

Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate

- Chapter 917: I Don't Really Like Saying Goodbyes |

Chapter 917: I Don't Really Like Saying Goodbyes

"... Is he really the previous Dragon King's Brother?"

"Yes. Where did you find his corpse?"

"... Lady Augustina, would you believe me if I said we found him inside a cave on this floating island?"

"..."

The Half-Elf could feel beads of sweat starting to form in his forehead as the Steward of the Crystal Palace looked at him with a steady gaze.

"I-It's true! My Fiance found the well-preserved body of a Golden Dragon in a cave when she was looking for treasures on this island," Lux replied. "In fact, the body was so well-preserved that people would think that the Golden Dragon was just sleeping. But, he was really dead when we found him."

Lady Augustina could tell that Lux wasn't lying. Since that was the case, what he said had to be true. She then shifted her attention on the Ancient Dracolich, who was looking down on them in arrogance.

"Understood," Lady Augustina said with a complicated look on her face. "The majority of the previous King's family died in the Abyssal Wars. However, there are still a few of them that remain. They also have loyal retainers that might recognize his face, so be extra careful."

"Dragons don't like to have their dead bodies desecrated by Necromancers. If someone asks you where you found the Dragon Corpse, tell them that you discovered it on an ancient battlefield, or something."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. He didn't really know that the Dragon Corpse that Cai found when she was exploring the Floating Island with Fei Fei belonged to a member of the previous Royal Family.

"Um, Your Excellency, do you think the current Dragon King will recognize him?" Lux asked.

Lady Augustina smiled and looked at the Half-Elf in amusement. "What do you think?"

"I think, I will unsummon him now."

"Good idea."

The Half-Elf hurriedly un-summoned the Dracolich, who was now starting to attract the attention of his Guild Members.

"I'm going back, Lux," Lady Augustina said. "Remember. Don't summon your Dracolich anywhere near those from Karshvar Draconis and the Crystal Palace, unless it is absolutely necessary. Any Necromancer who revives dead Dragons, or Dragon Borns, are frowned upon by our race."

After saying those words, Lady Augustina disappeared and returned to the Royal Palace. She sincerely hoped that Lux would listen to her advice for his own good.

When the Supreme was no longer around, he looked at his Soul Book in order to read the additional information about Avernus.

Ancient Dracolich

Hell Bringer

Rating: SSR+++

Rank: Demigod World Boss (Sealed)

Current Rank: Empyrean World Boss

Note: Currently, Avernus is only of the Empyrean Rank because your Rank is not high enough to be able to command it at higher levels. Once you become a B-Ranker, Avernus will evolve into a Calamity-Ranked World Boss.

Its Demigod Rank will only be unsealed once you become an S-Ranker.

Lux pondered for a bit as he read the requirements for Avernus' evolution. It reminded him of his Covenant member, Shax.

Back then, he was unable to command Shax because his rank was too low to contain its power.

'It's a good thing that Avernus isn't like Shax,' Lux thought. 'He will be one of my Trump Cards against the Divine Army of Light.'

Dragons were inherently stronger than Humans, and a Dragon that was also an Empyrean-Ranked World Boss was more than enough to contend against Saints.

After fully understanding what Avernus was capable of, the Half-Elf decided to find Eiko, who was currently being taught by Lilian how to awaken her true powers.

The Baby Slime had always wanted to become strong. However, after the Abyssal incident, her determination only became stronger.

Because of this, Lux agreed to let the Wicked Queen Slime teach her the things she needed to know to awaken her bloodline.

A few minutes later, he found the two inside the Nursery, where the Slime Eggs were kept.

When Lilian discovered that Lux was raising slimes inside his Guild Headquarters, her impression of him improved slightly.

However, when Eiko took her to Leaf Village, which was now called Leaf Town, the Wicked Queen Slime thought that she had seen Paradise.

Nearly all the dwarves in Leaf Town had a Slime as their Beast Companion.

Because of this, Lilian had become more cordial to Lux, and no longer looked down on him.

The Half-Elf couldn't help but smile when he saw Lilian talking to Eiko, while other Baby Slimes were resting on her lap, shoulders, and head.

If one didn't know that she was actually a Calamity-Ranked Monster, one might think that she was just a beautiful lady, who had a fondness for Baby Slimes.

Since Eiko had a very strong connection to Lux, she immediately sensed his presence and looked in his direction.

"Pa!" Eiko called out to him before jumping into his embrace.

"Good girl," Lux said as he patted Eiko's head, making the Baby Slime giggle.

Lilian shook her head helplessly before making a gesture for Lux to come closer.

"Have you thought about the thing I told you about?" Lilian asked.

"... Can you give me a little more time?" Lux replied. "At least, until I finish my mission in Agartha."

Lilian frowned before reluctantly nodding her head.

"Fine." Lilian narrowed her eyes. "But, the longer you delay this, the longer it will take for Eiko to unlock her true potential."

The Half-Elf sighed internally before looking at the Baby Slime in his embrace.

Lilian told him that Eiko's over dependence on him was preventing her from truly becoming a powerhouse.

If he really wanted Eiko to be strong, they should separate for a period of time, so that the Baby Slime could be more independent, and sharpen her survival instincts.

Truth be told, he didn't want Eiko to go on an adventure alone. But, Lilian assured him that she would observe the Baby Slime from a safe distance, and come to her rescue if her life was truly in danger.

Naturally, he and Iris talked about this as well, and although she was worried about Eiko, she also believed that Lilian was right.

"Greenhouse flowers may bloom with precision, but wildflowers dance to the rhythm of nature's heart," Iris had said back then. "Unlike greenhouse flowers, wildflowers are resilient. When it storms, they brave through the winds and

pouring rain. When it snows, their roots nap under the earth and return the following spring. They're never truly defeated.

"I am like Eiko. Well protected by Father, You, and my Guild. I have never truly faced hardships before the Abyssal Incident. Because of this, I convinced Father to allow me to travel more in Elysium, in order to brave the dangers and become truly strong. I no longer want to be a Greenhouse Flower, who cannot face the dangers of the world on my own."

Deep inside, Lux understood that Eiko was strong enough to become independent for a period of time.

He was just reluctant to part with her because she had been with him ever since the Baby Slime was born.

'After Agartha, I will let you play on your own for a while,' Lux thought as he patted the Baby Slime in his arms. 'I'll have King Leoric accompany you from afar as an added protection.'

After playing with Eiko for a while, Lux left the nursery and decided to take a stroll in the town at the base of the mountain.

He had named this town, Edea and, after a few months, it was finally taking shape. If not for the fact that several structures were damaged when the Saints from the Divine Army of Light had attacked the floating island, the construction work would have been completed faster.

Bentley, who was making sure that everything was in order, told Lux that they were nearing the completion of their project.

Once they were done, they would assist him in building their Gyrocopter Army, which had been temporarily put on hold until the town's construction was finished.

"The Satyrs and the Succubi can live here once it is finished," Lux muttered.

Lux's goal was to turn the floating island into a flying fortress that could travel anywhere in Elysium.

They could only stay a year inside the territory of the Crystal Palace, so because of this, he was on a tight schedule.

Once they left the protection of Lady Augustina, he would finally settle things with the Divine Army of Light, and show them that he was no push over.

As he was returning to the Guild Headquarters, he saw his Master standing near the teleportation gate waiting for him.

"Lux, there is something that I need to tell you," Gaap said in a solemn tone. "Do you have a moment?"

It was very rare for his Master to have this kind of expression, and it made Lux wonder if something bad happened.

Seeing his Disciple's expression, Gaap chuckled and motioned for the Half-Elf to take his hand.

Lux obeyed and a second later, they found themselves standing on the outskirts of the Necromancer's Ancestral Lands.

"Master, why are we here?" Lux asked. "Do you need something in the Ancestral Lands?"

"No," Gaap replied. "I just brought you here to give you something."

Gaap took the necklace that hung on his neck off. It was a chain that had a ring hanging from its center, which had the symbol of Memento Mori.

"You already know that my Master, Hereswith, once belonged to Memento Mori," Gaap said as he looked at the ring fondly. "But, after pursuing her passion to become a Heaven's Necromancer, she was excommunicated from the organization and wandered Elysium alone."

Gaap smiled as if he recalled those memories that were very precious to him.

"Every member of Memento Mori, passes this ring to their Disciple once they have completed their training," Gaap stated. "Just like my Master, I am not a member of Memento Mori. Make no mistake, I hate them as well, but not as much as I hate the Divine Army of Light.

"We might not have been together for a long time, but I have nothing more to teach you. That's why, it's time for you to inherit your Grandmaster's Legacy, so accept this ring. Just remember this, we are not part of Memento Mori. But, I'm sure that they are already aware of your existence.

"Although I can't say for certain, I believe that they will not harm you. So, keep this necklace as a good luck charm, so that our Master's Legacy will remain."

The Halfling handed the necklace to Lux with a smile.

"Master, are you going somewhere?" Lux asked. He didn't accept the necklace right away because he felt that the moment he did, Gaap would disappear in his life.

"I'm just going to go sightseeing in Elysium," Gaap replied. "I've been running with Master all my life, then I got trapped in Zangrila. I haven't had the chance to see the world, and enjoy its beauty and wonders. You are already strong enough to protect yourself, so I don't need to worry about your safety. Don't worry, I promise to visit you from time to time."

The Half-Elf and the Halfling stared at each as if trying to read each other's minds.

After a few minutes of silence, Lux reluctantly took the necklace off his Master's hands.

"Thank you, Master," Lux said. "I'll keep it safe."

"Mmm." Gaap nodded. "Now, let me tell you the function of my Master's ring. It allows you to teleport to the Ancestral Lands. Not only that, it can also..."

Gaap told Lux the special abilities of the ring that he had passed onto him.

When the Halfling was sure that his Disciple fully understood how to use his gift, he smiled and patted his waist.

"Well then, I will be going now," Gaap said. "I don't really like saying goodbyes, so let's part here, Lux. Make sure to keep yourself safe, okay?"

Lux nodded. "I will, Master. Enjoy your travels, and be safe always."

Gaap smirked before waving his hand to create a portal in front of him. However, before he entered the portal, he turned back to say something very important to his disciple.

"You told me once that your reason for coming to Elysium is to find a way to save your world, Solais, correct?" Gaap asked.

"Yes, Master," Lux replied.

"Then, listen well. Look for the Pillars of Eternity," Gaap stated. "Once you find them all, you will find the solution to your problem. Goodluck Lux, and I pray that you will succeed in your endeavor."

Without another word, the Halfling entered the portal, leaving Lux behind, with his Master's Token in his Disciple's hand.

Chapter 918.1: The Pillars Of Eternity [Part 1]

"Pillars of Eternity..." Lux silently repeated as he opened the Elysium Compendium to search for information about the thing that his Master had told him to look for.

To his surprise, he did find something, and he read the information with a serious expression on his face.

< Pillars of Eternity >

"In the boundless expanse of time,

Eternity's song, a sweet rhyme,

No beginning, no final chime,

Endless, infinite, a wondrous climb,

Eternal moments, forever sublime."

It was said that Eternity was created by Five Pillars, which represented Five Virtues.

The first of them was Fortitude.

< Fortitude >

Fortitude acts as the protector and pillar of other virtues, reinforcing their strength and ensuring their endurance.

In the face of adversity and challenges, fortitude helps individuals remain steadfast in upholding their principles and moral values, making it a fundamental cornerstone of virtuous living.

The Second Pillar was Justice

< Justice >

The first duty of society is Justice.

It emphasizes the importance of fairness and the unwavering commitment to ensuring that every individual receives what they rightfully deserve. Justice is about upholding the rights of others and treating them fairly, making it a cornerstone of ethical and moral principles in society.

The Third Pillar was Stability

< Stability >

Stability is not the absence of change, but the ability to adapt to it.

True stability involves the capacity to remain steady and secure in the face of change and uncertainty. It reflects the ability to adapt, adjust, and maintain equilibrium while navigating the inevitable shifts and challenges that life presents.

The Fourth Pillar was Love

< Love >

Love is not just something you feel, it's something you do.

It emphasizes that love is not a mere passive emotion, but a conscious choice and action. True love involves demonstrating care, kindness, and commitment through your actions, showing that love is not defined by words alone, but by the way we treat and care for others.

The Last Pillar was Hope.

< Hope >

Hope is the ability to see the light despite all the darkness around you.

Hope is a resilient and ever-present force within the human soul, continuously inspiring and uplifting us, even in the absence of clear words or explanations. It emphasizes hope's unwavering nature and its ability to provide solace and motivation in times of darkness and uncertainty.

Lux tried to search for more information about the Pillars of Eternity, but the Elysium Compendium showed him no other results.

He might have a clue about how he could save Solais, but what he knew was only the tip of the iceberg.

'There has to be another way to look for answers,' Lux thought.

Suddenly, his eyes opened wide as an idea popped inside of his head.

Acting on this impulse, he hurriedly went to the Altar of the Gods that was built behind their Guild Headquarters.

All of the denizens of Elysium believed in Gods, so Bentley constructed an Altar, assuming that Lux's Guild Members would need a place to commune with the Gods during their times of great need.

Lux was probably one of the handful of people in Elysium and Solais who was aware that the Gods that people prayed to had long abandoned them.

But there was an exception.

Two exceptions rather.

The God of Games, and the God of Gamblers.

Among the Gods who had once graced Elysium, only the two of them remained. They were even doing their best in the background to ensure that Solais would not be completely destroyed, and had sent their representative, Lux, to carry out this mission.

"I hope this works. Eiko, don't eat the sacrifice," Lux said before lightly patting the Baby Slime, who tagged along with him after seeing him return to the Guild Headquarters.

"Pa?" The Baby Slime, who was already holding one of the cookies that Lux had offered on the Altar as a sacrifice, tilted her head.

"I'll give you more cookies later. Don't eat these cookies, okay?"

"Un!"

Eiko reluctantly returned the cookie to the Altar and jumped back to the top of her Papa's head.

The Half-Elf then pressed his palms together and offered a prayer, hoping that the two Gods who look after him from the Heavens, would answer his call.

"I think this is the first time you have prayed to us, Lux. You should do this more often."

A teasing voice reached Lux's ears, which made him open his eyes slowly.

Standing in front of him was Eriol and Max, who were looking at him with smiles on their faces.

"I'm sorry." Lux apologized. "I kind of forgot to pray because of the many things that have been happening lately."

"We forgive you," Max replied with a smug expression on his face. "But make sure to pray to us often from now on, okay?"

Lux nodded. "I'll do my best."

"So do you have any questions for us?" Eriol inquired. "That's why you prayed to us, right?"

"Yes," Lux answered. "I am here to ask about the Pillars of Eternity. Also, why didn't the two of you tell me this important information long ago? It would have sped up my search for the key to save Solais from destruction."

"The reason we didn't tell you about the Pillars of Eternity," Max said, "is because we can't. We need to obey certain rules that restrict us from spoon-feeding you information. Even now that you have stumbled upon the clue, we can't tell you everything that we know."

"Even so, we should still be able to give you enough information to let you have a good understanding about them. As to how you will find the Pillars of

Eternity, even we do not know. Luck will play a part in it, certainly. But we believe that you will find them eventually."

Eriol nodded. "Now, let me tell you what you need to know."

The God of Games then waved his hand and five golden artifacts appeared in front of Lux.

They were a Lion Figurine, a Scale, an Anchor, a Heart-Shaped Locket, and a Candle.

"These artifacts are the Five Pillars of Eternity," Eriol explained. "The Lion Figurine represents Fortitude, the Scale represents Justice, the Anchor represents Stability, the Heart-Shaped Locket represents Love, and the Candle represents Hope."

"Once you gather these five artifacts, you will gain the Authority of Creation and Destruction."

Eriol closed his eyes and the Five Golden Artifacts circled around him, moving counterclockwise.

"If you wish to destroy the world, you can do it with the Authority you would gain from these Five Artifacts," Eriol said softly. "Likewise, if you wish to heal it, you can do so as well. Do you remember when we told you that we had sent other people to Solais as well?"

"This was the Era when the Gods still hadn't abandoned Solais. The people they chose managed to gather the Pillars of Eternity, but something unexpected happened. One of the candidates tried to use them to become a God."

Lux's eyes widened in shock after hearing this revelation.

He had indeed been told that there had been some people summoned in Solais in the past, but aside from that vague piece of information, Eriol and Max hadn't elaborated much about it.

When the Gods abandoned the world, summoning these "heroes" no longer became possible.

This was why Max and Eriol created a cannon to launch their chosen candidate from the Celestial Realm, forcefully allowing him to enter the world of Solais.

Chapter 919.2: The Pillars Of Eternity [Part 2]

"Someone tried to use the Pillars of Eternity to become a God?" Lux asked in disbelief.

Eriol nodded. "Yes, and he almost succeeded."

Max had an annoyed expression on his face as if he was remembering something foul.

"You see Lux, Authority is a way to gain the power of Faith," Max stated. "Each God is born from the Faith of the People, and the ability to control an entire world would have given him enough Power of Faith to ascend to Godhood.

"Because of this, the Gods rebelled, and a battle to reclaim the Artifacts ensued. Unfortunately, their chosen champions lost to the one that had managed to steal all Five Artifacts. Just as his ritual of ascension was about to be completed, our dear friend, who was also the Goddess of Solais, sacrificed her life in order to disrupt the ceremony.

"She succeeded, and the Traitor Hero was banished to the deepest Layer of the Abyss. Our friend died, and her soul was cursed as a consequence of her actions. She was fated to wander the two worlds, and every time she reincarnated, she suffered a fate worse than death."

Max closed his eyes, and the pain of losing his dear friend could be seen in every fiber of his being.

Even Eriol, who almost always had a carefree smile on his face, had a hurt expression on his face.

"Is this Goddess currently living in Elysium or Solais as a mortal?" Lux asked out of curiosity.

"She is... in Elysium," Eriol replied. "And suffering even as we speak. Also, one of the Pillars of Eternity is within her soul. She has kept it with her all this time in order to prevent the same incident from happening again. This is also why she is suffering.

"A Goddess might be able to store the power of Eternity in her body, but a mortal body is very fragile and unable to contain the power that is always present in her soul."

Lux then glanced at the two Gods in front of him with a determined expression on his face.

"Then can you tell me where she is?" Lux pleaded. "If we can find her then I will be able to collect one of the Pillars of Eternity."

Eriol and Max exchanged a glance before resolutely shaking their heads at the same time.

"As much as we want to end her suffering, we can't tell you where she is," Eriol stated. "Lux, there is a chance that she will die if we intervene, and time is of the essence. If she dies because of our interference, there will not be a second chance to save Solais."

Max sighed. "You might have already felt it, haven't you? Solais doesn't have much time left. Three years at the minimum, six at the maximum. If the Five Pillars are not gathered by then... Solais will cease to exist. Their only chance of survival is for all of them to migrate to Elysium, and that is our last resort."

Lux felt as if the weight that he was carrying on his shoulders became heavier after Max's revelation.

In less than six years, Solais would disappear if he failed to finish his mission. This made him feel bitter because he really had no clue about where to search for the Pillars of Eternity.

"All I can tell you is that two of the five Pillars are in their artifact form," Eriol hesitated a bit before imparting this information to Lux. "Meaning, they might be in Auctions, they might be sold by Merchants, or you can stumble upon them by accident.

"The other three are harder to find because they are stored in People's Soul. For them to appear, these people must undergo Enlightenment, allowing them to summon these dormant powers hidden within their souls."

Lux rubbed his face with both of his hands because his mission was harder than finding a needle in a sea of haystacks.

There were countless people in both Elysium and Solais, and finding these three souls was nearly an impossible task. Even so, he refused to give up so he asked the Gods another question.

"Is there a way for me to determine who these people are?" Lux asked. "Like a detector or something? Anything that will alert me if that person is near?"

"Actually, you will be able to..."

"Stop, Max. We can't. Don't take this gamble."

Eriol looked at his friend with a resigned expression. Max scratched his head before averting his gaze.

After a few minutes of silence, Max spoke and, this time, it was Eriol's turn to look away.

"Lady Fate isn't always fair, but she is not always unfair," Max stated. "Since she knows the reason why you are sent to Solais, she will present you with opportunities to find the Pillars of Eternity."

Suddenly, the sound of lightning and thunder reverberated in the surroundings, and the Domain where Lux, Eriol, and Max were started to shake.

Cracks appeared in the dimension they were in, but after a few minutes of tension, the destruction came to a halt.

"You failed this gamble, Max," Eriol said bitterly. "We almost..."

"Hahaha! It's fine, didn't we survive?" Max cut off Eriol's words before he could complete them.

"Barely survived."

"Still survived, so we're fine. It's just several cracks... just don't do anything to make them bigger and we'll be fine... probably."

Eriol rubbed his face with his palm before glancing at Lux with an apologetic face.

"Lux, remember that we said that you have three up to six years before Solais ends? Now it seems that you only have up to four years before everything goes kaboom," Eriol said before looking at his friend. "Thank you, Max. You are a real pal."

The God of Gamblers cleared his throat before looking at Lux with a smile.

"Um, your time is running out, but before you go, allow me to give you a freebie." Max took out a cardboard box with an AmaSoon sticker on it, and handed it to Lux. "I won cards against Ganesha, and as a prize, he gave me several sets of Lucky Underwear.

"Since these undergarments are for girls, I have no use for them. I'm pretty sure that you'll have a better use for them, especially where you are going."

The God of Gamblers then whispered something in Lux's ears that made the latter blush.

"A few of these underwear have slits in them, so if you are into that kind of thing, feel free to give it a go. Also, as the name implies, you might get lucky, or in your case, unlucky, because one shot is all it takes to make a little Lux—if you know what I mean."

Max chuckled as he handed the Cardboard Box to Lux before giving him a gentle push, making the Half-Elf fall down from the sky.

"You will not be able to talk to us for a while because we are currently grounded," Max stated. "Be safe Lux, and no matter what happens, know that we are always on your side."

Before Lux could even give his reply, the Half-Elf found himself kneeling on the ground, facing the Altars of the Gods, holding a cardboard box in his hands.

Eiko, who was surprised that something appeared out of nowhere, jumped off her Papa's head and opened the box.

She then started to pick up the underwear inside it and threw them high in the air as if playing a game.

Right at that moment, Emma, and Garret's three daughters, Leah, Emily, and Alexa, came inside the Temple to pray.

What they found inside made the four girls look at Lux in horror.

A pink bra was hanging on the Half-Elf's head, while several other undergarments littered the ground.

Lux blinked once then twice before giving the four girls an awkward smile. He knew that anything he said would cause a misunderstanding, so he just manned up and said what was already inside his head.

"Oh my, I wonder where all of these came from?" Lux said as he lifted the bra off his head and placed it inside the cardboard box. "It seems that the Gods liked my offering and sent me gifts in return."

The four girls looked at him for a few seconds before exiting the room at the same time.

Leaving Lux and the giggling Baby Slime alone with their own thoughts.

Chapter 920.1: May You Die Happily Ever After [Part 1]

"Hmm~"

"Hmm~"

"Hmm~"

Eiko hummed happily as she sat atop the steering wheel of the Bone Ship, Octavius.

After returning to Agartha, Lux, Eiko, and Lilian were instantly teleported to the Atlas Stronghold, surprising Saintess Cleo and Commander Garen.

They originally thought that the Half-Elf had perished after embarking on a journey toward the Pantheon of Exile, so they didn't expect to see him alive and well.

They didn't get to ask Lux anything as he didn't waste any time with them, immediately heading to the beach to summon his Bone Ship. After that, he started to sail towards the Pantheon of Exile once again in order to complete his mission of meeting Aurora.

Cethus and Gerhart were also with them and were currently on the deck of the ship playing cards with Lux.

On the other hand, Lilian was watching Eiko with a smile, as the Baby Slime hummed and jumped to move the steering wheel from time to time.

"I can't believe that there really is a kingdom under the ground," Gerhart said as he picked a card from Lux's hand.

"A Low Lander like you is truly ignorant," Cethus replied as he threw two cards on the pile in front of him. "The Kingdom of Agartha is one of the most ancient Kingdoms in Elysium. They rarely go to the Surface World, so those who are aware of its existence are few and far in between."

The green-haired Half-Elf arched an eyebrow at the annoying Dragon Born who liked to boast about him being the first to become a D-Ranker between the two of them.

Lux, on the other hand, picked one of the cards in Cethus' hand and frowned. "I don't know what we are going to face in the Pantheon of Exile, but according to Lilian, it is a very dangerous place. Are you sure that you want to accompany me? You can still go back to Guild Headquarters, you know?"

Cethus snorted. "And allow you to leave us in the dust? You wish! I won't miss an opportunity to become stronger."

Gerhart also nodded his head, which made Lux shake his head helplessly.

"Do what you want." Lux sighed before gazing in front of them. "But it seems that we arrived at a bad time."

Jet-black clouds could be seen on the horizon, and the wind was starting to pick up as well. Lightning streaked into the sky, and the faint rumbling of

thunder could be heard even though they were still a distance away from the storm.

"It will be best if you all stay inside my body during the storm," Lilian commented. "That is an Acid Storm, and I doubt that you boys will be able to survive it."

"I can turn into a black demi-dragon that is immune to acid," Lux replied as he glanced at his two companions. "I'll be just fine. But neither the two of you have this kind of protection."

Gerhart and Cethus exchanged glances with each other before looking at Lilian with anxious expressions on their faces. They already knew the beautiful woman's true identity, and being absorbed by her was something that gave them goosebumps.

Seeing their expressions, Lilian just laughed before glancing in Eiko's direction.

"Fine," Lilian said. "Let Eiko store you inside her body, then I can store Eiko inside my body."

The Half-Elf and Dragon Born favored this arrangement. While they still didn't trust Lilian, Eiko was someone that they could trust.

After receiving their permission, Eiko swallowed the two. After that, she reluctantly jumped towards her Aunt so that the latter could keep her safe.

As Lux, he transformed into his Black Demi-Dragon Form. As long as he was in this form, he wouldn't have to worry about the Acid Storm that could melt his skin.

Asmodeus took control of the ship and navigated Octavius around the obstacles in their way.

Since everyone aboard the ship was now immune to acid, they no longer had anything to worry about.

Giant waves rocked the Bone Ship, threatening to capsize it on the stormy waters.

Lightning flashed and thunder roared in the skies above, making Lux frown since his ears were very sensitive to loud sounds.

As they endured the onslaught of nature, Lux noticed several creatures flying above their heads and circling the Bone Ship like vultures waiting for their prey to die.

