

Once Human 301

Chapter 301

"So it's her again . Always the one controlling the strings . "

Previously, Arthur only gave a small glance to Claudia then focused his attention on Lucy . Thanks to his training, which lasted God knows how long, he became able to fully suppress his rage and completely hide his killing intent, only making it surface when he wishes so .

In fact, he was gutting for Claudia and can't wait to show her what real torture really is, but things must be taken slowly and as husband and a man, there are priorities and things way more relevant than his revenge, for example, his wife and daughter .

"She's really one crafty woman . Unfortunately, I had people monitoring every small move she did, from what toilet she uses to what fork she eats with, nothing escaped my eyes . You see, Saly is kind of famous amongst the young children as she won a small tournament two years ago organized by the International Hero Organization . I forbade her from joining any company and only focus on studying . Thus, she rejected all the offers but . . . seeing the potential growing threat, Claudia decided to sneakily kill her . All attempts were a failure, of course . "

Arthur's eyes turned cold for a split second before they returned to normal, the more he thought about Claudia, the more he remembered those days from the past .

That cold and isolated room with only a metal chair in its center . The foul stench of piss, blood and various other things that made it nauseating . He still hasn't forgotten about the many faces that visited that room and enjoyed torturing him, oh it would be absolutely wrong to assume that his wife is the only one at fault .

The list is long and albeit her being the main culprit, there are many others, many who shall not escape the fate he prepared for them .

"What about the assassins, were they all disposed of?"

Please visit freearebnovel.com

"Yes, you know how I deal with things, an insect today, a thorn tomorrow . I left no one left but even if one could have escaped, I doubt Claudia would have left him/her alive . Though I didn't stop there, I personally searched every inch of this planet and rooted every assassin organization, none were spared . Then I proceeded in creating one myself, I even handpicked everyone so that no one can think of backstabbing me . "

"With your methods, I'm sure they are very loyal hahaha . . . "

Arthur laughed as he listened to Lucy . Knowing her criteria when picking or assessing people, it must've taken quite a time to find the perfect candidates . They would have been tested countless times too, to assure they won't betray her trust .

Nonetheless, it's good, his wife was more active than he thought her to be . Not only did she erase every assassin organization, she also created one of her own, possibly the only one existing on Earth right now .

"I do not personally travel to their headquarters, I usually send a messenger . With the help of Miya and Delia, I managed to train a few loyal and helpful subordinates, they are my eyes and ears . Going back to the topic of Claudia in recent years, I managed to get very close to her . She considers me a loyal subordinate and although I didn't do any dirty work for her, I allowed her to become one of the top figures of the IHO . With her new status and wealth, her ego got a huge boost, adding to her never-decreasing arrogance but it's fine this way, at least she isn't as cautious of me as five years ago . "

Arthur listened to his wife and noticed that she seemed to dislike Claudia, or more accurately, loathe the latter guts . It's natural though, with a character like hers and a slutty behavior, no one would like her once they discover her real personality; A sadistic, egoistic, selfish person .

"Doesn't she know that Saly is your daughter?"

"No, no one knows where Saly lives . Even if she were to be followed, thanks to Randuin's invisibility, no one can trace her back to her, even when using modern technology, which is easily detectable using Mana or Nether Energy . Claudia thinks that I live alone in a place not far from here, she 'secretly' put a lot of cameras alas . . . all she would see is an illusion put by Snory, who owes me a favor for helping him . "

Lucy flicked her hand and retrieved a small red stone, it showed an illusion of Lucy meditating in an empty room . With but a thought from Lucy, the illusion followed her will and did as sold, for example, eating, leaving the room or doing other activities, basically, it can fool the unprepared and inexperienced eyes .

"In addition of Claudia, I've managed to locate three other main perpetrators that contributed in capturing you and paid the mercenaries . I still haven't acted and merely watched from the sides, I didn't want to alarm them if one of their 'friends' disappeared . I also wanted to save the treat for you, doing it personally would be much more exhilarating . "

Lucy continued talking about the details of these people, who they were, what they do right now and what they DID in the past, from crimes to offenses and even small fights, she had everything on them thanks to the thorough investigation of her subordinates .

She even sent people who infiltrated these people's groups and became trusted there . With a single order from Lucy, these spies could slit the throat of their bosses, they are, after all, trained assassins before becoming spies .

Arthur became eager to see what kind of people Lucy managed to train, furthermore, with her backing his every move and watching the target's affairs, he needs not worry about any unforeseen events .

Escaping to the ends of the Earth still wouldn't save them from his grasp, unless they find a way to travel out of Earth, then they would never be able to resist the imminent death that's closing up on them .

In a courtyard, where there's an artificial small mountain and a beautiful pond next to it, stood an old man with a long white beard a bent back, indicating his old age .

Just behind the old man was an elegant man in his twenties, he wore a black tuxedo and had a handsome face, anyone who sees him will know that he's some kind of a businessman with such an appearance .

"Arthur, I do not have much time left "

A sad look flashed through the young man's eyes as he replied

"Yes . . . "

In response, the old man turned around and slapped the young man's head, causing the latter to groaned in pain

"What 'Yes' bullshit are you giving me? This ain't a dramatic goodbye! I'm telling you this so you can wake the hell up and speed up the process . You're here sipping tea and enjoying this view like there's no tomorrow, like hell there isn't!"

"B-but we must honor the deal . . . "

He didn't even get to finish before he got smacked again

"Honor your damn sister! Go stand in the ashes of a trillion dead souls and ask the ghosts if honor matter . The silence is your answer, furthermore, aren't you interested in that girl? What's her name again ehmm ah yes! Claudia! So why are you cowering away now? I ain't giving ma damn company to an indecisive little virgin, you better get hold of your shit and man up or you ain't getting ma seat, boy . "

The young man nodded as he was being lectured again and again by the old man, facing this elderly person, he couldn't retort or object, all he had to do is listen to the advises he was given because if there's something he's lacking then it's definitely Wisdom .

Chapter 302

"I remember six of them, their faces are engraved in my mind . As for those acting behind the shadows, I'll be able to find them too, when I finish them all then it'll be her turn . I want her to feel cornered, helpless and betrayed, a revenge is never sweet if it isn't done the right way . "

Although he was talking about those who tortured him and caused him to love a life worse than even a lab rat, Arthur's voice was relaxed and his expression was calm .

It's like he was stating a fact and not speaking of what'll happen in the future . Lucy nodded her head in confirmation, no matter how he wants to pay back his debts, she'll forever support him . She even found some of the culprits and have a firm lock on Claudia, who is clueless about their relationship .

In fact, Claudia would never expect Arthur to be alive, from her perspective, he died on that fateful day and he had been 'properly' buried while she took control of his companies and wealth .

The couple talked for a bit more as Arthur wanted to know about some people from the past . Who lived and who died, who are the people in charge and what is exactly the IHO .

All in all, he came to know a few things but they weren't crucial or threatening to him . Even the so-called IHO or the 'preaching monks' of the East that Lucy mentioned weren't particularly powerful .

Surprisingly, there's an old monk living in China who managed to train with Qi before the Earth changed and when the dungeons appeared and the environment had a drastic change, this elder managed to benefit greatly and reached Spirit Realm .

Apart from him, there were no earthling who is strong, they're all at the Mortal Realm .

"That isn't right, 'X' should have someone monitoring the place . "

The copy, who kept his silence for a long time now, finally talked when Lucy mentioned the lack of any mysterious individuals .

'He shouldn't necessarily be hiding on Earth, he could be roaming the space, just like that guy Snory . '- Arthur

"No, 'X' isn't a person who does thing half-heartedly, neither are his subordinates . Whoever was sent here can definitely hide and most likely knows about Lucy and co, he or her probably never acted due to Snory, who wouldn't permit a battle of Gods or Sovereigns occurring on Earth . "

'Then what about Snory, who do you think he is? How about his Strength?'

