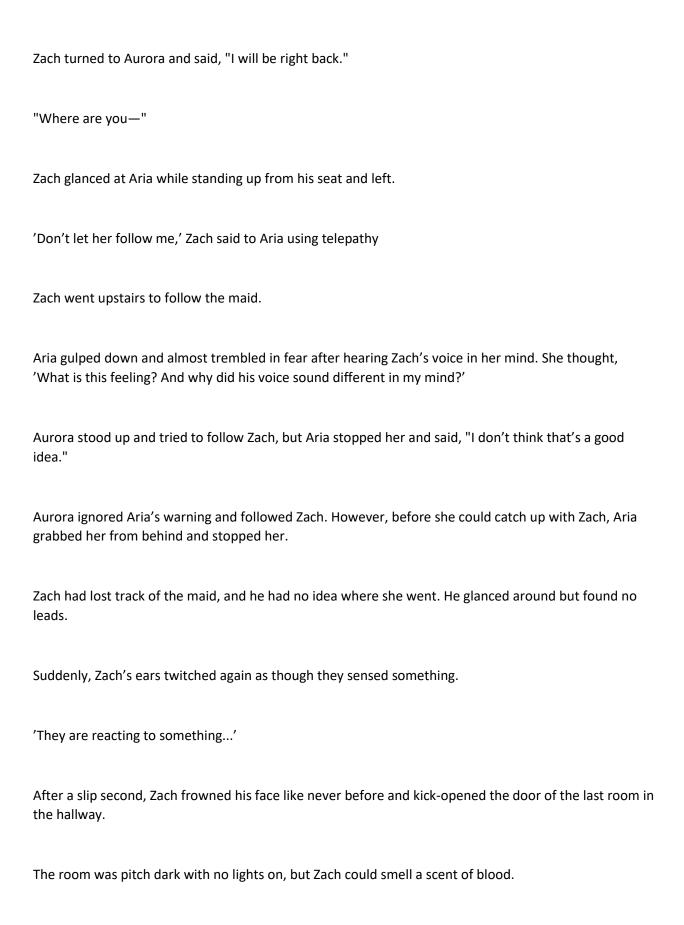
## **GODS' IMPACT 91**

Chapter 91
"Here" Aurora moved the spoon towards Zach's face and said, "Open your mouth."
Zach reluctantly opened his mouth and let Aurora feed him.
Zach, Aurora, and Aria had come to the tavern of the inn to eat dinner. They spent the entire day completing NPC quests because they kept failing due to time inconsistencies. They were tired, and Zach didn't want Aurora and Aria to make dinner at home. So they decided to eat out.
"Uhh" Zach tried to say something but stopped and sighed.
Aurora shot a glance at Zach and asked, "What's with that sigh? Do you not like me feeding you?"
"It's not like that"
Aurora smiled at Zach and said, "How about you feed me too?"
" 
Zach fed Aurora with an awkward smile on his face.
'What the hell is going on?!" Zach exclaimed inwardly. 'After the kiss at the house, Aurora has been acting awfully touchy.'
'She grew up as a princess under strict culture. So I am sure she doesn't have knowledge about dating and stuff,' Zach uttered inwardly. 'What if she thinks we are married because we kissed?'
'Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if that's the case,' Zach sighed again.

Meanwhile, Aria was glaring at Zach and Aurora with a frowned face.
Zach noticed Aria looking at him as though a hunter was looking at the prey.
Zach knitted his brows, and his eyes widened as he thought, 'Don't tell me she has developed—'
"Why is my order taking so long to arrive?" Aria uttered in a grumpy tone.
'Oh, nevermind.'
"I know, right?!" Aurora seconded Aria. "Even my order took 10 minutes to arrive."
"Yeah, usually they arrive within five minutes," Zach uttered. He glanced around with a curious yet calm look on his face and said, "And is it just me, or there are fewer maids than usual?"
"Yeah" Aurora and Aria counted the maids and said, "There are only three maids when usually there are like 12."
Zach started eating his food without waiting for Aria's food to arrive. But Aurora shared her plate with Aria.
After five more minutes, Aria's order finally arrived.
"What took you so long?!" Aria yelled at the maid.
"I apologize for the delay, but we currently don't have enough maids and chefs," the maid replied in a polite tone.
"What do you mean?" Aria asked with a confused look on her face. "Aren't there like 12 maids in this tavern? Where did they go?"

"Well" the maid glanced around with an anxious look on her face and responded in a low voice: "A lot of NPCs have gone missing since the last three days."
"And" the maid's eyes got teary as she muttered in a low voice: "Help us"
Her voice was lower than a whisper, and neither Aria nor Aurora could hear that.
Of course, Aria would have heard it— even with her 10% of physique and power, but the maid was closer to Zach, so only he could listen to her.
After whispering, the maid left.
Zach's ears twitched as he felt chills in his body.
'What was that?' Zach asked himself. 'Her voice felt so desperate yet lifeless. As though she was living on mercy.'
Zach looked back to check on the maid, but she was nowhere to be seen.
'Where did she go?'
Zach gazed at the other maid and saw her going upstairs with a concerned look on her face.
'What's going on? What is this uneasy feeling I am having? Did that maid put a spell on me or something?'
Zach couldn't comprehend the feeling in his body. He felt like he had to do something but didn't know what. It was as though the maid's words had triggered something uncanny.



When Zach walked into the room, his steps splashed on a liquid, and he knew without seeing that it was blood. As he walked further in, his leg hit something. It was soft and hard at the same time.
Zach crouched down and picked it up in his hand to see it up close, but he let go of it the moment later.
It was the severed head of the maid who asked for help not long ago.
"m"
Zach's ears twitched again as he heard a faint whimper coming from the corner of the room. He could see a silhouette of a person, but it was vague.
He squinted his eyes and saw something shiny from the same spot.
It was a tear.
Zach took a deep breath and closed his eyes as his ears repeatedly twitched.
Chapter 92
Aurora was insisting on going upstairs, but Aria wasn't letting her go.
"Why are you stopping me?!" Aurora asked with an annoyed tone.
"Why are you being so clingy to Zach?!" Aria replied in the same tone.
"You are the one who told me to make moves on him before someone steals him from me." Aurora shrugged her shoulders at Aria and said, "That's what I am doing."

"If you don't give him some space, then he will find it annoying," Aria uttered. "He might start ignoring you, and it can turn into hatred." Aurora turned to Aria and uttered, "Just admit that you are jealous of me." "What do you mean?" Aria asked with a scoff. Aurora furrowed her brows at Aria and said, "Did you truly think I haven't noticed how you glare at me when I get close to Zach?" Aria raised her brows in confusion and asked, "What do you... mean? I have no idea what you are talking about." "Oh, please!" Aria rolled her eyes and grunted, "Do you think I am a fool not to notice it?" "Notice what?" Aria asked with a puzzled look on her face. Aurora squinted her eyes and said, "You are really going to make me say it?" "Say what, though? Can you please explain in simple words without making it more complicated?" "Argh!" Aurora groaned and said, "I know you love Zach." "What?!" Aria scoffed and exclaimed at the same time. "What in the world are you talking about?" Aurora bit her lips and said, "Your personality and behavior suddenly changed after I saw Zach leaving your room that night."

"Well... that..." Aria started averting her gaze and avoided eye contact with Aurora.

