

LOA Nobody 21

Chapter 21 A Family Breakfast

After I thought about all the problems which could trouble me after a short time and their possible solutions - I turned off the shower through the control panel and just after that some vents opened at the floor and ceiling and it sucked away all the fog.

As the fog cleared I found myself standing in front of a mirror, which was a glass wall till now.

It's been a day since I reincarnated in this world but it was only now that I was seeing myself in a mirror.

Since I've seen Rio's memories I wasn't surprised to see someone else's reflection in the mirror. Rio had short white hair and dark black eyes. An oval face with a sharp nose and slightly chubby cheeks which made him look cuter. His height was average for kids his age neither too tall nor short.

Rio didn't have any kind of marks or scars on his whole body which is a far cry from my old one.

Since I used to go for the fight clubs on my work off days or when I had too much stress piling up - there were some scars that would always come out. Then there was my edgy personality and the long scar on my back which that bastard gave me .

So overall Rio is probably a little bit more handsome and whole than I was on earth.

I got out of the bathroom and was thinking about what to wear when I saw that a new dress was already placed on my bed - which I think was sent by Artemis.

I picked up the suit and went on to get ready , which nearly took me half an hour just to do that.

Being someone from earth and born in a middle class family and later on who became a lazy guy like me - I never had to wear fancy clothes like this, and here being a Duke's son I have to maintain Rio's style of appearance and his status as a noble - so I had to put in a little more extra effort.

After getting ready I came out of my room and saw 2 guards standing there. They were arranged by Artemis herself and tasked to follow me while she takes care of her business.

When they saw me they bowed their heads, to which I just nodded and then started heading towards the family hall.

Family hall is where everyone's waiting for me I guess. From what I've seen in Rio's memories, if his parents were at home then they'll always eat together .

It was a strange and good thing for me cause I don't remember when was the last time I sat around with my family and had eaten together or just talked normally in that regard.

I walked in the long hallways observing everything about this house .

A guy who lived in a single room for half his life was suddenly placed in this big mansion - you could imagine my Predicament. Now I was feeling glad that I survived that massive headache back then and seen through Rio's memories or I would just get lost in these hallways everyday.

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When I finally reached the family hall. As I guessed Artemis and Amelia were already present there .

I looked at the Duke's chair which was empty and could guess that he was probably leading the hunt against the Evil Scion's followers till now and probably won't rest till his anger calms down.

When Amelia saw me coming , she said - "Lazy brother, we've been waiting for so long. I thought you slept back again."

Even though I wasn't sure about Amelia and didn't know how I should act around her, just looking at her and seeing her actions would bring a smile to my face.

I shook my head and sat on the empty chair beside her. Rio would always do that unless he wanted to tease her by sitting near Artemis , which would make her angry.

Amelia looked towards Artemis and made a proud expression on her face like saying - " See this. I won. "

Artemis wanted to smile at her cute daughter's actions but decided to just play along with her and made a displeased expression, which just made Amelia even more happy.

Amelia had the expression of being the happiest person alive.

Amelia was thinking that today was the best day of her life - though at the beginning she did fell down from bed and it hurt , but then her brother agreed to play with her for 4 hours and now she was sure to take her revenge on Rebecca , plus now she even succeeded in teasing her mama - which is the biggest achievement for her.

I just looked at her and only one thought came to my mind - she really is just like her.

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After I sat down some maids came and started serving the food on the table. And one thing which I noticed after watching that - was that it was a lot of food - like if it was placed on earth, it could easily work for a class reunion dinner with 15 hungry teenagers who had nothing better to do besides eat and sleep. The maids served the dishes - after that they went back and stood at some distance.

From what I could see on the table and recognize everything prepared today was something that the original Rio liked - I looked towards Artemis and she smiled and nodded in response.

My heart felt warm seeing that - it's been a long time since someone especially did something for me - well if you remove the gesture of Ali ordering pizza at my room after every time I call him.

I shook my head and then with my building anticipation I started eating. Just after taking the first bite I was surprised, blown out of my mind. Since I only watched Rio's memories and didn't share any sensations or actually eat anything myself - I didn't know what it would taste like.

From Rio's memories I could understand that food would be different here and tastier with all the mana rich ingredients but I was still surprised.

It was almost the best food I've ever eaten.

And yes I said almost cause Queency knew how to cook too , and no one could beat her. Or maybe that's just my bias since I loved her too much.

I stopped thinking about the past and started focusing on eating everything and trying out all the new dishes - cause my body really did feel weak and hungry.

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While Rio started eating , Amelia was just looking at her brother and as time went on, a frown started appearing on her face. And soon her previous happy expression started morphing into a pout.

Artemis watched this whole transition and finally couldn't stop herself and a small chuckle escaped her mouth.

Amelia looked towards her mama and watched her ' trying hard ' to control her laughter and failing miserably , her anger started rising too. If before she had a cute pouting face, then now she just looked like a fuming red tomato.

Watching this Artemis finally couldn't control herself and started to straight out bursting in laughter while pointing at her daughter.

Even some maids had the expression of smiling too, while some others were trying hard to control their expression and look elsewhere.

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Hearing her laughing I looked towards Artemis and saw her pointing her finger towards Amelia.

I looked towards my side and saw Amelia's cute angry face as she continued glaring at me and Artemis while crossing her arms on her chest.

It took me a moment to understand what was happening and when I did - I could just smile nervously and try to calm her down.

Actually the role of foodie had always been hers, she'll be the first to eat whenever she could, but today she waited for him to come & he just ignored that, and started eating himself.

" Hehe, will you believe me if I said I was just teasing you. " I said.

Amelia looked towards me with a ' surprised expression ' and said - " Ohh so you remember me now. I thought I would have to wait till you finish eating everything. "

" I was just checking to see if the food was to your liking or not." I tried to fool her but she was smarter than I thought.

" Haaa liar , you think I didn't see your face when you were gobbling it up. You looked like you would eat everything on the table. " Amelia replied as she pointed at my plate - which was filled at the beginning but was half empty now.

I looked towards Artemis hoping to get her help but I saw that she was still eating her food , while looking at us like she was enjoying her favorite tv show.

Now I see why original Rio's memories were filled with so much filler drama - this woman is just enjoying it everyday.

I looked towards Amelia and she was still angry. I thought of something , then I picked up the spoon and sent it towards Amelia's face - " Here eat. "

Amelia looked at me and said - " Why didn't you do it before, it's late now. "

Hearing her reply a smile came to my face and I said - " I was only eating faster cause I thought we could go play quickly after that. But it looks like you don't want to play with your big brother now. "

Listening to me Amelia remembered it and she took the bite from that spoon - "Hmmm I'll forgive you , but only this time. "

I smiled a little as I saw Amelia who started eating from her plate now and then we all focused on finishing our breakfast.

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This breakfast felt surprisingly good - the food, the taste , the people and the love - they were all sweet. -maybe more sweeter than something, someone like me deserves.

Chapter 22 God Apollo & The Prophecy

After we had our breakfast Artemis sent Amelia away as I still needed to go with her to priest Andreas so he can do one more check up on me and see if the curse is still active.

Though a little unhappy that her playtime got delayed - Amelia couldn't do anything about it, except glaring at me and Artemis as she went back to her room with her head bent down.

Priest Andreas was staying in the guest house mansion, just near the main house.

As we were walking there , only silence was between us. Artemis talked about some things now and then but I couldn't have a proper conversation with her.

In the morning all the emotions of the original Rio and my memories of my past life came crashing when I woke up and I couldn't control myself and cried in her embrace. But now when I have accepted this new world somewhat and cleared my thoughts, I just don't know how to act around her.

She's not like Amelia with whom I can feel an attachment. I would've ignored Amelia too if she didn't have Ria's face. But with Artemis I feel no connection. I mean Rio's feelings of love are there and I could still see them as memories in my head but I can't feel them - they're just like a good movie that's stuck in my head. So even if I love her character in it, but having a one on one conversation as her son , now that would be difficult for everyone, let alone me who lived half his life as a nobody.

Plus the fact that I also have to be careful that she doesn't notice anything strange - she is much much more powerful and intelligent than I am. I can use the excuse of the curse to get away with some things but you can't expect me to look into her eyes and call her MOTHER and hope that everything goes well.

But I also can't ignore her as that would make it all the more harder for me to live in this place and protect Amelia. Cause if I did that then I think they'll just adopt a new son - after all they did do that in the original book.

I was lost in my thoughts when I felt someone tapping on my shoulder.

"We're here. What are you thinking standing there all lost and zoning out." - Artemis said.

"Nothing. Let's go in. " - I replied and started walking ahead.

