

LOA Nobody 261

Chapter 262 Herds and illusions

Some time ago, Rebecca along with Amaya and Edward was fighting with Elroy and his team in a swamp area.

It was a 3 vs 5 fight. Unfair to them from the very beginning as everyone's mana was sealed at the same level. In the beginning they were evenly matched and Rebecca even managed to get the upper hand in that fight eliminating two students of class A-5 despite the disadvantage in numbers.

But then when she felt her mana drained and tired after fighting for so long, something unexpected happened.

Backup arrived.

Not for her, but for the opposing team.

Qingyue Grayborn, the daughter of the Duke of Thidrol city. She was ranked 5th in entrance exams with an awakener rank of D-.

The fight which Rebecca thought she could solve with some effort became difficult instantly with her joining the tide. And this situation further worsened when Amaya who was in the middle of her spell got interrupted and suffered a backlash by the arrival of Qingyue.

"There's no point in continuing to fight. We'll only end up getting eliminated. Let's leave first and find others." Amaya suggested from the side, after seeing their current situation.

Seeing no choice to win this fight, Rebecca also nodded her head and decided to run away from it and find her own teammates for support first.

-Floor of Frost

-Mist of Misfortune

With an AOE spell that used basically all the remaining mana she had, Rebecca froze the entire ground around her enemies, freezing them for some time.

Edward also used one of his skills called Mist of Misfortune, which created white mist in the surrounding area. Affecting everyone who is trapped within to fall into a period of bad luck.

<It was a skill taught to the followers of goddess Jyeshtha, also referred as Alakshmi. She's the goddess of adversity and misfortune in hindu myths.>

Making use of this period, Rebecca, Amaya and Edward left that area.

But since it's the fight of 2 heroines how could it end so easily and without any accident.

So by some 'fate' while all three of them were on their way to run, Edward who was at the front, responsible for clearing the path, killed a small beast who was in their way. Resulting in a mass outrage of the entire nest of monsters who suddenly appeared all around them and started attacking them.

Rebecca had no idea how she could be so unlucky today. First she got dumped into a swallowing swamp. Then lost a fight against her opponents and now ended up angering a whole horde of beasts.

Yet Edward, who was running fastest now had a grim look on his face and his fists were clenched tightly.

'Damn these side effects' he cursed in his heart while glancing constantly at the time to see when he'd have his luck back and not suffer any accident in between.

Misfortune, Luck, Karma - these things are too complicated to be touched by mortals relying just on gods or their given skills without proper strength or understanding.

That's why they always contain some kind of backlash on the user too.

Rio's skill given by Shani also had a painful backlash of severe mental strain. And Edward, too, had a backlash of receiving bad luck in return for half the time his enemies had.

It's like hurting 1000 points to the enemy and getting 500 damage to yourself.

Acceptable and tolerable but not nice.

"Let's hope our token bearer isn't trapped or surrounded by other teams." Edward muttered as he slashed the necks of a few beasts who were jumping in front of him.

Rebecca glanced behind her where a group of Roozarks followed them closely.

Roozarks resemble large, aggressive kangaroos but have a more menacing appearance. They stand tall at around 6-7 feet, with muscular bodies covered in thick, coarse fur. Their fur patterns vary from mottled grays and browns to earthy tones, providing excellent camouflage.

Roozarks possess powerful hind legs ending in razor-sharp, clawed feet, enabling them to leap great distances and deliver devastating kicks in combat. Their forelimbs also have sharp claws used for tearing through prey or enemies. Their mouths harbor rows of sharp teeth suited for tearing flesh, making them formidable predators. Roozarks also sport a long, serrated, and scaled tail, which they wield with dexterity, often used for balance while hopping or as a weapon in combat.

Their race is peaceful by nature, and they like to live in groups or herds, but once provoked or challenged they'll have a fierce reaction to it.

Seeing these animals constantly jumping here and there, front and side Rebecca couldn't help but curse in her heart.

'Where's that dumb pair of brother and sister? Did they encounter something like this too?' Rebecca couldn't help but shout and then be worried in her heart.

"Be careful, those pests from back then are coming behind you too." Edward said, as he sensed the traps he laid while running getting triggered.

Amaya looked over her shoulders and saw Qingyue and Elroy who were almost catching up with them.

-Twin Mirage

Elroy, seeing the animals jumping all around his opponents and them dodging their attacks directly, used his illusion skill called Twin Mirage.

Instantly the number of Roozarks around Rebecca and others doubled and it became hard to determine which one was real and which one was just an illusion. This made dodging the attacks of these jumping clowns much harder and Edward who was still suffering from low luck backlash, got hit a few times and rolled on the ground. Triggering his own traps and getting blasted into the sky.

"Fuuck" Edward cursed when he felt the stinging pain all over his body. But he stood up again and started fighting with the Roozarks who surrounded him from all sides.

'Is it over this time?' Rebecca thought as she looked at the purple haired Qingyue girl who was getting closer and closer to them.

-caw caw-

Just when she was thinking if this test was too hard to win easily, she heard something and looked up where a black crow was hovering in circles.

A smile came to her face as shouted "Keep running, we're almost there." Rebecca said, as she started using her aura reserves to help Edward and move forwards where an idiot was watching the drama from.

Amaya too sensed something and stopped acting 'fragile' and got serious for the first time.

'No point in getting eliminated, let's watch some fights first.' She thought and activated her spell.

-Silence

A spell which covered an area of 20 meters all around Amaya, silencing everything.

Chapter 263 Gathering before the group battle

Amaya's silence skill created an environment around her which calmed everything. Where except her movements nothing else could make any noise.

This skill allowed her to stop and intercept her enemies from chanting any new magic spells. And if there are monsters around, it can also influence them to be peaceful and silent.

With just one spell of hers she spent nearly all her mana, her face turned pale and sweat drops formed over her forehead, but her lips were curled up in a slight smile as she saw Elroy's illusions disappear and the crow which was hovering above them moving away.

'Was that a coincidence or did he know about it?' Amaya wondered as she noticed the crow flying just outside her spell range boundary.

'Interesting' she thought and smiled.

Seeing the sudden change in their surroundings, Rebecca and Edward gave Amaya a surprised glance for a few seconds, which she pretended not to notice.

"This spell won't last long. So just kill as many of them as you can." Amaya said, looking at them and closed her eyes, trying to recover her mana.

'If you had something like this, why watch us make a fool of ourselves all this time.' Edward thought internally.

He scoffed at her and then moved in a flash, running into the pack of Roozarks who were still stunned by Amaya's spell. Roozarks main ability was their living in groups and agility if you count, but since now they were standing still confused and lost, it wasn't hard to kill them at all.