Due to the silence of his copy and him being preoccupied, he couldn't ask his copy about this mysterious old man who is always sleeping on the moon . From the way Lucy talked about him, he's insanely strong to the point that even in with her current power, she had zero confidence in defeating him, let alone kill him . Fortunately, Snory is friendly and isn't the type to run around killing people .

"I'm not sure but he's probably 'Sloth', one of the Seven Deadly Sins . "

'They actually exist?'

"Of course they do . They originated from the Heaven and Hell Universe and most of them still live there and serve the Devil Lord . Sloth is one of the exceptions, he's the oldest amongst them, he left Hell and started working for the System about fifty thousand years ago . Why he did such a thing still remains a mystery to people but I have a few guesses . Anyway, if it's really Sloth then you better not cross him, it's definitely not someone you can defeat, I doubt even 'X' could match him . "

'As long as he doesn't go out of his way to attack us then I'll remain passive too . '-Arthur

"Don't give me that shit . You'll do nothing even if he attacks, heck! You won't be able to do shit if he seriously attacks you . Don't go around making enemies, also he's known to be friendly so maybe try becoming friends . Befriending one of the Seven Deadly Sins can bring you countless benefits . "

'Alright alright! No need to start nagging me!'

Arthur let out a helpless sigh and recounted Lucy about his short conversation with his copy . With Lucy sitting next to it, Arthur stood cross-legged while closing his eyes, he was going to try and find the hiding individual sent by 'X' .

If the target is hiding on Earth then he'll definitely sense him with some effort, what he must be careful about is not being found out by the other party .

His stats allow him to be almost unstoppable in the Sovereign Realm, with Lucy by his side, even a half-God Monarch can be defeated so there's nothing to fear .

Furthermore, the copy assured Arthur that there's no way 'X' sent a God Monarch to monitor this place . The System won't allow a Monarch from another Universe to come and go as he pleases .

There was a strong chance that it's a Sovereign, as for its exact Realm, then it remains unknown, unfortunately .

The Sovereign Realm isn't divided into grades like the previous Realms but is split into three phases . The first one is called 'Little Sovereign', the second is 'Fusion Sovereign' and the last phase is 'High Sovereign' .

What the Sovereign is all about is actually fusing with one's God Spirit . At the first phase, the cultivator starts absorbing the traits of his/her God Spirit and at the next phase, its 'Essence Absorption' where the God Spirit start integrating into the cultivator's body .

The last phase is just consolidating the fusion and making it more stable and stronger .

Unfortunately, when he reached the God Realm, Arthur got no God Spirit which is a very unusual thing as every Race should acquire one .

His copy blamed his Race and told him to be grateful as the benefits of being a parasite far outweigh having a God Spirit . As for Lucy's God Spirit, it was actually a large Yin Lotus that is highly efficient in both defense and offense .

Once Arthur started his search, he used Space Magic and [Lower Presence (Max Lv)], [Sneak (Max Lv)] to render himself unable to be sensed by anything within his range .

Obviously, the range is equal to his sense's but this only applies to Earth and Astria, if here were in a High-Realm, the range will significantly decrease .

Lucy, who was gazing at him, was shocked to notice that she couldn't sense him at all despite having her Mana locked into him . If not for gazing at him right this second, she wouldn't believe he was here .

There was no turbulence in energy, he was sitting on the bed but he was no different than a floating image, soundless and motionless .

Slowly but surely, his figure started becoming illusory, every passing second made him look less realistic . His presence decreased until it was literally nonexistent, even a ghost will be noticed before he is .

Arthur didn't use Space Magic nor Dark Magic to track 'X's subordinate, he actually used Shadow Magic, something he would never have used in the past due to its weakness compared to his other powerful Magics .

As per the copy's words, Shadow Magic is, without a doubt, the best tracking magic and the most powerful for assassination . It's a shame that he only possessed one corpse that had such a magic, which explains how rarely it is .

Arthur had to listen to countless lessons taught by his copy, and they weren't actually physical lessons but historical ones . He listened to the origins of the Shadow Magic until he learned by hit, forcefully .

The dark age that the Shadow Emperor brought is remembered by many powerful individuals, he's actually one of the main causes of the Void Age's arrival .

"It's really a shame, if we could find his corpse then you really don't need to fear anything in any of the three Universes . "

Please visit freewebnovel.com

Arthur had promised his copy that he'll visit a few secret places that were marked by the latter, these locations have a strong chance to have an ancient corpse of mythical beasts or great sages .

There was also the matter of Zodiak's remaining legacies, the old man told Arthur to find what's left of his power and if he could locate them all then it'll definitely boost his power by a great margin .

"Found him!"(Arthur) .

Author's note : First of all, thanks for reading my story so far . This will be a bit long so if you don't have time or don't want to read, you can skip this .

As an author, what I want is attract new readers and if those newcomers want to read the reviews first, I don't want them to be driven away but those negative reviews that have only two sentences, which are badmouthing the story without criticizing anything . With the accumulation of such reviews, the score of the story will drastically drop and it may drive away most readers, which is something I would not want to happen .

Sure, if you do not like my story, feel free to write a proper review stating what you don't like but merely writing a few words that mean nothing is an insult not to me but to my story, which I worked hard to write despite it being filled with plot holes and a lot of other things .

Chapter 303

"North pole, in the middle of nowhere . He seems to be using a special technique, I was barely able to detect his presence . "

"Let's go finish him then . "

Lucy didn't want to let such a dangerous individual alive, the very fact that he's working under 'X', who reincarnated Arthur for obviously not good intentions, makes him an existence that should be eliminated at all costs .

Instead of teleporting immediately toward the target, Arthur retrieved a luxurious looking box from his storage and passed it to Lucy while saying

"The best artifact I have ever crafted . Its name is Lonely Moon, designed to be perfectly compatible with you . Use it with care, it has an insane destructive power . "

Lucy opened the box and saw the exquisite silver revolver laying inside with more than a dozen bullets of different grades and types . Arthur proceeded into explaining the significance of the bullets, their grades, and elements, how the recoil works and the fusion formation put inside .

With her help, he'd be able to craft a bullet that is made from purely the fusion of Ice and fire, the result will be definitely the strongest bullet amongst all of them, even superior to the Atomic Bullet .

"Thank you . . . "

Lucy caressed the silver rifle as she gazed at her husband, she felt an instant resonation with the artifact the moment she touched . It's no wonder it was considered a masterpiece by the System and he was even given skill points once it was fully crafted .

The prowess she could demonstrate while wielding it will be multiple times stronger than when he used it . There were many restrictions and the recoil which isn't suited for him nearly obliterated his whole hand .

"No need to thank me hahaha . With both of us, he shouldn't be able to escape but we must only engage when victory is certain . I'll seal his escape route while you immobilize him . "

Lucy dripped some blood on Lonely Moon so it could become hers permanently, then she hid it under light clothes on her waist and coated it with pure Mana so it passes as undetected when someone probes her body .

Her stats increased by a significant amount, with her GodSpirit, her saber mastery, and Lonely Moon, she definitely became a terrifying woman, unlike the past, where she was helpless and weak .

When both were ready, Arthur teleported himself and Lucy exactly where 'X's subordinate was . They both appeared in a room deep underground, the weather was freezing cold and the walls, roof, and ground were all crystalline ice .

The figure between husband and wife was startled by the sudden appearance of the two of them, however before he could react, Arthur raised his hand and used [Space Room], a skill obtained when once reached Medium Mastery in Space Magic . It creates a small Space Room that traps a target for a short period of time, with his new stats and almost flawless control, the duration and size of the room are drastically increased .

The room shook for a split second before it was surrounded by grey fog that blocked the view, the victim of this assault took out two sharp-looking bone daggers and was going to slash at Arthur, unfortunately, the second the daggers appeared in his hands, a short and soft looking white saber appeared two inches away from his neck .

He could feel the coldness of the saber, it was bone-chilling, he knew if he dared to move or try anything, that saber will decapitate him before he's able to proceed with what he planned .

