

LOA Nobody 71

Chapter 71 To All The Gods Who're Watching Me

As the system heard Rio's boastful words praising Nyx, it came with a bucket of water and dropped that on Rio's head.

[You're right about her powers, host. But you're forgetting you're just her follower, there's no guarantee she'll choose you as her avatar. Now or later - she hasn't done that for a thousand years, remember.]

*****There are many Gods who don't choose an avatar, no one wants to risk losing one of their powers , especially when the returns they get isn't enough.

— As losing an avatar meant that said God would lose the power or skill which their chosen one was most proficient in for forever.

eg. - if someone was an avatar of a fire God. And that someone had the most proficiency in a spell called 'law of fire', then after his death, that fire God would also lose that same spell forever.

— Since every follower only wants to learn and master the best or most useful skill/power , after their death, that God would also lose that power, making him weaker than his others competitors. It would be harder for him next time to get someone good to become their avatar if they don't have much power to show for it.

— Plus be it Gods or mortals, the weak always perish. The enemies of both could attack their other followers and Gods making him further weaker and destroying the power of faith, reducing that God to nothingness.

— That's why even after 1000 years, chosen ones are still very very rare in Arcadia, having them on your side meant having a God as your backup. Since to save their avatar Gods would do everything in

their powers, that meant throwing out blessings to minions for them to act as sacrificial lambs so their avatar could survive.

Rio also knew about this whole process from the plot, but he was confident since he knew that in the plot Nyx chose Rio as her avatar, and always supported him. This is why he was willing to change her future and save her from Amelia. He can't have Amy kill one of his best backups.

[You're forgetting that we're changing the plot, host. Every moment, every decision of yours is affecting something, changing something - you cannot depend and be laid back, just because she chose Rio in the novel.]

[In the novel, Rio didn't have to use mana suction methods to get her blessing, she came to give that herself. But this time you had to try your extra hard to get her attention. Plus you got Kali who's also watching you now.]

"You're right. Show me all the notifications of Gods who were part of the plot and are watching me now." Rio asked the system as he understood what system meant. He could choose to trust Nyx, but if she doesn't choose him - then he should also think of a backup plan.

[Loading...

[Goddess Cassandra rages over the failed prophecy

[Skuld of the Norn sisters, feels interested in what your future holds

[Goddess Gauri gives you a chance to explain your reasons

[Primordial Goddess Nyx feels proud of her new follower

[Godking Indra wants to keep an eye on your talent

[Phonoi the God of killing has taken a liking to your methods

[Psyche the Soul Goddess feels intrigued about your mind

[God Maahes feels interested in your thinking

[God of wisdom Thoth praises you for knowledge and generosity

[Your decisions confuses God Apollo

[Your trickery makes the trickster laugh , Loki wishes to see it more

[The limits you cross for family reminds Anansi of his younger days

[Goddess Sekhmet watches curious about the gifts you gave

[Den of Devils watches your actions closely

[Goddess of justice Dike rages over you, calling you a culprit

[Ruler of hell Hel enjoys the crimes you committed

[Jesus calls you for a confession

[Eris the Goddess of discord whispers the rumors she heard about you

[Vampire God Dracul gives you mercy for saving his puppets

[Goddess of lies questions her mother's decision , she asks you to choose her instead

[Eirene sees the sign of chaos

[Demonlord Kali calls for an audience, as it sees the rise the darkness

[Myrkat watches the scenes unfold and pieces move

[??? waits patiently for all the changes you bring

[....

[...

[These are all the Gods who you should know about, there are others but their interest in you is insignificant yet. And they have no role to play for the time being.]

"There are some names which I didn't think I'd see this early."

[Yeah, well crowds always attract unwanted attention. And the eyes on you will only grow over time.]

"Well they can watch all they want, before the plot reaches the point of Emergence 2.0 , even they can't do anything."

[That's why you should ignore them, and focus on getting stronger first. Just because the protagonist had a smooth sailing in a peaceful novel, won't mean you will have it easy too.]

"I know." Rio nodded his head as what system was right, he had only read the novel from protagonist's perspective so he doesn't know clearly how or why others did what they did in novels, some events which were called minor can equally decide the fate of a whole city since its a real world, the changes will keep accumulating and he'll lose all his advantages the more time passes, he just have to be strong enough to survive when that happens.

'From what I know of Artemis, she'll probably start my training from tomorrow. I can learn shadow magic from her and Myra. I can practice foundation art with Asher since he's staying here for now. Agnus is here, but his knowledge is way out of my league, and not something I can understand any time soon, plus he's not the type of guy who can sit around and explain basics to a kid, I guess that's why he wrote The Foundation Art.'

'I've already collected pills and potions which might help me a little now, other stuff this family of mine can arrange.'

'That reminds me, I also need to prepare everything for Amelia's awakening, she didn't have any accident in novel, but I should still get some stuff for her.'

'Pura corpus potion is getting tested by Blake family's labs, it's probably getting experimented on volunteers of any servants or soldiers who were willing to participate in the awakening ceremony. If everything went well they should be able to mass produce it or sell it to a selective clientele in Arcadia , and roll in riches.'

'I should also try reading other singular books in Blake Family's library which weren't mentioned or translated in the novel, who knows I might get something good. My luck at the beginning is still good, so something might work in my favor.'

'I don't need to make some company or guild or whatever for now, first since I'm a fucking kid, and second I got all the money in the world.'

'Maybe I'll do that once plot starts. It'll be fun to collect all good minions and put them under one roof.'

Rio thought till then when he remembered the crucial question, what if they betrayed him - "oyee system, do you got any loyalty test meter function or something. I think I might need that in the future."

System who was tired from the longest day it had in over a millenia, where it got trapped, hunted, haunted and nearly died - was just about to sleep 😊 when its host called for it again. And its dreams got disturbed, making it angry - [For the last time host, I'm at level 0 , you will get everything once the plot starts, and if there isn't a function, spend your points and buy it from the shop.]

[And how the hell did you went from training routine tomorrow morning, to opening your businesses in Arcadia years later. For fuck's sake just sleep already.]

As Rio heard system's banter he realized how did he reach that point, shouldn't he focus on near future instead of that far ahead -

'damn this kid brain for getting distracted so easily.'

Thus after blaming a 10 year old's thinking process, Rio closed his eyes, falling asleep with a happy smile on his face. For today's sleep was something which even he looked forward to - "I missed the times when I could sleep without worrying about nightmares." That healing potion did do its job, but his inner guilt was always there, making him a little scared to sleep, but after learning Ria and Amelia were same, that feeling was gone too.

"Good night to everyone who's watching me." Rio said in a bright smile, and closed his eyes, but his system had to wake up again, as some fucking Gods started sending replies for that useless good night wish. And it had to mute the notifications.

[Finally some peace.]

"Sleep already, ohh and wake me up early tomorrow, I should start training seriously now. Bye."

(Fucking fucker I wish you be a system one day, and I'll torture you just like this - then you'll know, how a system feels. We need respect too.)

Chapter 72 Gods Who Could See Future

Rio stood outside Artemis's room, his heart pounding with nervousness and fear. He knew he had to face Artemis and confront the truth, but the anticipation of her questions and possible anger made him feel uncertain. He had spent hours preparing answers and excuses, but deep down, he feared that he wouldn't be able to deceive her.

Rio took a moment to compose himself, his mind filled with prepared answers and half-truths. He understood that completely fooling Artemis was a fool's dream, so he had strategized to give her carefully crafted explanations that would divert her attention from certain aspects.

He had crafted elaborate stories about his awakening, intending to explain his unusual method and divert any suspicion. He had anticipated questions about his interactions with Erza and Esme too, ready with responses that would deflect any doubts.

The list of items he had given to Asher was also a point of concern. Although he had said before that it was given by Esme, he knew Artemis never believed it fully. The potion of Pura Corpus, though the topic was forgotten for now, Rio had this weird thought that Artemis must have checked the singular book records, and knew about it being a lie too.

Even the questions about those earrings he gave to her and Amelia, were something he needed to lie about. There was no way she would believe that something he got from roadside stalls would be that amazing. It was too big of a coincidence.

Rio had thought through every possible question Artemis might ask about them and had prepared convincing responses, aiming to protect himself and maintain the illusion. He had meticulously fabricated a backstory, weaving a tale that would align with his intentions while keeping the truth hidden.

His mind was a whirlwind of potential scenarios, rehearsing the lies and half-truths he had prepared. Rio understood the gravity of the situation and the risk involved in deceiving Artemis, someone who knew him so well.

The nagging thought that she might even discover he wasn't the original Rio weighed heavily on him. It had been troubling him for quite some time now, even though it wasn't his choice, he had indeed taken over her son's body and was living in it. According to system his arrival was already fixed in Arcadia, so Rio's soul was disposed of the moment he merged with it. There was no way to bring him back to life or something.