There were some guards standing at the gate and some who were patrolling the parameters but no one said anything. When I finally reached the gate they bowed down their head and opened it.

Me and Artemis walked in and soon we saw Andreas kneeling beside a window , reading the book that he was holding yesterday. He was chanting something that I couldn't understand the meaning of , the tattoo of Lyre on his hand was shining in golden color. I recognized what he was doing - it was a prayer ceremony for God Apollo described in the book. Since there's no statue or altar here , he's kneeling beside a window from where he can see the sun and praying but that scene sent me into another thought journey -

(He's praying to God Apollo.)

(But the prayers _ they're _)

I was lost in thoughts watching Andreas when Artemis pulled me away from their to not disturb him. Currently we were sitting in the hall and after waiting for 5 minutes he came out.

Andreas bowed a little and said - " Forgive me lady Artemis for making you wait."

" It's no problem, the fault was ours to have you stay the night and come unannounced." - Artemis replied.

The people from any of the churches in this world don't go out unless it's necessary. They believe that the POWER OF FAITH accumulated in the church would help them. While the outside world contaminates their faith. Its especially true for someone with a high standing in the church.

Andreas held the status of a High Priest which meant that there were few who could order him in the whole BELIEF SYSTEM and none who were present in Damascus. The Church of Apollo here was under Andreas control and he was their leader. Him being away for a whole night would be impossible if it were for anyone else. But even he didn't want to ruin the peace that was kept between his church and the Blake House.

I gave a bow to priest Andreas and said - " Thank you for saving my life. High Priest. "

Andreas looked at me and replied - " It was the God's will. I'm just a mere follower. " Saying that he placed his hand on my head and the same as before the Lyre mark started shining and a ring of golden light encircled my head. The light felt warm and comforting but not the same as before when it engulfed me and pulled me out of the darkness.

As the light started rotating around Rio's head, Artemis who was worried and looking towards Rio didn't notice that for a moment Andreas made a surprised expression but then it turned to normal again.

After some time Andreas removed his hand and said - " There's nothing to worry about lady Artemis. Young heir is perfectly fine. I see no effect of the curse or cursed mans left in his body. "

Hearing this Artemis had a warm smile on her face, she felt like a weight had been lifted off her shoulders. She replied - " Thank you for your efforts , Priest Andreas. I would personally visit the church and say my prayers to God Apollo."

Blake's family never affiliated themselves with any church and kept themselves neutral with the belief system , Now the Duchess herself going to the church would be enough of a reward as it would improve their reputation among all their peers.

Though the whole world believes and respects God Apollo for defeating the Demon King Dital and ending The Last War but many also blame him for breaking the balance and causing The Emergence .

And now in an era where people forgot all about the wrath of Demons and only fear the non-stop monsters and towers and dungeons - his reputation has been going downhill lately.

So now that Andreas had saved Rio and gained the favor of Blake family - the Church's reputation and belief in God Apollo would increase in the eyes of general public, which would then result in increasing the power of faith. That was a good news for him. Andreas thanked her and after some pleasantries we left the guest house , priest Andreas too was going to leave for his church soon.

When me and Artemis walked out , Priest Andreas stared at our back for some time and then looked towards the sun and muttered - " God's will is ultimate. The prophecy had begun. "

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Unknown about what Andreas said or meant, Currently Me and Artemis were coming back towards our mansion , it was the same silent walk as this time both me and her were thinking about what to do next.

Artemis needed to find the traitor that helped Evil's Scion as she wasn't worried about the curse now and was free to punish them.

I too left the issue regarding the curse aside for now, but unlike Artemis I didn't forget it completely - No I was worried as hell about that, something that wasn't mentioned in the original book - that's a big red flag for me right there.

But for now I was thinking about how to get her to help me deal with Noah & the possible traitor trio .

After thinking hard and not finding any way through which I could get her to help me with killing a 10 year old - without me sounding like a seer or a killer. Both which would bring it's own troubles for me and wanted to avoid.

I decided to stop that route and chose to take a different one. (what's the worse that can happen)

I took a deep breath and said in a serious tone -

" It was Beric Zastan who cursed me MOTHER. He's been working with Evil's Scion. "

Chapter 23 Shadow Sword & Beric Zastan

I was worried about how I should go about killing Noah. I can only take one shot at him cause if he somehow survived that and ran away - then finding him would be hard and if he awakened early due to my interruption and got the blessing of Cassandra, her followers would come running to save him and then it would be all the more harder to kill him. So I can only attack him when I am 100% sure that I can kill him.

Maybe I can go and kill him myself after my awakening. In the original book Rio awakened the power of Darkness so it could also help me if I want to assassinate him.

The awakening ceremony of Rio was originally planned after a week from now but after learning about the curse - I don't think Rio's parents would risk it now as my body is still weak and would probably delay it for some time. That also helps me , as there are some things that could help me better prepare for my awakening so I will have time to go and get them.

Aside from Noah , the one who poses a big threat to me are Esme & Beric. Esme is in prison as of now and she would probably be killed if Artemis learns of her vampire origins so I don't need to do anything. But Beric is still free and if he is the one who put a curse on me then I have to take care of him faster.

Though killing him now would change the story as he was supposed to be killed by Leon much later but I can't let him be free - when I don't know anything about the curse.

Thinking about all this I decided to tell Artemis about him. Knowing about Artemis's nature from the book if Beric really was the one who cursed me then I'm sure she can get all the answers from him.

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*** 3rd POV

" It was Beric Zastan who cursed me MOTHER. He's been working with Evil's Scion." - Rio said in a serious tone.

Artemis who was lost in her thoughts was shocked when she heard her son's voice. She looked at his face and seeing him all serious she could tell he wasn't joking. - "How do you know?" Artemis asked .

" When I was playing with Ria that day I saw him talking with someone using the communication devices which aren't ours. He was asking someone about the NETHER CARDS*. I was coming to tell you about that but I fell unconscious on my way." - I replied in the same tone.

Artemis still would have doubted Rio before but after listening to his explanation , she knew he was probably telling the truth. He had no reason to lie about a matter this serious. She didn't ask why Rio knew about Evil's Scion and Nether Cards cause as the future heir of Duchy he was taught about almost everything that he should know about the world and Rio himself was a genius at learning and never slacked off .

Artemis was now worried that if during Rio's awakening the Evil's Scion used Nether Cards then what would've happened.

During awakening ceremony the mana present in the surrounding gathers around the person's body and rebuilds it to make it more susceptible to mana and if at that time anyone used Nether Cards, which are used to disrupt the mana flow in a certain area and make it go berserk - the awakening process would fail and that person would be crippled at the best case but there's also chances of him dying.

Just a week , just one week later was Rio's awakening ceremony planned. Which means if Rio didn't fall unconscious and they didn't learn about the curse - there's no chance that Rio would survive that attack. With his body already affected by curse and awakening if they add the nether cards - his body would break apart.

The thought of Rio's death in such a horrible way made Artemis so angry that her mana went out of her control and pressure of a S rank started spreading in the whole mansion. All the remaining staff and nearby guards were on their knees as they had trouble breathing. Some weaker ones even fell unconscious.

Artemis clenched her fists so hard that blood started dripping out from her hands , her dark black eyes were shining as a red hue started surrounding it. Her bloodlust was leaking out as she imagined the scene of her son trapped in the nether zone dying.

It was then that she felt a hand on her shoulders , she turned around and saw her shadow Myra , who was now holding Rio in her arms as a blue veil of mana surrounded both of them. Myra shook Artemis's shoulder as sweat drops started forming on her head. - "Please control yourself master. "

It was then that Artemis came back to her senses and calmed her mana pressure. It was only for a few seconds but just from pressure alone she had suppressed almost everyone in the mansion.

She looked at her shadow and said - "Thank you Myra."

Myra bowed at her master and freed Rio. She then took two steps back and stood there silently.

Artemis looked at her son who was standing straight like nothing happened , his face still looking calm. She knew he was trying to show that he was fine and wasn't affected. And Artemis would've believed him if she couldn't see the sweat drops on his head or hear his fast heartbeat.

She started blaming herself again cause if not for Myra protecting him , he would be the most affected. Though his life won't be in danger as there are many treasures on his body that could protect him but still it would hurt him badly. She took a deep breath as she bent down. She wiped the sweat with her sleeve and kissed his forehead.

"Myra, take Rio back in. I have something to deal with. And stay with him till I come." - Artemis ordered her shadow and turned around. She took a final look at Rio and then melted in the shadows around her. With no signs left that she was ever here a moment ago or where she is now.

(Shadow Queen of Schilla - So that's her power now)

Rio thought as he looked at the spot where Artemis was standing. He wasn't afraid when she released her pressure , as he already knew about Myra and believed that she'll save him. He was actually thinking about how he would have to fight Artemis once in the future if everything went according to the plot and if he would be strong enough by then.

