

LOA Nobody 61

Chapter 61 Lost In His Brain - Chained Man

"Queen" Just saying that word had took all the energy system could muster. It had lost all its hope on what to do next, as never since its creation did it ever feel so powerless, it felt that maybe even at its full power it won't be a match for them, as the system lost all its will it remembered the words of 'that being' -

'Don't lose yourself in his mind.' Though system couldn't understand how or what, all this had to do with Rio, but it was sure he was the one responsible for it.

(Fucker, should've been more clear.) System cursed 'that being' for telling this important information in simple line without any explanation, but it was all useless now, it was too late.

"See you in the cycle."

As the system finished saying what it thought to be its final words, it was suddenly pulled out from that place and found itself back in Rio's brain.

***[System right now is just an orb of energy, as its level rises, so does its powers, and its forms. It could grow to have its own physical form as it reaches the peak of level permission allowed for that world.]

System looked around in a hurry as it felt all that pressure on itself gone. It took a look around and found itself surrounded by Shiva's memories of earth. It took a deep breath thinking that it was all a bad illusion and tried to calm itself thinking it only happened since it was on level 0 and once it gets its powers back, nothing like this would be possible.

Though it said all that bullshit in its head, it didn't change the shivering look or the fear that was still fresh in its core.

'I am never going to sleep again.' System thought that, cause it knew the haunting experience would surface again as nightmares.

System had almost calmed down, thinking whatever it was, was now over, when it heard a voice similar to what it just classified as an illusion, asking it questions.

"What were you doing?"

[I was just, was an illusion] system couldn't form its word clearly as it saw 2 cold emotionless red eyes glaring at it from the darkness. The sight of those eyes scared the shit out of the system as it remembered the scene of getting drowned in them just moments ago.

"I asked you, what were you doing in that place?" The voice asked again as with it came the sound of footsteps, and some rattling of chains.

[I was pulled there, It wasn't my fault.]

"Tell me, were you getting curious to see what was on his mind?"

System had a gut feeling screaming at it, that if it told the truth something much worse than its prior experience would happen, even though it didn't understand what could be worse than that, it decided to trust that feeling.

[No, I wasn't. As I said I was pulled there suddenly, I didn't know why or how?] So the system tried to explain itself in a hurry, as the rattling of chains grew louder and louder, warning it of the impending arrival of whoever that voice belonged to.

As the system finished speaking, the sound of footsteps and rattling chains stopped and the system calmed down a little. But then it heard a voice filled with so much anger that it would probably have nightmares all its existence remembering that voice.

[You tried to kill him.]

[Should I say gutsy or idiotic, Trash]

As that voice echoed in the surroundings, the system watched in horror as the mindspace of Rio which held all the memories of Shiva started trembling, and soon it started breaking apart in pieces.

[Who are you?] System asked as it was getting frustrated now. Call it its last struggle, but it shouted its question, as atleast knowing who there people were would be enough.

"Me, I'm your worst fucking nightmare." The voice said, in an amusing tone, as it continued walking.

"I warned him, not to send some second class trash"

"But he didn't listen"

"Lesser beings like you should learn a lesson"

With these words, those red eyes which were so far into the darkness appeared just in front of the system the next second. And before the system could even process if it was that man with those eyes who traveled fast, or was it she who got pulled near him.

System felt its essence being pulled out of itself as those monstrosly red eyes glared at it. It felt as if it would lose its very existence, and core of being, if he didn't stop or someone saved it.

"He's born to rule, to destroy -

"He doesn't need some trash holding him back"

For the first time since its creation, the system felt the fear of true death, it felt that if that man wished even those primal rules of continuity and preservation won't save it. No more chances, no more cycles - true death.

***[The meaning of death is different in every religion, but aside from that, every world has its own rule of death. What comes after it? It depends on that world's will. You could keep reincarnating again in the

same world, you could reincarnate in some other place as your fate in there was ended. You could also be sent to heaven or hell, all depending on world's will.

But whatever death you go through, it only lasts for that world, as after that you start the cycle again. Bound by the rules of continuity and preservation.

True death means losing your your essence, your soul for forever. In this way you lose too much of your soul after countless cycles of reincarnation, or when your essence merges with the existence of cosmos.

In simple terms - your soul is an energy, bound by world's rules where it resides. Once your destiny ends it moves on to different worlds. True death happens when you have no more energy to reincarnate again, in that case whatever was left of your soul merges with cosmos.

Since everything was created from cosmos, everything ends in cosmos - primal rule of preservation.]

—

'Is this what it feels to die?' But opposite of what someone would expect, system wasn't cowering or shivering now, it felt excited, its boredom which had plagued it for so long was gone in an instant, the feelings of anger, betrayal and fear all gone too, what was left in that place was excitement of what was next. What would be after that cycle, what comes once it's all over

But it was pulled out of those curious thoughts as it felt whatever that process was stopped, it looked towards those menacing eyes and found them glaring at it, the system felt that those eyes could see the very thoughts of it.

"Hmmm, trash indeed."

With a snicker the voice said its remarks and the system found itself being bound by some chains which started draining the last bit of energy it had within.

"STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING."

It was then that a new voice echoed in the broken landscape of what was once Rio's brain. It was a voice system was too familiar with, it belonged to 'the being' who sent it to him, who lied and used it for his own purposes.

Chapter 62 Lost In His Head - 3 Battle Of Unknowns

"Stop what you're doing" As these words echoed in the environment , system found itself freed from all its bounds, the chains holding it in place disappeared in an instant, it got pulled out from that place.

Due to the the massive loss of its energy, system couldn't see anything around itself now, the loss of energy it had suffered due to those chains was fatal, and it would probably take it much time on itself to ever get it back, if that was even possible, considering this was the first time that anything like this happened to it.

System felt a cold touch on its core, which put its mind at ease a little. The once shining blue orb of energy, was just like a flickering candle light, which could end with just a slightest of air. The being's heart pained seeing this condition of its trusted companion.

"We had a deal." The being roared as it looked at the full extent of system's damage, the thought of what would've happened, if he was a tad bit late fueled his anger. Even he with all his almighty powers couldn't revive someone who had suffered true death, as there would be nothing left to bring back.

Even system was surprised at the intensity of his voice, until it heard another voice, completely opposite of everything the being represented -"If you, begging to get our help is called a deal, then you're an even bigger fool than your friend over there." The voice replied back, not even surprised at the new arrival which stopped its fun.

"Mind your manners , D _ " The being was shouting in anger when it was interrupted by that voice again - "Um umm umm, shut your mouth, or I'll shut it for yaa"

As these words fell, the darkness around everything got attracted towards those red eyes, as if they were consuming it, the system too got pulled towards that direction. "I don't go by that name anymore, remember."

"IT is there to help us all get what we want. Don't you want a happy ending, isn't that why you agreed? So stop your foolishness, and just watch from your shadows." The being said furiously, its voice shattering whatever was left of Rio's mindspace in the surroundings.

Though the system didn't see anything around it, it could feel how furious 'the being' was from its tone. Never in all its life had it ever seen him lose his cool like that, and when it heard the reply of whoever it was with those red eyes, it didn't even know how to respond.

– "Big words coming out from a coward. Who got beaten by his own creation."

"And I agreed, for giving him help, not giving him death. Next time it tries something like this_ .

The voice replied back in the same tone ignoring the destruction around it, and the anger of that being, it started chuckling maniacally as it finished its words.

"I guess you know what will happen then, don't you? This'll be your last warning. Now leave. I see something fun happening soon."

System was beyond confused at whatever happened today, first it was 'that being' breaking those primal rules to please its host, then those thousands of eyes and that Queen, then there was the voice of that chained man, and his indifference towards that being. What deal were they talking about, and why was 'that being' who's supposed to be strongest listening to his insults.

It had so many questions, but no energy to ask anything, until it heard the voice of that being again.

"Why didn't you listen, I warned you to be careful?"

As the system heard those words it felt furious at this bastard, in this condition where it nearly died, he's asking why and how, instead of healing it. But before it could shout, it felt energy flowing into it at an alarming rate. And after absorbing it for some time the system could finally feel like itself again.

"Now wanna tell me what the fuck is happening?" System asked, as it saw the area around them started restructuring itself, all the pieces of Rio's mindscape started coming back together forming it whole again.

