

LOA Nobody 211

Chapter 211 The Devil Who Is Now An Angel

Angel became a trademark in the potion industry easily, due to all the potions it released. All of them were high grade potions which showed miraculous effects on everyone. No matter their race or origin.

With the growing reputation of the company, Rio, who was the sole owner of it, also became famous.

When he joined the academy and the world learned of his academic achievements and talent, they were all spread to every corner too.

It didn't take long for the term 'Angel' which was just symbolic to a potion business company, to be attached with his own image.

The Devil who was destined to die, became known as their Angel.

That is what Rio wanted.

How dangerous the effect of the public belief, and normal image in the eyes of commoners could be, Rio knew all too well.

After all, he had seen all too many celebrities and famous people getting their lives ruined due to bad publicity and anger from common people on earth. Getting canceled or boycotted - that was the trend and fear of the modern world.

Even forgetting about the earth, he knew the effect some wrong rumors or stupid prophecies could cause in Arcadia.

Wasn't the original Rio doomed due to him being labeled as the mass murderer and incarnation of Devil.

Wasn't the rich and powerful Blake family cornered and surrounded by everyone due to the image of criminals they received.

Rio had no intention of repeating that cycle. He killed Noah to avoid all that fate, and this company and the name, was his second route.

He wanted to make his and his family's image so good and positive on the surface, that no one would dare believe any other stupid rumors.

If any day, due to some stupid fate or 's setting, the plot of some other Noah popping up and declaring a prophecy happened, he wouldn't even need to worry about fighting them, as he'd have his own support group to surround them and boycott them.

Fighting public opinion with public opinion.

He didn't have the habit of a hero who liked being called a savior, but still the title of Angel sounded much better than the Devil.

Even the system approved of his idea and gave him 50000 points for that change in image and title after it came online.

Since Rio himself didn't know anything about business management or had any other talent for negotiations or marketing, he could do nothing about his business and give it to other people.

After all, he was too lazy back on earth and learned nothing. Hell he preferred online shopping, so he wouldn't have to go through several shops and bargain like idiots. If he didn't like it, he'd just return it after enjoying the 7 day refund period. For stuff he couldn't find online, he'd pay whatever price the shopkeeper asked many times, cause he didn't like the hassle of it. Saving 50 rupees after arguing for 15 minutes was simply a waste of time and energy in his eyes.

Mostly it was because he didn't have family or anyone else who depended on him for money, so he just spent whatever he earned on whatever he wanted. If he lost all his money, he'd just go to Nashi's clubs to fight, or help Ali with his games and Aarvi.

So Shiva was basically just a newb at everything business related.

That's why Rio did what every other transmigrated or reincarnated villain does. Find the loyal supporters of his own villain camp, and idiot supporters and vases of the protagonist - and have them both work for him.

Since the world of Arcadia was the type to follow the law of strength, every side heroine and important character who wasn't a good fighter or helper to Leon, was just a vase in the author's eyes. Which were

So Rio just used his family's connection and 's knowledge, to find all these vases and give them a job.

Those from the villain camp were suppressed, fooled or forced and then given a candy named profit. Those from the protagonist camp were happy to join the company which was righteous and working to profit the world and all that bullshit.

So many capable characters working under one roof. When all these people worked together to improve the image of their company, how hard could it be?

That's why even after Rio's supposed death in the dungeon, Artemis didn't shut down the company or transfer it back to their family name. She handled it from the backseats just like before in Rio's name.

She believed he was alive and he'd come back one day. So there was no need for her to take back a gift she had already given out.

In the two years he was gone, their company didn't release any new products at the beginning. As all the previous things were given out and improved after Rio's approval.

Many people believed Artemis would shut off the company or they wouldn't get any more new products.

It was only after Ayla mastered the potions and recipes Rio had given her before as a gift, that Angel started working again.

Artemis knew about Ayla and trusted her. She also knew about the recipes Rio had given her as a gift, so when Ayla learned everything, she agreed to mass produce those potions and release them publicly.

—

"Can I talk to you for a moment?"

Ayla and Rio were talking and walking towards the form, when they stopped as they heard a voice from behind. Glancing around Rio noticed Katherine standing there with that same high strung cold expression.

Rio frowned upon seeing that look.

It wasn't because he didn't like her, or that he cared enough about her to make her smile, or warm her up and win her heart - any of that usual cliché bullshit didn't even come to his mind.

He just didn't like that expression. Like why're you always looking exactly like that. Doesn't your face hurt always being so broody and groody, like fucking Sasuke from that anime Naruto.

"I just have a small request." Seeing him silent, Katherine continued without any change in expression.

'What the hell? You're requesting something. Asking for help, and you're showing me THAT expression.'

Why're you glaring at me? Do I owe you money? Or did I kill your family?

[Well technically you did kill someone from her family.]

'Fuck off, system'

Rio said, shutting up this system, who just likes to watch drama and comments all day.

[She's just sad and lonely - that was her character setting even in the . And now with the death of Noah, it's obviously gotten worse.]

'You know what Noah had in store for his sister's future. It's good that he's dead. Atleast she won't have to sell herself to the protagonist, or let Noah push her on a platter to protagonist.' Rio said remembering about all the events which Noah knew but let it happen so Katherine can get close to Leon and he can survive when the Devil really destroys the world.

[She doesn't know that. She just lost her last family member who was innocent in her eyes. With the members of Winston family she grew up with, it's no wonder she's like that.]

'Whatever the reason is, It's like talking to a robot.' Rio said to the system, after waving goodbye to Ayla. And started walking towards Katherine.

'I don't like that cold look.' Rio thought, as he looked at Katherine up close. And it annoyed him even more. He didn't know why, but he just didn't like that look on her face.

Maybe it was because he read too many cold beauty president type s and was already way over this trope. And was getting disgusted by it.

Or maybe it was because...

[Because you've heard about her personality through my voice, and in that, she always looked cheerful and happy.]

"Or that." Rio said, as he heard the system's reply. Even though he didn't remember anything about Katherine or Kajal from his earth life, he had heard from the system about who she was and how she behaved.

Thinking one of his best friend was being a bitch now - maybe that's what was annoying him.

(Yupp, totally not a subconscious action, that just wants to give her a little happiness this time.) System thought as it read Rio's thoughts and shook its head.

[Why don't you befriend her? Teach her about love and friendship.]

'Urghh' Rio made a disgusted expression hearing that cliché tone. 'I have no interest in getting her on my side. If anything, I wouldn't mind dropping her dead if she turns out to be like Lisa.'

Chapter 212 Shura Field

"So what do you want?" Rio said, as he shrugged off his thoughts for the time being. Katherine's character setting was like this, even in the , so he couldn't change it now, just cause he didn't like the look she gave him.

Even Leon had a hard time going through her defenses and melting that iceberg heart, let alone him, who just met her twice till now.

"I want to train." Katherine said resolutely.

"Okay, that's good." Rio said confused about what it had to with him. If you wanna go train then go train. What ya doing here, wasting his time.

"No, I mean I want to train with you. After the spar I know your fighting abilities are way better than mine, so can you help me." Katherine tried to explain herself seeing that he misunderstood before.

Rio thought for a second after hearing her request, but then he shook his head and replied "I'm sorry, but I can't help you."

"Transformation magic is still okay, and I can teach you that. But I usually like to train alone, I prefer it that way." Rio finished his words.

Katherine, who already expected this answer, didn't try to persuade him much and nodded her head, though feeling a little disappointed.

"It's okay. Thank you for the time." Katherine said, and decided to leave.

Looking at her leaving back, with half bent shoulders, Rio thought for a moment and then shouted behind her, just loud enough so she could hear him "I can't train you, but I can give you some pointers if you want."

Katherine turned around and even though her face still had that dumb cold expression, her black eyes were shining a bit. Clearly happy with what she heard. "Sure."

"Your attacks are good. Deadly, decisive and cruel. But they lack the most important thing - they aren't creative. You follow rules and techniques to a T, and I could read them like an open book. I wouldn't even need to look at you, to see what your next move would be. It's too easy, too predictable. So try being a little creative in your attacks." Rio finished his advice, pointing out the fault he noticed.

Maybe it was because of him daily beating up zombies of different kinds in that dungeon. They always followed same kind of attack patterns. It's always swing, slash, grab and bite - he had seen all those patterns too much by too many of them, and after battling them for so long his observation while fighting was much higher compared to others his age.

Same was the case for Katherine's fighting style. She followed techniques and battle patterns passed down to her by a T, every sword move or spell use she does - it always followed the rules written in books or taught in theory classes. It looks good and pleasing to the eyes from the outside, but in a real battle, against someone who has experience, this kind of shitshow is just a ticket to hell, waiting to be punched out.

Katherine, who was happy at first hearing he'd help, but after hearing his suggestion she furrowed her brows and started thinking back on her moves.

"You can add feints, learn other techniques that gives you more freedom in your attacks, or better, create a fighting style for yourself which suits you." Rio finished his words in a nonchalant way.

