

## Once Human 451

### Chapter 451

One day after Arthur's 'death', Lucy was told to live in her mother's private residence as Katrina wanted to see her daughter every day . Stuck in that beautiful courtyard, Lucy stared at the starry sky, lost in thought .

She was interrupted by a fairy-like figure which appeared behind her . She ignored this visitor and kept thinking about Arthur and his whereabouts .

"You should forget about him . "

Angelina said to her sister, who paid her no heed and didn't even spare her a single glance . A sigh came out of the sister's mouth, she wanted to deepen her relationship with Lucy and take care of her but the latter was blocking everyone outside, creating a wall between her and her family, unwilling to let anyone inside .

"You will regret this . "

After saying those words, Lucy got up and entered her room, leaving a lonely Angelina there .

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In the White Specter Clan, the second-largest pagoda, where Thordan usually is, a white-robed tall woman with silver hair appeared at the highest floor, startling the busy man .

His face changed in color once he laid eyes on Katrina, who appeared out of nowhere . He still thought that she's still in seclusion hence his extreme shock .

"D-dea-"

He didn't even finish his first word before his body was flung from the desk, crashing into the wall . He coughed blood while trying to stand up . He held his chest and looked at his 'wife' with fear .

Thordan immediately knew the reason for her actions . Not only did he dare to secretly arrange a marriage for Lucy, he even tried to hit her two times, succeeding in the second time .

"Listen to m-"

He fell on the ground again, kneeling in front of the angry Katrina, who didn't let him gasp for air . Her pressure pressed on his body, damaging it beyond repair .

"There's no reason for me to listen to your poor excuses . "

She glared at him and continued:

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"Last time I spared you because of your daughter's pleading but not this time . You miserably wasted the chance you were given . "

She pointed her index at his abdomen, which freaked Thordan so much . He bent his back and was about to beg only for a light to shot from her finger and hit his Dantian, pulverizing and destroying his cultivation .

She was an Exalted God, one rank higher than Overgods . Moreover, Exalted Gods are almost non-existent nowadays . Only a few exist in the Divine Planet and almost none elsewhere .

"You'll leave the clan today and return where you came from . You are no longer the father of my daughters . "

In response, while groaning in pain, Thordan hysterically laughed and said

"You think sending back won't hurt your status? I'm your husband! You think you can get rid of me?!"

Katrina snorted and pressed her foot on his chest, leaned her face closer to his while warning him

"If I see your face one more time, you're dead . "

She then kicked his body, sending him flying out of the room . Coincidentally, a woman was about to room only to be startled once she saw the Vice-Master in such a state .

This woman was none other than his niece, who hated Thordan's guts . She noticed Katrina and quickly understood what's going on .

The niece respectfully bowed toward the clan master and was about to leave, not bothering to help Thordan only for Katrina to say

"Go tell the others that he has been revoked of his status as a Vice-Master . Also, arrange for him to be sent back to the Five Lakes Sect . "

"Yes, Matriarch . "

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Later that day, due to the threats of the Five Lakes Sect, Katrina personally went there . They wanted to punish Lucy for killing Lex but after the Matriarch's visit, everything changed as they publicly said that everything was a misunderstanding .

They even apologized for their rude behavior and send some gifts to the White Specter Clan . Once they saw that Katrina became an Exalted God, coupled with her fiery attitude, no one dared to anger her, especially after seeing what happened to her ex-husband .

Everyone knew the bad relationship between the couple, however, none thought that she'll resort to such cruel means . For her to cripple her husband and send him back to his family as an injured and dying mortal, it was a slap to their face but all they could do is bear with it and accept the shame .

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"Teacher, you promised to tell me about the story is I did well!"

Saly angrily protested when she saw the Joker avoiding her gaze . She clung onto his legs and persistently told him to start speaking . After relentlessly trying, she succeeded in her persuasion .

"Alright, sit sit!"

As she sat on her usual desk, the grown little girl opened her ears and listened carefully .

"For your father, it may be recent but for me, it was a long, long time ago yet I dare not forget . "

He sat opposite the excited little girl, gazed at her shining sky-blue eyes and sighed .

All of a sudden, a black figure entered the classroom and sat on the corner while reminiscing about something . Saly found the action of her uncle quite strange but she didn't comment .

"Breaketh thy chains of captivity . "Leiu

"And become the wings of rebellion . " - The Joker automatically continued, however, the last verse was missing, so was the person who should say it .

"What are you talking about?"

Confused, the girl tilted her head and tried to understand their words but was unable to .

"You know, there's something your father always used to say 'A person lives three lives, the first ends with the loss of naivete, the second ends with the loss of innocence and the third ends with the loss of life itself . What happened in that world caused us to lose our innocence . We lost the last shred of hope we clung onto for a long time, it's kill or be killed . "

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"Hm? What are they doing?"

An old man with black circles under his eyes yawned and glanced at the planet far away from him . He hugged his pink cushion and pondered for a moment before shrugging his shoulders, too lazy to go check what's happening . Sloth noticed the abnormality occurring on Earth but it wasn't threatening but rather beneficial to the humans so he didn't bother personally checking the situation .

Breaking news spread to all corners of the earth, a fortunate event that happened not long ago caused an uproar . The legions of undead that dominated 90% of Africa suddenly vanished without a trace .

Although they caused total devastation and slaughtered many, at least they're gone so the developed countries started compensating and helping the remaining countries that managed to hold off against the armies of death .

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"Oh fuuuck this is a lot!"

Midolf rubbed his eyes while looking at the countless undead standing below him . The Itas continent was filled to the brim with Undead . Their number in the hundreds of millions, there were at least 50,000 bone dragons that were quietly waiting to be awakened .

"You could raze a High Realm to the ground with such a big number . I'm afraid the Death Energy would start leaking and affect the inhabitants here, we should seal them . "Midolf

Radolf(Swain) agreed with the roc and raised his hand, absorbing almost all of the death energy thus turning all the undead into stone statues . The quantity of Death Energy was just too much, even the World Tree would be damaged if this continues .

The flames of the evil god were halted by Dan, however, they weren't completely extinguished . They were stopped, for now, at least, so there wasn't the danger of the tree turning into ash, nonetheless, it is greatly injured and can't properly use its powers .

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In a place littered with dead bodies, a bald boy was heavily panting while checking if there's anyone alive . He was covered injuries and could barely move yet he held on and dragged his wounded body .

Fire was spreading and in no time, it'll cover this whole place so he has to flee before he's trapped here . Unfortunately, his body didn't obey him and his strong will wasn't enough as his nervous system was severely damaged .

He dropped on the ground and hit his face, causing him to bleed from his nose yet this kid, who just killed dozens of people, kept trying to escape . He used his slightly functional hand to drag his body inch by inch .

His mind was focused on doing just that so he failed to notice the hooded figure standing a couple of meters in front of him . Only when his hand touched the stranger's boots did the bald boy raise his head and look at the hooded-man with desperation .

The man removed his hood only to reveal a middle-aged man with short grey hair and two strange pupils, one blue and the other red .

"Oft hope is born when all is forlorn . "

The boy wanted to ask for help but he was only unable to open and close his mouth .

The man grinned, squatted near the kid and said:

"Boy, I sense great anger and rage welled up inside of you . How about making use of that?"

Without waiting for him to reply, a dark talisman appeared and latched itself on the boy's back, quickly entering it a few seconds later . The boy's body wriggled from the agony, hoarse whimpers escaped his mouth as he clenched his fists, trying to resist the pain .

"Dark Magic is it called, and to you, it is given . "

The man left after saying those words, not paying any heed to the fire, which was approaching the boy .

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If we could see yesterday and tomorrow, the origin and the end, the entire universe in a single moment, we might find answers to the biggest questions of all .

Hitsuzen it was... and Hitsuzen it shall be . It began like that but one's end is the other's beginning . Like that, the two fates became connected for eternity, how Dark Magic initially came to be . Speculations said that Zodiak created it yet only a few knew that it wasn't born from nothing but was given .

## Chapter 452

Excluding The Joker's nonsensical rambling which happened more often than not, their trip to Calv-city was rather peaceful . They didn't have to fight, so they either spent their time sleeping or discussing the strange things about this world .

Their mind topic is the disappearance of all of their Systems, which rendered them unable to use their skills . Only The Joker wasn't hindered that much, both Leiu and Arthur relied on their skills and previous stats .

When Arthur asked them about their cultivation, both shook their head and told him that they didn't follow the cultivation route .

"I'm not sure but I surpassed the 10,000th Lv a few years ago . "

"Aigooo you two are lucky . It's been a long time since I advanced in strength . "-The Joker

The Trickster whined while fiddling with his card, absent minded . From their answers, Arthur could conclude that the Nameless Knight still didn't reach the apex but he was still considerably strong .

"31"-Leiu

"Three centuries . "

Just after he replied, the Joker stared at the youth beside him with a strange gaze then added:

"What? 31? You're really a freak, after all . "

Basically, a Lv10,000 player is usually thousands of years old and in some cases, centuries old . For Leiu to surpass such a lvi when he's so young, it's definitely abnormal and freakish .

"What about you?"

Leiu asked the silent Arthur, who was trying to guess from 'when' they were . In the present, both of them were peak existence in the multiverse so they must have been from the past, which explains why both of them denied meeting him .

"I'm a Sovereign . "

The Joker glanced between a card on his hand and Arthur before saying:

"Strange... my cards are never false yet you don't seem to be lying . You must have some secret!"

In response, Arthur shrugged his shoulders and retorted

"Don't we all have something to hide?"

"I, for one, don't have a single thing to hide . "-The Joker

"..."-Leiu

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As one would expect from the capital of such a large and prosperous kingdom, Calv-city was bustling with people, especially merchants .

Thick walls surrounded the city, protecting it from any foreign attacks . There's also a large number of guards patrolling the city night and day, capturing any evil-doer they find .