They were Wraiths, which was one of the horrors that lived in the Purple Sea.

None of these monsters dared to come close to the ship because they had sensed that Lilian was a Calamity-Ranked Monster.

However, that didn't stop them from observing the Demi-Dragon who were looking at them with great curiosity.

"King Leoric, can you tame these Wraiths?" Lux asked the Wraith King, who materialized beside him after his name was mentioned.

"I can. But they already belong to another Wraith King," King Leoric replied. "Trying to tame the subordinates will definitely anger their leader. Should I do it?"

Lux pondered for a bit before nodding his head. "Do it."

Right now, he needed to increase the number of members belonging to his army in preparation for his eventual clash against the Divine Army of Light.

Since Wraiths were Undead Monsters, they would easily fit in with Lux's current army.

King Leoric, who had gained Lux's permission, rose towards the sky and uttered a defiant roar.

The Wraiths who were circling the ship flinched before moving away from the Bone Ship as if they feared Leoric's presence.

A moment later, a loud whistling sound spread across the area as countless Wraiths that hid in the Storm Clouds as well as in the Sea gathered in front of the Bone Ship like a black wall made up of specters.

Suddenly, this black wall parted, and a Wraith significantly larger than the others appeared.

This particular Wraith wore White Armor, and blue embers could be seen through its visor. A white crown nestled on its head, which identified him as the Wraith King that ruled the Wraiths in the Purple Sea.

The Wraith King opened its mouth, and a blood-curdling scream emerged from it.

Lux, who heard the scream, blinked his eyes in confusion because he was certain that the voice he heard belonged to a woman.

The Half-Elf then summoned his Elysium Compendium to check whether his guess was correct, and the first few words that appeared in front of him confirmed his conjecture.

< Wraith Queen >

"In shadows deep, she holds her throne,

The Wraith Queen, in darkness known.

A spectral grace, a haunting sight,

She rules the night with silent might."

— Dreadnaught-Ranked World Boss

'... A Wraith Queen?' Lux thought. 'This is the first time I've heard about it.'

The Wraith Queen and the Wraith King stared at each other for a few seconds before summoning their swords.

A moment later, the two Dreadnaught-Ranked World Bosses clashed, which resulted in a shower of sparks, as they fought each other for the right to rule the Wraiths within the Purple Sea.

Every time they clashed, a metallic ring reverberated in the surroundings, while all the Wraiths shrieked in enthusiasm as if cheering for their Queen.

To Lux's surprise, King Leoric was being pushed back by his opponent, which he didn't expect to happen.

He thought that the powerful Wraith King could overpower the Wraith Queen and wrest control of her Undead Army, allowing them to become his new subordinates.

Lilian, who was watching the battle, suddenly chuckled. The Wicked Queen Slime understood what was happening, and only the Half-Elf didn't know the simple intricacies of the deadly dance that was being waged in the stormy sky.

Chapter 921.2: May You Die Happily Ever After [Part 2]

As the battle raged in the sky, the Wraith King found himself being pushed back every time he clashed with his opponent.

Even so, King Leoric's calm expression on his face never changed, as if everything was under his control.

Truth be told, the Wraith Queen was slightly weaker than him. However, he was currently at a disadvantage, and the reason was simple.

His opponent had the home-court advantage.

The countless Wraiths who were supporting their Queen were granting her the power of Faith.

It didn't take long for Lux to understand why the proud King was losing in his one-on-one duel. However, there was nothing he could do to help him.

He knew that this wasn't a battle that he could interfere in because this was a battle between two Monarchs.

And in this battle, their honor and dignity were at stake.

If he really helped Leoric win the duel, the Wraith King's loyalty might decrease, and there was also a chance that it would affect their relationship.

The only thing he could do right now was believe in his Champion's ability to overcome this handicap.

Suddenly, King Leoric did something unexpected.

The Wraith King dove into the sea, catching his opponent by surprise.

After a brief hesitation, the Wraith Queen followed suit and dove into the water as well.

The Wraiths who were cheering for their queen continued to shriek in support, but none of them dove underwater.

It was as if there was an unwritten rule that they couldn't go underwater where the battle was being waged.

Perhaps due to the storm's increasing intensity or perhaps due to the battle, the waves in the sea towered so high that it seemed that they would swallow the ship whole and destroy it with its embrace.

Asmodeus firmly held the steering wheel as he braced himself for the giant wave that was about to descend upon his head.

The Wicked Queen Slime wasn't bothered by their current situation in the slightest and was even using a nail file to fix her nails.

As the wave crashed over the bone ship, pushing it down in the water, Lux briefly saw the battle that was being waged under the sea.

Bright flashes of light illuminated the cold darkness below, showing the level of intensity that the battle had progressed to even though they were fighting underwater.

Suddenly, a dazzling light lit up the darkness, forcing Lux to close his eyes due to its unbearable brightness.

The sea churned as a powerful explosion catapulted the Bone Ship upwards, making it nearly touch the storm clouds in the sky.

Fearing that the Bone Ship might shatter if it fell on the chaotic waters, Lux un-summoned it and Asmodeus before opening his Draconic Wings to hover in the sky.

The Wicked Queen slime grabbed hold of his foot as she looked down at the sea below.

"It's over," Lilian said. "Such an unexpected turn of events."

Lux, who had no idea what the Wicked Queen Slime meant, followed her gaze and saw something rising in the waters.

King Leoric was holding his opponent in a princess carry, and the latter's arms were wrapped around his neck.

The Wraith King then hovered a few meters away from the Half-Elf before clearing his throat.

"Um, Lux. Let me introduce you to Queen Mary," King Leoric said. "Mary, this is the Master whom I currently serve."

The Queen Wraith removed her visor, and a beautiful face appeared in front of the Half-Elf.

"Nice to meet you, Lux," Queen Mary said.

"N-Nice to meet you too," Lux replied before giving King Leoric the "what is going on?" gaze.

The Wraith King glanced at the beauty in his arms before shifting his gaze to his Master.

"We got to know each other during the battle, and we decided to become a couple," King Leoric replied as he shifted his gaze to the beauty in his arms.

Queen Mary smiled as she looked back at the handsome King, leaving the Half-Elf scratching his head.

Although falling in love with your opponent in the midst of battle wasn't unheard of, he didn't expect the dead king to still be capable of falling in love.

The Wraiths, who had all been cheering for their Queen earlier, surged forward like a dark tide before circling King Leoric like a tornado.

After a few tense moments, these Wraiths suddenly transformed into their human forms.

Some were dressed as soldiers, while some were dressed in noble clothes. All of them then clapped their hands as if to applaud the two lovers who had also returned to their human forms.

King Leoric was a handsome, middle-aged man with sharp looks, while Queen Mary was a truly exceptional beauty who seemed to be in her mid-thirties.

Both were wearing clothes of royal red that faintly glowed in the darkness.

The two then shared a kiss with each other, which made the Wraiths applaud and whistle.

This scene would have been several times better if not for the fact that they were currently inside a raging storm, with thunder and lightning roaring in the background.

"Congratulations to the two of you," Lux said. "May you live—err, die happily ever after."

"Thank you, Lux," Queen Mary replied with a smile, making the Half-Elf blush.

As if waiting for that moment, several rows of text appeared in front of him.

< Queen Mary has become a vassal of King Leoric. All of her retainers will now become a part of your strength. >

< You have gained 20,000 Wraiths under your command. >

The storm quickly calmed down, and the winds abated.

It was as if the one causing the storm was the restlessness of the Wraiths that had haunted the Purple Sea for hundreds of years.

Patches of white light descended from the dark sky, and one of them fell on King Leoric and Queen Mary as if the heavens themselves were blessing their union.

Lux looked at this scene with a sigh in his heart. He never imagined that he would witness something so otherworldly and beautiful.

"Lux, I will be gone for a while," King Leoric said as he looked at the Half-Elf with a smile. "Mary and I plan to get to know each other a little better. However, if you need my assistance, don't hesitate to call. Bye."

The Wraith King didn't even wait for Lux's reply before diving into the purple waters with his Queen.

The other Wraiths then bowed their heads towards Lux before turning into particles of light and merging with his body.

For hundreds of years, they had accompanied their Queen in the purple sea, but they had yet to see salvation.

But now, things were different.

They knew that once Lux's long journey in this world ended, they would finally be able to cross over to the other side and have the opportunity to start their lives all over again with his blessing.

Chapter 922.1: The City Of Exile [Part 1]

"I can already see it," Lux muttered as he looked in the distance.

Although it was still dark, due to his Dark Vision, he was able to see the outline of the island that slowly grew bigger as they closed the distance.

The pillar of light that shot toward the heavens, which served as the beacon that guided them to the Pantheon of Exile, was shining brilliantly as if greeting those who had journeyed the Purple Sea to reach its location.

"It has been a while since I've been here," Lilian commented. "I wonder what kind of changes have taken place since I left."

According to what Lilian told them, she was born in the Pantheon of Exile. The Half-Elf didn't ask her any questions, sensing that the Wicked Queen Slime might want to keep her experiences on the island private.

Eiko guided the Bone Ship towards the beach until it couldn't move any further. A few minutes later, once everyone disembarked from the ship, Lux un-summoned Octavius due to Lilian's advice.

They then traversed the island until they saw a pair of giant statues standing in front of a gate.

One of the statues held a sword, and the other held a spear. They looked very imposing, but the Half-Elf knew that they were just ordinary statues without sentience in them.

Lilian led the way, and the others trailed behind her. When they reached the door, the Wicked Queen Slime glanced at Lux and gestured to the young man to open the gate himself.

The Half-Elf smiled and pressed both of his hands against the gate and gave it a push.

At first, nothing happened, but as he exerted more effort to open the gate, the groaning sound of metal was heard before the two gates slowly opened.

When the gate was partially opened, a ray of sunlight hit the Half-Elf as if welcoming him to the place where he wished to be.

Only when the gate was open enough to allow three people to walk side by side did Lux stop completely.

He then took a step forward, and the rest followed.

The moment all of them got inside, the gates closed slowly behind them, leaving them no path to turn back.

Lux had a surprised expression on his face as he looked in front of him.

He was expecting that the Pantheon of Exile would be a gloomy and terrible place, and yet, what he was seeing in front of him made his assumptions vanish into thin air.

"Surprised?" Lilian asked with an amused expression on her face.

"Very," Lux replied. "Is this really the Pantheon of Exile?"

Lilian nodded. "Yes. This is the outskirts of the Pantheon of Exile. I believe that the one you are looking for is within the Inner Sanctum."

As the sun rose up and illuminated the world, the City of Exile was bathed in light. A city that was no different from the cities that he had seen in the Surface World.

"Remember, what you see in this city is not what it seems," Lilian stated. "Don't let your guard down."

A few minutes later, they arrived at the entrance of the city.

To Lux's surprise, he didn't see anyone guarding the entrance. However, after Lilian pointed out that only exiles were sent to the city, the Half-Elf understood that having a guard stationed there was pointless.

The moment that they entered the city gates, those who were awake noticed their arrival.

They immediately assessed the newcomers, and some of them even whistled after seeing Lilian's mature beauty.

Suddenly, a man descended from the sky and gave a graceful bow to Lux and his comrades.

"Welcome to the Pantheon of Exile," a middle-aged Catkin said with a smile. "Well then, pray tell. What is your reason for coming here? What kind of crime did you commit for the King of Agarthia to personally send you to our humble abode?"

Suddenly, loud laughter erupted in the surroundings as men and women clapped their hands because they found the Catkin's performance quite entertaining.

To his part, the Catkin bowed his head to his fellow exiles before shifting his attention back to their guests, whom he believed were exiled people, just like them.

"I didn't commit any crime," Lux replied. "I'm just here to buy some soy sauce."

"S-Soy what?" the Catkin blinked his eyes in confusion. "What is this Soy Sauce you are talking about?"

Lilian, Gerhart, and Cethus glanced at Lux with curiosity because they also didn't know what this soy sauce was.

"Nothing special," Lux answered. "Simply put, I'm just here to sightsee."

"You came here to sightsee?" the Catkin looked at Lux in disbelief. "Sightseeing like tourists? Here?"

A moment of silence descended which was broken by another thunderous roar half a minute later.

"Hahaha! This new guy is funny!"

"Sightseeing! Hahaha! Good one!"

"Well, at least it's much better than the last one. The guy that was sent here ten years ago said that he was just looking for a place to poop!"

"Hahaha! I remember that guy. Unfortunately, he offended someone and kicked the bucket."

Lux smiled before making a gesture for his comrades to follow him.

The Catkin moved aside with a smile because he knew that there was no place that the Half-Elf and his cohorts could go within the God-Forsaken Island.

New arrivals were always popular with the locals according to Lilian, so they ignored the curious stares in their direction.

They planned to stay in the city for a day to get a proper rest before journeying to the Inner Sanctum, which was located on the north side of the Island.

As they walked the streets of the city, Lilian explained that there was a vast Wild Land that separated the City of Exile from the Inner sanctum.

The Wild Land was home to many powerful monsters that ranged from Rank 1 Monsters up to the Calamity Rank.

It was where Lilian was born and also the place where she had lived for many years until she reached her current Rank.

"By the way, what kind of currency do they use here?" Lux asked. "Do they use gold?"

He wanted to have a proper rest in a comfortable bed if possible and wash away the exhaustion he felt during the journey.

"Yes, they use Gold Coins, as well as Special Tokens as currency," Lilian replied.

"Good." Lux nodded. "Do you have any good recommendations for an inn to stay at?"

Just as Lilian was about to answer Lux's questions, she noticed over a dozen men walking in their direction with smirks on their faces.

A single glance was enough to tell that they were ruffians, and it was also easy to guess why they were approaching their group.

The mature beauty sighed before shaking her head.

'Fools,' Lilian thought as she looked at the Baby Slime who was perched on top of the Half-Elf's head.

Eiko was already holding two Blast Bombs in her hands, a devilish smile on her face as she looked at the ruffians.

Due to her Mind Reader ability, she and her Papa already knew what the thugs were planning to do.

The locals, who were observing the newcomers, all smiled because they knew that something interesting was going to happen.

For people like them who had been cast out from the lands of Agartha, this kind of entertainment served as their favorite pastime.

"Since they are so kind as to give us a warm welcome, we should give them a proper greeting as well." Lux sneered. "Shower them with gifts, Eiko."

The Baby Slime's wicked smile widened, and she threw the two Blast Bombs, which immediately increased their size once in mid-air.

"Boom Boom Bakugan!"

Lux, Gerhart, Cethus, and Lilian all flew backward because they knew what was going to happen next.

Before the thugs even had the chance to run, a powerful explosion made the entire city tremble, waking up those who were still asleep and unaware that trouble had come knocking on their door.

Chapter 923.2: The City Of Exile [Part 2]

"The Pantheon of Exile is a place where being kind will earn you a knife stab in the back. It is not a place for the innocent and the ignorant, and the people in there are the worst of the worst.

"Since we will be arriving there shortly, it would be best if we make a good first impression. That way, we will not always be targeted by the fools who think that we are easy pickings."

Those were the words that Lilian had told them as they made their way to the City of Exile.

They already knew that they were going to be attacked as soon as they entered the city, so they made preparations in advance.

Eiko, who had drawn First Blood, narrowed her eyes to look at the destruction caused by her Blast Bombs.

To her surprise, the Thugs were able to escape with only minor injuries, and were looking at her with solemn expressions on their faces.

"Well what do you know? It seems that these newbies know a trick or two," one of the Thugs grinned as he held daggers in both hands.

"A Slime that throws bombs? How much do you think that thing will sell for in the auction?" a skinny man asked his comrades, who were watching the battle from one of the nearby rooftops.

"Can't say, but she will be a good pet," a woman eyed Eiko with a smile. "She's kind of cute, don't you think?"

"Your definition of cute is a bomb in your face?"

"Well, why not?"

Similar conversations were being held by the spectators who were watching the battle from a distance.

There was an unspoken rule in the City of Exile when it came to handling newcomers.

It was fight at your own risk, and no one will get in your way.

Since the Ruffians decided to attack Lux's group, the others simply watched from the side and waited for the outcome of the battle.

"I'll handle them," Cethus said as he summoned his spear.

"Gravity Domain!"

A dome of black light expanded in the surroundings, catching three of the Thugs that attacked them. The others were nimble on their feet and managed to evade in time.

Those who were not-so-lucky found themselves kissing the ground due to the increase in gravity within the black dome of light.

Cethus sneered and increased the gravity five times, making the three Thugs cry out in pain as their bones shattered inside their bodies.

The Dragon Born then glanced in the direction of the Thugs, who managed to back away and sneered.

"You think you filthy Low Landers can beat me? What a joke," Cethus once again increased the gravity, making the bodies of the thugs he caught explode like watermelons.

(E/N: They're Under Landers.)

The Dragon Born then brandished his spear in an arrogant manner and pointed it at the people who preyed on them.

"Who's next?" Cethus asked arrogantly. "Those who want to die, step forward!"

Lux and Eiko, who were watching from the side, clapped their hands.

"Wow! Did you see that Eiko?"

"Pa!"

"I know, right? Watching cannon foddors fight cannon foddors is the best thing ever."

"Un!"

Lilian giggled and Gerhart snickered, which made the Dragon Born almost cough up blood after hearing his own allies make fun of him in front of their enemies.

'You motherf*ckers!' Cethus cursed internally as he did his best to remain calm.

If he were to have his way, he would have smacked Lux with his spear and made the latter apologize to him.

Sadly, he couldn't do that.

Eiko would kill him before he could get close enough to touch her Papa.

The Thugs glanced at each other before spreading out in different directions. They outnumbered their enemies, so they weren't afraid of bringing them down.

Some of the spectators cheered at their efforts while secretly wishing that they would die at the hands of the newcomers.

The City of Exile was a dog-eat-dog world, and only the strongest and the smartest people could survive it.

When they finally had their enemies surrounded, the leader of the Thugs raised his hand in the air and shouted.

"Now!"

All of his comrades threw metallic chains toward their targets.

But instead of targeting their bodies, the chains flew past them and linked with each other, forming a cage that trapped them within.

Suddenly, sparks of lightning spread along the chains that surrounded the Half-Elf and his comrades, which threatened to electrocute them all.

This was their group's killer technique that worked wonders against newbies who had no idea about what they were capable of doing.

"Nice trick," Gerhart said. "But not good enough."

Just as the sparks of lightning were about to hit their bodies, a tornado appeared out of nowhere.

Lightning streaked in its body, making it look like a malevolent Storm Elemental that was about to unleash its overwhelming might on everything within its reach.

But if one were to look closely, one would notice countless jagged bones mixed into the tornado, which could easily rend the flesh of the Humans who were unfortunate enough to be pulled into its deadly embrace.

With its strong suction power, the thugs who were holding the chains were pulled towards it, making them scream in horror.

Those who were able to react quickly immediately let go of their chains and distanced themselves from the tornado that threatened to swallow them all alive.

Blood-curdling screams of pain, shock, and desperation reverberated in the city as the powerful tornado shredded and electrocuted the Thugs who had been absorbed into its vortex.

It didn't take long before the tornado's color changed to red as the blood of its victims merged with its body.

'Sh*t, I think we kicked the steel plate,' the Leader of the Ruffians cursed internally after more than half of his men had been killed in a matter of minutes.

Knowing that they had underestimated their prey, he decided to cut their losses and ordered a retreat.

But just as he was about to run away, he saw a faceless monster standing behind him with its arms crossed over its chest.

Before the Leader of the Thugs could even do anything, the Nightgaunt, Shax, wrapped its tail around his body and casually threw him toward the tornado in the distance, making the man scream in horror.

The rest of the surviving thugs found themselves facing the members of Lux's Covenant, who, after catching them, didn't hesitate to toss them toward the blood-red tornado that had grown in size.

When the last thug was shredded, until his body exploded into a blood mist, the tornado disappeared, leaving only a bloody mess behind.

Lux and his friends were all unharmed, and their clothes and weapons were free from the blood of their foes.

A chilling silence permeated the surroundings for nearly half a minute before it was broken by thunderous applause.

The people in the City of Exile cheered, and some even raised their mugs of ale in order to salute the newcomers who survived their city's initiation ceremony.

Clearly, the death of some ruffians was simply entertainment to them.

"Such wonderful people," a handsome man in his mid-thirties said with a smile as he looked at Lux and his comrades from the castle wall. "I like them."

The handmaiden standing beside him didn't say anything and simply glanced at the newcomers with a calm gaze.

However, for the first time in many years, something stirred within their beautiful depths.

As to what kind of emotion it was, no one would know since it vanished without a trace, as she waited for the coming of a devil, whose blood-soaked wings would free her and her people from suffering.

Chapter 924: The Inner Sanctum

Lux, Gerhart, and Cethus didn't expect that instead of being attacked by the denizens of the City of Exile after killing the Ruffians, they would be cheered and applauded by them.

"What a strange bunch," Cethus muttered as he eyed the people who were spectating from the roof of houses or inside of it from their windows.

"Follow me," Lilian said before descending on the bloody streets.

The Wicked Queen Slime didn't hesitate to step on the bloodied ground as if this was a very normal thing for her.

Lux and the others followed behind her without saying a word.

Before they continued their journey, they planned to rest a bit in an inn. Even though they had just been attacked, they didn't change their minds and went to the most famous inn of the City of Exile, The Bloody Hell.

"Greetings newcomers," the Innkeeper said with a smile. "How many rooms will you need?"

Just like everyone else, he had also witnessed the battle earlier and was quite happy to host the people who had just arrived in their city.

"Four rooms," Lilian stated. "Make sure there is not a single drop of blood on the sheets."

"Hahaha! Of course, My Lady," the Innkeeper replied. "This is a clean and trustworthy establishment. You will not find any blood anywhere. We know how to do a proper cleanup."

Lilian nodded before placing 40 Gold Coins on the desk.

The man happily took the gold and gave the mature beauty four bronze keys.

"The four rooms on the third floor are yours," the Innkeeper stated. "May you enjoy your stay at The Bloody Hell."

Lilian handed the keys to her companions before picking up Eiko off of Lux's head and carrying the Baby Slime back to her room.

Lux smiled and followed behind her.

Gerhart and Cethus did the same.

They took four separate rooms because they wanted those who were paying close attention to them to think that they had no way of communicating with each other.

But what they were showing couldn't be further from the truth. The four of them planned to scout the surroundings using their own abilities, without catching the suspicion of their observers.

Lilian summoned a small part of her body, turning it into a mini slime that was just an inch tall.

She then ordered it to scout their surroundings and listen to the conversations of the people around them.

Lux ordered his Shadow Sovereign, Draven, to do the same.

According to Lilian, there were Five Saints inside the City of Exile, and one of them was the ruler of the city.

Lux wasn't too worried about them since Lilian alone could handle all the Saints if needed be.

Also, he could summon three Saints to aid him in battle, one of them being Sion, who was the Juggernaut of Agartha.

Gerhart meditated in his room, while Cethus slept without a care in the world.

The Dragon Born was confident that, after his performance, no one would dare attack them.

If someone was foolish enough to do so, they would have to deal with his comrades first before getting to him!

The next day, their group rose early and left the city through the Northern Exit. They planned to reach the Inner Sanctum as fast as they could, ignoring the countless stares that followed them from a distance.

The "King" of the city watched them go with his arms crossed over his chest.

"So that is where they are headed," the handsome man in his mid-thirties said. "I thought that they would be staying in the city to play for a few days. It seems that my initial estimate was wrong. Sasha, go and follow them. However, make sure that you keep a safe distance.

"I can tell that the beautiful lady that is accompanying them is dangerous. Until we know their reason for coming to this god-forsaken place, make sure to not do anything that might make them hostile to us."

The handmaiden who stood beside him nodded her head in understanding.

A moment later, she disappeared, making the handsome man smile.

He was so close to fulfilling his grand plan, and he didn't want any variables to mess with all the hard work that he put in over the past decade.

He just needed a week to set his plan in motion, and he would kill anyone who stood in his way.

'Soon,' the middle-aged man glanced in the direction of the Kingdom of Agartha. 'I will make you regret sending me to this place.'

'A Saint is following us,' Lilian said through their Guild Chat. 'Should I kill her?'

'Don't,' Lux replied. 'I'm sure that she just wants to know where we are going. Let's not create unnecessary trouble, shall we?'

'Suit yourself.' Lilian smiled as she kept her gaze in front of her.

There were many powerful beasts in the Wild Lands, but all of them scattered after detecting Lilian's presence.

Although she was in her human form, the Beasts roaming the land could sense that she was a Calamity, so they stayed as far away from her as possible.

After a few hours, they finally arrived at their destination.

Lux gazed at the Black Tower, which he estimated to be around fifty meters tall.

On the top of the tower was a crystal that was the size of a boulder.

'So this is where that pillar of light is coming from,' Lux thought as he looked at the beacon of light that had guided him from the other side of the Purple Sea.

At that base of the tower, there was a Black Gate, which he believed to be the entrance to the underground Prison, where the most nefarious people and creatures, who threatened the peace of Agartha, were locked up.

"In the past, people believed that those who entered the Black Gate would never be able to see the light of the sun ever again," Lilian stated. "I didn't dare to confirm if the rumors were true or not because I enjoy my freedom.

"Lux, if you are really going into that place, make sure to leave Eiko behind. I don't want her to be trapped inside that place with you."

Eiko, who was perched on top of the Half-Elf's head, simply shook her head and told her Papa that wherever he was going, she was going as well.

Seeing the Baby Slime's determination, the Wicked Queen Slime could do nothing but sigh and press her hand on her forehead.

"Don't worry, Lilian," Lux said. "I don't plan to stay in that place for long. All of you stay here. If I'm not back within a week, call for help."

After taking a deep breath, the Half-Elf opened the Black Gates and entered the Darkness.

He had abandoned this mission once, and he had no intention of doing that again a second time.

Chapter 925: Believe Me

Creatures of various shapes and sizes appeared in Lux's vision as he toured the Inner sanctum.

These creatures eyed the Half-Elf with great curiosity as he walked past their prison cells.

Some of them called out to Lux, using languages that weren't familiar to him. But he didn't have to know their language to understand what they were trying to tell him.

"Free us."

Those were the words that appeared inside Lux's head as he walked past these abominations, whom he believed to be Abyssal Creatures.

They were locked behind a purple barrier which held firm no matter how much they tried to attack it.

Seeing that someone had entered their prison, these creatures became quite lively and started to attack their barrier, hoping to catch Lux's attention.