Katherine feeling a little annoyed with herself, said "Not everyone's a genius who can create their own sword styles easily." She pointed out about how Rio who made his own sword style suitable for him when he first joined the academy. "Creating a new technique takes time and practice, and years of experience and understanding."

Rio smiled and started explaining "Then don't. Who said I created something new? I just added, removed, upgraded and perfected the things that I liked and suited me. They weren't from a single technique, it was all chosen from several techniques. Whatever flaw I found in myself, I just learned a new art which complimented that part, and then when I understood that point, I just merged that into my own style and created something new."

"How much time did that take? No, wait, how many techniques did you had to master to create your own art?" Katherine asked, a little surprised by what he said.

"4 years and 6 separate techniques." Rio said shaking his head. Like he was disappointed in himself with that result.

And it was true too. He didn't do anything extraordinary or unique. He just did what the Rio in did too. He already had an understanding of what he wanted and what suited his body the most. So the groundwork for him was already there, he just needed to follow the pattern himself.

Yet since the original Rio in the , learned and created his own technique, because of the threat on his life due to constant attacks from the followers of Cassandra, and assassins from other Noble and Elite families, who wanted Blake family to suffer a loss – he on the other hand, just tried to learn and recreate that technique at the comfort of his home, so he wouldn't have to go through all that pain and progress.

Though the threat of followers from Cassandra's church was dealt with the death of Noah, but there was no way to be sure that other families who were plotting against Blake family wouldn't come after him, the future heir and Nyx's follower.

It was better to be safe than sorry.

While Rio was busy in his stupid monologue (cause the author had to explain some shit) Katherine was surprised hearing his words and started thinking in her head.

The fact that Rio created his own technique was known during the first year tournament of the academy two years ago. He was only 16 years old at that time. So the 4 years it took to create that technique, doesn't that mean he started learning and making his own fighting style when he was still around 10 or 11 years old.

-hiss- Katherine took a breath of cold air as she tried to suppress the shock.

'He really is a monster.' She thought.

She didn't think he was lying to her, or just trying to show off, because there was no need for him to do that in her eyes.

What did he like me and was trying to impress me - come on, he's someone who's supposed to be engaged with the princess. Isn't she more pretty and talented than herself.

"Thanks for the advice, I'll see what I can do." Katherine said, hoping to end this conversation, lest this guy says something else and she loses her confidence after comparing herself with him.

"You should also learn to use your element and aura better. Ice can be a very good offense and defense. And aura can help you, if you're stuck in a situation where you can't use mana." Rio said again in a hurry, before she left, as he remembered the big event at the first semester exams, and the chance of Katherine almost getting killed.

"I'll remember that." Katherine said and nodded her head. "Thanks for the help."

After saying goodbye to Rio, Katherine turned around and started moving towards her dorms. Rio kept looking at her leaving back and kept thinking about the plot and her role in it. While clearing the details for the exchange he will propose to her. After all, his help isn't for free just cause she's a heroine.

[Stop staring at her ass.]

-cough cough- Rio who had just started walking, almost stumbled and fell down, when he heard this bastard system's snarky remark. He was so angry that he directly muted the system, instead of replying or explaining himself.

'This robotic bitch can read my mind, and yet it still makes jokes like that.' You deserve to be muted you dumb AI.

Rio cursed the system and turned back to walk towards his room, when he bumped into someone on the very first step. He subconsciously moved his hand and held the shoulders of the one he collided with, to stabilize himself.

Once that was done, and he looked up towards that someone's face, and he instantly got surprised. He removed his hands from her shoulders and backed a step away from her.

Saisha was standing there with hands crossing over her chest, with a serious expression. She looked at his flustered face, like he didn't expect to see her here, and the way he backed away, like he just wanted to avoid her like a plague.

"I'm sorry. It was my bad." Rio said and turned to leave. Only until he heard Saisha's voice behind him

"Stop" Saisha said, as she looked at his face, that just oozed that eerily familiar feeling that she couldn't remember from anywhere. She wanted to ask him about that, but after seeing him chatting with that other girl for so long, she forgot about that and unconsciously spoke up "What were you talking with that girl?"

"..." Rio, who was still surprised to see her, and was trying to rein in his emotions that just started crashing around his brain, got stupified hearing her question. And a black line formed over his forehead.

'Why does scene feels so familiar?' He thought, seeing Saisha glaring at him and then at the way Katherine left.

System, who was feeling down and silently cursing the host for muting it for speaking the truth. Suddenly came back in high spirits, as it smelled a new drama happening outside.

(Is the legendary shura field battle about to start this early?) System thought, and brought out popcorns from Rio's inventory to eat and watch drama.

There's no need to ask why Rio had popcorns in his inventory. After all, there's so much drama in plot, and he gets to see it firsthand live, so he needs some extra chips to enjoy it.

He even had a few eggs and tomatoes to throw at someone if chance ever permits.

Chapter 213 Their first meeting

Saisha Ellsworth, the princess of Elfring, the kingdom of elves. The next ruler of the great forest, nature's daughter, Gaia's chosen - a person born in such a good family and conditions that half the Arcadia would envy her. She's been the pride of her entire race from the day she was born.

They say that when she was born the whole great forest had received the blessing of the World Tree. The dried up trees came to life again, the flowers started to bloom and even the withered leaves and worthless grass had turned into spiritual herbs that blessed the kingdom.

The day she awakened 10 years ago, the primordial goddess of nature Gaia herself had come to give her the blessing and choose her as an avatar of hers.

Over the years, the love, respect and the care she received in her kingdom had only increased, and never had she felt so lost as she's been feeling these past few days.

All her life whatever she needed, whatever she wanted -all of it would be presented in front of her without a question. Yet in the past few days, none of them could answer her questions or clear her restless mind.

Who was he? Why was he looking at her like that? Why did he gave her that familiar feeling if they never met, and if they had met before then why couldn't she just remember anything - the questions had been eating at her mind, making her restless ever since that incident in the library.

She tried to forget about it, calling it nonsense and ignoring everything. Telling herself that he must've mistaken her for someone else and that they didn't know each other - yet every time she closed her eyes the sad look of that white haired boy would come to haunt her.

The nature and peaceful environment that used to give her calmness weren't working anymore, as if all her blessings and skills had lost their effects when it came to that boy.

She had investigated him, his entire life and whole family - yet she didn't find anything that could connect her with him.

She even thought that this was some new trick of making her curious about him and then impress her - yet she herself didn't believe that bullshit. Even her roommate in the dorms was nothing but praise for that boy, and all she heard were good things about him.

Finally thinking that she couldn't ignore those feelings until she got her answers, she decided to come and meet him. To ask him face to face about who he was or who he thought she was.

'Maybe after that, all this restlessness would be over. And I can focus on my training again. Rio Blake - who are you?' Saisha thought, as she moved towards the dorm building.

Yet when she was about to enter the dorms she saw a scene that made her halt in her steps and stop.

She saw the boy she was planning to meet talking and chatting happily with another girl. This was the second time she had seen him, and unlike her who seemed restless over that incident, he seemed perfectly normal.

'Was it just my misunderstanding and he really mistook me for someone else.' Saisha thought. 'After all, knowing what happened to him it's normal for him to be a little out of touch with reality.' She thought as she remembered about the reports she received about him being trapped and declared dead in a dungeon. A trace of pity and sympathy waved over her face, but after realizing it, she shook her head again and said - 'But shouldn't he at least come and say sorry if he caused that much of a drama through his own mistake last time. Jaesin is still absent from the classes, and he, who is responsible for it, is just acting like nothing happened.'

Saisha watched as the girl with a cold look and detached expression said goodbye to him and left. She wanted to move forward and go and talk with him, when she just saw him staring at that girl's back.

Saisha frowned at him and just kept staring at him coldly. Until he finally turned back to face her, and bumped into her.

"Ouch"

She said as he held her shoulders and nearly pushed her back too. She wanted to shout at him, yet feeling the heat from the touch of his hands and looking at his face, she couldn't find the words, and kept staring at him.

Rio, who was cursing his system, and was lost in thoughts about what to do with Katherine, didn't expect to see Saisha there. It took a moment, but he pulled his hands away from her and backed away.

'What is she doing here, doesn't she have a class by now?' Rio thought. He had inquired about the schedule of class A-1, which wasn't hard at all. And according to that, all of the students were still supposed to be in the class of another professor.

"I'm sorry, it was my fault." He said and turned around to leave. He wanted to avoid seeing her, lest it bring all his bad memories and stupid nightmares to him again. Even if it didn't, he didn't want to see her until he had some control over himself.

"Stop" He had just taken one step when Saisha's voice came from behind him. Knowing there was no other choice he turned back again, but avoided looking at her. "Yes," He said.

"What were you talking about with that girl?" Saisha asked, looking closely at Rio's reaction which became surprised and confused.

"What?" He asked subconsciously.