In a moderately large room of a famous inn in the capital, three men were discussing their future plans while enjoying a delicious meal . Since they didn't want others to eavesdrop, it was better to talk here .

"The biggest library is West of the city and it should have many history books . "-Arthur

"No no no I won't be going!"-The Joker

The lunatic objected while crossing his arms, unwilling to go to that boring place ever again . Helpless, Arthur sighed and said

"How about you go around the castle and see if there's a place we can sneak from?"

The Joker clapped his hands and nodded his head : "Fantastic idea!"

"I'll go to the library . "

Arthur planned to go there but since Leiu was so adamant, he let the youth do what he wants and decided to tour the city and visit the Guild, trying to see if there's any mission that mentions the Cthulhu or the disappearance of large amounts of Mana Crystals .

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The next day, inside the library, Leiu was carefully reading every book, trying to figure out what's going on . Unknowingly, he spent more than six hours inside, unaffected by the passage of time and wholly focused on the contents of the book .

Only when his stomach started growling did he close the book and leave . He was to meet with the others in the inn when the curtain of night falls so it's a bit soon .

Fortunately, he did discover a few things about the past, things that clarified many things but still didn't help him figure out the reason they were sent here .

'I mean... why us three? There must be a lot more qualified people . '

Apparently, the calamity that struck this world 3,000 years ago was caused by 'aliens', which suddenly appeared and started causing chaos .

The aliens weren't that strong but they had the advantage in numbers, moreover when a hero appeared and started eradicating the invading race, they summoned their god in retaliation .

A fierce battle occurred between the evil god and the hero but in the end, the latter emerged victorious . Ever since that fight, the descendants of that hero were named Kings or Queens of Calvanar .

After his victory, that hero established this kingdom, which rose into power and after 2,500 years, managed to absorb all the nearby kingdoms and become the absolute ruler of this continent .

'The alien race, couldn't be the Cthulhu?'

Leiu pondered about the invaders but no book mentioned monsters with multiple arms . It was said that these aliens had different shapes and sizes and were quite resilient .

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Arthur wandered around the city but the rumors he heard were unimportant, moreover, there were no strange missions in the guild so he just kept touring the city .

As he was examining the food stalls and weapon shops, Arthur's happened to land in a small shop that sold all kinds of paintings . By no means was he interested in them, however, one particular painting grabbed both his gaze and soul, shocking him to the core .

He stood there, dazed, for several minutes, snapping out of it only when a passerby pushed him by accident . With unsteady steps and slightly trembling body, he walked toward that painting, not withdrawing his gaze for even a split second .

"Beautiful, isn't it?"

"..."-Arthur

Even when he heard the shopkeeper, Arthur gave no response, his attention still glued to the painting .

"It's a new painting made by the royal family's personal painter . It depicts both the beauty and majesty of our Queen . "

"This is the Queen?"

The shopkeeper shook his head in disappointment while replying

"For you to not even recognize the Queen... you must be from the Eastern Continent . Indeed, she's our Queen, Margaret and although she's not the descendant of Hero Calvanar, she still became the current ruler after the death of the King . "

Still visibly shaking, Arthur questioned:

"How did the King die?"

"He was sick ever since he was young . He died before they had any children so, after some kind of vote, she ascended to the throne . "

"I see I see... and when did she marry the former King?"

The shopkeeper pondered for a few moments before saying

"I'm not sure... I think it was three years ago . "

Arthur handed him a gold coin before leaving the shop and disappearing amidst the crowd . He entered an empty and narrow alley and retrieved some kind of cloth mask and covered all of his face, excluding his eyes .

He was unaware that his body was emitting black fog, though it could barely be noticed due to the environment .

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Inside the gloomy cave, Gutcha suddenly opened his eyes and turned his head, glancing at the rotating Makaze, which suddenly began acting strangely .

It started emitting deafening cries, shaking the very being of the startled Pigolo . He got up and tried to somehow appease only to be flung a couple of meters away .

"What's wrong with it?"

The cries were getting more intense and the cave started violently shaking, black flames enveloped the dark sheath and then stretched to all direction, covering the scared Pigolo .

Unexpectedly, the black flames didn't harm Gutcha, who thought he was done for . His body shook from fear, although the rage of the blade was not directed at him, he still felt an inexplicable dread .

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Back in the White Specter Clan, precisely inside Katrina's private residence, there occurred a small disturbance that alerted the owner .

The Matriarch appeared in Lucy's room and locked her gaze onto the meditating daughter, who paid her mother no heed . She was an Exalted God so she was able to feel the huge disturbance inside Lucy's consciousness even when the latter tried hiding it .

'This is... huh?'

Although she tried sensing the origin of the disturbance, she was unable to .

"You... you're bound to something?"

"..."

The mother was ignored by Lucy, who wasn't in the mood to talk to her mother . She remained in that meditating position while trying to figure out why the Soul Bind was reacting like this .

The thin black thread that connected her consciousness to Arthur's, was reacting fiercely, covering her whole consciousness with a thick black fog .

'It's like that time...'

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Two men stared at each other while listening to the excited adventurers which were whispering to each other in a table near theirs . One was a youth clad in black armor and the other was a tall man wearing a funny-looking white costume .

"Hey hey, did you hear about the recent news?"

One burly adventure leaned closer to his friend and whispered with a low voice

"I heard that someone invaded the royal castle... the situation is unclear but everyone is trying to capture him . "



"Are you sure it's true? It isn't easy to infiltrate that place . There is at least a thousand guard . "

The adventurer's friend didn't quite believe this rumor . In response, the burly men looked around before speaking again:

"I'm telling you, it's true! He already killed over thirty guard!"

Both the Nameless Knight and the Joker stared at each other, confused and surprised . Arthur was supposed to come dozens of minutes ago yet he was absent, then there's this shocking piece of news .

It didn't take a genius to piece two and two together . However, they couldn't think of a reason that pushed Arthur to recklessly enter that place .

They were supposed to sneak into the royal library but Arthur was brazenly killing everyone in his way, or so the rumors stated .

"Isn't he being too rash?"-The Joker

"There must be a reason for his actions . "-Leiu

Just as the Joker was about to talk again, a short haired youth barged into the inn, attracting everyone's attention . While gasping for breath, he said

"S-someone tried to assassinate the Queen!"

Before anyone could react, the youth added:

"He's still fighting the royal knights in the throne room b-but it's expected that he'll be killed or captured very soon . "

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While looking at the large castle standing taller than the other building the capital, The Joker asked

"What are you thinking?"

He glanced at the youth, who's gaze was locked in the shining moon hanging in the night sky . He raised his hand, where a black helmet appeared, he slowly put it on his head while replying

"There must be a reason we three were sent together . Plus, I owe him a favor . "

Hearing that, the Joker burst out in laughter and said

"Hahahahah you're such a sentimental person . "

"Shut up . "

The Joker lifted a hand that was holding a card and muttered

"Cards never lie... someone like him won't be hindered by mere Royal Knights but... I suppose I could lend a hand . He seemed strong and I think we got along pretty well . "

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Arthur didn't go back to the inn to meet up with his two companions, instead, he headed toward the royal castle, where the current ruler of the kingdom current is .

He never thought things will become problematic this quickly, nonetheless, debts must be paid back in full and what he's about to embark on is not only dangerous but reckless too .

He didn't know how such a thing is possible but he's not going to sit around and try to decipher the past . He had one goal for now and that's to eliminate the target .

Fortunately, with the disappearance of the system, the oath was no more so he's able to use weapons, which will greatly facilitate the mission .

As one would expect, the castle was heavily guarded but the soldiers weren't that strong so it wasn't hard to get rid of them . He chose the time when the sun was going down and the soldiers replacing their comrades to sneak inside .

However, he still was discovered after merely five minutes, causing a bloody fight to occur . There were three casualties, which were carefully hidden behind some bushes .

The shadow of the night was covering the horizon and the black fog emitting from Arthur went unnoticed . His katana was slowly but surely cracking, clear signs of destruction . It simply wasn't able to handle the bits of Dark Magic around Arthur .

The castle was bigger than one might expect and even with his comparatively high stats, Arthur wasn't able to reach the throne room quickly due to the absence of his stealth and teleportation skills .

Sure, it was a hassle but his raging emotions left him with only a bit of rationality, which fully recovered by the time he sneaked deep into the castle .

By this time, he killed sixteen soldiers, ten of them died by a sneak-attack . Unfortunately, he wasn't that careful in the last fight and the guard managed to alert the others, throwing the whole castle into absolute chaos .

A loud ringing sound reverberated across the whole area, causing many patrolling soldiers to group near the main areas of the castle .

The good thing is that all soldiers were melee-fighters, there was no diversity, though, the deeper he went, the stronger they became . The captains are as strong as A-ranked adventurers .

A-ranks posed no threat to Arthur but their numbers were weighing him down and limiting his advancement . They have yet to know the identity or an exact number of the invaders so they didn't focus much on guarding the throne room .

Arthur didn't know where the Queen was but she's definitely in the throne room or her private room .

As he gazed at the thirty or so soldiers guarding the entrance of the throne room, Arthur took a deep breath and was about to show himself only to hear a cracking sound .

The katana he bought a few days ago couldn't handle the pressure anymore and crumbled into dust . He helplessly looked at the dispersing dusk before noticing a black layer covering the hand that was holding the katana .

'Dark Magic?'

It was then that he remembered Zodiak's words .

'Dark Magic is but the manifestation of intense emotions into energy . As such, it can be used to attack or defend, it isn't reliant on skills, a system, or anything like that, it feeds on emotions and nothing else . If it's integrated into your body, the conversion will happen automatically, all you have to do is feel extreme anger, sadness, rage, etc...'

