't have much time. Please listen to my request,] said the dragon.

Zach raised his hands and said, "But I can't guarantee to fulfill your legacy."

[That's fine.] After a brief pause, the dragon said, [I despise the gods.]

"Tell something new."

[I was in my world, resting in a deep slumber, and suddenly I was transported here against my will. I was told to guard the scroll and kill everyone who came for it. However, I had sworn an oath to myself ten thousand years ago that I would never harm a soul. Yet, I was forced to kill the humans. And in the end, I was killed by someone for no reason.]

"Wait a minute..." Zach raised his brows and asked, "So you were not created here?"

[I was not.]

"And you belonged to a different world?"

[That's what I said.]

Zach placed his hand on his chin and wondered, 'The dungeon monsters are mindless, and they respawn every ten minutes after clearing the floor. But the bosses are from a different world?'

'So just like us players, the monsters are also transported here against their wills?'

'Then what about the NPCs? Did they also belong to another world or something?' Zach asked himself.

[I loathe humans too, but I don't blame them all. I have had quite a few human friends myself.]

"So... what do you want me to do?" Zach uttered after noticing the dragon's body had almost faded away.

[I despise gods, and I loathe humans, but you are neither of them. I want your body.]

Zach squinted his eyes with a puzzled look on his face and said, "You want to reside in my body?"

[If possible, yes. That way, I can reincarnate again.]

"My body already has a few beings living inside me, and there is a dragon too," Zach scoffed. "I don't think you are welcomed inside my body."

[Then...] After a brief pause, the dragon said, [Can you raise me as your pet?]

"I can do that," Zach nodded while answering.

[Thank you... forbidden existence...]

"Don't call me that," Zach uttered in a solemn voice.

[I do not know your name. And your soul has that name written on it. My deepest apologies if I upset you.]

After saying that, the remaining mist of the dragon circled around Zach and entered the ground.

Zach let out a deep sigh and muttered, "I hate being called that."

Zach walked to the spot where the dragon disappeared and dug it. After a while, Zach dug out a tri-colored hand-sized egg from the ground.

The egg had red, orange, and yellow spiral stripes on it.

[Congratulations! You have unlocked a new skill— Tamer!]

"Finally, a new skill!"

Zach looked at the egg's status and read:

[Item- Dragon's egg.

State- Unborn.

Hatching time - 10 days.

Master- ???

Owner- ???]

"Come on~" Zach groaned. "My name is not that hard to spell. It can easily be read as Zach."

"Ten days, huh?" Zach sighed after reading the stats and muttered, "I am going to have my own dragon."

[Ding!]

Zach opened the notification to see a message from Aurora: "I found the lost cat."

'As expected of Aurora.'

Zach looked at the time and noticed one hour had passed.

"Now I have to harvest 1 Acre grain in only one hour and water 6 Acre crops in two hours..." Zach looked up at the entrance of the pit and said, "But first, I need to get out of this pit."

Zach placed the egg in his inventory and uttered, "Alright. Let's do this."

Zach tapped his feet on the ground and jumped in the air, but he didn't fall down; he hovered in the air as though he could fly. Then, he jumped on the wall and used it to jump on the opposite wall, then another and another.

After repeating the process a couple of times, Zach finally got out of the pit.

'I could fly in the real world, but I can't fly in this world.'

Zach tried to fly after getting transported into Gods' Impact, but whenever he tried, he only ended up jumping rather than flying. However, when he fought with Aria in her domain, Zach was able to fly, but only for a split second. At that moment, Zach had launched himself up and punched Aria from above.

Since then, Zach practiced to fly, but he could only maintain himself in the air for three seconds.

While it was useless to travel, Zach used his flight ability in the battle to fool the enemy.

Zach made his way back to the capital and went to the nearest farm.

"20 minutes left..." Zach looked at the time and muttered, "I guess I have no other choice."

Zach stood in the middle of the farm and took a deep breath to relax his mind. Then, he summoned a wind sword in his hand.

'This technique is still unstable, but that's perfect in this situation.'

He summoned another wind sword in his other hand and stood while aiming one sword at the right and another at the left. He stood like a scarecrow and started rotating at the same place.

Once a small whirlwind had formed, he released his mana into the wind swords and increased its size.

Zach made sure to keep the whirlwind's force to a minimum so it wouldn't damage the soil and the grains.

After repeating the same process a couple of times on different spots, Zach finally completed the NPC quest. But now, he needed to collect the grains and give them to the merchant.

Fortunately for Zach, he had already gathered the harvest grain on several spots. After collecting and gathering the grains from all the spots, Zach placed them into his inventory.

[Congratulations! You have completed the NPC quest -Harvest 1 Acre worth grains from any farm!]

[Rewards will be given upon confirmation from the merchant.]

Suddenly, he got a prompt on his screen that said, [Low storage left in the inventory!]

"This game never ceases to disappoint me," Zach sighed.

However, he was going to give the grains to the merchant, so his inventory was going to be empty soon. But that wasn't a permanent solution.

Zach opened his menu and clicked on the 'help' section.

A black slime appeared and said, [How dare you summon me, mortal!]

"You are unfriendly as ever, aren't you?" Zach sneered.

[What do you want?]

Zach raised his brows with a curious look on his face and asked, "Just curious, but what happens if multiple players summon you at once?"

[I appear everywhere. But I am not anyone's personal guide. Now speak the reason you summoned me.]

"What's the limit of the inventory?" Zach asked.

[A player is allowed to have a maximum of three weapons in their inventory,] the slime replied.

'I have the cursed dagger, the default sword, and the crimson sword,' Zach uttered inwardly. 'So it doesn't include the equipped weapon.'

"I guess, I will sell the default sword in the shop," Zach decided.

[You won't even get ten coins from it.]

"Doesn't matter." Zach turned to the slime and said, "Now to my next question. Can I upgrade the inventory?"

[You can.]

"And how do I do that?" Zach asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

[You don't have to do anything. The storage of the inventory increases as you level up,] the slime informed.

"Oh... okay."

[Any more questions?]

"Yes. How many gods create this world? In other words, how many gods would the players have to fight to beat this game?"

[That's confidential information. I cannot tell you.]

Zach summoned a fire dagger in his hand and said, "If you don't answer, I will kill you."

[I won't die from that, but okay. Go ahead and kill me.]

Zach sighed and retracted the fire dagger after saying, "I was joking."

[I do not have the information you seek, so I cannot tell you,] the slime informed.

"You can go now."

The black slime disappeared without leaving a trace.

"Now then," Zach cracked his fingers and uttered, "Time to water 6 Acres of land."