He was a Sovereign and participated in a lot of fights, he had enough experience to know that he was totally helpless as he was caught off-guard, moreover, both enemies were at the same Realm as him if not stronger .

Thus, the victim could do naught but drop his guards and remain still to not get killed by mistake . From the way they appeared and neutralized him this easily, it cannot be two amateurs .

What confused him is why would they attack him, he didn't offend anyone for the past years and quietly remained here . Snory wouldn't send people either, he'd just need a finger to kill him .

"A wise move, however, dropping your weapons isn't enough . "

Arthur's cold words rang in the slim figure's ears, he willed his body to move but his natural instincts, which only wanted his survival, refused to obey him and forced his body to stay still .

A dark hand as big as his body appeared from behind, it grasped him tightly, causing his bones to crack and his breathing to become faster .

Not only was the grip of the dark hand strong, the energy it was made from was weakening the target, rendering him unable to concentrate properly, slowly but surely, it was eating him from inside out, consuming the energy stored in his Dantian and passing through Meridians .

"Now then, let's look at who you are . "

Arthur walked in front of this slim middle-aged man and activated appraisal, a skill that became much more useful when he invested a skill point on it .

Zirmahos Ghanrumum (Race: Bone Ghost): Fusion Sovereign (78%)

Age: 890

Titles : Ghost In a Shell (Passive)

Skills (Calculated by the System): [Ghost Curse] [Manevolent Bones] [Delusion of Rituals] .

Short description: Born, raised, and trained in the Ghost Nation . A loyal servant of the Whisperer King . Mastered the skill [Manevolent Bones] and famous for being one of the three Bone Ghosts .

Although there are not a lot of details, at least the new appraisal gives Arthur a bit of information about the target without having to resort to violent questioning and end up hearing answers that might or might not be true .

"As far as I know, the Ghost Nation isn't associated with anyone, much less 'X' . "

The copy sounded very confused when he saw the results of the appraisal . There's no doubt that this guy was sent by 'X', however, what surprised him is why is a Ghost, and a high ranked one at that, is serving a person beside the Whisperer King .

'I assume this Ghost Nation is also another strong power?'

"Very strong and secretive . Rarely interacts with the outside but it shouldn't be underestimated, the Whisperer King is an old entity that reached the Overgod Realm more one hundred thousand years ago . "

'All that's left is interrogating him, do you have any good ideas?'

Arthur wasn't very knowledgeable about Ghosts, in fact, it's the first time he's seeing one . Although it's called a Ghost, it looked no different than a Human except his skin was as white a sheet of paper and he was unusually slim .

"I do, actually . Ghosts are extremely vulnerable to all kinds of Flames, especially the unique ones such as the phoenix fire or the golden crow fire . Yours is the Origin flames of Hell, which can definitely force him to talk even if he's strong-willed . "

Chapter 304

As he stood next to Lucy, watching the dark red flames burning a small part of the victim's body, Arthur gazed at the man in question and said

"Had enough yet? I'm not even asking you about the Ghost Nation, just tell me why you're here and who sent you . "

At first, the Bone Ghost was flabbergasted when Arthur spoke of his Race after looking at him for a split second . This was supposed to be his ultimate secret, even the person who hired him didn't know such a thing .

Actually, he wore an amulet personally given by the Whisperer King, this artifact tricks the sense of other people, making them think he's just a Human .

His appearance didn't differ from human albeit the pale skin, in no way did he resemble a Bone Ghost yet despite all of that, he was discovered in such a short time .

Following the protocol of the Ghost Nation, once discovered, all he had to do is kill himself as to not let the enemies discover anything that could lead the Ghost Nation to suffer losses .

Unfortunately, Arthur's dark hand was too strong and no matter how much he tried, he couldn't shake it off even by a little bit . Moreover, the silver-haired woman was staring at him with dagger-eyes, every little movement he does is watched thoroughly by her, he truly felt helpless in every sense of the word .

To make matters worse, this man can use strange dark red flames that are very effective against him, which led to the beginning of the suffering . The pain was truly unimaginable, nonetheless, he bore with it and remained silent, unwilling to betray his client despite holding no loyalty for him(client)/

"It's useless, he'll hellbent on keeping his mouth shut . I never thought a Ghost could handle this much flames without breaking down, he's a special one for sure, however, the end remains the same, he, by his own will, chose the to go down such a path so there's no need to hold back anymore, right?"

Arthur understood the meaning behind his copy's words . He nodded his head and withdrew the dark hand which led the Ghost into thinking that he was set free, unfortunately, an even tighter force pressed down on him, gluing his body into the nearby ice wall .

"Don't blame me for this, I tried asking you nicely . "

Arthur gestured for Lucy to back away a few steps then turned his attention to the Bone Ghost, who was embedded into the wall using countless soft threads that wrapped around his body like a spider web .

His clothes started burning with black flames then it started covering his whole body until he was one huge blob of black flames . The room, which was covered by ice, started turning black as it was corrupted by the Dark Magic, which was too intense for the Ice to handle it .

The black flames are like a physical materialization of the Dark Magic, it's a bit similar to one Arthur uses for defense and attack, for example, Dark Barrier and Dark Spear .

However, the black flames have strong corrosive powers which affect the Soul of the victim and shakes their Mental powers, weakening it by a small degree .

Its main purpose is to make the target unstable, confused and afraid, it doesn't have a slow effect but over time, it becomes extremely lethal and could kill an enemy without Arthur having to make a move .

As for the black flames that generate on Makaze, those are different . They are created by the ring Arthur is wearing, it belonged to Zodiac and it creates dark flames and weapons, which significantly boost his attack power .

What Arthur is using right now is a skill that belonged to Zodiac . Its main purpose is to fish out many random memories of the target's mind and at the same time, cause him/her an agony that no one would want to experience, even Arthur, who experienced continuous severe pain for a very long period of time .

With unafraid eyes that didn't betray his will and stubbornness, the Bone Ghost stared back at Arthur eyes, which turned jet black and seemed like two bottomless abysses that'll devour anyone who looked at them .

Arthur placed his left hand a few inches above the man's head then stabbed his right hand into the Ghost's abdomen, unleashing absurd amounts of raw Dark Magic that immediately destroyed the victim's Dantian, causing the Ghost to vomit a large mouthful of blood .

"Unfortunately, you chose the wrong path . Against enemies, I hold nothing back . "

With that said, Arthur's left hand pressed against the Ghost's head and like a vacuum, started absorbing large quantities of memories, scattered Nether Energy .

When the process started, the man started screaming loudly from the pain, with his hands and legs bound, he could do nothing but shake violently and bang the back of his head on the ice wall until Arthur immobilized his head, causing the Ghost's sufferance to multiply .

Around two minutes later, Arthur retracted his hands and withdrew his threads thus leading the broken body of the Ghost to fall on the ground . Although he was still alive, the pain he experienced along with

the destruction of his Dantian led him into becoming extremely weak, not even have the strength to move a muscle, much less kill himself .

[Dark Extraction] is without a doubt a malevolent skill that shouldn't be used on anyone, however, Arthur wasn't the sympathetic type . He would use any skill in his possession to find out the truth because 'X' wouldn't be merciful when facing him so why should he do the same to his subordinates .

"Are you okay?"

Lucy patted his back and looked at him with a worried expression . He couldn't stand properly as he felt a bit dizzy due to the short aftereffect of the skill . It doesn't cause permanent debuffs but it couldn't be used everyday neither should it be used on every enemy that won't talk .

He only used it now because he had to be one step ahead of 'X' if he wants to win and survive . He knew that he isn't 'X's match so he had to use his wits and try to destroy this mysterious entity .

After he got the memories of the Bone Ghost, Arthur understood what happened, sort of . The memories were totally random so he didn't get everything he wanted but it was enough for now .

With the knowledge he have now and the use of this Bone Ghost, Arthur started planning how to take down 'X' .

"I see, a double agent, kind of smart from the Whisperer King . So, what are you going to do?"