Suddenly, the aura around Arthur drastically changed, affecting the bushes and alerting the wary soldiers . Just as three of them approached the hidden Arthur, several black spears appeared out of nowhere and penetrated the defenseless victims .

Before all the others could react, countless black spears descended from above, piercing their armors and impaling them on the ground . More than half died while the rest groaned painfully, unable to get up and protect the entrance .

Arthur slowly advanced toward the closed door without as much as glancing at them . He was holding a strange blade covered in black flames, it isn't as strong as Makaze but it's still a weapon conjured from Dark Magic .

Although he regained control of Dark Magic, not only it isn't permanent, but he can't use the powerful skills . He can just execute normal attacks but it should be enough to deal with everyone in this castle .

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The majestic throne room was eerie and devoid of souls, only a lonely dark figure was standing at its center . Although he felt no presence, Arthur's instincts warned him of the imminent danger .

He felt a strange yet familiar feeling, something he hadn't felt for a long, long time . As he was pondering what to do, several shadows appeared around him, four, to be precise .

The four were humans on the outside but the moment Arthur laid eyes on them, he became speechless . An elegant and voluptuous figure slowly descended from the stairs before him .

"With whom do I have the pleasure of speaking with?"

Her steps halted for a split second before chuckling and saying

"You're one of our kin too... but you seem oddly familiar . "

While glaring at her, Arthur removed the dark cloth covering his face, causing a shocked expression to appear on the woman's face . She only remained as so for a few seconds before she burst out in laughter

"And here I was wondering who's brave enough to barge into my castle brazenly like this . "

She paused for a second before adding:

"Never did I think I would meet you so soon... and as a parasite too . No wonder you were so strong back then . "

This woman, the Queen of the kingdom, is none other than Claudia, his ex-wife, who's supposed to have died on Earth . This is why Arthur was so shaken when he saw that painting .

He was sure it was no mere coincidence, after all, it couldn't be . Her words confirmed his suspicions and made him sure that she was the same one he knew . Though, how did she end up here, moreover, she, and the four surrounding him were all parasites .

The feeling he was getting from them was familiar, they were his kin, most definitely!

"Now that we've exchanged pleasantries, I'm curious to know why you're here . "

She crossed her arms and said

"What happened between us is in the past . Each went their way so why dwell on something you want to forget?"

She grinned and added:

"You've extracted your revenge, killed me and my son, isn't that enough? In fact, I should be the one angry right now yet I'm not . I want us to part ways on good terms . "

Hearing this, Arthur clicked his tongue and retorted

"I'm supposed to believe that?"

He glanced at the four parasites around him before saying;

"I know how you operate and letting go is never something you do . "

She shrugged her shoulders and stated:

"Well... things change . "

She examined him from head to toe while talking again

"I've never heard them mention you so they must not know that you're a parasite... interesting . How about joining hands with me?"

In response, Arthur's figure disappeared, lunging directly at her with a flaming blade ready to decapitate her head .

Unfortunately, he wasn't fast enough to kill her before the four others could react . Two of them suddenly transformed into two tall and muscular cyclops which blocked Arthur's way .

The other two stood in front of Claudia, protecting her from all danger .

The black magic sword slashed down at the big cyclops, causing it to stagger a few steps and hold its chest . Black Magic quickly invaded its body and caused it to fall on one knee while groaning .

The other cyclops swung its club, causing the air to whistle and the ground to shake . Arthur was no god of speed anymore, his movements become limited and to handle two SS-ranked monsters such as cyclops is no easy deal even with the help of Dark Magic .

A burst of Dark Magic was unleashed from his free hand, pushing him to the left, barely dodging the club, however, the cyclops followed its swing with a kick, which sent Arthur flying dozens of meters .

"Why are you clinging onto old grudges? Everything is in the past . "

Although she was saying that, Claudia's eyes failed to hide the joy she was feeling when looking at the injured Arthur . She seemed to find it exhilarating that he's getting beaten up by her subordinates .

Unlike Arthur, who's a parasite, these parasites are much weaker and can only transform into the first monster they possessed . As for their humanoid form, it's merely a low-level skill that's able to fool mortals .

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The first cyclops, which was hit by Arthur's Dark Magic, suddenly succumbed, not expecting to be weakened this fast . He fell on the ground and started wriggling before dying, at last .

This startled the four other parasites, including Claudia, who became more vigilant of Arthur's Dark Magic . It only took him one hit to eliminate one of them and this shows how deadly his magic is .

The remaining cyclops didn't last long either, after being struck by three slashes, it followed its comrade to the afterlife . Now, the two parasites guarding Claudia, their Queen, had to make a move .

However, she decided to join them to ensure their victory . Just like she proclaimed, Claudia was indeed a parasite and a stronger variant than the ones responsible for her safety .

Red scales that emitted some heat started growing on her body, covering more than 80% of it . A long dragonic tail grew from her lower back and a ring made of red flames surrounded her . Unfortunately, Arthur never saw this skill but he had heard of it from Vince .

It can be used by humans who have one dragon as one of their parents, this grants them this overpowered ability . Not only does it strengthen the user's physique, but it also allows them to use dragon skills such as the infamous [Dragon Breath] .

The two other parasites also finished their transformation, one was a gigantic flying fish and the other was a white leopard . Before he could react, the leopard appeared before him and struck his body, causing him to crash into the wall behind him .

The flying fish followed right after, sending big water waves that, not only caused blunt damage but also made Arthur drenched and suffocating as he swallowed a lot of water .

"Isn't this nostalgic?"

While seductively saying that, Claudia raise her hand and unleashed a flame blast, which somehow was blocked by a half-transparent Dark Barrier . The barrier didn't hold up for long but it bought him enough time to jump to the side and raised his katana with both hands .

He concentrated all his accumulated Dark Magic and vertically struck the air, precisely at the direction of the flying fish . A deafening whistling sound resounded inside the throne room and born from Arthur's simple move was an ominous black beam, which traveled with lightning speed, and was supposed to finish the flying monster .

Unfortunately, the white leopard jumped between them and intercepted the attack by forcefully diverting the beam's trajectory using its glowing body .

Seeing his ultimate attack fail, Arthur leaned on the cracked wall and took a deep breath . He closed his eyes and let go of the dark katana .

"It's useless to fight back . Just accept defeat and let us continue what wasn't finished in the past . "

She chuckled and vanished from her spot, appearing in front of Arthur . Her tail wrapped around his waist and raised him a few centimeters above the ground .

He wasn't fatally injured but he still broke a few bones and had a bloody wound on his back . She stared at this scarred grey-haired man while saying

"I was magnanimous and wanted to let bygones be bygones yet you chose the cruel path . We're both parasites... aren't we supposed to work together?"

She shook her head then gazed at him while licking her lips : "I'm so going to enjoy torturing you again, after all, I'm curious about many things like... how did you get here, who sent you, etc..."

Just as she was about to snap his legs to permanently cripple him, a foreboding feeling struck her, causing her body to shiver . Her bestial instincts repeatedly warned her to retreat and retread she did .

The tail unwrapped itself and the woman abruptly backed away but she wasn't fast enough to dodge the whole blow . A malevolent and big dark arrow appeared from within the wall and flew straight at her .

She crossed her arms and retaliated by unleashing large amounts of flames, which were successful in momentarily stopping the arrow . The flying fish used its body to strike the arrow but it only led to agonizing pain and instant death .

Literally, the fish turned jet black before dark flames covered it then consumed it, leaving only nothingness in its place . Dumbstruck by what just happened, Claudia's face turned pale as she widened the distance between her and Arthur, afraid that another arrow appears out of nowhere again .

Fortunately, by sacrificing itself, the flying fish managed to get rid of the dark arrow, which became very small upon killing the parasite . Its momentum weakened and the sea of flames was able to scorch it .

Still, Claudia felt terrified by Arthur's ominous magic, not only is it unusual, it's deadly, especially to parasites, for some reason .

The white leopard jumped at Arthur, planning to slash him with its claws only to hit nothing but black smoke .

Arthur literally transformed into black smoke which easily bypassed material things and wrapped itself around the leopard, suffocating it within seconds .

The only remaining parasite, Claudia, witnessed this and couldn't understand what's going on . She was unaware that Arthur, who was losing a moment ago, became stronger only due to his intensifying emotions .

Though he was losing his rationality, his strength was rising by leaps and bounds . In no time, he'll become controlled by his anger and would stop at nothing to kill her .

That's how terrifying Dark Magic is, it feeds on emotions, mainly anger, and grants an almost endless amount of power to its user . As long as it's fueled by intense emotions, there's no telling how strong Arthur can become .

The black smoke condensed into Arthur, who straightened his back and held a black spear with both of his hands . An overbearing aura enveloped him as he glared at her and took the first step while sweeping the spear in the air .

Upon a closer look, Arthur was imitating his copy's movements, it was the skill Vince used against the Divine Beasts .

Instead of the golden radiance that was supposed to emanate from the tip of the spear, an encroaching darkness spread to all directions, getting rid of any kind of illumination, basically turning this room into a world of darkness .

'First step, Dragon Sweeping the Earth'

Claudia felt as if someone was holding her neck and suffocating her, she shook her body then opened her mouth, ready to use [Dragon Breath] .

Thick amount of Mana concentrated in her mouth before red flames appeared . Without any hesitation, she spat the red flames, splitting the world of darkness and flying toward Arthur .

Just as the flames were about to scorch him, Arthur took the second step while raising the spear .

'Second step, three-headed Dragon devouring the Land . '

The dark spear left its hand and transformed into a three-headed black dragon that clashed with the dragon breath .

The clash caused the whole castle to violently shake and half of the throne room to be obliterated . Both Arthur and Claudia were pushed back but the former was forced to kneel on the ground as his body wasn't perfect like the past, it wasn't a suitable vessel for the ever-growing Dark Magic .