"Let's go in young master. I believe young lady Amelia is still waiting for you." - Myra said as she thought Rio was still shocked by that pressure. And his sister could help cheer him up.

It was only then that Rio remembered he had promised to come back early and play with Amelia. He shook his head and decided to not worry about that for now , for he was already changing future events and he still had time. So he said - "Yeah, let's go in."

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While Rio and Myra were going towards the mansion , Artemis was on her way to Beric Zastan. Who was currently sitting with his friends and chatting happily in the barracks. Totally unaware that his death was coming towards him.

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Beric who was listening to his friends talking about the increased security and punishment for the captured staff in the mansion. Suddenly threw his drink aside and stood up. He drew his sword out and started looking all around him carefully. But aside from his 4 friends he couldn't find anyone.

At first his friends were surprised by his unusual behavior but soon they too felt that something was wrong , the mana in the surrounding area was getting thinner. It meant that either someone had casted a superior spell or used an artifact to make a closed barrier. Both of these were situations that they were unaware of so they too drew their swords out and looked around. All 5 of them got into a formation and Beric who was their leader was standing at the front , said - " whoever you are. Listen carefully , This is Duke Blake's territory. Get out now and show yourself. "

Everyone looked around but they couldn't spot anyone. It was then that light around them started getting dimmer. One of them turned around only to see that their shadows started moving from the ground and covered all the windows and places from where sunlight was coming in. The hall was fully thrown in darkness.

" Captain try to use your spells. We need some light." - One of the guards looked towards Beric and said.

" I'm trying , the mana is acting weirdly around here. Hold on." - Beric said as he had no idea who would be so brazen so attack here . He was trying to cast a spell for light but it wasn't working. Finally when he gathered all his mana, a small white ball of light started floating above his hands.

He looked around towards his friends but all of them were already on the ground knocked out.

He pushed the light a little further and there he saw shadows gathering towards one place. Soon he started hearing noises of footsteps coming towards him and then came a voice - " You would regret going after my son."

(First shadow magic & then a women's voice - it can only mean it's her)

A shiver ran down Beric's spine when he figured out who this voice belonged to . He didn't even waste time trying to think about why she came here or how she knew about him. He took out a square black card and tried to supply his mana into it but he couldn't do that. He already used all the mana he could in this affected area and now he couldn't even gather a little bit to activate the nether card , that he had on him.

" I told you, you would regret going after my son."

He heard the voice again and before he could say anything he felt the pressure of a mountain crushing on his shoulders and he fell on the ground face first.

Artemis came near him , she bent down and picked up the fallen nether card. She looked towards Beric and the coldness of her eyes was the last thing he saw before he fell unconscious.

Chapter 24 Fun & Games

While Rio and Myra were standing outside talking , Amelia was currently sitting in her room waiting for her brother. She was holding her teddy bear tightly in her hands , trying to vent her annoyance. It's been an hour since breakfast and her brother still hasn't returned yet.

(Stupid brother , he might've forgotten that he promised me.)

(No, it's not brother's fault, it must be mama trying to tease me)

(I should complain about them to father when he comes back. Yeah this time I should even cry a little)

(Let's see how you guys dare to tease me then)

Amelia was lost in her thoughts when she heard something -

"Why are you wasting our time Amy. Come let's play again. Don't worry I'll go easy on you this time."

A girl's voice sounded in the room , it was heard from one of the screens like projection in the room.

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PROJECTION DEVICES were just magical communication tools used to chat with each other in long distance while being face to face. These were made by ġ—ḡ—ḡ—'ğ—ŋğ—° ġ~ğ—¼ğ~„ğ—²ğ—ı , the cost of this type of tools was high for normal people , but both of the girls talking here weren't normal.

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Amelia looked at the projection and on the other side sat a 10 year old girl wearing a sky blue and white colored gown , her golden hair fell to her shoulders , her blue eyes seemed like the ocean with no end , her beauty comparable to that of the setting sun.

The person in front of Amelia was the first princess of Schilla Empire , Rebecca Von Schott. Daughter of Emperor Maximus Von Schott and Queen Athena Von Schott Raven. Amelia's maternal cousin and her best friend.

Amelia had boasted to Rebecca about how she was going to take her revenge today and will beat her in the game but it's been an hour yet her brother hasn't come and she lost 2 more matches today.

Amelia was feeling annoyed as she saw the smug and laughing expression of Rebecca. And when she heard the words that she'll go easy on her - her anger went even more beyond.

(Liar, that's what you said the last 2 times)

(Brother if you don't come I will lose all my respect today.)

Amelia was contemplating this when the door opened and Rio walked in with Myra following behind him.

After entering Myra closed the door and without saying anything she silently strode forward and went to stand on one side. Where she could keep an eye on the kids but wouldn't disturb their play time.

Watching Rio, Amelia's expression brightened up and she ran up to him and dragged him in front of the projection. She pulled Rio's face close to her and said - "You took too much time brother ,let's start directly. You have to defeat her and take my revenge. Otherwise I won't talk to you."

Rio heard her 'threat' and looked at her for a few seconds and a barely noticeable smile appeared on his face. He ruffled Amelia's hair and said -"okay".

Rio looked at the projection and saw Rebecca staring at both of them. It wasn't the first time they were seeing each other. As both their mothers belonged to the ḡ—¥ḡ—®ḡ~fḡ—²ḡ—» ḡ—™ḡ—®ḡ—°ḡ—¶ḡ—¹ḡ~† and were sisters. The relationship between the Blake Family and Royal Family was very good. The kids would often meet each other and play together.

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****POV shift**

Watching Rebecca for the first time outside of Rio's memories I was surprised at first - as being the book's one of the main heroines she had the aura and charm which was visible to everyone. But I wasn't looking at that, no I was going through all the future events that happened in the original book - about how Rebecca became Rio's fiancée, how she used Rio in the Zenith Academy and later stabbed him in the back and stole everything from him, just to hand it all over to the protagonist.

As I remembered all her actions, a feeling started rising in my heart that maybe I should get rid of her too. I myself was surprised about why that thought suddenly came in my brain as normally I wouldn't think like that but I pushed that aside and tried to control my emotions. It was only for a moment but the cold glint in my eyes couldn't go unnoticed by Myra, who was surprised to see what made me unhappy all of a sudden. But before she could ponder on it further I broke the silence with a smile and said -

"Good morning princess, I see that you're still as calm and clever as always."

Rebecca looked at me while pouting her face and said - "I told you to not call me the princess every time. Even Amy doesn't call me that now."

"How can I do that. It's common courtesy to call the Royal family by their title and not names." I replied in a straight tone.

"But we're cousins and Amy is my friend." - Rebecca said instantly.

"Amy is a child princess. She doesn't know anything about the world." I said while pointing my hand towards Amelia.

I was going to say something else but then I felt something on my fingers, I looked at the side and saw Amelia trying to bite hard on them.

"Aaa jou calling me gumb bruder"

"I oo everyiing. "

I pushed her head away and saw my fingers. 3 of them had bite marks on them now. I was looking at them when I heard Amelia's voice - "First you come late here and then you start your regular talking instead of playing. Do you know how badly she defeated me."

I chuckled nervously at that and looked towards the projection and saw Rebecca who was rolling on her bed now holding her stomach - though she muted the sound function so we couldn't hear anything but one look at her and you could tell she was laughing hard.

Amelia looked at me with pleading eyes then shook her head and wiped her fake tears. It felt like she was saying - 'look at how she's laughing at your sister. And you're not even taking revenge.' She then pouted and turned her face away.

I was going to coax her a little but we heard Rebecca's voice - "Ahemhmm Sorry about that Amy, Rio let's start playing. I won't lose to you today. It's my lucky day."

I too decided to play and get revenge for Amelia but soon I came across a problem, a very normal and easy to understand problem, that I ignored till now.

The control console was like a VR kind of game from the modern world but here instead of technology and the internet they used a little bit of illusion and projection magic - it starts after 2 players join and stand on their platform while some potions/creatures/tools/mana crystals would start coming towards them. They have to avoid all the obstacles and gather the required stuff and not fall from the platform.

The problem I was facing now was that I knew all the rules, I've seen Rio playing this game several times and many times he had even defeated Rebecca too. But I just had theoretical or visual knowledge - I knew what to do but the coordination between my body and my mind was useless to say the least. Soon I was overwhelmed by the increasing speed of stuff coming towards me and I was thrown off the platform.

"Game over"

" Player Becca_01 wins"

The result was announced and I removed my hand from the console and sighed.