'I was hoping for Aria to contact me since she said she would message me when she is done. Does that mean she hasn't completed them yet?' Zach wondered.

"But the time limit of one of her quests ended an hour ago, and only 5 minutes left for the second one."

Zach frowned his face and said, "She better not have messed up, or she will be getting punishment tonight."

"..." Zach raised his brows and muttered, "Why did the thought of me punishing Aria make me excited?"

Zach walked in the middle of the farm and hovered in the air. Then, he summoned a water sword in both hands and did the same thing he didn't with the wind swords.

However, Zach could only stay in the air for three seconds, so he jumped again and again while covering the six Acres of land.

In the next 10 minutes, he had watered the crops.

[Congratulations! You have completed the NPC quest -Water 6 Acres of land for the crops!]

[Rewards will be given upon confirmation from the merchant.]

Zach sighed in relief and made his way to the guildhall.

Chapter 84

Zach went back to the guildhall to see Aurora consoling Aria.

"..." Zach watched them from a distance and raised his brows.

'Why do I have a bad feeling about this?'

Zach approached Aurora and Aria from behind and heard Aurora saying, 'I will talk to him.'

"Oh?" Zach furrowed his brows and asked, "What are you going to talk about and with whom?"

Aria's face turned pale after seeing Zach, but Aurora's face cheered up.

"How long have you been standing there?" Aurora asked.

"Since the beginning," Zach replied.

Of course, it was a lie, and he made it obvious by averting his gaze.

"I completed my quest," Aurora informed.

"Yes. I got your message." Zach turned to Aria and asked, "But it seems someone didn't."

"I-I can explain," Aria replied while stuttering on her words.

"Yes, start explaining," Zach uttered with a frowned face.

Aurora came in between Zach and Aria and spread her arms.

Zach raised his brows with a confused look on his face and asked, "What are you doing?"

"You will keep your distance from Ameria." Aurora squinted her eyes and asked, "You do know that she is a shy girl, right?"

'Shy girl, my foot! She is a sly girl!' Zach wanted to yell that so badly, but he couldn't risk it.

Aurora then turned to Aria and said, "Ameria, don't worry. Just tell him what happened."

Aria looked into Zach's eyes and uttered, "So I first went to the forest to collect the yellow petals because the time limit of that quest was the least."

"But when I entered the forest, I was attacked by monsters," Aria asserted.

"I am not sure, so I will ask you." Zach raised his brows at Aurora and asked, "Are there monsters in forests?"

Aurora nodded and answered, "There are monsters everywhere, and it's common in VR games. However, the monsters don't come near towns or safe zones."

"Alright." Zach nodded and looked at Aria before saying, "Continue."

"Of course, killing monsters was like stepping on ants for me. But I couldn't find yellow petals. So I went deeper into the forest. However, the deeper I went, the more monsters I encountered."

"They should be stronger too," Aurora quipped.

"Still, I couldn't find the yellow petals. So I summoned the black slime for the help section, and it told me that yellow flower petals only spawn at a specific time of night."

"..." Zach knitted his brows and uttered inwardly: 'That is possible.'

"And the time limit for that quest ended?" Zach guessed.

Aria nodded and continued, "Then, I had only one hour left to fish 20 silver scaled fish. So I ran my way to the river and started finishing."

"Now, please don't tell me that the silver scaled fishes were rare fishes, and they also spawned at a specific time," Zach guessed with a remark.

"Umm. You are not wrong. But I did manage to find them. However, as expected, one hour was too less to fish 20 fish," Aria stated.

Zach face-palmed himself and thought, 'Where is that savage woman I met in the domain. This one is useless.'

"How many did you manage to fish, though?" Zach asked.

"19. I was so close! I even had the 20th fish under my hook, but...!" Aria sighed and lowered her voice to say, "Sorry."

"Sorry doesn't suit your mouth," Zach sneered. "If you truly feel sorry, then you better accept and complete more NPC quests."

"I will do them tomorrow," Aria muttered. "I am too tired right now."

Zach raised his brows and asked with a curious look on his face: "How many monsters did you encounter?"

"I lost the count after 1200," Aria replied with a sigh.

"1200 monsters?!" Aurora exclaimed. "That's too many monster. How deep did you go in the forest?"

"As deep as I could," Aria replied. "The deeper I went, the narrower the path got."

Zach covered his face with his hands and muttered, "My mind is so dirty."

Zach met with the merchant in the guildhall and confirmed the completion of two NPC quests.

After that, they went to the restaurant and ate lunch.

Zach stopped at the gear shop on his way and tried to sell the default sword, but as one would have expected, the default sword was useless in the first realm. So he threw the sword in the sewer.

"Isn't this too early to go home?" Zach commented.

"Yes, but..." Aurora glanced at Aria, who was barely standing on her feet, and said, "She looks exhausted."

"Then let her go home. We will do something else," Zach suggested.

"What?" Aurora asked with a flushed face.

"Well, originally, I was thinking we would once again defeat the boss monster of the 50th floor in the dungeon. But the freaking gods changed the EXP gain to only 10%, so it's useless now."

Zach turned to Aurora and asked, "You suggest something good."

"Let's go clear the dungeons," Aurora uttered with a grin on her face.

Zach snorted and groaned, "Come on~"

"We will polish our sword skills as well as our duo syncing attacks," Aurora asserted.

"I guess?" Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "I also need to practice a new move with my DT skill."

"And that is...?" Aurora asked with a curious look on her face.

Zach smirked and replied, "You will find out soon enough."

Aria went home while Zach and Aurora entered the dungeon and started clearing it with floor one.

"Kill all the monsters, but leave one," Zach asserted.

Aurora killed 99 monsters alone without breaking a sweat and left one for Zach.

Zach grabbed the monster's head with his hand and used his DT skill.

[Floor 1 has been cleared!]

"..."

Aurora furrowed her brows at Zach and asked, "What's new about this?"

"Not this. But I wanted to try using a specific amount of my MP."

"Why would you want to do that when you can kill any enemy by touching it?" Aurora asked with a puzzled look on her face

"Sometimes, I run out of MP, and DT uses my HP. While sometimes, when I am carrying a certain someone, I need to use other ways to deal DMG to the monster because my DT skill would kill the monster in one hit."

Zach looked at Aurora from the corner of his eyes and said, "So imagine, what if I could deal the DMG I wanted using a specific amount of MP? I could leave the monster at 1 HP and let you have the last hit so you can gain the EXP."

"That does sound cool." Aurora grabbed Zach's hand and said, "Let's go practice it then."

They passed through the blue portal and entered the next floor.

'I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't met Aurora. I would have still met Victoria, and she would have still broken up with me.'