As he closed his eyes and thought about that large figure sitting on a throne, with a body over five meters and an appearance similar to an undead due to the withered flesh he had . A pressure that could kill Sovereigns in a second and an ancient and majestic aura that belonged only to true kings .

The memory of the Whisperer King was fresh in his mind, a terrifying figure that definitely shouldn't be crossed .

"Well, I'm thinking about using the lion to kill a sheep . "

"Your Majesty Zirmahos is dead . "

A figure over two meters tall with bone erected from his knees, thighs and back, respectfully stood on one knee with his face facing the ground, not daring to look upwards .

The gloomy roomy, which was very wide but merely contained over ten statues of ancient kings, remained silent for an unknown amount of time until the person sitting on the throne talked at last .

He had head similar to a skeleton, withered white flesh covered it with the exception of his eyes, which were empty with only two green flames permanently burning inside the two sockets .

"Was his identity discovered?"

"No your Majesty . With the return of the Nameless Knight, 'X' had gone into hiding and won't do something stupid to attract attention . "

"Then who?"

"We still are unsure, Your Majesty . "

"What about the amulet?"

The Bone Ghost remained silent as if he hesitated then he answered

"Your Majesty, that's the problem . The energy sent by the amulet is strange . "

"Give me the amulet . "

The Ghost nodded and politely handed an amulet exactly similar to Zirhamos' to the Whisperer King . The second the amulet touched the King's hand, black flames were unleashed from all corners of the artifact and landed on the Whisperer's hand .

The king frowned when he saw this flames and blew some air of his mouth which caused the black flames to scatter and disappear .

"No doubt, this is Dark Magic . "

The Bone Ghost seemed surprised, he stared at the scattered black flames and exclaimed

"How can this be!?"

"Yes, how can there be Dark Magic? I witnessed Zodiak's death and besides him, there's no one who can use it unless "

The Whisperer King remained silent as he seemed to be in deep thought . The Bone Ghost didn't utter a word and left the room soundlessly .

After a long time passed, the King chuckled and mumbled

"It's funny how the legacies we leave behind . . . are not the ones we intended, isn't that right, Zodiak?"

Chapter 305

"Ahhh! Hasn't it been a pleasurable little nap . "

The handsome youth who had dark bandages wrapped around his eyes and covered his eyes, stretched his limbs as he enjoyed the passing breeze and the warm weather that never changes .

The hill was as peaceful as before, with nothing but the tall tree filling one's view . As he breathed some fresh air and leaned on the tree, the tree gazed at the blue-clothed empress standing a few meters in front of him .

Her lips twitched when he uttered those last words but she didn't comment on that and regained her composed look . Although a long time has passed since their last meeting, the appearance of the tall-woman barely changed, apart from the lack of the arrogance that was rooted deep into her nature, she didn't change at all .

"Mhmm time do really change people . . . still immature though . "

With his chin resting on his hand, the youth assessed the Empress with a lazy look before he turned to look at the hanging moon in the night sky .

It illuminated this valley and made the starry sky even more beautiful, contrary to normal moons, this one was missing its right half, thus making it seem incomplete, nonetheless, it was still a breathtaking scene, worthy for the youth to pass a couple of hours staring only at the moon without doing anything else, even the Empress, who was waiting for him for who knows how long, was ignored .

"Just like that moon, a person without an origin is incomplete, however, the world moves forward and so should you . Instead of digging the past, why don't you create a proper origin for your future descendants?"

The woman remained unresponsive for some time before she replied

"I still wish to know about my origins and what happened before the Hour of Creation, I know it's just not some all-out war like most records said . "

The youth softly chuckled then added with a cold tone

"At what cost?"

"No matter the cost!"

Her answer was immediate as if she prepared herself since the beginning . However, the youth wasn't satisfied, he shook his head and mocked

"You are not worthy . None of the Region leaders are, not even the one residing above . "

The Empress frowned upon hearing this and said

"What about the Supreme Star Empress?"

Once the Star Empress was mentioned, the youth flinched and answered

"She . . . is worthy but she doesn't need to beg for the truth since she knows what happened . "

Upon hearing this, the tall woman seemed genuinely startled, she thought she heard it wrong but from the look the youth was giving her, she definitely didn't hear him wrong .

"How does she know? She's isn't older than the Hour of Creation . "

"I don't know and don't wanna know, you shouldn't poke your nose in the Star Region affairs too, there are eyes and ears everywhere . Just live peacefully, many people in the past yearned for what you have yet couldn't have it, not even when they became the most powerful of all . Little Empress, cherish what you have before it's gone . "

Unable to find the right words to retort, the Empress remained standing there in confusion . Her stubbornness forced her to stay here and insist until he continued telling her the rest of the story, even if it was bit by bit . She already waited two thousand years for him to wake up and if she goes back with nothing, all her efforts will be for naught .

"Hmm, if you promise to get lost, I'll give you a clue . "

As she was struggling with the dilemma, the Empress was more than happy to accept the youth's offer . She can't force him to talk and going back to the Elder Bone Dragon is more absurd, she isn't that idiotic to re-visit a dragon's den and anger it on purpose .

"Fine, I promise . "

The youth waved his hand dismissively as he talked:

"Go to the Death Region, mayhap you find something interesting there . Now, will you get lost? I have another guest . "

Although the clue was rather vague, the Empress stared at the youth for a few more seconds before she left the valley, leaving only the youth, who stood up and stared at the sky, where something appeared, illuminating this place more than the hanging moon .

"I hope you brought some good alcohol along with your damned cards . "

The youth smirked as he gazed at the figure descending from the sky .

"Did you learn something useful?"

Lucy walked up to Arthur and asked him . She killed the helpless Bone Ghost by freezing his body from inside-out, she purposely kept the body intact so Arthur could possess it in the future, after all, a Sovereign is bound to have high stats .

Arthur nodded his head and answered:

"Mhmm, what I saw is satisfactory, for now . He worked mainly for the Whisperer King and acted as a double agent, 'X' hired him without knowing his origins, he only knew that the Ghost was an expert in tracking and Stealth . He probably was cautious of the System and hired an outsider so that if the plan fails, the blame will fall on someone else .

Furthermore, 'X' made a death oath with the Ghost to not divulge anything about this mission . Apparently, the copy told me this oath is used frequently when powerful factions want to hire secret organizations to do the dirty work . "

Lucy pondered about what she just heard then added:

"How much time before 'X' knows about the Ghost's death?"

Arthur smirked and said

"He won't . Their method of communication is rather old as to not alert the System, which uses countless tools that can easily detect artifacts, formations, and arrays . They used a special kind of Spatial Bird called 'Rift Eagles', they can rip space and travel through tunnels they create themselves . They usually travel from party A to party B and take the least amount of time in doing so even if the distance separating the two parties is unimaginably big . From the memories I saw, the Ghost sends the Rift Eagle every month to inform 'X' about the changes on Earth . Last time the eagle was sent was three days ago . "

"How does he knew that the Ghost was the sender of the Rift Eagle?"

"Pretty easy, Ghosts and Bone Ghosts do not have parents and born from an accumulation of both Yin Energy and Death Energy, with the addition of a few other factors . Thanks to this, every Ghost's body has a different kind of Blood Imprint, moreover, the Imprints can be differentiated by using a simple Blood Stone, this also applies to Bone Ghosts . Plus, these Imprints cannot be copied so as along the Blood Imprint sent by the Bone Ghost is exactly similar to the original one 'X' has, then no suspicion will grow .

In fact, it's just like the thumbprints that are used on Earth, each person has a unique one . "

By possessing the Ghost, Arthur will able to use the marrow of the Bone Ghost to produce the blood . The good thing about possessing a host is that the latter's body functions resume working when possessed and halt when he leaves the body, which is why an injured body will heal immediately when possessed until recovering to its normal state .