Taking a deep breath to steady himself, Rio mustered his courage and knocked on Artemis's door. His mind raced, going over different scenarios and trying to anticipate her reactions. As the door opened, Rio saw Artemis standing there, her expression unreadable. She invited him into her room, a silent signal for him to enter and begin their conversation.

As Rio stepped inside, he felt a wave of tension and apprehension. He prepared himself to face Artemis's questions and accusations, ready to defend himself and provide the answers he had thought of.

Unbeknownst to Rio, Artemis had already learned about Esme's involvement in Noah's death and had overheard his conversation a little the previous night. She had decided to confront him about it, but Rio remained unaware of her knowledge.

It was only due to her motherly instincts telling her to approach this matter delicately, that she didn't just confront him then and there. Artemis could already guess some understanding of the situation after she heard him last night, but she wanted to give Rio the opportunity to open up and share the truth willingly.

If what she guessed was right, then it would fully explain Rio's odd behavior in the past days, but if that were the case, she didn't know why he didn't tell her or anyone else about it. There was no way she would ever do anything to harm him or her little doll, she just needed to make him believe it too.

The room fell into a heavy silence as Rio and Artemis stood facing each other, the weight of the unspoken truth and doubts hanging in the air. Rio's nervousness grew, and he could no longer contain the swirling mix of emotions within him.

The room seemed to close in around him as he prepared to weave his web of half-truths and carefully constructed lies, hoping that they would be sufficient to steer the conversation in the direction he desired. He shifted his focus to controlling his emotions and expressions, ensuring that he appeared confident and convincing on the surface.

"Good morning, mother." He said, trying his very best to be as natural as he could in his new body.

Rio's heart raced as he anticipated Artemis's first question, his mind already prepared to deflect and misdirect it to his benefit, but his soul left his body when he finally heard what she said.

"Did you see the future, Rio?" Artemis asked, ignoring all the useless chit chat to first confirm her suspicion, she came up with after thinking about everything carefully.

Ever since her son woke up from that curse she had noticed his odd behavior, the way he acted around everyone was different than the way he usually would be, she could see he was trying to act the same but couldn't, at first Artemis just let it go thinking he had a horrible experience with the curse and needed some time to readjust himself.

But over time her suspicions only grew as she watched his actions -taking a miraculous potion from some random singular book even after they warned him about it, the people he easily identified as traitors who were all hidden well, the items he could pick, the list of people he gave to Asher ordering to kill them -there was no way her Rio would do that generally. Even if Rio was smarter than other kids, she could still see the childishness of him in his behavior, but that was lost ever since he woke up from the curse.

She couldn't say it was due to a life and death experience, as she saw him enjoying his time with Amelia, the genuine smile on his face was proof that he liked being around her, but she couldn't say the same when he was with her or Agnus.

Rio would always either be too direct in his talks, so he could finish what he wanted to say and leave, or he would just nod and smile. It could fool everyone around her, but she was his mother -someone who kept him in her womb for 9 months, someone who gave him birth and raised him, how could she not notice anything wrong.

And yesterday when she heard his words about 'letting his sister live the way she wants this time' her heart had been constricted in pieces, if what she thought was right -then she could guess why Rio would say that and it made her question everything -if it was true then why didn't he tell her anything? If he knew what would happen then why did he keep it to himself? What did he even see that made him doubt everyone else around him? Does he really believe what he saw, could that even be true? Which God was it that made the deal with him? Questions were eating her heart , and that's why she asked that first - she could ignore everything but not that.

**** WAR OF GODS -- In any battle if someone wants easy victory they always choose 2 options - either kill the leader who makes plans and leads the enemy, or kill their supply and healer who make sure they keep fighting.

The same was the case in the War of Gods 1000 years ago, every group of Gods which came to Arcadia decided to do the same, kill the opposite leader and take over them.

But that arrogance was soon forgotten as they learned that every culture, every myth had entities who were as strong as them or even stronger, so they chose the 2nd option. Kill the healers - and many factions were successful in rising in power with this method.

But then they all learned another method to win wars -something which made their all past struggles seem childish, there came Gods who could see the future of things. Every God faction out there came to either capture them or kill them, as they were the greatest weapon in anyone's hand.

Soon it started a purge where any God who could see the future or had omniscient powers was hunted and killed. Since those Gods only had the knowledge of the future, but no self power and skills to change it, or enough abilities to protect themselves from everyone else , they were hunted.

There were some Gods who survived simply because their faction had put too much effort into protecting them, some survived by joining stronger Gods and being their allies, some just lived in hiding, hoping for this war to end.

By the time the world's will interfered and stopped the war of Gods, mostly all Gods with those powers were killed. Those who lived, always lived in hiding as even though they wouldn't be killed on sight, they also couldn't increase their influence or other Gods would just capture their avatars and kill them. Thus making them lose their only advantage they have.

***This is why seers are people who are much respected in Arcadia, as basically every God out there can give someone power and abilities, but knowledge about the future was something which got lost due to less number of Gods who were able to do so in myths. It grew even lesser when some Gods lost their avatar and with that, their ability to see the future -making them useless.

This is why Goddess Cassandra, a low class goddess in her stories, who was cursed that no prophecy of hers shall ever be followed by anyone in the world, had gotten enough influence that she had her own church and followers. SHE could see the future -even if her visions were wrong sometimes, the chance that one of them might be true, is enough to entice both Gods and mortals alike.

** - In the novel Goddess Cassandra's influence and followers increased as Noah's fame as a seer increased, they both grew stronger together. As she got more faith energy, she grew more powerful, and with time she was even able to overcome her curse, and every vision of hers would come true.

But just because she could see the future doesn't mean she could change it too. She learned that the hard way, when Rio killed both Noah and her in the story, despite whatever methods she pulled to change that.

"Can you see the future, Rio?"

"Tell me the truth." Artemis's voice sounded in his ears again, making Rio curse at everything, cause he had no idea how to respond, he never expected Artemis to ask this. His anger grew more as he saw that his useless system started laughing at him and his luck which is supposed to be high for now lol.

Chapter 73 Fate And Future - Lying To My Heart's Content

"Did you see the future Rio?"

Rio's mind raced as Artemis's unexpected question threw him off guard. How could she have known? Did she suspect something? He had to think quickly and come up with a plausible answer that wouldn't arouse suspicion.

[Host, you're fucked.]

[If she finds out about you not being her son, SHE WILL kill you.] System said in its voice trying hard to control its laughter, watching his brain working hard.

'Fuck you system, stop laughing and be helpful God dammit.' Rio thought in his head, muting the system, as he tried to think of something.

"Can you see the future, Rio?"

"Tell me the truth."

Artemis's voice baffled Rio, as he had no idea how she even came up with that, yes he does have knowledge about the future, but he can't just say that shit. The excuse of being a seer would also be wrong as even seers can only see future after awakening, when their body's have mana and they get blessing of some God, in Rio's case he couldn't lie, since Artemis was right there, there was no sign of another God giving him any blessing, he was always okay, his powers never went haywire and he didn't get blind or bloodied eyes.

He can't say it happened while he was unconscious after awakening, cause if she came to this conclusion then she must have checked everything and thought of all his past actions which didn't make sense, so it has to be before his awakening, but Rio didn't know from exactly when or how. If he said something, and Artemis's doubts weren't cleared, he would be fucked. As system said, if ever she learned that he wasn't Rio but someone else occupying his body, he would be killed. So he needed to know how much she knew or guessed, to come up with that question.

Gathering his thoughts, Rio replied with a calm yet slightly surprised tone, "The future, Mother? I'm not sure I understand what you mean?"

He hoped his response would buy him some time to craft a convincing explanation. Rio knew he had to act carefully, as any hint of hesitation or inconsistency in his words could raise doubts in Artemis's mind.

Artemis looked at Rio intently, her gaze searching his eyes for any signs of deception. Rio maintained eye contact, trying to exude confidence while internally frantically constructing his response.

"Did you know I had someone follow Esme, just after leaving Damascus, she started following a Baron of Harendale city, she even attacked him, but failed and had to run away. Were you the one who ordered her?"

"Mother, I told you I had a deal with someone..."

"I also heard you crying and speaking to someone last night, saying you won't repeat your past mistakes and whatnot. Tell me the truth, Rio. What happened to you? "

Hearing her back to back say stuff he thought were secrets, really threw him quite off balance, but her words also gave him some hints - One, Artemis doubted that Esme went there to kill the Baron, and Noah was probably just a bait she used to lure him out. This also made sense from her point, as she couldn't guess why he would order Esme to kill an 8 year old kid.

Second, even though she did hear him last night, but nothing much. She didn't hear anything about Ria's reincarnation nor his talk with system. It calmed him down as it meant that even chosen Gods wouldn't be able to hear what he said to his system.

