

Shadow 1021

[Chapter 1021: Being the devil](#)

That beaten man is no longer. One who do not know the past of Death Monarch would not know how much he has changed

But for those who were close to him, they know very much how Azief had changed. Power radiating from him as the black hole in front of him right now is only the size of Earth.

Just a few minutes had passed and it now had almost fizzled into nonexistence.

The crystal inside his inner consciousness is hard at work purifying myriad energies that Azief is absorbing

There is even a taint now on the crystal but because of the mass of energy in the black hole coupled with the multiversal energy that is still in abundance all over the Milky Way galaxy Azief had now merged five of his Law Avatar

There is now a mass of unidentifiable source of life inside Azief body. Azief knows this is the slowly forming of his new soul.

Then he looks at his Reaper attire.

His Reaper robe, his reaper leather pants, his Reaper boots, Reaper runic sash and even his Reaper runic gloves that is in his inventory bag.

The full attire of the Shadow Lord class

He did not even remember the last time he uses the reaper runic gloves.

Since he had the ability to tattoo his rune inside his body, he never needed to use the runic gloves.

When compared with the runes he had learned from the ring with his glove, even with one glance he knew which one is the superior one.

He also did not don the Reaper Runic sash for the same reason.

His Reaper attire had many functions and abilities.

It increases his vitality and strength, increases suppression to those who have little resistance to mental attack, increases his stealth abilities, and he even acquired Fear Aura from this attire.

It has some function of resistance against mental attack

The attire also corresponds to his emotional feeling and having the ability to transform when it reached the soul requirement.

Other than the usual buff like the increase agility and speed and ability to inflict more damage, all of the items have the same effect that is stacked with each other

Azief sighed.

Cutting this from him would truly cut him from the path of Shadow Lord.

He was not regretful that he did not walk the Shadow Lord path until the end. He only felt a bit of reminisce.

It is like cutting the past for him. he had been used wearing the robe and the same attire all of these years.

It rarely was torn apart because it is made from the energy of the world. If not, he would probably be naked most of the time when he burst out with energy.

By now, six of his Law Avatar has been merged.

The power that is oozing off his body right now no longer bursting like some kind of exploding geyser.

Instead, it become calm. Inwardly however, there is a great concentration of energy gathering inside him

The amalgamation of all of those Law Avatar is condensing into a mass of energy that possess no shapes.

At times, it is an orb, a second later it is strings and thread, a second later, another shape. It appears to be some kind of an ever changing shape

This mass of energy seems to possess essence of life and wisdom of Azief life.

It is empty and it is being filled by the Law Avatars. Filled with his memories. The essence of his heart and his belief.

It had no string.

But for it to become a soul, it had to connect with the world, with the Universe, with the very essence of this reality for it to complete its transformation into a true soul

Azief sigh, close his eyes and took a deep breath.

That one second felt like a year and then he opens his eyes and without doubt, he grabs his robe and then he tore it apart.

But when he tore it apart it is not only the robe that was torn apart.

All of the Shadow Lord attire was torn apart by some destructive power and it also cut the connection between Azief and the attire.

And Azief eyes turn blue the moment he did that and his blue aura expanded infinitely. He smiles and laughed as the formation of his soul is becoming more complete

Just one more step...

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At the same time, on Earth, the effect of the energy morphing the world has not yet stopped. The Seven Great Powers is slowly establishing contact.

They all have their own methods to contact their people.

In Pandemonium right now, however, there is a secret conflict that is about to break out that would determine the rise of a new power in the horizon

Sasha is flying toward the safe house that houses the Broker. In his ears, there is a small electronic bug as she spoke with her people.

One of the people she spoke to one is one of the Three Demoness. Before, she had been chasing them.

The one she wanted to caught is the other two of the Three Demoness. Because she had a deal with one of the demoness.

It is the same demoness that she is calling right now. Fortunately, the call went through. The Demoness had her own method of communication.

So, the call went through almost immediately. The moment the call went through she immediately explain what had happened.

The voice on the other side of the line quietened. And then she dropped the call. Sasha could only sigh.

That Demoness had a relationship with the Broker. Sasha did not envy her. The position of that Demoness is very complicated.

At normal times, her position would not be this complicated. But right now, the one that the Demoness acknowledge as her teacher, as her lord, is about to kill the man she protects.

Sasha could only sigh right now. Sasha had explained to the Demoness that she should tell her the location of the safe house to her so they both could stop Loki together.

But the fact that the Demoness hang up the call means she is torn. The Demoness is none other than Riana, the Laughing Demoness.