'Maybe I would have turned into a lone wolf who surpassed everyone and ascended to the peak, risen to the pinnacle, unleashed the monsters inside me, and went on a rampage. Or perhaps, I would have become a monster myself?'

Chapter 85

It was nighttime.

Shay was walking in the hallway of the sky castle with an expressionless look on his face. AS he passed, the guild members who were passing by or standing, talking, sitting, or practicing, whispered to each other, seemingly they were talking about Shay.

Shay ignored them and kept walking before stopping in front of a huge door. There, he was stopped by the two guards at the door.

"What do you want?" one of the guards asked.

"Why else would some come here?!" Shay asked with an annoyed look on his face. "Obviously, I am here to talk with Elliott!"

Another guard entered the room and closed the door behind him.

"Sir, the new guy is here to talk with you," he said.

Elliott was sitting on the chair in the dark hall. He was sitting by the table, and he was wearing glasses. Seemingly, he was doing paperwork for the guild.

"Let him in," Elliott replied without looking at the guard.

"Yes, sir."

The guard left the room, and soon after, Shay walked in.

"What brings you here, Shay?" Elliott asked.

"..."

Shay didn't reply and simply stood there.

"What brings you here?" Elliott asked again.

But Shay still didn't reply.

Annoyed, Elliott finally looked at Shay and said, "Are you deaf or what?"

"I don't talk with people who don't make eye contact with me," Shay remarked.

Elliott sighed and placed the papers on the side. Then, he stood up and stood before Shay after leaning on the table.

"So?"

"I leveled up by two today," Shay reported.

"Good. What level are you now?" Elliott asked with a curious look on his face.

"16," Shay replied.

"And what is your Physique?"

"Awakened (early)- 800/2500," Shay replied.

"We are going to ascend next week, so make sure you meet the requirements before that," Elliott asserted.

Shay raised his brows and asked, "What would happen if I didn't?"

"Sadly, we will have to kick you out of our guild," Elliott replied. He looked at Shay for a while and added, "But don't worry. I will make sure you meet the requirements."

Shay and Elliott stared at each other for a while, but neither of them spoke a word.

"I..." Shay finally broke the silence and said, "Make me the guild's treasurer."

Elliott knitted his brows and uttered, "But you said you won't provide us your funds."

"I still won't." Shay cleared his throat and said, "What I mean is, make me the one who makes all the decisions and plans everything in the guild."

"No, thank you," Elliott smiled at Shay and said, "That's the job of the guild master."

"I grew up in a family who only cared about the business. I know how to rise from nothing. I was born to rule over the businesses." After a brief pause, Shay asserted, "If you make me the treasurer, I will make sure this guild rises to the number one, just like its name— Risen warriors."

After pondering for a while, Elliott nodded and said, "You have a point. Give me some time to think about it."

Shay smirked inwardly and said, "I will wait for your final answer."

Shay turned around, and he was about to leave, but Elliott called out to him.

"Shay..."

Shay turned around and raised his brows; "Yes?"

"Have you heard the news about the recently failed expedition?" Elliott asked with a judging look.

"Oh, are you talking about the number 2nd guild which was annihilated by the world boss?" Shay asked to confirm.

"Yes," Elliott nodded and asked, "Do you realize what that means?"

Shay raised his brows with a confused look on his face and answered, "That we shouldn't find something we know nothing about?"

"No." Elliott sighed and said, "I expected you to know it."

Elliott turned around and sat on his chair. He took off his glasses and placed them on the table. Then, he looked into Shay's eyes and asserted, "That means... we are the top 2nd guild now."

"Right..."

After that, Shay left the hall. He walked and walked until he reached where no one was around. Then, he punched the wall and gritted his teeth in anger.

"Zach was right. That guy is corrupted to the core. He wouldn't care if any of the guild members died, he would give a speech, but his words would have no feelings. He simply wants to rule over the people."

After that, Shay started walking again to explore the sky castle.

When he was strolling around, he came across Victoria, who was sitting at the bench by the balcony.

Victoria was gazing at the sky with a serious look on her face as though she was thinking of something important.

'Now that I think of it, why did someone selfish like him make Victoria vice-captain?' Shay wondered.

He walked to Victoria and sat on the bench beside her. However, 2 minutes passed by, but Victoria didn't notice Shay.

"Hey!" Shay shouted.

Victoria jolted and looked at Shay. Then, she jolted even more and made some distance between him and Shay.

"What do you want?!" Victoria asked with a disgusted look on her face.

"Nothing." Shay shrugged his shoulders and said, "I saw you sitting here, so I thought I would drop by and let you know that you are bitch!"

Victoria frowned her face and said, "You do know that I can kick you out of the guild if I want to, right?"

"I honestly don't care." Shay scoffed and said, "I hate you."

"Well, the feeling is mutual," Victoria replied.

"You dumped Zach, one of my few true friends. How could you do that to him?" Shay asked in a disdainful tone.

"Mind your own business, douchebag," Victoria replied.

"That's what I am doing." Shay frowned his face and said, "He was crying when you broke up with him over text, you know?"

"Huh?"

"I wasn't there because I was busy with my birthday party, but Kayden was there. He was celebrating Zach's birthday at his house when you broke up with Zach," Shay asserted.

"Wait... it was his birthday that day?!" Victoria exclaimed with a baffled look on her face.

Shay looked at Victoria and shook his head in disbelief: "You didn't even know that?"

"..."

"And then you acted like a perfect girlfriend," Shay commented. "Listen, let me tell you the harsh truth of this world. No one is perfect. I repeat, no one is perfect."

Chapter 86

"Hey, Shay..." someone called out to Shay from behind.

Shay and Victoria looked back to see a girl from their guild.

"Oh, hey... Natasha..." Victoria greeted her.

Natasha grabbed Shay's hand and dragged him with her to the corner.

Shay slapped her hand and said, "Excuse me, but who are you? And don't touch me without my permission."

"I am your girlfriend," Natasha replied.

"Uh... what?" Shay raised his brows and thought, 'Which one, though?'

"What's your name again?" Shay asked.

"Natasha," she answered.

"Yeah, but which Natasha?"

"Your classmate. We had sex at your house on your birthday," Natasha stated. "I gave you my virginity.'

'Well... I had sex with six girls that day. Why can't I remember this girl? It's not like I remember the names of the girl I sleep with. But I am pretty sure none of the girls were virgin because I would definitely remember that.'

Meanwhile, Victoria felt guilty for saying all those mean things to Zach.

'I shouldn't have said that. I told him he didn't do anything for me, yet I didn't even know his birthday. What's worse is that I sent him the break-up text on that day. What if—'

SLAP!