In just a slash of his sword Edward managed to kill 2 of them instantly and then he kept moving forward, splashing necks and blood everywhere his steps landed.

Rebecca too started her attacks, but not on Roozarks, but on Elroy who was spitting blood due to the backlash of his skill.

Some spells require constant casting and some could just be used by imagining their effects - it all comes down to their level and mastery.

Elroy had just recently learned this mirage spell, and still lacked the control over it, thus Amaya who noticed it for awhile now, managed to hurt him with her Silence.

"Not so fast, Princess." Qingyue, who was a bit behind Elroy, shook off the effects of Silence, and came between Elroy and Rebecca.

"Let's have a rematch." She said and charged her spear with her mana.

"Grow up, Yue." Rebecca said smirking as the purple haired girl turned a bit blue in anger.

"I'll shut your smile once and for all, Princess." Qingyue said while puffing out her plain chest subconsciously.

-hum haha-

Rebecca chuckled seeing her actions, making Qingyue even more annoyed.

Qingyue waved her spear as arcs of mana left her blade and moved to cut down Rebecca. While Qingyue herself moved her legs and gave Rebecca a kick in her stomach, trying to wipe that smirk off her face.

The scene where Rebecca bent down and she slapped her with a backhand or slashed her head with her spear appeared in Qingyue's head, and inevitably her lips curled up in another sneer.

"You're still the same as ever. So unlady-like." Rebecca moved back a step, dodging her kick and shattering her dreamy thoughts.

Then using her momentum instead of charging back to fight, Rebecca just turned around and continued running on her previous path. "See you later, Yue."

Rebecca shouted and disappeared in a flash.

"You _ " Qingyue shouted and tried to follow her, when a scream interrupted her thoughts. Turning around she saw that while she was busy fighting with Rebecca, Edward already cleared their path- and Roozarks, who felt scared to get close to Amaya, turned back and started attacking Elroy.

Seeing her teammate who was fighting 5 of those beasts alone, and was almost dying, Qingyue stopped chasing Rebecca and others and turned back to save her partner.

'I'll see how long you can run, Princess. I'll beat you and that little gobbler together one day.' Qingyue swore in her heart as she fought against Roozarks, imagining them with the faces of different people she wanted to teach a lesson to.

Rebecca didn't know her thoughts, otherwise she would really laugh and ask, what's the reason to be so mad about - all they did was just a little prank.

She gave her a beautiful dress but with high chest space, and Amy gave her a boy's shirt seeing her plain runway.

There's no reason to be mad for so long over it. Right.

'Grow up' and get over it.

On the other side of the forest.

Amelia, Valtor and Katherine were trying to kill Jaesin and the Grunter hat, when just before their combined attack could kill both of them, a shield made of tree roots covered Jaesin and pulled him back. While ropes made of branches wrapped around everyone's legs and pulled them in the air.

Caught off guard, the three of them lost balance and flung into mid air.

But eliminating them wasn't that easy.

The next moment Valtor used his skill 'Shadow Transfer' and teleported directly where his shadow was made. On the ground.

Other hand, Amelia just used her space mastery to teleport away from this trap.

Katherine, on the other hand, was the easiest of them all. Instead of using spells or wasting her mana, she waved her body in the air a few times. Creating high rolling momentum. After some time, she pulled the knife from under her belt and spread her hands whole.

Moving her body again, she raised the knife in her hands, coating it's edges with aura. She cut down the rope binding her legs in one move and fell down the ground.

Before her body touched the ground, she did a flip in the air and landed on her feet. (A perfect superhero landing)

"Be careful, someone's here." Katherine said, as she looked around and didn't find anybody.

Just when Amelia and her were looking around carefully a loud scream echoed in the forest, nearly bursting out their eardrums.

—aahhehhrhrr roar

"Wha_ is that?" Amelia asked as she covered her ears in pain with her trembling hands.

Katherine, who was quick in response, managed to cover her ears with mana to suppress the ringing sensation, looked up towards the raging monster they've been fighting all this time.

Grunter hat who was nearly tired and suspended , healed from all his injuries miraculously. And started beating his chest while jumping wildly, in anger and pain.

On Grunter's head were vines wrapped tightly. And every now and then, sounds of click or clack were ringing out too. Making the monster howl in pain all over again.

'The white elf' Katherine thought, as she looked at Saisha standing over the shoulder at Grunter and pressing her hands over his forehead.

As grunter raised his hands to hold his skull or bash this fly away, trees moved near him and turned to chains, who tied his paws.

The 9 foot beast lost the color in his eyes for a few seconds and then stopped struggling and roaring in pain.

'Did she knock it out, or did she control it?' Amelia wondered as she noticed Saisha too.

But her question was answered when Saisha released the monster, and the Grunter jumped towards Valtor and started attacking them.

'Damn it.' Amelia cursed seeing Valtor's figure flying in the air after suffering a fist to the stomach. Seeing no chance to win it in short terms, she just turned around to leave where she felt her brother's mana.

She had already exhausted herself in previous exchanges , and not to mention as Rio always said, there's no point in fighting a losing battle. Or showing all their tricks in trials like this.

Ignoring a challenge is always better than losing it. (Said by a guy who fought and got beaten)

Chapter 264 The crazy bitch - system let's scan her brain

264 The crazy bitch - system let's scan her brain

Rip looked at the situation on the both sides and smiled. His birds were still circling over Rebecca, but for Amelia he was blindsided. Saisha killed the bird he controlled, and seeing how easily she did it, there was no point in sending others.

'Looks like it's time end this little play.' Rio thought and looked at Leon.

Glancing at how he was still fighting with Lucille and Lincoln, Rio just sighed and waved his hand.

A force of attraction pulled Lucille away from the range Leon could move.

"Damn it, I was just about to kill him?" Lucille shouted as she turned around and glared at Rio.

"Delusions doesn't suit the style of your family, little lion." Rio teasingly said before disappearing from his place.

Lucille stared around and raised her sword in defense to dodge or attack him instinctively, but before she could be prepared a wave of pain hit her brain along with Rio's playful words.

"You can't even hold a sword properly. Is this what he taught you? Where's the spirit of Lionheart's? Or was that just a joke, wasted on bastards?" Rio said kicking the sword away, as he exerted more force, twisting her hand, until he heard the sound of her bones dislocating.

"Shut your mouth. Or I'll _ " Lucille said with gritted teeth as her eyes turned red in anger and pain.

"Or you'll what? Go complain to ghosts or gods again?" Rio said interrupting her threats. He pulled his hand back, and Lucille dropped to her knees. She tried to move her right hand but failed to lift it up or move.