'It's all because of Zach that I am getting into this mess! Seriously! Me, and love someone?! That's preposterous!'
"What's wrong?" Aurora asked in a haughty tone. "Why are you speechless? Did I hit the mark?"
'Screw it! I don't care anymore. I will tell her everything before this gets any more complicated,' Aria decided.
"No, you are wrong. I am—"
BANG! BOOM!
Aurora and Aria looked upstairs with dozens of other players eating in the tavern.
"What was that?" Everyone started chattering.
Aria and Aurora glanced at each other and dashed upstairs. The other players and the NPCs present there also followed them.
When they reached upstairs, they saw the last room in the hallway was on fire.
Aurora immediately rushed to the room, But Aria outran her and reached before Aurora.
She covered her mouth after entering the room, and so did Aurora. However, the reason was different.
Aria covered her mouth because she couldn't bear the stench of the blood, and Aurora did it because of the shock and disgust.
They could see everything because the walls and roof of the room were missing. Seemingly, the loud bang noise was the cause of it.

Half of the room was filled with dead bodies of girls. They were naked, and each of them had missing body parts. Some bodies were cut open, while others were brutally ripped apart with force.

"What in the..." Aria unknowingly walked forward when her feet hit something.

Aria and Aurora looked down to see the severed head of the maid rolling on the floor. It was the head of the maid who Zach followed upstairs.

Aurora jolted and hugged Aria in fear. She turned her face to the side and closed her eyes before saying, "Please take me out of this room."

"Yeah..." Aria took Aurora out of the room with an anxious look on her face.

At the same time, the third maid entered the room and yelled on top of her lungs. She dropped to her knees and started wailing.

After taking Aurora out of the room, Aria approached the maid and asked, "Do you know any of them?"

Of course, the maid knew her fellow two maids, but Aria didn't know what else to ask to comfort the maid.

The maid nodded and said, "They are all the female NPCs that went missing."

"Why didn't you..." Aria changed her question and asked, "Were you aware of this?"

The maid nodded and said, "All the maids who entered this room never came back. We were suspicious, but we couldn't do anything. We had no access to the player's room because it was prohibited. And the player never came out of his room. He hadn't even paid the rent yet, but we were unable to access the room. That's how this world is designed."

Aria glanced around the room and thought, 'No matter how you look at it, all the girls were cruelly r*ped and brutally tortured until they died.'
'But where did Zach go? He must be with that player, but' Aurora trembled in fear and muttered, "I have a bad feeling about this."
-
A while ago when Aria and Aurora were arguing downstairs.
Zach closed his eyes and took a deep breath. Then suddenly, his gloves began to shine in red color, as though it was fire, but without flames.
The player hiding in the room dashed at Zach with an ax in his hand and tried to attack him, but he was sent flying by an unknown force.
The red color from the gloves started aggravating as it began to emit sparkle-like flames.
The player got up and fired magic attacks on Zach as he yelled, "You shouldn't have come here!"
"You shouldn't have been born" Zach muttered in a low voice.
The player once again dashed at Zach, but suddenly, the walls and the roof of the room were sent flying with the explosion. And Zach and the player were nowhere to be seen.

Soon, Aria and Aurora entered the room and saw the bizarre scene that left them speechless.

Aria looked up in the sky and saw a shooting star that was falling in the direction of the church. "..." Aria stepped back and stumbled on her feet after seeing that. 'That's... the wrath of Phoenix...' Chapter 93 A half-burnt body of a man fell on the ground and bounced in the air on impact. Then, it was punched by red gloves. The body crashed through the walls of the church, and it was slammed on the ceiling before falling on the ground with a splat noise. However, the player was still alive. And the nun present in the church, who was the NPC healer, ran to the entrance of the church. The ground shook, and the ceiling fell apart as Zach landed near the man. He ignored the nun and walked to the man, who could barely move. Zach raised his hand, but his gloves stopped glowing.

Zach looked at the player's name tag and noticed it was dark blue, meaning the player had killed more than 100 NPCs. The player's name was 'Legendary Gear 69', which was the nickname system introduced in the latest update.

"Well, it doesn't matter..." Zach muttered.

Normally, Zach wouldn't have gotten this furious, but after discovering that the boss monsters were summoned from another world, he was certain that the NPCs were also somewhat similar.

However, even if they weren't, The NPCs of Gods' Impact were normal humans, the same as the players in the real world. But, the NPCs were unable to use magic or level up.

While Gods' Impact didn't have any rules or laws, the negative karma was in effect.

(Negative karma gave bad luck, meaning the player wouldn't get anything useful from the treasure chests. The players with their negative karma higher than negative ten weren't allowed to join guild or party.)

For Zach, the player was nothing more than an ordinary human who needed to be punished for his crimes. He didn't have any allegation nor obligation to do that, but doing that wouldn't make him less of a human. However, he felt like he would lose something if he didn't punish the player.

And the punishment was death with suffering.

"Why... do you care...?" the player asked. "They are NPC. Their lives don't matter..."

"Calling you a racist would be an understatement," Zach uttered in a solemn voice. He considered NPC as a race.

'Time to test how effective the new update is...'

Zach conjured a lightning sword and cleaved the player's hands and legs.

"Aaaaargh!" The player started bleeding and yelled in pain, but he still hadn't died for some reason.

'What's with him? I sent him flying in the sky with my punch and kept beating the shit out of him until I threw him at the church. And he is still alive even after receiving the fall damage getting his limbs cleaved.'

'Wait...' Zach raised his brows and wondered. 'Does killing an NPC also level up the player?'

'He has to be more than level 50... at least...'

Zach didn't want to kill the player directly, or he would get the red name tag for killing the player because they weren't in a duel. While if 'Legendary Gear 69' died with intense pain and severe blood loss, his death would be considered as self-death.

Normally, Zach wouldn't have minded the red nametag, but now he was a little worried about getting it. He was finally back with Victoria, and his relationship with Aurora was advancing.

Zach wanted his relationships to get on a stable phase before doing something reckless.

After around 5 minutes of bleeding and suffering in pain, Legendary Gear 69 died.

"I thought I would feel satisfied, but I don't..." Zach muttered in a solemn voice.

"Then again..." He turned around and said, "There would be many like him, or even worse."

Zach walked to the gate of the church to leave, but the nun came in between and stared at him.

The nun had pointy ears and curly braids from the side. Her hair color was golden, and her eyes were brown.

Zach frowned his face and uttered, "Get out of my way."

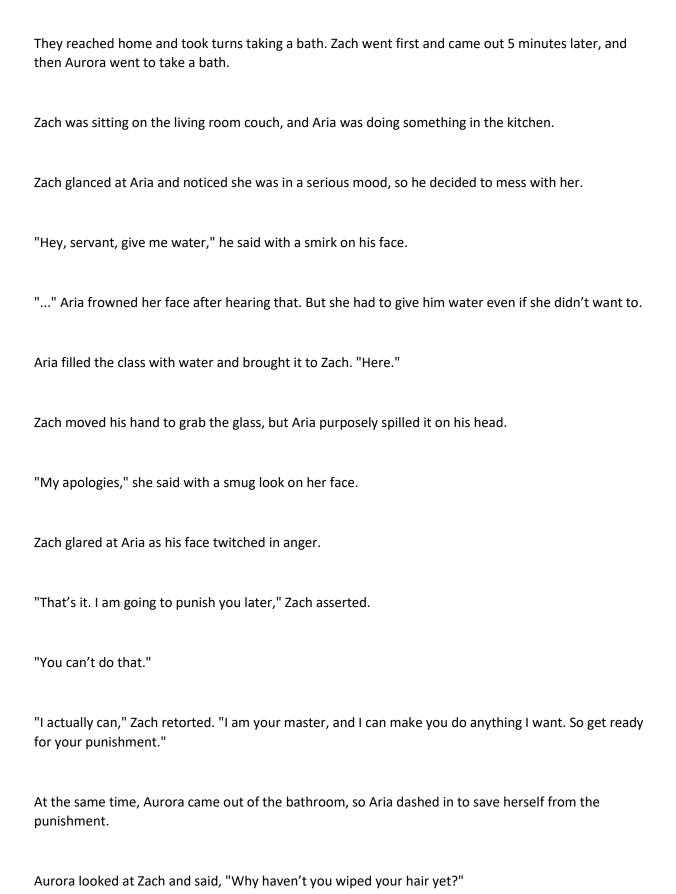
The nun walked close to Zach and dropped to her knees.