Surprisingly, Blackfire materialized behind Lux and seemed to be observing these creatures as its Master walked past them.

It even flew towards one of the prison cells to take a better look at a demi-human creature, whose entire body was covered in black scales.

Two golden eyes stared back at the coffin, and a set of razor-sharp teeth appeared in the creature's mouth as it gave its observer a smile.

Blackfire lingered for a bit before moving to the next cell, observing another creature that piqued its interest.

Lux had warned the Black Coffin that it was allowed to look around but not to touch anything.

The last thing he wanted to happen was to free a bunch of Calamity-Ranked Monsters and allow them to rampage on the island.

After descending for nearly two hours, the light that illuminated the Inner Sanctum began to dim.

After three hours, the Half-Elf was submerged in complete and total darkness. Even so, he continued to descend the stairs that seemed unending.

If it weren't for his Dark Vision, he might have already turned back because an ordinary human wouldn't be able to see anything in front of him.

More hours passed and, just as Lux was beginning to think that he had walked for nearly half a day, he finally arrived at the bottom of the stairs.

Looking at his surroundings, he noticed that he couldn't see past a meter in front of him.

Because of this, the Half-Elf decided to summon a fireball in his hand. However, it didn't materialize.

He then took out a magical tool that created light. But no matter how many times he tried to activate it, the artifact didn't even produce a tiny spark.

'So, no sources of light work in this place,' Lux thought.

Just as Lux was thinking about what to do next, he felt something tug on his robes.

The Half-Elf then glanced at the two-foot-tall Skeleton that was standing beside him and smiled.

"Are you going to take me to her?" Lux asked.

The little skeleton nodded and made a gesture for Lux to follow him.

He smiled and followed the Little Skeleton, who was always a step ahead of him.

The two of them walked for nearly an hour before the Skeleton stopped and motioned for Lux to not move from where he stood.

The little guy then made chattering noises as if calling out to someone. Within the darkness, a similar chattering replied, as if telling his friend that he would be there shortly.

Although he couldn't see what was in front of him, the Half-Elf could sense that something or someone was approaching him.

A few minutes later, something unexpected happened.

The darkness in front of Lux shuddered as if it was afraid of something.

All of a sudden and without warning, the pitch-black wall that stood in front of him parted.

There, standing several meters away from him, was a young lady with long pink hair and eyes staring in his direction.

Her body glowed faintly, making her the only source of light in the darkness.

She was like a lonely star in the sky, waiting for someone to look at her and see her for what she truly was.

"Lux."

It was only a single word, and yet, her voice, akin to that of an angel's, reached his ears, making him shudder.

The young lady then gave him a sad smile, as she stared in his direction, not daring to move another step.

"Aurora," Lux said softly. "We finally meet."

The Half-Elf wanted to take a step forward, but an invisible wall was preventing him from doing so.

He could have broken that barrier if he wanted, but he didn't do it.

The reason?

The one that created the barrier was none other than the lonely girl in front of him, who didn't wish for Lux to be tainted by her Misfortune.

The two stared at each other for half a minute before Lux finally regained his composure.

'She looks similar to Queen Rhiannon,' Lux thought. 'But, she is more charming than the Queen.'

Aurora was a peerless beauty, and Lux believed that if she were to take a stroll in any city, all the guys would definitely look in her direction and be enchanted by her good looks.

After taking a deep breath to calm his nerves, he managed to give the young lady a smile, which made the little Skeleton that was standing beside her give the Half-Elf a thumbs up.

"Thank you for coming to see me, but I will not allow you to take one more step forward," Aurora said softly. "I don't want you to be infected by my bad luck."

Lux didn't say anything and simply took out a necklace from his storage ring.

It was none other than the necklace, Fortuna's Tears, that Queen Rhiannon had given him before he left the Abyss.

"Take this to her," Lux ordered the little Skeleton beside him.

The Little Skeleton nodded its head and carefully held the golden necklace with the tear-drop-shaped pearl at its center.

It then walked towards its Master with steady steps.

When it finally arrived in front of Aurora, it raised its hands and offered the necklace to her.

A surprised expression appeared on Aurora's face as she took the necklace from the Little Skeleton's hands.

She then took a closer look at it before shifting her gaze to Lux in confusion.

"Wear it." Lux smiled. "That necklace is called Fortuna's Tears. It will prevent your bad luck from spreading to others."

"A-Are you sure?" Aurora asked half in doubt. "Will this really prevent other people from being infected with my bad luck?"

"We will know in a little while," Lux replied. "Please, wear it. It is a gift from someone who looks like you."

"Someone who looks like me?"

"Yes."

Aurora stared at the golden necklace in her hand for a few more seconds before raising it above her head in order to wear it.

When the tear-shaped pearl rested on her chest, the young lady felt something warm and gentle wash over her body.

The barrier in front of Lux shattered into countless pieces, allowing him to walk towards her.

When Lux was only three meters away from Aurora, the young lady subconsciously took a step back.

Sensing that there was a possibility that she would run away if he continued to close the gap between them, Lux decided to stop and reached out his hand to her.

Aurora looked at Lux's outstretched hand before shifting her gaze to his face.

Lux didn't say anything and simply gave her an encouraging smile.

The young lady then gingerly took a step forward.

The Half-Elf didn't move, but he nodded in approval of her action, encouraging her.

Taking another step, Aurora was now within a hand's reach from the handsome young man who had braved the darkness to find her.

"A-Are you sure it's safe?" Aurora asked in a worried tone. "Are you sure you will not get infected with my bad luck? I will not be able to forgive myself if you catch my curse."

"Don't worry," Lux replied. "Believe me."

The young lady clenched her fists tightly for a few seconds before reaching out to hold Lux's hand.

At first, she hesitated, but seeing the confidence in Lux's eyes, she decided to take a leap of fate and entrust herself to him.

Aurora closed her eyes and reached out her hand.

A moment later, she felt something warm, holding her hand, which made her slowly open her eyes.

"Let me introduce myself again," Lux said. "My name is Lux Von Kaizer. It's nice to meet you, Aurora."

A tear streaked down the beautiful girl's face as the dam inside her heart broke apart.

Feelings that she had suppressed for many years washed over her body like a flood, making her shudder.

A sob then escaped her lips as she covered her face with both hands, unable to stop the torrent of tears that were now streaming freely down her cheeks.

Suddenly, she felt two strong arms wrap around her body, holding her in a firm embrace.

"It's okay," Lux said as he patted her head. "Let it all out. You can cry on my shoulder."

Gaining his permission, Aurora no longer held back and buried her head in his chest.

Within that pitch-black darkness, the Misfortune's Beloved cried until she no longer had tears to shed.

Chapter 926: You Are A Trustworthy Person

Lux held Aurora, only loosening his grip when her body stopped shaking.

His clothes were wet with her tears, but the Half-Elf didn't mind it one bit.

What concerned him the most was Aurora's current situation. Although he wouldn't go as far as to call her too skinny, compared to his lovers, the young lady was quite a bit thinner than most of the ladies he had seen.

Of course, he had a feeling that this was due to her entrapment inside the Dark Prison, where she was unable to get something to eat.

But if that were the case, how did she manage to survive after so many years of confinement?

'I'll just ask her about that later,' Lux thought as he patted Aurora's head, while holding her body in a gentle embrace.

Several minutes later, the young lady in his arms stopped moving, and the Half-Elf thought that she had finally calmed down.

However, a moment later, he heard her soft breathing, which was similar to the breathing of someone who was sleeping.

In order to confirm his guess, he gently pulled back and glanced at the sleeping beauty in his arms.

Aurora had indeed fallen asleep, and tears were still falling from her eyes.

She looked so pitiful that just looking at her made him feel as if his heart was breaking.

After pondering for a bit, Lux summoned the portable tent that was given to him by the Rowan Tribe.

He intended to let Aurora get some proper sleep in a comfortable bed. Of course, it would be better for him to carry her out of the Prison, but the two Little Skeletons told him that Aurora was unable to leave for some reason.

They already tried to escort her to leave this dark place, but whenever they were about to walk past the exit, an invisible wall would appear and block their path.

The two Little Skeletons, Zane and Zeke, could easily pass through this wall, but Aurora was unable to do so. Because of this, they inferred that there must be a restriction placed on her, preventing her from leaving.

Since that was the case, Lux decided to let Aurora have some rest first and deal with the issue once she had woken up.

As Lux gently laid Aurora on the bed, Zane and Zeke climbed on it and hugged Aurora on her left and right sides, sleeping beside her.

The Half-Elf smiled as he watched this scene and sat on a chair not far from the bed. He also notified his comrades, who were waiting for him at the entrance of the Inner Sanctum, and told them about their situation.

'Understood,' Lilian said. 'How long do you think you will be staying down there?'

'I don't know,' Lux replied. 'But there is a possibility that I'll be down here for a day or two. How about you guys? Anything interesting happening up there?'

'Nothing much,' Lilian answered. 'The person who has been following us is observing us from a safe distance. Do you want me to eliminate her?'

'No. We don't want unnecessary trouble with the locals.'

'Suit yourself, but don't take too long. It seems that their king is planning something big, and I don't want to get caught up in it.'

'I know. Draven told me something similar.'

When they arrived in the City of Exile, Lux and Lilian had sent their scouts to gather information inside the city.

This was how they managed to gather some interesting news, which prompted them to leave the city the next day.

A few hours later, Aurora let out a soft sigh, alerting Lux that she was about to wake up.

In order to avoid scaring her, he remained where he was sitting and simply observed her from a distance.

It didn't take long before Aurora opened her eyes. She slowly propped herself up on the bed and then sleepily glanced at her surroundings as she rubbed her eyes.

Lux found her actions quite cute, causing him to uncontrollably smile.

Finally, when the last dregs of sleep left her body, she realized that she was sitting on a soft bed, with Zane and Zeke beside her.

It was at that moment when she felt a gaze coming from her right side, making her body stiffen.

Slowly but surely, she turned her head to look in the direction where she felt the stare was coming from and saw the handsome Half-Elf looking at her with a smile on his face.

"Good afternoon, Aurora," Lux said. "I hope you slept well."

"G-Good afternoon," Aurora stuttered. "How long was I asleep?"

"Just a few hours."

"I see..."

The pink-haired beauty then lightly patted the head of the two Little Skeletons, who had also propped themselves into a sitting position.

Aurora fidgeted for a bit before looking at the red-headed teenager with a bashful expression.

"Thank you for coming to see me, Lux," Aurora said. "I want to let you know that I really appreciate you coming all this way to meet me."

"You're welcome," Lux replied. "But I didn't just come here to meet you. I came here to free you."

When Lux said that he had come to free her, a smile appeared on Aurora's face. A second later, she lowered her gaze and looked at something, which made the Half-Elf blink his eyes in confusion.

Due to his curiosity, he followed Aurora's gaze to see what she was looking at.

A few seconds later, the Half-Elf's body stiffened before shifting his gaze to the young beauty, whose cheeks were flushed red.

"I'm sorry," Aurora said in an embarrassed tone. "Zane and Zeke told me that those who look at, or talk to me, who have that part of their body standing up can't be trusted. Since yours isn't standing up, it means that you are a person that I can trust.

"I know that you are a trustworthy person, Lux, but I still had to check. Sorry for doubting you!"

Aurora then pressed her palms together and bowed her head, making an apologetic gesture.

The corner of the Half-Elf's lips twitched as he looked down on his little brother before shifting his gaze at the two Little Skeletons who were sitting beside Aurora.

Noticing that he was staring at them, the two Skeletons raised their thumbs at him, making Lux facepalm.

Because he was covering his eyes, he didn't notice the sweet smile that appeared on Aurora's face, who was looking at him with a tender gaze.

Author's Note: Very soon, I will be making consecutive arcs that will break your hearts.

Some of you will hate me, curse me, and wish that you could strangle me alive. Those who know me understand that this will be a very painful journey.

But, to those of you who are able to survive until the end, I promise you that it will be worth it.

Everyone, brace yourselves. We are in the End Game now.

P.S Don't worry, this friendly message will not make you spend an extra coin. Kekeke.

Chapter 927: What Is Love?

"This is delicious..." Aurora said after taking a bite of a cookie that Lux had given her. "It's been a while since I've eaten a cookie."

The young lady became teary-eyed as if she had remembered a memory from her distant past.

A memory from when she was still with her family and enjoyed the warmth and care of her adoptive mother, who treated her like her own daughter.

"Eat as many as you want," Lux wiped the tears at the corner of her eyes with a handkerchief. "Don't worry. There's more where those came from. Isn't that right, Eiko?"

"Pa!" The Baby Slime nodded before she continued to eat the cookies in her bag with a big smile on her face.

Aurora thanked Lux for his concern and ate the rest of the cookie in her hand.

"You know, Zane and Zeke would often tell me about your adventures," Aurora said after she had finished a dozen cookies. "Although I am stuck here, I still felt as if I were with you on those journeys."

"Really?" Lux scratched his head. "I hope that they didn't tell you any embarrassing things."

Aurora smiled as she told Lux something that made the Half-Elf almost strangle the two Little Skeletons by her side.

"They said that you love to bury your head in women's thighs. If you want, I can do that for you as your reward for coming here."

The Half-Elf blinked once then twice before clearing his throat. He then glared at the two Skeletons, who were averting their gaze.

"Don't believe everything they say, Aurora," Lux said. "Zane and Zeke are just exaggerating things."

"Are they?" Aurora tilted her head before looking at her two best friends. "Are the two of you just exaggerating things?"

Zane and Zeke firmly shook their heads. They even whispered something in her ears, which made the young lady's face become a shade redder.

Lux, who was able to understand what the two bastards were telling Aurora, immediately grabbed their necks and lifted them up high.

"I need to talk to these two for a bit," Lux said as he carried the two Skeletons under both of his arms like sacks of rice. "Please look after Eiko for me while I'm gone, Aurora."

Lux didn't even bother to wait for the young lady's reply before leaving the tent.

"Do you want a cookie, Eiko?" Aurora asked as she presented a cookie to the Baby Slime, who was also eating cookies from her bag.

Eiko looked at the cookie in Aurora's hand for a few seconds before reaching out to take it. She then ate it, which brought a smile to the young lady's face.

"You love your Papa, right?"

Eiko nodded.

"Do you love your Mama too?"

"Love!"

"Then, can you tell me what love means?"

Eiko stopped eating and looked at the young lady who was lightly patting her head with a gentle smile on her face.

"Love!"

"... I don't understand."

Zane and Zeke had told her a lot of things about Lux. Naturally, they didn't miss the information about the Half-Elf's two lovers, Iris and Cai.

They even told her about the funny activities they did while they weren't wearing their clothes.

Truth be told, Aurora didn't know much about these things because she had been sent to the Pantheon of Exile at a young age.

She didn't know anything about relationships and was innocent when it came to the matters of love.

Even though her two best friends gave her very detailed descriptions about how Lux made love to his two fiances, Aurora only thought of this as a funny activity because she didn't understand what they were doing.

But one thing was clear.

The moment she met Lux, she started to feel things she had never felt before.

She started to feel hope.

If not for her fateful encounter with Lux, she might have lost her sense of self until she had turned into a mere living husk.

She would still be alive, this much was true.

But deep inside, she would be numb and unfeeling until the day she breathed her last.

Forever trapped in the darkness, even in death.

A few minutes later, Lux returned still carrying Zane and Zeke, whom he put down beside Aurora.

The two skeletons were shivering, and even hid behind the beautiful girl, making the young lady frown.

"Did something happen?" Aurora asked the Half-Elf, who sat beside her.

"Nothing happened," Lux replied. "I just asked them a few questions, that's all."

The young lady nodded her head before looking at the handsome young man in front of her. She hesitated for a bit before asking him the same question she had asked Eiko.

"Lux, what is love?"

"Love has many meanings, and it also has many faces."

The Half-Elf paused a bit and explained his definition of love to Aurora.

"It is a feeling of wanting to be with someone," Lux explained. "When that person is around, you feel happy. When they are sad, you are also sad. If someone wants to hurt them, you feel very angry and would want to fight those who are hurting them."

The Half-Elf then gazed at the young lady beside him with a solemn expression on his face.

"Do you hold someone very dear to you?" Lux asked. "Someone who has a place in your heart?"

"...My deceased adoptive mother and my little sister, Shayna," Aurora replied. "They are the two most important people in my life."

"That is a form of love," Lux said softly. "Loving someone and being loved by someone are two of the most wonderful feelings in the world."

He could see the pain in Aurora's eyes when she spoke about her deceased adoptive mother, so the Half-Elf didn't pry into her privacy.

"I think I understand it a bit now," Aurora nodded.

"Good." Lux nodded. "Now, let's talk about something important. Do you know what is keeping you locked up in this place?"

"I don't know," Aurora answered. "Zane and Zeke tried to help me escape this place, but there is some kind of barrier that is preventing me from leaving."

"But do you want to leave this place?"

"Yes. I want to leave this place."

"Then, do you want to return to the Royal Family?" Lux inquired. "Now that you are wearing Fortuna's Tear, you will not have to worry about your curse spreading to other people anymore."

Aurora smiled sadly before shaking her head.

"I have hurt many people," Aurora replied. "I have committed many sins. To be honest, I am afraid to see my family, especially my adoptive Father. Instead of repaying them for the many years they had spent raising me, I only gave them pain and sadness.

"And even if my family forgives me, the family of those who had been affected by my curse won't necessarily do the same. Perhaps the reason why my adoptive father has sent me to this place was to banish and protect me at the same time.

"Had I stayed in Agartha, the people might have demanded that I be executed in the hope that their bad luck would disappear the moment I died."

The young lady then raised her hand to caress her neck.

"I have tried to kill myself countless times, but the King placed a restriction on me, preventing me from committing suicide," Aurora said softly. "Maybe this is his way of punishing me for the pain I caused him after my adoptive mother died. Or perhaps this was also his way of saving my life because when my mother died, I also lost the will to live."

Aurora's shoulder shuddered as she hugged herself, trying her best to keep herself from crying again.

"Understood," Lux rested his hand on her shoulder. "I will take you to the Surface World. You can start your life anew in that place. Don't worry, I'm sure that you will make many friends because you are a very kind soul."

"You really think so?" Aurora asked. "Can I really start a new life in the Surface World?"

"Yes," Lux answered. "I guarantee it, so let's go."

The Half-Elf stood and held Aurora's hand.

"Let's leave this place behind," Lux stated. "As long as you wish to be free, I will do everything in my power to make it happen."

Aurora nodded as she, too, stood up.

"I want to leave this place. Please help me, Lux. If you do, I will do that funny thing you do with your two fiances."

"Funny thing?" Lux blinked in confusion. "What funny thing?"

Before Aurora could even answer, Zane and Zeke held her hands. The young lady looked down on them, and the two Skeletons shook their heads at the same time, as if telling Aurora to not tell Lux anything.

The two Skeletons would probably get nagged by the Half-Elf again for teaching Aurora things that she wasn't supposed to know.

"Um, I'll tell you later," Aurora replied. "Zane and Zeke said that now is not the right time to say it."

Lux scratched his head before exiting the tent with Aurora.

He didn't know what that "funny thing" was, but his Half-Elf intuition was telling him that the two Little Skeletons had taught the innocent beauty something else that she really knew nothing about.

Chapter 928.1: Trials Of The Heart [Part 1]

"Hah... Hah... Hah..."

Aurora panted for breath as she tried to walk past the invisible barrier that barred her from moving forward.

However, no matter how hard she tried, she was unable to take another step.

Lux, who was on the other side of the wall, frowned because aside from the barrier, he could also see invisible chains binding Aurora's body, preventing her from leaving the depths of the Inner Sanctum.

The shackles and the barrier were a foolproof method to bind the young lady and keep her from escaping.

While he and the others had no difficulty walking in and out of the invisible barrier, Aurora was unable to do the same.

"That's enough, Aurora," Lux said as he rested his hand on her shoulder. "I'll ask my friends if they have a way to let you pass through this barrier."

"Hah... Okay." Aurora nodded as she sat down on the ground in order to catch her breath.

While the young beauty was resting, Lux asked the members of his guild if they had encountered a barrier similar to the one that was preventing Aurora from leaving the Inner Sanctum.

Although the invisible chains were also a factor, Lux believed that the barrier was the biggest hurdle that stood in her way to freedom.

Unfortunately, none of the members had seen a barrier that could specifically prevent a single person from leaving.

"Maybe this barrier was created for the sole purpose of isolating her," General Garret commented. "Since you and others can pass through it, I can only guess that you cannot destroy it since you can't even touch it. Even if you attack it, your blow will only pass through it like you're hitting air."

Suddenly, Cai, who was also paying attention to the chat, gave her opinion on the matter.

"Since she can't pass that barrier, how about she just go over it?" Cai asked. "Have you tried inviting her to the guild?"

Lux blinked once then twice before covering his face with both hands.

'How could I forget something so simple?!' Lux thought as he rubbed his face. 'Cai is right. If Aurora can't pass through it, then she could just go over it!'

Taking a deep breath, he thanked his fiance and decided to give it a try.

"Aurora, please accept my guild invitation," Lux said.

"Understood." Aurora nodded.

She already had the suspicion that Lux was the Guild Master of Heaven's Gate, but since there was still no proof of it, she didn't think much about it.

However, seeing the invitation in front of her confirmed that his Guild was indeed the one and only Mythical Guild in the world which she had heard about, even though she was located deep underground and surrounded by darkness.

Aurora suddenly felt herself growing stronger as the Guild Buffs of Heaven's Gate washed over her weakened body.

Suddenly, the chains that bound her body shattered, taking Lux by surprise.

"What's this?" Aurora stared at her hands in disbelief. "Where is this power coming from?"

The young lady didn't know that the chains that bound her were sapping away her stamina and mana, making her feel weak.

The chains also had some status debuffs that prevented her from regaining her strength, which was why she couldn't break free from the shackles that held her in place.

After becoming a member of Heaven's Gate, the Guild Buffs had given Aurora a 300% boost in Health, Mana, and Stamina regeneration.

Not only that, the Guild Buffs also gave her 25% chance in resisting status ailments, which was the final nail in the coffin that shattered the invisible chains.

The young beauty then closed her eyes as she took a few deep breaths.

Each breath allowed her to recover her strength, making her feel more alive and powerful.

The moment she opened her eyes, Lux found himself staring at a pair of purple eyes that were glowing with power.

It took him a while to understand what was happening, but when he did, he felt alarmed because Aurora was subconsciously using a charm spell that could make people without strong willpower and resistance become her obedient slaves.

"L-Lux, I...", Aurora tried to reach out to the Half-Elf, and the latter held her hand firmly.

Since he was somewhat immune to Charm Spells, Aurora's gaze didn't have much effect against him.

"It hurts," Aurora said as she hugged Lux tightly, using his body as support. "My chest, it hurts."

The young lady didn't know that the moment her shackles were removed, the dormant power inside her body came back to life and was forcing her to regain the power that had been rightfully hers since birth.

Purple flames erupted from her body, making her look like a human torch.

Lux, who held her in place and supported her body, gritted his teeth as he covered himself with dragon scales.

He had no intention of backing away and leaving Aurora to her fate.

"Eiko, get back!"

"Pa!"

Eiko obeyed and jumped off her Papa's body, staying a safe distance away from the blazing flames that were illuminating the darkness.

"So... hot... I can't!" Aurora gritted her teeth as she held onto the Half-Elf as if her life depended on it.

A moment later, Lux witnessed two small horns grow out of the top of Aurora's head.

But it didn't end there.

Two bat-like wings sprouted from her back, making her cry out in pain as fiery-blood flowed down her back, which immediately disappeared after a few seconds.

A spade-tipped tail also emerged from her backside, making her body shudder.

"Lux... I'm scared," Aurora cried in pain. "Help me."

"Don't worry. I'm here with you." Lux held her tightly, giving Aurora some kind of assurance and security, which allowed her to endure the pain that was wreaking havoc inside her body.

If she hadn't been trapped inside the Inner Sanctum, she might have awakened earlier and it would have been less painful.

But because multiple years passed yet her awakening was delayed over and over again, her power passively grew and their side effects stacked.

Lux also noticed that Aurora's Rank was rising at a rapid rate.

When he first met her, she was only an Apostle.

But now, her rank was steadily increasing until it reached the Initiate Rank.

It didn't take long for Lux to realize what was going to happen next.

'She's going to break through as a Ranker!' Lux braced himself for what was about to come.

Usually, when someone was going to become a Ranker, they needed to undergo a trial to become a Ranker.

Each trial was different.

Usually, people had a choice when it came to what kind of Trial they needed to do.

However, for those who didn't have the choice, they had to leave it up to the Heavens to decide what kind of Trial they needed to face.

Suddenly, the Pantheon of Exile shook, and the Pillar of Light that was shooting up in the sky changed its color until it turned crimson red.

The Monsters that were locked up within their cells all started to roar as they pounded against the barrier repeatedly, desperately hoping to break it apart.

They were not aware that in the deepest depths of the Inner Sanctum, Aurora's trial was about to take place.

Chapter 929.2: Trials Of The Heart [Part 2]

The sound of giggling permeated the garden.

Lux watched as a little girl with reddish-brown hair happily ran around a field of flowers while being chased by an older girl with long pink hair.

The two seemed to be enjoying their little game, and everyone who was watching them couldn't help but smile, influenced by how happy they looked.

After he and Aurora were consumed by radiant purple flames, he found himself in a world where the young lady was still young and living a happy life with her adoptive family.

He watched as she grew up from a five-year-old girl to a ten-year-old girl.

Currently, the scenery that he was seeing now was when Aurora had just turned ten years old.

"Don't the two of them look adorable?" a beautiful lady with long, reddish-brown hair asked the Half-Elf with a smile.

Lux was surprised. He didn't sense her approaching him, and yet, here she was, standing beside him.

Also, this was the first time that someone had spoken to him while he was in this world. He knew that he was inside Aurora's memories, so he should be invisible to everyone.

But now, someone was actively talking to him, which made him wonder if the beautiful lady could really see him.

"I can see you, you know?" the beautiful lady giggled, which made Lux subconsciously take a step back.

"Y-You can see me?" Lux asked.

"Yes," the beautiful lady replied. "But in my eyes, you look like a spirit. Did you perhaps die and still have lingering attachments to this world?"

"I'm not a spirit," Lux answered.

"Then you're probably someone from the future."

"Eh?"

The beautiful lady shifted her gaze to the two girls who were playing tag in the flower garden. A smile could be seen on her face. Clearly, she loved her two daughters with all of her heart.