She looked up at Rio in anger and hatred, as the pain made it harder for her to focus on casting any magic spells or control her element. Not to mention she was already low on mana due to her previous fight with Leon.

Rio didn't care about the murderous eyes of this villainess and ignored them completely. Instead seeing them he even smiled and bent down to her level.

Reaching his hand near her throat and face close to her ears, he whispered "Tell me, Do they still listen to you nowadays? Or did they abandon you too?"

"You _ how _ " Lucille's face paled instantly as she heard Rio's words. The previous look of hatred and anger disappeared from her face and only horror covered it, draining all the luster from her ruddy face.

She hated this guy from the moment he interrupted her fight with that dandy ranker. And then the more he made fun of her being a bastard or illegitimate, the more she hated him. She even thought of killing him somehow.

Yet his final words put all her thoughts to halt.

'He knows'

That's what's been echoing in her mind ever since Rio finished his playful whispers.

She was just an illegitimate child. Born when a noble was too drunk on drugs to distinguish between his wife and her maid.

She had spent her whole childhood in that house being ignored, played and trampled upon. Scarring her innocent heart and turning it into stone.

Yet she lived there through all that suffering without any complaint, because her mother was there.

"Awaken and you'll be able to stop this suffering for yourself and your mother."

Those words were the ones that gave hope to her in those dark times.

And so she stayed silent.

Through all her torments, all her suffering and bullying - she kept shush.

Just so the 'heroic' Lionheart family would spare some change and arrange for her the ceremony necessary for awakening.

And all her hard work and prayers were answered.

She awakened.

And just like that man said, her situation changed..

From being the illegitimate child that no one wanted, to being the heiress of that entire house.

All because of her awakening that power.

A power to communicate with something, this world couldn't understand.

Yet no one knows, the great power that brought her all her glory and pride, was simply a hoax now.

It's not real.

At least not anymore.

"Don't worry, I won't tell anyone." Rio said to her and lifted her up by neck.

Her body was light, way too light compared to all the weight his mother had him drag around in his training, so he just picked her up and choked her.

"Did Nyx (cough cough) tell you?" Lucille struggled to speak despite feeling the strength leaving her body, the more tight his grip became.

She never told anyone when her powers stopped working. Not even her mother. Cause she knew if anyone found out, that would be the end of her blissful life.

But somehow this guy knew.

'Why does everyone just think it's always Nyx's doing whenever I pull something awesome. Does anyone know how much of a miser she is in reality?'

Rio cursed in his heart and didn't clarify to Lucille about how he knew her secret. After all, he couldn't tell he knew of the plot and that's why he knew about her failing powers.

Hell he knew more about them than she ever knew in her whole life.

But that was all for the future.

"Tel mi?" Lucille spoke with teary eyes as her face turned red and blue.

"Next time." Rio said and twisted her neck. Ending her life.

Her body lost its strength and fell limp on the ground.

Rio turned around and decided to eliminate Rubina and Lincoln too. Maybe even Leon.

"Hmmm!!!

He took only one step when he frowned and turned around. He looked at Lucille's body which was still on the ground and didn't disappear and frowned even more.

'This bitch is really insane' Rio thought and kicked her 'corpse' and jumped away.

—boooooooooom

What followed that kick was a loud blast of compressed mana and a shockwave that blasted him away.

"Even after death she blew herself up, just to mess with me." Rio thought and dusted his clothes. Though he was fine, since he sensed the abnormality of mana and kicked her away. But this blast spell still managed to drop his health by 10% or so.

'She's just like in the . Bat shit crazy. It's clear that I'm blackmailing her, but she still has to do this for god knows why?'

'System, next time we see her. Let's do a scan of her brain. I'm sure something is very, very wrong with it.'

After complaining in his heart about this oddball's thinking progress. Rio tried to use his mana to heal his injuries. After all, no matter how little they were, he still didn't like them on his body.

"What the fuck?" Rio said as he tried to channel his mana, but couldn't sense it anymore.

Just when he was confused, a few notifications popped up on his watch.

[Your team has lost the token.]

[Time left to get it back 01:56 - 55 - 54.]

Looking at the countdown on his watch Rio had question marks on his forehead, then he thought of something and looked at Leon's place, which was turned into a large crater with smoke still bellowing through air.

'that idiot didn't get blown up, did he?'

Chapter 265 When everyone gathers

265 When everyone gathers

-cough cough-

Leon stood up from the ground with difficulty, coughing some blood and debris from his mouth.

He had just killed Lincoln when suddenly something crashed onto his body and then _ and then.. ...

As if sensing something he moved his hands along his waist, only to see he had lost the token of his class.

'Did it got blown up?'

'No, it must have fallen around here somewhere.'

Leon comforted himself, and through his injuries and pain with gritted teeth he forced himself to stand up and look for it.

'Apollo, did you see something? Can you find it?' Leon asked his God as he couldn't see anything.

Apollo who was watching this whole scene sighed and stayed silent for a few seconds, but then still decided to answer.

[Stop looking around, it didn't fall off in the blast. Someone stole it from you.]

"What? But how _" Leon blurted out as he heard Apollo's answer.

[Calm down and think about everything again. Ohh and be careful around that girl.] Apollo finished his words of advice and turned his eyes away.

In the realm far away from the reach of mortals, a handsome looking God whose face radiated light and perfection bashed his hand on his throne, sending shockwaves in his entire empty hall.

"Damn it, first Nyx, then Hela and now Gaia. Why are they all interfering more then they were supposed to." Apollo cursed loudly as he sensed the magic from Saisha.

"If all this goes on, can I really finish what I started?" He wondered in his heart and clenched his fists in anger. "No, I have to speed up his progress. Or he'll only be killed just like the others."

He made a decision and glanced up at the sky where he could see three distant suns shining just as bright as the one behind him, if not even more.

'I have to do it.'

Back on Arcadia

After hearing Apollo's words, Leon closed his eyes and thought about everything again. Just as his eyes closed, his brain became clear and all the pain and thoughts seemed to disappear. His memories played in his mind about the scenario moments ago.

16:52

But in slow and clear motion, just like a movie

Leon watched as he killed Lincoln and how Lucille's body crashed onto him and created a blast. Sending him flying across the trees.

'I still had the token at this time.' Leon thought as he looked at his flying figure and the token hanging on his waist.

But then something unexpected happened.

He saw as a white blur passed in front of his eyes and his token disappeared.

Focusing even more, Leon imagined this scene in his mind again. And this time, he clearly saw who or what it was.

Leon looked as how the moment he was hit by Lucille's body, a figure had appeared in his zone and then when he was hit, they used some kind of agility spell and then stole the token and dashed away before the blast.

"Saisha" Leon muttered and looked around carefully. To say he was shocked by this degree of difference between him and her was an understatement.