If the system could focus a little on the healing of his brain process, it would be able to see many different memories and scenes, which weren't there first, appearing and disappearing constantly between the cracks of his mind, but system was far too lost thinking about all the mystery with red eyes, to notice those little details.

"Who were all those people and who is that guy?" The system asked as it couldn't understand anything about who all those people were, who was that queen, or the man, or how its host who's a mortal, fit into all this.

"My first failure."

Much to the system's confusion the being said those words and continued "Look his mind is healing itself again, so I don't have much time, just trust in me for one last time" System watched as the being said those words and its ethereal figure started getting pulled out from his mind.

[Trust in you, you bastard trapped me here.]

"I will explain everything, just not yet."

[Fuck, atleast say what do I need to do.]

"Just help him, and guide him, give him a happy ending."

" You would learn everything over time, and remember, do not _ " The being's words were cut short as the system found itself back in Rio's mind, it could now feel its powers again and its connection with its host too.

From Rio's emotions it felt that not even a moment had passed in reality, the System looked around and couldn't find any changes into itself or its surroundings, had it not been for the overwhelming fear and

that being's words floating on its screen again, it would even doubt if that was all an illusion. [_ Lose yourself in his mind.]

(First failure huh)

"That explains jack shit, you fucker."

System shouted as it couldn't understand anything, it even got more confused now, then it was before. Today it had felt anger, jealousy, fear and death - and so it was the most exciting, and the worst day of its long life.

[Just trust me once] the words appeared on its screen again, asking for it to trust him, but why and How? When it didn't even know anything?

[Please] one more word appeared, this time it almost felt like begging, and so the kind system who had no other option left anyway, decided to trust 'that being' one last time and said -

"You better prepare a nice explanation and a good apology, you dumbass."

[This will help you better] That being said, next second, the system could hear Rio's thoughts again. He was still feeling joy over getting that memory crystal.

"Hmmm, so you do know how to override permissions." Since that being had literally begged the system for help, this magnanimous system decided to agree, and and finally acted determined to see his journey till the end.

"One last time huh - let's begin"

System had no other option left, it couldn't leave Arcadia as long as its host was alive, it couldn't kill Rio itself, now it was even too scared to look into his messed up mind , and learn what's what? So it decided to ignore everything (out of sight, out of mind) and help him - just like it would, to any other host.

It was then that system started hearing Rio's thoughts about how he'll kill the princess, and that whole justifying the murder monologue, that system nearly choked on its thoughts.

(Just how fast did he change his gears from laughing like crazy, to actually go crazy and think of killing someone)

[Hold your horses host]

[Looks like it's time you take a reality check]

The system announced as it decided to explain some stuff which its host clearly overlooked in his excitement.

Chapter 63 Ria's Resurrection???

[Hold your horses host]

[Looks like its time you take a REALITY check]

Rio, who had just finished thinking about his plans to kill Rebecca, or to be more precise letting her die, was disturbed from his thoughts by the system's voice.

"What do you mean?" Rio asked.

[You're forgetting the most important part]

[Unless you want to kill your sister, I'd suggest you stop your foolishness.]

"Speak clearly about what you want to say?"

[I meant, are you forgetting what happened when you kept your memories together, or what happened when you woke up in Arcadia.]

System's words were like a bucket of cold water that brought Rio back from cloud nine to seven, of course his happiness can't just be ignored by such simple words. Back of his mind was still dancing in joy at the news of Ria's revival.

But Rio also understood what the system wanted to say, when he wanted to keep his memories he had suffered immense pain, and he didn't think it would be wise to put Ria through that. Even though Ria was someone with a strong mentality, pain wasn't something she was familiar with.

[Pain isn't the only thing you need to be worried about.]

[Keeping the memories of your past life cycle, is simply going against the primal rules of continuity.]

[Amelia is fine and living her life now, as she had moved on from that darkness, she had forgotten all about her past, if you suddenly give her this crystal, her mind would simply break apart, just like yours did. And in case she couldn't hold on till the process finishes like you did, then she would literally lose her mind completely or die]

[By some off chance even if she survived all that, the world system would be able to notice the existence of something out of this world and interfere.]

[You're only safe because of me and the healing potion you got from the shop, your sister on the other hand doesn't have both.]

"But this crystal was a gift item as you said, it shouldn't hurt her, right?"

[Do you really want to bet your sister's life on that]

[Besides you don't even have the necessary points to buy that crystal, so stop thinking about killing everyone and think of better ways to get points.]

"What do you mean better ways? Rebecca is an integral part of Leon's beginning journey, and a crucial support to his growth. Not to mention she's also one of the main heroines and is super influential in certain plots. If I kill her, I would get thousands of points more than Noah."

[Wrong, you won't get anything.]

[As I said, giving you gifts and rewards isn't a rule or requirement, I'm just doing that cause it's fun.]

[Now if you're ruining the plot way too early. And I think your actions damage my long term enjoyment, what's the fun in that]

[Plus killing a main heroine and killing a side partner like Noah are far too different things, host. You won't even be able to do it and would only end up attracting the attention of various Gods.]

"Is she protected that much with luck?" Rio asked as he furrowed his brows, if he couldn't even kill her, then he should just forget about even touching the protagonist.

[Of course, her position in the novel's story should be enough proof of how important she is.]

[So remove your thoughts about killing her till the plot begins, and keep doing what you were doing till now. Changing stuff on a small scale that doesn't just destroy the world.]

"That would take too much time, I did that much and you only gave me 4000 points remember. While just killing Noah gave me 4 times that amount." Rio said as he was sure if he could kill some characters like Noah, he would get all the points he would need.

[Yes, but even if you get enough points early, I'd still advise against using them.]

"Why?"

[Can you really trust that crystal fully, knowing there might be a chance she might die taking it. Can you live with that guilt again.]

"So what , do I never use it?" Rio asked as he looked at the crystal's icon on his system panel.

[We don't know what'll be the consequences of using it, host. So your best bet would be to wait till the plot starts and I can access my other functions. Who knows you might get lucky, and find something like that healing potion, in the shop or some quest reward to help you with the process.] System replied honestly as using the potion early would really result horribly, Rio who wasn't reincarnated and was in his soul form, was somehow able to handle the process, but it doubted if Amelia could live through it.

Rio too thought about everything and agreed with the system as he didn't want to take any risk with Ria. He had lost her once, and losing her again just because he was in a hurry would be foolish.

"You're right, you know you can be really helpful at times if you want to." So Rio praised the system a little since it had been helpful for once. Though of course he would've noticed all these details himself once he had calmed down and thought about it carefully, but still since the system acted and saved his time, so it deserved a little thank you.

[I'm only here to help you host. I have nothing but the best wishes for you in my heart.] The system too shamelessly took that praise without a sweat, completely forgetting that just moments ago it had tried to kill its host and nearly died because of it.

"Yeah yeah, or so you say."

"I still can't believe they're the same." Rio said as this might be the happiest he had ever felt. And he simply couldn't calm down.

[It is true, host! She is your sister, so forget about reminding her of old memories for now, and make new ones. Wasn't that enough for you before you knew about the crystal.] System advised him again, thinking his unstable mind might revert back to killing someone and fixing it all.

"You're right. It is enough. As long as she's alive and happy. It is enough." Rio said as he closed his eyes and thought about how he had started to ignore Amelia a little these past few days because she reminded him too much of Ria.

'I should make it up to her. She might be worried if she did anything wrong.'

It was only then that Rio remembered when he got the notification about the crystal, he was with Amelia, and how fast he ran off to.

'Damn shouldn't have done that. I also need to collect my first gift from her. Wonder what that is.' Rio thought as a bright smile came to his face guessing what gift she might have prepared for him. As the novel started when they were all going to the academy, the author never focused on Rio's childhood, he had no idea if this was something that happened in the book too, or because he changed something.

'I should find her and apologize or something.' Rio thought and stood up, he went to the washroom to fix his appearance before he went for dinner with his new family.

Rio's gaze fixed on his reflection in the mirror, his eyes tracing the tear marks on his face. They were not tears of sorrow this time, but tears of overwhelming joy. He traced a finger lightly over the tracks left behind, feeling the slight dampness on his skin that remained.

"Even if they're tears of joy, they left stains too huh."

A smile came to his face as he said that, he washed his face, fixed his hair and changed into a new comfortable suit, as what he was wearing now felt like a patient's wrinkled uniform. "Who even changed my dress from that artifact to this? Hey system, did you see anything?" It was now that Rio remembered he was wearing Dress of Ishwar when he passed out, but was now wearing some loose clothes.