"You see, I'm an oracle of sorts," the beautiful lady said softly. "Today, I made a divination, and it told me to come to this place at this time to meet someone who will help change the Fate of my daughter... or perhaps, daughters?"

The beautiful lady then gave Lux a sidelong glance and smirked.

"Well, I guess you are that person," the beautiful lady commented. "I apologize for not introducing myself first. I am Bianca, Queen of Agartha. May I know who you are?"

Lux nodded. "Lux Von Kaizer. Just call me Lux."

"Lux?" Bianca smiled. "Your name means light. I see... so that's how it is."

The Queen of Agartha motioned for Lux to follow her, and he obliged.

They didn't walk far, only stepping into the shade of a tree overlooking the flower field, where the two girls were now lying.

"Those two girls are my daughters," Bianca said after sitting down on the grass. "The younger one is named Shayna, and the older one is named Aurora. Do you know? Aurora means Dawn. Her name refers to the time of the day when the sun is just about to rise from the horizon, giving light to the world.

"Since your name means light, it means that you are the light that would signify the start of a new dawn. If this is fate, then all I can say is that she is a romantic lady..."

Lux didn't know what to say, so he simply listened to the beautiful Queen as he leaned against the tree.

Perhaps, the beautiful lady knew that Lux didn't want to talk, so she took the initiative to do all the talking, simply saying whatever crossed her mind.

"You know, being an Oracle is a blessing and a curse," Queen Bianca stated. "I've seen many things, including things that I don't want to see. Do you know? I already know the exact date that I will die and what will happen after it? Very neat, right?"

Lux, who had just been listening, frowned.

"Since you know when you are going to die, can't you do anything about it?" Lux asked.

"Perhaps," Queen Bianca answered. "But it takes a lot of courage and willpower to defy Fate. I don't know if I have the courage or the willpower to do it. Still, if I manage to succeed, my only regret is that I won't be able to see my two daughters grow up."

A few minutes of silence passed between them before the beautiful Queen heaved a deep sigh.

"Lux, I have a favor to ask," Queen Bianca said softly. "Sometime in the distant future, Aurora will need to make a difficult choice. One which will force her to choose between what is right and what is easy. When that time comes, I want you to tell her that being her mother was one of the happiest moments of my life.

"I didn't regret raising her as my own, and even though we don't share the same blood, that doesn't change the fact that she is my precious daughter.

"She's my family, and I love her very much. Tell her that she doesn't need to blame herself for what happened. If she still feels guilty about it, tell her that I forgive her and that I will always be watching over her even though I am no longer in this world."

Lux glanced at the two girls who had started making flower wreaths and felt his heart ache, knowing that, in the future, the innocent smile of the pink-haired girl would disappear from her face.

"Understood," Lux replied. "I will relay your message to her."

Queen Bianca smiled. "Thank you. Meeting you here at this place and time gave me some peace of mind. Although it is regrettable, our time together will not last long."

At that moment, the Queen and the Half-Elf noticed the two girls running in their direction.

"Mama!" Shayna shouted as she ran towards her mother, carrying a wreath of flowers in her hands.

When she arrived at her mother's location, she placed the wreath of flowers on Queen Bianca's head before giving her a hug.

Queen Bianca kissed Shayna's cheeks before hugging her back.

"Mother, this is for you," Aurora said with a smile as she gently placed the wreath of flowers on her mother's head.

"Thank you, Aurora," Bianca said as she lightly pulled the pink-haired girl beside her to give her a kiss. "I love you."

Aurora smiled and hugged her adoptive mother, who meant the world to her.

Lux looked at this heartwarming scene with a smile, but his smile soon disappeared when the scenery changed.

Queen Bianca laid in a puddle of her own blood, and Shayna and Aurora were beside her, crying their hearts out.

The city around them was burning, and several monsters were chasing after the citizens, devouring those whom they managed to catch with their claws.

The Guards of the City were doing their best to hold back the horde of monsters, but some were still able to slip past their defenses.

High above the sky, King Septimius was fighting against a Calamity-Ranked Flying Monster that resembled a Wyvern, making him unable to assist those on the ground.

He was unaware that his wife was dying on the streets, while her two daughters were trying to drag her to safety.

Suddenly, an Argonaut-Ranked Tiger overpowered one of the Guards of the city and ran towards the dying Queen because it had smelled her rich and powerful blood.

Lux stepped forward and attacked the beast, but his spells only went past through it, leaving it unharmed.

"Sh*t!" Lux cursed as the Tiger ran past him and opened its massive jaws to devour the three helpless girls.

As if sensing that her two precious daughters were about to die, Queen Bianca's body glowed brightly.

A second later the sound of metal clashing against metal reverberated in the surroundings.

The beautiful lady held a sword in her hand, protecting her children who were behind her, ignoring the fact that her lifeblood flowed ceaselessly from the gaping wound in her chest.

"Stay... away... from... my... daughters!" Queen Bianca shouted as her sword erupted with a dazzling light that cut the monster in half.

She then fell on her knees, using her sword as a means to support herself to keep from falling..

"Mama!"

"Mother!"

Shayna and Aurora hugged Bianca, and their tears fell like rain.

Bianca wanted to embrace the two of them very much, but her strength was leaving her body at a rapid rate. She was also starting to feel cold as blood seeped through the corner of her lips.

Even so, her eyes that were filled with determination looked straight at the Half-Elf, who was standing in front of her.

"Please... promise... me," Queen Bianca said using the remaining strength in her body. "My... daughters. Please."

Lux knelt and clasped Queen Bianca's hands that were holding the handle of her sword.

"I will do my best to help them," Lux replied. "I promise."

Queen Bianca smiled and breathed a sigh of relief before her eyes slowly closed.

On that day, the Queen of Agarthia died with a smile on her face.

No one knew that she was the first person who managed to defy Fate and allowed her two beloved daughters to survive in exchange for her own life.

Chapter 930.3: Trials Of The Heart [Part 3]

Lux looked at Queen Bianca's peaceful face while her two daughters cried by her side.

The monsters were still rampaging inside the city, and screams of pain, death, desperation, and horror spread in the surroundings.

"Mother..."

A voice familiar to Lux reached his ears, making him raise his head to look behind Queen Bianca.

There, a young lady with long pink hair stood in a daze.

There were two horns on her head and bat-like wings behind her back. Her gaze was fixed on the Queen, ignoring the carnage that was happening around her.

"It's your fault..." Aurora said as tears of blood streamed down her face. "It's your fault. If not for you... mother would still be alive!"

Without warning, her spade-tipped tail lashed out like a whip, heading towards the pink-haired girl who was bawling her eyes out, while hugging her dead mother.

Lux reacted on time and used his body to shield the young Aurora from the Succubus who seemed to be dead set in ending her life.

Aurora's tail bounced off the Half-Elf's arm, which was now covered in Dragon Scales.

"Aurora! Snap out of it!" Lux shouted. "Don't let your heart demon consume you!"

The succubus ignored the Half-Elf's words and raised both of her hands.

"Because of you, my mother died!" Aurora shouted. "You deserve to die!"

The Succubus unleashed a wave of blazing flames toward her younger self, who was still clinging to her dead mother.

The flames engulfed her targets, making her smile.

"Good!" Aurora sneered as she intensified the power of the flames which had created an infernal hell in front of her. "You deserve to die. You should have died long ago! If not for you, Mother would still be alive!"

A few seconds later, she stopped her attack and watched as the flames slowly receded.

She believed that after everything she had done, the little devil would have now burned to a crisp, and that thought made her smile sweetly.

However, the smile on her face disappeared when she saw something black within the flames, resisting the inferno that was burning around it.

Lux opened his Draconic Wings and dispersed the flames from the surroundings.

Shayna, the young Aurora, and their dead mother were safe, even though everything around them had been reduced to ashes.

"I should have expected that the child of Bad Luck would be hard to kill," Aurora said in a hoarse voice. "But it doesn't matter. I will erase her existence from this world, and end everyone's suffering once and for all!"

She then shifted her gaze to the Black Demi-Dragon in front of her and sneered.

"Why are you protecting that THING?!" Aurora growled. "That creature doesn't need to exist! Get out of my way! I will kill her!"

"No," Lux stated. "You can't kill her."

"Fine," Aurora sneered. "I'll kill you first."

The Succubus' body was then engulfed by purple flames, making her look like a devil from hell.

"Anyone who stands in my way will die," Aurora stated as purple flaming swords appeared in both of her hands. "Anyone who sides with Misfortune's Beloved doesn't deserve to live!"

Lux took a step forward, making the ground under his feet shatter.

With every step he took, the ground crumbled as if there was an invisible force that was strong enough to break everything in his way.

"Protect them," Lux ordered. "Do I make myself clear?"

All of his Named Creatures and the members of his Covenant all appeared behind him.

Lux's Corpse God materialized and positioned itself to protect Shayna and the young Aurora from any harm.

Even Blackfire was there, hovering above Queen Bianca's head like an impenetrable fortress, shielding the living and the dead.

Time seemed to move slowly as Lux and Aurora walked towards each other.

Blazing flames trailed in her wake, while destruction followed behind the Demi-Dragon.

When they were only a few meters away from each other, both of them disappeared, and a powerful shock wave erupted at the city's center.

Purple flames and black flames clashed in a never-ending dance of death and destruction, destroying everything around them.

Aurora's swords and Lux's Draconic Claws clashed repeatedly, sending sparks flying in every direction.

Seeing that she was unable to get the upper hand, she used her tail to grab one of Lux's legs and threw him towards a house, destroying it completely.

Just as Aurora was about to throw a fireball at the fallen Demi-Dragon, Lux opened his mouth and unleashed Transcendent Black Dragon Flames that were very effective against Abyssal Creatures.

Aurora gritted her teeth and dodged to the side, avoiding Lux's counterattack.

However, before she could even recover her battle stance, Lux's draconic tail smashed against the side of her body, sending her flying backward, and destroying houses along the way.

A few seconds later, a scream erupted in the distance, and a blazing purple comet flew toward Lux with a vengeance.

The Demi-Dragon didn't back away and covered himself in black flames, charging towards the crazed Succubus, who had lost her sense of reason.

The two clashed and tried to overpower each other.

Half a minute later, the Purple Comet became bigger pushing the Black Comet to the ground.

An earth-shaking explosion erupted, destroying a quarter of the city.

When the dust cloud receded, the figure of a Succubus, who was trying to sever the Demi-Dragon's head from its body, could be seen.

Lux was holding her hands, preventing her blades from cutting his neck. However, to his surprise, Aurora was slowly but surely winning the battle of strength.

"All who side with Misfortune must die!" Aurora growled. "The Misfortune's Beloved must die!"

"Why do you girls always like to be on top?" Lux replied through gritted teeth. "Shouldn't our roles be reversed?"

Aurora sneered as she continued to push her blades towards the Demi-Dragon's neck with a crazed look on her face.

Just as the blades were about to touch Lux's skin, a set of bony hands grabbed hold of Aurora's arms, preventing her from going for the kill.

The Succubus glanced at the two Little Skeletons who were holding onto her in confusion.

"Why?" Aurora asked them. "Aren't you two supposed to be on my side? Why are you helping him? Whose side are you on?"

The two Little Skeletons opened their mouths, and because Lux could understand the Undead, he heard Zane and Zeke tell Aurora that they were always on her side.

"Then why?!" Aurora growled. "Why are you getting in my way?!"

The two Little Skeletons urged Aurora to stop and return to her senses. However, instead of calming down the Succubus, their plea only enraged her more.

"Are you going to betray me?!" Aurora asked, her voice filled with killing intent. "I trusted the two of you, and now, you plan to betray me?!"

The Succubus' eyes blazed brightly.

"Unforgivable!"

She then used her wings to slap the two Little Skeletons, shattering their bodies completely.

"Traitors," Aurora said as blood seeped from the corner of her lips. "All of you betrayed me. All of you left my side. None of you care about me. All of you threw me away."

All of you...

All of you...

All of you...

All of you... deserve to die!

Just as she was about to hack Lux apart with her swords, the Demi-Dragon's fist connected with the side of her face, sending her flying to the side.

He then snapped his fingers and the two Little Skeletons reassembled their bodies and looked at their Mistress.

Although they were only made up of bones, and no expressions could be seen on their faces, a feeling of sadness reverberated from their bodies.

Zane and Zeke then walked towards Aurora with their arms stretched wide, as if pleading for her to calm down.

However, instead of listening to them, the Succubus obliterated them with two fireballs, making them turn into particles of light.

These lights then flew towards Aurora and she engulfed them with purple flames.

A few seconds later, two Little Skeletons that were coated with purple flames stood beside their mistress as their flaming eyes locked onto the Demi-Dragon's body.

"Zane, Zeke, you love me, right?" Aurora said as she patted the heads of the two Little Skeletons. "You will help me, right?"

The two Skeletons nodded their heads at the same time.

"Then help me kill this fool," Aurora smiled. "After that, the three of us are going to play, okay? Back in that dark place where no one will hurt us anymore."

The two Little Skeletons nodded and summoned two bone swords in each hand. They then walked side-by-side with their Mistress, who wished to kill the Demi-Dragon in front of her.

Lux sighed before taking a fighting stance. He finally understood why Aurora was able to overpower him.

Since this was her memory, the entire world was considered to be her Domain.

As long as she wished for it, she would gain the power she needed in order to destroy anything that stood in her way.

"Are you sure you want it to end like this, Aurora?" Lux's clone said as he looked at the younger Aurora, who was still hugging Queen Bianca. "Your mother sacrificed her life to save you. Is this how you want things to end? Does her sacrifice only amount to this?"

The young Aurora's body shuddered after hearing Lux's words.

"Someone like me doesn't deserve to live," the Young Aurora said softly. "I only bring pain to the people around me. I would be better off dead."

"Then what about your sister?" Lux asked. "She's already lost her mother, do you want her to lose a sister as well?"

The Young Aurora glanced at the crying Shayna, whose snot and tears were mixing together as she clung to her mother.

"Mama!" Shayna cried. "Mama, wake up!"

Seeing her sister in such a state, an indescribable emotion surfaced within the Young Aurora's heart.

It was as if her heart had a big hole in it, making her feel incomplete and incapable of feeling any other emotions aside from extreme sadness and powerlessness.

And yet, as Shayna's wails reverberated inside her head, something stirred inside her mind.

Something that once belonged to her in a time when she and her family were still living happily together.

Chapter 931.4: Trials Of The Heart [Part 4]

"Sh*t!" Lux cursed as he fended off Zane and Zeke's opportunistic attacks and fought against Aurora at the same time.

The two Little Skeletons were Deimos-Ranked Monsters, whom he had originally created in order to accompany and protect Misfortune's Beloved.

But now, they had ranked up into Argonaut-Ranked Monsters and were assisting their Mistress in dealing with the pest that was preventing her from killing her younger self.

After kicking Zeke away, the Half-Elf immediately jumped to his right side and rolled on the ground.

A second later, a beam of purple light obliterated the place where he initially stood, creating a shockwave that pushed him away.

When Lux managed to regain his balance, a crater that was hundreds of meters wide stood in front of him.

Before he could even do anything, two bone swords stabbed his back, piercing through his draconic scales.

Fortunately, Lux's dragon scales were very thick and hard, so the bone swords were only able to embed themselves an inch inside his body.

Lux had also moved his body at the last second, preventing the two Little Skeletons from hitting a vital spot in his body.

'They're getting stronger,' Lux thought before swatting away the two pesky critters, shattering their bodies.

But that wasn't enough to stop them.

Zane and Zeke reattached their bones together and laughed at the Half-Elf as if mocking him for being unable to kill them completely.

"Die!"

Another beam of light descended from the sky, and this time, Lux had no way to avoid it.

Since that was the case, he decided not to evade and take it head-on.

"Calypso!" Lux summoned the Spear of Longinus and used it to block the incoming attack from the Succubus, whose bloodshot eyes were locked onto his body.

Another powerful explosion erupted, obliterating everything around the Half-Elf.

Aurora looked down at the ground, waiting for the dust cloud to recede. A few seconds later, she saw her opponent standing in the center of a crater, his body oozing with white smoke.

"That hur—ouch! Bastards!" Lux swung his spear around, destroying Zane and Zeke, who just landed another sneak attack on him from behind after their Mistress' Beam Attack.

The Half-Elf panted for breath as he looked up at the beautiful lady in the sky, who reminded him of the Succubus Queen, Rhiannon.

Aurora's expression was cold, and her eyes were emitting killing intent. Clearly, she wanted him dead, and if it weren't for Lux's strong physique, he would've lost.

He knew that it was impossible for him to beat Aurora in her Domain.

Not only was she getting stronger, but he could also feel himself getting weaker as if his strength was being sapped out of his body at a steady rate.

Lux knew that this was a trial, but it wasn't his trial. So no matter what he did, it was impossible for him to win.

Only Aurora would be able to defeat herself and overcome her heart demon, allowing her to become a Ranker.

The beautiful Succubus raised her right hand.

A moment later, a giant purple flaming sword that was hundreds of meters long appeared in the heavens and its sword point was pointing at the Demi-Dragon, who was on the ground.

"Time to end this," Aurora stated coldly. "Any last words?"

(A/N: Kekeke. Tell her that you banged her Succubus Mom.)

(E/N: "You'll have a new sister soon, and I'm the father. Call me Daddy.")

"Your mother asked me to tell you that being your mother was one of the happiest moments of her life," Lux stated. "She said that she didn't regret raising you as her own daughter, even though you and her weren't blood-related. For her, you were her precious daughter whom she loved with all of her heart.

"She also said that you don't need to blame yourself for what has happened. If you are still feeling guilty, she also told me to tell you that she forgives you, and she will be watching over you even though she is no longer in this world."

Tears of blood streamed down Aurora's beautiful face as she glared at the Half-Elf from the sky.

"Liar!" Aurora growled. "You liar! How dare you lie to me!"

With a roar filled with anger, sadness, and killing intent, Aurora swung her hand forward as if slashing the air.

Immediately, the Giant Sword descended from the sky, threatening to destroy everything below the Heavens.

Lux, who had a feeling that Aurora wouldn't believe him, also roared as he imbued all of his strength to the Divine Weapon in his hands.

"Pierce the Void!" Lux roared. "Spear of Longi—"

The Half-Elf wasn't able to finish his chant because someone suddenly appeared between him and the Giant Sword that was descending from the sky.

"Kyrie Eleison."

A golden magic circle appeared in the path of the Magic Sword, creating a barrier and preventing it from moving forward.

When the magic circle and the giant sword collided, a powerful shockwave decimated everything within a mile-wide radius around them.

The two forces tried to push each other away as they heeded their Masters' commands.

Lux subconsciously swallowed his saliva as he looked at the girl, who had created the barrier in front of him.

Her long, pink hair fluttered in the breeze, highlighting her delicate form. She stood like a beacon of light, holding off the darkness and preventing the world from being destroyed.

Half a minute later, several cracks appeared on the barrier, making Lux grit his teeth as he clenched his fists in preparation to save the girl in front of him.

However, before he could even do anything, the little girl turned her head to look at him. She had a sad expression on her face, which made Lux's heart ache.

"Don't do anything," the younger Aurora stated. "This is my battle."

As soon as she finished talking, the sound of countless crystal vases breaking at the same time spread in the surroundings.

The golden barrier shattered, and the Giant Sword pushed its way toward the little girl and the Half-Elf, who were only a few seconds away from being annihilated.

Chapter 932.5: Trials Of The Heart [Part 5]

Lux could feel his liver itch as the giant flaming sword neared them.

However, when it was only a few meters away from Aurora, the little girl casually raised her right hand and grabbed the tip of the sword barehanded.

A second later, she gave it a pinch, causing the sword blade to crack. This crack extended from where she pinched to the rest of the sword until the sword shattered like crystal.

"So you're finally here." the Succubus Aurora sneered. "You saved me the trouble of finding you. Are you ready to die, Child of Misfortune?"

The young Aurora didn't answer right away, instead, she looked in the direction where her little sister, Shayna, was crying while clinging onto her mother who had passed away in order to protect them.

"I tried to kill myself many times," the Young Aurora said softly. "But something or someone always got in my way. Whenever I harbor these dark thoughts inside my head, Shayna would appear and give me a hug.

"Her warmth prevented me from doing so, but whenever she wasn't around, these negative thoughts returned to me. Perhaps, my Father, the King, also realized what was happening, so he placed a powerful restriction on me, preventing me from committing suicide.

"A few years have passed since my mother's death, and yet, every night, Shayna would sleep with me on the same bed and hold me close, while her body trembled. I would often sing her a lullaby until she fell asleep in my arms before I, too, closed my eyes to sleep.

"When I wake up in the morning, I would often find my clothes drenched with my sister's tears. It was at that moment that I realized something important. If I died, my sister would still cry in her sleep. The only difference was that I would no longer be there to hold her and tell her that everything was going to be fine."

The Younger Shayna raised her head to look at the Succubus in the sky and gave her a bitter smile.

"You came a bit too late," the Younger Aurora stated. "If you had come here several years ago, I would have gladly surrendered myself to your blade in order to end my suffering. But times have changed. I no longer wish to die because I need to live for the sake of my Mother.

"I need to live for the sake of my sister.

"I need to live in order to let them know that this life that was given to me was worth living for."

The beautiful Succubus laughed and clapped her hands.

"Very funny," the Succubus Aurora commented. "No one needs you in this world. You are capable of nothing but spreading misfortune and heartache. How many families have you ruined? How many people have suffered because of you? How many people have died because of you? Are you still asleep? Why don't you wake up from your delusion, little girl?"

"And those are some of the other reasons why I need to keep living," the Young Aurora replied. "My death will not solve anything."

"It may not solve anything, but it will make them happy."

"And some will be sad when I die, so I don't plan on dying. Not today, not tomorrow."

The Succubus smirked.

"I'm afraid you don't have a choice on that matter." The Succubus' entire body started to blaze in purple flames like a Phoenix. "Today, I will end your suffering. I will end our suffering."

The Young Aurora slowly floated towards the sky until she was on the same level as the Succubus.

Golden flames erupted from her body as she faced her counterpart with a fearless gaze.

A few seconds later, she glanced at the Half-Elf on the ground and smiled.

"Do you want me to live?" the Young Aurora asked.

Lux nodded without hesitation. "Yes. I want you to live, and live a happy life."

The smile on the Young Aurora's face widened after hearing Lux's reply. She then shifted her attention to the Succubus, who was looking back at her with contempt.

"The only reason why he wants you to live is because of your body," the Succubus scoffed. "Since he tried to save you, he will definitely ask for something in return. There's no free lunch in this world, you ignorant fool. It's either you use people, or you'll be used by them."

The Young Aurora blinked once then twice before looking at the Half-Elf on the ground.

"Is that true?" the Young Aurora asked. "You are only saving me because you want my body?"

"Huh? Of course not," Lux replied in a heartbeat. "I already have two fiances, you know?"

"Do you need more?" the Younger Aurora asked in a barely audible voice, which Lux didn't manage to hear.

"Can you repeat what you said?" Lux inquired. "I wasn't able to hear it properly."

"I-It's nothing," the Younger Aurora said before looking at the Succubus in front of her.

The Succubus smirked before summoning countless flaming swords in the sky, in preparation for the final showdown.

The Younger Aurora did no such thing. However, the two Little Skeletons floated beside her. They were no longer covered in purple flames, and instead, their bodies glowed in a golden luster.

"Zane, Zeke, we can do this," the Younger Aurora said.

The two Little Skeletons gave her a thumbs up before summoning their bone swords and taking a fighting stance beside their young Mistress.

Half a minute later, the Succubus Aurora raised her hand, and countless swords flew in the Younger Aurora's direction.

The little girl charged forward like a golden comet, accompanied by two small ones.

Lux watched as the two sides collided, creating explosions in the sky.

The countless swords fell on Aurora like rain, but Zane and Zeke parried them all like two War Gods protecting their Goddess from harm.

Seeing that her attacks weren't affecting her enemy, the Succubus summoned two purple swords in her hands and charged at the Young Aurora, her eyes burning in hatred.

Their collision made the entire world shake, creating cracks in the sky every time they exchanged blows with each other.

Lux knew that this was the moment of truth, and the Aurora that would prevail would take over her body in the real world.

But just as he was entertaining this thought, a golden comet fell down from the sky and landed several meters away from him.

There, lying on the ground with her gaze staring at the clouded sky, was the Young Aurora, with a bloody hole in her chest, that made the Half-Elf feel as if he had lost something very important to him in the span of a heartbeat.

Chapter 933.1: Overcoming The Heart Demon [Part 1]

"Aurora!" Lux shouted as he dashed toward the young girl who was falling from the sky.

"... She's... too strong," the Young Aurora said weakly. "I can't... win... in my current... state."

"Don't talk," Lux replied. "Save your breath."

The Half-Elf then used the skills Healing Wind and Half Life in order to help her recover from her injury.

The bloody hole in her chest was slowly but surely closing up, which made Lux sigh in relief. However, the young lady's face was deathly pale, and all the colors in her face seemed to have been drained.

Up in the sky, Zane and Zeke battled the Succubus in order to give Lux some time to heal their Mistress.

However, they were simply too weak to hold the Succubus back, which resulted in the two of them crashing on the ground after the Beautiful Succubus unleashed a barrage of attacks that overcame their defenses.

"Everyone, fight!" Lux ordered.

The Half-Elf summoned his two clones, who immediately summoned their Undead Army to assist in buying time.

Lux's Named Creatures and the Members of his Covenant also engaged the Succubus in a deadly battle in the sky, preventing her from targeting the young girl whose life could be snuffed out at any moment.

Originally, Lux thought that the Young Aurora would be able to overpower the Succubus Aurora after she had awakened. However, his assumptions were completely wrong, proven by the result of the clash between the two girls.

Aurora, who was now against thousands of enemies at once, didn't panic. She understood that she only needed to kill one person, and that was her younger self.

As long as the Young Aurora was killed, she would be able to take control of their body, allowing her to do whatever she wanted.

"Why don't you leave that trash and join me, Lux?" the Succubus Aurora said as she obliterated the Doomsday Gargoyles that tried to encircle her. "I promise that you will not regret it. I will give you my body and heart, how about it?"

"I'm not interested in your body and heart," Lux replied as he pressed his hands over the bloody hole in Aurora's chest.

"What a pity," the Beautiful Succubus shook her head, while she exterminated the Wraiths that attacked her en masse. "I guess you can die along with that little b*tch."

Without another word, the Succubus unleashed a hellish purple beam, aimed directly at the Half-Elf, who was busy healing her other half.