Confused, Zach raised his brows and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Thank you, my lord," the nun uttered in a respectful tone.

"Oh" Zach groaned after realizing how the nun in the beginner's realm also mistook Zach as a god.
"Uhh I am not your lord," Zach sighed in frustration. "Now, get out of my way."
The nun looked up at Zach with teary eyes and said, "No, you are my lord."
"But I am not."
"You are!" the nun insisted.
"I am not!" Zach shouted in annoyance. "Listen, I am getting late. So let me pass, or I will have to kill you."
The nun stood up and grabbed Zach's hand in her hands. Then, she placed Zach's hand on her forehead and said, "You are my lord and god. Please show mercy on me, and I shall worship you like never before."
"You are creeping me out," Zach commented with a disgusted look on his face. "Do whatever you want, just let me—"
Suddenly, Zach's entire body shined white as it rose in the air.
"Argh!" Zach grunted in pain as he tried to move. But a second later, everything went back to normal.
Zach landed in front of the nun and gasped for air. Then, he looked at the nun and raised his hand to punch her after saying, "What did you do to me?!"
[Congratulations! Soul Powers have been awakened!]
"I didn't do anything" the nun replied with her voice full of fear.

"What did you do to me?!" Zach asked again, but unlike the first time, he asked with a smile on his face.
"l"
"How did you do that?" Zach asked.
The nun was more confused than Zach, so asking her wasn't an option.
Zach pondered for a while for the possible reasons his soul powers finally awakened. Then, he remembered what the nun said a while ago.
"You said I am your God, and you will worship me, right?" Zach asked the nun in a calm voice.
The nun nodded in response and said, "Because you are the god."
"I see"
Out of all the players stuck in Gods' Impact, some wanted to get out of the game, while others wanted to beat the gods and become a new god.
Zach, however, was already a god.
Chapter 94
Zach went back to the inn and met up with Aria and Aurora.
Zach thought Aurora would ask him questions, but much to his surprise, Aurora didn't ask him anything and acted as usual. He was confused at first, but Aria told him that she was traumatized by the scene in the room.





'What if her door is locked?'
Zach tried to open Aria's door, and fortunately, it was open.
He entered the room and found Aria sleeping on the bed in her nightgown. He then walked to the bed and moved his hand to touch Aria in order to wake her up.
"Just so you know, I am awake," Aria uttered with her eyes closed.
"Then wake up" Zach uttered in disbelief.
Aria opened her eyes and covered her chest with the blanket before asking, "Why are you sneaking into a girl's room when you already have one in your room?"
Zach furrowed his brows and said, "You already know why I am here."
Aria moved to the corner of the bed and said, "You are here to assault me?"
Zach stared at Aria in disbelief and uttered, "Why would you even think that?"
"Well, I am a girl, and you are a boy," Aria replied with a shrug.
"You are neither Aurora nor Victoria, so don't worry about that." After a brief pause, he said, "I am not saying I would assault Victoria or Aurora, by the way."
"Then why are you here?"
"I am here to punish you, obviously," Zach replied nonchalantly.

Aria's face turned pale after hearing that. "Come on... it was just a little prank... there is no need... to..." Aria stuttered on her words and couldn't even complete the sentence. "I need to teach you a lesson," Zach said with a smirk on his face. Aria bit her lips and glared at Zach. "First off all..." Zach pointed his finger on the floor and said, "Get on the floor." Aria reluctantly got off the bed and got on her knees. But, she still had the same expression on her face. "This face is a pleasure to my eyes..." Zach stated with an alluring gaze. He sat on the bed and ordered, "Now add 'Nya~' to whatever you say." "If I don't speak anything, I won't have to say it... Nya~" Aria covered her mouth after saying that. "This is so much fun." Zach had a hidden sadistic nature, which he hadn't realized until now. "Well, you said you won't speak anything, so I guess that order was useless..." Zach sighed and said, "I take back that order." Aria removed her hands from her mouth and kept glaring at Zach.

"What should I make you do..." Zach pondered for a while and then moved his finger to Aria.



'That was cute but it doesn't suit her'
"Uhh" Zach cleared her throat and said, "Let's go to your domain. I want your help with something."
Chapter 95 "Let's go to your domain. I want to practice some things," Zach uttered in a calm voice.
Aria covered her chest with her hands and said, "What do you mean by practice?"
"No questions"
Aria reluctantly stood up and stared at Zach.
"What are you waiting for? Open the damn portal," Zach uttered with a sigh.
"You have the key to open it," Aria remarked.
"Uhh" Zach raised his brows with a puzzled look on his face, "So you can't open your own domain?"
"I can open the portal from my domain to this world, but I can't open the portal to my domain from this world," Aria responded in a calm voice.
SIGH!
Zach sighed and conjured Aria's token in his hand. Then he turned to Aria and asked, "How do I open it?"
Aria shrugged her shoulders and said, "Maybe speak something?"

Zach looked at the token and muttered, "Open the portal to the domain."

The token turned into a key, and a portal appeared in front of Zach and Aria. However, the portal had a keyhole in between to activate it.

Zach inserted the key and turned it twice before turning it to the different side three times.

"What did you do?" Aria asked with a confused yet calm look on her face.

"I asked her, 'Mother, how do you know that the portal will activate with this pattern?'. And she replied with 'It's not the portal we are trying to open, it's the pattern'."

Zach turned to Aria and asked, "Do you know what that means?"

"Uhh... I guess I do...?" Aria replied with a puzzled yet calm look on her face.

"Oh?" Zach raised his brows and asked, "Care to explain?"

"I think it means that whatever the lock is and whatever the key is, as long as you have a pattern, the lock will open," Aria stated.

"But why would it open?" Zach knew the answer, but he was testing Aria's knowledge.

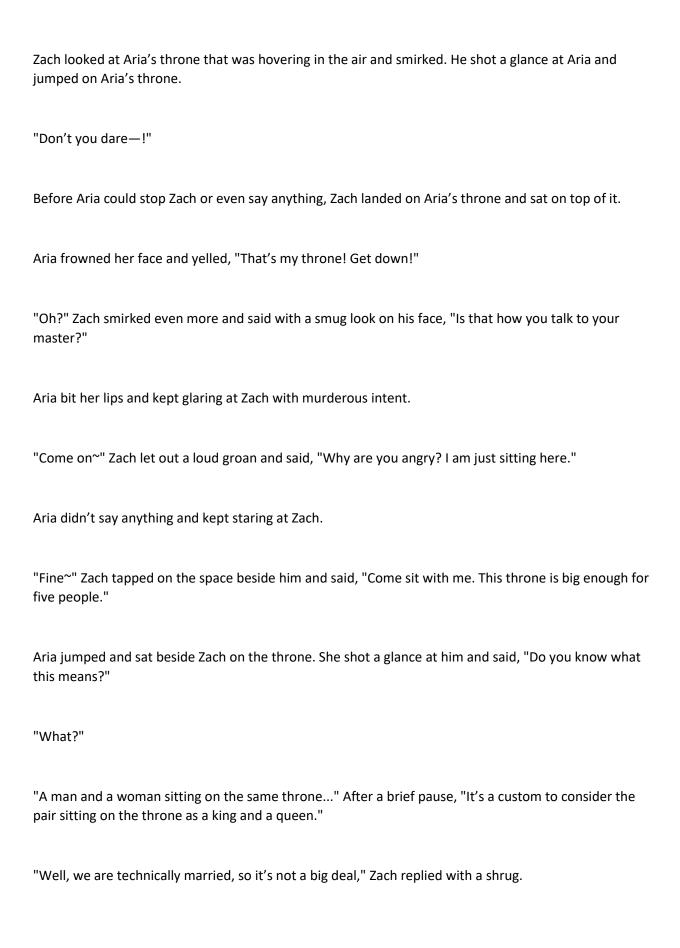
"The pattern is the correct key, not the actual key," Aria answered in a calm voice.