Ignoring the useless question of its host system asked one of its own [So what're your plans about Rebecca now]

"Well if what you said is true and I can't kill her before the plot begins, or change something major, then I'll just change stuff on a small scale."

"Now that I know Amelia is Ria, I can't just ignore her existence and let her follow the protagonist. That would only increase more danger for me and Ria"

[Hmm are you planning to have her in your harem? I've seen that happening in a lot of novels. My previous hosts did that too.]

"I think you should know by now that I'm different. So let's spice it up a little."

[What do you mean?]

"Since she's so protected by luck, and is custom made for the protagonist, she'll be my guinea pig to test the limits of fate. She'll help me learn which rules I can bend, and which I need to break."

[I don't understand.]

"You will." Rio said, and started walking towards the door, only to be surprised after opening it, he saw someone standing in front of his room, waiting for him to come out.

'System, please tell me she wasn't here when I was crying just opposite this door.'

[I _ have no idea.]

'Fuckkkk'

Chapter 64 Phonoi - The God Of Spirits

As Rio stepped out of his room, his heart skipped a beat when he saw Artemis and Amelia standing there. A mixture of surprise and worry washed over him, wondering if they had heard anything, he asked the system, but it was useless.

'Fuck' .

He quickly composed himself, attempting to hide any traces of his recent emotional turmoil. With a smile that he hoped conveyed calmness, he greeted them, "Mother, Amelia, is everything alright?"

Amelia was looking at Rio worriedly, while Artemis's face had a blank expression. Rio looked at Artemis, trying to see any hint if she heard anything or not, but couldn't understand anything.

Rio's heart raced as he observed the blank expression on her face. The uncertainty of whether she had heard anything or not gnawed at his mind, fueling his anxiety. He glanced at Amelia, hoping to find some clue or reassurance in her innocent eyes, but she seemed oblivious to his internal turmoil.

Summoning his courage, Rio spoke up, his voice tinged with concern. "Mother, what are you doing here?"

Artemis blinked, her gaze shifting towards Rio, as if registering his presence for the first time. Her brows furrowed slightly, hinting at a faint trace of confusion. "Ohh, We just came to see how you were doing. Amy said that you were acting weird, and suddenly ran away from her. Is everything okay?"

Rio's worry intensified at the lack of a clear answer, and that cross question. He bit his lower lip, trying to find the right words to convey his answer without revealing anything. "I... I just remembered I forgot something in my room. I was tired from awakening, so I came out in a hurry. It wasn't anything serious."

Artemis's expression softened, her concern evident as she reached out to place a comforting hand on Rio's shoulder. "You should be careful, and rest early today. Your body might feel weird for some time, don't worry, it will adjust. If something else is bothering you, you can come to me, okay."

Rio's tension eased slightly after hearing Artemis's words, her touch providing a sense of reassurance. He nodded, a mixture of relief and lingering unease swirling within him. "Thank you, Mother. I'm fine now, so don't worry about me."

Rio looked at Amelia, who was looking at him worriedly, and her gaze met his, she shyly hid behind Artemis.

'Is she angry at me?' Rio thought as he watched Amelia looking at him with hesitation and then looking sideways again. 'No, more like worried that I'm angry at her.'

He realized that his earlier actions might have caused her to question herself, thinking that he was angry with her in some way.

His heart swelled with affection as he watched her, finding her innocent and adorable. He wanted nothing more than to reassure her, to let her know that she was the most important person to him right now. The revelation that Amelia and Ria were one and the same had brought a flood of emotions, making him appreciate their bond even more. He wanted nothing less than to just hold her tight and keep her safe this time.

With a gentle smile, Rio approached Amelia, extending his hand towards her. "Amy, come here," he said softly, his voice filled with warmth.

Amelia hesitated for a moment before slowly stepping forward, her eyes still reflecting her uncertainty.

"I'm not angry at you, okay. Don't ever think that." He crouched down and affectionately nudged her nose, eliciting a giggle from the young girl. "How can I ever get angry at my cute little Lia."

"Liar, then why did you run? You didn't even take my gift." Amelia said as she tried acting serious, but with her stature it just made her look even more cute.

"That's cause your brother prepared a gift for you, and wanted to be first to give it, you wanna see what it is?"

Amelia's eyes widened in surprise, and then her face lit up with a bright smile, she nodded her head in a hurry while moving her hand in front of him.

"Well, since your lazy brother was sleeping till now, he didn't wrap it for you. But it's a very special gift, okay."

Amelia's eyes lit up with excitement as she saw Rio taking out something from his pockets. She eagerly waved her hands, indicating her anticipation to receive the gift.

Amelia looked towards her mother who too was also waiting for what gift Rio was talking about. She coughed lightly, and when her mother looked towards her, she just started acting proud, her eyebrows were going higher, face looking 45° sideways, trying to act like the whistling monk Rebecca told her about. Artemis looked at her for some seconds, and then with a displeased expression, looked away. Amelia who with a side eye watched it, had her smile brighten by 2 more points.

The happiness she felt now wasn't for the gift, but the fact that her brother wasn't angry at her, and was acting like normal again.

Though she didn't mention it to her mother, she had noticed how Rio had started to act strange around her, and ignored her sometimes. All this time she thought it was because she did something wrong and made him angry. This was why she even prepared a gift for him, she wanted to give it to him after his awakening and apologize, but someone put her to sleep.

She glared at her mother when she remembered what Myra told her, she was going to complain about it to her father when she found Rio at the balcony, and decided to give him the gift first. But to her surprise Rio didn't even take it, and left her there. That's why she went to Artemis and brought her here.

But all her worries were gone now, she could see it, in his smile, he was still her same loving brother, who doted on her lovingly, and it was a gift enough for her.

But since her brother already prepared another gift, it would be a waste not to take it. It was definitely not because she remembered how her brother cheated all her money by giving her a teddy Bear.

Though her brain spoke volumes of her thoughts, her outside expressions remained kid-like. Her acting cute was just the act she had for her family. Since they liked her, for their happiness she could do it. Plus acting cute brings gifts, and every girl loves them.

While Rio and Amelia engaged in their talks, Artemis's gentle expression vanished, and her eyes took a darker turn. She scanned his whole room again, her eyes searching for any sign of someone whom her son was talking to. Yet, her gaze found nothing out of the ordinary, leaving her feeling perplexed and apprehensive.

But instead of calming her nerves, this made her more worried, as this meant, he wasn't talking to someone here. 'Is this some God who's watching him? Or someone who already made the deal? Why is he not saying anything?' Various thoughts crossed her mind in a single moment.

At one point she wanted to ask Rio everything, but she also noticed he had no intention of telling her anything, his nervousness when he saw her before was enough proof.

She closed her eyes and said in her mind 'Do you see someone?'

[A lot of them actually, your son's getting quite famous now.] A ghastly male voice came in her mind, it belonged to her chosen God, someone whom she chose to be an avatar of. Phonoï - the Greek God of spirits and of killings.

'Why, he's just a kid.'

[A kid who got Nyx's blessing. She doesn't choose people like others do, something must be special about your son. And that's what they're all curious about.]

'Did you see someone from the strays, or evil side?'

[He's Nyx's follower, no one with half a brain would want to mess with her. So you're worrying for nothing.]

'Then what about his words, he said as if... '

[It could be anything, maybe he made some deal with those cockroaches, and saw something, or maybe he's just a kid thinking nonsense.]

The words of her God weren't enough to calm the nervous thoughts of her heart. She thought again about what she heard from outside just moments ago. Though not clear, Rio's voice did reach her senses when she focused on it. His words played in her ears again, making her further confused - 'my little sister, and this time you would be able to live your life however you want. I'd make sure of it.'

As much as she wanted to respect Rio's privacy, and give him his freedom, this wasn't something she could ignore, her children were her whole life, and the words he spoke were concerning both of them.

But looking at how happy he looked now, how they both smiled and chatted together, she didn't want to ruin his mood just because of her suspicions, 'Today's special for him, his awakening, I can't ruin it for him.' So she pushed her own worries aside for his son's happiness, and decided to talk to him later.

Chapter 65 First Gift Call Of Duty

Rio, unaware of Artemis's thoughts, was busy chatting with Amelia. He took out a simple folded paper from his pockets, and held up a single earring, beautifully crafted with a golden color metal and a shimmering green jewel at its center.