He hated this feeling of powerlessness. Of being at the mercy of others. And that's what fueled his rage and emotions.

He was about to rush towards the girl who was standing in front of him, just outside his zone, when the ground beneath his feet cracked and he was knocked back again.

"Stay in your line." Rio said as he stopped Leon from leaving his boundary.

'God knows what kind of scenario he'll trigger if I let him fight in front of all these heroines.' Rio thought as he saw Rebecca who arrived near him, followed by Qingyue and her team.

"Can't you even protect the token?" Rebecca complained as she looked at him.

"That's not my job." Rio said as he looked at Amaya behind him. "Go and help Amy. I'll handle the token and everyone else."

Rebecca looked at the side where Amelia, Katherine and Valtor were still fighting with grunter hat.

But it was more of a beat down then a fight now. As without mana, all of them were just getting hit here and there. Even though they could dodge grunter's main attacks with their speed and aura, but the shockwaves that followed every swing of that giant ape still hurt them every time.

"Just let her get beaten a few times." Rebecca said and moved away before Rio could hit her head for saying that.

As soon as Amaya and Rebecca left to help fight Grunter, the shadow behind Rio emerged from the ground and stood beside him. Next the figure made of pure darkness took Rio's form completely, and other then the black wisps of smoke lingering around his body, there was no difference between both of them.

"Don't let them interfere." Rio gave a command and his avatar disappeared from his place. Arriving just behind Qingyue, who was moving to fight with Rebecca and Amelia.

-clank-

Qingyue turned her spear in a hurry as she felt the presence behind her and the sound of metal clashing against each other rang out.

Qingyue's feet scratched on the ground for two steps before she stopped. She felt a slight sting of pain in her wrists, as she tried to stop the shaking of her spear.

"You _ why do you always have to jump into a girl's fight?" Qingyue complained as she looked at 'Rio' in front of him.

-Magnetic Pull

-Iron Maiden thrust

-Bronze Echo

-Mercury's Master

One by one she used her spells, some which strengthened her, giving her more speed and dexterity. While some which directly attacked Rio's avatar.

Yet all her attacks were in vain as the shadow avatar simply walked through them without any discomfort or distortion.

"Not again." Qingyue cursed as she created a shield of metal in her hands to protect herself from the incoming attack.

But the expected attack didn't land on her, looking around she noticed the avatar in front of her ignored and moved towards the big beast fighting with others.

"Stupid" Qingyue cursed herself for ignoring the beast and directly moved to intercept 'Rio' but Rebecca who noticed her signalled Amy and both of them stopped her in between.

'Rio' slashed at the monster's head again and again, breaking all the vines binding its head and healing him constantly. Though the grunter attacked him too, but the physical attacks or those hat hallucination drugs didn't affect this shadow avatar at all. So it didn't take long for him to break the magic of Saisha controlling this beast.

Killing this beast was hard, but 'Rio' along with Katherine and Valtor - it was suspected it won't take long for it to fall.

Qingyue who was fighting with both Rebecca and Amelia, was having an easy time to vent her anger - when her teammates also joined her.

Elroy, Ziona and Hermann.

But Hermann who noticed Leon looking half dead, ignored his classmates and went forward to kill him instead. After all, knowing the gap between both of them, he wasn't sure he'll get many chances to beat this bastard himself.

On the other hand, the real Rio looked at Saisha in front of him, who was holding a sword in her hands as arrows made of wood constantly floated behind her back.

"Let's end this." Rio said and his figure dashed towards her with all his speed. Though without mana it had a significant drop, but still enough to crack the ground beneath his feet and leaving a blur behind him.

Chapter 266 Mercy of a Madman

Rio's steps moved faster and faster the closer he got to Saisha. Who just stood there staring at him while constantly shooting wooden sticks which turned into arrows and floated behind her.

Besides Saisha, Jaesin also appeared and with a bow artifact in his hands he constantly rained arrows on Rio's figure. His eyes were bloodshot and his hands were shaking in anger and fear.

Fear, which had been haunting him at nights till date whenever he remembered the scene from the library.

According to the healers at the academy he was perfectly fine and the effects of that blessing were already removed.

But reality is often a different case of disappointment.

His mental state had been shaken since then, and it's not wrong to say that he had built a sort of psychological shadow for Rio. Not to mention the amplified hatred he felt while he was in pain at that time which brought back and amplified all the things he forgot or buried in his mind.

And now that there was a chance where he could kill Rio and have his revenge, he wasn't going to let go of such a golden chance.

Wooden spikes shot from the ground stabbing Rio's legs when his feet landed on the ground, as he created bindings which held him in place, while constantly shooting a barrage of arrows at him every second.

'Die, die, die' He yelled in his heart as the scene where Rio's body was riddled with arrows with him screaming and wriggling in pain appeared in his mind and a twisted smile formed on his face.

"This is what you get for messing with me, human. I'll make you regret ever crossing paths with me." Jaesin cursed and ran towards Rio who was trying his best to dodge or avoid the attacks from Saisha.

"Stupid worm." Rio said as he channeled his fighting technique called 'Mercy of a Madman'.

It was a battle technique he found in Zenith's library and decided to learn it when he first joined the academy.

This method was honed by a demonic sect within a controlled open dungeon managed by the World Association.

A fighting style best suited for criminals, berserkers or pure aura users. It enhanced the physical abilities of the user and transformed his rage into power. Something like burning blood essence and sense of sanity to gain more power and stamina.

This technique is deeply rooted in unpredictability, revolving around inflicting harm on adversaries through relentless and erratic attacks, emphasizing torment and cruelty. Each move, designed to torment or toy with one's adversaries.

Originally this technique was called 'Demonic Rage' but due to the ruthless way those demonic practitioners used it, over time anyone else who saw it called it as 'Mercy of a Madman' - simply meaning, that those utilizing this technique are considered madmen, making death a more merciful fate for their opponents.

Why did Rio learn a technique that can affect one's brain or turn him into a madman, well because when the choice was between remaining sane and remaining alive, he chose the later.

In his time at the dungeon when his body was low on mana and aura to fight those creatures, sacrificing a little bit of sanity to slay those zombies is a cheaper price to pay.

Plus turns out this technique is much nicer when one learns to control it properly.

As for its side effects, well they were removed once he got the system back and modified it a little.

"You're still spouting nonsense, even when you're like this huh." Jaesin smirked and shot another arrow which pierced Rio's shoulder and went straight inside. "Let's see how long you can keep up your arrogant act."

Rio slashed his sword in a circular motion, chopping the 'sticks' shot by Saisha in half as he ran towards her, totally ignoring Jaesin's existence.