Now there was time for his lies to come in, his brain had thought of something, something very risky, something he only wanted to do after the plot started, and something which would put him in the crosshairs of Goddess Kali if it failed. But he had no other option, but to pull that shit

'Nyx, if you're watching, save me when she comes' Rio prayed in his heart, hoping Nyx would come to his rescue, if his actions backfired and some Gods intervened.

[Goddess of Darkness nods to your prayers, saying her followers aren't something that anybody could touch.]

Rio watched the notification. Not entirely sure she understood who he was talking about, but he had no time to explain.

He braced his heart and said, "I can't see the future Mother."

"Then how do you..."

Hearing Rio's voice confused Artemis as she was sure that it was the truth but before she could ask, he continued "But I've seen my fate."

"Fate, what does that...wait, you saw your own future." The answer Rio gave further confused her, but soon she understood his meaning.

***Seers are people who have the ability to see the future, they can see events that haven't happened yet, but they cannot see their own future. Fate on the other hand works the opposite of that, the people who can see their fate are someone who can see their own future, but not others.

---Seers can also share their knowledge with everyone else, while people who saw their own fate cannot. This is because seers see the future of the world around them, so even if they share it - it doesn't change anything in that knowledge. While fate is a fickle thing, once you share something you saw, you not only change your fate but also theirs too, which is against the laws of blessing they receive. If they were allowed to share what they saw, then there'd be no difference between the two.

—The Gods who can see the fate of everyone were also killed in the war of Gods, so not many could have that ability.

—Both blessings of fate and future go against the laws of time, they aren't something mortal's could control or manage, but in between them seers are more valuable and respected, as they can use their powers whenever they wish, however many times they want. But people who can see their fate, can only do that once in their life, as after changing something in their life - they've changed their fate and the threads of it would be broken.

[Seers tap into the river of time and see the scenes surrounding where they end up, so even if they change something in the present, the time's flow in present wouldn't be altered and it would freely adjust itself. While fate works on the principle of threads, once you change something, that predetermined route that you watched will be forever replaced, that thread would be broken, so you cannot see your fate again. Unless you receive another blessing from some other God with fate seeing ability.

In simple terms as the novel's author explained in his story - you cannot make a different branch of one thread without breaking it completely, while the river can flow whichever direction you choose.]

"I have." Rio replied, his voice calm and clear.

"How? When? Why didn't you say anything?" Artemis was confused, though it wasn't much different from what she thought of, but hearing him confirm it was still another thing.

"When I was cursed, when I thought I'd die and was going to give up, someone contacted me. Someone who saw everything, they offered me help, and I took it."

"So it wasn't his purifying magic that healed you." Artemis asked as clearing the cursed mana can only be done by either some God or by purifying magic. Since Rio said he was helped by some Gods then that meant that the priest only took the false credit and did nothing.

"I don't know." Rio replied.

"Who was the God, what did they want in return?"

"Skuld, one of the norn sisters from Norse mythology. The one who could see the future of anyone's fate. And she asked for a favor."

Rio had only finished saying this, that notifications from different Gods started flooding his system, he expected it, afterall Skuld wasn't someone who ever chose to interfere. Any God who was still alive with those powers, was always watched by everyone and needed to be careful of their every action. After all they had the highest chance of getting followers and faith energy easily, so other Gods always keep an eye on them.

"What is the favor?" Artemis asked as she sat down on the chair, her strength was leaving her body, she was so confused with everything that happened. She expected it but having it come true wasn't something she wished for. She didn't doubt his words this time, as her chosen God Phonoï confirmed the presence of many outside Gods watching him as he spoke.

Rio also expected it so ignoring all system notifications, he focused on settling the matter with Artemis first -"I don't know. It's not the right time yet, she said."

"Hmm, so can you tell me what you saw, which made you act on your own?"

"I can't."

"Why?" Artemis asked another question, if Rio knew what was going to happen to him, then instead of lying to us and going around circles, if he just told anyone they would've helped him with everything. She could guess from his actions that whatever he saw must've been bad for him to take action himself days after he saw it, but she still thought that even in the future his family must've been there for him, she would always be there for him, then why didn't he say anything to her , unless...

A very bad premonition rose in her heart which she couldn't believe, there was no way that would ever happen, there was no way she would ever do anything bad to her son, she refused to believe that...

But sadly whatever she thought, was proven true when she heard his next words -

"It's not something you would like to hear, mother. Let it go."

Chapter 74 Explaining Our Fate

"It's not something you would like to hear, mother. Let it go." Rio said in a firm tone, clearly indicating he had no intention of telling her anything about what he saw.

"Do you not trust me, son? Did I ever do something to harm you or Amelia? Is that why you're acting like that?" Artemis said as she stood up in front of him. "Tell me, was just a vision you saw enough to shake your belief in your own family? Did you trust that Goddess more than me! more than your father now?"

Artemis's heart felt heavy with a tumultuous mix of emotions, threatening to engulf her in a storm of turmoil. Worry consumed her, gnawing at her soul as she questioned her own abilities as a mother. Anger welled up within her, directed not only at that Goddess who had bestowed the blessing upon Rio, but also at herself for being unable to protect her children from the potential dangers or any manipulation.

Tears welled up in her eyes, reflecting the conflict raging within her soul. She loved her children fiercely and unconditionally, and the mere thought of them being harmed pierced her heart like a thousand arrows. Her emotions clashed and tangled together, creating a storm of conflicting desires and fears.

Disappointment settled deep within her, a profound sense of self-doubt creeping into her thoughts. She questioned whether she would ever do something bad to him. Her thoughts were consumed by the what-ifs and the uncertainties of the future. Her mind plagued by the haunting possibility of hurting her beloved children, Rio and Amelia. The thought alone sent shivers down her spine, filling her with an overwhelming sense of dread. She couldn't bear the idea of being the cause of their pain or leading them down a path of suffering.

Rio felt a pang of guilt as he witnessed the range of emotions playing across Artemis's face. He had expected this reaction from her, but he underestimated how much effect her tears could cause in his heart. The thought to just hold her and tell her everything came into his mind, just so he could make sure she's not stressed over anything. For a moment he forgot it all and just a thought to make her smile was left in his head, and if not for the system notification which pulled him out of it, maybe he would've done it.

[Calm down host, think about what you'll say next very carefully. You cannot change it afterwards.]

System was right, he can't just be emotional and reveal everything. The possible repercussions could be disastrous, her rash anger would only end up getting her killed. And that would be much more hurtful than some tears in her eyes.

But still he couldn't ignore her sad look.

Taking a deep breath, he gently reached out and held her hands, Rio looked into her eyes with sincerity. "I trust you, mother. More than anything or anyone else in the world." Wiping the tears that slid down her cheeks hearing those reassuring words, he continued - "There is nothing that would ever make me doubt or angry at our family. I love you all too much for that to happen."

"Then why didn't you say anything? It's been weeks since then." Artemis asked as she calmed down a little, though her inner turmoil was far from quelled, the gentle reassurance and his loving words began to chip away at the walls of self-doubt she had built.

"I didn't want to trouble you mother. Whatever I saw, that's just a vision of a possible future and I already changed it, so you don't have to worry about anything, okay." Rio said and hugged her. Hoping it would be enough for her.

Artemis too closed her eyes as she processed everything that he said. "Can you at least tell me what happened? I know it's against the laws, but..." Artemis asked as she sat down on a sofa near the table and pulled Rio to her side.

"Do you really want to hear it, mother? It's not something pleasant." Rio asked, hesitant to speak, while Artemis just kissed his forehead, silently conveying her feelings that he didn't have to do it all alone, that she was here for him.

"I've seen death mother. You, me, Myra, father, Amelia everyone. I saw the last of Blake bloodline disappear from Arcadia."

"I've seen our enemies rising in power, people raising their arms against us, I've seen Gods abandoning us all, and watching from the sidelines. I've seen it all mother. None of us get a happy ending."

Artemis's heart was heavy with an array of emotions as she absorbed the weight of Rio's words. The fate he had witnessed painted a devastating picture, one that shook the very foundation of their family. Anger surged through her veins, fueled by the injustice of such a cruel fate.

Pain rippled through Artemis as she grappled with the magnitude of the destruction foreseen in Rio's vision. The thought of losing her loved ones, of witnessing the annihilation of their family, was a bitter pill to swallow. Disbelief and despair threatened to consume her.

Her mind whirled with questions, searching for answers and solutions. How could they prevent such a tragedy from unfolding? Was there a way to alter the course of fate and rewrite their destiny? Why them, what did they ever do to anybody? Hatred welled up within her, directed towards the forces that threatened to tear her family apart.

Yet, as Artemis glanced at Rio, her young son who bore the weight of this vision on his shoulders for weeks, a sense of awe and admiration washed over her. He didn't cry, nor give up or begged for mercy - no, he worked to change that future from ever happening. The face of Agnus and his words about how his son was the best among everyone, came to her mind, prompting a slight smile on her lips.