(Looks like my mind still hasn't completely adjusted to this body yet)

(I need to fix it fast)

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**3rd POV

" Hnnnnn — 2 "

Seeing the message both Amelia and Rebecca were dumbfounded cause it's barely been 1 minute and Rio lost. It was the first time Rio got thrown out this sooner. Even when he played this game for the first time he was much better than this.

Amelia looked towards her brother and said - "Brother please tell me that it was by mistake. And you didn't just lose willingly to tease me."

Rio scratched his neck not knowing how to answer that question.

Rebecca too was surprised to win so easily, she liked playing with Rio as he was a better player and though sometimes she would lose but she enjoyed that competition. But winning so easily left a sour taste in her mouth as she thought that he pitied her and let her win.

Amelia bugged Rio to play one more match and defeat Rebecca but Rio just said that he's not feeling well and can't play this game.

It was only after hearing him say this , that Rebecca remembered that her mother did say that Rio was sick and not feeling well. So not to trouble him much. Rebecca thought that Rio's body was already weak and she had him play a game which includes illusion magic which can still put a little strain on your body if you're not careful.

So as an apology she decided to stop playing this game and with a wave of her hand the VR screen disappeared and she took out a chess board from the nearby table. Though she wasn't good at it and knew she will lose to Rio but she thought that since she hurt him just now so she should just let him have a win.

(Maybe I'll tease him a little about it the next time I meet him hehehe) thought Rebecca.

Seeing the chess board Amelia too smiled and ran and took out one similar board from her Cupboard.

These two boards were bought in a pair and are magically connected to each other. With it people could play chess from long distance.

when one side makes a move the same move would be played on the other side too. It was just like playing chess on the mobile screens with your friend via the internet , except here it uses magic.

After Amelia and Rebecca arranged the pieces , we started playing. And this time just as Rebecca knew she lost. Even more badly than she usually does.

-

That was because for chess I had my own memories and experience from earth too. As a nobody who lived his life simple and didn't like to interact much with others much I had pretty much played almost all kinds of online games and chess just had to be one of them.

Finally seeing the dejected look on Rebecca's face Amelia stood up and started giggling like an idiot kid with her hands on her waist.

Though still shocked by her defeat Rebecca found solace in the fact that at least she had also won one match today.

And just like that all 3 of us continued playing and trying different games. And the sound of laughter continued till we played for hours.

Finally when everyone started getting tired Rebecca said her goodbyes and cut the connection. Amelia too lay down on her bed and was smiling heartily. She couldn't stop smiling as she had too much fun. I was just lost in my thoughts as I stared at her smiling face and a fleeting thought came to my head.

(It would've been perfect if she was here with us too, right Ria)

It was only one moment but that thought had soured all my mood and brought me back to reality.

Chapter 25 Plotline Of A Shadow - Myra

After playing for hours me and Amelia had some snacks and after that I left her and went out. Usually I would have a bunch of people coming to teach me a bunch of stuff but Artemis has canceled those till I get better.

After playing the games with those girls I learned 2 things - first my control over this body is lacking. Second I need to learn about this world's geography and history.

While playing a quiz game I learned that there are some places that weren't mentioned in the book. Some incidents happened which were never explained in detail. Though I have Rio's memories, I decided to check everything by myself since I have time till evening as no one will disturb me.

Agnus is outside hunting down the cult, Amelia is done playing and soon she'll be busy with her classes, Artemis is probably torturing Beric as we speak - so I'm free right now.

Since my body is still weak and not in any condition to go out and train, I decided to head to the library and see if the world is truly the same as I remember it from the book.

Myra was still following behind me. She was wearing her usual black dress which was a sign of her being a shadow. She had waist length white hair and slightly yellowish eyes. A thin petite body which helps her agility and control.

She had been with Artemis for 10 years now and has absolute loyalty towards her. She was an orphan kid, struggling to survive, living the life which was worse than rats at the border streets.

10 years ago when Artemis was called to clear an A rank INSTANT DUNGEON* on the northern border. She had found Myra who was trapped in it. When she saw Myra, she was going through her awakening. At first Artemis was going to ignore her as the chances of a successful awakening in a dungeon were very low much less trying that in an instant dungeon and looking at her pale skin and weak stature it was almost impossible to survive.

—

Dungeons were places with rich mana which could stimulate someone's awakening.

Many poor people who see no other choice to awaken take this chance. Though it is cheap and might save them lots of money which they would need to go through a ceremony at the church or required to pay for their services. But it also comes with many risks.

While you're going through your awakening, monsters present in the dungeon can sense the mana disturbance and come attack you and you would be just like a chicken on a chopping block. With no way to run or fight back. There are also chances of some other humans also jeopardizing it as no one would know the truth.

So only people who see no other way or people who are already nearing the age of 18 take this risk.

—

So Artemis just felt curious about why the girl who was only around 10 years in age had decided to take this risk. So she stood guard near her to see if it could bring her any surprises. She didn't help her in controlling the raging mana, she left it on her luck and for fate to decide. Artemis just stood there and killed any monsters that decided to come near her.

After half an hour when Myra finally opened her eyes and looked around. She was surprised by the sight around her - bodies of hundreds of different kinds of monsters were scattered on all sides. They were all dead , sliced into pieces. And then she saw a woman standing there, dressed in a light silver armor which was now covered in green liquid, her long black hair were tied in a pony tail and a sword in her hand which was still dripping a gooey liquid.

She was fighting a big tree monster. It was the biggest creature Myra saw in her whole life. Myra wanted to run away from there, but there was this transparent wall that she couldn't cross. So she just stood there silently watching as the warrior lady fought with the monster.

Myra couldn't believe what she was watching in front of her eyes, the lady would suddenly disappear from her place and then appear far away. She jumped and dodged the branches that were attacking her. She ran on them while throwing something which hit the monsters eyes, Then she saw several black chains suddenly appeared from the ground and held the monsters hands and legs while the lady jumped down and started slicing the monster's leg and soon the whole tree monster was detached from its roots and fell down.

It was the first time Myra saw such monsters and someone fighting them. She had heard stories about adventurers but watching them in front of her eyes was still a shock to her.

She saw the lady walking towards her and with a wave of her hands the wall surrounding her disappeared. Myra waved her hand around but she couldn't feel the wall so she just ran towards the lady.

Myra wanted to be just like her. She wanted to be strong just like the adventurers always talked about. She didn't like living on the streets, begging for food, getting beaten up daily - no she wanted more from life. So that's why when she found out about a dungeon near the forest without thinking about anything she jumped into it.

She thought it was God's way of giving her a chance to be like those awakened and she was right. She had awakened , though she didn't know what power she had but - she could feel it , the air around her was different, with every breath that energy entering her body - it was a new sensation.

When she jumped into the dungeon it was a forest. She looked around and started walking towards the center area where she heard mana will be highest. Soon she could feel the heaviness in air around her and as she heard from other people she started breathing in faster and found her body going through a transformation. Since she didn't find any monsters around her she closed her eyes and continued the process, not noticing the trees which were starting to move all around her.

She was successful and still alive, It was only possible because of the lady in front of her. So she wanted to thank her.

—

Artemis looked at Myra and after making sure that she was fine. She gave her a potion and then picked her up and started running. Myra was dazed, not knowing how to react. She could see the scenery around her changing fast and then she saw a blue portal from which they both passed through.

After coming out Artemis gave Myra to a staff member and started walking away. Until she heard a voice behind her. - "wait " .

—

Myra was surprised by all the things that happened. She wanted to say thanks for protecting her and ask her for name and maybe somehow pay her back. She didn't like owing anyone anything , that's why instead of begging on the streets she was ready to die. So when she saw the lady leaving, she couldn't wait any longer and shouted - "wait"

She saw the lady stop and turn back. Myra ran towards her and bowed and said - "Thank you for saving me."

Artemis looked at her for some time and said - "It's ok."

"Can you tell me your name." Myra asked.

"Why? " Artemis replied

Myra looked at her and said - "I want you to teach me how to get stronger."

Artemis chuckled at her naivety and said -"Why do you want to get stronger."

Myra replied instantly, like it was the easiest question in the world for her - "Cause I hate this feeling. Eyes looking at me with pity, I hate that. I want to get stronger so I can never be helpless again."

Artemis looked at her determined eyes and replied - "That's good but why would I want someone who's so weak."

Myra clenched her fists at being called weak, she hated it - " I will get stronger even if I have to risk my life for it."

Myra had just finished her words when she felt pressure on her and the next moment she was on her knees. It was then that she heard her voice again -"Remember young lady, I saved your life back there. So it belongs to me now. And I don't want my efforts to go to waste. You want to get stronger , fine then, learn about your element and show me one spell which you have mastered in one year , and I will make you stronger." Artemis said that and disappeared in front of her eyes.