Zach clapped his hands and said, "Correct."

The portal activated, and Zach and Aria went inside.

Zach looked around and saw the beautiful scenery he saw when he had entered Aria's domain for the first time. "My domain can't even compare the beauty of the death world created by the foolish gods," Aria asserted in a proud voice. "I have asked you before, and I will ask you again..." Zach glanced at Aria and asked, "What is this place?" "This is the replica of what once used to be my home," Aria responded with a distant smile on her face. "Can you change this to... well... that hell-like place?" Zach snorted. Aria clapped her hands twice, and the scenery changed. "And what is this place?" Zach asked. "This is what my home looks like now," Aria answered and added, "Although this is just a replica." Zach glanced around and stood in the middle where he once fought Aria. He could see the broken pieces of the stones and the brunt lava. Aria noticed Zach was smiling, so she furrowed her brows and asked, "What are you laughing for?" "This place has become nostalgic to me." Zach looked at Aria with a smile on his face and asked, "It shares an important memory."

Aria's face flushed for a second, but it went back to normal soon after.



Aria's face flushed again, but she managed to get it back to normal.
Aria tried to divert the topic and asked, "So? Why are we here?"
"I want you to teach me magic," Zach asserted.
"But don't you know magic?" Aria asked with a confused look on her face. "Why do you want me to teach it?"
"Let me rephrase my sentence." Zach sighed and said, "I want you to teach me to have perfect control over my magic."
"Like?"
"I have been trying to use it with my DT skill for a couple of days, but I can't seem to get it right," Zach uttered in a low voice. "But I was successful once. Although I can't seem to do it again."
Aria pondered for a while and said, "What's your physique?"
"It's celestial. Why?"
"So that means your body will have no problem containing the power," Aria responded in a calm voice.
"I am not sure about that," Zach commented. "The thing is that I couldn't use magic in the real world, so my body is not trained to use magic."
"Hmm." Aria pondered for a while and asked, "Can I ask you something?"
"Sure."





"No wonder you are so strong," Aria remarked.
"Oh!" Zach suddenly exclaimed and said, "I also finally awakened my soul powers a while ago."
"What?!" Aria exclaimed even louder. "You you I can't believe it."
Aria rubbed her hand on her face and thought, 'Soul powers enhance the powers depending on how strong the soul core is. So if Zach was without soul powers when we made the contract I can't imagine how strong he will get after his soul core reaches its maximum limit.'
"What's wrong?" Zach raised his brows and said, "And why are you acting like I do when I am speechless and frustrated."
After hearing that, Aria's face flushed, and she covered it with her hands.
"I am not copying you," Aria said in a muffled voice.
"Anyway, can you help me out?" Zach asked in a respectful tone.
"How did you awaken your soul powers?" Aria asked in a muffled voice.
"I myself have no idea, but I think it happened because the nun called me a god. She also said she would worship me," Zach asserted.
"Then that was the trigger," Aria quipped.
"The gods gain more power when someone worships them." Aria glanced at Zach with a serious look on her face and said, "That's why those cheeky pests introduced worshiping in the game."
Zach knitted his brows at Aria and asked, "So I am a god?"

Aria nodded and said, "You said a god had blessed you with power, so that's probably the reason," Aria explained with a surprised tone. "Hmm~" Zach raised his brows with a curious look on his face and asked, "So does that mean I will get stronger if someone worships me?" Aria nodded in response and said, "As I said, that makes the gods more powerful." Zach pondered for a while and declared with a snap: "Time to start my own religion!" "Argh~" Aria let out a loud groan after hearing that. Zach furrowed his brows and said, "What's with that groan?" "Nothing." 'She never learns.' Zach sighed and uttered, "I order you to tell me the truth." Aria bit her lips and said, "I lost my sister because of a religion." "..." Zach averted his gaze and muttered, "I don't plan to be like other gods." After a brief silence, Aria turned to Zach and asked, "If you awakened your soul powers recently, then you should learn soul cultivation."

Zach stared at Aria with a serious look and uttered, "I have no idea what that means. Believe me, my

"Let me give you an example." Aria pondered for a while and said, "Imagine a balloon, for example."

knowledge of cultivation is close to none."

"I imagined it." Zach imagined a different balloon at first. "If you fill the water in that balloon and keep filling it, eventually, the balloon will explode because of the excess amount of water. Because it was trying to contain something more than its capacity." "Hmm." Zach nodded and asked, "And?" "The balloon is your physical body in the real world, and the water is your power which is increasing day by day. And you just awakened your soul power too." "Wait..." Zach knitted his brows and asked with an anxious look on his face: "Are you saying my real body is in danger?" "It can be. If your body gets strained because of the power, it can cause injury that can lead to death, you know?" If a player died in Gods' Impact, they would die in the real world too. Similarly, if a player died in the real world, they would also die in Gods' Impact. "I will be damned..." Zach muttered under his breath. Chapter 97 "So how do I... how do I do the soul cultivation? Help me with it," Zach asked with a serious look on his face. "Let's do it together." Aria's face flushed after hearing that. Zach raised his brows in confusion and asked, "Why are you— Are you blushing?!" "Do you even realize what you just asked me?"

"I said help me out with the soul cultivation," Zach repeated himself.
"And do you know what two people cultivating together means?" Aria asked curiously.
Zach pondered for a while and finally realized what Aria was referring to.
"Does that mean" Zach formed an 'O' with his finger and thumb in his left hand. And inserted the finger of his right hand into that 'O'.
"Am I guessing correctly?" Zach asked while repeatedly inserting his finger in and out of the 'O'.
Aria nodded violently and said, "It's called dual cultivation."
"Oh" Zach stared at Aria's face for a while and uttered, "Well, if that's going to make me strong, then let's do it."
"No way!" Aria retorted and said, "You already have Victoria and Aurora. Ask them."
"Yeah, but they are normal humans." Zach let out a deep sigh and uttered, "You know, I had sex with Victoria because I used to think she didn't love me. I wanted to confirm her love."
"You asked a girl to sleep with you only to confirm her love?" Aria asked as she shook her head in disbelief.
"I know I sound like a jerk, and I was. But I am changing slowly" Zach rolled his eyes and said, "My point was that when I went home after having sex with her, I told my mother about it, and she told me the risk of powerful beings mating with humans."
"That's true"

"After that, I felt guilty, and I was worried that something would happen to Victoria because of my selfishness. So I didn't go to school the next day. However, I recently found out that she didn't go to school either, and that was one of the reasons she wanted to break up with me."
"I truly don't know who is at fault here," Aria remarked.
"So I can't do dual cultivation with them. While you are the same as me, so we can do it," Zach responded in a calm voice.
"Wait" Suddenly, Zach raised his brows with a confused and curious look on his face and said, "Does that mean I can't even have normal sex with them?"
"You can, but you can't release your essence inside them, or it would be like adding acid into the balloor rather than the water," Aria asserted. "However, you can feed them your essence."
Zach furrowed his brows and asked, "Well, you sound very knowledgeable about it."
"What are you trying to say?"
"You are old, right? Like tens of thousands of years old?" Zach asked. "Did you have someone? Like a lover or you know"
Aria scoffed with a sigh and said, "I am not the type of person who can love someone."
"I used to think the same for me," Zach muttered under his breath.
After a brief silence, Zach looked at Aria and asked, "So are we going to do it?"
"No way!"