He ignored the pain and forced himself up, however, his neck was suddenly grasped by an angry Claudia, who had a bloody wound on her abdomen .

She spat some blood and tightened the grip on his neck while wrapping her tail around his waist, making sure to not let go .

"Never mind, it's too dangerous to let you alive . "

At first, she planned to enjoy her time torturing him but he turned out to be much more dangerous than she thought . Even someone like her, who's considered strong amongst her peers, was injured by him when he was in such state .

Deliberately sparing his life would only hinder her future plans so she decided to get rid of the root of the problem rather than keep him on a tight leash .

Just as she was about to kill him, the sensation in her hound slightly changed . The black figure in front of her was replaced by a taller man wearing a white costume .

He was showing her a wide grin while saying

"My my, isn't too fast for 'that'? We just met hehehehe"

Before she could react, the man grabbed her stretched hand and casually threw her away . As for Arthur, he was teleported to the Joker's position, meaning, they exchanged places .

He wasn't in his right mind, so, when he saw Claudia sent flying, he was prepared to jump at her only for someone to hold him .

"We should go . "-Leiu

An authoritative voice entered his ears and just by hearing it, his body was forced to obey . It wasn't a skill but something different, something overwhelming just like dragon words .

Even after hearing that, Arthur's body started shaking, forcefully breaking the binds that were making him obey the Nameless Knight .

As for the Joker, he was staring at a figure which caught the flying Claudia . Just like the woman, this cloaked-figure was a parasite and from her body curves, it was apparent that she was a female .

She seemed to be as powerful as Claudia or maybe slighter stronger, nevertheless, the Joker wasn't the least bit anxious . He inspected the two women while saying

"You two are just like my companion right here... but why is it that I don't like you?"

He massaged his temple while seriously pondering about the matter . Claudia leapt at the Joker, using her monstrous strength to punch him only for the lunatic to retaliate with a kick .

The two were equal in terms of raw power but when the other parasite joined, the Joker had to resort to other 'means' .

"I would like to fight you... alas, it's not time yet . "

He blew a kiss toward the cloaked female parasite before flipping a card from his deck . The card flashed with a grey light which caused him, Arthur, and Leiu to be enveloped by a white circle .

The cloaked parasite figured out what's happening so she darted toward Arthur, planning to snatch him before they are teleported away .

Unfortunately, she was met with a youth clad in dark armor who used one hand to raise his sword and horizontally swing it . This simple move caused a raging wind cyclone to push the parasite dozens of meters away .

When everything calmed down, the two females found themselves alone in the destroyed throne room, which lacked the majesty it once had .

Chapter 455

"Let me go!"



Consumed by rage, Arthur tried to get up and return to the castle only for the Joker to sit on his back, rendering him unable to free himself . Moreover, whatever Leiu did to him previously, it's still taking effect, causing his body to feel extremely heavy as if it refused to obey him .

"Calm down, will you . "

While grinning, the Joker raised his hand and chopped on the back of Arthur's neck, surprisingly knocking the enraged beast unconscious . As he sat on his companion's motionless body, the Magician laughed and proudly stated:

"There's no one in the world who can resist my ultimate chopping move hahahaha"

Leiu, who was on the other side, could only shake his head and sigh . He was relieved that everything went according to plan, however, the discoveries they made were truly frightening .

The two women inside that throne room weren't weak and they should not be underestimated, especially the hooded-one, who tried to snatch Arthur at the very last second .

"Anyway, what do you think they were?"-Joker

He glanced at Arthur for a split second before looking at the pale-faced youth .

"I'm not sure, never seen a race like that . We'll get to know more details once he wakes up . "

While humming, the Joker nodded his head and added:

"It seemed that he had a blood feud with that woman, the Queen . Did she dump him or what?"

"..."Leiu

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Arthur woke up after two days and the first thing that he saw when he opened his eyes was a lush forest and a campfire a couple of meters in front of him . Two men were quietly chewing on sum roasted meat, which emitted a smell that made Arthur's stomach growl .

"You finally woke up!"

Delighted, the Joker passed the drowsy Arthur a piece of meat before asking

"Had a nice sleep?"

Confused on what's going on, Arthur asked

"What happened?"

"You can't remember?"-Leiu

Arthur tried recalling the past events but they seemed so blurry . He remembered facing Claudia but was miserably beaten then it all went black, anything after that wasn't registered in his memories .

"You caused havoc inside the royal castle . . . "

Leiu briefly explained what happened and how things were when he and the Joker arrived . When he listened to the youth's description and his previous state, Arthur was able to tell that he was under the effect of Dark Magic, his cumulated anger took hold of his body and fought in his stead just like when Claudia died back on Earth .

"You know, we've been eagerly waiting for you to explain what happened . What were those people? What are you?"

Strangely enough, the aura around Claudia and the others were very similar to the Cthulhu and the dark-skinned creatures living under the church .

However, for some reason, Arthur was different . Yes, they were of the same Race but he seemed to be a higher variant as the racial abilities they displayed were lackluster compared to what he could do .

Nevertheless, they're still parasites and their presence here surely has a relation to why the three of them were summoned . After thoroughly weighing the pros and cons, Arthur said

"They're parasites . "

"Parasites? As in the little things that human bodies? I don't understand . "-The Joker

Unlike the Joker, who didn't fully understand, Leiu pondered for a few seconds before speaking

"Parasites are part of a large group of organisms called Eukaryotes . If I understood you right then you and them are parasites who can possess other living beings? Does that mean this isn't your real body?"

"Yes and no . I'm not sure about them but this is my real body . As for possessing other beings, I'm unable to do that in this world . "

Arthur decided to spill some of the truth but keep quiet about the important stuff such as gaining the host's skills and techniques . They saved him from danger so he kind of trusted them but that shouldn't mean he must tell them everything .

They, too, must be keeping a few things to themselves...

"Wow! I've never encountered a Race like that . By the way, what's your relation with them? From the looks of it, you didn't appear to be friends . "

"..."

Arthur chose to remain silent for his sake . Speaking of his ex-wife will cause him to speak of his past and so on and it's not something he wishes to tell to everyone he meets .

Although he refused to speak, the Joker didn't give up . He retrieved his deck of cards and threw them into the air before randomly snatching one of the falling cards . This technique of his is purely reliant on luck but, more of than not, it reveals shocking revelation .

The only thing that the carried showed was a bloody ring but that was enough for the Joker to guess a few things:

"Wife... no! Ex-wife! The blood means the relationship ended quite badly . "

Dumbfounded by The Joker's words, Arthur sat there in disbelief, unable to comprehend how this goofy-looking man discovered the truth so easily .

"Look, I know you're reluctant to speak of past matters, especially if they're unpleasant . However, this is directly related to why we're here so I think it's best if we share information that may be beneficial to us . "

Leiu was never a fan of speaking but he had to voice out his opinion as it's certainly not the time or place for Arthur to remain silent . Leiu didn't ask him to recount everything, he just needs to know why is his companion's ex-wife is here out of all places .

"I don't know . "-Arthur

His answer came as unexpected and before they could ask again, Arthur continued:

"Last time I saw her was on Earth and she definitely died there . I don't know how she became a parasite or ended up here . "

"Is it possibly reincarnation?"-Leiu

The Joker shook his head and denied that while explaining

"No, for all we know, we could be far into the future or in the past . Arthur previously told me that he met me yet the first time I saw him was when I was sent here which means we were picked from different times periods . As for reincarnation, it simply isn't possible without using some kind of treasure or the machination of Fate BUT there's another method that is a bit similar to reincarnation . "

He raised his hand, which was holding a blank card that transformed into a beautiful speck of light . The light was slowly heading upwards only to be snatched by the Joker, he firmly held it in his hand while resuming:

"If the soul is safely picked before it's dispersed, revival is possible . There are strict requirements to revive in a human body but perhaps they can be neglected if the soul is put in a parasite's body . Then again, why would they pick her out of all people, was she special?"

"No, she was a mortal with average strength . "

"Usually, people revive their parents or lovers so, it's rather uncommon to see someone go through all that trouble to revive a complete stranger . "-The Joker

A bout of silence between the three of them before the youth speculated:

"I think she never died . You were given the illusion that she met her end but you were tricked . It must be the handiwork of Sloth, only he can trick a Sovereign . "

"Why would he trick me? We have a harmonious relationship . "

\*\*\*\*

"Are you out of your mind? Why didn't you call for reinforcements?"

Claudia was standing before a tall man with a green hair, he harshly berated her while shaking from anger . The commotion that happened two days ago caused a lot of unwanted attention and they were almost discovered . If the soldiers had seen the parasites in actions, this kingdom will crumble in days .

"B-but this is a personal matter . "

'SLAP!'

A crisp and loud sound rang across the dark hall . Claudia was slapped by the enraged man, who barely held himself from ripping her into pieces .

"Don't forget your job here... no mistakes are allowed!"

Claudia glared at him venomously but didn't dare talk back, she strengthened her back and accepted his reprimanding . The cloaked female who watched to snatch Arthur was standing next to the man, silently watching without uttering a word .

The man turned towards the cloaked parasite and asked

"You said he was a parasite?"

"Yes . "

"What's his real form?"

"I think his real form is a human body . "

"You think? I don't need you to think, I need facts!"

The man thought for a moment before saying

"Go investigate!"

Then he turned to face Claudia again while adding:

"Order every soldier to search for those three . Even if you have to flip this city upside down, you must find them!"

"Yes, sir . "

\*\*\*\*

"What is he doing?"

Curious, Arthur asked the Joker, whom he was playing a card game with . The lunatic glanced at the silent Leiu, who was sitting in a corner alone with both of his hand resting on the greatsword .

"He's trying to find whatever is restricting our powers . You seemed fine with that cool magic of yours but he only relies on raw power and doesn't want to fall behind... as if he isn't strong enough tsk tsk! What a maniac!"