Saisha too came out of her thoughts and asked again, "I meant about that day in the library, what girl were you talking about? You called me something else right, Shw_"

"I just mistook you for someone else. As you looked a little similar to someone I knew back in the past." Rio said, interrupting her and finishing the topic, once and for all. "I just lost my edge over that, since it's been a long time since I saw her."

"So it was just a mistake." Saisha muttered slowly, her face showing a relaxed look, like she finally got the answer she was looking for. But then a curiosity started to rise about the girl who looked like her so she asked "Can you tell me about her? Who was she?"

"That's personal, and not necessary. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave." Rio looked at her curious face and replied immediately.

"My guard, Jaesin, he's still in the infirmary. Due to what happened that day, you should go and meet him too at least." Saisha said as she saw he was about to leave again.

"I think he'd prefer to be away from me for now. But don't worry, he'll be fine in a few more days." Rio said and entered the dorms without looking back, leaving behind Saisha, who was about to ask something else.

'What's the rush for running away, like you just need to avoid me. Seriously' she thought and walked on the opposite end towards the girls dorm building.

Rio, who started walking towards his room, unmuted the system, hoping to confirm something. But before he could ask his doubts, system spoke up.

[You're really dumb when it comes to girls aren't you? How in the hell did you manage to fool her to fall for you last time.]

Hearing that remark a black line formed over his forehead and he just decided to mute the system again. This time permanently.

[Ohh wait, wait, wait]

[It was my fault.] System said in a hurry as it saw Rio trying to mute it again.

(did I say that out loud?) System thought as it realized, it spoke up its thoughts without filtering them. Because he suddenly unmuted it and the system didn't notice. Cause it was busy thinking about the drama.

[You were going to ask something right, why don't you ask and I'll answer. There's no need to mute me over a mishap right.] System said in its pleading mechanical tone, with few sad looking weird emojis floating on his screen.

'Dumb AI' Rio cursed and ignored it.

"Did you notice?" He asked seriously.

Seeing him being serious, system too removed everything and acted serious and read his mind to see what he was talking about.

"She's different." Rio said, as he saw that system didn't answer yet.

[Yes. A little maybe.] System said, nodding its head.

"Do you think it's because of their two different personalities? Both of these girls had the opposite kinds of habits and way of thinking." Rio said, remembering the short exchange of words he had with Saisha.

Saisha's way of speaking, her questions and thinking, nothing seemed to be similar to the Shweta he knew. If anything, these were the traits of Saisha, the character written in the .

The girl who got too curious about the mysterious boy, wants to hang out with him, learn everything about him, pester him for awhile and in the end fall for him - this was the stupid routine written by the author, designed to happen between the protagonist Leon and Saisha.

And the current Saisha seemed way too similar to someone who'd follow this routine.

If it was Shweta, she'd completely ignore this kind of thing and forget about it. She didn't care about some stupid boy's mistake to let it haunt her mind.

[Maybe it's like you said, Shweta and Saisha are two very different personalities, so something like this could happen, but that's only possible if they merged two different souls and memories like you did with the original Rio's.]

[Saisha was born here, and she doesn't have any memories of you. So maybe you're overthinking it.]

'I hope so.' Rio said and closed his eyes to calm down his thoughts..

"I really want to beat someone, so I can vent my stress." He said, as these past few days had been getting him a headache, because of all these girls that are popping up from his past.

-Ding-. Rio, who was about to sleep to relax his mind, opened his eyes as he received a message on his private phone.

-New message -

-Boss, there's a problem with the plan. Call me, when you're free.--

Rio read the message and a smile came to his face reading that,he typed a reply and closed his eyes to sleep with that smile still on his face.

"I'll meet you tomorrow. And handle it myself."

(Who's so unlucky this time.) System thought, while praying for the soul of the stupid character who'll become it's hosts venting point this time.

Chapter 214 The First Holiday

The classes for first years worked 6 days a week and the weekend was a holiday for everyone. At Least until the first semester ends.

The weekend was a time for the students to rest, relax and research - to do whatever one wanted. You could train all day, or visit the library to check out the books and self study, or you can just sleep in your room until the next day.

Since the students were still new at the academy, and didn't know many people, most of them chose to remain at the academy and just visit all kinds of facilities or see the scenery here and there.

Some who were already friends made groups, and made plans to visit the city outside and enjoy everything the Laurelia Sanctum had to offer. The entertainment, food, games or tourist places - students made plans to go out and enjoy according to their own wishes.

Well as you can guess, most of them chose to go out and enjoy themselves, instead of staying inside.

Yet there was one boy who was too dedicated to his future.

"I'm telling you, I won't go." Rio said in a serious tone, resolutely refusing Amelia, who was planning to visit all the famous restaurants in the city and empty their kitchens.

Currently he was in his room and Amelia just used one of her protection artifacts to call him and inform him.

"I'm not asking you, come on, we only got one day." Amelia said in a pleading tone, as her eyes narrowed and got covered by water.

"Stop acting." Rio said, as he slapped her head when he saw her trying to bring out tears forcefully. "Rebecca, Ayla and Rubina - aren't those 3 free too. Just go with them."

"Leave it Amy. This guy probably just wants to laze around and sleep all day." Rebecca said, as she came into the room and heard the discussion between the two.

"No, I'm not." Rio said as he defended himself. And added "Unlike you freeloaders, some of us have work to do. I'm planning to visit my company and see their progress."

"You're going to Angel, why?" Amelia asked.

"What do you mean why? That's my company, I haven't been there for 2 years. Now that I'm back and have some free time, I should just go and see what they all did while I wasn't around." Rio said, informing them about his plan.

"Mother handled everything about Angel all this time, so there's no need for you to go there." Amelia asked again, only to be refused again.

"No means no Amy. I'll join you girls in the evening if I get free first." Rio said and cut the call by severing the mana into the artifact.

Once that was done, he just lay in his bed again to sleep. He didn't lie to them, he really was planning to go to his company, but there was no need to go there so early in the morning right. He could just sleep for a little and then go there after he woke up again.

[You really do just want to sleep huh.] System said, disturbing its host.

"Fuck off. No one asked you. Anyway, what kind of boss goes to his company on time? It's natural." Rio said, pulling the quilt over his head and closing his eyes. "Now disturb me Or I'll mute you again."

[I'll remind you, cause it seems you forgot. There is an event which will happen today with the protagonist. Aren't you planning to stop it?]

Hearing systems words Rio answered without opening his eyes "Don't worry, I've already planned for that."

[Leon is THE PROTAGONIST.] system said highlighting the final words.

"Okay fine." Rio said and opened his eyes.

He picked up his phone and called his shadow.

"Master" Esme picked up the phone in the first ring and answered in an elated tone.

"Amy and Becca are planning to visit the city today. You can go with them. Make sure everything's alright and they're safe." Rio said what he wanted and cut the call.

"There, happy now" Rio said to the system and before it could reply he continued " Now shut up and let me sleep." Rio said and closed his eyes.

-beep beep-

On the other side, Esme, who was sitting in the office at Angel, looked at her phone for a while, and sighed. 'Looks like he's not coming.'

She thought, feeling a little sad. But then she shook her head and walked out of the office. In the absence of Rio, all the affairs of Angel were handled and every major decision was made by Artemis, but since obviously Artemis couldn't just leave Damascus and come here to manage this company. And she had her subordinates do everything.

Now after Rio was back, and he joined the academy again. Esme, who wanted to follow him, transferred herself as the head of security for Angel and came here. Artemis didn't have any problem with it, as Esme could help Rio deal with some little problems if they arise and protect him if necessary.

Thus this Shadow of this villain followed him back to this islands. Rio only learned about it after he joined the academy and didn't bother with it.

In the too, when the plot began, Esme who was getting hunted by both the Blake family and Scarlett family - came to hide on the floating islands. Knowing both families wouldn't be so outrageous in the properties of the World Association.. This is how she also meets Leon later and they both join hands and have their own adventures and fight against him.

Rio had a feeling Esme coming to the floating islands was the work of fate, as it tried to keep the story the same as in the , but he didn't worry about it. He was sure about where Esme's loyalty lay.

And if she chose to betray him due to whatever trick the fate or Leon's halo pulled, let's just say he didn't just give them artifacts which could save their lives as a gift all this time. Some could also take it away, on his smallest sign.

Esme called for some other guards and started giving them some instructions. She also called Amelia and talked with her about where she wanted to go and suggested driving her there herself.

Every noble family or elite family or those rich guilds and associations controlled many businesses and had their own branches and people staying at the floating islands. Since living on the floating islands for the general public or buying mansions for students wasn't allowed. Every family just opened a branch of their famous businesses here and had their trusted people transferred to these locations. This way it didn't break any rule and still gave them security and background that was necessary.

Blake's too being a Duke ranked noble family and owner of one of the top 5 guilds had their own many businesses and many which were famous enough to open a branch on the islands of world association.

In the , the Blake family had the branch of Genesis Corp. - the company managed by Artemis, but due to the sudden growth and large reputation of Angel, it had opened its branch here on the floating islands too.