Victoria looked in the corner to see Natasha had slapped Shay on the face with tears in her eyes.

Shay glanced at Victoria from the corner of his eyes and walked away.

Natasha walked over to the bench and sat beside Victoria. She cried and kept wiping her tears.

"..." Victoria wanted to comfort her, but she had no idea what to do.

After five minutes, Natasha stopped crying and let out a deep sigh. Then, she looked at Victoria and said, "Don't worry. I am fine now."

"Okay..."

There was an awkward silence between Victoria and Natasha for one minute.

"So, what were you talking about with Shay?" Natasha asked.

"What about you? Why were you crying?"

"I lost my virginity to Shay a month ago on his birthday. He said we would go out together, but just now, he broke up with me for no reason," Natasha uttered in a disdainful tone.

"Piece of shit..." Victoria uttered.

"What about you? I heard you broke up with Zach. Is that true?" Natasha asked with a curious look on her face.

Victoria knitted her brows and asked, "How do you know that?"

"Everyone in the guild is talking about it," Natasha replied with a scoff.

Victoria looked up at the sky and uttered, "Maybe I shouldn't have broken up with him."

"What makes you think so?"

"Well... I still love him, and he said he loved me too, so..."

"So, what's the reason you broke up with him?" Natasha asked.

Victoria sighed and muttered, "Reasons..."

"It's not a big deal, though, is it?" Natasha uttered. "I mean, break-ups happen all the time. It's part of the relationship. We can always find someone else."

"I can't."

Natasha stared at Victoria before asking, "Are you a virgin?"

Victoria didn't say anything and simply shook her head in response.

"So... was it Zach?" Natasha asked with a knowing look.

Victoria didn't say anything and nodded in response.

"So you lost it to someone you love, right? Then it's perfect."

"..."

"Take me, for example. I knew Shay was a playboy. Everyone knows it. But, I still had sex with him because I liked him. So I lost my V-card to the boy I liked. What more could a girl ask for?"

"It's different for me..." After a brief pause, Victoria continued, "There is still love between us."

"Then why don't you two get back together?" Natasha asked curiously.

"What if we break up again? I am not even sure he would agree to go out with me. I said so many horrible things to him. And I am sure he hates me now," Victoria uttered with an anxious look on her face.

"Then why don't you two start your relationship as friends again?" Natasha suggested. "That way, you can get to know each other better and have a pure relationship. And then, if you think it would work out, ask him out."

After pondering for a while, Victoria nodded and said, "That's a great idea."

"Then ask him to join this guild. That way, you can be together and keep a close eye on each other," Natasha suggested.

Victoria shook her head and said, "He won't join."

"How can you be sure of that?"

"I may not know Zach very well. But I dated him for one month, and it was enough for me to know that Zach never backs off on his commitment. And he never lies. He is always straightforward and blunt, which makes him look arrogant." Victoria chuckled and said, "But that's what makes him Zach."

"Heh!" Natasha scoffed after seeing Victoria praising Zach.

"What?"

"You just said it yourself that Zach never lies, and yet you didn't believe him when he said he loved you," Natasha commented.

Victoria face-palmed himself and muttered, "I hate myself."

"Haha!" Natasha laughed out loud. "It's not too late. Send him a message to meet you at the cafe or something."

"Yeah..." Victoria opened her menu and realized she never added Zach as a friend in Gods' Impact.

After that, Victoria and Natasha went to the training ground where Shay was training with other guild members.

Victoria called out to him while Natasha kept his distance from Shay.

"What do you want?" Shay asked with an annoyed look on his face.

"Do you have Zach on your friend list?" Victoria asked.

"I do. What about it?"

"Can you message him and ask him to meet me at the—"

Before Victoria could even ask Shay, Shay interrupted her and said, "Why should I? I hate you, remember?"

Victoria furrowed her brows and said, "I will send 30 of the top players from this guild to help you level up."

"Oh?" Shay opened his menu and said, "What do I have to tell him again?"

"Just ask him to meet me—"

"Just kidding!" Shay closed his menu and smirked at Victoria. Then, he frowned his face before saying, "Do you truly think would say that?"

"..."

"I would never sell my friends for my benefit. And I know you want to hurt Zach more, so shoo!" Shay waved his hand at Victoria and said, "Fuck off!"

Victoria sighed and left with only one thought in her mind: 'Why did I even expect something from him?'

"What are you going to do now?" Natasha asked with a curious look on her face.

Victoria looked at the sky and said, "It's late now. But I will go to the surface tomorrow morning and find him."

"That's the spirit!"

—

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The next day, Victoria woke up early in the morning and left to the surface.

"Now then, which inn is he staying at?"

Victoria opened the map and saw there were 23 inns in the capital.

In the next three hours, Victoria strolled around the capital and asked for Zach in 15 inns, but she couldn't find it.

After one more hour and searching for Zach in five more inns, Victoria was exhausted.

"Don't give up, Victoria..." Victoria encouraged herself. "Three more inns. He has to be in one of them."

Of course, her expectations were going to be shattered soon. She didn't know that Zach wasn't staying in the inn, but he was staying at Aurora's house.

Victoria walked to the nearest inn and asked for Zach, but the receptionist said no one was lodging with that name.

"Two more..." Victoria sighed.

However, as she was about to leave, her gaze fell on Misha and Kayden, who were eating breakfast.

"They should know!" Victoria rushed to them and asked, "Do you know where Zach is?"

"Oh, hey... Victoria..." Misha greeted Victoria. "What are you doing here?"

"Uhh... hii..." Victoria greeted them and asked again, "Do you know where Zach is?"

"Why do you want to know that," Kayden asked. "You guys broke up, right?"

"I... just want to meet him," Victoria replied. "Which inn is he staying at?"

"He is not staying at the inn," Misha answered.

"Don't tell me he ascended?!"

"No. He is..." Misha shot a glance at Kayden, and Kayden nodded in response.

"He is staying in a house with his party members," Misha informed.

"Oh..." Victoria sighed in her stupidity and muttered, "Why didn't I think of that?"

"But we don't know where that house is, though," Kayden added.

"What?!" Victoria exclaimed. "You guys are his friends! Why don't you know about that? Friends are supposed to know everything about each other, right?!"

"I don't think you have a right to say that," Kayden remarked.

"... yeah, I am sorry. I am just..." Victoria let out a deep sigh and said, "I will leave."

"Wait!" Misha stopped Victoria and said, "I can take you where Zach is."

"You know where he is?!" Kayden asked with a surprised look on his face.

"Well..." Misha averted her gaze and said, "He gave me his address in case of emergency."