Just as the two were about to resume playing, they felt something abnormal and abruptly turned their heads toward the youth clad in black armor .

At first, it wasn't noticeable, however, as seconds passed, they both witnessed a creepy dangerous coming out of Leiu's body . It wasn't like Dark Magic, which corrupted everything, this one seemed immaterial and brought with it an odd chilliness .

It only remained for ten seconds before it vanished and unleashing it for such a short amount of time was enough for Leiu to profusely sweat and heavily pant . He shakily stood up then held the greatsword with one hand and started stabbing the air continuously .

The Joker clicked his tongue and repeated:"

"As I said... a maniac!"-The Joker

'No wonder he's the strongest person in the multiverse \*sigh\*'

Chapter 456

"My grumpy student, what's wrong?"

The Joker, leisurely playing with his cards, glanced at the absent-minded Katrina, who paid him no heed ever since he abruptly appeared out of nowhere .

"Are you perhaps thinking about Arthur?"

Hearing his name, the woman instinctively looked at him and gazed at him with a surprised expression, wondering how he knows about Lucy's husband .

"How do you know him?"

In response to her expected question, the man burst out in laughter while patting her back, causing her to groan and glare at him .

"How can I not know him?"

He smirked at her and added:

"What troubles your mind?"

After pondering for a moment, she replied:

"I think he didn't die . "

As if she stated the obvious, the Joker confirmed

"Of course he hasn't . "

This was like dropping a bucket of cold water on Katrina, whose eyes grew wide . The Trickster tilted his head and said:

"Did you really think you could kill him that easily? Parasites are a resilient race, one has to kill them multiple times to get rid of them . What you did was only make matters worse... why must you interfere between a lovely couple and ruin everything?"

The woman snorted and retorted:

"I'm not going to let my daughter marry a parasite . What would everybody think? For the White Specter Clan to welcome and protect a parasite... everyone will turn against us in no time . "

"First, it's a parasite with a human soul . Originally, he was a human and circumstances led him to become like that . Second, why does it matter what others think? WHY does it matter what you think? It's not your life to live . "

"As her mother, I get to decide . She's still young and has experienced love only recently . In no time, she'll forget about him and continue on . "

He shrugged his shoulders and said:

"Whatever... you've always been a stubborn person who refuses to admit her mistakes . Just don't come complaining to me when death comes knocking on your doors . "

As if she heard a joke, Katrina chuckled while looking at his serious expression:

"Death? You think just because he survived, he can come here and cause trouble whenever he pleases?"

The Joker ignored her and stood up, leaving the residence after a few last words:

"I've done my job and warned you . It's all up to you now... change your mind before the worst happens . "

...

In the same residence, The Joker knocked three times on a door and patiently waited .

"Come in . "

He didn't dare barge in like usual for he holds a deep respect for whoever is inside . He entered the room and slightly bowed toward the silver-haired woman before smiling and saying

"It has been a while, Miss Lucy . "

He sat opposite her while gazing at her expressionless face .

"I'm sure it has been hard for you but I've come bearing good news . "

What he said seemed to have grabbed her interest, she lifted her head and stared back at him, waiting for him to continue .

"It won't be long before Arthur comes . "

His empty card was suddenly holding a card, which was put upside down on the table, he covered it with his hand before slowly sliding it away, revealing a rather astonishing picture...

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"We need one of them alive . "

After swinging his sword for many hours, Leiu said that out of the blue . The two others, who were busy eating, raised their heads and stared at the deadpan youth, who was sweating from head to toe .

"The parasites, we need to capture one of them . Any ideas?"

Arthur remained silent but the Joker grinned and replied

"I happen to be good at acting, leave it to me!"

"What do you plan to do?"-Arthur

The lunatic laughed but didn't reply immediately, he played with his cards and only after a few minutes did he voice out his thoughts .

Although the plan was crazy and heavily reliant on luck, neither Arthur nor Leiu objected since the Joker seemed so confident .

While Joker initiated his plan, both Arthur and Leiu were going to infiltrate the castle again and sneak into the Royal Library .

They're just going in and out, swiftly and soundlessly, without causing any ruckus or killing anyone .

Fortunately, both Arthur and Leiu are able to demonstrate some of their powers, which are beneficial in a dark environment . So, they don't have to worry about being discovered .

...

Five days after Arthur and co escaped from the castle, the Queen publicly recounted what happened while altering the entirety of the truth, of course . The three were labeled as demons and heretics and must be apprehended sooner than later .

Half of the soldiers were dispatched to search every corner of the city, breaking into private residences and even destroying shops, causing a negative response from the enraged public which claimed that the soldiers have gone too far .

On the sixth day, a shocking piece of news traveled all across the capital; A man named 'The Joker' was caught and was transported to the deepest dungeon situated under the castle .

He's being heavily guarded and wasn't immediately executed as the Queen wanted to lure the two others .

...

In a cramped and cold cell, the Joker was chained to the wall, unable to lift a finger . He appeared injured as there were blood stains on the ground, however, he was currently laughing, unperturbed and nonchalant about his current dire situation .

"Come on, can't you hit harder?"

The one who was 'questioning' him was the cloaked female parasite . Right behind her was Claudia, who was coldly glaring at the Joker, barely holding herself from shocking him to death . Although he appeared weak for the moment, he's by no means a pushover .

They thoroughly investigated him and saw his stats on the Adventurer's card . He's powerful enough to be an SS-Adventurer, if not stronger .

Irritated by his smirk and behavior, the cloaked parasite violently kicked his abdomen to which he coughed a few times but the taunting smile never left his face .

"You call this torture? Bitch pleaaaaaaaaase hahahahahaha"

To begin with, the female parasite was suspicious as this individual was so easily captured . A few patrolling soldiers caught him outside of the city and the surprising thing is that he offered no resistance .

"Cut his hand or something!"

Claudia angrily shouted at the female parasite, who ignored her and waved her hand, signaling for the Queen to go away . Although unwilling, Claudia still had to obey this parasite, who was her superior .

After one last glare at the Joker, who winked at her, she harrumphed and exited the dungeon .

"Why did you let yourself get caught?"

He tilted his head and retorted

"I didn't... honest to god! They ganged up on me and captured him after a long and exhausting fight . "

Hearing his lame excuse, she clicked her tongue and added:

"Well, it doesn't matter now . You can't escape from here and you'll be our tool to lure the other two . "

"And what makes you think they'll come to save me? That's quite the speculation you have . "

Before she could talk back, he wriggled his body, causing the chains to crackle .

"I never said I can't escape on my own... it's just that I'm liking this cell so much I find it hard to leave . After all, who would want to leave when such an attractive woman is accompanying them all day long . "

He released quite the obscene moans which only made the parasite angrier . She kicked him a few more times before retrieving a weird look scissor...

"My my that's a dangerous thing! Please be gentle!"

He spread his legs and signaled for her to begin, clearly excited about what's to come...

\*\*\*

The Royal Library is situated at the right-wing of the castle, it is home for countless ancient records and is heavily guarded day and night .

With the addition of eight soldiers guarding the entrance, there was one Royal Knight protecting the interior . Royal Knights, despite the majestic name, are basically mutants, humans that were magically enhanced using Mana and other obscure methods .

They always wear a thick armor so their disgusting appearance was never seen by the public, however, the horrors under the helmets are just mindless puppets that are used as cannon fodder by the parasites .



Such monstrosity was silently guarding the big library only for it to suddenly flinch . Before it could react, some form of Darkness covered the ground underneath its feet and slowly but surely, it started pulling its body, just like moving sand .

When half of its body was swallowed, a dark figure appeared before it and said

"Stay still and don't move . "

The authoritative voice caused the Royal Knight to stop struggling and obey the youth's commands . Just like the soldiers outside, this mutant was subjected to Leiu's special ability, which can make anyone with a weak will obey him .

Mind you, even Arthur was forced to follow Leiu's voice to the letter . People who lost themselves to their emotions are more likely to suffer from this ability .

It would need a rational and strong-willed person to resist this ability, which wasn't his own but was obtained by killing a very strong entity .

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With no one to threaten them, the two started browsing the library, searching for any book or document that mentions the past or the calamity that occurred 3,000 years ago .

## Chapter 457

"This is weird, there's no mention of any other world except this one . "-Arthur

Arthur read the ancient book and creased his brows, finding not a single information about the multiverse or what lays outside of Riarravar .

"I think they either hid or got rid of the truth or there's none, to begin with . "

Leiu passed a book to Arthur while adding:

"The oldest thing ever recorded dates back to 4,000 years ago . Aliens races invaded the land and wreaked havoc, seeking domination and wanting to enslave the inhabitants of this world . So, amidst the normal bunch, a 'Hero' appeared, he resisted the relentless attacks of the monsters and emerged victorious at the end . However, there is very little information about the alien races, it isn't even mentioned if they were eradicated or are still here . "

"It's not that hard to guess . The Parasites are surely one of them, there's also the suspicious dark-skinned monsters underground . They use the same method as the Cthulhu so it's safe to assume they belong to the same faction . "-Arthur

"Yes but what are their motives? The parasites have been ruling this continent for centuries yet they did nothing to harm the land or its inhabitants which confuses me . "

With a hand rubbing his thin beard, Arthur pondered for a few moments before saying:

"Perhaps they're waiting for something? Also, there's a strong chance more of these 'aliens' are hiding in Riarravar . "

"It's complicated since we don't know what we're supposed to do . I say we try getting rid of the parasites and see what happens . "

"I agree . "

Unfortunately, the books and documents in the Royal Library weren't that useful . The truth about the world remains unknown to the duo, who soundlessly left the castle without alerting a single soul .

...

Meanwhile, inside the prison cell, the Joker, who was supposed to be suffering in agony was currently grinning . Both his legs were wrapped around the body of the parasite, almost crushing her bones .