However, Amelia's innocent surprise was evident when she noticed that it was only meant for one ear. Confusion flickered across her face as she tried to make sense of it. She looked at Rio with a questioning expression, wondering why there was only one earring.

Rio took out the other earring but instead of placing it in her hands like before, he extended his hand towards Artemis. Artemis took the earring which had the similar designs as the other, but this one had a red jewel in it, instead of a green one.

"The other one is for Mother." Rio said, as he looked at Amelia's face. He smiled when he watched Amelia's doubting face turning into an angry face.

"You always do this, brother. It was my gift, not mother's."

Amelia said in a pouting tone, as she looked at her mother who had a winning smile on her face, and was copying her pose.

"It's an artifact Amy, so you should always keep it on." Rio said, as he gently placed the green earring near Amelia's ear, a subtle magical energy radiated from it, when it made contact with her skin, there was a slight sensation as it pierced through a small part of her earlobe. Amelia's eyes winced in surprise, but she didn't feel any pain. To her amazement, the earring magically attached itself to her ear and stayed securely in place, even after Rio removed his hand.

Amelia's initial surprise turned into a delighted smile as she touched it with her fingers, feeling the smooth metal and the gentle warmth it emitted. She looked up at Rio, her eyes filled with love and excitement for the gift he had given her. 'I'll always keep it safe.' She promised herself in her heart.

Artemis looked at her earring for some time in amazement and doubt, and then wore it too without asking anything. After both of them wore their earrings, the jewels in them shone for a little and then the light disappeared like it was never there.

Amelia looked at the shining red jewel and said in her cute voice, as she pointed her finger at her mother's face - "No I want the red one, green looks blergh."

"Heyy, it looks good on you. So keep it for now." Rio said and patted Amy's head, as he ruffled her hair much to the displeasure of the little girl. Rio smiled as he saw her mad look with those messy hair, he coughed and started acting as if he was combing it.

"I'll get you something else more pretty next time, okay. Now don't be mad." Rio said and watched as Amelia's expressions did a 180 and flipped to happiness in a moment.

Amelia jumped and tentatively wrapped her small arms around him, hugging him tightly. "You promised now, you can't go back."

"When did I _ sigh Fine, I promise." Rio said and patted her back.

As they stood there hugging each other, Rio couldn't help but close his eyes. The weight of his guilt and past regrets began to fade, replaced by a sense of hope and a fresh start. 'It feels good to have you back, Ria.'

'I can get one more gift, hehehe.' As Amelia hung her head on his shoulder, she thought with an evil smirk - 'It's vengeance for Mr Bear.'

Artemis, who looked at that little villain's evil grin, shook her head and said - "Let's go have dinner, I'm starving."

Hearing her mother's voice, Amelia just chuckled -"Hmm you're just jealous that brother got me a gift."

Artemis didn't reply and just pointed her finger towards her earring, then she turned around and started walking ahead.

"Did you see that brother, it's all your fault."

Amelia's eyes narrowed with a hint of anger, clearly holding Rio responsible for their mother's teasing. Rio felt helpless, realizing that his gift may have unintentionally led to this, but it wasn't like he could give both earrings to her, even though they were a pair, but they were meant to be worn by 2 different people.

***[Call of Duty - An artifact made by ancient Egyptian God Ptah, as a gift to his wife Sekhmet. But before he could finish making it completely, their son Nefertem threw it in the lower world in his tantrum, asking for something which all 3 could wear.

Effects - It transfers the wearer to their partner's location, in a moment of danger or when their life is at risk.

—When the wearer's life is in danger, it teleports the other to their location to protect them, as a call of duty that cannot be rejected.

Call of Duty distance depends on the power of wearers.

Rio would've liked to keep this earring to himself so he can come to her location, if ever there was a danger to her life. But since he's as weak as fuck right now, even if he got there, he wouldn't be able to do anything to protect her, and could only pray that he dies before her this time.

That's why he gave it to Artemis, as she is her mother, there's no chance that she would ever ignore Amelia in danger, and would do everything in her powers to keep Amy safe.

With the "Call of Duty" earrings in their possession, Artemis could sense Amelia's condition, though the same can't be said for Amelia, as she is still unawakened, but this one way use is what Rio needed for now.

As for those jewels, well that was purely because Ria on earth didn't like the color red, so he just habitually thought that, and gave it to Artemis. But looks like it isn't the case with Amelia.

In the original plotline this gift was something that the sad replacement of Rio, who was adopted into Blake family, and later took his place as official heir, gave it to Amelia, when they first met.

But since Rio had already decided to mess up plotlines for his own benefit, and this artifact seemed useful, why not take it himself?

'Can't believe that fucker bought it from an old hag on the roadside, lucky bastard.'

Rio still couldn't believe how something this useful and divine artifact could be just picked up on roadside stalls by those lucky sons of fates. (Fates a bitch - so those sons of bitches)

But that wasn't the only reason why Rio decided to take this artifact, these earrings played a very crucial part in pushing Amelia and Rio's relationship down the drain. Aside from some small arguments it led between him and his new replacement, which ruined his public image. They played their main role in another event. Which is what Rio decided to change, to save both him and her.

These earrings were very useful and perfect on the surface, but these could also be used in other ways. Since the call of duty cannot be ignored, if someone trapped one person, sooner or later the other would helplessly be transported there. Just like a fish to a chopping board - one attack and two kills.

His enemies had done the same in the novel. During Rio's fight with Artemis, when Artemis was losing, these earrings were the ones who teleported Amelia to that place, watching her brother fighting her mother and Myra's death, Amelia lost control of herself and ...

Rio, who was going through the full plotline of the event which pushed him and Amelia on totally opposite sides in the novel, was woken up from his thoughts by a sweet voice.

"Now what're looking lost in thoughts for." Amelia said as she tugged at Rio's shirt. "Are you acting like our father, when he has to choose between me and mama?" She asked, remembering how her father would always go silent and start thinking stuff whenever he had to pick a side between her and mother.

Getting out of his thoughts, Rio looked at Amelia, and said - "Don't be jealous of this little thing, I promise next time I'll give you an even better gift, something that even our mother would envy."

"Yayy" Amelia excitedly bumped her fists in the air, thinking she would wear that and show off to her mother. But before she could ask what the gift would be, Rio put one finger on his lips and said - "shhh, It's our secret." To which Amelia nodded in a hurry, putting both her hands on her mouth.

Artemis raised her ears as she heard Rio's words and then smiled and continued walking while saying - "keep dreaming."

"Hmmm we'll see." Amelia said and started walking faster pulling Rio along with her.

Of course even if she said that her heart really felt curious now, something that even she as Duchess and Raven's daughter would feel jealous of. She didn't doubt Rio's words as a lie now, he had become far too mysterious in her eyes with everything he has done in past - from that potion, to items on that list, to ordering Esme, and just moments ago those earrings - "Wonder what it is?"

[Host...]

Chapter 66 New Food & New Family

When the trio reached the hall, Agnus was already waiting for everyone. "You guys took your time."

Amelia ran towards her father excitedly. "It was all my lazy brother's fault." her small hand reaching up to touch her new earring. She pushed her hair back to make it more visible, eager to show her father her

new gift. She was trying to act normal, while glancing at him, hoping he'd notice something different about her.

Which he did eventually, but not for the reason Amelia thought, Agnus couldn't help but notice the faint glimmer of magic emanating from the earring. His senses tingled with recognition, he looked at Artemis and saw her wearing the same earring too. His connection with his chosen God made him acutely aware of the divine touch within the earring and its origins, further confusing him of where Amelia got it.

Agnus feeling curious decided to ask -"That's a beautiful earring, Amy. Where did you get it? Did your mother give it to you?"

Amelia scoffed, hearing her mother getting free praise, but then she pulled Rio forward and said proudly -"Brother gave it to me, as a gift. But mother took one too, look!"

Amelia said while pointing her finger at Artemis, who just nodded at Agnus, confirming his doubts, that little Amelia was too oblivious about.

After seeing Artemis's reaction, Agnus was really curious about this gift, but just as he reached out to examine the earring, Artemis intervened with a gentle cough, diverting the conversation. "What are you all standing there for? Let's have dinner first. We can discuss it later."