"Well, whatever," Kayden sighed. "Give it to her."

"How about we also go visit them?" Misha suggested. "We don't have anything else to do anyway. We can also ask them to give us the house when they ascend."

Kayden and Misha looked for a nice house to buy, but none of the places were vacant. However, if any player ascended and exchanged the house in the higher realm, the house would become vacant, and other players would be able to buy it. And Kayden and Misha wanted to buy Aurora's house when it became vacant.

"Let's eat breakfast first."

Victoria also joined Misha and Kayden and ate breakfast with them. After that, they left for Aurora's house.

"This is it..." Misha uttered.

Victoria took a deep breath and gathered her courage.

'You can do this, Victoria...' Victoria walked to the door and rang the bell.

Chapter 87

Zach woke up and opened his eyes to see Aurora sleeping next to him. However, something else woke up along with him.

'I feel like I had a naughty dream about Aurora...' Zach uttered inwardly as he looked at Aurora's body.

He sighed and thought, 'Now, whenever I look at her, it will remind me of that dream.'

'Still...' Zach looked at Aurora's chest and muttered, 'The temptation is real...'

Suddenly, Aurora opened her eyes and stared at Zach.

"...!" Zach stared back at her and wondered, 'Did she hear me?'

Aurora slowly moved her face close to Zach and puckered her lips to kiss him on the lips. However, she was still half-asleep.

"What are you doing?" Zach asked.

Aurora fully opened her eyes and sat up in surprise. She covered her face with her hands and thought, 'That was so close! I thought it was a dream!'

Aurora also had a wet dream.

'Oh, no! What should I do?! Zach caught me!' Aurora was freaking out, and so was Zach.

Zach sat up and covered his lap with a pillow to hide his morning wood.

'She was going to kiss me, wasn't she? But...' Zach glanced at Aurora from the corner of his eyes and uttered inwardly: 'I am not letting her make the first move! I will be the one kissing her first!.'

Zach had no idea he had already made the first move by kissing her while sleeping.

Zach turned to Aurora to find her looking at him with an alluring gaze as though she was inviting him over.

'If you look at me like that... I am going to lose control!'

Zach placed his hand on Aurora's shoulder, then moved it behind her neck and slowly pulled her close to him.

Aurora's face flushed, but she closed her eyes and puckered her lips to accept the kiss.

However, just as their lips were about to touch, there was a bang on the door.

"Zach! Zach! Open up!"

Zach's face twitched in anger as he got off the bed. His rage was immeasurable that he could explode the house in a fury.

Zach opened the door while yelling, "If you did this on purpose, then I swear I will—!"

Zach stopped on his swords when he saw three familiar figures standing behind Aria.

It was Victoria, Misha, and Kayden.

"Uhh..." Zach was left speechless.

"Who is it, Zach?" Aurora asked from inside the room, peeking from the bed to look outside the door.

After seeing Aurora in the same room as Zach, what's more, on the same bed, Victoria, Misha, and Kayden's jaws were dropped.

"Why... are you guys here?" Zach asked in a calm voice.

"Victoria wanted to talk to you," Misha replied with a knowing look on her face.

"..." Zach closed the door and pointed his gaze at the living room after saying, "Let's talk there."

Zach walked to the living room, and the three followed them. He pointed his finger at the couch and said, "Have a seat."

Victoria, Misha, and Kayden sat on the couch while Zach stood in front of them and shot a glance at Aria.

Aria shrugged her shoulders and entered Zach's room.

'That bitch!'

Zach let out a deep sigh and asked, "So, what brings you here?"

"Not going to lie, it feels weird seeing you after all the farewell talk we had last time," Kayden remarked. "Now it feels like all the impact is ruined."

"I know, right?!" Zach seconded.

"Ahem!" Misha cleared her throat while looking at Zach and pointed her gaze at Victoria, whose mood was down after seeing Zach and Aurora in the same room.

She wanted to cry, but she was trying her best to hold back her tears.

'Don't cry, Victoria. You are strong.' She comforted herself. 'You are the one who dumped him. So what if he got together with another girl?'

Misha nudged Victoria and said, "You wanted to meet Zach for something, right?"

'Stop it!' Victoria yelled inwardly. 'I can't look at him in the face now. If I do, I will end up crying!'

Aria and Aurora came out of the room and sat on the empty couch.

Zach was still standing and had no idea what to do. He was also feeling a little awkward because Victoria saw him in the same room as Aurora.

"Why don't you introduce Aurora and America to Victoria?" Misha suggested. "They haven't seen each other before, right?"

Aria and Aurora had seen Victoria before, and they knew she was Zach's ex-girlfriend, but Victoria had no idea who Aria and Aurora were.

"Right!" Zach pointed his finger at Aria and said, "Victoria, she is Ari— America, my party member. She is a ranger and a priest."

Zach smirked at Aria and continued, "She begged me to join my party, so I agreed."

Aria's face twitched after hearing that, but she couldn't do anything even if she wanted to. Zach could control her over his commands.

Zach then pointed his finger at Victoria and said, "You might already know her. She is my classmate, and was... is my ex-girlfriend."

'It hurts more than I thought it would.' After hearing that from Zach's mouth, Victoria felt a sting in her heart.

"And..." Zach turned to Aurora and said, "Victoria, this is Aurora. She is my party member. And the owner of this house. She is letting me stay for free."

"What..." Victoria tried to say something, but she stopped and whispered something in Misha's ears.

Misha raised her hand and said, "I want to know what your relationship with Aria and Aurora is."

"Aurora is... my friend. And America is... well, she is a stranger," Zach scoffed.

Victoria whispered something in Misha's ears again.

"How many rooms are there in this house?" Misha asked.

"Four, I guess?" Zach replied.

"Then why were you in Aurora's room with the door closed."

Chapter 88

"Then why were you in Aurora's room with the door closed," Misha asked that on her own without Victoria whispering anything to her.

"Well..."

"We sleep in the same room, same bed," Aurora replied and glared at Victoria. "What about it?"

"Nothing," Victoria uttered in a low voice.

Victoria finally broke her silence and glanced at Zach with a resolute expression on her face.

"..." Zach averted his gaze and thought, 'What's with that expression?'

'Don't think too much about it, Victoria. Even if something is going on between Zach and the girls, it doesn't matter. I am the one who took his virginity, so I am his first choice.'

Victoria glared back at Aurora and uttered inwardly: 'I know everything about him and his personality. Besides, I am an adult, so I have to take care of this matter as an adult..'

Victoria cleared her throat and said, "I was here to check up on you."

"Oh?" Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "Thank you... I guess?"