"I don't like wasting time with woodworms." Rio said as he asked the system to throw this idiot away from him, so as to not dirty his eyes.

[Deducted 200 points.]

System said and next second Jaesin who was still cursing and shouting disappeared from his place and appeared inside the circle of token bearer. Not to mention, the arrows he shot went straight for Leon, hitting him on the shoulder.

???

Question marks appeared on Jaesin and Leon's face as they both stared at each other, wondering where this idiot popped out from.

"Good that you're here too. Let's kill him together." Hermann, who was losing against Leon, saw that there was someone else near him, and directly pulled him into attacking Leon, calling him a partner.

And as expected, Leon who heard the words of Hermann looked at Jaesin with some anger in his eyes and directly shot an arc of flames at him. (Not a magic spell, but a sword technique which can create fire effects.)

Since it's one of Hermann's friends, who's always been creating problems for him, he didn't have to show mercy.

Hermann smiled in his heart seeing Leon's reaction and directly charged forward, trying to use Jaesin as a distraction and kill Leon.

"What are you standing there for, shoot some more arrows." Hermann was afraid that this elf might turn back and run away, so he didn't forget to call for Jaesin again, who was still wondering how he appeared there or where Rio was?

"Let's kill him first."

Jaesin too came out of his thoughts hearing Hermann and dodged the 'fireball' which was about to hit him.

'Doesn't matter how? This guy is also his teammate, so I'll kill you first and then find that bastard.' Jaesin said and prepared his bow and shot two arrows at Leon.

Rio didn't see this situation happening with Leon or he'd be sure to give system and Hermann a compliment for being good villains.

But currently he was busy fighting with Saisha, who seemed surprisingly calm about everything.

Mana was a no go due to the penalty of losing the token and his aura was already getting used up pretty fast for maintaining his avatar.

"How did you do that? You can't use mana or blessings?" Saisha asked as she waved her hands and created a few traps and arrows to maintain her distance. Which was getting harder and harder the closer he came.

Hearing her question Rio ignored it as he ignored the memories playing around in his head, and directly slashed his sword, bouncing an arrow that was about to hit him back at her.

Chapter 267 Aurora Volley and trash protagonist

"You seem angry." Saisha said as she stooped the wooden arrow in front of her before it could hit her. "Is it the technique that you're using?" She said as she noticed none of her attacks landed on him yet.

"Seems good. But it's not wise to use something that has long term side effects, don't you think?"

'Can't she just shut up?' Rio thought in his heart as he looked at his system panel.

'How much longer do I need to play around? Can't you do your scans some other time. It's getting on my nerves now.' Rio said seeing no response from his system.

[She's an anomaly host. If you want to know what's wrong with her, let me do my job. Unless of course you want Gaia burying you underground the moment you step out of this VR.]

'Useless' Rio thought as he kept moving around dodging the arrows that seemed never ending.

Just before he started fighting her, his system jumped up and asked to do a scan of her to find all the changes she had compared to her counterpart. Rio agreed thinking it'll be done in the background instantly after spending some points, but this damn system nearly took all his time and was still not reliable.

"Are you stalling for time, or waiting for something else?" Saisha, who noticed Rio not doing anything, asked again. "It's already been more than a minute, you might get eliminated if you don't get the token back. Maybe all your teammates will get eliminated first too."

[Done. You can let loose now.]

Just when Rio was getting angsty again after hearing non stop chatter from her, his system informed him that it's scans were done.

'So, what did you find? Where's Gaia?'

[You wanna discuss that now, cause she's getting serious it seems.] System said as it noticed Saisha who made a bow from her elemental magic and started chanting a spell to enhance it.

'Don't ever meddle in my fights like this again.' Rio said final words to his system before dashing straight at Saisha.

The traps laid before him kept getting triggered, as every step he took the ground below him turned into small pits trying to bury him, while wines wiggled over ground trying to entangle him and pull him back.

But they were all useless as his speed increased several times what he was using before, as his hands kept swishing through air leaving a blur trail behind them when he kept cutting through the wines and knocking down the arrows coming towards him.

"So you finally decided to take this match seriously." Saisha said and pulled the bowstring back till her shoulders. An arrow formed with her fingers and gleaming in a silvery glow.

Aurora Embrace

Taking a look at Rio's movements which seemed erratic and unpredictable at first glance, she released her fingers. As the arrow whizzed through the bow, while the bowstring kept shaking a few times.

Her hair moved a little following the little air hitting her face, which she pulled back behind her ears and locked them with a wooden pin. Her lips curled up in a satisfied smile as she saw the arrow hitting her mark perfectly.

Rio, who saw the glowing arrow land near his feet, had a frown on his face, as he instantly turned back and jumped high.

'I should've burned this damn book in that library.' Rio cursed in his heart, seeing Saisha perfectly using a technique made for Leon.

Aurora Embrace, was one of the skills which was written in the archery technique Aurora Volley, which Saisha picked from the library instead of Leon. and Seeing how she was already using this technique in a way which took Leon a first semester to understand, Rio could just say this protagonist was really trash.

This move was meant for defense which could erect barriers around the user was used by Saisha to trap him in place. And with her nature element, she could literally squeeze him inside.

But since he knew all of the moves of this technique, it also meant he knew ways to counter them.

Nothing serious, he just had theories about what he'd do if somehow Leon still managed to get this technique someday.

This was a thing Rio would do with Leon's every supposed art and skill written in the book. Trying to think up ways to counter them or make them better in his free time.

He had a dozen methods ready to stop this technique from harming him, if he still had his mana and blessings, or hell his aura avatar too. But dealing with it with his physical body alone, that was gonna be hard.

So it's best to turn back and avoid getting trapped.

"Your senses are pretty good seeing you managed to avoid that." Saisha said as she pulled the bowstring and shot successive arrows on him continuously. 'Let's see if you can dodge them.'

Celestial Barrage

As her arrows left the bowstring they flew into the sky for some time and then turned around and started falling over Rio's head. Each arrow turned into two and then four and eight and so on and so forth.

Soon enough the entire sky over their head was filled with tiny dots which grew bigger as they came close to the ground.

For a moment the sky was turned dark and shadows of countless snakes moving around formed on the clouds. But as those arrows crossed the clouds and came into clear view, they started glowing brighter and brighter. Pushing away the previous darkness and allowing light, which was blinding just to look at.

Arrows started falling to the ground like rain drops, each piercing itself deep into the earth, leaving small cracks surrounding it. Even hitting the other members who were busy in their own fights.

Everyone had to halt their fights and turn to look for cover or move out of the range of this attack.

[Stop laughing at Leon and focus on your own match.] System said to Rio, who was standing on a tree top looking at Leon who was just about to kill Hermann but these arrows interrupted him.