"I told you to be gentle, didn't I? Hahaha"

Very casually, he broke the chains restricting his hand and then held the woman by the back of her neck . Her resistance was futile as she couldn't fight against him for some reason . She failed to notice a card that was stuck on her back and this was why she deprived of all her strength .

After stretched his limbs and took a deep breath of air, The Joker let go of the parasite, who fell on the ground, and proceeded to bend the prison bars, opening a hole large enough for him to leave .

The card on the woman's back turned into a rope of light which was held by the Trickster . He left the prison while dragging the powerless parasite like some trash .

"If only you were gentle I would have stayed a bit longer... tsk tsk!"

A card appeared on his hand and just like last time, he was enveloped by a circle of white light that teleported him along with his new captive .

He appeared in the middle of a forest, precisely the temporary hideout of the trio . Two silhouettes melting with the dark environment soon appeared next to the Joker . Both were staring at the wriggling parasite, who's hood was taking off .

Seeing her appearance, the Joker whistled in excitement while saying

"A hot body and a pretty face... ain't that great?!"

In response, the woman glared at him and tried using all her strength to break free only to feel much more tired . The more she resisted, the faster she'll exhaust herself, that's just how the Joker's Magic operated .

After enjoying the view for a while, the Joker turned to face his two companions and said

"Now, who's good at torturing people?"

The three were no strangers to torture methods but they need to an expert to force her to talk . Fortunately, Arthur had a better and faster method . He squatted near the female and said:

"I can handle it, just hold her down . "

The two complied with his request and each held one of her hands while her legs were bound by the rope of light .

Although he's still learning how to properly use Dark Magic in this foreign world, given enough time and much concentration, using some of the advanced skills is possible .

In this situation, nothing is better than [Dark Extraction] which is a cruel but effective skill that can make him see some of her memories . Not only does it bring unimaginable agony to the victim, it also weakens him greatly .

Slowly but surely, dark fog started emanating from Arthur, it was about to disperse in the surroundings only for a suction force to come out of his hand, absorbing it all before turning into a malevolent black light .

The female parasite, who's about to be the victim of this spell, felt shivers down her spines the closer Arthur's fingers were to her forehead . Nevertheless, she closed her eyes decided to bear with it, after all, she would never betray her kin and spill the truth .

Sadly, that was a very, very bad decision as her loud and painful cries reverberated across half of the forest . The pain she felt could never be described, in fact, it almost drove her crazy . It was as if someone was drilling into her brain, plus, the more time passed, the more arduous it became .

Arthur stopped after a minute passed, he retracted his shaky hand and fell on the ground, panting heavily and even coughing some blood . Both the Joker and Leiu knew that using this skill cost Arthur a lot but they didn't stop him for it was the only effective method to know the truth .

Torture may not always lead to good results, the parasite may as well tell them half the truth or just a bunch of lies to trick them .

After spending a couple of seconds to adjust his breathing and wait for the dizziness to go away, Arthur raised his head and spoke with a weak voice .

"Twenty four parasites are inside the Royal Castle, two were killed by me . She's the second strongest and there's a green-haired man who's the one pulling all the strings . As far as I could see, they're also amassing Mana Crystals to summon their God . "

"Why would they summon their God?"-Leiu

"I don't know \*cough\* they never talked about the reason . "

The victim of this evil spell was barely conscious, her eyes were hollow and her face extremely pale . She seemed to be on the brink of death, a step away from losing her sanity .

"Y-you won't get a-"

"Yeah yeah we get it . The same cliché lines for all the villains so shut up will ya!"

The Joker kicked her head, knocking her unconscious, at last .

\*\*\*\*\*

"E-empress!!!!!!!!!"

The short girl, who's the Empress' adviser, suddenly barged into the office and jumped on the blue-haired woman, her legs shaking non-stop .

"What's wrong?"

The Empress of the Water Empress, who was busy reading the white book, as usual, pushed away the short girl clinging onto her and asked .

In response, the short girl controlled her breathing before saying

"A-a a a dr-dragon is o-outside..."

The woman frowned and spread her sense, discovering an enormous beast standing in front of her large palace . Countless soldiers were surrounding it but none dared to attack, clearly waiting for their ruler to show herself .

Without anytime to waste, the Empress left her office and appeared before the dragon . She raised her head and stared at this domineering beast, barely able to resist its pressure .

With its beautiful silver scales and two golden eyes, it majestically stood in front of this large crowd, showing no fear or hostility .

"Am I speaking to the 13th Water Empress, Kalisa, The Governor of the Ocean?"

Though its mouth never opened, a deep voice could be heard coming from the motionless dragon, which was staring back at the tall woman .

In response, the Empress nodded her head and asked back:

"And who might you be?"

The dragon didn't seem it fully reached adulthood but it was definitely strong, stronger than a normal dragon .

"My given name is Yamak, The Usurper . "

'Yamak? I've never heard of a dragon with that name . '

The Dragon Region is not only far away from the other regions but it's inhabitants never leave their home, choosing to seclude themselves and not interact with outsiders . Moreover, it is the home of the Dragon Lord, one of the few entities that predate the Hour of Creation .

"Following someone's advice, I've come seeking help . "

The Empress crossed her hand and replied

"What makes you think I'll help?"

As if expecting such a reaction, Yamak said:

"I've known and seen things that may interest you . "

The silver dragon glanced around before adding

"It is not a suitable place to talk, follow me . "

It flapped its large wings and transformed into a thick bolt of lightning which vanished from that place in a split second . As for the Empress, she pondered for a few moments before following it .

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In a wide yet flat mountain peak, one dragon and one woman stood opposite of each other . The dragon crouched down then said

"First, I need you to agree to help me before I say anything . "

Still suspicious of the beast, she retorted

"It depends on the matter . How exactly can I help you? And why come to me out of all the other region rulers?"

"Because you're the descendant of Shiva, a friend of my past caretaker . "

A bit surprised by the dragon's honesty, the Empress grew more suspicious .

After a momentary silence, the dragon talked again:

"I need to retrieve a scroll, a spatial scroll . "

"And I suppose you can't do it alone?"

"I can and I will, however, I need your help in using it . "

Not understanding a thing of what he's saying, she said

"Either explain in detail or don't talk!"

"A very long time ago, before even the Hour of Creation, there was an ancient elven society . They were an intellectual race that managed to create a special scroll . This miraculous thing allows one to travel through time without fearing the Time Wraiths . What's more, it can be used on not only people but worlds too . "

Zodiak's notes (Chap 271)

'4th Peace Era, year 183 11th month, 29th day .

I successfully found the ruins of an ancient elven Race that perished during the Titan War . It was mostly filled with defensive formations but I was able to find a secret room that had a high-level Spatial formation that I was able to resist . Against my will, I was sent back in time, it was a weird experience as only my consciousness was sent back but I was still able to demonstrate my powers even without my body . I saw the perishing of this Elven Race, unfortunately, I wasn't able to remain there for a long time and was only able to get my hands on a special time formation scroll . Although I wasn't able to obtain the item I wanted, the scroll was still precious, however, I wasn't able to completely decipher it due to my weak Space Magic .

Matters got worse when a Guardian appeared and attacked me on the spot . I defeated it after a bitter struggle but didn't kill it, requesting some answers about the scroll in the exchange for its life . I was

flatly rejected and thrown out of the ruins when the Guardian activated the last layer of defense of the ruins . '

'4th Peace Era, year 7514, 2nd month, 1st day .

I managed to decipher the whole scroll but the formation inside couldn't be cast by me, I was inadequate and the materials are too extravagant . The formation is a defensive one, highly-effective against anyone that attacks it from outside . It has three functions, the first it to completely defend whatever is inside of it, the second one is absolute isolation from the rest of the world . Upon further research, I discovered that most of the secret Realms and worlds out there have a similar formation that prevents people from finding them unless a set of requirements is met or if it's destroyed by brute force, which is a very rare occurrence . The third function only applies if one material is added before it is cast, the heart of a fully mature Space Dragon . If the heart is added then the formation becomes able to send whatever is inside of it in the past, the time they are sent to can be adjusted, however, the downside is that they cannot go back, once you go, then there's no return .

I was unable to believe this even after spending five thousand years deciphering this scroll, playing with time is always dangerous and to send back people or worlds in time goes against the balance . . . '

#### Chapter 458

Arthur, Leiu, and the Joker spent two days to recover to their peak state before initiating their plan . As an enemy, the female parasite was executed by the Joker, after all, dragging her around would be such a hassle, or so he said .

The plan was clear and simple; get rid of all the parasites in Calv-city . From the parasite's memories, Arthur was able to see where the secret rooms and hidden mechanisms were located so infiltrating the castle became much easier .

It unknown when they'll summon their God so the trio decided to finish them before they do it lest they have to go through the trouble of fighting a summoned God .

"Tsk! I knew she wasn't dead!"

The Joker clicked his tongue and angrily stomped the ground . Almost all the soldiers left their posts and went to defend the castle as if they were expecting them .

There were thousands of them and at least a hundred mutants, a terrifying force that would annihilate even any SS-ranked adventurer .

Unfortunately, the kingdom's enemies this time weren't simple adventurers but literal killing machines . To access a hidden tunnel that leads to where the Mana Crystals are hidden, they need to first get rid of all the useless flies protecting the outer perimeter .

Left with no choice but to reveal themselves, two dark silhouettes appeared from behind a well, startling a group of soldiers . Before they could react, the large group was either swallowed by Darkness or hit by sharp Dark Spears .

In just a few seconds, a hundred or so soldiers died, leaving the nearby ones both shocked and afraid . Arthur and Leiu didn't stop, anyone who raised a weapon against them died . As for the Joker, he leisurely followed them, killing anyone who tried to attack from behind .