Zach shrugged his shoulders and uttered, "I expected as much. I can't imagine us doing that. It feels... unimaginable— is that a word?" Aria frowned her face, and she was a little disappointed after hearing that. "You know..." Aria glanced at Zach from the corner of her eyes and said, "I am your servant, so you can order me to do it if you truly want to." "Nay." Zach shook his head and said, "I am not a monster." Aria chuckled after hearing that and said, "Sometimes I regret having you as my master." "Only sometimes?" Zach asked with a surprised look on his face. "You know, if our roles were reversed and I was your master, I would have made you do many unspeakable things," Aria asserted with a mischievous smile on her face. "Like?" "Umm..." Aria pondered for a while and said, "Like 'Assault Aurora in her sleep' or something." "Wow..." Zach was left speechless after hearing Aria's comment. "Did you just imagine yourself assaulting Aurora in her sleep?" Aria asked with a wide grin on her face. "I didn't!" He actually did imagine that, and he felt guilty.

"Well, I was half-joking. Aurora is my friend, and I wouldn't do anything to make her hate me," Aria asserted. "But I do want her to hate you so I can have my revenge for all the humiliation you have—"

"Yeah, yeah." Zach sighed and said, "Now, is there any other way for soul cultivation?"
"Hmm" Aria pondered for a while and said, "It depends on your soul core. Show me your life tree."
"Sure. But how do I do that?"
"You really don't know anything, huh?" Aria stared at Zach in disbelief.
"For your information, I stopped my training at the age of seven after my father died. My mother asked me to live as a normal human, and so I did."
"If you had achieved your current knowledge when you were less than seven years old, then it's honestly commendable. And I mean it."
"Uhh thanks?"
Aria jumped off the throne and landed in the center. Then, she reached her hand towards Zach and said, "Come."
Zach was taken aback by the situation. It reminded him of the first time he met Aria. Precisely, he recalled the scene where Aria asked him to join her.
Just like that time, Aria was inviting Zach to join her.
The red moon in the sky, the dripping lava from the stones that were hovering in the sky, and the river of the lava flowing around. Her white hair, red eyes, beautiful black nightgown, and a gentle smile on her flushed face.
Of course, this scene was nowhere similar to the time when Zach met Aria, but Zach was hit with the same feeling.

He was feeling charmed by Aria.

'If you ever saw my real beauty, you would forget all the girls and submit yourself to me.' Zach remembered what Aria had told him about her beauty.

'Well...' Zach jumped and held Aria's hand before landing on the ground. He smiled at her and thought, 'She wasn't lying about that.'

Aria furrowed her brows and uttered, "Why are you smiling at me like that? It's creepy."

'Nevermind. I take that back,' Zach groaned inwardly. 'Her personality is still the same.'

Zach let go of Aria's hand and asked, "What now?"

"Have you seen your life tree before?" Aria asked with a curious look on her face.

Zach shook his head in response and said, "I have created a skill tree and class tree. But not a life tree."

"However, by the name of it, I guess the life tree includes everything of my body and power?" Zach wondered with a curious look on his face.

Aria slightly nodded before saying, "The life tree indicates your entire life. Its roots show how strong your body foundation is. Its truck shows how strong your base is. Its branches show your powers, and the leaves on the branches show the limit of your powers. There are also flowers, fruits, and trees that show the health of your body."

"Wow. What about the soul?" Zach was genuinely surprised.

Aria stared at Zach for a while and uttered in a solemn voice: "The tree itself is your soul."

"Okay..." Zach pondered for a while, "So I awakened by soul powers a while ago. Does that mean my life tree would start to grow now?" "Yes and no." Aria sighed and said, "You had a life tree before because you have a soul. But now that your soul powers have awakened, the tree will rapidly grow, and so will your power.' "So I have to learn soul cultivation to increase the capacity of the tree, right?" Zach asked. "Because I don't have enough juice (water/soul power) to water the life tree?" "Exactly!" Aria clapped her hands and said, "But first, I need to see your domain." Zach knitted his brows and asked, "Are you sure? Because we are currently in your domain. There is a chance that your domain will get destroyed, you know?" "Just do it." "Alright." Zach closed his eyes and joined both his hands together. Then, he raised the first two fingers of both hands and started chanting something. Suddenly, Aria's entire domain was covered in a shadow, and everything turned dark. However, the shadow shattered after a second. Zach opened his eyes while saying, "It's not working—" He stopped when he saw Aria on her knees. Her entire body was shaking as though she was trembling in fear. She saw something in Zach's domain that scared her. Chapter 98

"What happened?"! Zach asked with an anxious and concerned look on his face. "Are you scared?"
"No." Aria stood up and said, "I just caught a glimpse of the creatures who blessed you. And they were in their ugliest form possible. Although I didn't see the god you were walking about."
"Oh, that does sound disgusting."
Aria let out a weary sigh and uttered, "I give up. I can't find a way to access your life tree."
Zach placed his hand on his chin and pondered for a while.
"What if" Zach looked at Aria and said, "What if I reverse track my life tree with the help of the skill tree and class tree?"
Aria shrugged her shoulders and replied, "Go ahead and try it."
Zach opened his menu and used Aria's blessings to change his secondary class to the crafter.
'Only crafter class can access my skill tree and the class tree because I used them to create them.'
Zach kept trying for a while, but all his attempts failed.
"Tch!"
Annoyed and frustrated after several attempts, he clicked his tongue and mixed his skill tree with the class tree.
[Congratulations! You have acquired an awakening class!]

Zach raised his brows in confusion and opened his menu to see his secondary class had changed even though he shouldn't be able to change it for the next 24 hours.
"What's wrong?" Aria asked with a curious look on her face.
"I got a new class an awakening class" Zach replied while stuttering on his words.
"What's the name of the class?"
Zach turned to Aria with a baffled look on his face and uttered, "Alchemist."
Zach mixed his skill tree and class tree, which resulted in merging all his classes with his skills.
Of course, he had tried merging his classes before, but it had never worked.
However, Zach's soul powers had awakened now, which was why he was able to merge his classes.
The Alchemist class was a mixture of Healer, Crafter, and Mage classes.
Zach could now heal, craft, and use magic without changing his class.
"That's great, right?" Aria uttered with a smile on her face. "So why do you look upset?"
"I am not upset. I am just I wonder if I can still make the potions or not," Zach uttered in a low voice. "I

Zach assumed that he lost all of his class skills because his class had merged. He thought he lost his DT skill, which was the most beneficial skill for him.

probably can, but..."