"I heard you rejected the offer to join my guild, is that true??" Victoria asked with a curious yet calm look on her face.

Zach nodded and said, "Very true."

Victoria knitted her brows and asked, "If you don't mind, can I ask the reason you did not join?"

"Surely, it's not because you felt awkward to be in the same guild as your ex-girlfriend, right?" Victoria asked with a smug look on her face.

"Of course not," Zach replied with a soft scoff.

Victoria didn't show any reaction on her face, but she was crying from the inside.

'I see. So he is over me, huh? He has already moved on...'
Victoria thought to herself.

"I didn't join because the guild master reminded me of the useless side-character of the story, who turned into a main villain in the endgame." Zach turned to Kayden and asked, "What was that name of the game again?"

"Uhh..." Kayden pondered for a while and answered, "Are you talking about 'Real Dead Fantasy Chronicles.?'?"

"Yeah, that," Zach nodded. "Man, that game was full of cliché tropes."

"Anyway!" Victoria quipped and asked, "Are you and your party interested in joining the guild?" Zach shook his head and said, "You know I am not the type of person who would follow the rules."

"Fair enough.." Victoria sighed and said, "Then how about you join as a temporary member?"

"Are you talking about the new feature they added in the latest update where players can join the guild for a limited amount of time and get rewards?" Zach asked with a judging look on his face.

"Yes." Victoria nodded and continued, "My guild is going on the dungeon expedition after three days. However, only the guild members who haven't cleared the entire dungeon will go."

"I, myself, have only cleared the first 40 floors," Victoria added.

Zach raised his brows and asked with a curious look on his face, "How many floors are there?"

"The beginner realm had 100 floors, so the first realm should have the same," Kayen replied.

"What's the time limit or cooldown for the player to leave the guild?" Zach asked. "In other words, how soon can a player leave after joining the guild as a temporary member?"

"There is no time limit," Victoria replied.

"How many guild members will be coming?"

"I don't have the exact number, but it should be more than 1800," Victoria responded in a calm voice. "The others are either not interested, or they have already cleared the floors."

"We can't blame them," Misha sighed. "The risk of dying is the most in the dungeons."

'What should I do?' Zach pondered for a while and thought, 'I was already planning to clear the dungeon with Aria and Aurora today.'

'And we three are enough to clear a hundred floors by ourselves, but it will take more than a week.'

After the 50th floor, not only were the number of monsters per floor high, but they were strong too. On some floors, there were multiple bosses, so unless the players were in a party or guild, clearing them alone was impossible.

Of course, Zach, Aria, and Aurora could do it, but Zach would need a high MP for that. He was already cultivating 5000 MP in one day using multiple techniques, but it wasn't enough to defeat and clear all the floors in one day.

Zach cultivated while talking, walking, resting, eating, sleeping— he cultivated all the time except when he was fighting.

'If I join the guild, I can easily carry Aurora. And thanks to the latest update, the loot and EXP are distributed according to the DMG dealt by the players. So I can't use the old method where I was letting Aurora have the last hit.'

Zach glanced at Aurora to see her response, and she nodded.

'And the major advantage of joining will be getting a physique boost, so Aurora can boost her physique too.'

Zach turned to Victoria and uttered, "Before I answer, tell me, is that douchebag also coming?"

"Are you talking about Shay?" Victoria asked with an innocent look on her face.

"No." Zach laughed out loud and said, "I am talking about that useless side character."

"Oh!" Victoria exclaimed and shook her head, "No. Also, Shay is not coming either."

"Alright.." Zach nodded and replied with a sigh: "We will join, but only for one day. Once we have cleared the dungeons, we will leave."

"Fine by me." Victoria opened her menu and said, "Add me as your friend, so I can directly contact you."

Zach added Victoria as his friend.

Victoria then looked at Aurora and smirked at her with a smug look on her face, as though she was trying to exert her victory.

"...!" Aurora's face twitched after seeing that.

"Zach." Aurora called out to Zach and placed her hand below her stomach, saying, "You were so good last night."

"...!" Everyone present in the room had the same reaction.

"Uhh..." Zach averted his gaze at Victoria and saw tears in her eyes.

'This is bad.'

Victoria sniffed and dashed out of the room while crying.

"Wait, Victoria!" Zach called out to her, but she had already run away.

Zach frowned his face at Aurora and said, "You had to do it, huh?!"

Zach left the house and rushed after Victoria. After searching for her for a while, Zach saw a flying carriage coming to the surface.

Zach knew the carriage had to be for Victoria, so he rushed in the direction of the carriage and found Victoria waiting for it to come down.

"Victoria!" Zach yelled.

Victoria looked back and started running after seeing Zach.

"Argh! Come on!" Zach groaned and chased after Victoria.

The carriage landed on the surface, and Victoria opened the carriage's door. However, Zach caught up to her and pinned her down on the ground.

Luckily, they were in the garden where no one was around.

Victoria tried to push Zach away, but she didn't have any courage. Her heart was broken after what happened back in the house.

"Get off me!" Victoria yelled.

"I won't."

"Let me go!"

"First listen to me," Zach asserted.

"I don't want to. It's my fault for—"

"I still love you!" Zach blurted out in the heat of the moment.

"..."

As expected, Victoria stopped resisting, but she was still crying.

"But you did it with that girl!" Victoria said in a loud voice.

"She was talking about a lullaby," Zach explained in a calm voice. "I sing her lullaby every night, and she was referring to that."

"But... she placed her hand below her stomach and that look on her face..."

"Yeah, I know. She was just... she did that on purpose to exert her dominance..."

Zach let go of Victoria and stood up.

Victoria wiped her tears and got up before saying, "You better not be lying."

"You know I never lie."

Zach and Victoria stared at each other for a while and got lost in their eyes.

"Do you truly still love me?" Victoria asked in a gentle voice.

"What, do I need to prove it to you?" Zach replied with a scoff.

"Yes..." Victoria responded in a low voice.

"..!" Zach was taken aback by that. He was simply joking to tease her, but he never expected Victoria to take it seriously.

However, now it was too late to take that back.

Zach gulped down and pulled Victoria close to her. Then, he caressed her cheek and moved his face closer to her.

Victoria was surprised, but she let Zach do whatever he wanted. She closed her eyes, and a second later, she felt something soft on her lips.

She opened her eyes to see Zach was kissing her juicy lips. No, he was sucking them off.

After the kiss, Zach looked into Victoria's eyes and said, "If this does not convince you, then I am ready to do something else."

Zach still hadn't learned his lesson, although he was ready to go all the way. It was a win-win situation for him.

"No, that's enough," Victoria replied with a flushed face. She covered her mouth and said, "That was my first kiss, by the way."