Agnus too nodded his head, thinking about something, "Alright, dear. We'll talk about it later. Now, let's focus on this delicious dinner that you've prepared for us."

Artemis skillfully shifted the attention back to the sumptuous feast before them, allowing the topic of the earring to momentarily fade into the background, making Rio sigh with relief. He knew about the questions that would come about those earrings but he especially got them for Amelia, even if he gave them a year or two later, the same doubts would still arise, that's why he gave them today.

Plus the fact that he was meeting his little sister after so long, and couldn't just take her gift without giving anything in return. He's not that shameless yet.

He walked towards the table and was surprised again to see the food that was placed on it beautifully. The table was adorned with various dishes, each infused with a touch of magic and creativity.

"Aww did mother prepare everything?" Amelia asked excitedly. Even though her mother teases her and makes her angry most of the time, she also makes amazing food. Thus making Amelia almost addicted to her desserts and sweets.

But sadly Artemis doesn't get much free time to make them for her, due to her daily work schedule, which Amelia thinks is just an excuse so she can't eat her favorite sweets daily.

"Yes, and you can eat as many sweets as you want today." Artemis replied as she started walking towards the table.

Hearing those words of wisdom, Amelia excitedly asked "Really, Mother? I can eat as much as I want?"

Artemis smiled and pinched her cheeks- "Yes, but only for today."

Amelia's smile grew brighter and brighter, illuminating the room with her infectious happiness. Her delight was so pure and contagious that everyone in the room couldn't help but be captivated by her innocence and joy.

Artemis, witnessing the sheer radiance on her daughter's face, thought 'Perhaps, I can let her have sweets more often, just to see that smile.'

Amelia excitedly ran and sat beside Rio. Amelia couldn't contain her enthusiasm, so without waiting for anyone, she just started filling her plate with all kinds of desserts, but her happiness was short-lived as her plate started floating away from her, and soon it was on the far end of the table.

Amelia, who looked at where her heavenly plate was placed, had a sad expression on her face - "Mama, that's cheating."

"Is it?" Artemis said, as she looked at the plate filled to the brim, it was so full that she, who made all the dishes today, couldn't tell what was what?

"Can't I have dessert first, please? I promise I'll eat all my food afterward!" Amelia said in a pleading tone, trying to bring out the cutest voice she could speak of. Her expression looked so wronged and pitiful, that Agnus almost spoke out in her favor again, but sadly Artemis was a step faster, "Nice try, my little doll. But you know the rules: food first, then dessert."

Amelia was going to use her strongest attack, "Tears of innocence" , her eyes already started getting moist, but before she could utter her cute spells, Rio stopped her, by filling her mouth with a small bite of one of the other dishes. "Don't try drama, Lia. Let's eat, I'm hungry."

Amelia, who almost choked on that sudden bite, looked at Rio in anger but then she ignored it, and started eating her own food silently.

As they started eating, the tantalizing aromas and flavors enveloped the room, enchanting their senses and distracting them from their troubles. They savored the flavors, marveling at the intricate tastes and textures.

The dishes were a combination of fantasy-inspired creations, incorporating magical ingredients such as mana-infused meats, exotic vegetables, and enchanting desserts.

The family engaged in lively conversation, with Amelia occasionally chiming in with her adorable anecdotes and jokes. Agnus and Artemis shared loving glances, their hearts filled with pride and joy for their children. Rio, though a little quiet, observed the playful banter with a smile, appreciating the warmth and love that surrounded him.

As they began to dig into the feast, Artemis playfully teased Agnus about his insatiable appetite, telling stories about how much he would eat every time he was in a dungeon, making Agnus respond with a mock scowl, in return he told everyone about how Artemis used to bully her sister and beat up everyone in raids if she got angry. Rio watched their playful exchange with amusement, grateful for the warm and loving atmosphere surrounding them.

Amelia, being the mischievous little sister, couldn't resist adding her own touch of humor to the conversation. She giggled as she teased Rio about his newfound love for adventurous dishes, poking fun at his excitement for trying new flavors and ingredients.

"Well, I just find it different, that's all." Rio said, as he really did, enjoyed all the foods Arcadia had to offer. He wasn't a foodie, but since all he had to do was order someone to make something, and have it delivered to his plate, why not try everything. He relished each dish, savoring the exquisite blend of new flavors and the magical essence that infused the food. Even the simplest of foods in Arcadia were so much tastier than the best food he ate on earth.

But then again that may be due to him not trying many different foods on earth, he was someone who lived on maggie and instant noodles for months.

As the meal progressed, the family of four relished not only the delicious food but also the love and warmth that enveloped them.

It was these simple moments of connection and playful bickering that made their family bond stronger and created memories to cherish for a lifetime. This was why whenever all 4 of them ate together, no one else was allowed in the hall, so they could enjoy their time.

Rio looked at everyone laughing and chatting happily, Amelia was still engaging in playful banter with her mother, Artemis. Their playful talks brought a smile to Agnus's face, and he had to act stupid when both of them stared at him. He must have felt helpless, thinking about whose side to choose.

Unknown to him Rio's eyes had started getting misty, watching everything, his thoughts were stopped as he felt someone's hand on his cheeks, "Why're you crying, brother." Rio looked at Amelia's fingers which still held that tear sign.

"Must've been a chili, nothing else." Rio said as he wiped his eyes.

Amelia, though unconvinced, decided to leave it, "Here, eat this." She said while pointing a spoonful of sweets to his mouth, which he ate happily. Amelia couldn't contain her enthusiasm and kept sharing stories about how she hid from her teacher yesterday in father's room, and how her maids had to look everywhere for her. She was eager to entertain everyone at the table.

Artemis still kept looking at Rio, until he smiled and nodded his head at her. He started eating and soon the laughter and chatter at the dinner table continued again, this time Rio joined the conversations too, fully immersing himself in the joyous atmosphere. Thankful for this new love and care he received.

Chapter 67 Getting Gifts From Family

After the best dinner Rio had ever enjoyed, everyone gave their congratulations for his successful awakening, saying how proud they were of him, and how Agnus knew he'll be amazing from the start.

Agnus wanted to ask about the mana suction method and his blessing, but Artemis changed the topic saying today's a good day, they can discuss all those serious talks tomorrow.

Rio's mood which was visibly going down brightened up again, hearing her words, making Artemis smile at him. Though Agnus was surprised that this over paranoid mama bear let go of her doubts, he agreed to wait too. There was no need to pressure him to say something right now.

"Well, ignoring the questions, why don't you give him the gift you prepared for his awakening? I'm sure he would love that."

Artemis changed the silent environment by saying this, she took out a gift that she prepared for him, an artifact that she thought was best for him.

As being the protective mother she is, she gave Rio an wristband to keep him safe. "I wanted to give you something to keep you safe, no matter the situation. This is an S-rank unique artifact called the 'Guardian's Escape.' If you ever find yourself in danger, just pour mana in, and it will teleport you to a safe location instantly."

Rio's eyes were filled with awe as Artemis put the silver wristband on his hand. He marveled at the intricate design and felt the faint hum of energy emanating from the wristband. The protection it offered was not lost on him.

The artifact was something similar to those earrings, but instead of teleporting someone to your location, it would teleport you away from that place.

Since its rank was lower than the earrings he gave to Amelia and her, Rio could see the slight hesitation in Artemis's mood when giving it to him; she must've wanted to give him something better than that at least, but for Rio it was enough. He knew everything about all the best stuff written in the novel - the artifacts, singular books, scrolls, spells, techniques, legacies everything was fixed in his mind, what his

mind didn't have - was love, and that's what this wristband symbolized, and THAT was more than enough.

"Thank you mother. I'll always keep it on me." Rio said happily and hugged her, while Artemis twisted his ear "You better, or I'll have to teach you a lesson." Her stern words of warning prompted everyone to chuckle, as Rio laughed and promised her again.

Agnus came forward as Artemis stepped aside, he held a thin book in his hand "Rio, I have prepared something special for you. You know I'm not like your mother who can talk much or look at everything to see what's good for you, so I've prepared this, it's called 'the Foundation Art' - a technique that may seem basic, but it holds the essence of every sword style. I have spent years refining and perfecting it, with the hope that it will serve as the strong foundation upon which you can build your own formidable skills on."