Of course, his DT skill wasn't a class skill, so changing classes wouldn't affect it. However, Zach had merged all the skills with the class tree.
"What's wrong?" Aria asked again.
"I am worried that this class awakening might have affected my DT skill," Zach responded in a calm voice.
"Does it still show in your stats menu?" Aria asked with a curious yet calm look on her face.
Zach nodded and said, "Yeah."
"Then how about you try using it?" Aria suggested.
"Here?" Zach glanced around and said, "But there are no monsters here."
Aria chuckled from the corner of her lips and said with a grin on her face: "Did you forget what you called me when we met for the first time?"
Zach had called Aria a monster.
"What does that have to do" Zach stopped on his words when he realized what Aria was suggesting.
"Wait, are you asking me to use my DT skill on you?!" Zach exclaimed.
"Yes."
"Are you out of your mind?!" Zach shouted. "You do know that my DT skill obliterates anything I touch, right?"

"Yes, I do." Aria nodded and said, "But you said you want to control your DT skill and use a specific amount of MP. And I can't think of a better way."
"What if I fail? You will die."
"So be it." Aria furrowed. "If you don't want me to die, then learn to control it."
That reminded Zach of his childhood training, where his master forced him to do many risky things. That was one of the reasons why he never backed off in any of his commitments.
Moreover, his risky nature was the reason that Zach met Aria.
If he hadn't thought of going past floor five and risked his life, he wouldn't have reached floor ten and cleared it.
His one choice would have changed his fate and hindered his development. If he hadn't met Aria, he wouldn't have fought her. And Aria wouldn't have given Zach her blessings to change classes.
Zach was remembering everything because if he used and failed to control his DT skill on Aria, she would die.
"What level are you on, and how much HP do you have?" Zach asked so he could calculate the amount of MP he needed to use with his DT skill.
"I am level 29, and my HP is 25000," Aria replied honestly.
"So I will use 24 MP with my DT skill, and that will deal 24000" Zach uttered in a low voice.
Zach placed his hand on Aria's chest— between her bosom and asked. "If you die, will you be able to

come back here again?"

Aria shook her head and said, "Most likely no. So if you mess this up, this will be our last time seeing each other."

When Zach had stabbed Ameria to confirm she was Aria, he hadn't killed her. She still had some HP left. Then, Aurora had healed her the next day.

"You are giving me second thoughts now..." Zach muttered under his breath. However, because he was close to Aria, she heard him.

Aria scoffed softly and said with a grin: "What, are you worried about me?"

"I am." Zach nodded. "Is that weird?"

The grin from Aria's face vanished as she said, "Didn't you want to get rid of me? This is your best chance."

Even though Aria was acting tough from the outside, she was scared from the inside. Not because she would die in the game if Zach failed, she was scared because if Zach failed, she would never get to see him again.

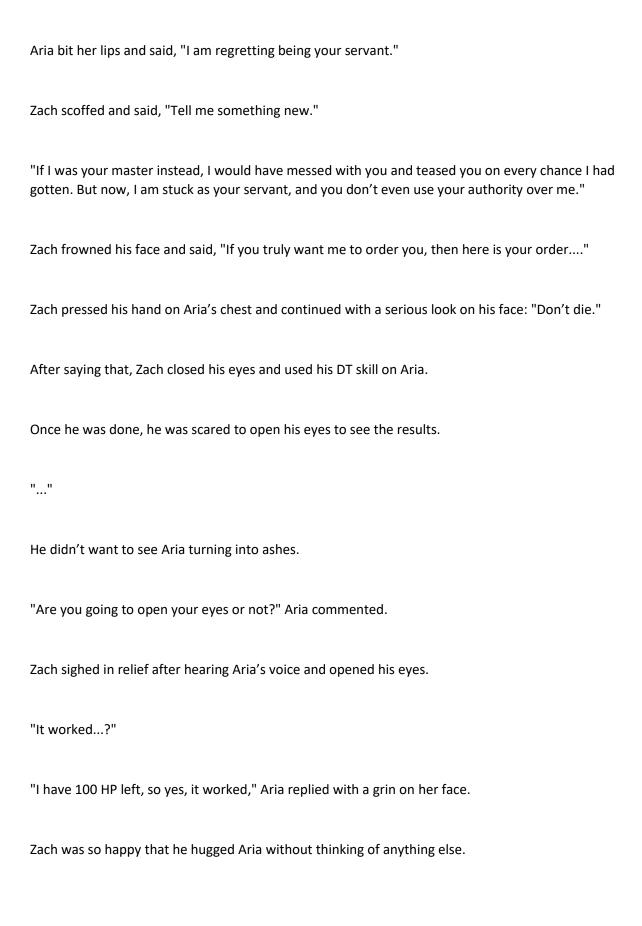
"What are you talking about?" Zach furrowed his brows at Aria and said with a solemn look on his face: "You are my party member. I am not going to let you go so easily."

"Don't worry too much about it," Aria said with a wry smile on her face. "If I die now or in the future, you can visit me anytime in the real world once you have beat the game."

"I don't know where you live," Zach replied in a disdainful tone.

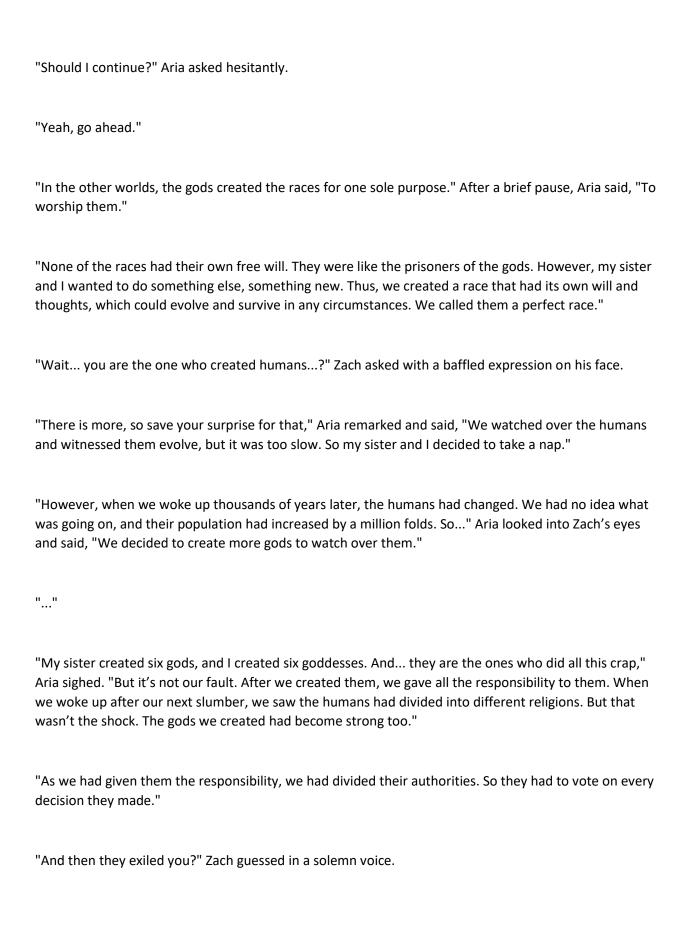
"Then maybe I will visit you. I am powerful enough to sense you from my purgatory."

Zach chuckled and said, "How are you going to introduce yourself to my family? As my wife?"



Aria's face immediately flushed like never before.
'This is the first time in my life a boy has hugged me'
'Oh really? Does that mean I am your first?'
'Yeah' Aria stopped when she realized she was talking with Zach using telepathy.
She pushed Zach and made some distance between them.
"Don't listen to my thoughts!" she yelled.
"I wasn't listening. Your voice automatically sounded in my mind," Zach responded with a shrug.
"Enough!" Aria frowned her face and said, "Now heal me!"
Zach knitted his brows and uttered, "That's not a way to talk with you, master."
Aria rolled her eyes and said with a sigh: "Heal me, master."
Zach shook his head in disbelief and healed Aria to her maximum health.
"It does feel amazing to be able to craft, heal, and use magic at the same time without changing any classes."
Zach stared at Aria and kept staring at her because she was smiling for some reason.
"What are you staring at me for?" Aria asked with a grin on her face.