This happened the last time the World Association started the bid for the places of businesses to be allowed inside the floating islands, more than two years ago.

Every business could only be allowed entry for 5 years and after that, they'd have to take part in the bids again and earn their place again, if they want to continue managing a branch here.

Floating islands only allows the best of the best in every field to take part in bids, and it takes all things in consideration - the image, the background, the reputation, the quality and ranking of their product, the services they provide etc etc.

So everything you see outside Zenith academy, is the best of the best in their fields. Best hotels, best food, best entertainment sites, best training grounds, artifact sellers or potion business. Best of everything with no compromises.

There's even a saying in Arcadia, that if you never went to Floating islands, then you aren't successful in business. Having a branch here is actually a goal to all those new up and coming businesses. It's like a proof that they made it to the top.

Angel, with its reputation of making and selling the potions of Pura Corpus and Celestial Cleansing was obviously invited to bid last time the World Association shuffled the businesses. And Rio won the place for his company.

After all, the profits earned by those two potions were enough to easily challenge the capital chain of many other rich tycoons. Plus he had his Blake family behind him, so the last thing he lacked was money to bid.

He opened the branch of Angel near the academy for two reasons - first, to have his own eyes and minions gathered near a place where the main plot starts. Second, Angel became a front which he could use to get things done and hide what he didn't want the world to see. The boost in reputation and the profits earned were just a plus that he didn't care about

And today he wasn't interested in going to Angel and talk about potions or profits, he just wanted to see his other business and minions who said there was some problem with his plan.

He was looking forward to see, who dared to forget their place and interrupt his plans.

Chapter 215 Let's Go Collect Some Loans

"I told you to wake me up early."

[No, you didn't. You told me to shut up and let you sleep.]

"And you let me sleep for nearly 10 hours. You useless AI."

[I would have woken you up before, but the last time I did that, you muted me for two days.]

"You deserve to be muted, you dumb, tiny, invisible, fucking robot in my head."

[...]

Rio cursed the system as he looked at the time on his phone and saw the messages of everyone.

Even Artemis had called him earlier and he was still sleeping, he could imagine the earful of scolding he'll get from her.

'Well looks like Amy and Esme didn't come across Leon and his tricks.' Rio thought, as he scrolled down the messages from both of them. Except asking him for some suggestions on what to give Artemis as a gift, or when will he be free and join them, there was nothing important. They did send one or two photos of the places they went, or where they'd be so he could find them if he was nearby, but that was all.

'Which heroine do you think Leon struck up with today?' Rio asked the system as he started getting ready to leave the academy and go meet some old friends.

[How would I know, but my money's on Katherine or Sunaina. Either he'd show off for Katherine or save Sunaina.]

[He might even pull both those stunts at once.]

Even though Rio had changed the fate of many characters and fooled up some heroines to be away from Leon. But there really were too many of them in the academy, and he was too lazy to care for vases or two times heroines, or those who played no important role or had something impressive which could help him a little - he didn't even try to stop them meeting up with Leon.

He left their future on fate and Leon's hands. If Leon can get them, good for him. And if he couldn't, well sucks to be you brother.

Maybe once Leon got enough girls, Rio can deal with all of them together, or use those vases to constantly create trouble for Leon.

Though changing their events would give him some points too, but it would be too troublesome to follow Leon all the time and stop him from showing off everyday.

'What about Seraphina? Do you think Leon will meet that little healer of his?' Rio said as he remembered about the plotline of a certain heroine from the .

[Hmmm it's very possible.] System thought and agreed with his line of thoughts.

Seraphina Starzl, the heroine known for her healing arts throughout the 's story.

In the , after Rebecca's birthday event, where Leon failed his awakening and was in a coma - was taken to Circle of Renewals, to be healed. Where Rebecca asked king Maximus to use his connections to help him get treated too.

Leon was getting treatment from an elder of the Circle of Renewals, and that said elder had a little granddaughter who often visited Leon and became friends with him. Leon, who was grateful for the elder, swore that he'd pay back their care and would always remember them.

Years later, he meets with that little girl from the Circle of Renewals again at the Zenith Academy, and that girl is obviously another heroine who later joins the harem of hero - Seraphina Starzl.

But in reality, after Rio's several changes, Princess Rebecca wasn't wounded and she never visited the Circle of Renewals herself. Since she never went there, she never asked King Maximus to help Leon get treatment. According to what Rio learned after his investigation, someone from the Circle knew Baron and helped his son cross the queue and get treatment. It was probably one of Apollo's lackeys, if Rio was right.

Though Rio wasn't sure, he could guess that since Leon was admitted at the Circle of Renewals, there's a chance that he would've met with Seraphina and her plotline would've been the same.

'Well whatever it is, I'll deal with it later.' Rio said, as he ignored the system and left the dorms.

Even though the academy allowed students to leave their premises and respected their privacy, it still warned them not to take off their watches, so they could still track them and contact them at any time in case of any danger or unforeseen circumstances.

Since Rio didn't want his whereabouts to be known, he naturally couldn't do that. That's why he already had something which could fool this system.

He had read the plot and already knew some methods which he could use to trick the people at the academy; after all, many times Leon and other characters used such tricks to leave the academy in the - he had prepared them the last time he joined Zenith.

So Rio didn't care about these watches, and moved out. His first stop was obviously his company Angel. Cause even though he didn't care much about it since Esme was here, he still needed to know who was in charge of what, or if some new character of the popped up in his vicinity.

Who knows if some big traitor or troublesome character of the appeared near him - it would be bad for him.

After all, even until now no one besides Angel could produce the potions with similar effects and potency. Many companies and guilds have tried to learn and replicate the potion of Pura Corpus and Celestial Cleansing, but no one had been successful.

They made some copies which either had low effects on awakeners or had some side effects - that's why many still want to learn or steal the recipes of these potions. And since they couldn't attack Artemis who knew about them, their next best option was him. Who actually translated them from the Singular Books.

At first he was still a kid, so he always stayed in his mansion. Later he joined the academy and then he died - people would've cursed their lucks when they learned that he was dead and there was a chance that they would never learn about the recipes of those potions.

Now that he was back, there's a chance some of them might not want to wait for him to leave floating islands like they did last time.

Plus someone pulling the strings from behind had even released some rumors that he didn't learn those potions from Singular Books, but had found the legacy of some supreme alchemist. And every product Angel released was just a tip of all that knowledge he got from that legacy.

This made sense for many people too, because if those potions were so important and the only hole cards Blakes had, why would they release them to the whole world so early.

Wouldn't it be more wise to use these potions themselves for a decade or two, and create a super strong army of awakeners and then release them to the public.

In their eyes, it meant that Blake family didn't even take these potions seriously, that's why they shared it. But their might be other magical and more important gifts that only they're sharing among themselves and are hoarding it.

Rio's own supreme talent was even used as an explanation of that theory - and it fueled the rumors that Rio might've used other such high grade potions to enhance his talents and so on.

So overall, there are a lot of jealous eyes around him, but due to the constant security of Blake family they couldn't act out openly.

These rumors also played a part in the incident that happened two years ago in that dungeon.

Warzy, an organization which solely cares for war profits, wanted to kidnap him and steal the said book of that alchemy legacy.

After all, in wars no matter which world it is, two things are very necessary - people and products.

The more people you have on your side the better. The better resources and products you have on your side the better.

In Arcadia, the people here means awakeners, and the products are miraculous potions and healing elixirs. Rio's rumored legacy could help them get both of them.

With Pura Corpus potion in hand they have a chance to turn every kid into an awakener. And with Celestial Cleansing potion they could turn every unawakened into an aura user. Since there are too many unawakened duds living in Arcadia, Warzy could simply use these potions as advertisement and hire all of them. Plus that's just from the potions Blakes released, if they really had something else hidden, and they got it - that was even better.

That's why some idiot low minions from Warzy wanted to capture him alive, and learn everything about those potions from him during their attack. Sadly, their attack wasn't successful, and since Rio had already prepared some plans for these kinds of things, so he managed to survive their onslaught.

But then he was trapped in that dungeon for two years, and his father waged a war against Warzy as revenge.

Now that he was back safe and sound, one could guess how angry the people from Warzy would be. Since in all this fiasco they got nothing on their hands, but suffered losses throughout the world. Their main attack failed, their resources lost and they became enemy number one. That's why there was a chance that they might attack him as revenge in anger trying to kill him. Or if they have a brain, try to capture him alive again, because now is the time they most need those potions and other resources to strengthen themselves.

Obviously these were all the things low level minions might think and act upon,, the real leaders of Warzy and seat holders - might not even care about these little losses of lowlives they hired for fun.

-Ding-

-<>

Rio read the message, and without asking anything else, just typed a reply and sent it

—I'm on my way. I'll handle it myself.

"Forget Angel. Your brother would send you his location, let's go there first." Rio said to the driver, laid back on his seat and closed his eyes. His hands empty as the watch of zenith was sitting in system storage.

"Yes boss" A girl with long hair, styled in several thin braids of different vibrant colors replied.