A second later, a powerful explosion shook the devastated city, making the Succubus sneer.

However, when the dust cloud receded, there was no sign of the Half-Elf or the little girl whom he was trying to save.

Lux acted fast, swapping places with one of his clones, and continued to heal Aurora as fast as he could.

He knew that even if he fought the Succubus Aurora with everything he had, it was still impossible for them to win because this was the Young Aurora's Ranker Trial.

She needed to overcome her heart demon by herself, or she'd be swallowed by it entirely.

Fortunately, the hole in her chest had finally closed.

Although her life was no longer in danger, it was only a matter of time before they were defeated.

'Think!' Lux thought desperately. 'What can I do to help? There must be something I can do. Something to help tilt the scales to our favor.'

While the Half-Elf was thinking of ways in order to help the Young Aurora win, countless explosions reverberated in the surroundings.

But, within those explosions, the Half-Elf's strong hearing heard something that made his eyes widen in shock.

He then gazed in the distance and saw Shayna still clinging to her mother and bawling her eyes out.

Although everything around Aurora's little sister was devastated, she and her mom were left untouched by the destruction that the Succubus had dealt upon this illusionary world.

As if the final piece of the puzzle fell into place, Lux finally understood that the goal of Aurora's Trial was not to defeat the Succubus.

It was a trial for her to forgive herself!

Without wasting any more time, Lux picked up the little girl in a princess carry and flew towards Shayna and her mother.

Seeing this scene, the Succubus' face turned grim and charged in their direction. No matter what happened, she must prevent the little girl from realizing what needed to be done in order to beat her.

"Where do you think you're going?" Calypso sneered. "Duel!"

Immediately, the Succubus found herself unable to continue flying in Lux's direction. She then gave an otherworldly scream before flying towards the Living Armor, who had summoned countless golden orbs around her.

"Golden Barrage!" Calypso roared, and the orbs of light unleashed countless beams of golden light that hit her target.

Even so, the Succubus didn't back down and charged at her like a Purple Phoenix, with its wings spread wide.

"Behold!" Asmodeus shouted. "Morpheus Blast!"

The Death Tyrant, who had now become an adult Death Tyrant, unleashed rays of light that struck the Succubus' Body, petrifying her completely.

But this petrification didn't last long. A few seconds later, the Succubus broke out of her stone prison and engaged Calypso in close combat.

As a Divine Weapon, Calypso faced her opponent fearlessly and the two clashed in the sky. Even so, she was still overpowered after forty moves and exploded into particles of light.

Lux's Undead Legion threw themselves at the Succubus in a desperate attempt to buy as much time as they could.

While this was happening, Lux finally arrived at his destination and landed beside Shayna.

"Aurora, do you still feel guilty about the death of your mother?" Lux asked

Instead of answering, the girl in his arms looked at her crying sister before shifting her gaze to her mother, who had breathed her last breath, not long ago.

She then looked back at Lux and nodded her head.

"I know that words are not enough to convince you, so, I will do this instead." Lux supported Aurora's body until she could stand on her own.

When he was sure that the little girl was standing on her own two feet, he lowered his head and pressed his forehead against her.

A moment later, the Young Aurora found herself in a flower field.

In the distance, two girls were giggling, while playing tag with each other.

"This is..." Aurora muttered as she looked at this scene that had long been buried inside her heart.

Suddenly, he heard someone talking not far from her.

When she glanced in the direction where the sound was coming from, she saw her mother standing beside Lux.

"Don't the two of them look adorable?" Queen Bianca asked the Half-Elf with a smile.

Aurora saw the look of surprise and confusion on Lux's face as he gazed at the beautiful Queen beside him.

"I can see you, you know?" Queen Bianca giggled, which made Lux subconsciously take a step back.

"Y-You can see me?" Lux asked.

"Yes," Queen Bianca replied. "But in my eyes, you look like a spirit. Did you perhaps die and still have lingering attachments to this world?"

"I'm not a spirit," Lux answered.

"Then you're probably someone from the future."

"Eh?"

Aurora then watched as her mother and Lux walked toward the tree that overlooked the Flower Field and listened to their conversation, which made her heart skip a beat.

Chapter 934.2: Overcoming The Heart Demon [Part 2]

"You see, I'm an oracle of sorts," Queen Bianca said softly. "Today, I made a divination, and it told me to come to this place at this time to meet someone who will help change the Fate of my daughter... or perhaps, daughters?"

As Aurora looked at her mother in the distance, she felt herself being pulled in her direction.

Before she even knew it, her feet and legs already moved on their own, heading toward her mother whom she loved very much.

Aurora watched as the Queen looked at the two little girls in the distance with an affectionate gaze.

"Those two girls are my daughters," Queen Bianca said after sitting down on the grass. "The younger one is named Shayna, and the older one is named Aurora. Do you know? Aurora means Dawn. Her name refers to the time of the day when the sun is just about to rise from the horizon, giving light to the world."

Yes, her name was Aurora. This was the name that Queen Bianca had given her when King Septimius adopted her into the Royal Family.

"You know, being an Oracle is a blessing and a curse," Queen Bianca stated. "I've seen many things, including things that I don't want to see. Do you know? I already know the exact date that I will die and what will happen after it? Very neat, right?"

Lux, who had just been listening, frowned.

"Since you know when you are going to die, can't you do anything about it?" Lux asked.

This was also the question in Aurora's mind. Since her mother already knew when she would die, couldn't she have done something differently and prevented her death? Maybe by doing so, she and Shayna wouldn't have to suffer.

"Perhaps," Queen Bianca answered. "But it takes a lot of courage and willpower to defy Fate. I don't know if I have the courage or the willpower to do it. Still, if I manage to succeed, my only regret is that I won't be able to see my two daughters grow up."

'What?' Aurora's eyes widened in shock. 'If she managed to defy fate, she would not be able to see me and Shayna grow up? How come? Why?'

While she was reeling from her mother's revelation, Queen Bianca's next words made her feel as if a bucket of cold water was poured over her head.

"Lux, I have a favor to ask," Queen Bianca said softly. "Sometime in the distant future, Aurora will need to make a difficult choice. One that will force her to choose between what is right and what is easy. When that time comes, I want you to tell her that being her mother was one of the happiest moments of my life.

"I didn't regret raising her as my own, and even though we don't share the same blood, that doesn't change the fact that she is my precious daughter.

"She's my family, and I love her very much. Tell her that she doesn't need to blame herself for what happened. If she still feels guilty about it, tell her that I forgive her and that I will always be watching over her even though I am no longer in this world."

"Understood," Lux replied. "I will relay your message to her."

Queen Bianca smiled. "Thank you. Meeting you here at this place and time gave me some peace of mind. Although it is regrettable, our time together will not last long."

A moment later, the Half-Elf disappeared, but the scene didn't change.

Aurora watched as Shayna and the other Aurora laid down on the grass and fell asleep, hugging each other.

Suddenly, a gasp escaped Queen Bianca's lips when her gaze landed on the disheveled Young Aurora, who was wearing bloody clothes and had bruises all over her body.

"A-Aurora?" Queen Bianca stood up as she glanced at the sleeping Aurora, who was hugging her sister, and the other Aurora, who was standing a few meters away from her.

The Young Aurora didn't speak and simply looked at her mother with tears streaming down the side of her face.

"Why?" the Young Aurora asked. "Why did you have to die? Why did you have to leave Shayna and me alone?"

Queen Bianca didn't reply right away. Instead, she walked towards the Young Aurora and hugged her small and frail body that was injured all over.

"I see... so that's how it is," Queen Bianca muttered as she hugged her beloved daughter. "It seems that Lux wasn't the only one that I was supposed to meet here today. Fate had decided that you could meet me here one last time after my death."

Aurora, who was no longer able to hold back her tears, hugged her mother and cried her eyes out.

She kept on saying, "Why?", "Why did you have to die?", "Why did you have to leave us?", "Why?"

Queen Bianca held her daughter until she calmed down. Only when Aurora was no longer crying did she crouch down to kiss her forehead.

"Because I love you, Aurora," Queen Bianca replied. "Because I love you and Shayna."

"I don't understand," Aurora shook her head.

Queen Bianca smiled bitterly before she cupped her daughter's face with her hands.

"I don't know how far you are in the future right now, or how much suffering you have experienced after becoming Misfortune's Beloved," Queen Bianca said softly. "But know this—even if I did something different and prevented something from happening, Fate always finds a way to right what was wrong.

"In order to defeat it, one must resolve themselves to stake everything, including their lives, leaving no option for a second chance."

The scene around them suddenly changed and they returned to the city that was being besieged by Monsters.

Aurora saw two little girls lying on the ground, in a puddle of their own blood. She saw her mother fighting off several monsters in order to reach them, but they were simply too many to fight on her own.

She watched as one of the Monsters devoured her sister, Shayna, and feasted on her flesh and blood.

She saw another monster lifting her own body and chomping on her legs, tearing her flesh and bones, eating heartily.

She watched as her mother shouted in pain, anger, and sadness as the rest of Aurora's body was eaten by the Monster, leaving nothing behind.

She watched as her father crashed down from the sky, stabbed by the pointed stinger of the Calamity-Ranked Monster that he was fighting, and died a few seconds later.

Lastly, she watched as her mother fought in a berserk state, maddened with rage for the loss of the people who were important to her.

An hour later, all the Monsters in the city were dead, leaving only the Queen behind.

She knelt on the ground in front of the two puddles of blood while holding the body of her dead husband.

Queen Bianca wailed and pleaded for the heavens to return the people who were important to her.

But the Gods didn't hear her prayer.

For they were no longer around.

Even if they were still in Elysium, none of them cared about the life of a few mortals and their desperation.

"This is the future that I saw," Queen Bianca said as she held Aurora's body close to her. "This is why I've resolved within myself to defy fate, and I know that by doing so, I will pay the ultimate price."

Suddenly, a smile appeared on her face, despite the sadness that she was projecting.

"Seeing that you are here right now, it means that my gamble will succeed," Queen Bianca then used her handkerchief to wipe the tear stains on her daughter's face. "Aurora, if I were given the choice to return to the past, I would still do my best to defy fate. It might be selfish of me, but I didn't want to spend my life all alone, without the three of you by my side.

"Even when I'm no longer around, as long as you have Shayna and your father with you, I'm sure that things will be better. Hey~ I even saw a handsome Half-Elf earlier. I don't know if you saw him too, but his name is Lux. Both of your names are compatible. You represent the darkness, while he represents the light.

"Together, you will usher in a new dawn, which will illuminate the world that is filled with suffering and pain. My only regret is that I won't be seeing it alongside the two of you. But if ever you and he became lovers, can you name your firstborn daughter, Bianca, in order to honor me? I would love that very much.

"Even if I am no longer with you, I will be with you in spirit. So, my darling, I want you to live, not only for your sake but for mine as well. Can you promise me that?"

Aurora nodded before kissing her mother's cheek one last time.

"I love you, Mother," Aurora said as she did her best to hold back her tears.

"And I love you, more than anything in the world," Queen Biana said before planting one last kiss on Aurora's forehead.

A moment later, she disappeared, turning into particles of light that merged with her body, making Aurora feel as if all the burden that she carried for the past eighteen years of her life vanished without a trace.

Flames covered the entire city as the Succubus Aurora walked towards Lux, who was protecting the Young Aurora, who was currently in a trance.

All of Lux's Undead Legion, Named Creatures, and Covenant Members had perished.

The Half-Elf was also in his Demi-Dragon form, but he had suffered grave injuries, with wounds that were weeping with his lifeblood.

"Goodbye, Lux," the Succubus Aurora said as she raised her two blazing hands. "It's a pity that we didn't see eye to eye."

Without another word, she unleashed a dazzling ray of light that would end everything, allowing her to become the sole owner of Aurora's body.

Suddenly, something unexpected happened.

The purple beam of light was split apart before it could even hit the Half-Elf.

The Succubus didn't know what happened, but it didn't take long for her to find the answer to her question

A young girl stood in front of her, her right hand having pierced the Succubus' chest, gripping her heart.

"I-Impossible," the Succubus muttered in shock. "How did you manage to become stronger than me?"

The Young Aurora smiled before saying something that only the Succubus was able to hear.

"That is my future husband you're trying to kill," the Young Aurora said.
"Hands off, b*tch."

She then shattered the Succubus' heart, and the latter screamed in pain as she exploded in a shower of sparks, leaving nothing behind.

The dark clouds that were covering the sky earlier parted, and a ray of light descended upon the young girl, who had finally forgiven herself for the things that had happened in the past.

Even Lux, who was seriously injured, couldn't avert his gaze from the young lady, who looked like a divine being who was bathed in the ray of light.

A minute later, Aurora glanced in his direction and gave him a smile, which made the Half-Elf's heart skip a beat.

The smile on Aurora's face widened as she looked at the handsome Half-Elf who had reverted to his original form.

What Lux didn't know was that, after she had conquered her heart demon, Aurora had also laid the foundation of her next conquest.

Yes, the one she planned to conquer was none other than the person who had reached out to hold her hand in the darkness and allowed her to see the light that would soon usher in a new dawn in her life.

Chapter 935.1: Misfortune Smiles Upon You [Part 1]

The Illusionary world began to crumble the moment the Young Aurora defeated her heart demon.

Half a minute later, Lux found himself hugging a naked beauty in his arms, and the realization made his body stiffen.

To make matters worse, he also noticed that he was also naked, making his blood rush to his mid region.

Aurora, who also noticed the situation she was in, didn't react the same way as Lux.

In fact, she was quite calm despite being hugged by a naked man and even looked up at the Half-Elf with an innocent look on her face.

"Lux, something hard and hot is hitting my stomach," Aurora said. "Are you okay? Are you feeling sick?"

The Half-Elf wanted to facepalm so badly because his little brother chose the wrong time to say "hello" to the peerless beauty in front of him.

"I-I'm fine," Lux stuttered as he summoned a blanket from his storage ring, and wrapped it around Aurora's body. "Our clothes got destroyed when your body was covered with purple flames earlier. I'll get you some new ones."

Lux hurriedly took out some of the clothes that he had prepared for his fiancée, Cai, just in case she returned to her old habit of not putting on clothes before transforming into her boar form.

"Thank you," Aurora said as she accepted the clothes given to her.

Lux turned around in order to put some clothes on as well. Only when Aurora said that she had finished donning her own clothes did he turn around to look at her.

Aurora wore a white one-piece dress that was snug at the waist, highlighting the curves of her body.

After she became a Ranker, her body had undergone a rebirth, and she no longer looked like a malnourished person.

In fact, she looked so energetic and lively that Lux was unable to keep his eyes off her.

Aurora then walked towards him and returned the blanket with a smile.

"Are you feeling better now?" Lux asked. "Do you feel any pain in your body?"

Truth be told, he didn't need to ask this question, but he still did.

Although he could sense that the burden she was carrying had disappeared from her body, he was still wondering if her ascension to become a Ranker had any lingering side effects.

"I feel great," Aurora replied. "I've never felt better before. In fact, I feel as if I can run for miles without stopping."

"That's good to hear," Lux nodded. "Well then, shall we leave this place? I feel like you are now able to do that."

Aurora looked at the barrier in the distance that had prevented her from escaping.

Because of what happened earlier, Lux wasn't able to tell her that she could teleport directly to his Guild Headquarters in order to escape her prison.

However, before he could explain this to her, Aurora walked towards the barrier with steady steps.

Her steps were filled with confidence as if nothing could stop her from doing what she wanted. A minute later, she successfully crossed the barrier, after which she turned around to look at Lux with a smug expression on her face.

'Congratulations, Aurora," Lux said as he, too, walked past the barrier. "You have taken your first step to regain your freedom."

"Thank you, Lux," Aurora said before holding his hand. "I wouldn't have been able to do it without your help."

The two then walked towards the stairs in order to leave the deepest part of the Inner Sanctum.

When they arrived at the middle layer, the two immediately heard a loud commotion.

All the monsters were attacking the Purple Barrier that locked them in place as if they had all gone crazy.

As Aurora was passing one of the monster cells, the monster that was locked up behind it suddenly roared, making the young lady jump back in surprise. However, as if she had stepped on a banana peel, she slid and nearly fell to the ground.

Fortunately, her hands managed to touch the barrier, using it as a support to prevent herself from falling.

Suddenly, a loud crack reverberated in the surroundings, making Lux feel a chill run down his spine.

Two golden eyes stared at Aurora, and a set of razor-sharp teeth gleamed in the darkness. The creature suddenly moved and smashed its fist against the crack of the barrier, making it expand.

The monster's attack created a shockwave, which pushed Aurora to the cage beside it.

The young lady was forced to use both of her hands to prevent her face from smashing into the barrier.

Just like what happened earlier, a crack appeared on the barrier of the second cage, breaking Lux out of his daze.

The Half-Elf immediately scooped Aurora into a princess carry and started to sprint toward the stairs in order to reach his friends, who were waiting for him at the entrance.

"Everyone run!" Lux shouted as soon as he exited the gates of the Inner Sanctum. "Two Calamity-Ranked Monsters are about to break free!"

Cethus' face turned pale after hearing the news. The Dragon Born immediately opened his wings and took to the sky in order to escape.

Lux and Gerhart flew into the sky as well, while Lilian used Air Steps to jump upwards.

The Saintess, who had followed them, had heard Lux's shout, but she didn't believe what the Half-Elf had said.

They had gone into the Inner Sanctum in the past and tried to free the monsters there using brute force and magic, but their attempts didn't work.

She refused to believe that the newcomers were able to do something that even they couldn't achieve, so she stayed for a bit to confirm if they were telling the truth or not.

It was at that moment when the land under her feet shook, almost making her lose her balance.

A moment later, two creatures emerged from the Gates of the Inner Sanctum, which made the Saintess feel as if all of her breath were taken away from her.

Even so, as someone who had managed to reach her Rank, she was able to recover right away and retreated as fast as she could.

She had to inform their King that two Calamity-Ranked Monsters had escaped their prison.

Monsters that were deemed to be too dangerous to be left wandering the lands of Agatha, due to how powerful, and destructive they were.

Chapter 936.2: Misfortune Smiles Upon You [Part 2]

Lux glanced at the ground and observed the two Calamity-Ranked Monsters that escaped the prison.

Aurora, who was in his arms, trembled because she knew that she was the one responsible for letting the two Monsters escape.

"I'm sorry," Aurora said. "My luck is simply terrible."

Lux was about to tell her that it wasn't her fault, but he managed to stop himself in time. He knew that saying those words wouldn't help Aurora.

The only thing he could do now was decide what he was going to do next.

"Should we warn the city?" Lux asked Lilian, who had transformed into a little slime that was currently perched on his shoulder.

"The Saintess who followed us is already on her way back to the city," Lilian replied. "I'm sure she will warn everyone once she arrives."

Cethus, who was flying beside them, glanced at the Monsters on the ground before shifting his gaze to Lux.

"So, what now?" Cethus inquired.

"Good question," Lux answered. "For now, let's distance ourselves from those Monsters. Let's return to the city first."

The Half-Elf and his comrades then flew towards the City of Exile, where the two Monsters were currently headed.

One of them was two meters tall and looked like a Naga with golden eyes and razor-sharp teeth.

The other monster, who looked like an Ogre, was bigger, which he estimated to be around six to eight meters tall. It had four arms, and its skin was dark red.

Although these two Monsters noticed Lux's group flying in the sky, they ignored them.

For some reason, the Monsters were determined to head to the City of Exile, where all the exiled people of Agarthia were currently staying.

While this was happening, the Saintess finally arrived in the city. She immediately used her ability to pass the news to her King, as well as to everyone in the city.

"Two Calamity-Ranked Monsters are headed this way!" the Saintess shouted. "They are the Blood Ogre and the Golden-Eyed Naga!"

Immediately, the entire city was thrown into chaos.

Everyone started to leave their homes and scattered like wild ducks that heard the sound of gunfire.

The King of the Exiles smashed his wine cup on the ground before glaring hatefully at the sky, where Lux and his comrades were currently at.

"Sh*t! I should have killed all of them when I had the chance!" the handsome man cursed.

However, he knew that if he didn't take control of the situation, things would get ugly pretty quickly.

"Artagnan, Athos, Porthos, and Aramis, to me!" the King of Exiles shouted. "All Rankers and High-Rankers, defend the city walls!"

When the panicking crowd of people heard their King, they stabilized themselves and immediately took action. They no longer ran, and instead headed towards the City Walls in order to defend it.

Meanwhile, the Four Saints appeared before their King and waited for his order.

"Artagnan, Athos, and Porthos, the three of you will deal with the Blood Ogre," the King of Exiles ordered. "Aramis, you will help me distract the Golden-Eyed Naga."

The Handmaiden, who went by the name, Aramis, nodded her head.

Meanwhile, the three men, Artagnan, Athos, and Porthos, all nodded their heads in agreement before flying towards the City Walls in order to deal with the Blood Ogre.

"Remember this, Aramis—our purpose is to distract the Naga, not engage it in battle," the King of Exile stated. "It is impossible for us to defeat it with just the two of us. The most we can do is buy time until the others are done dealing with the Blood Ogre. Do I make myself clear?"

"Yes, Your Majesty," Aramis replied.

"Good." The King of Exiles sighed. "Let's go."

Ten minutes later, the two Monsters finally entered the range of the defenders on the City Walls.

"Open fire!" the King of Exiles ordered a barrage of spells and projectiles to rain upon the two Calamity-Ranked Monsters that were headed in their direction.

The five Saints didn't hold back and unleashed their strongest attacks, targeting the monsters that were assigned to them.

"Should we help them?" Gerhart asked.

Lux was hesitant to join the battle, but something tugged on his clothes, which made him look at the young lady in his arms.

"This is my fault," Aurora said. "If possible, I want to help them."

The Half-Elf understood that Aurora wanted to take responsibility for letting the monsters go free. Because of this, he decided to grant her request. But he had a condition.

"I will help them, but you will not join the battle," Lux stated. "I hope you understand."

"...I do," Aurora replied. "Thank you, Lux."

The Half-Elf then glanced at the Wicked Queen Slime beside him, who had a frown on her face.

"Don't tell me I'm going to babysit her?" Lilian asked. "I'm not your nanny."

Lux was shot down before he could even say anything, so he didn't have a choice but to shift his attention to Gerhart.

"Gerhart, please look after Aurora," Lux said. "I will help defend the City of Exile. If the two Monsters manage to break inside the city, take Aurora and leave right away."

Unlike Lilian, Gerhart nodded.

"Understood," Gerhart replied. "Take care."

Cethus also had no intention of joining the battle. He wasn't a Martyr, and he had no connection with the City of Exile. Because of this, he decided to stay with Gerhart and watch the battle from a safe distance.

"Be careful, Lux," Aurora said as she let go of his hand.

"Don't worry." Lux lightly patted her head. "If things get dangerous, I will escape as well."

After saying those words, Lux flew towards the battlefield and summoned his two clones.

Although his Covenant Members had died in Aurora's Dream World, their deaths weren't considered true death since the world they fought in wasn't real.

Because of this, Lux was able to summon them without any problems.

"Avernus, come!"

The Half-Elf summoned his Dracolich and stood on his back.

Now that he was fighting in the real world, he wanted to see if his forces were strong enough to stop the rampage of two Calamity-Ranked Monsters while helping the Exiled People of Agartha defend the city that they call home.

Author's Note: Very soon, I will be making consecutive arcs that will break your hearts.

Some of you will hate me, curse me, and wish that you could strangle me alive. Those who know me understand that this will be a very painful journey.

But, to those of you who are able to survive until the end, I promise you that it will be worth it.

Everyone, brace yourselves. We are in the End Game now.

P.S Don't worry, this friendly message will not make you spend an extra coin. Kekeke.

Chapter 937.3: Misfortune Smiles Upon You [Part 3]

"Don't slack off, boys!" an Old Lady holding onto a wooden cane shouted. "If we fail to push back these two critters, we're all gonna die. Put your backs into it!"

"We're doing what we can, you old hag!" a man who was nearly two meters tall and busy shooting at the two Monsters with his bow and arrows shouted back. "Stop yelling and start helping!"

"You bastard, who are you calling an Old Hag? You have a death wish?!"

"I don't. But if I run out of arrows, I'm gonna use you as a projectile!"

Similar scenarios were happening on the ramparts of the City Walls as the Exiles cursed, shouted, and encouraged each other to fight with everything they had.

The King of Exiles, who went by the name Louis, frowned as the two Monsters continued to advance toward their city even with all the able-bodied Exiles in the city doing their best to keep them at bay.

"Everyone, prepare to engage!" Louis ordered.

As soon as he gave the signal, he, along with the four other Saints of the City, all flew toward the two Monsters and engaged them in close combat.

Just like their earlier assignments, three of the Saints fought with the Blood Ogre, while Louis and Aramis fought against the Golden-Eyed Naga.

Seeing their King fighting on the Front Lines, the people cheered from on top of the ramparts and continued to support them with cover fire.

Suddenly, a giant shadow appeared above their heads, making the Exiles all look up at the sky.

There, they saw something similar to a Bone Dragon, which made their hearts shudder inside their chest.

They thought that the giant Monster was another creature that had escaped the Inner Sanctum and was going to attack them.

However, before they could even attack the Monster, it unleashed a Dragon's Breath at the Blood Ogre, catching everyone by surprise.

Louis gave the Dracolich a side-long glance before giving an order not to attack it.

But the surprise didn't end there.

The gates of the city opened, and countless Skeletons charged out of it. There were also Jade Golems and creatures that were similar to Orcs holding tower shields.

"Make sure to not hit those Skeletons!" the Old Lady shouted. "I don't know where the Undead came from, but they are on our side. Since they've come to help, make sure to not attack them!"

The Old Lady didn't have to remind everyone as everyone already knew what to do the moment the Skeletons surged out of the gate.

However, something happened that gave them goosebumps.

Nightstalkers and Lich Revenants climbed up the City Walls and joined the defenders in using long-ranged attacks at the two Calamity-Ranked Monsters.

Some of the Exiles backed away in haste until nearly half of the Ramparts were occupied by the Undead Army.

"Be at ease," Asmodeus said. "We are on the same side. At least for now."

The Old Lady looked at the Lich King with a frown on her face. "Who are you and why are you helping us?"

The Lich King chuckled before giving the Old Lady a slight bow.

"My name is Asmodeus, and I am a Lich King," Asmodeus introduced himself. "As to why I am doing this, it's simply because it is what my Master wanted. Since it's his wish to help defend the city, then we will do everything in our power to make it happen."