Rio's eyes widened with anticipation as he accepted the book from Agnus. A new sword technique made by the renowned sword king and owner of Shade, just that would be enough to throw the empire into chaos. This technique was something that the original Rio in the novel had learned too. It had given him the most understanding of the basics of sword wielding. At the beginning of the novel when Rio had mastered this art till expert level, he could learn and understand any other sword art more easily and much faster than others.

Looking at Rio lost in thoughts, and not saying anything, Artemis slapped his head and said- "Your father has poured his heart and soul into crafting this technique for you. It may seem simple, but I've seen with my own eyes the effects it could have, so try to learn it well. If you have any doubts, ask me."

"Of course, mother. Thank you father. I'll work hard to make you proud." Rio said as he bowed his head, the thought of how long it would take him to master this came to his head, but it wasn't important now.

Agnus hugged him, and said -"I'm already proud of you son. And I know you'll be amazing."

"Where's your gift, Amy?" Hearing her mother say that, Amelia who was sneakily still eating sweets from the side, realized that she had forgotten to bring her own gift for her brother. Determined not to miss out on this special occasion when everyone is gathered together, "I forgot it when I came to call you. I'll bring it." She said as she gulped down the bite, she wiped her hands and stood up in hurry.

"Just sit, I'll send someone to get it." Agnus wanted to send someone to bring the gift, seeing how even after eating so much that he could now see a slight bulge in her stomach, somehow she still wanted to eat more. He was worried if she could still run to her mother's room in that condition.

"No, I'll get it myself, brother, wait here." saying so Amelia hurriedly made her way to her mother's room, seeking the gift she had prepared.

Soon Amelia came with a small red box in her hand, "here" She was huffing loudly when she presented her gift.

Rio wanted to see what gift this little sister of his prepared for him, but before he could open it, when he felt her hands holding his own in hurry.

"You..you can't open it now. Do it later." Amelia requested, when she saw her mother's curious gaze on the box.

"Okay. Promise." He gently squeezed her hands, assuring her that he would honor her wish. Though Rio's curiosity piqued, he agreed to see it later.

Amelia smiled brightly and pulled her tongue at Artemis, feeling victorious that her mother couldn't see her gift.

It wasn't due to anything specific, it was just last week, when Amelia asked her mother about what gift she should give Rio, and to show her gift so she can get an idea, her mother outright refused and said to give something from her heart. Little Amelia couldn't understand what that even meant, in her eyes, it was her mother teasing her, or hoping she couldn't give the best gift to her brother. She had to work extra hard on choosing a gift because of that.

Rio carefully tucked the red box into his pocket. Even though she didn't say Rio had understood the reason behind her sudden departure, and why she ran to bring her own gift. He had noticed it the moment she brought her gift, this time it was just a simple red box, there wasn't any cute wrapping paper filled with her doodling designs that she put effort into making.

'Did I make her cry back then.' He remembered again about how he left her in a hurry, when she first presented her gift.

Filled with a mix of gratitude, guilt, and love for his little sister, Rio pulled Amelia into a warm embrace. "I'm sorry."

Amelia, slightly surprised by the sudden embrace and his apology, smiled and hugged him back.

As Agnus and Artemis observed the heartwarming embrace between their children, their hearts swelled with love and contentment, seeing the kids bond and the pure joy on their faces.

Artemis couldn't help but be overwhelmed by the adorable sight before her, her hand instinctively rising to cover her mouth as she let out an affectionate "Aww." The love she felt for her children filled her heart to the brim, and she cherished this beautiful moment.

Agnus wrapped his arms around her waist, drawing her closer. His own smile radiated pure joy as he witnessed the bond between their children and how happy his family looked at this moment. Even after being away from home, and not always being there for the kids -just watching these happy moments filled his heart with amazement.

Rio and Amelia joined too for a group family hug, In that tender embrace, everyone found solace and a deep appreciation for the family they had built together. All of them only prayed that this happiness could last forever.

Little did they know that the Gods they all prayed to, were the ones who would tear them apart given the chance, but that's a tale for another time.

***[Artifacts are graded into mainly 8 classes-

Normal

Rare

Unique

Legendary

Mythical

Semi divine

Divine

Godly

Artifacts could also be further divided in ranks of F to SSS, depending on their use, effects and condition]

***[Techniques are divided into 9 types. From 1 star techniques to 9 star. Depending on their use, growth and side effects.]

***[Mastery or proficiency is divided in -

Beginner < Novice < Fundamental < Intermediate < Advanced < Expert < Perfect

***[Skill or elemental mastery is divided in-

Amateur < Apprentice < Intermediate < Proficient < Master < Grandmaster < Natural]

Chapter 68 I Can't Accept Your Gift

As Amelia's energy was completely depleted from her enthusiastic chattering, running around, and playfully arguing with her mother, it became clear that she now couldn't move a muscle. She was half

lying on her chair now, it seemed that she needed assistance getting back to her room. Agnus's worries had indeed come true. She really did eat too much.

Artemis couldn't help but shake her head with a mixture of amusement and concern as she observed Amelia sitting on her chair, her stomach visibly bulging from indulging in sweets for hours. With a teasing smile, she turned to her husband, and commented, "See? This is exactly why I don't allow her to eat sweets so freely."

Agnus chuckled softly, recognizing the familiar banter that often ensued between Artemis and their daughter. He playfully defended Amelia, saying, "Well, she's just enjoying herself tonight. It was a special occasion after all."

Amelia, with a glint of fear in her eyes, jumped into the discussion, eager to defend her sweet tooth. "Father's right! And today was brother's fault, he pushed all his sweets on my plate"

She placed the blame on Rio hoping he would defend her too, otherwise looking at her mother's expression, she will have to forget about eating sweets for weeks again.

Amelia's eyes darted towards Rio, a glimmer of hope shining in them as she silently pleaded for him to take the blame for giving her the sweets. However, to her dismay, Rio burst into laughter and pointed at her accusingly, claiming that she had actually stolen his share of the sweets.

"Given you, more like you even stole everything from my plate. Saying I should just let you eat a little, only one bite and next thing I know it's empty."

Amelia's glare intensified as she realized her traitor brother wouldn't come to her rescue. Feeling a mix of frustration and desperation, she turned her attention to her father. With a pout on her face and her eyes welling up with tears, she silently conveyed her plea, hoping that he would intervene and save her from the impending ban on sweets. But sadly as Artemis coughed a little, her father too looked away.

Having no other choice, she finally looked at her mother, and said -"I promise not to eat more next time. Mother." her eyes and tired look making her look even more pitiful than every other day, Artemis sighed, pretending to be stern, but her eyes twinkled with affection. "Alright, alright," she relented, unable to resist Amelia's charm. "Just remember to brush your teeth extra well tonight."

Amelia beamed with victory, her bulging stomach momentarily forgotten. She couldn't believe her luck that her mother was willing to let her go that easily. "I promise, Mom!" she exclaimed, in a hurry afraid that her mother might change her mind. She looked at her father and brother with a sneer, a triumphant grin spreading across her face.

Artemis glanced at Rio, intending to have a private conversation with him and said "Your father and I needed to talk to you about something _ ", but before she could finish, Amelia swiftly intervened, coming up with a playful excuse to keep Rio by her side. She claimed that she needed his assistance to make it to her room or she might fall asleep right there at the dining table. Her words were delivered with a mischievous grin, hinting at her playful nature, but looking at how tired she looked everyone believed them to be true.

Artemis wanted to tell Rio to come talk to her tomorrow after waking up, but Amelia didn't give her the chance to finish, so helplessly she just agreed. Agnus chuckled and nodded in agreement to what Amelia said. He called for one of the maids, instructing them to accompany Amelia and ensure she reached her room safely.

Myra was the first to come in, and kindly volunteered to pick up Amelia and carry her to her room. With gentle care, she scooped up the tired little girl in her arms, cradling her securely. Amelia, in her exhausted state, didn't protest and simply rested her head against Myra's shoulder.

Rio looked at Artemis and when she nodded her head, giving him permission, followed closely behind as Myra made her way towards Amelia's room. He watched with a mix of amusement and fondness as Myra expertly navigated the corridors, ensuring Amelia's comfort as she sleepily clung to her. Looking at how Amelia was being silent, Rio looked closely and found that she even fell asleep. 'Just how fast did she pass out?'

Upon reaching Amelia's room, Myra gently placed her on her bed, tucking her in and ensuring she was comfortable. Unlike Artemis, Rio remembered to put the toy bear on her bed, making sure she held it properly.