"Your previous hairstyle was much better by the way. This is just a mess." Rio said with his eyes still closed.

The girl, who was acting as his driver now, didn't say anything and smiled. She pressed her feet on the accelerator and raced towards the location marked on the map - "Club Desperado."

Chapter 216 Den Of Devils And Mask Of Deception

"We're here, boss." Riley said, as she stopped the car outside a club.

"How many times have I told you to drive slow, if we're not in a hurry?" Rio said as he yawned and stretched his hands.

"Brother would've handled everything himself if we got late." Riley said as she opened up the car door and gestured to him to come out.

Hearing her answer Rio didn't comment again, as he understood how that idiot's brain worked. "Where is he anyway? I told him to wait?" Rio said as he looked around and didn't see Ryan anywhere near the gate waiting for him.

"He's probably inside gambling or playing with someone?" Riley said with an annoyed look and threw the car keys at the guard who came forward to park the car.

Rylie and her twin brother Ryan, two of Rio's personal confidantes, who've been serving under him for the last 4 years. They swore loyalty to him and had been doing all kinds of things on his order.

The last time Rio joined the academy, he arranged for them to follow him. On his orders they had to establish themselves in the underground and the black market, and create a network for them to easily handle all the shady things he needed done in the floating islands.

Angel was the company which could help him with all the things in an above board manner, then the twins needed to raise themselves enough that by the time the plot started everyone on the dark side of the floating islands should've heard of their name.

Since the twins were both young, only 21 years old at that time, and didn't have the necessary strength to conquer everything by force. The only other way to make themselves superior was resources. That's why all the profits Angel earned through every deal on the floating islands and with Zenith Academy, would go into the pockets of the twins, for them to manage everything.

Rio also hired some other people who were introduced in the , and some whom he had chosen from the Blake and Raven families, to help the twins. He had given them enough profits and resources for them to do whatever he wanted without restraints and hesitation.

Obviously every one of them were bound by mana contracts and blood oaths, that would kill them instantly if they ever tried to betray him.

He would've liked to see the progress of these minions himself and manage them all according to the events of the academy arcs, but just after settling them down in the first year, he got trapped in that dungeon and all his plans were only left in his head.

Since he didn't trust anyone enough to share every detail of what he wanted, he doubted these guys could achieve the perfect results he needed.

But there was nothing he could do about that.

[You gotta work with what you have.]

It's been 3 years since he established these guys, and 2 years since he last saw them, it was time to see how much progress they had made.

'These idiots didn't just waste all my money in the air, did they?' Rio suddenly thought and wondered. 'Because a month after I'm back and there's already trouble.'

[Hahaha]

[Well you did leave a heroine, who's Leon's first sex partner, and her brother who was supposed to be dead in charge of everything. I'm sure everything's fine.] System said, trying to control its laughter and calming its host down.

'I'll beat their asses black and blue if they got me into loss.' Rio said, as he looked at Riley walking ahead.

Rio looked at himself in the side mirror, to confirm that the mask artifact which altered his facial features worked perfectly fine or not, and if it gave him a new appearance.

He fixed his hair a little and smiled at the reflection which showed the face of someone else smiling back.

'No matter how many times I see it, this appearance is flawless.'

[Well, technically it is your own appearance, so no need to be that shocked about it.]System said, as a matter of fact, tone.

After all, the appearance he chose was that of Shiva's.

Rio's short styled white hair were now changed into disheveled jet black hair. His black eyes which used to resemble the allure of the abyss, were now rugged, as if they had seen the multitudes of emotions and had lived through everything. His face bearing the expression that seemed like he was too lazy to care about anything, and everything was a drag.

A little scar covered his left eye, leaving a straight mark over his pupil and eyebrows. This was something he got after he first used this mask and he had a fight with some people over the interests of his new company. He could've healed the scar and removed it, but Riley said it looked nice and he was too lazy to fix it. After all, doing that meant putting this mask on a cooldown and find a repairer, or ask help from Loki, both of these were things too troublesome and unreliable.

The noble and elegant aura which Rio exuded, always making him look superior, was gone now. And in its place was a constant bloodlust that seemed to ooze out of his every pore, giving him the vibe that only the warriors and criminals who fought many battles had.

Even his clothes had changed from a rich styled suit and jacket to the normal attire. His physical features were changed too. Before he looked his age of 18 and had a trained perfect physique, then now he was in his middle age years, with a body that didn't seem anything special.

The mask he had was the artifact of Loki, called Mask of Deception.

The Mask of Deception allows its user to change their appearance entirely, taking on the guise of anyone or anything they can imagine.

But as always, a trickster's gift came with a trick.

This artifact could only work, if the user himself believes himself to be looking like that. So in essence one needed to deceive themselves first, before they could deceive others.

Meaning it simply turned the imagination of the user into reality. If the user couldn't imagine himself in that appearance perfectly, the artifact won't work. So if you want to fake someone else's face, you'd need to change your whole personality and imagination to fall into that person's character.

This is where the risk of using this artifact comes into effect too. Since the user believes himself to be the person he changes his appearance into, then the long term use of this mask could affect the users mental stability, and there's a risk he might forget who he truly is.

This artifact might seem useless to many, as the conditions to use it are too harsh. And the side effects are scary too.

But what it lacks in limitations, it makes up in its quality. Unlike other artifacts which high ranking awakeners could easily see through, or those which came with the user's rank limitations - this artifact could be used by anyone and could also fool anyone.

Even if an F rank uses it, and manages to perfectly control it, he could fool everyone, as long as he has mana that is.

"What's the name of the idiot we're here to settle?" Rio asked, as he entered the club filled with crowd.

"Dante." Riley replied, amplifying her voice with mana, so he could still hear her despite the loud sound coming from the music and people all around them.

"He took a loan from us a year ago, and this was his second due date. I tried to contact him, but the dude's been ignoring me. And when some of the guys came here to handle it, his minions started a riot and a fight broke out. So Ryan wanted to handle it himself this time. But then you asked to settle it yourself." Riley said, explaining everything in one breathe.

"Dante, is that the guy from the followers of Den of Devils?" Rio thought as he remembered a character from the with the same name.

"Who?" Riley asked, a little confused with that murmur of his, since she couldn't hear what he said.

"Well doesn't matter who he is? It's time for pay back." Rio said, and started walking forward with his hands in his pockets.

"That's the entrance." Riley said, as she pointed towards a door. Rio glanced at a man who was guarding a door which was termed VIPs only.

"What's the code?" The burly man, towering over Rio and Riley asked, waving his hand to stop them from entering.

Rio looked upwards, met his eyes. A smirk came to his face, as without saying anything, he kicked the man in the stomach, sending him flying along with the broken door.

"Hmm so that was the code huh" Rio said, as he saw open entrance and walked inside.

[Show me a scene of carnage.] Hela requested, the moment he entered inside.

'That's the plan'

Chapter 217 Riley And Ryan - Shiva's Shadows

Riley and Ryan, the pair of twin brothers and sisters who are now directly working for Rio.

In the , this duo had been working under Hermaan Meismat, the stepping stone villain for the protagonist.

Riley's grandfather was working under the city guards for the Baron Meismat family years ago, and was one of the best fighters of that time. To subdue him and get him in control, the head of house Meismat at that time targeted their family and labled them as rebels and traitors. Forced into a corner, and to save his family, Riley's grandfather signed the mana contract that he'd forever be a slave to house Meismat and never betray them.

But the hunger of the Meismat family grew too big, when they had heard the rumors that even his son was also a talented awakener. So one night they tricked the old man on his deathbed to sign a new mana contract, in which it was written that 3 generations of his bloodline would be slaves to house Meismat and betrayal to the noble family would result in their death.

Riley and Ryan belonged to the 3rd generation and were slaves bound to the heir of house Meismat, Hermaan.

In the , Baron Meismat and Baron Heartwell were families which always opposed each other over the control and profits of Eisjer domain.

So once Leon started to shine his talent and started taking things seriously, the author wrote the plotline of an all out fight between both families.

After the first semester when Leon went home for the first time, he learned from his father that Baron Meismat had colluded with some evil God and was planning to solely take control of the Eisjer domain and kill their followers.

Eisher domain, an open dungeon which was managed by both Baron ranked families together. It had been the source of income for House Heartwell for generations. And now Baron Meismat wanted to pressure them from everywhere into handing over the rights of that domain.

Leon being the protagonist didn't take kindly to these reports. So instead of asking help from other nobles or reporting this incident to the royal family, or even the princess whom he was best friends with at that time, he decided to settle it himself.

(I don't know what the author was thinking at that point.)

Anyway, by that time Leon and Hermaan had formed an enmity of sorts due to their time in the academy. Hermaan, who used to look down upon Leon when he was a cripple, was face slapped many times in the academy and was jealous of Leon and hated him to the bones. So he also took charge to kill Leon during this plan of attack, so there would be no future troubles for him when he became a Baron.