When more than four hundred soldiers died and the rest decided to back off, clearly afraid of these invaders, the real monsters finally showed themselves .

Six cloaked figures beckoned for the trio to follow them as these parasites didn't want to reveal their true forms to the soldiers outside . Since they warmly welcomed them, they didn't have any reason to refuse their invitation, after all, it was their goal to get rid of any living parasite in this city and all of them are currently hiding in the castle .

Yet again, Arthur found himself in the throne room, which was repaired and back to its glorious state, however, it was about to be annihilated for good this time .

Before any of the two parties could talk or ready themselves, Leiu was like a rocket, jumping at the closest parasites and cleaving them with his greatsword .

Two of them were hit and killed on the spot but his cleave continued onward, destroying the wall and creating a large crater on the ground . Without stopping, he held his greatsword with both hands then slashed horizontally, unleashing a blinding white light which shot toward the remaining four parasites .

They instantly took their real forms but it was too late, the white light unleashed from the greatsword was unstoppable, pushing them against the wall then cutting the 'new' bodies in piece .

Only one lucky parasite who was a diamond turtle, managed to resist the attack but it was still heavily injured . Sadly, it was the end for this poor turtle as a rain of Dark Spears befell on it, not stopping until the parasite stopped moving .

"What the hell! Can't we have some fun with you two?!"

Seeing the enemies dead within seconds, the Joker loudly complained while hugging himself . Neither of the three had anything to do here so just as they were about to advance, a tall figure with scales covering her body appeared out of nowhere .

It was none other than Claudia, who's already in her dragonic form . Her current form seemed more advanced than the last one as every inch of her body was covered in scales and her tail was lengthier .

"You two go ahead, I'll take care of it . "

Arthur walked opposite of the silent Claudia while signaling them to proceed without him . Each person has a job to do and his was surely to face her and kill her .

It was time to end this farce once and for all . Unlike last time, he's completely sane and will be able to grasp what's happening .

The Joker and the Nameless Knight left glancing one last time at their companion . In fact, even Claudia didn't try to stop them even when they passed next to her .

Her full attention was focused on Arthur and Arthur alone, anything else was deemed secondary and not worth wasting time on .

"So we meet again... such a troubling fate we have . "

"Quit trying to sound wise and mysterious, it doesn't suit you . "-Arthur

Unlike the past Claudia, who got provoked by anything he said, the current one was calm and a bit different but that's probably due to the dragonic form which may have slightly affected her mind .

"I really do wish to join hands with you . Together, we can achieve many great things . "

Despite their past feud, Claudia wanted to ally with Arthur more than those parasites, for some reason .

"Why are you so persistent? Are you so eager to betray your current allies?"

"Allies? Don't make me laugh! They are nothing but monsters blinded by their fanatical beliefs . Just hearing them ramble about their almighty God makes me sick!"

Having enough of her talking, Arthur slowly walked toward her while black flames slowly enveloped him .

"Claudia, one way or another, it ends today . "

Feeling his ever-growing aura and the thick killing intent emanating from his jet black pupil, she snorted and said

"Hmpf! Bring it on . "

Although he can't fully unleash the skill, Arthur still tried his best to use [Eternium] by repeatedly repeating the verse .

'Stars, hide your fires; Let not light see my black and deep desires . "

It cannot be seen, cannot be felt,

Cannot be heard, cannot be smelt,

It lies behind stars and under hills,

And empty holes it fills,

It comes first and follows after,

Ends life, kills laughter . '

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After entering a hidden tunnel and going downwards for a few minutes, both The Joker and Leiu found themselves in a large circular room filled with broken Mana Crystals, probably defected ones .

A single figure blocked their way, causing both of them to halt their steps . When his pair of eyes landed on the enemy, the Joker burst out in laughter .

"Ain't this a motherfucking good day! HAHAAHAHA"

He retrieved his deck of cards while licking his lips, excited by what's to come . He knew that she hasn't died, after all, she was the second in command and one of the strongest parasites in here .



"I guess you'll be taking this one?"-Leiu

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"Of course, no one can snatch my prey!"

Leiu shrugged his shoulders and was about to walk by the female parasite only for her to jump at him, trying to stop him .

Unfortunately, her body clashed with the Joker, who blocked her away and even pushed her dozens of meters . She tried leaping at Leiu again but her tries were met with nothing but failure .

When Leiu finally left this circular room and headed deeper into this complicated place, the Joker started laughing again while saying

"Come on! It's boring if you don't go all out! Show me your real form! Show me the wolf!"

His words astonished the female parasite, who remained still for a few seconds . Never did she imagine that he'll be able to guess her real form like that .

It's not that he guessed but that he 'saw' it, after all, there's nothing the cards can't show him . With sufficient luck and strong belief, any masquerade could be seen by the Magician .

The parasite complied and removed her hood, quickly transforming into a beautiful white wolf with four tails . White flames burned on each tip of the tails and her body emitted a gentle and refreshing aura . None would dare say this was a parasite, quite the opposite, this seemed like a heavenly being .

The Joker clapped his hands while enjoying the great sight .

"I've fought a nine-tailed fox in the past, alas... it was a piece of trash . I hope you're strong as you appear to be . "

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Leiu, who was left alone, felt the ground heavily shaking due to his two other companions, who were going all out against their opponents . His acute senses got the presence of a particularly strong individual right under him, which seemed rather confusing as the only forward is by following the tunnel on his left .

After pondering for a few seconds, he used his greatsword and banged it on the ground, breaking it and falling into a shiny room . This place was filled to the brim by Mana Crystals, ones that are bigger than even carriages .

When the dust cleared, he found himself surrounded by many enemies, all of the parasites . At his front was a green-haired middle-aged man, the one who seemed to be the commander of the parasites .

Although dealing with the other parasites coupled with their leader would be a pain, he's a person who's used to fighting multiple enemies . If only he had his greatsword then such weaklings would be killed in just one swoop .

"Hmm young but so ferocious..."

The middle-aged man rubbed his chin while assessing Leiu, who put on his helmet and raised his greatsword, ready to begin the massacre .

#### Chapter 459

Black flames covered Arthur from head to toe and his strength was greatly boosted . He decided to rely on long-range attacks since Makaze is absent and replacing it with a sword made from Dark Magic isn't that effective .

More than a hundred spears and blades from Dark Magic materialized behind Arthur and with his signal, they flew at the target, who jumped from one place to another, easily avoiding them .

They just weren't fast enough to hit the transformed Claudia, who's already in her strongest dragonic form . Just as she was to dodge the last spear, thin chains sprung from the ground and wrapped around her left feet hence slowing her movements and immobilizing her for a split second .

The time bought by those chains allowed the dark spear to clash with Claudia's crossed arms and despite resisting and dispersing the Dark Spear, direct contact with it was all what Arthur needed .

Now, a tiny bit of Dark Magic invaded her body and all he needed was time for it to consume and corrupt her body . She'll be focused on fighting him so getting rid of it immediately is practically impossible, plus, she hasn't even discovered yet .

Although his physique was strengthened, Arthur was no match for the dragonic form, so, when Claudia appeared before him and punched his chest, all he could use his arms to block the incoming strike .

He was sent flying dozens of meters before falling on the ground and coughing a bit of blood, nonetheless, he quickly stood up and clutched both of his fists, causing two spinning black whirlpools to appear around him .

The whirlpools headed toward Claudia, who retaliated by spitting large amounts of fire that did nothing to the whirlpools which absorbed everything in its way .

Left with no choice but to get away from them, Claudia tried to escape only for the ground to turn black and for countless creepy dark hands to hold her feet . The black whirlpools hit her from both sides and fused together, dealing much more damage .

Unfortunately, she was much more resilient and only a few scales were corrupted and fell from her body...

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'3♣ Serpent Creed!'

A serpent-like weapon appeared on both the Joker's hand . Both the serpents had their mouths open and the fingers were transformed into sharp and long fangs .

"Let this party get started!"

He jumped on the wolf, unfazed by the suffocating aura the latter was emitting . In retaliation, the wolf also leapt at its opponent, swinging its claws at the strange man while one of its tails unleashed a barrage of white flames .

The fangs of the serpent, albeit short compared to the wolf's claws, still managed to resist the big wolf along with causing strong and intense vibrations that demolished the ground .

Each one of them was trying to overpower the other, however, the Joker never liked cliché clashes like this, he quickly retracted his hand and struck with the other .

This time, the fangs released a green miasma which instantly covered the wolf, causing it to cough . He grasped this moment to jump upwards and use his sharp fangs again to stab the back of the coughing wolf . Lots of blood gushed from the two deep wounds induced by the Joker .

As it wanted to get rid of the Joker, who pulled the fangs and was about to stab its back again, the wolf used its four tails to attack the Joker . For some reason, the white flames did no damage to the lunatic, who ignored the incoming tails and stabbed again .

After two additional stabs, the Trickster was forced to unmount and evade the tails which transformed into sharp white spikes that were as fast as lightning .

Feeling that the serpents in his hands have done their purpose, he threw them away only for them to turn into black smoke . He then raised another card

'2♥Heart's Haze!'

The four tails, which were lengthened and kept chasing him, hit nothing but air as two other Jokers appeared from behind the original one .

The tails focused on one of the three while the wolf opened its mouth and seemed about to use some sort of long-ranged attack .

Unfortunately, before it could prepare its attack, its mouth was forcefully closed by a Joker who fell from the ceiling and pressed his body on the upper mouth of the startled wolf .

"So slow and stupid... tsk!"

Another Joker attacked from the wolf's rear, literally kicking the beast on its butt and sending it flying in the air . The finisher was done by the third Joker, who was busy dealing with the tails just a second ago .

He raised another card in the air, prepared to deal a devastating blow .

'8♣ Hex Dice!'