"I have always wanted to kiss you, you know?"

Victoria raised her brows and asked, "What about you? Was this your first kiss?"

Zach averted his gaze and replied, "Well... no."

Victoria furrowed her brows and asked, "So it was with Aurora?"

"Uhh... no."

Victoria frowned her face and asked, "Then who was it?"

"It was... well, it was when I was seven years old. It was more of a farewell kiss rather than a romantic kiss," Zach replied with a distant smile on his face.

Zach sighed and said, "Listen, there are so many things I have to tell you about me. But I need time."

"I know." After a brief pause, Victoria squirmed as she said, "I am sorry for saying all those mean things to you when we broke up."

"I am not offended by that." Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "You were telling the truth. I am arrogant, and everyone knows that. Self-centered? A little bit."

"Uhh... selfish? Well, selfishness is the main thrive to live. But a narcissist?" Zach shook his head and said, "I don't think so. I do think I am better, but I don't think I am the best."

"And ass for the asshole..." Zach laughed out loud and said with a grin on his face: "Everyone knows I am a first-class asshole."

Victoria laughed out loud after seeing Zach describing himself. She hugged him and said, "I love you."

Zach hugged her back and said, "Hey.."

"Hmm?"

"How about you leave the guild and join my party?" Zach asked in a calm voice.

"..." Victoria didn't say anything and kept hugging Zach.

"I know I am asking a bit too much. You are the vice-captain, and you have a major role in the guild, but..." Zach hugged Victoria tightly and said, "I want you here, with me."

After a brief silence, Victoria made a little distance between her and Zach. She looked him into the eyes and said, "Okay. I will leave the guild after we are done with the dungeon expedition. Then, I will join your party and ascend together."

Zach smiled and said, "You have no idea how happy I am after hearing that."

Victoria waved at Zach and turned around after saying, "I will message you later."

"Yeah— wait." Zach placed his hands on Victoria's shoulders and tried to kiss her again, but she stopped him.

"That's not happening."

"Why not?" Zach asked with a confused look on his face. "We are dating again, right?"

"Umm..." Victoria averted her gaze and said, "I may have caused a little bit of misunderstanding."

Zach squinted his eyes and said, "Please elaborate."

"I want to start our relationship as friends," Victoria uttered in a monotonous tone.

Zach face-palmed himself and said, "I never expected to get friend-zoned after getting a kiss."

"I am not—! I... I still love you," Victoria declared. "But... let's start as friends, okay?"

Zach knitted his brows and glanced at Victoria from the corner of his eyes.

"You do realize that if we stay as friends, I can make moves on other girls, right?" Zach asked with a knowing look on his face.

"I know, and I don't mind."

"You don't mind?" Zach asked with a confused look on his face, "Remind me, who was the girl who ran away after a small misunderstanding."

"That's because I thought you didn't love me anymore. I thought you hated me. But now I know you don't hate me, and you still love me." Victoria replied with a shrug.

"Even if you date another girl when we are friends, I am confident enough that I can make you cheat on her with me," Victoria declared with a proud face.

"You have changed, Victoria," Zach said in a calm voice.

Victoria looked past Zach's shoulder and smirked before saying, "So have you."

Then, she moved her face close to Zach and kissed him on the lips. She opened the carriage door and asserted before waving to him: "See you soon."

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When Zach returned home, Kayden and Misha were talking about buying the house. Aurora told them she would inform them when they ascended.

Meanwhile, Aria was making breakfast.

After talking for a while, Kayden and Misha left.

"Breakfast is ready~" Aria groaned. "Get your asses on the chair."

"..." Aurora glanced at Zach with a confused look on her face after hearing that. "Did she just say...?"

"Let's go." Zach glared at Aria and thought, 'She is getting too comfortable that she is letting her true personality show off.'

When they were eating breakfast, Aurora glanced back and forth at Zach and Aria as though she was waiting for the right moment to say something.

Aurora was sitting in the middle chair, while Zach and Aria were seated opposite each other at the end of the table.

Zach grabbed the bowl of the soup and began drinking it directly without using a spoon.

"So..." Aurora took a bite from her dish and said, "How does kissing in the game feel?"

Zach choked on his soup and ended up spilling some back in the bowl.

Aria also started coughing after hearing that.

Zach wiped his mouth and looked at Aurora with a confused look on his face. But then he realized something.

"You... saw?" Zach asked while stuttering.

"I chased after you because I felt bad for saying that, and I wanted to apologize to Victoria. But when I reach the park, what do I see? I see you kissing her passionately on the lips," Aurora asserted in a disdainful tone and shook her head in disbelief.

"In my defense, if you hadn't said anything to cause that misunderstanding, Victoria wouldn't have run away, and I wouldn't have to kiss her to calm her down," Zach stated.

"Oh, don't worry. You don't have to defend or explain yourself," Aurora uttered. "I am not angry or anything."

"..."

"But I am pissed on Victoria." Aurora frowned her face and said, "When she noticed I was watching you two, she smirked and declared that she would steal you from me."

'So that's why Victoria said that in a loud voice...' Zach sighed.

"That was a declaration of the war!" Aurora pulled Zach close to her and kissed him on the lips.

Both Zach and Aria were surprised. However, Zach kissed her back by playing with Aurora's tongue.

After the kiss, Aurora continued, "And I, Aurora Edens, the first of my name, the sole heir of Edens Dynasty, the next to be the Queen and the Ruler, accept her challenge!"

Zach was left speechless, but he had already expected such an outcome.

'It was going to happen one day. This was inevitable,' Zach thought to himself.

Zach continued eating breakfast, and so did Aurora and Aria. However, Aria was eating hastily with a frowned face, as though she was angry about something.

Zach sighed while eating and uttered inwardly: 'Now I understand what father meant by 'Be careful with the ladies. For once, they can be damsels, and in the next instance, you can be in distress'.'

'But father, you forgot to tell me what I should do when I get in such a situation.'

Zach had yet to experience the pain and the pleasure of loving multiple girls at once.

Chapter 90

Victoria was standing in front of Elliot and 100 guild members who were assigned as Elliott's guards.

"What is the meaning of this, Victoria?" Elliot asked.

When Victoria returned to the sky castle after patching up with Zach, Elliott was waiting for her at the guild entrance.

"Where have you been?" Elliott asked with a serious look on his face.

"I was... uhh... on the surface?" Victoria replied awkwardly.

"Victoria, you may be the vice-captain of the guild and second in charge after me. But that doesn't mean you can go anywhere without my permission," Elliott asserted. "You have to inform me at least."