In a bloody battle between Leon and Hermaan. Turns out Hermaan had signed a contract with an evil God and suddenly went crazy and started attacking everyone. His strength had skyrocketed and he was unstoppable. By his luck and protagonist halo, Leon still managed to kill Hermaan somehow.

Then the pursuit of the Meismat family's revenge started, and they started sending experience packages to Leon daily.

Soon enough Leon, along with his family, killed everyone in the Meismat family and became the sole ruler of Eisjer domain.

Instead of getting punishment as infighting between nobles is not allowed, Heartwell family got praise from the general populace because they made the affairs between Meismat family and the evil Gods public.

In the end, the Meismat family became an enemy of humanity and traitors. While the Heartwell family became the light of justice which slayed the followers of an evil God.

You wonder what role Riley and Ryan played in this scenario.

Well from the day Leon came back from the academy, to the day he fought with Hermaan, he met Riley many times 'by coincidence' and managed to influence her.

So in the fight when it was revealed that Hermaan had signed a contract with an Evil God, Riley chose to help Leon kill Hermaan. Since Riley joined Leon's side, as her little brother Ryan chose to help Leon too.

Even though they suffered the backlash for breaking the mana contracts, their suffering gave Leon enough time and opportunity to kill Hermaan.

In the fight Ryan was severely wounded and after handing the responsibility of Riley's life and wellbeing to Leon he died.

Thus Riley, who already had a good impression of our protagonist, followed her brother's final wish and joined Leon, and returned with him to Heartwell family.

That night while she was crying over her brother's death, and now becoming an orphan in this world, Leon came to comfort her, and they ended up having sex.

(Cause that's da only way a protagonist knows to turn pain into pleasure.)

Riley wasn't a heroine or anything important in the , if anything she fell in the category of vases.

Her only major role was to help Leon kill Hermaan, and hand over the proof for all the dirty deeds that the Meismat family did over the years and make Heartwell family shine. Ohh and then maybe take Leon's virginity that night.

Other than that, Riley only got mentions here and there in the , but she didn't play any important role ever again. Since she wasn't a student at Zenith academy, she didn't take part in any of Leon's many adventures, and thus she was soon forgotten.

She was even killed in the background for no apparent reason by Leon's enemies.

As for her death's revenge, well, Leon went to the door of her killers and started a massacre. But then another heroine came and begged him to let her family go, and in return she'll be his maid or slave or whatever. But if he still chose to fight with them to death, they'll at least give Leon a few more deaths to mourn for.

Obviously Leon reluctantly agreed after seeing some of his friends fighting hard with their opponents. (And not because he wanted a hot assassin heroine as his maid.)

And that's the last time Riley's name was ever mentioned in the .

A vase heroine who got her brother killed due to her infatuation with Leon first, and later when she herself died, she ended up being the reason for another girl to fall in Leon's protagonist clutches.

Rio wasn't interested in saving Riley or fooling her to join the camp of his villains. But he found her brother a little interesting, thus he ended up changing her fate too.

Since the Eisjer domain was Leon's first big chance and path to power, Rio wanted to take that for himself. There were a few treasures and chances that Rio liked and wanted to steal.

But since meddling with Meismat family directly, might drag the name of his own family to mud when the fact that they're colluding with evil gods is released. Rio let his dear mother Artemis put pressure on the Meismat family from the shadows and subdue them legally.

The Meismat family, as any other villain family, had a ton of dirty things to hide. Biggest one being that they were using normal unawakened people to work as slaves inside Eisjer domain and mine all the profits.

If news of this got out that a noble family was forcing and killing unawakened people, it could cause a big incident in the empire.

That's why when the Blake family showed the proof of all those things to King Maximus and the royal court, Meismat family had to let go of their rights over the Eisjer domain. And pay a heavy compensation to everyone.

Since Eisjer domain was now free for the taking, King Maximus did what he does with every other unclaimed dungeon - he auctioned it off.

And if you wonder who bought it - it was Servirous Raven, Rio's maternal grandfather.

Throughout this ordeal, as compensation for all the trouble Blake family went through, Artemis asked for a hundred trained awakeners under the Meismat family to be freed of their contracts and be handed over to her.

Since Rio wanted to save Ryan, Artemis asked for the twins together.

Thus a guy who was supposed to be killed off soon, and a vase heroine who was supposed to take Leon's 'virginity' in her grief, fell into the camp of villains.

Since Rio didn't trust them and neither did Artemis, both of these twins had to sign new mana contracts of their unconditional loyalty towards him. And ever since then, they had been working under him.

Ryan is a strong aura user, and his physical strength could rival a barbarian. And after drinking up the Celestial Cleansing potion, his talent for aura refining had only increased even more.

Riley on the other hand, is well Riley. She was an awakener too, but since she didn't have much strength, Rio let her handle some other stuff and threw her in other fields. Turns out, she's pretty good at logistics and business.

And since they're bound with contracts and loyal to Rio alone, he could order them to do all the things that he wanted to keep away from the Blake family.

Just like handling an underground investment company, which funded all kinds of shady businesses. Or to make his name known in the Black markets, which are outside Raven family's control. Or to control and create an intelligence network for him step by step.

'I wonder who'll be Leon's first girl this time?' Rio thought, as he smiled remembering Riley, Rebecca and other heroines he changed plotlines of.

[Why don't you think about yourself first. Or are you planning to stay single your entire life.]

'Fuck off system' Rio said as he swiped the system panel.

(humph, mute me, that's the only thing you can do.) System cursed in its heart as it was muted again for God knows how many days this time.

Chapter 218 Shiva's Appearance In Arcadia

"What's the code?" The burly man, towering over Shiva and Riley asked, waving his hand to stop them from entering.

Shiva looked upwards and met his eyes. A confident smirk came to his face, as without saying anything, he kicked the man in the stomach, sending him flying along with the door which broke due to the sudden shock.

"Hmm so that was the code huh" Shiva said making Riley smile. As they both looked at the open entrance gate.

Shiva looked back at the crowd of people who were chilling and dancing all this time on the outer area, and then inside the hall whose door he broke down, there was a whole new scene of a casino inside and he could see many people playing various games inside.

He was wondering something when Riley, who was standing beside him, spoke up - "Let's just go inside, my ears are hurting out here."

Shiva shrugged his shoulders and walked inside. Since the outer area was really too noisy for his taste.

"I'll look for Ryan." Riley said, as she started looking through all the tables and private rooms to search for her brother.

"That's too much work." Shiva said, after he tried to look inside the private rooms but they were all protected by various arrays, which blocked his skills.

"Who are you guys? If you don't have an invitation you can get out right now or I'll throw your bodies outside." Another few guards came to surround them, and they prepared their mana as they looked at one of their partners lying unconscious before their feet, foaming from his mouth with his eyes wide open.

"Invitation huh, do you have it Riley?" Shiva said, as he turned to look at Riley, ignoring the guards.

"No boss."

Hearing the answer, Shiva made a surprised expression and said in disappointment "Seriously, come on girl. You should've bought it."

"This club's gonna be ours in a few hours anyway, why do we have to pay in our own club?" Riley shrugged her shoulders and smiled.

Shiva nodded his head with a thoughtful expression. "Now that you say that, it does make sense."

"What're you idiots looking at, throw them outside." Another man came out from a private room and stood on the railings, while shouting at the guards. A girl dressed in the clothes, whatever little she had on, came and hugged him from behind. While peeking her head over his shoulder and looking at everything with a smile.

"Why don't we add her in our little game." the girl suggested pointing at Riley. While tracing a finger along the man's chest in a coquettish manner.

"Forget it, kill that guy and bring that girl to my room." The man said, as his eyes fell on Riley and he scanned her figure without any scruples. "See you soon, darling." He said to Riley as he licked his lips

and bit his tongue in a horny hungry way. He pulled the girl inside the room and the door closed behind him.

Riley's expression darkened, and she muttered, "I should kill him."

"You can deal the last blow if you want." Shiva suggested while shaking his head in disappointment at the guard who swung his baton at him.

"Tsk" Riley clicked her tongue and walked to the side, giving him a little space to do whatever he wanted.

As the baton was about to hit him, Shiva didn't dodge, he calmly moved his head to the side, allowing the weapon to strike his shoulder, which caused the baton to snap in half. The stunned guard looked at the broken handle in his hand, and then at Shiva who was smiling at him.

"My turn." Shiva said, pulling his head back and then knocking again on the guard's face with a force, making his face bloodied in a single shot. The sound of the guard's nose breaking, and the blood dripping to the ground came to Shiva's ears, but just when he was about to nod in approval of that rhythm, it all got drowned in the screams of the guard who couldn't even react to what happened till now.

-Ahhhhahhhhhh-

Looking at the guard's ugly face when he screamed and the way blood spewed out from his mouth as he did, Shiva made a disgusted expression and kicked him in the stomach, sending him crashing onto the reception tables nearby.

Taking his hands out of his pockets, he made a gesture from his fingers that seemed to welcome all the other guards to attack him together and not just stand there stupefied.

Two of the guards nodded at each other and attacked together, while one of them went to beat or catch Riley instead.