"You said I am the first boy who has ever hugged you in your life, but you are tens of thousands of years old. So" Zach shrugged his shoulders and said, "It's kind of hard to believe."
"What's your story, by the way?" Zach asked with a curious look on his face.
"It's nothing interesting."
Zach squinted his eyes and said, "I order you to tell me your story."
Chapter 99
"I order you to tell me your story."
"That's not fair~!" Aria groaned. "Fine. I will tell you, but first, promise me that you won't get angry."
"Why would I get angry at your story?" Zach asked with a puzzled and confused look on his face.
Aria was scared to tell her story to Zach because she was afraid that Zach might cast her away or, worse, hate her.
Aria cleared her throat and started telling her story: "So the gods were ruling over different worlds. Each god had their own world to rule, their own universes. However, they wanted to expand their reach. So they created two goddesses."
"You and your sister?" Zach guessed.
Aria quietly nodded and continued, "My sister— Erza and I, we created a universe, different from all the universes. We wanted to do something new so—"
Aria stopped when she noticed a shocked expression on Zach's face.

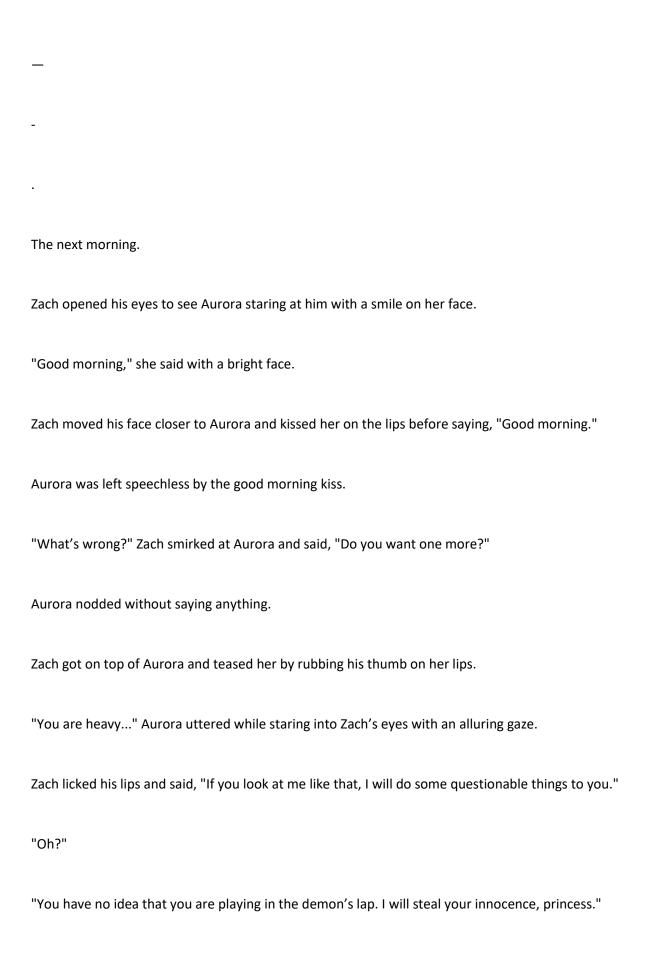


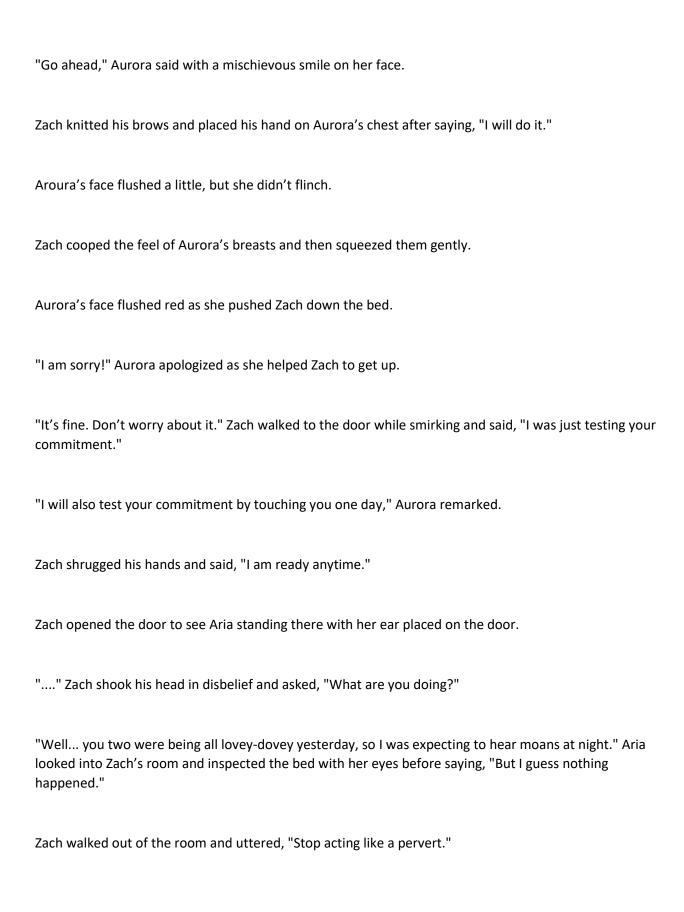
Aria nodded and continued, "And without the heavens, our powers stopped growing."
Zach raised his brows and asked, "How long has it been since then?"
"I am not exactly sure but maybe around 80 thousand years?" Aria responded in a calm tone.
"What happened to your sister?" Zach asked with a knowing look on his face.
"When I woke up after getting exiled, my sister wasn't there with me. Then one day, she visited me in my dream and told me she had been living with humans. But I never heard from her again," Aria replied with a sad look on her face.
" "
"I searched for her for thousands of years, but" Aria sighed and said, "I don't want to talk about it."
Aria averted her gaze and repeatedly glanced at Zach from the corners of her eyes before asking, "Are you angry?"
"Why would I be angry?"
"I am the one who created the gods, so it's my fault," Aria asserted. "If we hadn't—"
"If you say it like that, then you have done a lot of great things by creating humans," Zach scoffed. "You are like a mother to all the humans, aren't you?"
Aria frowned her face and said, "Then with that sense, you are my son, and Aurora is my daughter."
"Uhh let's not think about it," Zach uttered with a disgusted look on his face. "But by that logic, the gods you created are your real sons and daughters."