"I was on the morning patrol," Victoria uttered. "Recently, I have encountered many of my schoolmates and classmates, So I was wondering if there are more. I wanted to invite them to the guild."

Elliot let out a deep sigh and said, "I think it's about time we stop accepting the players from your school or class."

"Why?" Victoria furrowed her brows and asked, "It's not like there is any limit to the number of players we can have in the guild."

"There may be no limit on the guild members, but our resources are limited," Elliot asserted. "We don't have food or lodging for everyone."

"..."

"And we haven't created this guild to babysit low-level players. For today onwards, we will only accept the players who are minimum at level 25 and have at least one battle skill and one class skill," Elliott declared in a loud voice.

"What would you do if a player died because of us? When we are on the battlefield, we can't keep an eye on everyone. We first need to protect ourselves, so we can protect others. Imagine, if a player dies because of us, would we be able to forgive ourselves? I certainly won't be. I will have to bear the burden of that player. There is a limit to what one can do. We cannot save everyone, but we have to save who we can. But first, they need to learn to protect themselves," Elliott asserted in a solemn voice.

Everything Elliott said was reasonable, and it sounded logical, as though he was genuinely worried about other players. His every word had deep meaning behind them, as though he truly cared about his guild members.

However, everything was a lie, a sham. Elliott didn't mean anything he said. His words had no feelings or emotion. He was simply using those words as a reason not to recruit low-level players.

"Also, every guild member would now be forced to participate in the guild events." After a brief pause, Elliott continued, "We are now at top 2nd position in the guilds. We have to surpass the number 1 guild."

"... I understand," Victoria nodded.

"You bet, you do" Elliott stared at Victoria for a while and glanced around.

He asked the guards to leave him alone with Victoria.

"I will leave for my daily training," Victoria informed.

"Wait, Victoria..." Elliott called out to Victoria and said, "Have you thought about it?"

"Thought about what?" Victoria asked with a puzzled look on her face.

"My confession," Elliott responded in a calm voice. "I heard you broke up with that pretentious boyfriend with an inflated ego. Now you are single, right?"

"Oh!" Victoria sighed and said, "My answer is still no."

After Victoria joined Elliott's guild when it was at 173rd position in the guild ranking, Elliott confessed to Victoria. Victoria, obviously, rejected him because her heart belonged to Zach. But Elliot gave her some time to think about it.

Since that day, Elliott has asked Victoria the same question 21 times, and Victoria has always rejected him. And every time, Elliott replied with the same thing.

Elliott frowned his face and said, "You are not thinking clearly! I will give you a few more days to think."

After that, Elliot left.

SIGH!

Victoria sighed and uttered, "I am glad Zach asked me to join his party. I can't wait to leave this guild."

"You are leaving this guild?!" A voice exclaimed from behind Victoria.

Victoria turned around to see Natasha standing in front of her with a baffled expression on her face.

Victoria sighed in relief and nodded, "Yes."

"Are you leaving because Elliot keeps asking you to go out with him?" Natasha asked with a curious look on her face.

"That's one reason, but I am leaving because I am joining Zach's party next week," Victoria answered.

"But don't tell anyone about it, okay?"

"Oh?!" Natasha exclaimed. "So you patched up with Zach?"

"Yes."

Natasha smiled and said, "Good for you."

Victoria smiled back and patted Natasha's shoulder after saying, "You are a good girl."

Natasha watched Victoria leave for her daily training. Then, she glanced around and frowned her face. She clenched her fists and uttered, "Bitch."

'I was only acting good with you because you were the vice-captain. I thought I would get benefits if I stay close to you, but if you are leaving, then you are useless to me.'

Natasha began walking and made her way to a certain room.

'If she leaves, I am sure Elliott will make Shay the next vice-captain, and I can't let that happen!'

Natasha looked at the two guards standing in front of Elliott's office and muttered, "They will leave for a patrol, and the next team will come after a minute."

'I will have one minute to enter Elliott's office.'

Natasha waited for a while until the guards left. Then, she rushed to the door and entered Elliott's office.

Elliott had just entered his office, so he was standing. Seemingly, he was walking towards the table.

Natasha closed the door behind her and locked it. She purposely made a loud noise so Elliott would turn around and look at her.

'If I can't use that bitch! Then, I will use Elliott!' Natasha asserted inwardly.

Elliott turned around and looked at Natasha.

"Umm..." He raised his brows in confusion and said, "You are.... Natasha, if I recall correctly?"

"Yes," Natasha nodded.

"May I ask what are you doing here?" Elliott looked at the time and said, "Visiting hours are at noon. If you want something or have a request, you can come at noon."

"Are you sure?" Natasha smirked at Elliot and began taking off her clothes.

"What are you..." Elliott wanted to stop Natasha, but he lost his sense of speech after seeing Natasha's naked body.

Natasha walked up to Elliott and wrapped her arms around his neck.

"Umm..." Elliott couldn't take his eyes off Natasha's body. "I..."

"I have something important to tell you. But before that..." Natasha pushed Elliott on the couch. Then, she pulled down his pants and sat on his lap before saying, "Let's have some fun."

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30 minutes later, Natasha came out of Elliott's office.

'He was definitely a virgin! He was so bad that I had to take the lead.' Natasha sighed. 'He came in two minutes and couldn't even get hard again for the next five minutes.'

'Out of all the boys I have had sex with, Shay was the best.'

Natasha frowned her face and muttered, "That reminds me of the time where I tried to seduce Zach, but he turned me down and called me a slut!"

This was Natasha's true self.

She never lost her virginity to Shay. In fact, she mixed a drug in Shay's drink and took him to his room. Then, she r*ped him.

She planned to accuse Shay of r*ping her and blackmail him to get money from him. However, her plan failed because she was alone in the room when she woke up the following day. She had no proof of anything, nor could she provide any physical evidence.

She had tried to make a move on Zach many times after she found out Zach had won the lottery, but Zach wasn't the type of person who would be swayed by the beauty of the girl.

When Zach said, 'Besides, it's not all about a girl's beauty. They could be ugly personalities behind their beauty.' to Aria, when they were rating each other, he was referring to Natasha.

Natasha played the victim and tried to gain sympathy from Victoria. She knew that Victoria was feeling down, and she chose that moment to strike the hammer and gain her favor.

She suggested Victoria to talk with Zach because she thought Zach would reject her and Victoria would feel more sad. Then she would console her and become best friends with her.

However, her plan failed because Victoria successfully patched up with Zach.

But now, she has Elliott dancing on her fingertips.

"Now, even if that bitch leaves the guild or Shay becomes the vice captain, I will use Elliott. I will become the main mastermind of this guild," Natasha declared with a vicious grin on her face.