'You're the one who wasted more than one minute of my time. Can't I just enjoy myself a little bit now.'

Rio said as he waved his sword, cutting the tree he was standing on in two parts from the middle.

He fell straight down and Saisha lost sight of him for a second in the leaves and branches. When with a loud thud the tree trunks fell to the ground, splashing dust and smoke everywhere. Along came slashing sounds everywhere, as sparks flew into the dusty smoke.

Arcs of air shot through Rio's sword due to pressure and high speed and landed on the ground all around him. Creating long crater marks.

Along with the rain of arrows Saisha shot down, the originally hard and flat ground turned unrecognizable, as layers of flat pieces flew everywhere.

And in all this chaos ran a figure straight through, slashing at the only light shining still in the middle.

-clank-

The metallic sound rang through the air as Rio's sword slashed at the bow cutting it in two, as his left hand grabbed the shining arrow right before it could stab through his skin.

"Game over" He spoke for the first time to her, as he threw the sword in his hand which also shattered after impact to the ground.

Chapter 268 The ending

Rio's words seemed to be drowned in the constant thumping sound Saisha's previous rain of arrows was still causing everywhere.

But she heard it.

"Not so fast." Saisha said as she pulled the bowstring in her hand and the two broken parts of the bow started changing their appearance and turned into swords.

The original bow was now a pair of twin swords connected by a string.

Saisha slashed her swords at Rio's head trying to catch him off guard. While Rio, who knew her usual fighting style from the original book moved his body sideways, dodging the incoming sword, as he kicked her stomach, throwing her back a few steps.

Without giving her a chance to fight back or create another bow and shoot him down, Rio dashed straight at her, engaging in close combat.

Though Saisha was still able to control a few arrows through her elemental magic. And shoot a few spells which didn't require chants or something.

<In Arcadia, everyone can learn chantless magic. Obviously it depends on their mastery and understanding. Simply explained, once one has total control and understanding of a certain spell, they can use that spell just by imagining it. Meaning no matter how talented you are, you can't learn chantless magic for free. You gotta train that spell to nigh perfection before mastering it on your thoughts.>

Saisha was using her elemental magic constantly to enhance her physical abilities but soon she noticed something was wrong, as she felt mana getting thinner and thinner in the area around them.

And soon it was to the point where she couldn't even feel it without focusing hard on it.

"A formation, or is it rune magic?" She muttered under her breath as she tried to look around and move back.

But Rio didn't give her time, as he constantly barraged her with sword slashes.

"No one said it wasn't allowed," Rio said as he looked at the circular pattern created on the ground, by using the mana infused arrows of Saisha and aura infused attack patterns of his.

-Zero zone

A basic formation pattern which is easy to perform with enough control and understanding.

Often used at children's talent measuring tools and public awakening ceremonies by the World Association.

Obviously what Rio created was just made up mojo junk which could barely last for 10 or so seconds before losing control and shattering in pieces, creating a blast, but that was all the time he needed.

Rio raised his sword and in a flash ignoring Saisha's twin swords coming in from both his sides moved it downwards. Cutting onto her waist, dropping the token hanging there on the ground.

Saisha, seeing that the token was falling down, tried to use her element, as the ground below both of them cracked and vines sprouted out from them, growing in size instantly.

The vines moved straight upwards trying to hold the token, but suddenly they froze and then turned into splinters.

The formation pattern disappeared, destroying everything around them.

Wooden splinters and stones hit both of them, giving mild injuries, but both of them ignored it.

Now Saisha could feel her mana again, but before her spells or hands could get the hold of the token, a kick from Rio sent the token flying out of her reach towards Leon's position.

This single exchange took only but a second or two, yet this one moment changed the entire game.

The sword slash from Saisha landed on Rio's shoulders at this point too leaving behind a red alert from the health barrier and painful sting that freaking hurts.

Rio's feet landed on the ground again and he moved sideways, dodging the second sword.

"My turn" Rio said with a smile, and his figure disappeared in a flash again.

This time the game really began.

Rio's speed, which was already fast before, reached a new high and he appeared directly in front of Saisha, surprising her.

With a slash he tried to eliminate her in one swing, but she dodged it. Her figure turned illusory and her movements became gentle and clear. Her sword moved at an extremely tricky angle, swift as a needle, but Rio dodged the sword.

Saisha's figure moved in a circular motion as illusions of hers appeared surrounding him. Each a mirror copy of hers, making it hard to distinguish which one was the real one.

Each of them drew their swords and attacked him at the same time, but Rio just shook his head.

'She's stronger than she was in the . But she's still just as simple.' Rio thought and attacked the illusion which was still marked by his aura earlier.

Leon had secured the token and everyone of them could use their mana now.

Leon even killed off Hermann catching him off guard by a sudden spell and was about to eliminate Jaesin too.

On Amilia's side, Rebecca and Valtor were both eliminated, and so was Elroy and Ziona too. Currently there is a fight between Amelia and Katherine vs Qingyue.

Rio had called off his aura avatar too, since he didn't think it was necessary to keep it around anymore. Though Amelia and Katherine were both hurt and tired, but so was Qingyue. And once her mana ran out and she lost the advantage of her metal magic, she was just an easy to handle girl.

The fight continued for a few more minutes before Amelia managed to drive a dagger through Qingyue's frozen body. Eliminating her too.

'They make a great team.' Rio thought as he saw Amelia smiling at him, while Katherine just stood silent, trying to recover her mana and heal her injuries.

Saisha who was constantly piling up injuries on her body, refusing to give up and get eliminated, was just dragging their match till even Jaesin died and she lost her whole team.

Her nature element was constantly providing her with healing properties and vitality, so she could keep fighting, but without any proper attack that could hurt Rio, it was all useless.

Her luck was pretty high as she seemed to read his movements and evade most of his attacks, but she herself knew it was all just delaying the inevitable.

But eventually even that luck ran out.

Before she completely lost her strength, a surprise came to her, as the notification that her team's token bearer died and she got the penalty of no elemental magic.

With this she lost the only Trump card she could still use.

"How? Everyone's here?" She asked as she looked at Rio and everyone around that area. As she said aside from these 4 here, no one was alive from any other team.

Rio didn't say anything, but Amelia pointed at the flying birds in the sky, which were under Rio's control.

Since the location of every token bearer was marked on the map, he just controlled these birds to go there and kill Seraphina, the holder of their class.

How did a heroine die in some simple birds hand?

Well she didn't. Not directly.

Those birds just annoyed a bunch of other monsters and led them to her place. Leading to a fight and she became a casualty on the side.

Though Saisha didn't know it, she could guess it after some thoughts.