Taking a deep breath, Artemis reached out and gently embraced Rio, holding him tightly against her. "I would never let anything happen to you, as long as I'm alive." In that tender embrace, she conveyed her unwavering support and love.

She was curious about everything, she wanted to ask who or what was responsible for everything, but knew the laws of fate's blessing didn't allow it.

Every God who watched fate believed in only one thing -we all make our own fates. Every decision, every choice shapes our future. So when any God chooses to give their blessing they give that person the ability to see and change his fate. But if that person shared the knowledge about someone else's future, then what would be the point of that God's existence? That one guy could announce the whole world's fate and change everything, that's why with every blessing of fate, comes the limitation that they cannot share their knowledge with anyone.

[*if you're wondering then how come Rio said about the fate of his family, well that's because first he's just lying his ass off. Second because what he said confirms nothing - it's a loophole, people who know fate can't share their knowledge but they can be as inconspicuous about it as they want. Like he saw everyone's death -well everyone dies anyway. So no breaking of rules.]

"I'm sorry you had to go through everything. But always remember that I'm here for you."

Artemis spoke in her gentle tone, she still had so much stuff that she needed to think clearly about, but what took priority now was her son. But silently in a dark corner of her mind, the thought to eradicate Baron Misha's family and everything related to him started taking root.

Rio, who was lying in her embrace, found the same peace he felt on the first day when he came to Arcadia. The first time he saw her. "I love you mother." Rio said as he held her tightly. He could finally accept it now -despite what he thought about everyone else in the novel, after living here for almost a month, somehow this new family of his had really fixed a spot in his heart. Maybe it's because of how much he missed his own family, or maybe it's because they are Amelia's family who is practically his sister, or maybe it's just because they've been so nice and caring for him for so long that he couldn't ignore them any longer. But he had started to care for them.

'Maybe it's not too late for that fresh start for me after all.'

Soon Rio fell asleep in his mother's embrace and found himself floating in the system space. He looked around the familiar space and said -"That was hard."

"How the hell does anyone in those novels never notice anything wrong after someone reincarnates in their family. Is Artemis too smart for that shit to happen, or am I too dumb at acting the same."

System who was muted till now, was just waiting for its host to come, and see the results of the mess he created -

[Notifications +99..]

[Host's actions have attracted the attention of...

[You have changed the plot...]

[Click to see them all...]

Chapter 75 Reasons For His Blunder

"Oyee system, tell me what you think. How big of a mess will it create?"

[Was that really necessary? You could've just lied to her? You could've said you don't remember or can't say, but you fucked that up and said you saw your fate? Do you know how many Gods you pulled on your back with this stunt? Skuld is practically flocking the world system, how will you deal with her? Not to mention Goddess Kali.] System who stayed silent till now, bombarded its host with all the questions it had. In its eyes this was a dumb move, especially since the plot hasn't even begun yet. Playing with Gods - that is suicide.

"Take it easy, system. I know what I'm doing."

[Ohhh do you now. Then why don't you enlighten this primitive]

"Well, since you kept quiet like I asked you. I'll be generous and answer your questions -for starters was this necessary, then yes it was. You should know from the plot that fooling Artemis was impossible, I had to give her something that would keep her focus away from me, so that she never doubts if I am her son or not. Lying to her now may have worked but sooner or later she would've gotten suspicious again, and then I would have to do this stuff all over again. But now I have fixed all her doubts and got her full support in one swoop. She can associate all my actions as if I'm working to change our fate and she will keep supporting me. The little guilt she would feel that I have to do this all alone, would stop the plotline of that fucker's adoption in our family and me losing my position of heir. This way I would always have a Duke's family for my backup, and mainly I would be able to stay near Amelia. Do you get it now."

System who heard all his reasons could now understand about telling Artemis something like this, but still there was something still missing,

[No offense host, but if you only wanted to avoid the adoption storyline, you could just go and kill him. Unless you did this, so you could avoid the situation where you have to fight her, didn't you?]

"That , is also true. I don't wanna fight her. She's Amelia's mother, I should avoid it as much as I can." Rio remembered the event where he would have to face off against Artemis, the fight in the story ended up with Myra dying, Rio and Amelia hating each other and Artemis's ... he didn't want to hurt any of them, he even started to like both Myra and Artemis now. 'I should really try to avoid everything related to that.'

[But I don't think you can avoid that, host. That event is fixed, which had to happen for the plot to progress further. If that doesn't happen I don't have to tell you that Amelia's ending might differ, and that will change the plot even further than you or I can control.]

"I know, I will think of something. I still have enough time."

[If you say so, what about the Gods? They've heard your talks. You've even gotten the attention of some middle bosses, how will you handle them? And don't forget Kali, you were already on her radar, and with this she is even more interested in you now. If you're taking her easy, then I suggest you remember the last time you saw her.]

As system finished its words, the image of Kali in her battle form, ready to chop off his head came to Rio's mind, and he cursed the system -"fucker, that only happened because you were sleeping, instead of protecting my mind."

[It's good that you remember the dangers, now tell me why take them lightly.]

"I'm not. Gods are not the part of the story till emergence 2.0 , till then they don't take anything seriously and just watch from the sidelines. In the eyes of Gods who've lived for millennia and are primordial, the time of my life is insignificant. The fate I see in years would just be like a blink of an eye for them. For now in their view everyone on Arcadia is just their puppet, for them to use however they want in their game of power.

It is only after the emergence phase 2 , that they learn their lesson and start to take this game seriously. I have around 10 years till that happens according to the plot, so I'm fine for now. The middle bosses you're speaking about, well I can probably guess who it is, and the answer is the same, they can't interfere directly, and unlike me they don't know the plot, so in a way this is another experiment - can the Gods go against the plot, or are they bound by it too."

"Stronger Gods won't focus much on me since they got their own Gods and followers who have this kind of abilities, the weaker ones will probably back off seeing Nyx's interest in me. That leaves some idiot ones who may or may not pester me."

"In both cases they won't be able to directly interfere, and their minions, well I think Blake's at this point of time don't need to be afraid of anyone."

"Kali might be hard to handle but if I bag Skuld in my camp, she would have to let me go too. Plus if I keep her attention on me, maybe I can influence her a little to choose Amelia as her avatar early, that way Lia can get stronger faster than she did in the novel. Thus giving me one more failsafe to avoid our ending."

[All of this would be for nothing, if Skuld came out and said you're lying. Not only would that make you a joke in God's eyes, it would ruin your reputation and chance of getting any blessing from them in the future too. Not to mention Skuld can always see your future so you might not be able to lie or use her in any of your future plans.]

"Tell me system, are you designed dumb, or is it only cause you're at level 0."

[Stop joking and answer my questions]

"Well, it looks like you forgot the novel's plot system. Do you remember what role Skuld played in it? What was her motivation for joining the plot and Goddess Kali."

[No friggin way]

"Yupp, I picked a card from our protagonist's playbook."

How do they get anyone's support? They get it by giving a helping hand to a drowning man.

Skuld in the story needs something, and I promise to help her, she can try to see my future, but sadly she'll either see nothing since I'm not from Arcadia. Or she will see the future that I will create now.

After I've changed some events, the plotline of the original Rio has already changed. She can't compare my 2 futures and see how much mess I create, the same is the case for any other God with those powers. Unless someone saw Rio's future before I came to Arcadia, they would only be able to see a new version of it and not the original story.

Since most of my actions would be suitable for me to rise in power, it won't be surprising for anyone to doubt that the heir of Blake family is stronger than everyone. Plot wanted me to be dumb and play around with the protagonist, but if I outright kill him now, even that would only make sense in those God's eyes cause which powerful heir would take the insults from an ant and send his minions to bully him. Since they know nothing of the plot or my original future - then whatever I do is my fate. Hell I've killed Noah, and just like Artemis most of them would only think that it was because I wanted to get the Baron, since my action of killing an 8 year unawakened in a hurry doesn't make sense in their eyes.

To maintain my lie in everyone's eye, all I need is one blessing from Skuld, and her approval if someone asks if I'm her follower or not. That shouldn't be hard since I don't need to lie to her or use her, if she decides to help me now, I have no problem in helping her in return -so even if she sees some of my future she'll probably see that I kept my deal.

[And you're sure of that since helping her would also benefit you.]

"Now you're catching on system, good."

[Hehehe]

"Stop laughing like an idiot, and start counting my points."

I have a feeling I've messed up the plot big time. What an unexpected surprise."

(Fucking bastard)

[Calculating

"Now how about we go and get ourselves a Goddess."


Chapter 76 Wasting My Sleep On System

"Now let's go get ourselves a Goddess."

[Don't you want to see her reactions to your lies first. Might give you an idea on how to talk with her.]

"Well, whatever. Show me."

[Loading...

Rio watched as the system again started its loading  sign, he waited for 10 seconds and it was still going on. He finally couldn't take it and spoke - "Why do you always waste time with this?"