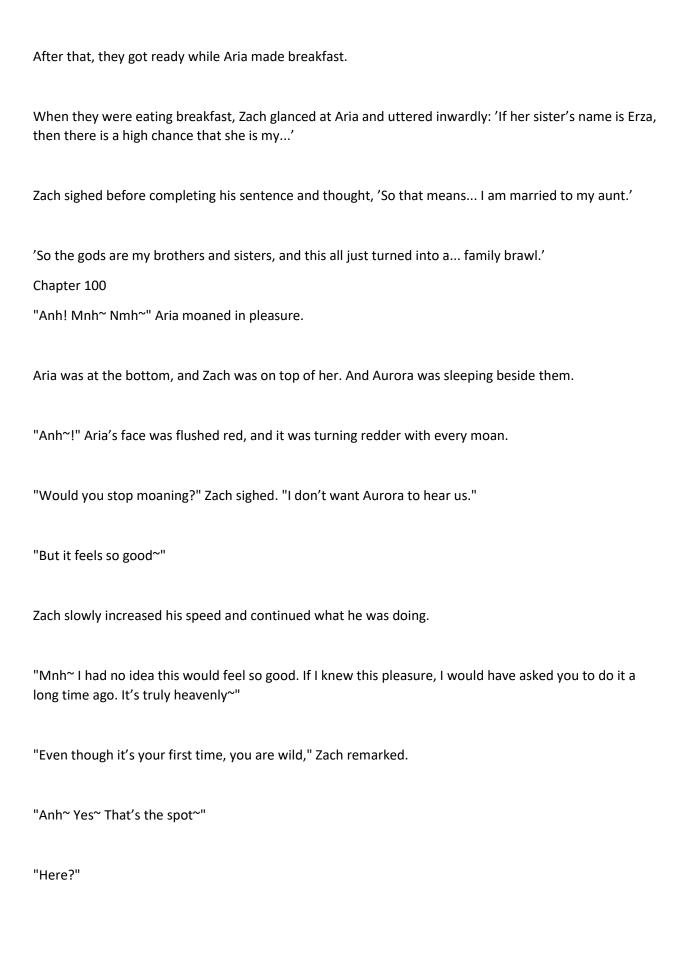
After that, they left Aria's domain. "Thanks for today," Zach thanked Aria and opened the door to leave Aria's room. "I would appreciate it if you stop breaking into my room at night," Aria remarked. Zach scoffed at Aria and retorted, "I know you purposely leave it unlocked so I can break-in." "Get out now. I need some sleep." Zach left Aria's room and closed the door behind him. Aria laid down on the bed and grabbed the blanket. She curled up with the blanket and muttered with a flushed face, "Why am I happy? What is this feeling?" "I wanted him to leave me alone, but now that he left, I feel lonely..." 'I know you love him!' Aria recalled what Aurora had told her at the inn. "That's impossible..." Aria uttered in a low voice. "We gods are unable to love because we have to treat everyone equally. We can't favor one over another. Nor can we hate anyone." "Although we can get angry and sad, we can't love or hate anyone..." she added. 'But... why does my heart flutter when I see him?' Aria asked herself. 'I think it's the effect of our pact."

Aria let out a deep sigh as she turned to the other side of the bed and uttered, "This master-servant

relationship is more troublesome than I had thought."









Zach got up and looked at his wet gloves before muttering, "I can't believe this was real."
"Are you okay?" Zach sighed and shook Aria with his leg.
Aria didn't say anything and simply slinked her eyes in response.
"You don't look okay"
"You are great at giving massages," Aria uttered in a low voice.
"I think the credit goes to the gloves." Zach looked at his gloves and said, "It was one of its benefits."
After eating breakfast, they completed the NPC quest and got 100% completion of the map. It had many things, but Aurora insisted on coming to the beach because she had never seen a beach in her life.
Of course, Zach hadn't seen it either, so they decided to go to the beach.
However, when they got there, a few players were already present at the beach doing their own things. Some were couples, while some were in parties.
Aria was upset after seeing them, but Zach told them, 'Just because we completed the NPC quests and got access to the secret location, that doesn't mean other players can't do the same.'
Honestly, Zach was also hoping that he would be alone at the beach, but he couldn't do anything for obvious reasons.
After that, Zach, Aurora, and Aria found an empty spot on the other side of the beach where no one was around.

Zach had already messaged and informed Victoria about his outing at the beach. He asked if she was

free to join them, but unfortunately, Victoria was swamped with the work.

However, even if she wanted to join them. She wouldn't be able to.

Only the players who had access to the secret locations on the map could enter the beach. Zach, Aria, and Aurora were at a party, so they all had access to it, while Victoria wasn't.

While players could join the guild as temporary members, they couldn't join a party as one. And even if they were able to do so, Victoria first had to leave the guild to join the party, and she had to wait for four more days for that.

After that, Zach crafted bikinis for Aria and Aurora, and he ended up using all the materials in that process.

He crafted a black bikini for Aria, which was a perfect color for her. And he crafted an ivory-cream-colored bikini for Aurora that was the same color as her hair.

Zach wanted to make Aurora's bikini a little different and more revealing, but he didn't have enough material, nor did he have time.

He also crafted a black swimming trunk for himself.

After that, Zach mentioned his massage technique, and Aria asked him to test it on her.

However, it turned into a series of moans.

It was more awkward for Zach because Aria was apparently his aunt.

Zach glanced at the sleeping Aurora and uttered, "I know you are awake for a while."

However, Aurora didn't respond and kept her eyes closed.

Zach raised his brows and nodded as though he was thinking of pulling a prank on Aurora. He sat on her legs and said, "Don't blame me if anything happens to you." Even after Zach's warning, Aurora didn't open her eyes. Zach placed his two fingers on Aurora's thighs and slowly walked it up to her stomach. Then, he walked his fingers and stopped between Aurora's chest. He moved his finger to the right and then went to the left. "Where should I go?" Zach uttered in a loud voice. Aurora's face was slowly turning red, but she still wasn't opening her eyes. Zach sighed and said, "You made me do it." Aurora was expecting Zach to grope her breasts, but instead, she received a kiss on the lips. Aurora opened her eyes and muttered, "That's cheating." Zach smirked and licked his lips before saying, "You know I never play by rules." Aurora glanced at Aria and found her sleeping, although both Zach and Aurora knew she was awake. "Let's go into the sea," Aurora suggested. "Okay..." Zach turned to Aria and said, "Are you coming." After a brief silence, Aria said, "I will join you later."

Zach and Aurora went into the sea and walked until the water was reaching their waist. Aurora stumbled into the water, but Zach grabbed her and pulled her close to him. "I was scared, you know?" Aurora uttered. "Of water?" Zach scoffed. Aurora puffed her cheeks and said, "I closed my eyes and accidentally fell asleep. And then I woke up to hear Aria moaning 'Harder Harder' and all that. I thought you and her were..." Zach poked Aurora's puffed cheeks and said, "You have a dirty mind, you naughty girl." Aurora wrapped her arms around Zach and said, "You made me like this. So..." Aurora kissed Zach on the lips and said, "So you better take the responsibility." "Oh?" Zach raised his brows and kissed Aurora before saying, "Then I better get something in return." Meanwhile, Aria was watching Zach and Aurora from a distance. Her face frowned more and more as they kissed again and again. Zach and Aurora stared into each other's eyes and got lost in the moment. The water had made their body wet, and the cold breeze made them shiver a little. They moved their face closer to kiss, but suddenly, a big wave came and swayed Aurora with the flow. "Zach!" Aurora yelled as she drowned in the water.

Zach dived into the water and activated his gloves' powers to control the water around him. He pulled the water close to him that brought Aurora back into his arms.
"Are you okay?" Zach asked with an anxious and concerned look on his face.
Aurora nodded and hugged Zach as tightly as she could so she would never get separated from him.
Suddenly, there were yells and screams on the beach.
Zach glanced around and wondered, 'What's going on?'
"Zach!" Aria approached Zach and Aurora with an anxious look on her face and said, "Something is wrong."
"I can see that"
It wasn't the big wave that drowned Aurora, but it was the sea. Zach noticed that the sea surface was slowly increasing. When Zach looked at the beach, he saw everything was submerged in the sea.
"What the—"
The other players were screaming and yelling for help as they drowned.
'It's hard to believe that they can't swim. Something else is—"
Zach's eyes widened in realization as he yelled, "Get out of here!"
Zach tried to jump out of the water, but he couldn't. It was as though his body was stuck in the sea.