She might still have hope for his teacher.

Even when Sasha had allowed Riana to meet with the Broker many times and let them live together, Riana had always remained steadfast about being loyal to Loki and to her sisters.

Riana might have been cooperating with the Shadow Guards, but her loyalties always had lie with Loki.

From what she knows, the three sisters are not really blood related sisters.

They were children that were abandoned and pick up by Loki.

They were taught by him, and given powers and abilities that they were not otherwise would be able to have

They were protected and Loki adores them greatly. He was like a father to them. Sasha understood what kind of loyalty such act could bring

This is why it is so heartrending.

Riana love the Broker very much. But now, Loki, the father figure of Riana is about to end the life of the man she loves.

She did not know what Riana would choose. She then called other operative that she could get her hands on

The connection is slowly being established by Center Control. And she already had been able to contact a few of the Shadow Guard operative that is in range.

The Center Controls has also mobilized a few Battlestar to space to establish satellite connection.

Most of the satellite capabilities were destroyed during the initial opening of the portals during the Multiversal Convergence.

Sasha had many other problems like the escape of all the prisoners in the Moon. Most of them were Disk Formation levelers that is all dangerous in their own right.

Some of them are even crazy and homicidal.

The Battlestar would be able to act as satellite for the temporary reestablishing of communication with all of the secret operative of Pandemonium.

There are even a few spaceships that hovers above the sky of Pandemonium right now acting like some kind of communication tower to extend the range of network connection.

Sasha did not mince words as she quickly sends orders to all of the operative to give her the position of the safe house.

The old position could not be used as reference. Because the world expansion had changed terrains and even geography of the world.

The map is still the same.

The shape of the world and its continent is also the same.

The difference is the size and the terrains. What used to be a small garden could now be a lush gigantic forest with its own ecosystem

A small pool could have become a large lake that could fill an entire mountain inside it. So on and so forth.

Even most of the secret facilities all around Pandemonium has been moved by this force of nature.

Some of them is trying to triangulate the position of that safe house after the expansion of the world.

She also wears a contact lenses that shows her the updated map of Pandemonium in real time via holographic projection that project itself into her mind.

The world is large. And the distance which she could travel in a few minutes had now stretched into hours. Not to mention there is still storms of energy in the sky.

She clenches her fist. She fears that Loki had schemed against the Broker. And thinking of all of this, she became even more nervous and anxious.

'I know what you are thinking, Loki. You don't have to be the Devil.'

'I will stop you' she said as her clenched fist, clench even tighter.

BOOM!

Her speed increased as it left a trail in the clouds.

[Chapter 1022: The laughing demoness](#)

At the same time, tens of thousands of miles from her, there is a forest that had been created because of the expansion of the world

Tall trees that almost reaches the clouds fills the area. On its sky, there are now flying creatures that flew up into the air, looking hesitant.

Some of them seems to be trying to sense whether the storms had abated.

When they sense it had truly abated, these flying creatures finally take their step forward and fly around the area.

Inside that forest, there is a large white house.

The house had some wooden parts and some of them is made of stone. The area had a pool and a river not far away from the house.

This house is quite secluded from the cities and the villages nearby. Even before the expansion of the world, this white house had always been far away from the cities.

Now the world had expanded, it was even more so. Like a house in a middle of an empty world. It is a two story house. It is large and the design is very sophisticated.

Fusing traditional looking and modern sensibilities into the house.

What is bizarre about this house and the area it inhabits was the fact that there are all kinds of protection formation around it.

There are energy mines that would be able to destroy an entire battalion of a Seed Forming officers and enough firepower that could blast away a Disk Formation leveler far away and might even kill them.

But because of the world expansion, all the formation around the area of the house was destroyed.

Most of them were powered by the ley liens of energy mines all over Pandemonium

The ley lines that have been crafted by all the researches in the Research Department and the Department of Secrecy does have the ability to stretched when there is changes in the terrain and the surrounding geography.

But it did not take into account such huge changes like that of a Multiversal Convergence level of change.

Inside the house there is a person looking around on the first floor, flinging the debris. From the second floor, there is the sound of a song.

?That's life?

? That's what all the people say?

? You're riding high in April?

? Shot down in May?

? But I know I'm gonna change that tune?

? When I'm back on top?

? Back on top in June?

The song fills the house. Every once in a while the sound of the wind would drown the song.

On the first floor picking up debris is a rotund middle age man. His white hair is neatly tied and there is some green blood on his shirt.