Since she lost her elemental magic which gave her endless health recovery, she got eliminated soon too.

Nothing brutal or painful, the simple backhand sword tap on the head to trigger the elimination process.

'I should solve the elven plotlines once I'm in better control.' Rio thought as he clenched his fists to hide the shaking of his hand and terrible headache he was getting after being close to her.

Though he told himself that he played around with her to see her skills and learn about Gaia's technique, or how she's different from the plotlines and how much stronger she is - but he and his

system both knew, that they were all just excuses, trying to hide the single real reason, which was that he still couldn't control neither his emotions nor those memories.

Chapter 269 Flashbacks Of Shiva - The New Girl

"Well, no surprises there." Professor Mythila said as the match ended and everyone started appearing back in the hub.

"The elf girl did drag it out for a while though. She seems strong." Professor Osborn said.

"She is. She just needs some experience." Professor Harkin said as he started thinking about ways he could train her or make her better.

(He's the homeroom teacher of her class)

"What're your thoughts on the other students? Do we need to compile some other tests or are you done collecting your plans for their next trainings." Professor Thaddeus said.

"I think it's enough for my class. They all had enough time to fight and show their skills. So I'm good." Professor Freya spoke with a satisfied smile on her face.

After all, it was clear even without Rio, her class was still the strongest one overall. And practically every ranker or notable student had preformed their best in this match.

"I'm fine too." Professor Arabella said as she stared at Hermann from the corner of her eyes, while he was busy looking at Leon with hatred in his eyes.

She didn't even need to look at the message of Loki on her system to know what was going to happen next, and what she needed to do.

'Looks like this year will be even more fun.' Professor Arabella said with a mischievous glint in her eyes.

"Well, anyways it's enough for today. So let's just wrap it up. I still have some other projects to work on." Jorvik said, glancing at the holographic screen on his watch. Displaying various formulas and reactions.

After getting confirmation from every professor, Jorvik cut the signal and pulled everyone out of the VR.

Once students left their VR capsule and gathered in the big hall after changing their costumes, Professor Harkin went forward, and gave a little speech to everyone. Giving some pointers about common mistakes most of the students made or appreciating those who followed all rules or did good in their matches.

His speech ended with that same general teacher note that everyone always says, don't get arrogant for a victory and don't be sad over a loss. This was just a stupid match and they should all just remember it as such. Nothing much.

Take good points and experience and don't sweat it on other things.

While all this bullshit was happening and boring speeches were prying one ear to another - Rio was sitting near a pillar with closed eyes.

Amelia called him a few times but seeing that he seemed sound asleep, she let him be.

That was a right decision too, as at this time in Rio's mind memories of his past life were playing in a stream line.

Flashbacks of Earth

(7 years before Shiva's death - when he's still a first year student at the college)

In a university classroom, students were sitting around, chatting with each other, as no teacher was present in the class.

"Hey, did you hear, we have a new transfer student?" Kajal (now Katherine on Arcadia) asked Shiva(now Rio) who was sitting besides her trying to sleep.

"I heard it's a pretty girl." Kajal said as she slapped a textbook on shiva's head, waking him up.

"The class is only going to get even more noisier again." Shiva said as he fixed his hair a little.

"Oh and does that bother the guy who doesn't even show up half a week." Kajal said with a helpless smile, while giving him a comb from her purse.

"Not my fault if it's so boring. I can't understand anything even if I'm here." Shiva said.

"That's cause you need to study actual books for this, instead of online s and kid stories." Kajal said, as she pulled a from his bag and waved it in front of her.

Shiva just let her be and buried his head back on the table trying to sleep again.

"Urgh, just go and sit on your seat nah. I'm already having a headache." Shiva said as he slapped her hands away when she tried to tickle him.

"Who told you to play around all night? How many times did I tell you to stop roaming with that guy?" Kajal said and punched him on the shoulder this time. Clearly feeling angry at him for ignoring her.

"His name is Nashi. And he's not all that bad." Shiva said, "Plus weren't you the one who asked me to go out and socialize."

"If I knew you'd find someone like him, I wouldn't say that. And not like you listen to what I say anyway." Kajal said, her words ending on soft whispers.

Shiva, who saw her getting stupidly lost in thoughts, was about to say something, when the professor entered the class, and everyone in class became silent.

"Morning everyone. Be seated and silent." A middle aged man in university uniform walked with a limp leg and stood over the podium in the middle and started speaking.

"Before we start today's class, I want you all to welcome a new student. I know it is already mid-year, but I hope you will all help her with everything."

"Miss Shweta, please come."

As the professor signaled the door to the class opened and came a girl with straight black hair with round perfect eyes. Her face, the definition of beauty and figure nigh perfection.

She was holding a single notebook and a red casing mobile phone in her hands. Wearing a red top and black jeans close to her skin, yet not too tight or vulgar. Not a single piece of expensive jewelry or accessories on her. She was simple yet somehow perfect.

Like the creator took all the time in eternity to cast her. For fear to leave any mistake in his first creation.

After coming in, she didn't do much, she didn't even need to. Yet she was the center of attention for everyone. And no one could look away after taking just a glance at her.

It took merely a few moments of complete silence which soon gave way to constant whispers and talks amongst everyone excitedly. Some boys even screamed aloud and started banging their hands on tables.

The new girl curiously looked around the class, taking in everyone's gaze which was stuck on her in admiration, jealousy and disbelief. Not reacting to anyone. No pride, arrogance, dislike or disgust - she was indifferent to it all.

But then her eyes landed on a figure who was rubbing his eyes with a lazy expression on his face, probably waking up from his sleep, and she blinked.

Shiva, who got tired of trying to sleep with all the noise and Kajal poking her fingers or pinching him, yawned and opened his eyes slowly.

After giving Kajal an angry glare, he looked at his classmates who were acting like idiots. He could even hear someone on his back calling the new girl Sister or Bhabhi or gf or something.

'Idiots, acting like they never saw a girl in their whole life.' Shiva cursed them in his heart and decided to look up, just in time to see the new girl staring at him.

And then_

Then. ...

Then his whole world stopped.

Thump thump thump

Sounds of his heartbeat echoed in his ears as all the surrounding noise disappeared in his mind.

Her eyes, he felt like he could just drown in them, yet he couldn't look away. And when she blinked there was this weird sense of loss that even made his breathing heavy.

'What's wrong with me?'

There was this major sense of familiarity in his head, while his heart felt just incredibly happy as he watched her lips curling up in a smile.

'What's happening?'

He had met or seen thousands of people, watched hundreds of shows and movies, read dozens of s - yet this was the first time he ever felt like this.