Shiva looked surprised by that guy's thinking, and gave him a nod of approval in his heart. But his eyes never left the other two who swung their baton at him. He sidestepped to the left to dodge one of them, while extending his feet to make the guard fall down due to his extra momentum.

He held the other guy's hand midair, stopping him from attacking him. He looked at his open hand and then gave the guard a tight slap that caused three of his teeth to break and fly in the air. I think you should take a look at

-slappp-

Before the man could scream in pain while his brain tried to register the shocking slap, another loud slap and the huge force that sent shockwaves across his skin came to his face, breaking two more of his teeth and forcing him to spew out blood.

-ahhh- yet before his scream could finish another slap came in and this time no matter how loud he screamed, he couldn't even hear anything. Or maybe he couldn't even scream anymore, he wasn't sure.

Only a loud buzz or a ring-like tone echoed in his ears, which started bleeding too.

Ignoring the screams that started to annoy him, to shut the guard up Shiva let go of his hand, making him almost fall down to the ground.

But before that he held his collar pulling him back up a little, and gave him another loud slap.

On the last slap when Shiva could feel his hand caving onto the broken cheekbones that tore through the guard's skin and were visible besides the blood directly, he threw him aside and ignored him.

Looking at the guy who attacked him with a baton together with the previous guard, crawling back slowly, looking at him with scared eyes, Shiva flashed him a smile and moved towards him at high speed.

Before the guard could stand up and run, a powerful kick came to his head, making him feel like someone hit it with a sledgehammer, breaking it in two. His head knocked against the iron pole nearby

and blood started falling down his face like a fountain. Yet the guard remained unresponsive to his pain, almost like he couldn't feel anything or that his brain couldn't register anything.

Shiva bent down and took the baton from his hands and turned around and left. While walking his feet stepped over the leg of that guard and with the pressure of aura, breaking all his bones in it.

-crackkk-

Shiva looked around him, and saw that many of the guests had left their tables and were gathering around standing in groups in a corner away from him. Their expressions ranged from shock to fear as they watched his display of brutality.

"There are at least 20 more guards, boss. And if you keep playing around you'll be late for dinner with the lady." Riley's voice came to his ears suddenly.

Shiva looked at the side and saw Riley crushing the head of her attacker under her shoes. He looked at the guy's hands which had fingers that were all bent in some weird angles and one of them even had the bone directly sticking out of his skin.

'Urghh, and she calls ME cruel.' Shiva thought, looking at the smart guard's pitiful condition.

He then looked at the time on his watch (not the academy one, but a different personal watch) and nodded his head.

He turned his head to look at the dozen or so guards which came running and started surrounding him from all sides.

"Listen up minions, I don't have much time now, well technically, neither do you guys. But whatever. Let's take this seriously now. Shall we."

Shiva said in a loud tone as he looked at all of them.

As his words finished, without waiting for them to react, Shiva moved forwards with high speed. His feet leaving cracks on the floor below. Under the eyes of the guards he looked like a blurry figure for a moment, and before they reacted, a loud scream echoed in the now silent club hall bringing everyone back to their senses.

They saw that one of the guards was sent flying from his position, and after making a bloody arc of parabola in the air, he fell down heavily on the roulette table, breaking it. Confused about what happened to him, until they heard another loud scream that felt like it came from a dying pig.

They all turned and saw that Shiva was standing behind one of the guards holding his hair to keep him straight. The guard was bent on the ground with bloodied knees, one of his hands laying limp, while from the other he constantly tried to free himself.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Shiva swung his baton at his head, breaking a part of his skull. With a loud thud the guard fell down to the floor unresponsive, bathing in his own blood.

Shiva looked at his hand which still had some of his hairs and shook them away and wiped his hands on his pants to clean it.

"So who's next?" Shiva said, while swinging his baton, making the whistling sound of air and waving all the blood and pieces of flesh that were still stuck on it.

-Gulp-

Chapter 219 Dante Desperado & Den Of Devils

Smoking a cigarette and sitting on top of the table, Shiva looked at the scene all around him. Currently in one corner of the club all the guests who were so called VIPs before were standing and shaking in fear. The walls and the furniture all around them were shattered and thrown into chaos. On the ground all around him, were lying groups of men with broken limbs and blood splattering all over the area. No one raised any voice or complaints, and only the sound of rapid breathing and loud heartbeat could be felt. Every now and then the sound of loud gulps of fear could be heard too.

-Takk-

A faint sound broke the silence, and all eyes turned toward the source. A man, with his leg injured, crawled desperately towards the exit. His trail of blood painted a grim path toward freedom, and he moved in near silence, hoping to escape the clutches of the demon that had wrought havoc in their club.

His limp body and struggle left the marks of blood all over the floor, Shiva saw and noticed that the man had gone quite a distance without making a noise.

Yet all his efforts were wasted as that noise on the broken table got him caught.

Shiva looked at the bottle of alcohol placed nearby and picked it up. After glancing at the label on it, he threw it on that man without even looking.

-crash- -ahhh-

The bottle shattered against the man's back with a deafening crash, eliciting a muffled scream of agony. Desperation clung to his eyes as he saw that the exit was just within his reach.

He could see that even after everything that happened inside, the people outside were still dancing and jumping happily on the floor. Like they didn't even notice what was happening inside. Even now when he was near the door, he couldn't hear any noise from outside. This was a clear sign that a barrier had separated both places. Yet the man's brain due to all the pain and fear couldn't think all this. His eyes were glued on the wall, and the nearer he crawled there the more the light of hope shone in his eyes.

-crash+splatter- urghh-

Yet another bottle hit his back, breaking upon contact. The force behind that normal glass bottle felt like it could crush his bones. The alcohol started seeping into his open wounds, and it was making his skin burn, like a thousand ants were eating away at his skin. Yet the man endured and continued crawling without looking back.

'I made it. I can live.'

The man thought as he was a tiny bit away from the door, when he was just about to push himself forward and go out.

-swish-

-gasps+gulps-

The man could hear something behind him but he ignored it. In his eyes as long as he took one more step he could live. And yet just when he was about to take that last push, he felt a sudden heat on his feet that soon spread all over his back and then covered all his body.

It took a moment for him to realize that his whole body was on fire and when that realization hit him, he tried to wave his hands around trying to put out the flames and in doing so even his hands caught on fire. He writhed and flailed, his own screams filling the air, but his efforts were futile.

-flick-

The man looked back and saw that black haired demon who had his eyes closed and lit up a new cigarette again. Looking at his expression which seemed relaxed and calm, the man with his red eyes wanted to shout and curse and even run towards him and kill him, yet before he could do any of that, his glaring eyes changed into that of horror.

He saw that the demon waved his hand, and the girl behind him passed him another bottle of alcohol. That demon without opening his eyes threw that bottle towards his direction too. Looking at the image of bottle zooming in on his eyes, he wanted to back away yet couldn't exert any more strength. His precious struggles had exerted all his strength and he was too tired now.

-swish-crash-shatter-

-boom-

Under the horrified eyes of the crowd, the sound of the bottle crashing and then a little explosion could be heard. The man who was trying too hard to survive all this time had given up on struggle and had simply fallen unconscious.

It seemed he had accepted his fate or that maybe he was already dead and couldn't feel anything now.

His body burned until Shiva waved his hand, sliding the charred corpse into a secluded corner, extinguishing the flames. The nauseating stench of burning flesh, blood, alcohol, and shattered glass hung in the air.

Some of the club's former servers and strippers, their faces pale, recoiled in disgust and horror. They gazed at the tormented man's body, their own stomachs churning in revulsion and they started retching.

"When I say stay at your place like a statue, I mean it. Is there anyone else who wants to try their luck?" Shiva said in a normal tone "There are a lot of alcohol and cigarettes still lying around. I can always practice my aim on you guys" I think you should take a look at

His eyes darted around the hall, falling on everyone. The people in the hall all looked away from him, avoiding eye contact with him. After all his face was covered in blood and his eyes didn't show any emotion or light when he looked at them, it was simply like staring at a monster and not a human being anymore.

Just when everyone was scared and silent, the sound of enthusiasm broke the scene.

"I found him, boss." Ryan said as he dragged a man by his collar down the stairs. "The bastard was hiding in a private chamber of his. Hoping to leave from a secret escape."

Ryan, who was wearing a T-shirt and a trench coat over it, with his shoulder length open hair falling with every step, came in front of Shiva and forced the man to kneel in front of him.

"Dante Myr Desperado. That's your name, is it?" Shiva spoke as he looked at the man with brown hair, with golden highlight streak over the tips. And his long beard, styled and fixed with some pearls in place.

Dante, his ruddy eyes blazing with hatred, could only mutter, "You have no idea who you're messing with. I will kill_. Arghhhh."

Dante was speaking when he felt a sharp sting on his back, looking back he saw nothing behind him.

"I asked you a question. Is your name Dante Myr?"