"That's great . We should be able to fool 'X' until other things are sorted out . Moreover, we can lure him here if we ever tell him that you were sighted on Earth, I'm sure he'll personally come or send a trusted subordinate . "

What Lucy said was perfectly right, if Arthur sends a letter containing the right words, he can lure 'X' here and prepare an ambush . They have plenty of time so they should prepare themselves to there is zero chance of failure when the bad guy appears .

From what he heard from his Copy, 'X' isn't a weak individual, he is well-known for being crafty and he always hides his true abilities, never showing them in the open . Although he isn't the strongest out of everyone in the Cloud Sea Universe, he's definitely at the top due to having the ability to manipulate Time, a terrifying sub-category of Void Magic .

Chapter 306

Upon returning home, the couple found an unexpected guest in the living room . With a hot tea in his hand and elegant posture, the blonde-haired youth drank the tea while calmly gazing at the small girl, who was ignoring him and quietly watching the TV . Apparently, the content on the screen was much more interesting than him but it didn't seem to bother him that he's ignored as if he's already used to such treatment .

The sudden appearance of both Lucy and Arthur startled Usui, however, what surprised him is not their appearance but Arthur, who was standing so close to Lucy .

His eyes showed his surging emotions but they vanished after a few seconds, regaining their usual serenity .

"Hello, I presume you are Miss Lucy's husband . Nice to meet you, I am Usui Grucham . "

After having been with Lucy for five years, he came to know a few things about despite the fact that she rarely spoke with him . It's all due to the drunken Delia, who would mumble useful things for him every now and then .

He knew that Lucy only had one man in her heart and it's her unknown husband, who never showed up during this long period . He wondered many times what kind of person could steal her heart but never had the chance to meet this man until this moment .

Although Arthur wasn't unleashing his aura or releasing any killing intent, the Flame Emperor still felt invisible pressure, the pressure of a strong rival .

Unfortunately for the young man, Arthur didn't think of him as a rival, he actually considered him a talent and rather composed boy . The difference in age is just too big, especially for Arthur, who lived for more than a hundred years and experienced things that no one could imagine .

"You've mesmerized quite the smart sheep hahaha"

Through a simple telepathy skill, Arthur conveyed his thoughts to Lucy, who snorted and turned her head away . She didn't care about Usui and clearly rejected him many years ago but he just wouldn't give up so she just ignored him . If it was on Astria, she would have killed him a thousand times over, unfortunately, the community was different and her mentality changed after what she had been through, she couldn't kill anyone she disliked but that didn't mean she'll have to bear with such individuals too . After her small outbreak four years ago, where she almost killed him if not for Delia's intervention, she forced herself to contain the annoyance she was feeling until Arthur comes back .

"Hmpf! I spared your life four years ago on one condition . "

Lucy's eyes narrowed as she stared at the young man with dagger-eyes .

"It was not to come to my home, it appears you do not value your life . "

The temperature of the room decreased by a dozen degrees and a chilling feeling that shook Usui's spines invaded his body . He felt his body tremble on its own as a killing intent similar to the one from before, was directed at him .

From the looks of it, Lucy wasn't joking since she didn't hold back her murderous aura as stared at him with her two blood red eyes . Personally, she didn't like Usui, much less his clingy behavior, sure, he acted polite and was a composed person who is wise enough despite his age yet a person like him isn't an exception of her hate for men .

Things happened and she ended up living on Earth but she never forgot what happened to her, the disgust she feels toward other men cannot be removed this easily and the very fact that Usui tried to win her heart despite knowing about Arthur had displeased her .

Even the engrossed Lolitta turned to look at Lucy, the Yin power in the room didn't seem to affect the little girl, nonetheless, her big eyes were focused on Lucy for a short time before she resumed watching the TV .

"Now now, he didn't mean it . "

Arthur patted her head as he said that . The freezing aura remained for another second before it disappeared, since Arthur had talked, she decided to stop and let him do whatever he wants, she knew him and was certain that he's the over-protective type, knowing about Usui, surely he won't let the young man do as he pleases since he just came back .

After all, it isn't so pleasing to see another person chase after your wife while still knowing that she doesn't like him and that she's already married .

Arthur walked up and shook hands with the hanging hand of Usui, who stood up and introduced himself while extending his hand in greeting .

He felt that the youth's hand was stiff as he didn't fully recover from the brutal killing intent that was emitted from Lucy . The difference in strength is just too big and a person who only experienced tragedies and is full of hate for something is bound to have accumulated killing intent for it .

"I am Arthur MoonStar, husband of Lucy . Very pleased to meet you, Mister Usui . "

As he shook hands with Arthur, who not only had an invisible pressure that made him uneasy, but also was a head taller than him . Usui started regretting coming into here, nonetheless, he resolved himself and relaxed his stiff hand before he smiled back at Arthur, who didn't seem to the least bit angry .

"I have long since wanted to meet Sir Arthur . You definitely are how I expected you to be . "

Arthur's smile grew wider as he replied:

"Why thank you . Unfortunately, I couldn't say the same for you . "

No reaction was shown on Usui's face despite hearing Arthur's words . He retracted his hand and added:

"I am very interested about your past expectations of me . "

Arthur was obviously lying when he uttered those words, he just knew about Usui earlier when Lucy briefly talked about him . However, there was more to him than what the eye can see .

He thought he's some rich young master who became decently strong after the appearance of the System but it didn't seem to be the case . He wasn't like Feylord, the perverted rich noble who wanted to buy Lucy, in fact, he was quite the opposite .

'Calm and intelligent, a bit sly though' that was Arthur's first impression of Usui .

Google search freewebnovel.com

As he looked down on this composed blonde-haired youth, Arthur spoke blunt and truthful words to Usui

"A man who pursues a woman he loves, needs, before anything else, to have the power to protect her . Mister Usui, what I see in front of me isn't someone who is capable of protecting my wife, and know that a title isn't enough to show your powers, it's all empty words, a body without bones . "

Usui silently listened to Arthur and frowned, it was clearly indicated that he can't have her since he's too weak .

The blondy was about to retort but Arthur didn't let him talk as he continued:

"Blinded by love and unable to see the reality . Only moved by the exterior, cannot understand her feeling, unable to see inside her head, inadequate to fathom her thoughts . Being strong isn't enough, you claim to love yet you do know who she is, you claim to love but you do not know her origins, you

CLAIM to love but unfit to know about her past . Mister Flame Emperor, what you love isn't my wife but your image of her, a perfect woman, suitable to be the Empress . "

Chapter 307

Words got stuck in Usui's throat, he couldn't retort to Arthur . After some time passed with his head dropped, he lifted it and stared at the one-eyed man, whose pupil was strangely grey just like his hair, robbing him of the confidence to retort .

"S-still, you weren't present for five whole years, that doesn't make you any better . "

*[Righteous Speech] was cast by Usui . Effect failed due to the User's high level . Effect Negated due to User's High Wisdom . Effect Negated due to User's high Magic Defense *

Usui's tone was more aggressive yet it contained a small amount of Magic due to the skill he used . Well, it wasn't an active skill but more like an enigma skill, like Arthur's Sixth Sense of his soft threads .

A row of notifications popped in front of Arthur, who dismissed them and smirked

"I don't see why I need to explain myself to you . Furthermore, I think you should leave, you see . . . we've got a family meeting very soon . "

Before he let Usui respond, Arthur waved his hand, teleporting the poor young man a few kilometers away from this residence . After only a few seconds passed, the main door of this apartment was suddenly opened and a brown-haired girl entered with a quick pace while shouting

"Mommy mommy! Guess what I f-"

Mid-sentence, the girl halted her footsteps as she stared at the man next to her mother with a flabbergasted expression . She couldn't believe what she's seeing so she rubbed her eyes but he was still there .

"D,daddy"

The girl ran up to Arthur, who also opened her arms to the fast Saly, who hugged him tightly while sobbing nonstop . It was apparent that his sudden appearance was a great shock to her but it wasn't in a bad way .

Even while she was hugging him, the little still didn't believe he came back .