Before leaving, Myra whispered a soft goodnight to Amelia, her voice filled with warmth and care. Rio, lingering for a moment longer, gave his sister a gentle pat on the forehead, and went out too. "Good night Lia."

—

Rio stepped out of the room and saw Myra waiting for him. He greeted her with a smile.

She nodded and said -"Congratulations on your awakening Rio."

"Thanks, Myra."

As they continued their walk towards Rio's room they started having some light conversations. "So, you were there on my awakening right?"

"Yupp, watched your whole scene. Quite a bold move, to use mana suction for elemental awakening, don't you think?" Myra said in an amused tone.

Rio chuckled, "Still better than doing it in an instant dungeon filled with monsters."

"But you could've warned us before." Myra said as she met his eyes.

"Would you guys allow it?" Rio said without averting his eyes "and besides, I knew I'd be fine."

"Have you said that to master?" Myra asked as they continued walking.

"Nope, I think she let it slide for today. Might have to explain everything tomorrow though." Rio said as he shrugged his shoulders. Remembering how she changed topics whenever it came to his awakening or those earrings, he could guess that even though she had doubts, she didn't want to ruin anyone's mood today.

Myra also understood her master's way of doing things, and she approved this approach too. Awakening was something that can only happen once a life, ruining such a big moment for someone doesn't feel right. "Thought of any excuses yet."

Rio shook his head feeling helpless. "Not like anything I say would change her mood, and my punishments."

"Yupp, you will regret it." Myra nodded gracefully, as she remembered something.

"Do you know anything? She seemed fine while giving out gifts." Rio asked, hoping to get any details on how mad she was, and how much lies he should prepare.

"That's even more bad. The calmer she looks.."

"The more mad she is." Myra started her sentence but Rio finished what she meant.

"Yupp, by the way, here take this." Myra said as she brought out something from her ring. Wrapped in a leather cloth was a dagger that she presented to Rio.

"My gift" Rio said as he removed the cloth and looked at the black dagger.

"Well despite your odd ways, you do deserve something. Congratulations Rio, and welcome on your new journey." Myra said happily as she noticed Rio looking at the dagger carefully, thinking if he liked it or not. This dagger was the last thing she had connected to her childhood, it was something she found in her broken house. She always kept it close, it was one of her favorites too, not because of any emotional value, she didn't even remember much of her family. She only kept this knife because it had always been useful for her.

The handle and blade were both made of the same material, its edges as sharp that just a slight touch could cut the hardest of metals, on the other side of blade some designs were made, some lines drawn to give it a fantasy look, is what everyone would've thought, but Rio knew exactly what those lines were, what this dagger was. After all, it played a very important role in the novel's story.

'Is this how he got it, in the story.' Rio thought as he remembered this dagger was eerily similar to the one dagger Rio used later in the novel.

Rio traced his hand on the linear design in the center and on the words written in an unknown language. They looked just like some lines drawn nonsensically to everyone, but they were a spell written in the original demon tongue, a language which died down after the sealing of Demon king Ditail.

As Rio observed the pitch black dagger carefully, his brain had thought up stuff on an another level -

'If it is hers, then something given by her was used to take her life.'

'Was the author making it ironic, saying this is what she gets for choosing his side.'

'Or is it some high heavens giving me a signal that I can't change anything?'

[Host.. I think you...]

'Well fuck your signs. Let's see who wins. I'll fuck it all'

Chapter 69 The Luckiest Man Alive

As Rio traced his fingers at the intricate design and lines drawn on the edges, he remembered the plot where, during Rio's fight with Artemis, he ended up killing Myra who came in between to stop them. The dagger which was described in the book, and this were eerily similar, and he who just after learning about Ria, had decided to change the plot at all cost, was shocked when a thought that all his efforts will be in vain, came to his mind.

He felt the author watching & laughing at his efforts to change the future, but the thought of stopping, of giving up never came to his brain. What consumed his brain was rage, the ending of his and Amelia's was something he had to change at all costs. And if that meant going against the author's plot or heaven's choices then he so gladly accepts.

"I'm sorry Myra, but I can't accept this gift." Rio said as he calmed down, decided to change this plot scene, right here and now.

Myra, confused after watching Rio's reactions, asked- "Do you not like it? If that's the case, I can find something else." Myra said as she put the dagger back in her ring, even though she said that, a corner of her heart felt hurt, after hearing he won't accept her gift. She was willing to give him the only thing that

held some value to her, but he outright refused. Of course she knew he'd have many other treasures that would be much better than her dagger, but there were sentiments involved.

Even though her facial expressions remained the same, Rio could guess what was going on in her head.

'She got it wrong, huhh'

[Nope, you worded it poorly]

'Don't speak when I'm busy' Rio said when the system suddenly came between his self thoughts. 'so nosy.'

'If you have nothing to do, think about ways to mess up the plot, be a little helpful.'

With that command Rio again ignored the system who started ranting in his head.

Rio looked at Myra who was silently walking by his side, and said -"It's not because I don't like that dagger, I just wanted to ask for my own gift that I wanted. That is, if you're serious about giving me something."

Myra stopped in her tracks, a smile came to her face as she heard those words, "Of course, what do you want?"

"A favor, I'll tell you when the time comes." Rio said seriously, and walked in his room before the confused Myra could say something. "And keep the dagger with you, it's your lucky charm."

The doors closed as he went in, leaving Myra standing outside, thinking what he meant by those words or what favor he would ask. 'Did he notice something about the dagger?' Myra thought as she checked the dagger, but couldn't find anything. "I'll ask him tomorrow."

Saying that she continued walking towards her own room.

—

In the most opulent room of the Blake mansion, adorned with exquisite furnishings and dimly lit by the soft glow of strategically placed crystal fixtures, the room exuded an air of elegance and luxury, reflecting the refined taste of its inhabitants.

Agnus reclined on the bed, his gaze wandering around the space. Just as Agnus took in the splendor of the room, remembering all the beautiful memories it held in place, Artemis emerged from behind a partition, having changed into an attire more suitable for sleep. Agnus found himself momentarily lost by her enchanting presence. Her appearance was nothing short of captivating,

The fabric of her nightwear clung to her in all the right places, leaving Agnus captivated by the sight. His gaze was drawn to the gentle rise and fall of her bosom, a testament to her allure and femininity.

As she moved, her waist, partially revealed by the nightwear, hinted at the tantalizing curves that lay beneath. It was a testament to her sensuality, inviting Agnus to explore the depths of her beauty.

Long, slender legs carried her towards him, each step accentuating her grace and poise. With each step closer, the room seemed to grow warmer. The elegance with which she moved filled the room with an air of desire, leaving Agnus unable to tear his eyes away.

The soft, smooth skin of her exposed shoulders and arms beckoned to him, inviting his touch and kindling a deep longing to feel her against him.

Her hands, adorned with the softness of her skin, moved gracefully as she closed the door behind her, Artemis's hips swayed gently as she turned, a captivating display of her innate allure. Her every movement exuded grace and confidence.

The way the moonlight filtered through the curtains, casting a gentle glow upon her flawless features, only enhanced her beauty and made her presence even more captivating. The soft light that bathed her face highlighted her features, casting a glow that enhanced her natural beauty.

She adorned no jewelry, but in that moment, she needed none. Her natural beauty and magnetic presence were enough to render her the most beautiful creature he had ever laid eyes upon.

Agnus couldn't help but feel a surge of desire and adoration for the woman standing before him. A radiant beauty that never failed to mesmerize Agnus. As she gracefully made her way towards the bed, Her eyes locked with Agnus's, and a knowing smile played on her lips.

As Artemis climbed onto the bed, the sheets rustling softly beneath her, Agnus found himself falling in love with her all over again.

As he reached out to her, his hand trembling with a mixture of desire and adoration, he could feel the electric charge in the air. Without hesitation, Agnus extended his arms towards Artemis, pulling her gently but possessively into his embrace.

As they lay together, their bodies pressed against each other, Agnus whispered words of love and devotion into Artemis's ear. Agnus gently played with her hair, his fingers gliding through the silky strands. Artemis closed her eyes, savoring the intimacy of the moment and the warmth of Agnus's touch.

Agnus's fingers moved to trace the delicate earring that adorned Artemis's ear. Agnus's caress and attention to the earring brought her back to reality, as she said - "So you noticed it too."