'Is this what they call love at first sight?' He asked and his face blossomed in another smile.

Chapter 270 Their Beginning - Nirvaan

"_ Shweta."

"Miss Shweta."

"Hmmm"

Hearing someone calling her name in the background, Shweta got out of her stupor and looked away with a frown on her face.

"Sorry, what?" She asked.

"Your introduction. Or you can just choose a place to sit." The professor repeated again. Though he tried to act normal, the man was sweating buckets on his back as he watched her frowning at him.

"My name's Shweta. I had to change my city and transfer here due to some family issues. I think I'm good at studies, so I won't trouble you all much, but I'll ask for help if necessary." She finished her introduction and some normal info in a calm tone looking at everyone.

Yet her eyes drifted back to that boy again.

But this time she didn't stop and looked away instantly. "Thank you all for welcoming me. And let's hope we have a wonderful year together."

Her words had just finished when sounds of clapping rang in the classroom.

"Silence." The professor said in a stern tone and then looked at Shweta again. His tone changed back to being respectful as he informed her . "You can choose a place to sit first. If you have any doubts during the lecture you can ask me then, or after the class, whatever's best."

Shweta gave a little nod and walked down the stage and towards the students.

Though the class wasn't totally filled with students, there weren't many empty chairs at first. So she could just walk towards the back.

(Obviously ignoring the ones who kicked their original partners to the side, to make a seat for her.)

"Excuse me." She said when she reached around the 5th row. And asked "Can I sit here?"

"No"

"Yes"

Two different answers came to her question, almost instantly.

Kajal looked at Shiva with somewhat glaring eyes as he readily agreed to this new girl's request.

Shiva too looked at Kajal, raising his eyebrows as he wondered what's wrong with her. But in response, she just scoffed at him and said "Fine, you can sit here."

"I'm Shiva by the way," Shiva said once Shweta sat down near him. "And the angry bird over here is Kajal."

"I told you not to call me that." Kajal said as she slapped his head lightly.

"But that's what you are, tiny red." Shiva smiled and said, as he pointed at her keychain on the table.

"I hate that gift." Kajal muttered as she put the stuffy red keychain in her pocket.

Shweta kept looking at the two of them chatting happily while totally ignoring the lesson that was still ongoing.

She didn't know what she was feeling now - first, there was this sense of familiarity in her heart, something like a connection with him. And then there was this weird feeling asking her to stay away from him. To avoid him at all costs in her head.

'Looks like I'm still too stressed after everything that happened.' Shweta thought and blamed everything on her previous problems.

She hesitated to interfere in the duo's talks a few times, but then just decided to ask Shiva directly.

"Have we _ met before?"

"I think so." Shiva replied honestly and then added with a chuckle. "But I don't remember where though."

"Then how are you _?"

"A feeling." Shiva said meeting her gaze again.

"Stop talking and focus on the class for once. Cheating through my notes won't help you in the finals." Kajal said interrupting them.

After one long hour of boring class and half an hour of sleep for Shiva, finally the lecture was over.

"I still can't believe how you can just sleep without any worries like that." Kajal said as she stood up to leave the class.

"Cause you're watching over me." Shiva said gulping down water.

"Uncle told you that this will be your last chance, before you have to start looking for jobs right. Can't you take this seriously?"lights

"Come on. Not again." Shiva said to her in a helpless tone. "My grades are already in the middle."

"There was a time when you were at the top." Kajal said.

"Well_ times change, Red." Shiva shrugged his shoulders.

Yes, he was good at studying years back, but he had lost interest in those things ages ago. With everything that's been going on at home and the routine ramblings - he was already used to them. And passed those lines from one ear to another without any stop in the middle. Hell, if not for Kajal, he wouldn't even read anything at all.

"Miss Shweta, principal's calling for you in his office."

While they were all talking and roaming around the campus, giving a tour to Shweta, someone came and interrupted them.

Shweta nodded and after saying thanks or something, she followed the staff to main office.

"What's with all the 'miss' stuff? Is she some rich girl?" Kajal asked, once Shweta was gone.

"Who knows. I'm hungry, let's go to the canteen." Shiva said and ignored it.

In the office of Dean, the man sitting in the chair looked at Shweta and passed her a phone with trembling hands.

Looking at someone three times her age being respectful to her, anyone would be a little awkward, but Shweta ignored the dean and took the phone.

Looking at the familiar string of numbers on the screen a complicated look flashed on her face and didn't speak anything.

"Are you still planning on not coming back?" The heavy voice of a man from the other end of phone came to her ears, but Shweta didn't reply and just waited. "I've told you before, what happened to that family wasn't your fault. It was because_ "

"I'll call you back later." Shweta said and planned to hang up the phone.

"Nashi is there too. Atleast meet with him. He doesn't know anything about it." The man spoke but his words were cut short midway.

-tu Tu

"If you call me for nonsense again, _ " Shweta coldly said to the Dean and threw the phone at him.

The Dean swallowed saliva with his dry throat as he wiped the sweat from his forehead and didn't say anything but just nodded his head in a hurry.

'Why did she have to come to my college.' The dean cursed his luck over this new arrival once she left his office.

'I already have enough trouble makers as is. And now there's this little rich killer here too.'

'Let's just hope this year ends smoothly and then I'll just get a transfer or retire from this damn city.'
Dean thought as he looked at the message on his phone screen.

[Nirvaan - Keep an eye on her.]

'Shit' The dean cursed as he read the message and opened the drawer to take a few pills to calm his racing heart. While placing the packet back his eyes glanced at the various newspaper outlines placed inside the drawer, and his hands froze.

[Gang wars starting again in the city. 13 bodies found in an abandoned factory. Brutal incident _]

[Collapsed building due to gas leak explosion. 8 dead, 27 injured.]

[A family of three commits mass suicide, days after the death of their last relative.]

Over all these horrible news pieces, was a photo of a middle aged man sitting on a chair at the cover of some brand magazine, his indifferent eyes were like a king looking down at ants from his throne.

Abhinav Nirvaan, The most powerful man in Mumbai city.

Closing the drawer, dean picked the water bottle and emptied it in one big gulp.

While the dean was cursing his luck, drinking vodka from a water bottle, the announcement ping rang out in his office.

[Sir, there's a fight in the canteen. It's all chaos everywhere. Please come here fast.]

Hearing the clattering of tables and plates behind, the dean cursed these incompetent staff in his mind. 'For what reason, have I been paying you guys for. Idiots.'

Eating some mouthfreshner from the side, the dean forced himself to stand up, when another message came through the phone halting him.

[Ohh and it's that boy from the last time again.]

"Fuck" The dean cursed and looked at the empty bottle again, thinking he should bring an extra from tomorrow.