The card was converted into a grey dice which showed a random number from 1 to 6 . As he saw the number with the symbol next to it, the Magician grinned and said

"The irony! Ah! I can't believe it!"

The dice emitted a blinding radiance which slowly grew in size until it turned into a creature . Seeing its white fur and non-intimidating appearance, the Joker became even more excited .

While pointing at the incoming wolf, he ordered the animal before him

"Dumb Sheep go get him!"

Indeed, the dice turned into a sheep that looked normal in every sense of the world . Whether it's its size, behavior or non-existing Mana inside of its body, anyone would describe it as a normal sheep .

"Baaa!"

It gave such a response and strangely flew in the air and headed straight at the big wolf, which opened its mouth and was about to use the same attack it couldn't unleash few seconds ago .

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Surprisingly, the other parasites surrounding Leiu didn't attack, only their leader was the one prepared to fight him .

"What a coincidence! The first body I possessed was of the first Sword Saint that ever appeared!"

The green-haired man held a 1 . 5 meter-long blue sword and took a fighting stance then waited for Leiu .

"You know I-"

Before he could finish, the youth cut him off and said

"You talk too much . "

The Nameless Knight rushed at the green-haired man, who welcomed him with a swing of his blue sword . Just a simple swing caused the ground to freeze and the air to become frosty yet it those changes in the environment were destroyed by Leiu's greatsword which split the ground in two and pushed away all the frosty air .

A simple swing of that normal greatsword caused a wind cyclone strong enough to push away all the spectating Parasites, which were motionless and unresponsive .

This was, of course, suspicious and Leiu wasn't the kind of person to let the enemy do as he pleases . While their leader was pushed back a few steps, he grasped this opportunity to strike the closest parasite .

His greatsword descended upon a non-resisting parasite which was turned into a bloody mist when hit by the greatsword .

Seeing his shameless actions, the green-haired man angrily said:

"This is a fight between sword-users, where's your honor and pride?"

"..."

He was met with nothing but silence as Leiu jumped on another parasite and finished him off . Feeling enraged, the leader's aura suddenly erupted, causing half of the room to become frozen yet a dark aura was enveloping Leiu, rendering him immune to all exterior forces .

The youth did a backflip then raised his free hand and clutched the air, releasing a terrifying darkness that gobbled up the expanding ice and even killed three more parasites .

From within the chilling air, the green-haired man appeared, leaping at Leiu and swinging his sword which released a thick beam of light that hit the ground under the target's feet .

A hole suddenly appeared, causing Leiu's body to fall while the enemy was coming down from above, ready to stab the youth's head .

Unfortunately, a large hand made from nothing but darkness appeared from Leiu's back, it grabbed the man's feet and pulled him downwards while the greatsword finished the combo by slamming into the parasite, who desperately used his sword to block the incoming attack .

Instead of the enemy, it was he who fell into that ice pit while the youth relied on strange and long dark hands that grabbed the surface and pulled him back into the room . The parasite coughed some blood and held his chest, in which a severe wound appeared .

Some sort of Holy light shone upon the wound, healing it in a few seconds and restoring the leader into his peak state .

#### Chapter 460

"I, Arthur, and Leiu were 'sent' to Riarravar for a purpose . At first, we were clueless so we searched for an answer . I had never met them before that event and the two of them only met once prior to that time . We've lost most of our powers and became weak, mortals..."

The Joker, sitting opposite of Lucy, recounted the events of what happened in full details . The listener, Lucy, opened her ears wide and quietly listened to the eccentric man .

"Why did you lose your powers?"

"Well, we didn't 'lose' our powers, per say . We couldn't access them because they didn't exist . "

To better explain the past circumstances, he laid out multiple cards in front of her, each with a different symbol and color and upon a closer look, each card indicated an attribute .

"Let's take an easy example... you've been to Earth, right?"

She nodded her head in confirmation .

"So you're familiar with electricity and how it works, more or less . "

Lucy repeated the same actions without talking .

"Let's say you take an object which requires electricity to function to a past before electricity was discovered... do you think it'll still work?"

"Obviously, it won't work . "-Lucy

"Bingo! It will not for there is no electricity in that period of time . However, were you to take Benjamin Franklin to a past prior to when he discovered electricity, will he be able to reproduce the same results?"

"..."-Lucy

"The answer is yes and no . It all depends on the resources and the time he was sent in . Many variables played part in his discoveries and if you remove them, there's a strong chance he won't be able to repeat his feats . It was the same with us, as back then, the natural laws had yet to be born . "

Confused, Lucy asked:

"I thought if you're sent back in time, you'll still keep your powers and skills . "

In response, the Joker laughed and replied:

"That is true but I never said we were sent back in time . "

He paused for a split second before resuming:

"Technically, we were sent back in times . However, it was not 'us' but our memories . 'Copies' of us were created while adding one variable which was our memories from the future . "

Feeling even more overwhelmed, Lucy tilted her head, not quite understanding his words .

"It is complicated and perhaps even ludicrous . After all, 'creating' living beings is nothing but an absurd thing to say but that's the only way I can explain it . Anyway, skills and spells we acquired in this present weren't accessible, however, for both Leiu and Arthur, re-developing their main powers was a hard but not an impossible thing to achieve . Dark Magic is based on using emotions as a catalyst and then materializing in the form of Dark Mana to either attack or defend . As for Leiu, his powers were vastly different and much more frightening and, unlike his brother, he could manipulate the darkness . It may seem similar to Arthur's Dark Magic but it's definitely not . "

The Joker pointed at a slightly dark corner of the room while explaining:

"While Arthur can create Darkness, Leiu can 'access' it, meaning that he's the darkness . Of course, to use it without the help of the System is difficult but he's freakishly perceptive so he managed to control it after much effort . "

"Then, what about you?"-Lucy

"Hahahaha I did lose part of my strength but it wasn't that big of a deal . I don't rely on the elemental laws, my powers are wholly reliant on my cards and cards alone . I do have a few powerful artifacts but those are just part of my collection, I mostly never use them . My body was greatly weakened but when I was 'created', my cards appeared with me . "

He spread his hand on the table and magically spawned two cups of tea while saying:

"Magic is about tricking the mind then the heart... anyway, it's going to be a long story so let me rejuvenate my dry throat . "

The Trickster gulped the cup in one go then took a deep breath before continuing with his story:

"As I was saying, we found clues and ended up meeting a detestable woman who was actually the queen of a rising kingdom . "

A frown appeared on Lucy's face . She didn't know who exactly the Joker was referring to but she soon got her answer .

"It was Claudia, Arthur's ex-wife . "

A chilling aura emanated from the previously calm Lucy though it was retracted after a few seconds . To calm herself, she gulped the cup of tea and gazed at the expressionless man before her .

"It was nothing but a fortunate coincidence for that woman, whose soul got picked by the parasites . Eventually, she was turned into one and joined their ranks . After a few skirmishes, we three decided to raid said kingdom and get rid of the parasites in hope of discovering a way out of that place or a clue to why we were 'sent' there . "

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In just a couple of minutes, both Arthur and Claudia exchanged a few hundred punches and kicks . Although he was much better at fighting than her, he was still at a disadvantage due to her superior physical strength .

When he lands a punch on her abdomen, she would reciprocate, causing both of them to be pushed a few steps . It was a fight to the death between two mad dogs .

Arthur showed no mercy or hesitation, he hit the face, chest, limbs, whenever there's an opening, he'll aim for it . It was the same thing for his ex-wife, who became much more ferocious and even a bit emotional .

"Do you even know why all of this started?!"

As she whipped him with her long tail and sent him crashing into a nearby wall, she hysterically continued:

"Do you know why I resorted to such cruel means? You think it was only for money?!"

Arthur wiped the blood off his lips and raised his hand, unleashing large waves made of black flames . The black flames clashed with Claudia's draconic flames, which scorched the ground and spread to all corners of the throne room .

Long chains made of Dark Magic appeared in Arthur's hands, he ignored Claudia's rambling and swung them down .

After swiftly dodging the first strike, Claudia used her sturdy body to the other chains coming from her right . She tried grabbing them but caught nothing but air as they dispersed the moment she tried touching them .

A wall of darkness rose from under her feet, elevating her and destabilizing her body thus rendering her unable to dodge or block countless Dark Spears which hit her all at the same time .

Her figure was sent flying like a kite, only stopping when she was met with a fragile wall which turned into rubble the moment she made contact with it .

Perhaps from anger or the raging emotions, Claudia's pupils shone with a savage red light which increased her strength and healed some of her new wounds .

"You did this to me! You were the one who started it all!"

She struggled to get up while saying:

"We were a happy couple at first but that was only my imagination . You robbed me of my innocence and pretended to be in love with me and all for what? Just to get the support of my family? Then... what about me? Have you ever thought of how I felt?"

"What you claim I have done to you doesn't even hold a candle to what you did to me . Inhumanly torturing me for months, only a sick and obsessed bastard like you would do that . "

Contrary to her, Arthur was calm and composed, choosing not be controlled or overwhelmed by the emotions he was feeling right now . If he loses himself to the anger and rage, it would only complicate things not only for him but for The Joker and Leiu .

This is his personal matter and he should finish once and for all, no need for pointless talking or thinking about the past .

"Then tell me... did you ever have feelings toward me? Have you ever considered me your wife?"

She chuckled and added:

"I only saw you once or twice a month and whenever you were home, you never as much as greeted me . You treated me as if I didn't exist . While you were busy managing that company of yours, I was suffering! I had to quietly endure the mocking of the others and hear them talk behind my back . "

She gazed at the man covered in black flames, snickered and spoke again:

"When you heard about the rumors and media saying that your wife was a slut, did you even do anything to stop them from spreading? Did you ever try to suppress them? You had enough power to do whatever you wanted yet you did nothing! Absolutely nothing! You watched from the sidelines while your wife was mocked and cursed!"