"I-it's really you right?*sniff* y-you really came back?*sniff*"

With red eyes and a snotty nose, the little girl, who became way taller, stared at him with her big eyes while her hands were wrapped around his waist, tightly hugging him, refusing to let go .

Her surge of emotions and sudden joy forcefully deactivated transformation skill she learned, however, she didn't seem to care as he tail wagged in the air from the deep happiness and relief she was currently feeling .

While rubbing her fluffy ears and her soft hair, Arthur held Saly in his arms and said

"Yes, I'm back for real . I'm sorry I made you wait this long . "

Saly was really different from five years ago . First of all, she was significantly stronger, with Randuin protecting her, she adventured into all the dungeons she found and beat a lot of bosses . She was currently Lv728 but her stats probably match a cultivator at the Spirit Realm .

Her height increased too, reaching up to 160cm, it surely didn't match her age but beastmen were known to grow fast . Their average height after puberty is well over 185cm so it's to be expected that Saly is this tall, after all, she's training daily and eating properly so she's growing like any other healthy beastmen . Arthur was planning to awaken the ancient bloodline residing inside of her .

All beastmen originated from a powerful ancient entity, whether it's the cat tribe, bear tribe, fox tribe, or even the rat tribe .

"Mmmmm it's okaaay~~~~"

Saly didn't seem to care about the long wait as he's finally here . It's been a long time for a kid like her but she was still extremely attached to him, her tails kept fiercely wagging as he caressed her head .

"My little Saly had grown a lot!"

Arthur praised the excited Saly, who seemed to forget about she was about to say to Lucy and only focused on Arthur . For now, she wanted nothing but to stay with him, although she had Lucy with her all this time, it isn't true that she never missed Arthur .

After all, she loved him as if he was her real father and would never forget the time he and Lucy helped her and cured her .

"En! I almost killed a real dragon too!! b-but Randuin intervened hmpf!"

As she spoke her achievement, the little girl glared at the bone lizard who just entered the living room . The beast respectfully bowed to Arthur and went to the side as he ignored Saly's glare . He became a bit bigger and his aura was amplified, causing any outsider who looks at him feel like they were standing in front of Death's door .

"Oh? A dragon? Tell me what happened . "

For a little girl to proudly claim that she almost killed a dragon, it's sounded scary to most people but Arthur was different . He knew that Saly probably had absurd stats right now, enough to kill a dragon which was strong as Yamak, the lightning dragon, if not a bit stronger .

He wasn't worried about what happened, Randuin is a create summoned by the Book of the Damned . Although he wasn't as strong as Swain, his black flames aren't something to scoff at, even someone as strong as Lucy is afraid to be struck by such flames .

"Amaterasu, the Eternal Flames of Death is what they are called . "

The copy spoke inside Arthur's mind, answering the questions he had about this inextinguishable black flames .

'Flames of Death?'

"Yes, flames that last forever . They emit no heat but they can burn anything in their way . Although not the strongest flames in existence, they are definitely the most fearsome . It's a shame you can't wield them, no one can . "

'No one? How come Randuin can?'

"Simple . The book of the Damned, it is an original item that belonged to Death itself, so it's natural that the lizard can wield the flames, but I doubt the other summoned creatures could . "

'Belonged to Death? As in what?'

"Just like there are Reapers, there's Death, who rules over them . Basically, someone who represents the word Death, an entity that cannot be killed . Death is actually one of the few existences that simply can never die .

Arthur pondered about those words then asked

'Who are the other existences? The ones who can't die . '

"Well it's hard to determine who's an actual immortal but I can state three who definitely cannot die . First is obviously Death, second is the Joker and third is the Nameless Knight, as for the rest, I'm not really sure . "

Curious, Arthur retorted

'How did you determine they are unkillable? On what basis?'

"Good question . The answer is simple though, it's power . There is no one who can kill them . "

'I thought Death is an entity that should be able to kill anyone it wants . '

"Sure it can, very easily too, however, there are always exceptions . Death is the oldest but not the strongest, there are many powerful beings who surpass it in strength . "

Seeing that it's only getting more complicated, Arthur didn't continue with his questions which only made his copy shrugg and smile playfully .

Please visit freewebnovel.com

Chapter 308

Excitedly, Saly was jumping in front of Arthur and recounting what happened in the fight against the dragon, which was actually a mature Water Dragon .

With a warm plastered on his face, Arthur caressed Lucy's silky hair as he patiently listened o Saly . He could see that she matured, both physically and mentally . Of course, she was still acting like a child but that was for the best, it's nice seeing her behave like this than like the past, where she's always afraid of strangers and is in constant fear and depression .

"Daddy! Is your eyes okay?"

Saly approached Arthur and pointed at his eyepatch which covered half of the ugly scar caused by the Divine Beast . He waved his hand in assurance and answered

"A ferocious tiger injured me but it's alright now, it'll heal soon . "

Although it was half a lie, he didn't want to lie or worry her . However, it's true that it'll heal once he finds a place with Primordial Energy or the necessary ingredients to concoct the pill his copy was talking about, though the chances of finding the former are higher .

Arthur narrated his adventures to Saly, who sat on his lap and quietly listened to him . Her eyes were shining as he listened to his amazing feats . She knew that her parents were very powerful and the humans living on Earth aren't the least bit dangerous, in fact, she can be considered the strongest person on Earth, excluding a few individuals that do not belong to this planet, for example, Snory .

After passing two hours with Arthur, Saly glanced curiously at Lolitta, who was still busy watching the TV . Although the human AI looked younger than Saly, the latter was still intrigued by the presence of this kid . She nudged Arthur's arm and sneakily pointed at 'miss Meredith', although she was a cheerful kid, Saly isn't a person to talk to strangers the second she sees them .

After only ten minutes, the two girls were happily chatting with each other as if it's not their first meeting, even Arthur was bewildered about how it became like this . Lolitta usually acts high and mighty but she was talking about childish things, which didn't suit her real age, nonetheless, Arthur didn't meddle and affectionately gazed at his daughter, who was full of smiles .

Not after that, another visitor appeared in the living room . It was none other than the red-eyes wolf, Astrith . He was accompanied by the Head Maid Taliya, their appearance only surprised Saly, who ran up to the big wolf and hugged him .

He looked after her when they were in the Ma Clan, he often protected her and accompanied her to dungeons, they can be considered very good friends .

The usually serious wolf was licking the face of the giggling Saly

"Ahh stop Astrith ahahahha it tickles!"

Google search freewebnovel.com

Lucy only glanced at Astrith then stared at Taliya and spoke with a voice only him could hear

"So she's Taliya?"

Arthur didn't think much of her question and nodded his head, unfortunately, he misunderstood the meaning behind her words . He could feel a pain coming from his waist, Lucy was pinching and giving him a weird look

" . . You didn't mention that she's young, a beauty at that . "

He tried his best to avoid her sharp glare and motioned to Taliya to come, as she was motionlessly standing in the corner, not planning to come and interrupt them, however, she was throwing a couple of curious glances at Lucy .

"T-there's really nothing between us . You know I only have you in my heart . "

Lucy retracted her glare and retorted

"Hmmm is that so~~~"

She got up and walked to Taliya, who was surprised by her sudden movements . The head maid wasn't acting like her usual self, she was pressured by Lucy, who has a beauty matching her, if not better, the mysterious wife was strong but she couldn't determine the disparity in power between them .

However, knowing she's Arthur's wife, she's bound to be crazy strong . There's another thing that startled her, this silver-haired woman was without a doubt, a demon . As a demon herself, Taliya could feel that this woman is one of her kin, although she knew it beforehand, she never believed it because it was Jakob who told her .

"I heard you were taking care of my husband, thank you very much . I'm Lucy MoonStar, it's very nice to meet you, Miss Taliya . "

Lucy stretched her hand, planning to shake hands with the head maid, who hesitated for a second before replying with the same etiquette .

Arthur, who was sitting in the back, retorted

"Though it's quite the opposite, I'm the one who took of h-"

He didn't even finish his sentence as Lucy sent him a deadly glare that made him close his mouth and scratch his head in helplessness .