The Old Lady pondered for a bit before asking the Lich King another question.

"And who is your Master?" the Old Lady asked.

Asmodeus pointed at the Half-Elf that was standing on top of the Dracolich that was flying in the sky.

"My Master's name is Lux Von Kaizer," Asmodeus replied. "Make sure to thank him later, okay?"

Asmodeus then shifted his gaze to the Blood Ogre in the distance. He knew that targeting both Monsters wouldn't help in the long run, so he decided to focus their firepower on one target only.

"Aim at the Blood Ogre," Asmodeus ordered. "Open Fire!"

Ishtar, Lazarus, Morpheus (Death Tyrant), the Nightstalkers, and the Lich Revenants all unleashed a deadly barrage that forced the Blood Ogre to go on the defensive.

Lux, who was riding on top of Avernus, raised his right hand, and a tombstone that was six meters tall appeared hundreds of meters away from the Blood Ogre.

A few seconds later, countless Enraged Ghouls materialized in its surroundings and began to charge at the Blood Ogre like rabid dogs.

All of these Ghouls were Rank 5 Monsters and wouldn't pose much of a threat to the Blood Ogre.

However, since all of Lux's subordinates were boosted with multiple buffs that improved their Attack, Defense, and Health, they could all be considered Pseudo Deimos-Ranked Monsters.

This was also true for the Doom Knight Gangbangers, Nightstalkers, Lich Revenants, Jade Golems, Fortress Defenders, and Doomsday Gargoyles. All of them had powerful buffs boosting their attacks, making them truly formidable in large-scale battles.

But it didn't end there.

Since they were also boosted with Lux's Death God's Aura, as well as gaining the Divine Abyssal Touch, they were like a swarm of ants that could overpower even stronger opponents!

With one sweep of the Blood Ogre's clubs, countless Ghouls were turned to meat paste.

With another strike, countless Doom Knight Gangbangers shattered and died instantly.

Calamity-Ranked Monsters were no joke, and they could easily destroy entire cities when left unchecked.

Even so, with each Undead's destruction, another one would rise to take its place.

It was an endless cycle of killing and rebirth, which made Louis and the other Saints feel as if they had a chance of winning.

Unfortunately, they had greatly underestimated their opponents.

There were many Calamity-Ranked Monsters that roamed the lands of Agartha, but not all of them were imprisoned in the Inner Sanctum.

Lilian, who was a Calamity-Ranked Wicked Queen Slime, was one of these monsters. Although her fighting ability was quite high, it was nothing

compared to the monsters that were deemed to be too powerful to be allowed to roam the land.

As if proving this point, the body of the Blood Ogre turned completely black. There was also a black substance that was swirling around its body like countless tentacles that were obliterating anything that came within a hundred meters of it.

Although Lux's Undead Legion was unending, none of them were able to get close enough to actually deal damage to the Blood Ogre, who had now turned into a Black Ogre with four arms.

Aside from the changes in its skin color, there was something else that changed in the monster. It had gained a third eye that was crimson in color.

This eye would glow from time to time, creating a barrier that prevented long ranged attacks from hitting its body.

Simply put, it was now like a walking fortress.

A fortress that could repel any kind of attacks that were aimed in its direction.

The Golden-Eyed Naga, had also stepped up its attack and let out an otherworldly screech. It then stabbed its razor-sharp claws into the palm of its left hand, drawing blood.

What it did next made the Exiles feel as if the hairs on the back of their necks stood on end.

The Golden-Eyed Naga sprayed its golden blood on the ground.

These droplets of blood transformed into dozens of Golden-Eyed Nagas, with each having the strength of a Dreadnaught-Ranked.

The Calamity-Ranked Monster, as well as its summons, all charged at the City of Exile with a deafening shriek.

Since all of them looked the same, the Saints were unable to pinpoint the Calamity-Ranked Monster because it had hidden its aura while mingling with its summons.

Because of this, it was nearly impossible to tell which of the Golden-Eyed Naga's was the original.

"Scatter!" King Louis shouted towards the people on the city wall.

That was the last thing he said before the dozens of Golden-Eyed Nagas, as well as the Black Ogre, unleashed hell upon the Defenders of the City of Exile.

Chapter 938.4: Misfortune Smiles Upon You [Part 4]

Screams and curses reverberated on top of the City Walls as the Exiles started to run in different directions in order to escape the Monsters that could easily destroy the wall that protected their city.

They could have dealt with the Dreadnaught Ranked Golden-Eyed Nagas, but with the original monster mixed in the group, they didn't dare to gamble with their lives.

Only Asmodeus, Ishtar, Lazarus, Morpheus, and the other Undead Monsters remained, not stopping their attacks against the incoming Monsters, buying time for the people to escape.

The Doomsday Gargoyles even assisted dozens of people who weren't fast enough, like the Old Hag, to escape the City Walls by flying them to safety.

Avernus roared in the sky and unleashed a Dragon Breath from the sky, turning the zone outside of the city into a hellish environment, making the Dreadnaught-Ranked Nagas scream in pain.

The Original Monster was able to dodge the Dracolich's attack with ease. With one powerful punch, it easily destroyed the City Wall, sending big chunks of rock flying in every direction.

It then clenched its fist, letting its razor-sharp nails dig into its palm before spraying the blood high up in the air, creating dozens of Dreadnaught-Ranked Nagas that looked exactly like it.

"Damn bastard is cheating!" Cethus cursed. "No wonder it was imprisoned in the Inner Sanctum. It's a one-man army!"

"That Black Ogre is also equally dangerous," Gerhart commented. "Strong defenses and equally strong physical strength. It's really difficult to fight against it."

Lilian didn't say anything and simply observed the two Monsters that had breached the city walls with a smile on her face.

She had no obligation to help the Humans overcome this disaster. The Wicked Queen Slime was more than happy to sit in the peanut gallery and watch as the world burned.

The Black Ogre and the Golden-Eyed Naga gave Lilian a side-long glance but made no attempt to head in her direction.

Both of them had sensed that she was also a Calamity-Ranked Monster, so they simply ignored her and focused on the Humans, who were now desperately trying to find a safe place from their onslaught.

Louis knew that the destruction of the city was inevitable, so he gathered all the Saints to make a last stand to protect the Castle.

With a battle of this scale, it was impossible to not have any casualties.

Dozens of Exiles had already died, and those who had survived were doing their best to run or fly as far away from the monsters as they could.

Aurora felt a pain in her heart after seeing the death and destruction that she had caused.

After fighting against her Heart Demon, she understood that this wouldn't be the last time that this would happen.

It was possible that wherever Lux took her, this scene would follow her as well.

Even so, she was firm on the decision that she would not run away and blame herself for every misfortune that happened around her.

"Can any of you take me close to the monsters?" Aurora asked. "I have a plan."

Cethus immediately shook his head before patting Gerhart's shoulder. "Sorry, but I don't plan on dying. How about you ask this Half-Elf instead? He likes to do dangerous things."

Gerhart, who had been pushed into the limelight, also shook his head.

"It is too dangerous, and I'm afraid that even if I take you there, both of us will just die," Gerhart stated. "I'm sorry, but I can't accompany you."

Left with no choice, Aurora called out to Lux, who was flying in the sky with his Dracolich.

"Lux, please help me get close to those two monsters!" Aurora shouted. "Trust me!"

The Half-Elf glanced in her direction before reluctantly nodding his head. He knew that Aurora was feeling guilty, but that wasn't why he agreed to her request.

Although he was worried about her, there was a hint of certainty in her voice when she said that she had a plan.

"Blackfire, take her near the monsters and protect her to the best of your ability," Lux ordered. "Make sure to keep her safe."

The Black Coffin appeared beside Lux and nodded its head. It then flew towards Aurora

The Half-Elf, and the Dracolich started attacking the Dreadnaught-Ranked Golden-Eyed Nagas.

Unlike the Exiles, Lux could easily tell which one was the real deal. However, even if he knew, he alone wasn't enough to deal with it.

Since that was the case, he focused on annihilating its minions, who were busy killing the exiles without a shred of mercy.

While this was happening, Aurora jumped on top of the Black Coffin and asked it to fly near the Black Ogre.

Blackfire obeyed her words and flew as low to the ground as possible, staying out of the Monsters' line of sight.

A few minutes later, the Black Coffin rose from the destroyed streets, dodging the black substance that swirled around the body of the Black Ogre, which automatically attacked anything that was close to it.

As Blackfire closed the distance, Aurora undid the necklace that hung around her neck and eyed the Black Ogre with a determined expression on her face.

When she deemed that she was close enough, she raised her right hand and pointed at the monster in front of her.

"Chains of Misfortune!"

Countless black chains erupted from her finger and bound the Black Ogre for a few seconds before merging with its body.

Aurora's aura of misfortune had the ability to infect anyone within a certain range around her and curse them with bad luck.

With that said, she could also unleash a stronger version of this curse at a single target, making them incredibly prone to bad luck.

This skill was called the Chains of Misfortune, and it was Aurora's signature skill that would permanently bring the same level of bad luck she possessed to Monsters, Saints, and even Supremes.

In short, anyone hit with this ability would be cursed with misfortune until the day they died!

Blackfire then flew past the Black Ogre and headed in the direction of the Original Golden-Eyed Naga, as per Aurora's orders.

"Chains of Misfortune!" Aurora shouted, and countless chains bound the Calamity-Ranked Monster before merging with its body.

The Golden-Eyed Naga didn't know what the young lady riding the Black Coffin did to it. However, it didn't change the fact that the chains that bound it for a brief moment made it extremely angry.

As a Monster that had been imprisoned inside the Inner Sanctum for hundreds of years, it was triggered by anything that attempted to restrict its freedom.

The same could be said for the Black Ogre, whose club was now swinging towards the Black Coffin with the intention of swatting it like a fly.

Suddenly, the Black Ogre tripped and its club smashed the shoulder of the Golden-Eyed Naga, whose razor-sharp claws were about to slice Aurora to shreds.

However, after getting hit by the Black Ogre, its attack missed its target and hit one of the arms of the Blood Ogre, drawing blood.

Blackfire rose towards the sky as Aurora once again put the necklace around her neck.

There were too many people running around the city, so it wasn't safe for her to wander around.

Lux and his comrades finally figured out what Aurora's plan was. Although it was a very dangerous thing to do, they couldn't help but admire the beautiful girl, who had risked her life to curse the two monsters with bad luck that was as strong as hers.

King Louis and the other Saints who recognized the sudden shift in the battlefield, didn't miss this opportunity and attacked the two Monsters with great intensity.

Avernus also deemed that the time was right to open the gates of hell. The Dracolich hovered in the sky and roared loudly.

Right under it, a blazing gate appeared and opened wide.

Numerous denizens from Hell surged out like a raging tide as they answered Avernus' call.

This was the first time that the Dracolich had used its skill, Hell Bringer.

Just as the name implied, the Monsters that came from Hell razed the city, covering it in hellish flames that burned brightly.

Chapter 939: Because I Can

"From death's embrace, I rise with fire and bone!" the Dracolich roared, and a Hellish Gate materialized as if to answer his call. "As Avernus, I claim my rightful throne!"

The Gates of Hell opened wide, pouring out the denizens of Hell who answered the call of their Master.

Hell hounds charged like the rabid dogs that they were, leaving trails of flames in their wake.

Hell Knights, riding atop Nightmare Horses similar to Diablo's own, charged with wanton abandon.

Hell Revenants flew towards their enemies, with wings burning brightly.

They were the monsters of hell, and they would make sure that the world knew of their existence!

The black Blood Ogre as well as the Golden-Eyed Naga shifted their attention to the oncoming tide of Monsters and charged at them.

The black swirl protecting the Blood Ogre transformed into tentacle-like whips, attacking his targets.

However, for some reason, these whips failed to hit anything, allowing the monsters to advance in his direction.

The Golden-Eyed Naga once again stabbed its palm, drawing blood. It then sprayed it in the air, summoning Dreadnaught-Ranked Monsters that looked exactly like it.

However, nothing happened.

Instead of summoning reinforcements, its blood fell on the ground with impunity.

Seeing this, Lilian frowned before shifting her gaze to the pink-haired beauty that was riding on the black coffin.

'What a scary child,' Lilian thought. 'Even Calamity-Ranked Monsters can't be spared from her curse of misfortune.'

Just like the Wicked Queen Slime had surmised, both monsters had been affected by Aurora's bad luck.

Simply put, anything that had probability in it would have the worst outcome.

Spells that relied on chances would not work.

Abilities that relied on certain conditions would not activate.

Attacks that never missed would miss.

And Magic that could cause instant death would fail.

As long as they were branded by Misfortune's Beloved, the only thing they could do was cry!

Lux, Eiko, Asmodeus, and their clones summoned all of their Undead Warriors.

Avernus, who was flying in the sky, used his skill, Summon Undead Legion, to summon the exact same number of Undead that was present on the battlefield, regardless of whether they were summoned by Lux's clones or not.

To make matters worse, Lux, Eiko, and Asmodeus, along with their clones, also used the skill, Summon Tombstone, making several tombstones appear around the two Monsters that summoned Enraged Ghouls.

The King of Exiles, the Four Saints serving him, as well as the Exiles, looked at this scene in shock because countless Undead swarmed the two Calamity-Ranked Monsters like Ants taking on larger prey.

Diablo's eyes burned brightly as he landed a sneak attack on the Golden-Eyed Naga.

Since the number of Deaths on the battlefield had reached a certain threshold, his attack imbued with Divine Ethereal Element effortlessly cut through the Calamity-Ranked Monster's body, making it scream in pain.

But that wasn't all. All the Doomknight Gangbangers also gain a percentage of Diablo's total attack, increasing their damage output as well.

The two Calamity-Ranked Monsters were powerful, but neither of them was able to use their powers fully due to Aurora's curse.

If they took a step back, they would find themselves tripping. If they stepped forward they would slip. They couldn't do anything aside from brandishing their claws and weapons and swatting everything around them.

Due to how dense the monster tide was, regardless of what they did, they were bound to hit something.

However, no matter how many they killed, Lux, Eiko, and Asmodeus would just summon more, trolling these monsters that stood at the Apex of the World.

"This is our chance!" the King of Exiles, Louis, shouted. "Focus on the Golden-Eyed Naga first!"

The four other Saints nodded their heads before flying towards the enraged Monster, who was being besieged from every direction.

Instead of attacking the Monster, what they did was apply debuffs, as well as restrict its movements, allowing the Undead Legion and the Hellish Army to swarm it completely.

Originally, these monsters had high resistance to debuffs, but now that they were cursed, any kind of debuff applied to them was guaranteed to succeed.

The Golden-Eyed Naga was unwilling and unresigned to its fate. But what else could it do aside from desperately trying to defend itself from the unending swarm of Ants, whose blazing eyes were locked on its body?

Suddenly, a dragon tail lashed at the Naga's head like a whip, making it shriek in pain.

Avernus sneered as it circled for another strike, this time slamming its tail downwards.

Lux, who was hanging onto the Dracolich's back, was sweating buckets because he didn't expect that Avernus would be so brutal.

The Half-Elf wasn't aware that the Dracolich disdained Calamity-Ranked Monsters even though its current strength was only that of the Emyrean Rank.

For Avernus who had once fought against Demigods and their Abyssal Army, Calamity-Ranked Monsters didn't pose a threat to it.

"Stand aside, Peasants!" the Dracolich roared, forcing King Louis as well as the four other Saints to back away.

"Undying Breath!"

The Dracolich unleashed a Dragon Breath that was imbued with Necrotic Energy.

Necrotic Energy drained the life force of anything it hit and also prevented the target from using any type of regeneration ability.

Buffed by Lux's Divine Abyssal Touch, the Dragon Breath directly attacked the creature's soul. The Golden-Eyed Naga's scream of pain reverberated throughout the area as it rolled on the ground, destroying everything around it.

While the Naga was writhing on the ground, the Dracolich flew past it and slammed its tail once again, which gave the phrase "hitting people when they're down" a different meaning.

"You're supposed to be a Dracolich that uses spells to overwhelm your opponents," Lux said in exasperation. "Why do you love to engage in close combat?"

Avernus chuckled before soaring high in the sky.

"Because I can."

Three words, and yet those words made Lux realize that the newest member of his Covenant was truly overbearing.

"Time to end this," Avernus spread its wings wide, which made Lux feel as if something big was coming.

"Draco Meteor!"

Unlike Lux's Draco Meteor which summoned several small meteorites falling in every direction, Avernus' Draco Meteor only consisted of one meteor.

One gigantic Meteor.

"Oh sh*t!" Lux cursed loudly when he saw the meteor that was hundreds of meters tall.

It was not only him who cursed aloud.

The King of Exiles, King Louis also cursed loudly.

Cethus felt faint after seeing the giant meteor and immediately flew away like his life depended on it.

It wasn't just him, everyone in the city ran like madlads because they believed that the aftermath of that meteor strike would wipe out the entire city from the Pantheon of Exile.

"Avernus, don't!" Lux shouted. "You'll kill everyone!"

The Giant Meteorite that had already passed the Dracolich suddenly exploded in a shower of sparks, dealing no damage whatsoever to the forces on the ground.

"It was just a prank," Avernus laughed. "Did you honestly think that I would kill my allies?"

"...I have a feeling that you'd do it if given the chance," Lux replied.

"And why do you think I would do such a thing?"

"You said it yourself,..."

The Half-Elf could only smile wryly as he looked at the City of Exiles that was now in flames before he continued his sentence.

"It's because you can."

Chapter 940: No Need To Show Us The Way Out

The Blood Ogre's skin returned to its original red color before it collapsed on the ground with an unresigned roar.

It was a Calamity-Ranked Beast strong enough to threaten the entirety of Agartha.

However, because of the Misfortune that had been planted in its body, it was unable to use its power to the fullest, resulting in its downfall.

Hundreds of meters away from it, the Golden Naga lay, its golden eyes looking complexly at the sky, as if asking the heavens why it had to suffer in this manner.

Both Monsters were yet to die, and they were still clinging to life to the best of their abilities.

King Louis, who saw this, decided to personally end the life of these monsters, and take their Beast Cores away.

However, before he could even do that, a giant Dracolich landed in front of him, blocking his path.

"Don't even think about it, Peasant," Avernus stated. "Move or I will send you to the afterlife."

King Louis, as well as the Saints beside him, glared at the Dracolich, who was looking down on them.

'It's just one Dracolich,' one of the Saints said to King Louis using telepathy. 'We can kill it easily.'

'No,' King Louis replied. 'Stand down. This is a creature we cannot offend.'

The King of Exiles knew that if they really attacked the Dracolich over this petty matter, their city would truly be destroyed.

The only reason why he wanted to kill the Calamity-Ranked Monsters was to ensure that they would no longer pose any danger to his city.

As for getting the Beast Cores, he planned to negotiate with the Dracolich's Master, who had the Half-Elf on his back, for them.

Since his city was destroyed due to their actions, he believed that it was only right that they were compensated for it.

However, before he could even open his mouth to talk to the Half-Elf and start a negotiation, Blackfire casually devoured the two dying monsters, making the King of Exile's lips twitch.

The Black Coffin didn't give a hoot about whatever the Saints were thinking. It had called dibs on the two monsters the moment they appeared.

If the King of Exiles and his merry band of Saints, dared to stand in its way, it wouldn't mind adding five more Saints to its collection!

Avernus chuckled and raised its tail to high-five the black coffin, which happily returned the gesture.

Seeing his two shameless allies act like this made Lux shake his head helplessly.

"Um, sorry about what happened," Lux stated. "It was our fault that those two monsters escaped."

King Louis and the Saints looked at the Half-Elf and felt a little relieved that at least Lux was being civil with them.

"Since you admit that you were at fault, what can you do about this mess that you created?" King Louis asked. "Many of my subjects died in this siege. You can't possibly brush that aside, no?"

"As a matter of fact, we can," Avernus replied as he used his Dragon Fear and Intimidation Ability against the Five Saints, making them feel as if they were carrying the weight of an entire mountain on their shoulders. "You have a problem, brah?"

The Dracolich's words were filled with disdain and contempt, which made Cethus wonder if he could call the Dracolich his Uncle.

As someone who liked to look down on Low Landers, any Dragon or Dragon Born who had this ability was an Idol in his eyes.

King Louis gritted his teeth and stepped forward as if he had reached his limit. The Four Saints standing by his side did the same.

But the moment they did that, they suddenly found themselves surrounded from all sides by the Undead and Hell Legion.

Heck, even Eiko had summoned Blast Bombs in her hands, ready to throw the moment the Saints took another step.

Blackfire was also quick to summon the Tiger Saint and the Paladin Saint.

The Black Coffin also made a gesture, moving its lid up and down as if to taunt King Louis and telling him to come if he dared.

"If you insist on hurting Lux, I will curse you for eternity," Aurora, who had arrived at the standoff while riding on one of the Doomsday Gargoyles, said firmly.

"Misfortune's Beloved," King Louis said with a smile. "It seems that the Kingdom of Agartha will once again suffer from bad luck. Well, not that I mind. I even wish that you infect everyone with your curse. By doing so, they might feel a fraction of the pain we suffered when they exiled us to this land. Worry not, Princess. The Exiles will fully support you."

Aurora smiled back. "Do not think that I am a gullible girl who will become one of your pawns, Uncle? Father sent you to this place because you tried to start a civil war. Even though I have been locked up inside the Cold Tower, I have heard of your exploits that caused many of our citizens to perish."

"You may not be gullible, but you're naive," King Louis replied. "It is time for Agartha to rise to the Surface World and become a powerhouse. Your adoptive father is a coward and an incompetent fool who believes that the Status Quo must be maintained. Agartha has long stagnated under the hands of incompetent rulers!"

Aurora didn't reply and simply looked at the King of Exiles who had been biding his time, gathering support inside the Pantheon of Exile to overthrow her father's rule.

In her eyes, greedy people like Louis, who coveted power and resources to the extent of waging war on the Surface World, were the worst.

"Let's go, Aurora," Lux said. "Let's leave this place."

The Half-Elf had no intention of joining the political struggles of the Kingdom of Agartha. He only came to the Pantheon of Exile to free Aurora, and he couldn't care less who sat on the Agarthian throne.

Aurora nodded as the Doomsday Gargoyle flew towards Lux, allowing the Half-Elf to carry Misfortune's beloved in his arms.

"We're leaving," Lux stated. "No need to show us the way out."

Lux opened his Draconic Wings and flew towards the beach area, where they had disembarked.

His comrades did the same, and the Army of Undead followed them.

They were still in enemy territory, so Lux didn't unsummon his forces. He only joined the battle because he knew that Aurora would feel guilty if more people died because of her.

King Louis watched them go as he held back the killing intent that was oozing from his body.

Although his city had been destroyed and some of the exiles had died, he was still fine with it because the Castle was still standing.

Most of the treasures as well as the weapons that they had prepared for their inevitable return to the Kingdom of Agartha were stored in the Castle's treasury.

As long as that was left untouched, they would still be able to recover the losses that they had suffered today.

What they didn't know was that two Little Skeletons had infiltrated their castle as per Aurora's order when the battle was still underway.

The young lady had recognized the King of Exiles and knew of the atrocities that he had committed in the past.

Since they were doing their best to protect the castle at all costs, the young lady deemed that there must be something important inside it that they couldn't allow to be destroyed.

Zane and Zeke were able to bypass the protection of the Treasury because all the Saints were busy.

The two Little Skeletons then informed Lux of their discovery, and he sent one of Eiko's clones to sneak inside the castle.

Truth be told, Avernus' earlier performance was their way of buying more time for Eiko's clone to swallow up everything inside the treasury.

By the time King Louis and the Saints discovered what had happened, the Half-Elf and his comrades had already boarded the Bone Ship Octavius and set sail, making their way back to the Atlas Stronghold.

Chapter 941: Do You Dare To Stop Me?

After a few days of traveling, Lux and his comrades finally arrived at the Atlas Stronghold, where they were welcomed by the Saintess, Cleo, and Commander Garen, along with his men.

The moment they saw Aurora, almost all of them took a few steps back, wary of what she was capable of doing.

"Y-You really brought her back," Cleo stuttered.

Lux arched an eyebrow. "Why are you surprised? Isn't that the reason I went to the Pantheon of Exile? Do you think I went there to buy cabbages?"

Cleo's face became flushed because Lux's reply was on point. He had indeed set sail to the Pantheon of Exile to bring Aurora back, but she didn't think that he would actually succeed.

Commander Garen, who was in charge of the Atlas Stronghold, narrowed his eyes.

"I applaud you for doing the unthinkable," Commander Garen stated. "But I'm afraid we can't let Princess Aurora go back to Agartha. Even though I also feel that she doesn't deserve to be locked up in that place, her existence is a threat to the peace of our kingdom.

"Even if I don't block you, once the citizens know that she has returned, they might attempt to attack her out of fear. I hope you understand, but I can't allow such a thing to happen."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. However, he also had something to say to the Commander of the Stronghold.

"I have two things to say to you," Lux said. "The first is that the exiles in the Pantheon of Exile are planning to return, and it seems that they have the means to do it. We have confiscated their contraband, but I believe that they

still have more in places that are hidden. One of these days, they will cross the Purple Sea and return to these lands."

Commander Garen's expression immediately turned grim after hearing Lux's statement. If all the Exiles were to really return to Agartha, then another civil war might take place.

However, before he could even think of a way to inform the capital about the possible return of the wanted criminals, Lux raised two of his fingers to tell him the next thing that he wanted to say.

"The second thing that I want to say to you is that I don't care about your opinion," Lux stated. "Even if Lady Cleo were to help you and your men, none of you have the strength to stop us."

Garen, who was still not aware of Lux's abilities, sneered.

"It seems that the success of saving Princess Aurora has gone to your head, boy," Commander Garen said coldly. "Are you sure you can back up your words?"

Lux sneered, but before he could even reply, he felt someone tugging on his robe, which made him look at the young beauty beside him.

"Allow me to negotiate with Commander Garen," Aurora said softly. "Please give me some space. All of you back away for a bit."

Lux looked at Aurora before nodding his head. He then backed a few meters away and looked at Aurora.

"A bit farther," Aurora commented.

The Half-Elf nodded and asked everyone to back away with him.

Cethus originally wasn't going to budge, but after reading Aurora's comment in their Guild Chat, the arrogant Dragon Born backed farther away than Lux, Gerhart, and Lilian did.

Seeing that everyone had distanced themselves from her, Aurora turned his attention to Commander Garen, who had an aloof expression on his face.