[Host, do you wanna see all the notifications you got from every God, or do you only want to see Skuld's]

"No, show me hers first. I'll check others later when I'm free."

[Then just wait till I'm done filtering them.]

While the system went back to separate the notifications of Goddess Skuld, Rio looked around, watching the pitch black void around him, he asked -"Oyee system, why don't we change the space around us. I mean darkness is good and all, but all time black will only lessen my mood."

"You've seen my memories right."

[Yes]

"Then bring out something from earth, obviously nothing that I don't like."

[Ok.how about this.] System said and after going through several images, it settled on one theme. The space around Rio transformed into a serene and endless park. Lush green grass spread beneath his feet. Trees of various kinds stood tall and proud, their branches swaying gently in the breeze. The air was filled with the delicate scent of blossoms, carried by the wind.

A little further, swings appeared and gently swayed back and forth, inviting him to relive the carefree joy of his childhood. The sky above was painted with hues of orange and pink as the sun gracefully descended towards the horizon. Birds soared gracefully across the sky, their melodic chirping created a symphony of nature, a soothing soundtrack for his mind.

[This is good, right. And you always say I don't have any functions at level 0.]

Rio stood amidst the empty virtual park and looked towards the sky, it was peaceful too like the darkness, but in a different way. "It's perfect." He said as he took a deep breath and enjoyed the serenity it brought him.

[Well, you're welcome] system said in its own honeyed tone, replying for a thanks it didn't get.

[Here are the notifications from Skuld -

[Goddess of Norns feels intrigued about which God gave you the blessing of fate

[Goddess feels interested in what you saw in your fate

[Your lies makes the Goddess confused

[Skuld demands an explanation for your actions

[Me, asking for a favor, from you - The Norn sisters laugh at your audacity to boast

[Your actions deserves the punishment

[She feels humiliated at how some mortal dares to use her name with such shamelessness

[Her anger reaches higher as she watches the attention you brought upon her

[Your actions put her in the limelight she stayed away from -Prepare to die

[Skuld takes on her Valkyrie form to crush your skull

[The thought of darkness and infinite void, makes her shudder. The form of Valkyrie disappears

[Skuld decides to ask Goddess Kali to pay you another visit

[...

[.....

"Okay, that's enough. I think I have an idea of how mad she is now. Complaining to her, Is she a kid now."

[She kind of is, according to the plot, remember. And not like she can do anything to you with Nyx watching over you.]

"Well, let's hope so. It'll be easy that way. Time to wake up."

Rio thought and opened his eyes, the system space was gone and he found himself back in Artemis's laps. 'This is nice. I should disable the system space function. It's ruining my whole peaceful sleep by just talking.'

Artemis, who felt Rio moving, patted his head and said "Did I wake you up?"

"No, sorry I fell asleep. How long has it been?" Rio said as he lazily stretched his hand and sat down properly.

"Around half an hour. You can sleep more if you want." Artemis said, her voice sounding a little sad that he woke up a little early.

"I have classes, mother. Besides Amelia will be free soon if she sees me sleeping and skipping training, she'll throw another tantrum."

Artemis shrugged her shoulders and said -"I'll handle her."

Rio, who heard her words, just shook his head. He could guess what she was thinking, or why she was being this generous to him, but this wasn't something he wanted. He pulled her hands, and held them together -"Mother, I'm fine. It's not a big deal. You acting like this, this isn't right. Just be normal. Like we've always been. You want me to be happy, right?" Rio asked and when Artemis nodded her head in

return, he smiled and said -"Then stop acting like something's changed cause nothing did. Whatever I saw will never happen, I won't let it happen. And besides, if I remember correctly -

Someone once told me that instead of living in the fear of our future, we should be pleased with our present.

Wonder what happened to that wise woman." Artemis who heard her own words quoted to herself, smiled and pulled his ear -"you've got quite a sharp tongue now, don't you?"

Rio pulled his head back and massaged his ears "Well I am your son, aren't I."

"Are you?" Artemis replied as she made a thoughtful expression, like she was really thinking about the past. "I lost consciousness after delivery, so I don't know?"

"Low blow mother. Not fair." Rio, who heard her exaggerated joke, actually felt a little bad hearing that. 'She's playing dirty.'

"Well, now you know better than to tease me." Artemis just shook her head, gave no reply. As she ignored that topic and hugged him, while saying -"I'm proud of you, son. Really proud"

As she hugged him, Rio couldn't help but tease her with a playful remark. "I'm proud of me too," He whispered with a mischievous smile.

However, his moment of jest quickly turned into a yelp of surprise as Artemis tightened her embrace a little.

"Ouch, ouch!" Rio exclaimed, his voice laced with a mixture of pain and laughter. "Sorry, Mother! I promise no more jokes!"

Artemis loosened her grip, a sheepish smile appearing on her face as she gently patted his back, expressing her apology. "Off you go then. Whose class is it now?"

"Eckart's etiquette class, I hate that the most. I mean, seriously, learning how to eat, drink, walk, sleep... It's exhausting. And today, he's going to teach me how to dance! Ohhh I can already see a headache coming." Rio said as he remembered his classes. The rest were still fine as they were either training him in something useful, or teaching him about Arcadia. But this idiot was teaching him how to chew his food & what should be the size of his bites. 'I've been eating & sleeping 5 years more than that guy, and he's teaching me now.' 'Damn nobility.'

Artemis smiled watching his troubled face- "It's amusing how you can handle so many other things but struggle with a single noble's etiquette class. But this is important too, being a noble isn't just about fighting monsters in towers, or clearing out dungeons, you gotta keep appearances in social circles too. Your every action should be full of elegance and grace, it's about commanding respect and representing our family."

After giving him the serious talk, Artemis took her usual mood and started teasing him again -"Since you're my son, you'll always be the center of attention, so you should just man up a little. And besides Rebecca's birthday party is coming up -who knows how many girls will line up to dance with you. So you better make me proud."

"Oh, great, just what I need more pressure! I'll be stumbling all over the dance floor." Hearing her teasing words about Rebecca's party, Rio replied in his playful tone. He had made other plans for Rebecca's party, but he totally forgot how that'll be the first time in years, when he'll have to attend any social gathering. In his last years on earth the most people he was surrounded by were on subways, otherwise he always ignored crowded places. And now somehow he will have to attend a princesses birthday party, with eyes from all over the world watching him.

After all even if the Blake family didn't announce or celebrate his awakening in grand manner yet, but with the influence Blake family has, and how fast the news reaches everywhere -probably every important person on Arcadia must've gotten their own reports about it by now. And Rebecca's birthday will be the first time he goes out of his home -even more pressure.

"Rio, what scared already?" Artemis asked as she watched Rio lost in thoughts and his expression getting worse every moment. She really wanted to laugh now -'how could someone who can smile & be worry free after watching his own fate, but get this sad over a tuition class. Kids, they're always the same.'

As that thought crossed her mind, Artemis finally couldn't stop, and smile a little. Making Rio doubt again about why the novel story never mentioned her character was like this? In the novel, Artemis was kind of like a villainess boss character. But now this boss is just bullying both her children all day long.

'Sigh author really ignored the villain's family until he needed something dark in the story huhh - I bet he must've even wanted to name us the 'Black family' with how much nonsense hate we get. I should really find this author and give him a beatdown someday...

[Host, please back on track. We have a goddess to deal with. You remember that right?]

'Ohh yeah. That '

"Okay, bye mother. I'll go , don't you dare stress over anything." Artemis watched as Rio hurriedly kissed her cheek and dashed out of the room, leaving her momentarily lost in the moment.

"He's growing up so fast," she whispered to herself, she knew the world they live in wasn't something where she could always protect him. And he'll have to face his own troubles himself, but she never knew it'll be this early. She picked out the training format she made for him before, and threw it in the trash. 'Well, let's raise the difficulty a little.'

Rio, who was nonchalantly roaming around the hallways, suddenly felt cold all over his body. 'What the fuck, did something bad happen.'

[Host, your room is here. Let's head in and start her summoning process.]

"Summoning my ass, you're just telling me to bootlick her till she comes here."

"Fuck them Gods and their egos."

Chapter 77 Gods & Their Egos

As Rio reached his room, he made sure to warn the guards outside that no one disturbs him for some time, and not to let anyone in. This'll be the first time he would try to call for some God and he had no idea how long it would take. Considering that Skuld's attention was still on him, it shouldn't be hard to call for her, and seeing how she was angry at him for lying about her and needed an explanation she should be easy to call for. But who knows?

****In Arcadia every God, like in every other world, had the power to listen to the prayers directed at them. While they usually just ignore them as petty begging of mortals, always asking for something or complaining about something, sometimes they do listen and reply.

There are 2 ways to talk to any God in Arcadia -One is through the world system, which works like a chat group, where they can send any message they want (This is something a God takes the initiative of) . While the other is through prayers(which people of Arcadia use) . If any God listens to your prayers and wants to talk to you, they can do it by either visiting you in the ethereal form or pulling that person in their domain.