On the cracked marble tile, there is signs of a great battle. Blood is everywhere

Outside the house is hundreds of Seresian demon corpses. Inside the house is Otherworlders human corpses

This middle age man could only sigh. He was relieved that at least he manages to protect this house from the Seresian demon and the forces of the Otherworlders

Today, was like any other day.

He was reading some news on his lazy chair overlooking the river. The wind was breezy and the sound of the creatures in the forest seems to calm him down.

He opens up a song using a computer with magical runes that is created by the Golden Syndicate and was enjoying his day.

Then disaster struck when he least expects it. Demons flying out from portals and she was not here.

His battle prowess is not something he is good at. At least not like her.

Contact with the Shadow Guard was cut off. Lands suddenly stretched out. Small plants grew to the size of titanic level.

Humans from another universe appears with high tech suit armor and guns that shoots energy blast

He jumps down to the first floor, went to his secret room and brought out the big guns. There are all kinds of weapon that was given to him by the Shadow Guards to protect himself

There is even some new prototype of weapons that is being developed by Pandemonium.

He had enough time because the moment he saw countless of portals suddenly appearing in the sky, he activated the runic inscription that is etched in every part of the house.

It also affects the array protection formation around the house.

The initial blast did not even leave a scratch on his house but when he saw how the land quakes and cave in, stretched and quaking as he saw like the world itself is moving like it has a mind of its own, he knew he could not rely on the protection formation for long.

And he was right.

The moment that the house was far away enough for the ley lines to stretch to the point of breaking, the array formation was depowered.

And a small army attack his house. They might have wanted to capture him but there is something in this house that he must protect with his life.

He could not let himself be captured. And he did not want that woman to be captured too.

Of course, if the situation is desperate he would not hesitate to ask for her help. Since the thing that he is protecting is also something that woman would lay her life down for

Looking at the enemy he was confident that he could handle it so he sends a message to her to focus on what she is doing and do not have to worry about him.

If the situation reach to a point that he could not protect that precious treasure, he would surely call her.

Half an hour later, he is now picking up the debris of his house. Fortunately, the entire house did not collapse.

The material is sturdy after all inscribed with some hardening array formation. But, right now he is tired. He almost exhausted all of his Disk.

The reason that he could fight a small army and won is because of his ability to see their weak points.

He is a Disk Formation leveler but he had just broken through that level a week ago.

And his attack is not destructive since his path is not really the same as everyone else. He could only sigh as he picked up a few stone boulders and threw it outside.

‘These demons...they really do act like primitive creatures. Hurling boulders like a human in the Stone Age’

Now, as the disaster has passed, he is cleaning up his house. This middle age man is none other than the Broker.

He is in one of the safe house provided to him by the Shadow Guards.

He had been concealed from the world for six years.

People would be surprised if they know that the Broker, one of the central figure in founding the Crime Alliance who were created to fight against Pandemonium is resting under the shelter of Pandemonium, the very same organization the Crime Alliance hated the most.

The song of Frank Sinatra, That’s life is still echoing all over the two story house. It ended and it replayed back

As the Broker remove one of the house beam out of the way, suddenly the song stops. Then he heard the sound of the air popping and someone appeared in the second floor

That someone then jump toward the first floor from the railing of the veranda on the second floor and landed just a few feet from Broker

He looks at that person and shakes his head

'I told you I could handle it' he said

In front of the Broker right now is a woman of 5'6 tall, with long blonde hair and azure blue eyes.

She also wears a mask. This woman is none other than the Laughing Demoness Riana. Just before she got the message from Sasha, she was at Nowhere Land.

That place had quite the homing capabilities. Since it is not really part of the world it was not affected by the expansion.

And there is even a stable teleportation private channel for the Three Demoness to come and go as they please toward the Nowhere Land.

When she heard what Sasha told him about Loki is about to kill the Broker, she fears that Loki would discover something that she had hidden from him

She had created a teleportation channel that is similar to the one in the Nowhere Land in the house. this channel was not discovered by the operatives of the Shadow Guards

But at that time, she could have told Sasha how to quickly arrive to the safe house. She didn't. Because this is Loki she is talking about.

She believes that there is another way. She understood her teacher more than Sasha understand him.

Loki to her is more than just a teacher, he is her father. He treated her like his daughter. And she was the one he adored the most.

Riana tap the forehead of her mask and her mask float away from her face and compressed itself to a triangle small cube that flew toward the bracelet on her right wrist.

Riana had grown to be a beautiful woman. Her face is flawless and even the coldness of her face gives her this feeling of dignity and charisma without ever diminishing the certain childishness trait of her face.