Artemis only said those words as she didn't want Myra to risk her life doing useless things or join the Evil's Scion and waste her life. But it was these words that had sparked something in Myra's eyes , for the first time in her life she now had a goal, a direction to go to achieve power.

She looked towards the soldiers stationed around who were talking about how it was impossible to master a spell in just one year and how it takes longer but she ignored those words. She was determined - no matter what she had to finish this task. So she can follow that lady. And learn from her and maybe with time be just like her.

Myra remembered that she didn't know the name of her savior so she asked a soldier and learned about it.

(Artemis Raven Black, we will meet again) with that thought Myra left the place.

—

No one knew or heard from her for a year but one year later she was seen standing outside the Blake mansion asking for permission to see the Duchess. When Artemis saw her she was surprised. She knew that Myra had awakened the shadow element cause she saw the signs during awakening. But even she was surprised when she saw Myra practicing "Shadow Step*". Though it wasn't perfected but for an orphan and poor, to learn it and master it to this level showed how talented she was. And seeing her determination to follow her, Artemis agreed to teach her everything.

After that Myra would always spend time learning different spells and mastering them whenever she got time. And soon she was strong enough to be known as a genius around the mansion. But unlike being arrogant or prideful she was even more grateful for Artemis. Though Myra never liked nobles but she knew Artemis was different and she had seen how Artemis lived and cared for everyone. Artemis even treated her who was an orphan with respect and care.

At first she just wanted to learn from Artemis and leave when she was strong enough but over time the thought of leaving left and she just wanted to live here, a place where she felt like home, a place where she felt needed , so when Artemis asked Myra to be her shadow - Myra instantly agreed.

Since then Myra has been following Artemis everyday just like a shadow. She was also made captain of the silent reapers, an assassination squad which follows her every command.

—

In the book during the time Rio had to fight Artemis, it was Myra who came in between and tried to stop both of them but died soon after. It was a sad ending where her last words were that she fulfilled her promise to repay the favor by giving her life in return for Artemis.

—

I was lost in my thoughts about her plot when I heard Myra's voice that we've reached the library. I looked at Myra's face for a second and thought about whether I should protect her or not. There were

few who stayed loyal to the Blake's even after everything and she was one of them. But I pushed that thought for the future and walked ahead.

Instant dungeon -- A type of spatial dungeon that could open anytime anywhere. It would remain open for some time depending upon the mana quality. And if the mana in the surrounding ran out - it would collapse. After that if you're trapped in it , then that's the last we'll hear of you.

Shadow step -- Allows the user to temporarily enter the edge of the material realm where it touches the border of Shadow realm. While in this state, the caster can travel at high speed than they're capable of in the real world. As the proficiency increases - the speed , distance & merging into shadow's quality also increases.

Chapter 26 World Of Arcadia

When Myra's voice broke my train of thoughts we were standing in front of a door. Myra came forward and opened the doors and the sight that was before me left me shocked.

The library was a grand example of architecture, with its majestic marble columns, intricate frescoes adorning the ceiling, and the magical chandelier shining the lights on every corner of this room. There was a winding mass of bookshelves that seemed to stretch on endlessly, with thousands upon thousands of books in every imaginable language. This is what happened after the Emergence, different races - different knowledge.

It looked like a labyrinth with sprawling shelves and displays. You could easily see how someone could get lost in it for hours.

I stopped looking around and went towards a control screen and after I placed the token in - it was there to help me locate any specific book.

The control system was another invention of the magic tower. An artifact that records every single book and item placed here. Without proper identification or mana signature - you can't even touch anything.

Since I only wanted to learn about the general conditions of the world, I selected a bunch of books on history , which were published by Zenith Academy every 5 years. After I selected it soon books came out of themselves and started floating towards me. I walked towards the table and sat there and started reading. Myra who was standing still chose a normal book on mastery of shadow magic and started reading it.

—

—

(Man the internet sure would've made things a lot easier)

It had been hours since I started reading these books. The world as I read in these books is mostly the same as the novel I read on Earth. To sum it all on short notes, it's like this -

HUMANS, - Humans have been divided into 3 continents or empire what you call it - Schilla, Ardal, Neisah.

-- Schilla is where Schott royal family rules.

-- Ardal is ruled by a Senate, a committee of 5 chosen people , who are replaced every 25 years.

-- Neisah is an empire entirely made of believers of all kinds of Gods, governed by Narrator (similar to pope). He's a seer, the greatest there is. And that's why they call him narrator as he narrates what God/fate wants.

.

(His power is dangerous and maybe one which could give me answers about myself and Ria)

—

The story of the novel world mainly starts from Schilla Empire. Which is divided into 7 cities. -

The Royal Family rules the central area called Haven (the last defense - all of the other 6 cities surround it) .

-- There are 3 Dukes - who each all rule over a city.

(1) Blake Family - Damascus.

(2) Belmont Family - Narva..

(3) Grayborn Family - Thidrol.

-- 4 counts who rule our 2 cities.

(1) Sinclair & Korbil Family - Klishto.

(2) Morris & Stormswill Family - Morwil.

-- 4 Baron combined rule over a single city called Harendale.

[Barons - Oswald, Copper, Maismat, Winston]

—

OYHERRACES

Looking at the map , all different races like elves, dwarves, fairies, undead, driads, aquarace, halflings etc. Have all chosen the places they preferred and it's the same as described in the book. Elves live in a place called Elfring. Undead in the Dark Forest. Dwarves are set in Mountain Valley. Fairies are in Hyrule Forest. Driads in Woodlands. Aquarace in Atlantia. Halflings are living on the Amazon islands.

—

ORGANIZATION

To stop the constant threat of monsters and towers, there are several organizations which are responsible for certain things . These places don't discriminate between your race or origin. If you're capable - you can join them.

(1) Guild Association - Organization responsible for controlling the dungeon outbreaks and Tower clearance.

(2) Magic Tower - Organization responsible for new knowledge and research on the field of magic and nature of dungeons.

(3) World Association - Organization made by top 5 academies who are responsible for training the future generations. (The academies are all made on floating islands.)

-- Zenith Academy (Rank-1)

-- Arctic Academy

-- Sunshine Academy

-- Tristan Academy

-- Moonstone Academy

(4) Creator's Chapel - Organization responsible for controlling the hate crimes in the name of religion and maintaining the followers peaceful lives. All crimes of followers and strays are punishable by them.

-- Despite these major players there are many other private organizations and other associations who are made to secure the peace. Like - military or army of every nation.

Alchemy Association

Artisan Association

Tech Association

Business Association etc.

—

EVIL

While these organizations maintain peace there are some who want to spread chaos and disrupt the balance. Like --

(1) Evil's Seion - Followers of Dital & Demons

(2) Warzy- A terrorist organization who made profits from war and wants more to happen so they can rise up in power.

(3) Strays - People who follow the fallen Gods, who have betrayed the realm.

—

WORLD SYSTEM

Made by an unknown entity revered by every God. Everyone living on the planet Arcadia can awaken it after their body can sustain mana - usually after awakening. It can show their status, skills and power progression. It is also required to help receive the blessings of Gods. It also keeps a record of everything ever happening in the world , called the DATA. It names all achievements and titles gained by unique or new ways.

—

GODS

After the emergence, when several planes started merging into one. Gods of those places started appearing in Arcadia too. Though according to the world's system they cannot directly interfere but they can give their followers selected powers and blessings which can help them get stronger.

In return as their followers grow - they receive the power of faith from them. The more power and belief your followers have, the stronger and safer they are.

NOTE -- If a God lost all his follower and has no faith power, he is supposed to be erased by the world system. (It's a theory - not yet proven.)

—

AWAKENING

After the age of 10 to 18 people's bodies can go through a transformation, Which makes it susceptible to mana. It helps them connect with the world system. It also helps them awaken their innate ability if they have any.

INNATE ABILITY - Power people are born with. These abilities are resulted because of your bloodline or heritage. It can be inherited for generations.

—

UNAWAKENED - - The person who doesn't awaken can still train harder and learn to use aura to get stronger, but the disadvantage they have is that awakened can also learn it. So in general cases they will always be weaker than them.

-- Those who do not awaken till age of 18 can never awaken unless a God specially makes them their chosen one.

—

Chosen One - A God can give many people their blessing but they can only have one person as a chosen one. This person doesn't just receives a single power but gets the whole legacy of God.

—

POWER RANKING

According to the world's system - power levels are simply divided into the following classes .

(1) MORTAL $F < E < D < C < B < A$

(2) LIMIT = L

(3) ARCH $< S < SS < SSS$

(4) ZEPHYR = Z

.