Though the chances of calling some God through prayers is rare, cause you can imagine how many others must be doing the same thing at the same time, if the God especially isn't interested in you or had been watching you -then you can spend your whole life praying and your God won't even know about your existence, after wasting all that time all you'll get in return is nil, nada and a whole lot of nothing.

That's why believers made their own nations and churches or groups, so their prayers can reach their God smoothly, without getting drowned in other stuff, as every God would have high chances of focusing on the place where his offerings come from.

This is why Rio decided to be alone, as even though Skuld was watching him, there was no guarantee that she would come when he called. It might take a moment , a minute or it might never happen, cause he could see Nyx's messages floating on the screen. 'She's enjoying this, isn't she.' Rio thought as he read the notification.

[Well, since she personally came to give you a blessing, of course she knows you didn't have any prior blessing on you.]

[She's just watching the show you put on by lying like this.]

"Hey system, don't those other Gods doubt that I lied, I mean they do know that without awakening I shouldn't get any blessing the normal way, right?"

[They know it host, that's why they were curious. If you picked any other type of God they might have caught your lie, but someone who can see the future choosing someone early by breaking a rule or two. That just shows that maybe you were more valuable in that God's eyes, making you a prized trophy to their collection. That's why you'll probably get more attention from now on. They'll see if you really do deserve an investment or not.]

"Huhh, well they're free to do whatever they want. Maybe I'll use some extra attention to get rid of one or two pesky Gods from the story."

"Now let's start summoning."

Rio said as he knelt down, he folded his hands in prayer, preparing himself to call upon Skuld, the Norn goddess of fate, who controlled the treads of future. He closed his eyes, taking a deep breath to calm his racing thoughts and steady his emotions. With each word he spoke, he felt a mixture of embarrassment and determination.

"Oh, Skuld, mighty goddess of the future," Rio began, his voice filled with reverence. "I praise your power, your control over the threads of destiny. Your wisdom is renowned, and your guidance is sought by all who seek to understand the paths that lie ahead."

He continued, his words flowing with a sincerity that contradicted the doubts he harbored within. "I acknowledge your generosity in bestowing me the blessing of fate, even though those visions may come with uncertainty and challenges. Your foresight has allowed me to prepare and shape my destiny, to navigate the obstacles that lay in my path."

Rio's mind wandered for a moment, questioning the usefulness of his current endeavor. But he quickly brushed aside those thoughts and focused on the task at hand.

"Oh Goddess, mighty Norn of fate and time, youngest and wisest of your sisters, you are the embodiment of beauty and grace." Rio continued, his voice growing softer but no less sincere. "I beseech you to grant me an audience, to lend me your insights and wisdom once again. Help me navigate the challenges that lie before me, and guide me towards a future where my loved ones are safe and my family remains intact."

"Goddess" Rio spoke softly, his words carried on the gentle breeze. "You who weave the threads of destiny, who hold the power to shape the future" Rio concluded, his voice carrying his genuine longing and curiosity. "Guide me on the path of destiny, that I may bring about a future filled with love, hope and betterment of the world."

Rio finally couldn't take this anymore, he never ever prayed this much begging like this. It felt so embarrassing and the thought that there were others who were watching him, made it humiliating, plus the comments of Nyx laughing heartily on his status didn't make it easier. "Why is she not coming yet?"

[Host, I think your thoughts are breaking your character. Please continue. You're doing great.]

"Naah Fuck this bullshit. She's just enjoying it cause she knows it's all lies.."

'We tried the method from the novel, we do it my way now' - "Listen up you snotty brat, I know you're watching, so just come out now, or I'm calling Zeus about your location. Let's see who laughs when you're running around all the mountains."

Chapter 78 Dealing With The Goddess Of Fate

As Rio's warning to Skuld concluded, he felt a sudden shift in the atmosphere around him. The lush surroundings of his room vanished, replaced by a breathtaking garden that seemed to stretch on for eternity. It was much fancier and many times more beautiful than the ones he saw as system space. The air was filled with the sweet fragrance of flowers, and vibrant colors painted the landscape in hues of green, red, and gold.

In the center of the garden stood an immense tree, its towering branches reaching high into the sky, seemingly bridging the gap between the mortal realm and the divine. Rio recognized it instantly as Yggdrasil, the World Tree, a tree that held all 9 realms together, holding different worlds in its branches..

Near the base of the tree, there was a serene pond, its surface shimmering with an ethereal glow, the water in it looked the purest shade of blue. Rio sensed its significance and knew it to be Urd's Well, the well of destiny(also called the well of memory) , where the Norns would gather to weave the threads of fate.

As he observed, he noticed tiny fairies flitting about the tree's branches, their delicate wings sparkling in the soft light. They danced and laughed, carrying small vials filled with water from Urd's Well, gently sprinkling it upon the tree's roots and branches, as if nurturing its life force.

Rio's gaze shifted towards the surroundings, and he noticed a circular wall of mountains enclosing the entire garden. He realized that this was probably Urd's Wall, the dwelling place of the Norns, the sisters who controlled the fate and destiny of all beings. The wall stood as a boundary between the eternal tree of wisdom and outer space, it was like a part of the world was cut off and left there hanging.

After Rio who enjoyed the new scenery around him to the fullest, he commanded his system-

'System, remember to copy paste it on our space.'

[Obviously host. What's theirs is ours.]

'Hahaha of course.'

Both the villain and his villainous system were busy planning out the finer details of their new system space, obviously Rio removed the dancing mosquito like fairies, they were just extra baggage, system also suggested changing the mountain wall into a transparent glass wall, and instead of showing nothing outside the wall, they agreed to fix the theme of outer space or galaxies outside the glass dome, which system suggested from one of the scenes from a movie Shiva watched on earth.

Both were busy talking when they were interrupted by a sudden outburst of an angry voice. It was the voice of a little girl, filled with frustration and indignation, shouting at Rio with righteous fury.

"Who do you think you are, mortal? How dare you lie about me and use my name without permission!" the voice exclaimed, echoing through the divine garden. Her voice carried a hint of anger and disbelief.

Skuld's anger was palpable as she confronted Rio. She had been watching this mortal ever since Kali returned one day, and asked about his fate one day. Even though due to limitations from the world system she couldn't see his whole future, she could see some visions and parts of it, which made her interested in him.

At first she was confused when she heard his words today, about her giving him a blessing. Her confusion turned into anger when he said she, a goddess, asked him for a favor. And after listening to his prayers and praises when she was just about to give him a chance to explain himself, he shifted his mood and straight out threatened her.

A puny puppet threatening the goddess who has seen and controlled even the fate of allfather Odin. This was an insult to her Godhood. Her divine pride was wounded, and she sought retribution.

Startled, Rio turned around to find the source of the voice. Standing before him was a young girl with fiery red hair, her eyes burning with anger and power. Her fierce expression clearly indicated how mad she was, her hands were planted firmly on her hips, and her eyes blazed with indignation. It was Skuld, the Norn goddess of future fate, her presence radiating authority and intensity. She looked exactly the same as she was described in the novel.

"You dare threaten me, mortal!! You have crossed a line," Skuld declared, her tone filled with a mix of anger and disappointment.

"That's not what I wanted to do, Goddess. You should _ " Rio started saying something trying to explain what he meant, but was interrupted mid sentence as Skuld stopped him, thinking he was going to apologize and beg for mercy soon.

"You threaten a goddess and then expect forgiveness so easily?" Skuld replied, her tone stern. Skuld's voice reverberated through the garden as she unleashed her wrath upon Rio. She berated him for daring to lie about her, to use her name without her consent. Her anger was palpable, and Rio couldn't help but feel a mixture of apprehension and defiance.

He watched as Skuld's frustration intensified, her voice growing louder and more impassioned. She couldn't understand how a mere mortal would have the audacity to manipulate her name for his own purposes.

Yet, as Skuld continued her shouting, Rio's expression remained surprisingly calm. His eyes flickered with a hint of amusement, a confident smile playing at the corners of his lips. He listened attentively, his eyes fixed on her as she vented her frustrations. Though her anger was apparent, he couldn't help but detect a hint of uncertainty beneath her fiery exterior.

"Your words hold weight, mortal, and your actions have consequences. You should prepare yourself for divine punishment." Her words cut through the air like a sharp blade, and Rio could sense the power and authority behind them. Skuld's anger stemmed from her sacred position as the guardian of fate, and any manipulation or disrespect towards her was met with fierce resistance.

Skuld's voice laced with frustration and indignation. She shouted at Rio, her petite form trembling with fury. But Rio remained unfazed, knowing that her divine power held no sway over him. The system now protected his mind so she couldn't harm him mentally, and she couldn't harm his physical body while he was here as Nyx was watching that.*¹ Skuld, who had a small number of followers on Arcadia, would only send them to their death if she asked anyone to come after him or the Blake family. Skuld knew this as well, which was why she resorted to shouting rather than using her divinity to pressure him.