It was the first time that Taliya saw Arthur this tame, usually, he acts carefree and everyone doesn't dare behave like this with him .

'She's definitely a fierce woman alright . '

Even someone with a bit of backbone like herself, Taliya couldn't win over Arthur and could never convince him to do something yet with a simple stare, Lucy managed to shut him up .

"The pleasure is all mine . "

"So, did the search bore fruit?"

To get rid of this slightly awkward atmosphere, Arthur asked Taliya . In response, Astrith walked up with Saly riding him and said

"This one managed to find the office . The mission was completed with facing any problems . "

Astrith spat a fingernail-sized bead, which floated to Arthur's hand . This was none other than the core of the killed AI, Lolitta and his copy created some sort of a substitute AI that acts as a decoy to trick the System for some time .

With the death of the AI, the System will send people to investigate the murder, however, with the decoy residing in that office, it'll take some time before the truth is uncovered .

"Good job, another problem was taken care of . "

The wolf slightly bowed his head and replied

"This one is grateful for your praise . "

Astrith then went back into playing with Saly, who was enjoying the ride on the wide of the lightning wolf . Obviously, to fit inside this apartment, Astrith had to decrease his size or else he would be able to fit in . He was over five meters in length and three two and a half meters tall, so it'll be uncomfortable if he remained like that .

The night passed peacefully, the family ate together, Lucy even urged Taliya to eat with them since the maid remained standing there without doing or saying anything .

With the help of Saly and his wife, they finally managed to make her join them in dinner . Even Lolitta, who always complaining, was surprisingly docile in front of Lucy, contrary to her behavior .

. . . .

Late at night, Arthur and Lucy were inside their bedroom, enjoying some time alone . They didn't do anything obscene since Saly was sleeping in the same bed but they still snuggled near each other with Saly in the middle .

As she gently caressed his face, Lucy softly said

"When are you starting?"

Arthur remained silent then waved his hand, causing some sort of a dark card that's approximately 30Cm in length to appear above them .

"I'm a patient man but the time I waited is already enough . I still can remember everything that happened and the anger cannot be quelled unless I return what they did to me a thousand times . "

Hearing him, Lucy chuckled and added:

"Yes, we'll do it thoroughly until you're satisfied . "

Then she stared at the dark card above her, it was jet black with dark flames burning on its edges . In its center was a list of names with the first one being Arthur's Ex-wife

System Notification

*The Blacklist :

-Claudia

- Kim Yoo

-Richard

. . . .

*

The list wasn't long but every person in it is bound to suffer a fate worse than hell itself . Arthur wasn't lying when he said he'll return what was done to him a thousand times .

"Tomorrow, we'll pay a visit to the Mercenary group 'BattleCrawlers' . "

Arthur showed a devilish smile as he remembered the group of burly men who kidnapped him in the middle of the street and brought him to that godforsaken room .

Chapter 309

The next day, the family was peacefully eating breakfast . Unlike yesterday, Miya was present, nonetheless, she was still flustered . It was apparent that she's not acting like her usual calm self, after all, Arthur was present .

Honestly, Arthur didn't know why this girl is so scared of him, it's not like he tortured her or did something to her that resulted in a big trauma .

Lucy comforted him saying that Miya is just one of those girls who isn't good with strangers . However, that still didn't explain this problem since she's quite popular on Earth . She's known as a Goddess and often deals with strangers .

Saly and Lolitta, who already ate, were watching the hot news about the famous VRMMO that never ceased increasing in popularity . The AI human silently watched the tournament displayed on the screen then furrowed her brows when they showed some famous places of the games .

After a few more minutes passed and seeing more pictures, the girl frowned and said

"I know this place!"

Since she uttered those words with a very loud tone, she grabbed the attention of everyone present . She still didn't care and pointed at the TV while staring at Arthur

"This is without a doubt the Westia Continent!"

Upon hearing this, Arthur was going to ignore her as she usually speaks nonsense but as he saw her totally serious expression, he glanced at the tv to the check the pictures .

His pupils contracted as his eyes landed on the gloomy and rainy forest displayed on the large TV . He didn't go sightseeing in the forgotten continent but the forest is undoubtedly the one at the center of the continent, it looked exactly similar to the in his memories, in fact, it's its copy .

Unlike his nonchalant attitude, he seriously watched the TV and inspected the shown pictures and indeed, as Lolitta said, some of the places match the ones from his memories .

The question is 'how?', this is just a game and blaming it all on coincidence is illogical, after all, it's not one place but multiple ones .

"What's the name of this game?"

Lucy replied almost instantaneously:

"Hell Gate . A famous VRMMO with many players . "

"Is there only one continent in the game?"

"Only one . "

Although she may not look like it, Lucy likes games a lot . Unfortunately, with Arthur gone and the urge to get stronger, Lucy didn't have the time to play but she still did enough research and browsed the internet when she had a bit of free time .

'What's happening?'

Arthur question was directed to the most knowledgeable person amongst them, his copy .

"I'm not sure too . There may be an unknown portal between Astria and Earth but this is just speculation and the probability of it being true is extremely low . Perhaps an Earthling managed to find records about the Westia continent . . . *sigh* I really don't know but it's definitely something simple . "

Arthur pondered for a few seconds before he asked:

"Do you have the gaming helmet here? I want to try something . "

Although she didn't know what he's on about, Saly nodded and brought her helmet to her father . Arthur inspected it and after finding nothing strange about it proceeded into putting it on, however, the second it was turned on Lolitta and the copy both exclaimed

"It's a low-grade System capsule!"

"Be careful, there's a hidden System Capsule . "

"A capsule?"

The little girl unceremoniously grabbed the helmet from his head and proceeded into the short explanation:

"It's a mass-produced capsule that the System gives to low-budget soldiers, it grants them a temporary System . Usually, it's only used on non-living things because if it malfunctions, it roasts the brain of the user . "

A terrifying explanation that made Saly unconsciously gulp some saliva . She had been using this helmet for a long time but nothing happened, however, after hearing this, she started hesitating on whether it's wise to use it again .

Well, even if she wanted, it's rather unlikely that Lucy or Arthur will allow her to do so .

"Mmmm here it is!"

After thoroughly checking the helmet, Lolitta managed to take out the small capsule, which was the size of a fingernail .

"Ah! It's different from the usual capsules!"

As she closely looked at this capsule, Lolitta exclaimed . Arthur and co, who were watching her were confused since they do not know much about the System .

"I'm sure I can decode it I just need some time . "

Although he was curious and surprised by this turn of events, Arthur didn't press her to finish this job and merely patted her head in praise but that made Saly nudge his sleeve and ask him to pet her too .

For this capsule to make Lolitta this docile, it surely has to be something special which is why Arthur looked forward to the results .

Although their breakfast was interrupted, that didn't ruin their peaceful morning . Arthur had many things to do today and he couldn't bring Saly, who strongly objected going to school and insisted to with him .

At last, he managed to convince on the condition to take her out to play and eat after she diligently goes to school . The little girl got used to the advanced technology and seemed to like Earth very much but she hated studying and would daily beg Lucy to let her go hunt in the dungeons instead .

After he tightly hugged his little daughter and told Astrith to protect her, Arthur left the apartment with Lucy . Saly already had Randuin protecting her but he figured that having both the wolf and the lizard is better for her safety despite that there's no danger that could threaten her life .

Today, Arthur was going to pay a little visit to the mercenary group that kidnapped him . He knew nothing but their name about them but thanks to Lucy's organization, which specialized mainly in assassination and gathering information, became an easy feat .

.

South of Mongolia, where there's nothing but a mountain range and desolate plain lands, Arthur teleported himself and Lucy into a large cave deep underground, precisely under the tallest mountain in that area .

The cave had a few lamps that illuminated the area and countless tunnels . Arthur could feel the presence of over ten people, some were busy training while others were either leaving the area or busy doing their jobs .