She had grown into a mature adult. She looks at the Broker and said

'Nate. Loki is coming' Hearing this the Broker frowned. It is not the fact that his name is spoken out loud that made him frown.

[Chapter 1023: Green mist](#)

It is the fact that she said Loki is coming.

Not many people know the Broker real name.

The real name of the Broker is Nathan Ford. And Riana knows his real name because these two are lovers.

Yes, in the six years since his disappearance, the wont they, would they routine between them had changed as Riana and Nathan had become more than just friend. There is an age gap between them but they truly love each other.

Nathan then frowned and said

'Why is he coming here?' Riana shakes her head and she said

'To get the Book of Secrets. And to kill you' And Nathan face become pale

'Then why are you here!' Nathan almost shouted.

'Go. Quickly. Take....' and he was heisting before he said

'Take our precious treasure with you.'

'You...what are you saying? You want me to leave you alone?'

Sighing Nathan let go of the plank he was holding and said

'I can negotiate with him' Riana took a step towards him and shakes her head.

'No, you can't'

Gritting her teeth, she said

'Sasha told me what my teacher is planning to do. He is planning to take over you. The Book of Secret is only the first part of that step. You understand what I am saying right? He could not take over your place unless you are truly dead'

Nathan finally understand.

'Shit' he cursed

'You understand where I am going with this right?' Riana said

Nathan look at Riana and she was pale in the face. He had known this woman for years and he had never seen her so scared.

She would not hesitate to even plot and scheme against the most notorious criminal and serial killer as she caught them and throw them to that Nowhere Land

But just the thought of her teacher, her lord coming for him, it made her drained of all blood.

'Let me think for a moment'

She nodded as she said

'I'll check-' Nathan nodded and Riana quickly went to the basement.

Creak! BOOM!

One of the part of the ceiling broke down and fall a few meters away from him. Nathan was not even startled.

Right now he could not think about anything else other than how to deal with Loki

That is how his mind work. He is called the Broker for the reason. He brokers deals and he negotiate promises.

He traded information for more information. Information that the supercomputer in the secret labs of the great powers have no access to

He prefers manual and the analog way of doing this. He did not trust the network that was established by the great powers.

And because of that, he is the keeper of secret. And he kept a lot of it. He is trying to think of what he could bargain with Loki

'Tch' he clicks his tongue as he reached a conclusion

There is nothing to negotiate about this.

This is something Nathan quite understand. It is just something he did not want to acknowledge and admit.

If Loki is not intending to simply take the Book of Secret and also wanting to take over his place, it is only logical for Loki to truly kill him.

'A proof to the criminal underworld that he had changed sides' Nathan got the answer

'He wanted to convince the world'

Unlike others in the world who believe in Hirate announcement a few hours ago, Nathan knew that Loki is not the culprit that causes the Multiversal Convergence.

His information is very extensive and with his ability expanding after he step into Disk Formation level, there were more thing that he could know

He knew that Loki did not do it because he has his eyes and ears on the Island of Peace when it all went down.

He did not see the race of the Golden Speedster and Death Monarch. He did not see Jean the Time Monarch trying to stop Azief.

He did not see all of that. But he is quiet sure that the culprit of all this disaster and calamity is the handiwork of "that person" sitting on his dark throne in the Central Palace of Pandemonium.

Because other than the fact "that person" is definitely capable of tearing space and time, he is also the only one that would be able to make Loki the Trickster to take the blame of the world upon himself.

'The Book of Secret.... I could see where you are going with this, Loki. Corruption abhors a vacuum after all.'

He smiles bitterly.

'The creation that would one day doom me. That wandering seer was really right' Nathan once met a wandering seer. He allowed her to see his possible fate.

She told him of a dreadful warning that one day, his creation would doom him. because of that encounter, the Broker never wanted to meet the Great oracle Erika.

That wandering seer is probably not as powerful as the famous Great Oracle.

If he met the Oracle, he fears all of his secret would be uncovered. This is the reason why even the closest ally had never known his true name

He had aliases. Sometimes, he is John. Other time he is Jason.

He knows that certain people had abilities to divine a certain knowledge about a person just by knowing their name

Unless he possesses power like Death Monarch, he would never dare reveal his name.

He once thought that the creation that the seer had mentioned would refer to Void.

Nathan created Void prestige and elevated him to the position of power, ruling the disorganized criminal world.

Maybe, the creation that the seer had mentioned is actually the Book of Secret. Seers with their vague words and metaphors, he complained underneath his breath

The Book of Secret is like the Book of Death that was rumored to be the creation of Death Monarch before he left Pandemonium and went to the starry skies six years ago.