This was the benefit of having strong Gods supporting you, as those with little power didn't dare to harm their chosen followers. Even though war of Gods was stopped and they were banned from fighting between themselves, there were many other ways to remove a Gods existence than simply killing them. If Nyx ever declared that all of Skuld's followers are her enemies and to be killed, probably half of Arcadia would be out hunting them, just for the off chance that they can get her favor or any blessing.

Hearing her rant, Rio felt a twinge of amusement. He could see the futility of her anger. He understood the power dynamics at play, recognizing that he held the upper hand. Even though she was the goddess of fate, he had knowledge far surpassing her about the future, and it only strengthened his resolve to take control of the situation.

As she took a brief pause, he seized the opportunity to interject. -"Skuld, there's no need for all this anger," Rio said, his tone steady and assured. "I understand your frustration, but there's something more important that you should know about. It's beneficial for you."

Skuld's anger seemed to simmer slightly as she listened to Rio's words. Her anger began to waver, curiosity taking its place. A thought that he might have something which gave him all this confidence, maybe Nyx helped him somehow started taking root in her head.

Reluctantly, she allowed Rio to continue speaking, her expression still guarded but slightly less hostile. Rio seized the opportunity, knowing that he had to tread carefully if he wanted to finish what he started. -"Listen, Skuld. I may have used your name in a misguided attempt, but that's only because I needed your attention, so we can talk."

Skuld's eyes narrowed as she heard Rio's words. "What do you mean, mortal?"

"I mean what I said. There was something I needed to talk to you about, and this was the fastest method to get your attention. And see I was right, you're here." Rio sincerely explained his point.

'No matter which world, it always works. Gods and their ego's, are they really Gods if they can't even handle their own emotions properly. Some words of insults to make them angry, and some words of praise or offerings to make them calm again. How are they any different from normal humans?'

Skuld regarded him with a mixture of skepticism and apprehension. Her anger began to subside, as her expression softened slightly as she considered Rio's words. She was not easily swayed, but she could sense the truth in his voice. That's when Rio continued his play and announced -

"I know about your sister. I've seen her. And I can help you get her back."

When someone has a conversation with a God, oftentimes Gods pull that person's consciousness out instead of talking normally to his physical form, so no one else, not even other Gods watching him could listen to their conversation.

Chapter 79 Dealing With The Goddess Of Fate LI

"I know about your sister. I've seen her. And I can help you get her back."

As Rio's confident voice cut through Skuld's anger, her fiery gaze locked onto him. Her eyebrows furrowed in surprise and curiosity, momentarily forgetting her rage. The mention of her sister piqued her interest, stirring a mix of hope and skepticism within her.

"What do you know about my sister?" Skuld demanded, her voice laced with a newfound intensity. Her words echoed throughout the realm, The anger that had consumed her moments ago now shifted to a deep longing, the desire to know about her lost sibling.

Rio, aware of the impact his words had made, maintained his composed demeanor. He knew he had caught Skuld's attention, and now he just had to navigate this delicate situation to his advantage.

"I've seen glimpses of her in my visions, trapped somewhere out of your reach, asking for help, begging for mercy, hoping her sisters would come and free her." Rio revealed, he closed his eyes with a thoughtful expression as if he was reliving the past, as he finished his words he opened them again and said -"Help me now, and I can help you locate and bring her back."

Skuld's eyes widened, a mixture of hope, sadness and desperation flooding her expression. The thought of learning about her sister, a connection severed for far too long, ignited a flicker of vulnerability within her fierce facade.

But she didn't lose all her reason like a certain someone, and still had some control over her brain, so she asked her doubts -

"You speak of the impossible," Skuld replied, her voice softening ever so slightly. "No one has ever been able to see outside their realm. How can you, a mortal, claim to have the means to do so. And even if somehow that was possible, what can your pathetic strength do to help me get her back?"

While her words did hold weight and were true, he believed that he had the means to sway her. "Because just like you, I've also seen the future Skuld. I know why you ran away and joined Goddess Gauri (Kali). I know what you're hiding from everyone, and why you're not choosing anyone as your followers. We both saw what'll happen in the future 10 years later, and now we both can help each other."

Hearing his words the goddess of fate had a shocked expression as she understood what he meant. The visions she had seen years ago, the chaotic truth that she witnessed and buried deep within her, the wars she saw the signs of which made Ragnarok look like children's squabble - everything that she wanted to hide from the world was known by this mortal in front of her.

'How does he know that? Not even other Gods of future visions should be able to see that, let alone share it with someone so easily.'

"Want to consider your thoughts again." Skuld's anger and thoughts faded further as she heard Rio's proposition. She realized that things weren't as simple as she thought. Just the thought that this mortal knew about the future and had Nyx as his supporter was enough to make her listen to him.

Although still skeptical, she couldn't dismiss the possibility that their interaction could lead to finding her sister Verdandi. She understood that she needed to be calm and not let her petty anger blind her to the potential opportunities.

"Very well, mortal," Skuld conceded, her tone now tinged with a hint of curiosity and hostility. "But remember, I am still the goddess of fate. If you think of yourself as deceitful or manipulative, then I'd suggest you be very careful of your next words. Nyx might protect you, but sometimes you being safe becomes a punishment in itself. I remember you have a family, a sister too and she's _." She tried to warn the mortal of the consequences if he thought he could fool her, but her words were cut short by Rio's voice, "Speak about her again, and I swear on my mana, that Verdandi's safety would be the last thing you'll need to worry about."

Skuld's eyes narrowed as she felt a surge of anger and indignation at Rio's audacious threat. How dare this mortal, with his fragile existence, dare to challenge her, an eternal goddess? Anger surged through her being, her divine essence radiating with wrath. She towered over Rio, her presence overwhelming, as she prepared to unleash the full extent of her power.

"Know your place, mortal!" Skuld hissed, her voice dripping with fury. "You dare threaten me, a full-fledged eternal goddess? I have witnessed the rise and fall of countless gods, the birth and death of countless worlds, the creation and destruction of mortals like you. You are nothing more than a fleeting existence in the grand scheme of eternity."

"Do not mistake your limited knowledge for your superiority, your arrogance will be your undoing if you underestimate the strength that lies within the divine."

[WARNING]

[WARNING]

[WARNING]

[Host's life is in danger]

[Requesting permission to send you back.]

'Stop whatever you doing system.'

As her presence started to push Rio on his knees, the warnings from the system started appearing on his status screen. But he ignored them and continued - "I called you here for a deal, if you prefer death , I can give it to you too." His voice held an air of authority, a quiet confidence that contrasted with her fiery outburst.

"You think you can do anything to harm me, a goddess. You're nothing. One breath of air and you'll be blasted to pieces."

Rio met Skuld's gaze unwaveringly, his voice tinged with an unwavering determination. -"You must have tried to see my future too right, then you should know that soon enough the power gap won't be this much between Gods and mortals. You may be more powerful than me, but I have more allies than you. If I die, so does every last bit of your followers, and then while I can continue the cycle of rebirth again, you on the other hand will be gone for good. So I'd say you still have more to lose than I do."

'Another thing a mortal. Shouldn't know about.' Skuld thought as she heard his words. It was true, if he died he'll continue the cycle of reincarnation, while she, a goddess, will be forever gone, her essence merged in the existence, never to be nothing again.

The tension between them began to subside as Skuld reluctantly acknowledged Rio's point. She had seen his fate, if she killed him now, there'll be nothing but darkness left in the world. This was the second time she couldn't see past something and she knew it wasn't normal. Yet she had no intention of showing weakness in front of a mortal, her pride did not allow that.

"Words alone are not enough, mortal ! Your actions will determine whether I help you or not," Skuld responded. "Prove your words" Skuld challenged, her voice a mix of caution and anticipation. "If you can truly guide me to my sister, then perhaps I will consider an alliance."

"You can trust me for now, you've wasted a thousand years sitting here doing nothing, I'm just asking for 10. Help me hide my lies and you'll have your sister the moment this world changes." Rio declared decisively. He didn't need much from Skuld, except one blessing to cover his lie.

Skuld's gaze hardened, her determination rekindled. "Very well, mortal. I shall grant you a chance to prove yourself, tell me what blessing do you want?"

'Got yaa' Rio's lips curled up in a smile as he heard those words.

"Do you want to see your fate, your future? I can make your lies come true with my blessing." Skuld declared as she proposed giving him the blessing of fate.

But Rio shook his head, he had no need for that, he already knew the future, as for his fate, he was already aware of what he would see. Though his actions till now might have prevented some stuff from the novel, his ending would still be the same. 'There's no way that can be changed this easily. No need to waste my blessing on that. Might as well ask for that.'

"Give me the blessing of threads."