The room they appeared in was the center of this whole complex, although it looked shabby, Lucy didn't care . This was one of the Headquarters of her organization 'Dark Moon' . She was the leader and all the subordinates were handpicked so there's very little chance that they'll betray her .

"Hahah I should've known . Since it's you then they're all bound to be women . "

Arthur chuckled as he discovered that all the present subordinates were female, without any exception .

"It's a coincidence . Furthermore, there is a boy but I think he's currently in a mission . "

Not even a minute after their appearance, three shadows appeared in front of the couple . All three cloaked figures were half-kneeling in front of Lucy .

"We greet out Mistress!"

The three shouted at the same time . They didn't even lift their head to stare at her, they didn't even question his appearance .

"Rise . "

With her order, the three stood next to each other and stared at her with respect . The middle one glanced at Arthur for a split second but other than that, she didn't do anything out of order .

"The BattleCrawlers mercenary, I want to know who they are, where they operate, their location, their leader, everything there is to know about them . One hour . "

Lucy didn't waste time with pleasantries and immediately told them what to do . The three bowed and dispersed without uttering a word . They left soundlessly as if they were ghosts .

"It shouldn't take them that long until then, let's rest . "

As she said that, Lucy flirtatiously led him to her private room . .

Chapter 310

After a quarter of an hour, the three subordinates soundlessly appeared in the central room of this hideout . Lucy and Arthur followed right after, waiting for the detailed information .

Today, Arthur wanted clear answers about the kidnapping of the past . Although they weren't directly involved with the past torture, they still contributed thus they can only be considered enemies, people who shouldn't be left alive or else his thirst for revenge will never be quelled .

"Report . "

Lucy's emotionless voice resounded in this dark and cold room, where the only source of light is a few hanging lamps that illuminated only a small part of this awfully sinister place .

"Yes, Mistress! The BattleCrawler is a medium-sized mercenary group . Notorious for handling dirty jobs and tricking their employers to gain more money .

Since the appearance of the System, they gained more power thanks to their leader, who obtained a special set of skills . They usually operate in the Middle-East or Central Africa, however, we've found a few cases where they took jobs in Asia . "

When the first one finished speaking, the woman on the right proceeded to report right after:

"The group has over fifty members with two vice-leaders who are a bit weaker than the chef .

Sadik Saad is the leader of this mercenary group, it is known he is Lv156 but the truth is that he surpassed the 200 boundary around three months ago .

He is also nurturing a young talent he accidentally found in Libya, North of Africa . Her potential is proclaimed to be unmatched, with the exception of the beast child, Saly .

Sadik is trying his best to hide her existence but many powers already have their eyes on her . We even received many requests to kill her or capture her . "

When the second 'shadow' finished her report, the one at the middle initiated the last but not least report:

"Currently, they are residing in their main base situated South of Russia, a few miles away from a hidden dungeon that has not been discovered yet . "

A bit curious, Arthur asked:

"Don't they operated in Africa and the Middle-East, what are they doing South of Russia . "

Although it was pretentious for an unknown stranger to ask them directly, the woman at the middle answered after a slight hesitation:

"We haven't confirmed it yet but there's a rumor that they were secretly contacted by the Russian Government to carry out a mission . There's also another rumor about the possible existence of a massive gold mine under the dungeon . "

Arthur nodded his head and spread his sense, with the approximate location in his mind, it would be a piece of cake to find their target, as for the possibility of being facing some resistance? There is no way such a thing would happen unless a God Monarch was hiding on Earth for god knows why .

After a bit more than five seconds, the mercenary group was found by Arthur .

Surprisingly, they were living in a large villa with tents spread out in the massive garden .

twenty-five presences were sensed and amongst them, there were two who are slightly stronger than the rest .

Although, it's 'slightly', that's only from Arthur's point of view . In reality, the leader of this group is significantly stronger than his subordinates, in fact, he could slaughter them all by himself if he wished, but for Arthur, they were all mortals who can be killed with only his aura .

"I found them . "

In response to him, Lucy nodded and signaled for the subordinates to leave . Contrary to her expectations, the woman at the middle hesitated for a second before she said

"Mistress, do you want us to dispose of them? You do not need to dirty your hands with the fool's blood . "

Her words seemed pretty sincere, unfortunately, the subordinate didn't receive the answer she yearned for . She wanted to properly serve Lucy, who recruited her and trained her to become this powerful, where she's afraid of no one .

"No need, we'll do it personally . "

" . . . Yes!"

The woman replied respectfully and was about to leave when Lucy stopped her and said

"Oh and by the way, from now on, treat him the same you treat me . If I see anyone disobeying him then you know what happens, right?"

Lucy's eyes turned sharp for a split second before she waved her hand dismissively, causing the cloaked woman to nod and hastily leave this place .

To create such a secretive and loyal organization without any spies in it, Lucy had to hand-pick all of them, nonetheless, some annoyances managed to split in, unfortunately, they were discovered by Lucy sometime later and, to say the least, their fate wasn't merciful .

It only took Arthur one teleport to arrive at their destination . In a planet as small as Earth where there's no restriction on Space Magic in comparison to worlds like Green Leaf, teleporting around it doesn't even cost a high amount of Mana, it's actually negligible .

....

Currently, Sadik Saad was enjoying a back massage inside his spacious mansion . It was situated in a place devoid of life but that was beneficial for him as to not grab the attention of the Russian Government .

He started sending his subordinates to explore the hidden dungeon and scavenge as many gold as possible . Unfortunately, they need to delve deeper to acquire more gold, which isn't possible as the monsters hidden inside are more fearsome than he expected

'Tch! Who would've expected gargoyles to lay a fucking nest in the 2nd floor!'

Sadik clicked his tongue and threw this problem to the back of his mind and proceeded into enjoying this relaxing massage and eat some of the grapes a few centimeters away from him .

He wasn't the lazy type but with his subordinates already busy with the dungeon and a sufficient amount of funds acquired in the past years, he managed to gain a bit of time for relaxation .

Including the young lady who's massaging his back, there were three people inside this luxurious room . Sadik, the attendant, and his most trusted guard, Hal .

Hal is none other than the young girl he found in the desert a year ago, she almost died from thirst and starvation so he pitied her and gave her some food and shelter .

Who would've thought she was a strong warrior who's almost unstoppable . It only took her one year to grow from a weak and helpless girl to a fully fledged warrior, one who can even beat him, though he would never admit such a fact .

The room was only filled with Sadik's moans of pleasure, the massaging expert was truly good at her job, but that only made her fate worse as Sadik had marked her so she'll never be released from this place .

Although they are called mercenary and they take many contracts, most of their actions are similar to bandits, from plunder to theft and murder, though they keep it a secret so that their reputation remains unscathed .

Sadik wasn't aware of the appearance of two individuals, who suddenly appeared out of thin air at the entrance of the room . He only reacted when Hal grabbed her two-handed ax and darted toward the invaders with unstoppable momentum .

Sadly, Hal's figure was sent flying like a kite before she even crossed half the distance separating herself from the enemies . She crashed into the wall, causing destruction and alerting the rest of the subordinates, who were busy doing miscellaneous jobs .

Arthur didn't care, he focused on the tanned burly man, who swiftly got up and held two big axes in both hands .

The man didn't even ask questions, his eyes turned red and his aura increased by one fold, turning him into a literal berserker .

Unfortunately, his enemy wasn't someone he could threaten with his aura or physique, even the four Divine Beasts didn't faze Arthur, much less Sadik .

"Chill . "

Arthur raised his hand and clutched it into a fist, this led into the destruction of both of Sadik's axes, which turned into dust . The man in question wasn't in a favorable situation, his skill was forcefully deactivated and he was immobilized without knowing what was binding his body .

He could only stare with confusion and anger at this mysterious grey-haired man .

Ignoring the incoming subordinates, who already rushed from downstairs and were preparing to attack, Arthur walked up to Sadik until only a few centimeters were separating both of their eyes, and said with a cold tone

"Sadik, look carefully . . . don't you remember me?"