"You bastard, you'll pay _ "

Shiva spoke again and when he didn't get an answer, he waved his hand. 4 shards of glass flew over and stabbed the man on his back.

-arghharrgh-

"Shhh" Shiva signaled him with his finger as a broken piece of glass started to float in front of the man's face. Warning him that if he opened his mouth, he'd simply push that glass inside his throat. Silencing him forever.

"Now I don't like asking the same question again and again. But I'll give you a final chance. After that, you can join your brother in the afterlife." Shiva said, while signaling towards the man who first insulted Riley when they came inside. The man who wanted to kill him and sleep with her.

Dante looked at the side and saw his brother's body which was pierced by a long dagger and was still hung on a wall without falling down. Looking at his brother's open chest with marks of torture and the pants which were wet with blood and piss, Dante wanted to scream and shout, but then looking at the floating glass in front of him, he drowned all his anger and buried his anger.

"It's me." He spoke in a hoarse tone. His ruddy eyes staring at Shiva like he was looking at his mortal enemy. His expression was like he wanted to eat this bastard in front of him alive and throw him in hell. If his eyes could kill, Shiva would be dead a thousand times by now.

"Huh, so it is you." Shiva looked at Ryan who nodded his head and smiled.

"I heard you've been ignoring her calls, and beat up some of my men when they came to ask you about it. So, I did the same to your man. You won't blame me, would you?" Shiva Said as he pointed at Riley and then at the guards lying unconscious and dead around him.

"So where's my money?" Shiva Said and played with the shards of glass. The broken glass floated from Dante's mouth to his eyes and then started rotating there.

"You know what, let's settle this in private, okay." Shiva said and stopped his mana.

All the shards fell down all around Dante without his control, and Dante finally breathed a sigh of relief. But then thinking, that if this guy whom he never met, could be so cruel in front of so many people, then what kind of torture and hell awaited him when they're alone. Suddenly a shiver ran down his spine when he thought of that, and looking at Shiva who was still staring at him, thinking God knows what, with a subtle smile on his face, he was sure he was done for.

"Wait, I can pa_" Before Dante could finish his words, that he was willing to pay and compensate, Ryan came behind him and slapped his neck with a backhand, knocking him unconscious.

[Den of Devils are disappointed with their previous choice of follower.]

[They smile and nod at your art of cruelty.]

[Show us more and you'll be rewarded. - one of the Oni says.]

Reading the notifications of these guys confirmed his doubts, and looking at system panel where his points started increasing, a smile to his bloodied face, scaring all the guests even more.

Chapter 220 Welcome To Eclipse

Ignoring the praise and offers from the Demons Rio looked at everyone who was huddled in the corner and started thinking about his future plans.

Dante was a villain character of the mid setting in the . Who first made his appearance after the second phase of Emergence started.

When the whole world was in chaos, as gods started slaughtering mortals that they didn't like or hated. Burning and killing cities which refused to pray to them, and destroying all the legacy of Atheists and Apostasy, everyone was afraid for their life and there seemed to be no place where they could hide.

It was like this until the World Association publicized the facts about the barrier made by the cairns/stones surrounding the whole floating islands, and the world could finally see a hope of life.

At that time many people used their connections and everything they had to come and hide on these islands to survive the fury of the Gods, and this became the best sanctuary and defensive line against Gods.

Yet one can imagine if people are trapped in a place, there'd be all kinds of chaos and infighting too. And in that chaos Dante emerged on stage for the first time in the . A charismatic leader, and a ruthless killer, a guy backed up by the evillest demons from the Den of Devils.

It didn't take a lot of time for him to stand above everyone and control everything with fear and an iron fist.

That's how Dante, who is just a stupid little owner of a few gambling clubs in the floating islands now, became the boss of these places in the future.

'And now he's in my hands, with his life and death in my control.'

[Ythranor says to let his follower go, or be ready to face his wrath.]

[The whole Den laughs at the certain Demon over his impatience.]

Not minding the chatter between these guys, Rio closed his system's panel and chose to ignore them for now.

Now that Dante was settled, Rio turned his gaze towards the guests who were sweating buckets not daring to move from their place. While trying to duck and hide behind each other and they were pushing their guards at the front where many shards of glass and bottles were floating in the air.

Reminding them not to try anything funny, or with one wave of his hands they'll be killed and burned to death.

"Hello everyone. Sorry for the little trouble, I was just in a bad move recently and the owner here just doesn't know rules of our business. He took my money, and refused to pay it back - that's not fair right." Rio said as he stood up on the table and looked at everyone from above.

Then he shrugged his hands, like saying he didn't mean to do it, but he had no choice.

"Well enough about the past and let's talk about the future." He continued

"Looking at the many unfamiliar faces and the expressions you guys are giving me, I'd say this is the first time I'm seeing you, and you don't know about me too.

So let's start with the introductions. My name is Shiva. And I'm the owner of The Eclipse."

Shiva's words caused many people to look at him in surprise, while some who already recognized him before were keeping their heads low.

'Eclipse' that was a name that had been rising rapidly in the underground networks of floating islands of Luralia Sanctum in the recent years. No one knew where it came from, or who was behind it, but everyone knew they had a ton of resources and that they meddled in almost all kinds of businesses.

Even if some people didn't know about them, everyone had atleast heard of this name.

Many people thought Eclipse would be backed by some noble family or some top guilds, but looking at the unfamiliar face standing there covered in blood, who's saying, he's the owner of The Eclipse - surprised was a small word to describe everyone's emotions.

Yet even if they had many questions and doubts, no one said a word, not even muttered anything under their breath - after all, the last guy who interrupted him is just laying in that corner holding his neck, with an inch long piece of glass sticking out of it. So to avoid that same fate, they could all just stay silent and bury all their questions in their heart. I think you should take a look at

Ignoring their expression Rio continued his speech "Some of you may have heard of me and my company before, some didn't.

So I'll tell you all about two things - first, I'm a guy who can basically do everything. So if there's anything you need help with, or any trouble that's been bothering you lately, you can come to me and I'll handle it for you. For a suitable price deal or an exchange, of course."

Rio said his words pointing his first finger up, and then continued with the second.

"Second thing, whenever you make any deal with me, always follow through your end of the promise too. Otherwise, I'm pretty good at reading futures and yours would be dark and bloody." Rio said with a smile while pointing at all the mutilated guards who were lying unconscious and dead on the ground.

"This club will be my territory from now on, and you lot can come and play here as you've been doing all this time. As long as you don't mess with me or my rules, you can chill."

"But that'll have to wait till tomorrow, as today, it isn't suitable to play anymore. Right." Rio said and pointed towards the tables and games which were all broken and staff which was knocked out or dead.

"Come again tomorrow." Rio said and waved them goodbye.

Seeing his signal almost instantly all of them who were hiding behind others all this time, rushed to the front at high speed and tried to run away from this cursed place.

Yet when they were just about to reach outside, the voice behind them made them stop in their tracks "One more thing that I forgot to mention before. I'm a very private person. So be sure to keep your lips shut. Cause if I get into any trouble because of you lot, hahahaha."

Rio finished his words and started laughing at the end of his warning. His laughter making people's scalp tingle when they heard it, and they all ran away faster from there.

Some swore to never come here again, while some swore that they'd let all their relatives and partners know - to pay up their dues to this devil if they have any, lest those idiots implicate them again for a little money.

"Boss, these three are the ones you were looking for." Riley came forward and called for three people out from the crowd of staff who were left behind in the other corner.

Following Riley's command, two man and a woman, all in their 30's came forward after hesitating for a long time, still shaking a little in fear and not daring to look at Rio or the blood splattered all around them.

In just this one fight, these guys had killed and crippled more than 40 people, and half of them were some guests and their staff, who chose to argue with him or tried to run. This is why everyone was staying silent now, lest they become his next target and complete his half century of killings.

The three people who came forward, were the ones who were responsible for managing this club, and the other little branches Dante opened here and there. Since Dante still owed him money, and all this was probably set up with only his pockets, Rio didn't want to close it down or burn the place.

"I'm sure you can understand that the club is under new management now. From now on you no longer need to follow that dumb desperate Dante."

"From today onwards you all work for me now. she'll be your chief" Rio said while pointing towards Riley. And then at Ryan "And he'll be your boss."

"You will report to them. Follow their orders, and do whatever they say. That's all. Otherwise you can keep doing what you were doing all this time, and your pay and rewards would be doubled from what that idiot gave you."

Rio said, his voice inspiring greed in the eyes of the three workers. "But, if any of you ever choose to go against me, betray me or try to fool me - you guys should know, my money might be easy to take, but

when I ask for payback, it comes with a price of life attached to it." Shiva finished his words in a serious tone. His cold eyes scanning the three of them and sending a shiver down their spine due to the aura of bloodlust oozing out of him.

"Y_ yes boss." The three of them all gulped and said at the same time.

Rio smiled seeing their reaction and started speaking - "Then let me introduce you to your new bosses, this is Riley, that's Ryan. And I'm death, if you're itching for it."

"Welcome to Eclipse."