"Commander Garen, I plan to return to Agartha," Aurora said. "Can you please let us use the teleporter that will take us back to the capital?"

The Commander of the Atlas Stronghold frowned. The teleporter was supposed to be a military secret, and no one should have been able to know that it existed.

However, after remembering that it was King Septimius himself who had taken Aurora to the Pantheon of Exile, it was only natural for the Princess to know that it existed.

"I'm sorry, Princess," Commander Garen stated. "I cannot allow you to return to the capital."

"I see." Aurora nodded before giving the Commander a mischievous smile.

She then placed her hand over her neck, removing her necklace.

"This is a gift given to me by Lux," Aurora stated as she held Fortuna's Tears in her hand. "As long as I'm wearing or holding this, my curse will not spread to my surroundings. However, since Commander Garen refuses to cooperate, I guess I'll stop wearing it. I just hope that you enjoy having bad luck for the rest of your life."

The corner of Commander Garen's lips twitched as he looked at the beautiful young lady who was outright threatening him.

As a citizen of Agarthia, he knew full well how dangerous it was to be cursed by Misfortune's Beloved.

Even Cleo, who was standing beside him a while ago, distanced herself in fear. She had seen how much suffering those who were cursed with Misfortune had to go through, and she had no intention of becoming one of them.

"P-Princess, I'm just doing my job." Commander Garen couldn't help but feel his heart tremble.

Even his men had already backed away, leaving him behind to deal with the beautiful princess, who could curse them all to oblivion.

"I know. But, do you really think you can stop me?" Aurora asked sweetly. "Do you dare to try and stop me?"

Zane and Zeke, who were standing beside Aurora, crossed their arms over their chest and gave Commander Garen the "if you don't want to get hurt, kneel and beg our Princess for forgiveness!" stare.

Several emotions flashed across the Commander's face. He knew that if he let Aurora return to the capital, he would definitely be punished by the King for dereliction of duty.

After giving it some thought, he decided to steel himself and suppress Aurora. He also planned to use her as a hostage to make Lux and his people leave peacefully.

The beautiful Princess sighed because she could tell that Commander Garen had already resolved himself to deal with her.

Since that was the case, the smile disappeared from her face. She had been suppressed for many years, and if she said that she didn't feel angry because of this, she would be lying.

Lux had already done many things for her sake, so she decided to handle the rest on her own. However, before she could even do anything, Lilian walked past her and stood in front of Commander Garen.

"You're in the way," Lilian stated. "Scram!"

Without another word, the Wicked Queen Slime punched Commander Garen's chest, sending him flying towards the Atlas Stronghold.

The force of the punch was so strong that the walls of the fort were destroyed, and this sight made the soldiers gulp.

"Do you know where the teleporter is?" Lilian asked Aurora who was about to unleash her Curse Domain a moment ago.

The young lady nodded her head and pointed at the Stronghold.

"The Teleporter is inside the Keep," Aurora replied.

Lilian nodded before shifting her gaze back to Lux.

"What are you waiting for?" Lilian arched an eyebrow. "Let's go."

The Half-Elf chuckled before walking towards Aurora. He then held her hand and led her to the stronghold.

The soldiers manning the Fort didn't dare to block their path because they didn't want to be sent flying like Commander Garen.

"Are you coming?" Lux asked Cleo, who was a distance away from them.

The Saintess thought for a bit before nodding her head.

The only reason why she was in the Stronghold in the first place was because she was assigned to guide and monitor Lux. Since the Half-Elf was going to leave, it was only normal that she would leave with him as well.

When they entered the stronghold, they saw Commander Garen lying in the distance without moving. Clearly, Lilian's blow had knocked him unconscious.

By the time he woke up later, Lux and the others would have already long left his Stronghold.

Originally, Lux had told Aurora that they could instantly leave Agartha and teleport to their Guild Headquarters.

However, the beautiful Princess rejected his offer. She said that she wanted to see her sister, Princess Shayna, whom she hadn't seen for many years.

Aurora missed her dearly, and she wanted to say a proper goodbye to her sister and father before going with Lux to the Surface World.

Because of this, the Half-Elf decided to accompany her to the Capital City and make sure that the King of Agartha wouldn't imprison his daughter again.

Several minutes later, the group used the Teleportation Gate and traveled directly to the Capital City of Agartha.

As to how Aurora's reunion with her family would turn out, the Half-Elf only hoped that they wouldn't have to say goodbye to each other under bad circumstances.

Chapter 942: A Heartfelt Wish

The city of Shambala was bustling with activities.

Aurora, who was wearing a hooded robe, looked around her like a country bumpkin who had only seen the city for the first time.

She had lived most of her life in isolation, so being around many people after several years gave her the urge to do things she had never done before.

Lux, who understood what she felt, didn't rush to go to the castle. Instead, she took Aurora around to let her see what the city had to offer.

They went to some of the popular attractions of Shambhala like the Bazaar, the Food Market, the Great Fountain, as well as the Adventurer's Guild.

After their exploration ended, they rested at a tavern to have dinner. The Half-Elf could tell that Aurora was feeling anxious about meeting her family, so he decided to give it until morning to prepare her heart and feelings for their reunion.

Lilian, who deemed that she had already fulfilled her role, took Eiko and returned to Lux's Guild Headquarters.

She had no intention of babysitting the teenagers now that they had returned to the city.

Cethus and Gerhart also felt that they were no longer needed, so they also went back to the Guild Headquarters, leaving only Lux and Aurora in Agarth.

"How many rooms?" the Innkeeper asked as he looked at Lux and Aurora who had decided to stay in their inn for the night.

"Two," Lux said.

"One," Aurora stated.

Lux scratched his head when Aurora stated that they only needed one room. However, since that was what she wanted, he decided to go with the flow.

When they arrived at their room, Aurora removed her robe and sat on the bed. Zane took her robe from her, while Zeke carefully took off her shoes.

The Half-Elf could only smile at this scene because the two little skeletons acted similar to butlers, who were taking good care of their Young Miss.

After the two skeletons had set aside Aurora's things, Zane walked behind Lux and gave the Half-Elf a push towards Aurora.

Only when he was seated beside her on the bed did the two Little Skeletons move to the side of the room and laid down, with their backs facing the two.

Zane and Zeke even had their hands clasped over their ears, as if telling Lux that they wouldn't see, or hear anything, so he could do whatever they wanted.

Aurora looked at her two best friends with confusion because she didn't understand why they were acting this way.

She had been isolated for most of her life, so she wasn't aware of the things that were shared between men and women.

Although she wasn't as gullible, and ignorant as Young Aurora, she still didn't understand the "funny thing" that Lux and his fiances did whenever they slept at night.

All of this information was only narrated to her by the two Little Skeletons who were playing Lux's Wingmen, for the sake of their lonely Princess.

The Half-Elf was very aware of what Zane and Zeke were hinting at, which gave him the strong urge to kick the two skeletons out of the room.

He wasn't some kind of Harem Protagonist who would make love to every beauty that he saw!

(A/N: *Gasps!*)

(E/N: *Glances at Author, rolls eyes, shakes head, exit stage right*)

(E/N: Weh? Sure ka?)

"Lux, stay beside me tonight," Aurora said as she held Lux's hands in her own. "I don't want to be alone."

The Half-Elf stared at her pleading gaze before nodding his head.

"Understood," Lux replied. "I'll be with you tonight."

Hearing that, Aurora felt her face suddenly heat up, so she decided to take a bath before going to sleep in order to cool herself.

When she was done, Lux did the same and washed the dirt and grime from his body.

An hour later, the two laid on the bed, with Aurora clinging onto Lux's arm. Since she had no nightwear, Lux decided to lend her Cai's nightgown, which fit her perfectly.

The Half-Elf's resistance to beautiful women was quite high, especially after spending intimate moments with his two beautiful fiances.

Also, meeting peerless beauties like Hereswith and Queen Rhiannon raised his already high standards, making him nearly immune to any kind of honey trap.

Aurora was extremely beautiful. More beautiful than Iris and Cai.

Even so, Lux's feelings for her weren't as deep as they were for his two fiances, and the only reason why he had gone to the Pantheon of Exile to save her was because he felt sorry for her.

Aurora understood this as well, and she was very grateful that Lux had gone above and beyond his means to meet her.

But after being with him, she felt for the first time since she was born that she had found a safe refuge where she could just be herself, and not worry about the storm that was hovering above her head.

She was Misfortune's Beloved, and bad luck always followed her wherever she went.

But the Heavens had shown her a bit of mercy and gave her a bit of good luck that allowed her to meet someone like Lux, who accepted her for who she was.

Aurora looked at the face of the sleeping Half-Elf beside her and smiled. She remembered what her mother had told her back in the Dreamworld about Lux, and she felt that this was her way of giving her blessings to her.

"Thank you, Lux," Aurora said softly before kissing his right cheek.

After that, she hugged his arm, pressing it close to her body. She locked her hand with his before closing her eyes to sleep.

Truth be told, Aurora was very afraid that everything she had experienced was only a dream.

She was afraid that the moment she woke up, she would find herself in that dark, and lonely place, devoid of light once again.

Although she was feeling anxious, and restless, she still fell into sleep's embrace, while hugging the arm of her savior.

Aurora hoped that the next time she opened her eyes, she would still see Lux beside her, continuing this sweet dream that she was having.

The next day...

Lux and Aurora stood in the throne room. They were looking up at the King of Agartha, who was looking back at them with a calm expression on his face.

Standing at the base of the steps to the throne was the Saintess Cleo, who had escorted Lux on his journey.

Since this meeting was special, the King had ordered everyone to leave the throne room, with the exception of the Saintess.

Aurora was still wearing her hooded robe, and with her head lowered the whole time, no one was able to guess her identity.

"Raise your head, Aurora," King Septimius ordered. "What's wrong? Do you still feel guilty about what happened years ago, so you are unable to look me in the face?"

The King's voice was calm, and Lux was unable to read any underlying tones in his voice. However, that didn't mean that he didn't understand what the King was referring to.

A sigh escaped Aurora's lips before she took off the hood covering her head, allowing her father to see her for the first time in many years.

"I hope you are well, Father," Aurora said softly. "I missed you."

King Septimius' gaze was still calm, but his right hand subconsciously gripped the armrest of his throne for a brief moment before it returned to normal.

Lux was unable to see this because he was looking at Aurora, who had a sad smile on her face. If possible, he wanted to wipe that sadness away, but he held back.

A few minutes of silence passed before King Septimius closed his eyes.

"Leave us alone," King Septimius ordered. "That goes for you too, Half-Elf."

Lux frowned and was about to say no. However, Aurora grabbed onto his arm and shook her head.

"Don't worry," Aurora said. "I'll be fine."

Lux looked at the young lady before shifting his gaze to the hand that was holding his arm.

Aurora's hands were trembling, and clearly, she was afraid to be alone in the throne room with her father. However, she was doing her best to stay strong.

The Half-Elf knew that if he asked that he would stay, Aurora would not reject him. But he also knew that if he did that, she wouldn't gain the strength to stand on her own.

He understood that he couldn't always be with her, and he would not always be able to fight all of her battles for her. Because of this, he decided to trust her and pat her head in encouragement.

"I'll just be outside the door," Lux said. "Call me if something happens, okay?"

Aurora nodded as her face slowly turned red because Lux was treating her like a little girl who was about to play on the playground on her own.

Lux wasn't aware that something stirred within the depths of King Septimius' eyes after seeing the Half-Elf treat his daughter this way. But he didn't do anything and simply stared at the two of them.

A few minutes later, the door of the throne room closed, leaving Aurora and her father alone.

Half a minute later, King Septimius stood up from his throne and descended the steps.

With every step that he took, Aurora's heart beat faster and faster inside her chest.

Although she didn't want to admit it, she was starting to suffer a panic attack, but she endured and stood her ground.

When she was finally feeling faint, she felt two strong arms wrap around her body.

King Septimius pulled his daughter close to him and gave her a firm hug.

He didn't say anything, but this gesture alone made the tears that Aurora was holding back fall from her eyes like rain.

The pitiful girl, who was branded as Misfortune's Beloved, cried in her father's arms like she had always done many years ago whenever she was hurt or feeling afraid.

She wasn't aware that in the corner of the throne room, a hidden passage started to open.

A young lady walked out of it with tears streaming down her eyes. She was biting her lip as if she was doing her best to endure the surge of emotions that were overwhelming her small frame.

In the end, she was no longer able to hold it back. She cried her heart out as she ran towards her big sister who had returned after many years in exile.

On that day, two young ladies cried while holding each other in a firm embrace.

King Septimius looked at his two daughters and wrapped his arms around them, hugging both of them tight.

Unlike the two, he didn't shed a tear and only looked up at the ceiling, while holding his daughters close to him.

Deep inside his heart, he wished that his Queen, Bianca, was there with him to wipe away the tears of their two beloved daughters who had finally been reunited after so many years.

Chapter 943: Now, I Don't Owe You Anything

"Hah~ this is the life."

On a balcony in the Royal Palace, Lux comfortably lay on a single bed, completely relaxed as he enjoyed the two soft hands that were massaging his back.

"You brat. You dare to take advantage of me like this?" the Saintess, Cleo, asked while shaking her head helplessly.

"You'll be my attendant for a year," Lux replied after sighing in comfort. "So get used to it."

A sigh also escaped Cleo's lips, but her sigh was different from Lux's sigh of comfort. Due to circumstances, she would now serve Lux for a year and would even accompany him to the Surface World.

King Septimius agreed to this setup and even asked Cleo to look after Aurora as her guardian.

Truth be told, Cleo didn't mind this mission since she did want to go to the Surface World. There were many things she wanted to know, and places she wanted to see.

A day had passed since Lux and Aurora met with the King of Agartha. The Half-Elf knew that the beautiful princess needed to spend some time with her family, so he didn't mind staying for a few more days.

'Fortunately, Aurora's father seems to have mellowed out a bit after her arrival,' Lux thought. 'I really thought that he would do something drastic, and send her back to the Pantheon of Exile.'

Lux had prepared a contingency plan just in case the King of Agartha decided to punish his daughter for returning to their Kingdom.

He was just glad that there was still a bit of love remaining in his heart for his daughter, so things turned out better than he expected.

"Right there... yes... that place is good.." Lux sighed in pleasure as two more hands landed on his back, massaging his body.

However, it didn't take long for the Half-Elf to realize that something was wrong.

The one that was massaging him was Cleo, so there should only be two hands unless she had four. Where did the other pair of hands come from?

Lux turned to look behind him and saw a pink-haired beauty, whose eyes were filled with mischief.

"Just lay down," Aurora said. "I usually gave my mother shoulder massages, so I'm pretty good at it."

The Half-Elf obeyed and closed his eyes.

"Ah... this is heaven~" Lux muttered.

Suddenly, a gruff voice reached his ears which made his body stiffen.

"I see, so you want to go to heaven, right?"

Lux opened his eyes to look at his right side and saw the King of Agartha looking down on him with a calm expression on his face.

"Are you enjoying your massage?" King Septimius asked. "Not only did you ask the Saintess of my Kingdom to massage your back, but my precious daughter is also doing the same. But let's not talk about that. I'm also free right now, so why don't I also give you a massage, boy?"

"A-Ah! My bones... are breaking! Ack!" Lux shouted as the King's strong hand rested on his shoulder, holding it in a vice grip.

Aurora and Cleo giggled after seeing this scene because they never expected the Half-Elf to suffer under the hands of King Septimius.

"Father, please stop hurting Lux," Aurora said softly. "He's done so much for me."

"Tsk." King Septimius clicked his tongue before pulling his hand away from the Half-Elf's shoulder.

A minute of awkward silence descended on the balcony before the King spoke once more.

"I visited the Pantheon of Exile this morning and took care of the Exiles who were plotting to return to Agarth. We cannot afford another civil war, so it was best to nip them in the bud before they started to take action."

Lux didn't really care about this because it wasn't his problem. However, he still asked the question that was on his mind.

"What happened to the King of Exiles as well as the Saints that were serving him?" Lux inquired.

"They died by accident," King Septimius replied.

Lux immediately propped himself up after hearing the King's words. His face became serious as he asked King Septimius another question.

"And their bodies?" Lux asked.

This was a very important question to him because the bodies of Saints were priceless.

King Septimius snorted before tossing a ring toward the Half-Elf, which the latter caught by reflex.

He instantly recognized the ring because it was a Bounty Ring, which bounty hunters typically used to store the dead bodies of their target.

Lux peered inside it and sure enough, Louis and the four Saints who served him were inside it.

He didn't expect that the King of Agarth would act swiftly and mercilessly after hearing that a possible civil war would happen once the exiles managed to escape the island.

The Half-Elf wasn't aware that Aurora's father wouldn't allow any chance of unrest to fester within the Kingdom, especially after the rebel uprising that had happened in the past.

"Blackfire, come," Lux ordered.

Immediately, the Black Coffin appeared beside him and happily opened its lid.

Lux tossed the Bounty Ring inside it. A few seconds later, the Black Coffin nudged his head as if it was a playful pet that was very happy with his Master's attention.

The Half-Elf smiled and patted the Black Coffin for a few seconds before it disappeared completely.

With the addition of Five Saints in its arsenal, Blackfire now had eight Saints under its control.

However, in order to maximize the value of their corpses, Lux would need to use Precious Artifacts or Beast Cores so that their ranks wouldn't regress when they were revived.

Lux had used most of his High-Ranking Beast Cores to revive the two Saints that Blackfire had gotten long ago and used the rest to help Hereswith's recovery.

So, as of right now, he didn't have enough resources to prevent the Saints' Ranks from regressing, but that didn't mean that he was out of options.

This was also the reason why Blackfire preferred to devour near-death creatures. As long as they still had breath in them, their Ranks wouldn't regress once they were transformed into Lux's servants.

In fact, if Lux added artifacts and Beast Cores, there was a high chance that they would even increase their Ranks and become stronger, like what happened to Lux's grandma, Vera.

"Consider that as payment for saving my daughter and preventing her curse from infecting other people," King Septimius stated. "Now, I don't owe you anything."

Lux nodded and thanked the King for his gift.

The reason why Aurora's father was feeling extra generous was due to the fact that Aurora had dispelled the Curse of Misfortune from Princess Shayna's body.

After becoming a Ranker, Aurora was able to use her power to remove the curse from other people. However, she could only remove one curse every month.

She deemed that this quota would increase after her Rank increased.

Aurora hoped that the day would come when she would be able to dispel the curse on everyone who had been infected by her bad luck, allowing them to live normal lives without ever worrying about hurting themselves or others.

"Aurora, later this afternoon we will visit your mother's grave," King Septimius said. "I'm sure that she will be happy to see you."

The young lady nodded her head and smiled at her father.

During her trial, she had talked to her mother and wondered if the talk they had was real or not.

Lux and she believed that there was a possibility that both of them had traveled through space and time and had a chance to talk to Queen Bianca when she was still alive.

Of course, their assumptions might be wrong, but they would rather believe that the loving Queen whom they had seen in that Dreamworld, was real.

Chapter 944: Grasping Happiness With Both Hands

The Royal Family's Mausoleum was located a few miles away from the Capital City of Shambhala.

This building stood in a very beautiful place, surrounded by nature, and blooming flowers.

Due to how important it was to the royal family, it was heavily guarded to ensure that no grave robbers would dare to disturb the eternal rest of the members of the royal family who had passed away.

Lux was surprised when he was invited to join them at the last minute. Currently, there were only four people visiting the Queen's Tomb, and it was none other than King Septimius, Aurora, Princess Shayna, and Lux.

It didn't take long before they arrived at their destination. Queen Bianca's tomb was made from white marble, and the words "to the Queen who loved her family till her last breath" were written on the plaque above her tomb.

Seeing this, Aurora wasn't able to stop herself from tearing up as she approached her mother's tomb to offer her prayer.

King Septimius and Princess Shayna did the same.

Lux blinked once, then twice, as he focused his eyes in front of him. He couldn't believe what he was seeing.

While the members of the royal family had their eyes closed and offered their prayers, Queen Bianca's ghost hovered in front of her two daughters.

The Queen glanced at Lux before pressing her finger over her lips as if telling the Half-Elf to not say anything.

Lux obediently nodded his head and kept silent.

Queen Bianca smiled and gave the Half-Elf a brief nod before hugging her two daughters.

Naturally, they could neither see her nor feel her hug. But her face looked so happy and peaceful, that Lux felt as if his heart was being poked by a needle.

Minutes passed in silence until the members of the Royal Family opened their eyes.

Aurora placed an offering on her mother's tomb and lit a small candle beside it.

They would hold a vigil until the flame of the candle was snuffed out; for that was the tradition of the Royal Family.

During this time, Queen Bianca sat on her own tomb and looked at her two daughters with a loving smile on her face.

Although she didn't look at the Half-Elf, her words reached his mind.

"When I saw you when I was still alive, I thought I was just dreaming," Queen Bianca said. "Seeing that you are with my daughter right now, it seems that our meeting wasn't a coincidence."

The Queen then glanced in Lux's direction with a look of approval.

"Two times. We met twice," Queen Bianca stated. "The first one was when we were in the flower field, and the second one was when I was dying. Back then, I asked you to promise me to help my daughters and help them you did.

"Words cannot express how grateful I am to you. But still, I want to tell you this—thank you, Lux. Thank you for everything."

The Half-Elf smiled. "I only did my best. It was Fate that brought us together."

Suddenly, a mischievous smile appeared on Queen Bianca's face.

"Since Fate had brought you and Aurora together, doesn't that mean that you and her are a match made in heaven?" Queen Bianca asked. "Tell me, did you manage to get to First Base?"

Lux almost choked on his saliva after hearing the Ghost Queen's question.

It was easy to read on his face that he didn't know how to answer her question. His awkward expression earned him a giggle from the beautiful woman who seemed to still have regrets in her life, preventing her from crossing to the other side.

While the Half-Elf was at a loss for how to reply, the Queen shook her head helplessly.

"What are you, a pansy?" Queen Bianca looked in disdain. "My daughter is so beautiful, and you still haven't made a move on her? Are you really a man?"

"I already have two fiances," Lux countered. "And yes, I am really a man."

"And?" Queen Bianca arched an eyebrow. "My husband had two other wives aside from me. I don't see any problem here. Just so you know, my daughter is a top beauty. I'm sure that after her curse is lifted, the number of men who would love to marry her would form a line circling this entire planet. Are you sure you don't want her?"

"T-This isn't something that can be rushed. I have to consider her feelings as well."

"Fine. But if you don't hurry up, my daughter will be snatched away by others. You're not the only man in this world, you know?"

Lux scratched his cheek before asking the Queen the question that was on his mind.

"Your Majesty, why are you still here?" Lux asked. "What's keeping you from crossing to the other side?"

"My daughters, of course," Queen Bianca replied. "I was so worried about them that it weighed upon my soul, preventing me from being able to enter the Cycle of Reincarnation. But now, after seeing Aurora safe from harm, I feel like the shackles that bound me have disappeared."

Lux didn't notice this earlier, but Queen Bianca's ghost had become a little more transparent, allowing him to see through her.

She then glanced at her two daughters with a sweet smile on her face.

"Now, I can rest in peace knowing that the two of them have grown into beautiful ladies," Queen Bianca said softly. "In the past, Septimius and Shayna would visit me, but the two of them seemed to be distant from each other. Now, that distance is no longer there.

"Aurora has returned, and I'm sure that, given enough time, the wounds in their hearts would also heal. You see Lux, when people said time will heal everything, it's not entirely true.

"Some wounds in the heart and soul would still persist as the years go by. You don't heal, but simply grow numb to them. But in my perspective, my family will be able to heal just fine. So, once again, thank you, Lux. Please, keep my daughter... or daughters happy, okay?"

Queen Bianca gave the Half-Elf a playful wink as her soul slowly rose up until she disappeared through the ceiling.

Lux could feel a lump in his throat as he closed his eyes. As a Necromancer, he could see the dead and even had the power to revive them. But seeing how peaceful Queen Bianca's face was, he felt as if it was not his place to do anything.

He then glanced at Aurora and Princess Shayna and saw how sad they were as they offered a prayer to their mother.

Because of this, Lux steeled himself and waved his hand. If there was a chance for him to help them have a happy ending, he would not stand idly and be indifferent to it.

Outside the Mausoleum, Queen Bianca's ghost looked down at her family before looking at the heavens above her.

A slight hesitation appeared on her face as if she was feeling conflicted.

At that exact moment, a Black Coffin appeared in front of her, and several rows of texts shone on its surface.

'Are you sure you want to cross over to the next life? Do you really have no more regrets left in this world?'

Lux had asked Blackfire to intercept Queen Bianca's soul and ask her this question. If she really wanted to rest, and go to the cycle of reincarnation then he wouldn't stop her.

But if she still wished to be together with her family, he would make it happen.

Queen Bianca didn't reply right away. Her ghost was getting more transparent with each passing second, and Blackfire knew that once she crossed a certain threshold, it wouldn't be able to do anything.

Suddenly, a tear fell on Bianca's cheeks before opening her eyes.

"I still want to be with them," Bianca said. "I want to see them grow up and get married. I want to hold my grandchildren and kiss them goodnight. I want to do a lot of things, but... it is no longer possible."

The Black Coffin's lid opened, but it didn't make a move to absorb Queen Bianca's soul.

'If you wish for happiness, you have to grasp it tightly with both hands. It may not be today, it may not be tomorrow, but rest assured, there will come a day when you will once again hold your daughters in your arms. If you are willing to take that step then come.'

Queen Bianca looked down on her family members as if she was trying to engrave their faces into her soul. A moment later, she closed her eyes and took a step forward.

Blackfire did the rest, and soon, the Queen of Agarthia was safely within its protective embrace.

'It is done, Master.'

'Thank you, Blackfire.'

Lux opened his eyes and looked at the family of three who had just finished their prayer.

For now, he would not tell them anything because similar to the soul of his Grandmaster, Hereswith, Queen Bianca's soul had also reached its limit.

It would take some time for Blackfire to nurture it until the Queen's soul had fully recovered.

He just hoped that when that day came, Aurora, Princess Shayna, and their father would regain the smiles and the happiness that they had lost many years ago.

Chapter 945: Suffering From His Karma

"Don't worry, I'll visit you from time to time," Aurora mumbled as she hugged her sister. "Now that you are no longer cursed, make sure to see the world a bit and experience the things you missed during those years of confinement, alright?"

As someone who had suffered the pain of loneliness, she didn't want her sister to go through the same thing and hoped that the latter would regain her freedom, doing the things she had never done in the past.