Rio said, a glimmer of determination in his eyes. He knew that he had gained a small victory in this encounter, but he also understood the responsibility that came with it. He had to tread carefully and prove his worth on time if he wanted to gain Skuld's trust and utilize her full powers to shape the future.

But was that hard for him? Nah. Verdandi will be found and saved by Kali according to the novel, he just has to show her the right location early. So she doesn't waste time looking for her.

"Hmmm, remember your words mortal. Break that promise, and I will show you hell."

And with those words, a fragile alliance was born, tethered by hope, secrets, and the unyielding desire to rewrite their fates. Each harbored their own motives and desires, but they understood one thing, that their fates were intertwined now.

Chapter 80 Plotline Of Norn Sisters

When the norn sisters were first pulled into Arcadia, not many Gods from Norse mythology were pulled along with them. So during the war of Gods when the purge started to kill or capture any God who can see the future, the norn sisters became the prime target for everyone.

The Norn sisters, with their unique ability to see the past, present, and future, became the coveted prize sought after by every warring faction. Their power and knowledge made them indispensable weapons in the hands of those who could control them.

Because not only one of them can see the future, they come in a combo where one can see past and other one present. Just the thought that having these 3 in anyone's faction would give them the biggest advantage, as they can see their enemies' past to learn about their weaknesses, monitor their situation instantly no matter where they are as present, they can also change their plans and strategize after seeing the future.

Everyone in the God realm was after their life, the trio of norn sisters had to run and hide from whoever they saw, in an unknown land where powerful Gods from other myths started coming after them, the sisters tasted the true meaning of despair.

For a little while, their skills gave them a slight advantage in slipping away from their pursuers, the inevitable came to pass. The trio of sisters—Skuld, Urd, and Verdandi—found themselves caught in a treacherous trap.

No matter what they did, how they used their abilities supporting each other, in front of overwhelming numbers and ultimate strength, they soon found themselves lost and beaten.

As captives, the sisters endured a bleak existence, their lives reduced to mere pawns in the ongoing war. They were subjected to the whims and demands of their captors, forced to use their skills and knowledge to serve the agenda of those who held them captive. The sisters' visions held the potential to turn the tide of the war, to reveal the strategies and weaknesses of their enemies.

The war of gods raged on, each faction blinded by their desire for dominance. But even in their captivity, the norn sisters held onto a flicker of hope, knowing that their abilities were too potent to be suppressed forever.

Finally after changing several factions, experiencing destruction and betrayals wherever they went, the day of their liberation arrived. Urd and Skuld, cunning and resourceful, managed to break free from their captors' grasp. They embraced their newfound freedom and made a fateful decision to join forces with Kali, a formidable goddess known for her ferocity, and the chaos she left behind on the battlefield.

However, their triumph was marred by the absence of Verdandi. Zeus, the Greek king of gods, had captured Verdandi and concealed her in a place so secretive that even Skuld's visions couldn't pierce its veil. Despite their best efforts and Skuld's future visions, the duo were unable to locate her.

The knowledge of Verdandi's captivity weighed heavily upon Urd and Skuld, for they knew that their sister remained at the mercy of Zeus, a ruler known for his indomitable strength and unwavering will, the tales of his tyranny were enough to send shivers down the sisters spine whenever they thought about it.

The fate of the Norn sisters intertwined with the fate of the war itself. So when the duo were going to sacrifice themselves for their sister's freedom, or at least join her in the suffering, the world's will intervened and stopped the War of Gods.

It has been nearly a thousand years, but there has been no news about Verdandi, Skuld and Urd have followed Goddess Gauri ever since then, in return the sisters have only asked for a promise from Goddess, that she would help them free Verdandi if ever a chance presented itself. Goddess Gauri(kali) didn't know why they even asked for a promise like that, as the war had already ceased, and even she, a primordial, couldn't go and teach Zeus some manners now. But for their safety and happiness she agreed nonetheless.

But what she didn't know was that Skuld carried a secret, a vision of the future that she had yet to share with anyone, even her own sister.

When the world's will intervened to halt the war, Skuld had glimpsed a fate so catastrophic, so devastating, that it made the apocalyptic event of Ragnarok that she had long feared, seem like a mere playground skirmish.

In her vision, the signs of war were so dire that they eclipsed the horrors of any conflict that had come before, engulfing the realms of both mortals and gods alike. Immortal beings, once revered as all-powerful, were hunted and mercilessly slaughtered, their immortal essence shattered like fragile mortal beings.

The gods, once praised as omnipotent beings, were now killed, their divine essence extinguished like flickering flames.

The world had irrevocably changed. Darkness and chaos consumed the realms, leaving nothing but destruction in their wake.

The intensity of this vision had taken its toll on Skuld's spirit, pushing her to the brink of her own sanity.

To recover from its overwhelming impact, she had been forced to enter a deep slumber, a hundred-year respite to heal her spirit and regain her strength.

From that moment forward, she had been waiting, patiently biding her time, for the realization of her vision. For she knew that the impending war she had foreseen was not a matter of if, but when.

Since the war stopped, they couldn't find Zeus, and Zeus had no more use for the other sisters for the time being. That's why Skuld could do nothing but wait. Wait for when that vision comes true, so she can hope to find her sister again.

The threads of fate had woven a tapestry of destruction and chaos, and she saw it as the key to unlocking her sister Verdandi's freedom and getting her revenge.

With this knowledge weighing heavily upon her, Skuld sought to make the necessary preparations ever since she woke up, to gather allies, and to be ready for the moment when her vision would come to pass.

She understood that her request for a promise from Kali, was not simply a matter of releasing Verdandi from Zeus's grasp, but a crucial step in securing the survival of her sisters in the future she had witnessed. All this time she never increased her influence by freely giving out blessings and making

followers here and there, she knew the more attention she brought upon herself now, the easier she would be trapped by anyone when the war began. She only maintained the necessary and minimum presence so she could still carry on her existence and not get erased. The same was the case for her sister Urd, who she forced to do the same.

The world's will had set the stage, the pieces on it were forever in motion, and Skuld, driven by her prophetic vision and understanding of fate, would strive to alter the course of destiny itself. For her sisters she was willing to challenge the threads of fate itself and carve a new path amidst the chaos.

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In the original story of the novel, as anyone with half a brain can guess, Skuld after looking at the golden fate of Arcadia's protagonist, decided to stick close to him. She had given him her blessings and helped him multiple times. She even taught him the method of stealing someone else's fate, which is what that bastard used when dealing with the Raven Family. Crippling all pillars of support his family had.

As for Verdandi after emergence phase 2 when Gods were able to take part in the game, she was freed after Kali paid a nice visit to Zeus. Obviously other Gods of Greek pantheon didn't like Kali's approach and interference, but they couldn't do anything against her. Even though the Greek gods were more powerful than some other gods, primordial Gods Were on whole nother level.

Primordials were Gods who have started the whole myth where other gods from any myth get based on, so to deal with her, they called for their own primordial. Which by no surprise happened to be Nyx.

Though Nyx was far too done with the duality and hypocritical behaviors of Gods, what Kali did was a slap on the face for all Greek gods. And she had to reply.

This further fueled their rivalry and sparked the fire of enmity between them. The fight between both Goddesses eventually started affecting both their avatars, Rio and Amelia.

With what Rio's reputation was at that point and how the plot was progressing further, anyone could tell what happened next, the family that stood side by side till then was torn apart piece by piece and they found themselves standing on opposite sides.

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The norn sisters successfully joined the protagonist camp and became his minions, except for Urd. Who at the last moments jumped ship and colluded with the villains, breaking the unity of norns.

No one knew why Urd did that, and the author never thought it important enough to explain -maybe he wanted to add some emotional drama mystery, or maybe he just didn't want to write a foursome chapters of Leon with 3 sisters.

As the ending of any other villain camp partner, Urd too ended up dying, at the hands of Katherine Winston. Noah's sister and another heroine of Leon's harem.

Sadly enough Verdandi who was always willing to sacrifice herself for her sisters' sake , or Skuld who could wait a 1000 years just to free her sister - never came forward to stop Katherine and save Urd. They called it her fate and let it happen -ironic indeed.

After Urd's death, Skuld and Verdandi kept supporting the protagonist on his quest to increase his harem. Hmmm I mean on his quest to roam the world and only save beauties. (Well some grandpas too, but even that ends up with a beauty so yeah whatever)

'Author this is wrong, let's try it again.'

After Urd's death, skuld and Verdandi kept supporting the protagonist on his quest to rise in power and become the strongest of all creation (so he can get any girl he wishes)

Obviously they continued doing this until one of them got left behind as a lamb to slaughter, so the protagonist could run away. (I mean one of them sacrificed herself to save their beloved hero and the hero of the world)

'Shut up author. Stop ur thoughts from jumping into the chapter.'

Now where was I, yes one of them got left behind to be killed, no no, I mean one of them died willingly , while the other one , sigh let's not talk about the other one, that was too gritty and dark.