(Each rank is further divided into - , complete, +)

—

ELEMENTS

There are 7 main elements and almost as many as possible sub-elements or complex elements.

Fire

Water

Wind

Nature

Space

Light

Darkness

....

Chapter 27 Potions And Singular Books

After learning that this world was indeed the same as the one he remembered from that novel. Rio decided to start planning about things which could help him make stronger.

After that thought the gears in his head started rolling and he started crossing out the options which he couldn't take.

' I can't learn aura yet , that would take too much time. Plus I don't think I'm ready to start running around the whole mansion or keep swinging my sword at golems for hours - too troublesome for someone lazy like me.'

' I can't learn mana before awakening.'

' There are some things that can help me get stronger - pills and potions , which are all available in the Blake Family. But there are also things issued for the protagonist by heaven itself which are even better so I should just steal them.'

' But the problem is Artemis won't allow me to leave , and I don't trust anyone here to explain everything.'

Rio looked back and saw Myra who was sitting there with her eyes closed and thought - ' if only I could convince her to help me. She's loyal and won't betray me, but the problem remains she'll tell Artemis everything.'

' Damn it, if only I had atleast one person who was loyal to me - - wait , someone who's loyal only to me.'

Rio was cursing his luck at the lack of someone whom he can trust when he suddenly thought of something and he slapped his head and thought - 'why the heck did I forget that, it might actually work.'

A smile came to his face and he felt like he found the missing link of a solution which could solve all his problems.

—

After getting out of his thoughts Rio started writing something on a paper & then without looking back threw it at Myra, which she caught without opening her eyes.

Rio waited for her to open her eyes and say something but she never did - 'Perhapes is she thinking I threw that paper as a joke to see if she's sleeping or not. Am I that childish in her eyes. I mean I know that original Rio used one of his treasures to draw circles on her face, but that was like 2 months ago.'

"Hmm hmmm" Rio cleared his throat and said - "I need the items on that list by tomorrow morning. Be sure to get them all."

It was only after hearing his voice that Myra opened her eyes and looked at the paper in her hands. There were the names of some herbs written there. At first her reaction was normal thinking Rio just wanted to test some alchemy formula he might have come across in the books until she saw the name of the last 3 herbs - Brugmansia aka The Angel's Trumpet, Asphodel aka The Soul Flower and Bezoar aka The Rusty Stone.

One of them was a deadly poison, second was a herb used for purifying souls and last was something found only in dryads forest, used to dull senses of anyone.

Myra couldn't figure out the uses even after she read the whole list again but aside from those 3 names, all the other herbs were general herbs that are used in potion making. Though slightly rare but nothing a Duke's family couldn't get.

Rio looked at her changing expressions and thought - 'though I know she'll tell Artemis but fuck it, I don't have any other option. I need that potion if I want to start my plan.'

Myra looked at Rio with questioning eyes but he just ignored it and started making his way towards the exit.

—

While reading those books Rio had decided to deal with the last traitor Chiron as well. Since Myra who's a Limit rank Assassin, is following him, it won't be hard to deal with a retired Aura Berserker.

There is something that Rio needed to get from Chiron as well. The key to get the legacy of a swordsman which protagonist uses in mid parts of the story. Though Rio didn't care for that sword art since he knew where to find a much better one, but he decided to steal it anyway, just cause he didn't want to give it to someone who's supposed to kill him.

—

Chiron who was making preparation for the dinner had a bad premonition in his heart. He felt like something very wrong was about to happen but he couldn't figure out what.

If Rio knew about this feeling he would have saluted the destiny for trying to help her minions even before the plot started but he was busy planning out the details for a smooth execution of his plan.

He had planned to deal with all traitors the moment he learned about the curse, he couldn't take the chance of someone doing it again, as it was something which wasn't mentioned in the novel.

—

After getting out of the mansion Rio started walking towards the staff's lodging - that was where all the maids and servants who worked in the mansion stayed. It was made between the mansion and soldiers barracks. It could be interpreted as Blake's being generous and having them stay where they could feel protected due to barracks near them. Or it could also be interpreted as Blake's keeping them in the middle to use as a meat shield in case the barracks failed to stop an attack.

Anyway it didn't matter to Rio. He had far too many important things to do than worrying about people's perspective on a place where they could live for free.

Myra who was still mulling over the what would I do with the poison herbs, finally couldn't stay silent anymore and said - "What're you planning to do with the herbs."

Rio looked at her and said - "I think I found a new recipe for a cleansing potion. I'll try to make one."

Myra wanted to ask something else too but then she heard, Rio continuing his words - "It was from one of the singular books in the library and I've already translated it."

What is the content or rank of the book can't be judged by anyone. It depends solely on where you found it and your luck.

-- This is also the reason why any singular book bought or acquired from someone else could either be your highest rewarding possession or your worst mistake.

-- every singular book has it's own way of translation. Some could be read as they're in any existing language of Arcadia. Some would require blood lineage to understand it. Some could just have their own will, while for some you'll have to do research for every word written.

-- It could take a single moment to a decade to never being able to translate them, it all depends on your capacity and luck.

Myra was surprised to hear Rio's words. As the family of a Duke which has been the leading figure against the towers & dungeons, it was normal for them to have many singular books which they haven't been able to translate till yet.

Being able to translate a singular book and that too about the recipe of a potion which could have miraculous effects was a big thing.

—

Rio didn't care about the results of his actions. Though he knew the effects of that potion better than anyone and how it would take over the whole market if it was made public. But he didn't have any other option, he needed to take that potion himself to get stronger and for his future plans to work , the excuse of singular book was the only thing he could come up with - he could just say he was lucky and no further explanation needed. Otherwise Artemis would never allow him to take any kind of poison willingly. Plus the fact it would make his new family rich and more influential if they decided to sell the potion helps him too.

—

Myra looked at Rio and saw that he was puffing out his chest and looking at the sky with the same expression as before like he didn't care about what he said at all. But his actions in Myra's eyes looked like that of a kid asking for praise.

Myra had seen Rio and Amelia grow up in front of her while following Artemis. She even considers them as her own family and the kids loves her too. Though she couldn't spend as much time with them as she hoped to , but she still comes and plays with them every now & then.

She wanted to smile at his actions and hug him and say she was proud but she stopped herself when she saw some servants gathering around and bowing their heads.

She took a look around and asked Rio in her serious tone- " So what're we doing here, young master."

Rio who was busy looking at the sky thinking if the fate or heaven would stop him from what he's planning to do now , took a deep breath and said - "We are here to kill the traitor who has betrayed our trust and is working for our enemies."

Chapter 28 Fallen Gods & Shawshank Redemption

Hearing Rio's voice everyone was surprised. The servants were scared cause half the staff was already put in prison last night without any warning and now the future heir of the house came here announcing killing a traitor.

Some people who've heard the rumours were scared that they might be used as scapegoats, while others were scared as they had no idea what was happening in the mansion. They all started murmuring by themselves -

"Who do you think it is"

"Are they going to arrest everyone"

"What happened to people who were picked up last night "

"Can someone tell me what's happening"

"Didn't harry say that young master was attacked yesterday"

"He's lying can't you see he's fine"

"I don't want to die, I have a little kid"

"Shut up I think you're the traitor"

"Do they have any proof, who is it"

"Why aren't any soldiers coming"

There were all kinds of chattering started and seeing the crowd gathering around and making noise, some nearby soldiers too started coming there and stood in front of the crowd. Although they didn't know what was happening, protecting the heir and keeping these servants in check was their job.

Myra who was standing near me came out of her thoughts and asked me - "Do you know what you're doing, Rio."

Rio who was looking around at the servants and trying to see if he could find anyone else who was suspicious, was surprised as he heard Myra's voice in his head.

(Telepathy, not quite what I'm used to)

Rio didn't reply and just nodded his head. After that he started walking forwards as soldiers pushed the servants to the side to clear the way for the entrance.

Myra looked around at everyone and ordered the soldiers to not let anyone in the building. After that she too started following Rio as they made their way in.

—

Rio walked straight and stood near the signboard which listed quarters position for each sector. He was looking at the list trying to find the place where Chiron's quarter was. Myra who saw him looking the list up and down shook her head and said "who are we looking for."

After hearing her voice Rio replied - "Chiron, he's the head chef."

But when he turned back to look at the board he forgot where he was and clicked his tongue.

He was starting to search from the top again when Myra pointed her finger at the board and said - "here."

Rio looked at her and saw Myra who was looking the other way trying to control her smiling expression .

' Should've told her sooner ' he thought.

—

After finding the place both of them started walking and when they walked a little further away from the gate. Myra finally asked - "So wanna tell me what's going on."