Naturally, she could have invited her to come with her to the Surface World, but she was sure that her father wouldn't agree.

'Also, she's still too young for Lux,' Aurora thought as she glanced at the Half-Elf who was leaning on the wall with his eyes closed.

When the two sisters were talking, Aurora told Princess Shayna all the things that Lux did for her. Also, while she was on the topic, she also told her sister about the "funny" thing that Lux did with his fiancées.

This made Princess Shayna's face turn beet red, which confused Aurora.

As a daughter of the Royal Family who was meant to be the wife of someone who could help their Kingdom become more prosperous, she was educated in such matters and was more knowledgeable than Aurora.

Of course, this husband of hers was still undecided because, at least right now, King Septimius had no candidates in mind. There was also the fact that Princess Shayna was only twelve years old.

Her father didn't intend for her to marry until she was sixteen or older.

As to whom she would marry, they would need to go on a fishing trip with him first.

"Be careful up there sister," Princess Shayna said, while doing her best to hold back her tears. "Also, be careful of red-headed Half-Elves. Don't let him do that 'funny' thing to you anytime soon."

Aurora blinked once then twice before nodding her head.

"Eh? But according to Zane's and Zeke's description, it feels good," Aurora replied.

The two girls then glanced at the two Little Skeletons standing by their side, who seemed to be dead set on observing the tiled floor of the palace as if it were a work of art.

Princess Shayna then reluctantly pulled back before approaching the Half-Elf, who had his eyes closed.

Sensing that someone was glaring at him, he opened his eyes to look at the young princess, who would bloom into a beautiful flower a few years from now.

"If you make my sister cry, I'll make you pay for it," Princess Shayna stated.

Lux smiled. "That's unfair. Crying is a very normal thing to happen."

"You're not allowed to do anything funny to her!"

"...Are you talking about tickling her? Okay, I won't."

Princess Shayna's face became flushed because she was certain that Lux didn't understand what she was talking about.

Because of this, she glared at the Half-Elf again, making the latter chuckle.

"Father, I'll be leaving," Aurora said with a smile.

King Septimius nodded and rested his hands on her shoulder. "Remember this—if you need my help, you can count on me. I have already set the coordinates of the Teleportation Gate to Lux's Guild Headquarters in our family's Private Gate."

Aurora hugged her father one last time before walking towards her sister, who was still glaring daggers at the Half-Elf, who had no idea what was going on.

"Are you ready?" Lux asked.

"Yes," Aurora replied.

Lux extended his hand, and Aurora accepted it.

A few seconds later, both of them turned into particles of light and disappeared from the Kingdom of Agartha.

Heaven's Gate Guild Headquarters...

A gentle breeze washed over Aurora's body as soon as she materialized beside the Teleportation Gate.

She immediately noticed that she was standing on top of a mountain that overlooked what seemed to be a small town.

The sun was shining down on her, and it made her feel warm and alive.

She then closed her eyes in order to take everything in, taking deep breaths and allowing the fresh air to nourish her body.

Lux smiled while looking at the young beauty who had officially regained her freedom.

Truth be told, he intended to let Aurora meet Iris and Cai since the two of them were close to her age. He also hoped that the three of them would

become good friends, allowing Aurora to have companions while he was away.

Suddenly, the Teleportation Gate glowed faintly, and three people stepped out of it.

Before Lux could even greet them, Valerie cried out and ran towards him.

Before the Half-Elf could even react, the "plain-looking girl" jumped into his arms, forcing Lux to catch her.

"Sir Lux! I missed you!" Valerie said as she hugged him tightly.

Ali and Ari, Valerie's handmaidens, sighed at the same time before looking at each other. They then walked towards Lux, and to his surprise, the two hugged him as well.

"Someone help, there is a sexual harasser here!" Ali said in a monotonous tone while hugging Lux tightly.

Ari giggled, as she too hugged Lux tightly. "The greater the misunderstanding, the more effective it is! Count me in!"

The Half-Elf blinked repeatedly because he had no idea what was happening. To his surprise, a fourth person hugged him from the back, leaving him no room to escape.

"This looks fun," Aurora commented. "I'm joining as well."

Lux, who was feeling several soft things pressing against his body, suddenly found himself unable to think properly.

His mind was completely blank, and because of this, those who were passing the Teleportation Gate like Garret, Cethus, Gerhart, and Emma, looked at him weirdly.

At that exact moment, the Teleportation Gate once again activated and two more people appeared beside it.

"..."

"..."

When Lux returned to the territories of the Crystal Palace, Lady Augustina immediately sensed his presence.

Coincidentally, she was with Aur at that time, so she shared the news. To her surprise, the Dragon Prince immediately headed to the Teleportation Gate in haste, making his Aunt shake her head helplessly.

Piccoro followed Aur as his bodyguard, and when the two of them stepped on the Teleportation Gate, the first thing they saw was Lux being hugged by four beautiful ladies.

Aur narrowed his gaze before walking toward the Half-Elf, who had an absent-minded look on his face.

Without any warning, Aur reached out to pull Lux's ear, making the latter cry out in pain.

Cethus, who was observing this scene, sighed before glancing at Gerhart.

"Want to grab something to eat?" Cethus asked.

Gerhart nodded and left with the Dragon Born.

Garret and Emma did the same, leaving their pitiful Guildmaster suffering from a karma that he wasn't aware of.

Lady Augustina, who was watching this scene from the castle, chuckled before taking a sip of her tea.

"It seems that his future will have nothing but trouble," Lady Augustina said as an understanding smile played over her lips. "Well, to each their own."

Chapter 946: This Lady Will Play With You

Eiko kissed her Papa's reddened cheek in order to make it feel better.

Currently, the Half-Elf and his guests were having some tea on the balcony of his Guild Headquarters.

They were being served by the Maids who worked under General Garret's family, and for some reason, these maids had amused smiles on their faces.

Aur calmly drank his tea, and he was seated on the Half-Elf's right side.

Valerie sat on his left side and was even hand-feeding Lux a cookie, which the latter accepted.

Aurora watched this scene with great interest because this was the first time she had seen something like this.

Her father had more than one wife, but all of them called each other sister and got along well with each other.

But the pink-haired beauty's gaze would shift to Aur from time to time. She didn't understand why he was acting that way, but for some reason, Aurora could feel that something was amiss with the handsome Dragon Prince, who seemed to be seething from within.

"Um, I would like to introduce our guest to all of you," Lux said after he finished eating the cookie that Valerie had given him. "Her name is Aurora, and she came from Agartha.

"Aurora, this is Valerie, and this is Prince Aur from the Crystal Palace. The two side characters over there are Ali and Ari. Don't worry, they don't bite."

"Hoh~ side characters?" Ali arched an eyebrow. "I'm not getting paid enough for this."

"Don't bite?" Ari smiled mischievously before looking down at the Half-Elf's midsection. "Lux, it seems that you like to play with fire. Worry not, this lady will gladly play with you."

Lux ignored the two side characters and shifted his attention to Aurora. "I hope that you will be good friends with them."

Valerie looked at Aurora with a curious gaze, while Aur pretended not to care. Even so, if one looked closely, they would notice that he would give Aurora side glances from time to time.

"I also hope to be good friends with them," Aurora replied with a smile.

"Oh! A friend!" Valerie became excited. "You'll be one of my first friends aside from Lux. I hope we get along!"

Valerie extended her hand for a handshake, which Aurora gladly accepted.

"Do you want to explore Vesperia City?" Valerie asked. "It's the city over there."

Aurora glanced in the direction where Valerie was pointing and nodded her head in understanding.

"Can I?" Aurora asked as she looked at Lux.

"Of course," Lux replied.

Aurora smiled and nodded her head. "I want to see the city."

"Great! Let's go!" Valerie stood up and walked towards Aurora, grabbing her hand.

Truth be told, Valerie didn't have any girl friends that were around her age. Ali and Ari were her servants, and while she didn't treat them as friends, she viewed them as family.

However, Aurora was different. She had a feeling that Lux cared about her, so she wanted to know more about her as well.

"We're going as well," Ali stated. "Thank you for the snack."

"Hehehe, I'll bite you later, Lux." Ari smirked as she waved her hand at the Half-Elf before following her Mistress.

Aur placed his cup on the table and eyed the Half-Elf beside him.

"Aren't you going with them?" Aur asked.

"I'll observe from a distance," Lux replied. "I already told you that Aurora is Misfortune's Beloved. I want to better understand how her bad luck works."

When they were in the Inner Sanctum, Aurora "slipped" over nothing and leaned on the barrier holding the Golden-Eyed Naga, making it crack.

She had done the same with the barrier that held the Blood Ogre, causing it to break as well.

Truth be told, Lux was constantly anxious about Aurora's safety. The only reason why he wasn't overly anxious was due to the fact that Zane and Zeke

were always with her. As long as the two Little Skeletons were with her, things would probably be fine.

"Lucky her," Aur stated.

Lux scratched his head because he didn't understand why Aur kept on saying that Aurora was lucky.

Since he didn't want to argue, he secretly followed behind the four girls, who were making their way towards the Teleportation Gate.

Aur, who had nothing to do, decided to follow as well.

Now that he had seen the lady that the Half-Elf had strived hard to save, he wanted to know just how close her relationship was with Lux.

City of Vesperia...

Similar to what happened in the City of Shambhala, Aurora looked around like a country bumpkin. Everything was simply new to her.

Aside from the Dragon Borns, there were no other races inside the city, which made the locals look at Aurora as if she were a rare creature.

The four girls hadn't walked far when suddenly, the sky suddenly went dark.

At first, they thought that a cloud was just blocking the sky, but when they looked up, they saw a swarm of black birds that were flying above their heads.

Suddenly, all of these birds defecated at the same time, dropping their payload over the four girls, who were walking close to each other.

Zane and Zeke, who was beside Aurora, immediately raised their hands and conjured an umbrella that was made up entirely of bones.

The sound of something pelting on top of it reverberated in the surroundings, as the Dragon Borns, who were also within the range of the Carpet Bombers, dodged to the side.

Ali and Ari sighed and gave the two little skeletons a thumbs up.

Zane and Zeke did the same, making the two girls giggle.

However, it was at that moment that they heard a shout coming from the other side of the street.

"Get out of the way! The pigs have gotten loose!" a fat Dragon Born shouted, informing everyone of the danger that they were in.

Over a dozen Black Pigs that were around two meters tall charged down the street, making everyone make a path for them.

Once again, Zane and Zeke stood in front of Aurora and used their bone umbrella, which was covered with bird poop, as a shield to protect the ladies from the stampede.

The sound of bone being crushed spread in the surroundings, as the Black Pigs slammed into it.

Fortunately, even though cracks appeared in the Umbrella's surface, it held and stopped the pigs from advancing any further.

As the four ladies continued to walk through the city, several "accidents" happened. Pots of flowers, which were placed near the tops of houses, fell towards the pink-haired beauty who was oblivious to what was happening.

Fortunately, Zane and Zeke were there to handle everything, preventing anything from hurting Aurora and the girls.

Aurora wasn't stupid and soon realized what was happening. Because of this, she apologized to Valerie, Ali, and Ari, and decided to cut their trip shorter than expected.

However, the series of accidents didn't stop as they walked back to the Teleportation Gate, making Lux and Aur, who were watching from a safe distance, speechless.

"Are you sure bringing her here was a good idea?" Aur asked.

"D-Don't worry," Lux replied. "As long as Zane and Zeke are with her, things will be fine."

Aur scoffed but he didn't say anything else.

From the tone of Lux's voice, he understood that the Half-Elf had no intention of getting rid of the pink-haired beauty, who was the carrier of bad luck.

In the deepest layer of the Abyss...

Within this ever-expanding space where neither demons nor devils dared to tread.

At the center of it all, a creature of unimaginable size slept, surrounded by countless angels singing a lullaby and playing a soothing tune with their instruments, preventing this primordial existence from waking up.

This being was an Outer God, the oldest of them all and also the most powerful.

It was so powerful that the demons, devils, and angels all agreed that it was best for it to remain asleep for eternity.

This creature was known by many names.

The Blind Idiot God.

Nuclear Chaos.

Daemon Sultan.

The Deep Dark

The Cold One, and many other names that had been passed down since time immemorial.

Of course, this being had a name, and those who knew simply called it...

Azathoth.

It was said that the moment it woke up... all creatures would bow to its will or be destroyed completely.

Since all the angels were busy doing their sacred duty, they didn't notice that somewhere in the Abyss, a man... or perhaps someone that used to be a man, was looking at the sleeping Outer God with a determined look on his face.

In his hand, a Golden Lion Figurine could be seen, and a faint smile hung on his lips.

"Soon," the being who used to be a man said softly.

He didn't say anything else before he, too, closed his eyes.

What he needed was an opportunity, and when that opportunity came...

All of creation would bow to his will.

End of Volume 4

The Calm Before The Storm.

Chapter 947: Stop Being A Worrywart

"Your body is very beautiful, Aurora," Valerie said as she looked at the young lady in front of her. "I feel a bit jealous."

"Jealous?" Aurora asked back. "Your body is as beautiful as a painting. I'm sure that if Lux sees it, he would be speechless with how magnificent it is."

"R-Really?"

"Really."

After their expedition in the city, Aurora, Valerie, Ali, and Ari decided to go to the Guild's Bathhouse to wash their bodies.

Right now, they were relaxing in the natural spring, without anything covering their seductive bodies.

"How about us?" Ari asked in a mischievous tone while striking a pose. "Do you think Lux will have a nosebleed if he sees our body?"

""Um? Why would he get a nosebleed?""

Aurora and Valerie asked at the same time, which made Ali giggle.

Ari scratched her head because she had forgotten that the two young ladies were still innocent about some things.

"Hey, Aurora, what is your relationship with Lux?" Ari asked.

Aurora smiled before answering Ari's question.

"Right now, we are friends," Aurora stated. "But I plan to become one of his wives someday."

"Y-You plan to be his wife?" Valerie's eyes widened in shock.

Aurora nodded. "From the moment he saved me, I decided to stay by his side for life."

"...You are very brave and bold, Aurora," Valerie said softly. "I wish I was as brave as you."

The pink-haired beauty eyed the plain-looking girl with a gentle smile.

"Do you like Lux?" Aurora asked.

"I do," Valerie answered in a heartbeat. "But I have a feeling that I'll get pregnant if I tell him that I like him."

"Huh?" Aurora tilted her head in confusion. "How can you get pregnant by saying that you like him?"

"Y-You see, in my dreams, whenever I tell him that I like him, he makes me feel good..." Valerie's face became beet red before continuing the rest of her sentence. "Then after he makes me feel good, he whispers in my ear, 'Get pregnant, Valerie. I will take responsibility.'"

Ali's and Ari's eyes widened in shock after hearing Valerie's confession.

They didn't expect that the innocent princess that they'd been protecting for many years was no longer as innocent as they thought she was.

Aurora, on the other hand, looked at Valerie with a curious expression on her face.

"How can someone get pregnant?" Aurora asked. "Can you teach me?"

"Okay!" Valerie replied with excitement.

Now that her mother had told her how a woman really became pregnant, she was more than happy to share this information with her new friend.

"First you need to start with a kiss," Valerie said as if she was very knowledgeable about the topic. "After that, both of you will take off your clothes and sleep on the bed together. When morning comes, you will be pregnant."

Ali and Ari blinked once then twice before giving each other a sidelong glance.

"That's it?" Aurora asked.

"Yes," Valerie nodded. "But, Sir Lux does more than that in my dreams..."

Valerie's face was now as red as an apple, as she recalled most of her recent dreams. Truth be told, her mother only told her that in order to make a baby, the couple must kiss first and lay on the bed naked. After that, they would sleep together.

She didn't mention any other "activities" and simply told her daughter that when morning came, she would be pregnant.

Of course, in order to make it more realistic, her mother told her about the difference in the body parts of a man and a woman, hoping that adding this information would make her daughter less ignorant about the things that were done in the bedroom by married people.

"What else does he do?" Aurora was genuinely curious about Valerie's dreams.

"H-He fondles and sucks my breasts like a baby," Valerie replied.

"Anything else?" Aurora's interest intensified after hearing Valerie's reply.

"T-Then he..." Valerie covered her face and was unable to continue with her explanation.

She could feel her cheeks burning, and she found it hard to say the other things that the handsome Half-Elf did to her in her dreams.

Ali and Ari sighed as they looked at the two innocent babies who were having a serious discussion about how to get pregnant.

Seeing that Valerie could no longer say anything, Aurora didn't press her for answers. Instead, she asked a different question, shifting the topic to something else.

"Have you met Lux's two fiances?" Aurora asked.

Valerie shook her head. "Not yet."

"Actually, I will be meeting them soon. Lux will be taking me to his home world, Solais."

"You can go to Sir Lux's home world? I thought Elysians couldn't travel to Solais?"

Aurora frowned. "I don't really know the details, but Lux thinks that it is possible for me to go with him."

"How envious. I want to go too..." Valerie sighed.

While the Ladies were busy talking about a certain Half-Elf, the Half-Elf in question was having a serious discussion with Lilian.

"You are going to keep watch over her, right?" Lux asked. "If something happens to Eiko, I'll fight you even if it's the last thing I do."

"You're too uptight." Lilian shook her head helplessly. "I asked Eiko to give me a small part of her for safekeeping. Even if she dies, which I pray would never happen, there will still be ways to revive her. Being overprotective of her will only make her more reliant on you."

"Because of this, she will be unable to stand on her own and make decisions for herself. Right now, what Eiko needs is to learn how to be independent."

Lux sighed. "But she is still a baby."

Lilian arched an eyebrow. "All Slimes start as babies. From the moment they are born, they have to fend for themselves or they'll be killed by other creatures. This is how we adapt and evolve. Why do you think there are so many races of Slimes in the world?"

"They start as the weakest of creatures, but when they manage to overcome this weakness, they become true powerhouses. Besides, Eiko is not an ordinary Baby Slime. She is already a Fairy Princess. But her bloodline isn't fully awakened yet. But once it is, she will be a force to reckon with."

Lux scratched his head. "I know, but I can't help but worry..."

"Are you stupid?" Lilian flicked the Half-Elf's forehead making the latter cry out in pain. "You should be more worried about the creatures that stand in her way. Have you forgotten that she can throw one of those bombs that can wipe out entire cities from the face of the world? Stop being a worrywart."

Lux didn't have words to refute the Wicked Queen Slime's statement because Eiko was indeed capable of doing what she said.

"Fine." Lux finally relented. "After she says goodbye to Iris, I will let her off to go on her own adventure. Her starting point will be Leaf Town. I think that is the best place for her to start."

Lilian nodded. "I have to thank you for creating such a town. I never thought that such a thing was possible—a place for Slimes and people to work hand in hand to become stronger."

This was also why she had a better impression of Lux and his Guild compared to when she had first met him. Because of this, she didn't hesitate to lend her hand when they went to the Abyss to rescue his fiancées.

"I'll wait for you and Eiko in Leaf Town," Lilian stated. "How long will you be gone?"

"One or two weeks," Lux replied. "I'm sure that Iris would like to spend a few days with Eiko before she goes on her long journey."

Lilian frowned, but in the end, she decided to not say anything. Although she felt like a week was too long, she decided that this would also help Eiko say her farewell to her Mama.

After they finished their talk, the Half-Elf went to the town to look for the Baby Slime.

It didn't take long for him to find Eiko, but when he saw her, he couldn't stop his lips from twitching.

Three miles away from the town of Edea, which was the name of the town that was currently being constructed at the base of the mountain, two little troublemakers were busy making weapons of mass destruction.

Lux could see sixteen small hills of Blast Bombs that were piled up on top of each other, making him feel as if several nuclear bombs were ticking away in front of him.

Due to how focused Eiko and Glee were, they didn't notice the Half-Elf observing them from a distance.

After returning to the Guild Headquarters, Eiko went to look for her best friend, Glee, and asked her to help her make some bombs for her Papa.

Naturally, Glee was more than happy to help, and they began making Blast Bombs and converting them into Heat-Seeking Missiles.

But to Lux's surprise, the two also made a new type of weapon which they called the Supersonic Blast Bomb.

As the name suggested, this Blast Bomb could travel at supersonic speeds while having the firepower to destroy an entire city.

The only problem with this bomb was that it would fly straight, and it was nearly impossible to change its trajectory.

Even so, if used properly, it could seriously injure a Saint, and even possibly kill them if it landed as a direct hit.

Lux remembered what Lilian told him a while ago and couldn't help but reaffirm her statement.

He truly didn't need to worry about Eiko.

What he should be worried about were the fools who dared to get in the way of his Trigger Happy Daughter, who wouldn't hesitate to watch the world burn right before her eyes.

Author's Note: Only one chapter today, went to the dentist. will post 3 chapters tomorrow.

Chapter 948: You're Treating Me Like A Child

Since Eiko and Glee were still busy crafting Blast Bombs and didn't seem like they had any intention of stopping, Lux decided to return to Solais in the morning.

Valerie then decided to spend the night in the Guild Headquarters and sleep with her first friend, Aurora.

The two ladies, one a peerless beauty and the other a plain-looking girl, lay on the bed while talking to each other.

"You know, I didn't notice it earlier, but looking at you closely now, I have a feeling that this isn't what you truly look like," Aurora said as she lightly cupped Valerie's face. "Of course, I won't force you to show me your true appearance. But can I ask why are you hiding your face? Don't you want Lux to see it?"

Valerie didn't reply right away. She was trying to find the right words to explain her current situation.

A few minutes later, she finally organized her thoughts and gave her reply.

"You see, my family holds a great deal of influence in Karshvar Draconis," Valerie answered. "Several months ago, this Guild Headquarters was inside our territory. However, some things happened, forcing Sir Lux to seek Asylum here at the Crystal Palace."

Valerie's tone became a bit sad after saying these words.

"Since my family is a bit special, I decided to disguise myself when I leave the Pala—our home. I've long been used to wearing this disguise, and I also met Sir Lux with this face. Right now, we are good friends. However, I am afraid that things might change if he sees my real face."

Aurora giggled as she lightly caressed Valerie's cheeks. "What? Are you going to tell me that you'll get pregnant if Lux sees your real face?"

Valerie pouted, which made Aurora giggle a second time.

"My mother told me that I shouldn't show my real face to people outside of our home, especially in front of men," Valerie stated. "According to her, people might abduct me if they see me walking the streets of the capital."

"Mmm," Aurora nodded. "I have my fair share of this problem as well. The only difference is that those who dared to abduct me ended up being cursed with bad luck. I'm sure that even now, they are regretting the choices they made many years ago."

The pink-haired beauty sighed after remembering those traumatic memories.

Perhaps influenced by the sadness that briefly passed across Aurora's face, Valerie decided to give her friend a hug, which the latter returned with a hug of her own.

"Actually, I kind of understand why people would want to kidnap you, Aurora," Valerie said. "You're so beautiful. Even as a girl, I feel very attracted to you."

"And I feel the same as you," Aurora smiled. "I'm sure that behind this face you are wearing right now is an incredibly beautiful girl. Since you like Lux, why don't you show him your face?"

The plain-looking girl blushed before shaking her head. She had long been tempted to do this multiple times already. But every time she tried to convince herself to do it, a part of her rejected it.

"I don't want Sir Lux to see my true face." Valerie sighed. "I will make him like me with my current face. That way, I will know for sure that he doesn't only look at someone's physical appearance. My mother said that if I manage to make Sir Lux fall in love with me with my current looks, she will convince my father to let the two of us be together."

The smile on Aurora's face widened after hearing Valerie's words.

"My, how romantic," Aurora commented. "Good luck, Valerie. I will support you."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome. I hope that both of us succeed. By then, we will be calling each other sisters."

"I think I would like that," Valerie said. "Make sure to tell me what Sir Lux's fiancées are like when you return, okay?"

Aurora nodded.

The two chatted for another hour before both of them went to sleep.

The next day...

Lux, Eiko, and Aurora were bidding their goodbyes to Valerie, Ali, and Ari.

Although they had only been together for a short time, Aurora and Valerie had become very close, which also made the Half-Elf quite happy.

"I'll be visiting again, Sir Lux," Valerie said as he hugged the red-headed teenager.

It was Aurora who suggested that she did this, and Valerie decided to give it a chance. Fortunately, the Half-Elf didn't mind, which made the plain-looking lady quite happy.

"You can visit me anytime," Lux replied. "Just make sure to not make things difficult for Ali and Ari, okay?"

"...You're treating me like a child," Valerie pouted before pulling back. "I'm already an adult."

The plain-looking girl even puffed her chest, as if letting Lux inspect them to see if they belonged to a child.

The Half-Elf lightly coughed as he forced his gaze to shift from Valerie's chest to her face, and gave his reply.

"Of course you are." Lux smiled. "That's why you should take better care of yourself, okay? Especially now that you have a new friend you can visit here in the Guild Headquarters."

"Un!" Valerie nodded before turning to Aurora to give her one last hug as well.

"Remember what we talked about, okay?" Valerie whispered.

"I know," Aurora whispered back. "Count on me."

Aurora then took the initiative to stand beside Lux and hold his hand. Her gaze landed on her new best friend and gave her a playful wink, making the latter giggle.

Eiko was also firmly perched on top of her Papa's head as she waved at her best friend, Glee, who had also come to say goodbye.

"Bye bye, Glee!" Eiko said.

"Bye bye, Eiko!" Glee replied. "The next time we meet, let's destroy entire mountain ranges, okay?"

"Un!"

"Yay!"

Everyone, with the exception of the Half-Elf, who heard their words, smiled because they thought that they were only joking.

Only Lux knew that the two weren't joking. He could even feel beads of sweat forming on his head at the thought that the two would start destroying the mountain ranges around the territory of the Crystal Palace.

If that really happened, he was sure that if Lady Augustina didn't kick them out, Piccoro certainly would.

After finally saying their goodbyes, Lux, Eiko, and Aurora, turned into beams of light and shot towards the sky.

Their next destination was the world of Solais.

A place that Elysians couldn't possibly travel to at this point in time.

As to why Aurora could do it? The reason was due to her being Half Abyssal and Half Human.

Since Abyssal Creatures could travel to Elysium and Solais, Aurora could do it too by default.

Valerie looked at the sky for nearly half a minute before making her way back to the Teleportation Gate to return to Karshvar Draconis.

In the distance, Aur also looked at the sky with his hands behind his back for a few seconds before taking a step forward and disappearing completely.

He still had many things to do, and he had already delayed them to spend some time with the Half-Elf, who had returned to his own world to reunite with his two lovers.