"It is hard to miss. Did you ask where he got it?" Agnus said in a gentle tone.

"I'll ask him tomorrow, he seemed so happy today, I didn't want to ruin his mood."

"I've asked some of my men to stay near him, in case something happens."

Artemis nodded her head, despite what she showed on the surface the worries about Rio's words from before had been eating at her heart ever since then, she had built a loving family, and left everything behind for this peaceful life. If there was ever any danger to it, she didn't know what she would do.

"He's a smart kid, Artemis. He won't do anything wrong. If he did ask Esme to do what you think, then I'm sure there must be a reason. So stop worrying, and relax. I'll take care of it." Agnus said in a gentle reassuring tone, hoping it would calm her heart. He knew better than anyone else about how much she

loved this family, and he would do everything in his power to make sure her smile never leaves that face.

"I know. Thanks Agnus." Artemis said as she closed her eyes again. She nestled her head against his broad chest, finding solace and comfort in his presence. The rhythmic sound of his heartbeat provided a soothing feeling of peace to her.

As Agnus gazed upon Artemis, he felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude for having her by his side. She was perfect in every aspect - a beautiful woman, a good wife, and an even better mother.

She was his muse, his lover, and his confidante – a woman whose beauty and sensuality were unparalleled.

He planted a tender kiss upon her head, his lips gently touching her skin in a gesture of love and reassurance. In that intimate moment, their eyes met, and a spark ignited between them. Their lips came together in a passionate embrace, their connection deepening with each tender kiss. Wrapped in each other's arms, they found solace. As they held each other close, their hearts beat as one, and their lips sealing their love with another lingering kiss.

In that moment, Agnus knew he was the luckiest man in the world, to be able to have her in his life, to witness her in all her splendor and to share a love and family with her.

The room, with its extravagant decor, served as the backdrop for their love story. In that moment, the world and the worries outside ceased to exist, and all that mattered was the feelings they shared.

Chapter 70 Plans For Hero & Heroine

After saying what he needed to Myra, Rio ignored her and walked in. Since he could now use mana, it was easier for him to use the magic mechanisms placed on the door.

Rio could now feel the magic formations inscribed on the doors. Each door had its unique set of tokens, representing specific permissions and access levels. By passing a bit of his mana into it, he could now activate these tokens and control the opening and closing of the doors.

After playing around with that token, watching it shine every time he passed his mana into it, Rio threw it aside, and walked towards his bed.

"System, did you count anything till now?" He asked his system as he lay down on his bed. He had changed some stuff in the plot after waking up from his awakening, first those earrings and then Myra's dagger, system had shown him some notifications before, but he ignored them since he knew the system would probably keep loading for hours before it could show him his points. Now that he was alone and free, he decided to check his progress.

Even though he couldn't use Ria's memory crystal till the plot started, he wanted to get the necessary points as soon as possible and accumulate much more. He had a feeling that whatever items there would be in the system's shop won't be cheap. He didn't want to just sit and wait for 8 years, and then learn that he didn't have enough points for that healing potion or any other necessary stuff.

[Checking world data...

[Calculating points ...

[Host's actions have slightly changed the fate of Kevin De Bilios - 200 points

[Host has altered the fate of Myra - 100 points

[Host's actions have slightly altered the fate of ??? - 900 points

[Total points - $14550 + 1200 = 15750$

"I can understand Myra and Kevin, but who's that ??? question mark being, that my actions changed the destiny of." Rio asked as he looked at the notifications, he had received the most points from that, but there wasn't any name.

[No authority, you'll know when you update the system.]

Hearing system's usual answer Rio wasn't mad at this time, as he already had an idea about who that might be, but he asked just because he needed to be sure of it.

'Guess I found something which will rain on points huhh. You do deserve your role after all.'

Rio thought and closed the system panel.

"Tell me system, what do you think of that dagger? Was it the same as plot or was it a sign?"

[I cannot be sure, host. I've only checked your memories so I only know what you read in that novel. Anything else is out of my knowledge.]

[But if I had to give you my opinion, it doesn't matter whichever case it is, you shouldn't stress over it. As you keep changing more and more events, the heavens will take notice of you, and they will force some situations to maintain the predetermined plot, but that is something for the future, it shouldn't happen anytime soon.]

"I guess you're right." Rio said, as he remembered all the villain novels he read where mc reincarnated in a book, he had read hundreds of those stories seeing how their every little actions change the future and how the luck and plot keeps trying to stay on track. This is why he wanted to ignore the protagonist, in every story they're hard to kill cockroaches who will always survive the villain's attack one way or another, and manage to somehow get some profits along the way. He had no plan to give that guy anything, but since his system usually rewarded him points for changing plotlines, he had decided to do what every other mc did - chip away his luck little by little from the shadows, before directly confronting him.

Ever since he learned about Ria and Amelia being the same, he had already decided on killing the protagonist. That guy was an anomaly now, something which could always harm her, there was no way he could let that happen.

This is why he changed his plans for Rebecca too, he didn't believe it when system said that he couldn't kill Rebecca if he tried everything. He literally knew of a treasure similar to death note, which would kill her in moments, he also believed he could get that item before the plot starts if he focused on that only. But after thinking carefully he had figured out a better way to deal with her and the protagonist.

Many villains fail in killing the protagonist, cause they don't know the limits luck would go to protect them. Rio had decided to use Rebecca just for that purpose. Her birthday and her first event of flashbacks where she'll meet the protagonist will come soon, and Rio had already started thinking about doing his first experiment there.

He needed to know how far he could bend the plotline before it would break and push the future events forward to fix itself. If he learned about the stuff he could and couldn't do - luck would just be an outside influence.

By then even if heaven's worked overtime and pushed his limits, he was ready to mess up the whole world's plot and bring forth Emergence 2.0 ... After the world system gets an update, he could spill out all of heaven's future secrets and get so many world contribution points that he could increase his own luck to insurmountable heights. That time he would be Arcadia's chosen one. And the protagonist would be just a nobody.

But these were all for the future, all these plans were all only sprouts of ideas his brain had cooked up to survive, there were still many details and routes that he needed to think and clear.

(What a messed up brain) system thought as it saw all his thoughts about the world and its future, There was no change of any emotion in him, when the thought of starting the Emergence 2.0 came to his mind, or when he would think of killing people he never met. His still shattered brain worked so efficiently that even system was surprised, while living in his head, it had felt like all parts of his brain were always thinking separately, it didn't know how or why his brain was like that even after taking that healing potion of that being, but neither that being said anything nor it could ask him now. System was struggling inside to take a deeper peek in his brain and see everything, but the image of those creatures with red eyes suppressed all its curiosity.

"Hey system, how strong do you think I need to be if I want to go back to Earth."

[No authority

"Then how about points needed for opening a portal there? Can someone come to Arcadia from that Or does that only work one way?"

[No authority

"Then at least tell me is there any time difference between both world's? I don't want to visit earth if I reach there and see everyone's already dead and dusted."

[Every world has their own flow of time to follow. So yes earth and Arcadia does indeed have a time difference. As for if that's in your favor or not - no authority.]

"Wow, you really weren't kidding when you said, you're useless till the plot starts huh."

[Fuck you host]

"Good night system. Don't just fall asleep before the plot even begins, with your lazy excuses."

Rio said with a smile, and prepared to sleep. But then he opened his eyes again as he remembered something.

"Hey system."

[What is it now?] system said in an annoyed tone.

"Show me the notifications of all the Gods who are keeping an eye on me."

[Too much to count, I'm at level 0 remember. I'll show it in the morning, now let's go sleep]

"What? Why? "

[Need I remind you, host, that Nyx herself came to give you her blessing. She's one of the strongest Goddesses who are present on Arcadia. Unlike other Gods in all these years since the beginning Nyx had only ever given her blessing to 37 people before. And not one was chosen as her avatar. She's one of the few who stay away from all the competition and affairs, even though she doesn't have any particular enemies or churches who'll come after you, but her prestige does bring you attention.]

[Since you know of the future events, you should know how those Gods behave, they're just observers, so ignore them for now, until one of them gives you a blessing or comes to make you their avatar.]

"Who would come to make me their avatar, knowing Nyx might not like it." Rio smiled as he thought which Gods would be idiot enough to try and take something she had her eyes on. She doesn't interfere in any God's games, as she knows she'll beat 'em all if she got serious. Or maybe she's lazy like me too.