Rio knew the questions would come and started speaking - "As I said Chiron, he's a spy and we're here to catch him."

Myra listened carefully and said - "You sound like you're sure of it. Any reason why."

Rio chuckled at her words and said - "Come on, have you seen the guy, he's a berserker acting as a chef. It's like the most obvious lie."

Myra came in front of the Rio and said in a serious tone - "We've already checked his background when he started working at the mansion. And if you're doubting him just because of how he looks, then you still have much to learn about people future heir of Damascus."

At the end of her sentence her tone became a bit cold, it felt like she was feeling disappointed in Rio's childish behavior. Myra knew he was still a 10 year old , but people born in high society didn't have the

right to enjoy their childhood like others do. They need to learn about people and their behavior if they wish to take over their family's position. Otherwise they'll just get used by others and ruin everything.

Myra who was contemplating if she should report it to Artemis or give him a chance, heard Rio's voice - "Geez, When did you get so serious. You do remember that your MASTER taught me about this stuff herself right."

Myra looked at him and asked - "What do you mean."

Rio stepped aside and started walking again as he said - "It means that I already know he's a traitor. We're just here to collect the proof before arresting him directly."

Myra who heard Rio's words didn't doubt him any longer but still came behind him and slapped his head - "That's for trying to make fun of me and master."

Rio who was caught unprepared for the head pat, got pushed 2 steps ahead. He massaged his head and clicked his tongue.

' fucking weak '

This was the thought that came to his brain as he kept walking forward.

Soon enough they reached the place where quarters of chef's started and after walking a bit further they were standing in front of a door which had a sign written on- 'head chef.'

Rio looked towards Myra who pulled out a token from her ring*¹. She pressed the token on the lock panel and it opened.

--

Info -- Every door was marked with an array magic which would notify the owner immediately if someone opened the door.

- of course these are all weak level arrays and could be broken or passed through easily if you know about them

- The door can only be opened by a key/token with given permission.

- the permission's or authority of a token is given according to heirarchy. In the servants quarters the housekeeper and butlers has the permission to open and check every door.

--

After the door opened Rio walked in. The room was much smaller compared to the ones made in mansion. But it was still double of what Rio used to live in his past life.

Rio walked straight and started looking around. Myra who saw him searching for something asked him - "wanna tell me what we're looking for."

"A small black box with a symbol of mountain and moon carved on it." - Rio replied as he kept throwing stuff here & there.

(The lost kingdom - was chiron from there, he never mentioned it) Myra thought.

--

INFO -The lost kingdom previously known as 'Neoma' which means new moon, was destroyed by a wave of monsters during one of the tower outbreak 150 years ago.

-- No one was left alive from that place as even their way put was cut by a dungeon collapse.

-- It was a sad tragedy but no one mourned them as they were all Strays , followers of " Freyr - a fallen God " who advocated death as the belief.

—

If Chiron was part of the Strays then it was their job to find him and kill him before he succeeds in whatever he planned.

Myra closed her eyes for a second and after opening them started walking towards a wall.

She pulled the poster of God Apollo which was stuck there and behind it lay a big hole.

(damn, this chef pulled a shawshank redemption in Arcadia) Thought Rio when he saw a hole hidden by a poster.

Rio walked towards the wall and took out the box from there. Myra who saw the symbol on top of the box didn't doubt anything and was now ready to go and capture this chef.

But just then they heard the sound of a wall crashing in front of them, Myra pulled Rio to the side and protected him from the falling debris. When the dust and smoke finally cleared they saw a big muscular giant like man standing in front of them with his veins bulging in a blue hue as white smoke was coming out from his body.

When Rio saw all this instead of getting scared a smile came on his face as he thought - 'So the sheep came directly in the slaughter house.'

*1 - Storage Rings -- Artifact made by the concept of space element. Can be used to store any and all non-living things depending on the size & quality of the ring.

Chapter 29 Battle Between The Chef & A Shadow

Some time ago Chiron who was still working in the kitchen started feeling uneasy. He tried to calm this feeling but couldn't find what was wrong. Chiron already disturbed by his senses left everything to his supporters and went out to take a breather.

He was walking around when he saw some crowd gathered in front of their lodging building and decided to take a look.

When he reached there he heard some people talking about how the young master and miss Myra went in to catch some traitors. Hearing this, the uneasy feeling in his heart grew stronger.

Chiron started walking forward, hoping to go in but the guards who saw him coming, stopped him before he could go any further.

"Stop. You can't go in now. Just stand over there."

The servants who saw it started murmuring together -

"Hey did you see, he was trying to enter the house."

"Do you think it's him."

"Of course haven't you seen the young master take the right turn, that's where the chefs live. It's definitely him. "

"Yeah I think so too. I always knew something was wrong with this guy. Just look at his body, he's a big monster, how can he be a chef."

"He must have used this as an excuse to sneak into the mansion."

The people who were talking around themselves fueled the flame and Chiron was getting more nervous now.

The soldiers who heard everything didn't believe it, but they also decided to be alert in case this guy tried to force his way in.

Chiron tried to calm himself down and thought maybe he was overreacting and turned back to leave.

He had heard some rumors about the curse placed on the young master but the thought that they would suspect him never crossed his mind.

It was then that Chiron remembered something that he had hidden from the Blake family, and the chance that they might find something, left him feeling scared.

After thinking for a minute knowing that he won't survive if he was caught by the Blake Family, Chiron decided to leave and run away. But then he remembered something - -

The Box that he's been keeping hidden, the last sign of his past. The treasure which was passed down for generations in his family and something that his family died while protecting.

Chiron was still young when the disaster hit his hometown and his father sacrificed his life just so he could run away.

Chiron had tried to open the box several times but was never successful, he tried to break it but even with all his strength he couldn't even make a dent. It was protected by an array , powerful enough to take his full power attack and not show a sign. As time passed chiron's curiosity died and he decided to leave it to fate.

—

Chiron who had decided to run away, halted in his steps when he remembered, his father's face from years ago when he gave him the box, he still remembered his last words - "It's our legacy Chiron. No matter what happens, you have to keep it safe. For the future."

Chiron couldn't take one more step. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath - he had to make a choice, and when he opened his eyes again his muscular body which looked relaxed till now had veins bulging out and his skin which was turning a little blueish now.

The servants who saw it started running away while shouting - "traitor" or "monster"..

The soldiers readied their weapon and without wasting any more time started attacking Chiron. Though the soldiers were trained and organized but they were no match for someone like Chiron who had lived all his life roaming in the wasteland of his kingdom or acting as an adventurer before retiring and settling down as a chef.

—

Chiron started fighting with the soldiers. As an aura berserker*ขุน who focused mainly on his physical prowess he could easily overpower them. But instead of killing his opponents he was knocking them unconscious.

He was planning to rush into the building after finishing the fight with the soldiers but then suddenly the token in his pocket started vibrating, with a shaking hand he took it and saw that it was now glowing in red which meant that someone had entered his room.

He knew he didn't have much time. It won't be long before those servants notified someone or someone much high ranked would come after seeing the ruckus.

He looked around and saw the few soldiers trying to get up and stop him but before they could move, with a burst of aura surrounding his body Chiron enhanced his speed and ran inside the building.

The walls and the little arrays that were placed on the building were getting broken with his every step.

Soon he was in the hallway and without wasting any more time he pushed through the last wall.

He was looking around hoping to get the box before whoever it was in the room gets a chance to see what's happening but then he saw a black silhouette who waved her hand and with a blast of wind it cleared all the debris falling around.

Chiron who was looking around, now found himself standing in front of Myra, a genius who reached A rank in just 10 years since her awakening. And the future heir of Blake's holding the very box he tried so hard to protect.

Chiron had decided to come in thinking he could take on Myra who was an A ranked awakened but seeing her spell, he learned 2 things first how wrong he was and second she wasn't an A rank at all. Watching them only one thought came to his mind - 'shit'.

It was at that moment that he knew - that he fucked up.

—

Myra pushed Rio behind her and stood still, her eyes focused on Chiron who standing before her. From what she saw she could tell that Chiron was a formidable opponent, his body pulsing with an intense blue aura that seemed to radiate power and strength. But Myra who was trained by Artemis since childhood wasn't intimidated.

It was the opposite she was feeling ecstatic, her power hungry side or the maniac personality who always wanted to fight those who are stronger and grow was showing itself.

She took a deep breath and began to move, her hands flashing with quick, precise movements as she started casting spells that can weaken her opponent.

"shadow zone"

"shadow step"

"shadow chains"

Chiron roared in anger while dodging the black chains that started growing from the floor and charged forward, his feet slamming into the ground with tremendous force. His hands moved as he tried punching her, while Myra expertly dodged and weaved, her body moving with fluid grace as she avoided his attacks.

She waved her hand as a dark blade went towards Chiron who just coated his arm in aura and punched through it.

Chiron continued to charge forward, his body glowing with an intense aura that seemed to grow stronger with each passing moment. From the bluish hue at the beginning to now visible red - it was showing how Chiron went all out in this fight to end it early.

As Myra approached Chiron, she could feel the ground shake beneath her feet with each step he took. He towered over her, his muscles bulging as he brandished his massive arms in aura.

Without hesitation, Chiron charged towards her with a roar, swinging his hand in a slapping motion. Myra quickly dodged to the side, narrowly avoiding the attack.

She retaliated with a swift kick to his side, but it barely seemed to faze him as if he didn't even feel that. Chiron continued to attack relentlessly, his swings becoming more and more frenzied.

But Myra was not deterred. She continued to cast spells, trying to trap Chiron making sure he wastes as much of his aura dodging her attacks, giving him less time to attack, planning on draining his strength.

—

Rio who was watching all this in front of him was covered in shell armor, which surrounded him whole. From what he saw in the darkness, It was a defensive artifact his grandfather had given him last year. It could even withstand some attacks of a S rank awakened. So he didn't need to worry about anything. He just continued to observe the fight.

—

The fight had been intense, with Chiron using his brute strength to try and overpower Myra. But she was too quick for him, her thin athletic body provided her great agility. She was dodging his attacks by mixing in the shadows and striking back with deadly precision.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity of fighting to Rio, Chiron began to falter. His movements became slow and sluggish, and his aura began to fade. Myra saw her opportunity and struck, sending a final blast of mana towards Chiron that sent him crashing to the wall.

Chiron lay still, defeated. Myra stood over him, her eyes cold and calculating as she surveyed her handiwork.

She had won the fight, but at what cost? For even as she stood victorious, she knew that the battle had taken its toll on her as well.

She had wasted too much mana on spells which did nothing to Chiron.

After all, Myra was only allowed to fight either monsters or Artemis while using her full power, so she could keep her real rank hidden as a surprise card from others. One of them was mindless while the other was too smart. Artemis would always defeat her easily and beat her senseless - so she lacked the normal head on battle experience, especially against someone who used aura to such an expert degree.

'I still have much to learn' - She thought.

But that was a problem for another day. For now, she would savor her victory and revel in the power of her art, as a smile came to her face.

Chapter 30 Extra Character & Destiny's Plan

Myra looked at Chiron who was lying unconscious, pulled the bracelet from her left hand and threw it at him. The black bracelet chain grew in size and started binding Chiron.

It was a chain type artifact which could be used as a lasso for weapon or a chain kind which can bind enemies. Though it didn't look any different from any normal bracelet , it could be used to catch enemies by surprise. The artifact's power depends on mana stored within it.

—

Myra then turned around and looked towards Rio who had now stopped using the defensive artifact too.

A defensive artifact which can protect the wearer 2 times with the mana stored within. It forms a shield around the wearer and is able to stop the attacks both physical & magical.

—

Myra walked ahead as Rio followed her, Chiron was floating behind her. When they walked out they saw the soldiers who were now surrounding the whole building and in the sky above a few people were floating. It was cause of them that no one came inside to interrupt the fight.

One of the people came down and bowed to Rio. Rio nodded his head and tried to remember if he was someone from the plot.

The man who looked to be around his mid 20's from Rio's perspective. (You can never tell someone's age from their looks in Arcadia. As with some artifacts or potions or high rank - people can change their appearance however they wish.) He had short black hair and a pair of glasses on his blue eyes. He gave the vibe of a scholar or a salesman to Rio, who still couldn't remember any important character in the book looking like that.

The man then looked at Chiron and then towards Myra and said - "You took too much time shadow."

"Asher, I see your habit of standing on the sidelines hasn't changed a bit." - Myra said.

Asher smiled and replied - "I just thought the talented genius would be enough to handle an old guy. But I guess you're still too young considering all the time you wasted showing off your moves."

Myra just clicked her tongue and started walking away.

Hearing their conversation Rio remembered the plot and finally figured out who he was.

son of Frigna Vridal.

Vridal's have been serving under the Raven family for generations. And Asher is their sole successor. Instead of taking over the business that was already thriving, he chose to make a name for himself. That's why he decided to follow Artemis when she wanted to open the Genesis.

A business organization set up by Artemis Raven. Its main focus was on mana stones, mana crystals mines, artifacts and rewards found in dungeons or towers.

- Working alongside the Shade guild and the Raven family's network, Genesis soon became one of the most profitable organizations in the Schilla empire. Further increasing the overall influence of the Blake family.)

—

Asher and his team are a group of people called chosen by Artemis to manage Genesis. Any issues that arises in the business field or with other competitors, they were the ones to settle it.

Alphas were people who'll act in the light of day while silent reapers are responsible for all the dirty work in the shadows.

That's why Asher and Myra who are the new successors of both groups always had a friendly rivalry of sorts.'

—

Myra took Chiron away to the prison and Alphas were left to deal with the aftermath.

[usually they wouldn't be here at the mansion but stay at Genesis headquarters. But after Rio's curse Artemis called them back. They were the ones who put all the staff and others in prison last night on her orders.]

Asher came towards Rio and said - "I'm glad to see you're doing fine. Young master."

Rio nodded his hand and replied - "It was no problem Asher. How are you and your group."

"We're all fine young master. Even better." Asher said in an enthusiastic tone.

Rio looked at his confidant face and said -"Ohh what makes you so cheery all of a sudden. Even after you lost to Myra on your last duel I heard."

Asher nervously smiled and said - "That's only because I didn't have time to train and prepare for it, otherwise I would've beaten her easily."

"So what were you guys so busy with. Any new project." - Rio asked in a curious tone as he couldn't remember anything from the plot that happened around this time.

Asher smiled and said - "We have found a perfect crystal mine in Maxville zone. In the coming auction we'll sign the contract as well."

Rio who heard his voice remembered something from the plot and couldn't help himself from chuckling.

Asher looked at him with a confused expression but said nothing as he didn't wanted to disrespect the heir. He thought Rio didn't know much about the mines or business and just let it be.

Rio who looked at this naive guy lost in his thoughts said - "Foolish".

Asher who heard Rio's voice was surprised but then asked - "What do you mean young master."

"Well I just read in a book that the more purer mana in a place is, the more chances of an dungeon forming there. Or am I wrong."

Asher who heard his voice said - "That is true young master. But we can always predict it with the mana movements in the surrounding and if by any chance an instant dungeon forms, we can always transport everyone while Shade guild members deal with the dungeon. So there's no problem with us buying it. "

Rio listened carefully while nodding his head and said - "True. now tell me is that the only place you have in mind for the auction."

Asher said - "Yes. There are no other suitable mines that are of the same quality as this one. It can even give us more control in mana gems and crystal markets."

"You're right at what you said Asher, but you're forgetting the most important thing." said Rio.

Asher made a confused expression and continued listening, curious about what Rio was saying.

"We still don't know everything about dungeons Asher. Who knows what will happen in the future. It's always good to have a safe backup prepared, even if that doesn't bring us profit."

After saying this Rio started walking away, while Asher just stood there lost in thoughts trying to understand what Rio meant.

—

As Rio walked he remembered the plot. In the original book the Maxville mines which Asher bought at an outrageous price at the auction brought many profits to Genesis for a few years.

But as anyone could guess from the villain family's luck, it was all a plot of author to ruin Blake's further.

Since the mines were practically oozing with profits, Genesis poured too much resources into it. Which was a big mistake on Asher's part.

3 years from the start of plot, those mines became the first place where phase 2 of Emergence started.

that was what author named that chapter.

That incident not only pushed Genesis into bankruptcy, it also further fueled the theories and proficiencies of everyone to go against Rio and the Blake family.

Asher couldn't take the blame and the effect it had on his character was massive.

Rio couldn't recognize him before cause he wasn't important enough in the original plot. An extra mentioned far and few between some chapters, but never enough to get readers attached to him.

—

But now since Rio had given him enough hints, Asher will be able to see his shortcomings way before anything ever happens.

'I wonder what surprises this extra will bring me.'

Rio thought with a smile on his face as even he couldn't imagine what effects this one little action that he did on a whim will change the grand plans of both destiny and of Gods.

Crystals formed by pure Mana. Used in making artifacts and enhancement of weapons. Can be absorbed to increase Mana. much expensive - bought by nobles or guilds.

Mana trapped within stones/ores. Impure & cheap. Used by commoners or poor people. lesser version of Mana crystals. Long use can cause damage to body or results in rank drop.