But the Broker knew that the Book of Death and the Death List is merely the creation of Loki to protect and at the same time pressure Sasha.

Loki told the world that Sasha had a book that have the list of all the spies in the Great Powers. Their locations, their safe houses, and many more confidential information.

That information painted a big red target on Sasha.

But it also made her even more valuable. Some people if they knew that Loki had crafted such a lie and pin it toward Sasha, they might think that Loki was trying to harm her.

Instead, Loki crafted that lie to give a layer of protection toward Sasha and at the same time pressure her to return to Pandemonium.

Of course, Loki being Loki, also have his own interest tied to all of this

Nathan might have been living the life of a carefree middle age man who is quite peaceful this couple of years, but he still has ears and eyes everywhere.

It is these ears and eyes that made Sasha, the very blade of Death Monarch to shelter him

And while the Book of Death and the Death List is merely a fiction of Loki lies, his Book of Secrets is not a fiction.

It is very real. And like the name of the Book, it is a book full of secrets

Secrets that if revealed, would shake the world and unleashed a great chaos. He shakes his head and he reach to a decision

'I need to get out of Pandemonium right now. If Loki knows I'm here, and if my guess is correct about what he is trying to do, then I'm a sitting duck here. This place is no longer sanctuary'

As he was about to go to the basement to check on Sasha, he felt something. He felt a presence covering the entire house and the surrounding area

He furrowed his eyebrows.

Swish!

The sound of wind outside the house become disturbed. A fast gust of wind passes by the house before becoming calm all of a sudden

Nathan gulped.

'This is not good' he thought to himself. Then he saw a magical sight. Outside the countless of corpses of the Seresian demons and the Otherworlds suddenly become blurry

A green mist slowly covers the four corners of the house. In a circular manner, a green mist circles the house.

There is a trace of great power and the beast nearby all went away. The mist is coming closer to the house and Nathan clench his fist

His eyes are full of determination. He could guess who is coming. This does not seem at all like Sasha way of coming.

But he did not shout out for Riana. Instead, in his heart he prayed that Riana did not notice. He prays that she would run away with their precious treasure.

He immediately tenses up and shouted

'Who is there?' In the basement, Riana put back down their precious treasure as her eyebrows furrowed.

'He's here' she thought.

[Chapter 1024: Glad to be back](#)

At the same time, on the second floor, the computer seems to be taken over. The Frank Sinatra song stopped.

The playlist changed its song. Sound of drums beating appeared. Then guitar bass. Nathan gulped. He recognizes the song

? Back in black ?

? I hit the sack ?

? It's been too long and I'm glad to be back ?

? Yes, I'm let loose ?

? From the noose ?

? That's kept me hanging around ?

? I've been looking at the sky ?

? And its getting me high ?

? Forget the hearse cause I'll never die?

'Hi' the word echoes inside the entire house.

Then a man appeared out of the green mist with a mist. A Caucasian man, 5'10" tall around 150 pound and of medium build.

The hair is black and cut short appearing more like he is bald with shining green eyes. This man come to the tune of Back in Black full of theatrics.

A powerful pressure fills the entire house. Nathan frowned.

Then he walks to the veranda on the second floor. Each step seems to have some rhythm that affects the flow of energy in the house and the surrounding area.

The mist outside stops advancing toward the house and instead seems to be still. Like a wall that prevents anything from coming and out.

It reaches twelve meters high and the circumference of the green mist is around fifteen meter wide.

Then that man appeared on the ledge of the veranda. He put his hand on the railing and look down at him with a smile

There is a smile on the edge of his face and it look at him like looking at a prey and Nathan knew exactly who this person is. His eyes could not see the status window of this person

That alone had eliminated certain old enemies. But then there is the green mist and the theatrics

'Trickster' he said and his face contorted into an expression of worry.

'Yours truly' he said with a chuckle.

And then as he smiles suddenly his existence spirals into a green mist and before Nathan could react, Loki had appeared just a few feet away from him

From the second floor to the first floor in a blink of an eye. Almost like teleportation.

Outside the green mist seems also to spirals and moves. But instead of moving toward the house, it seems to rotate in place.

Thought it is quite hard to tell since it is consisted of mist and one had to look at it carefully to get a sense of what the mist is doing.

Nathan now could see Loki more clearly. This time he dressed in a way that makes him look intimidating, imposing and elegant all at the same time.

A tailored high-end three –piece suit, a maroon tie, a fedora, a leather shoes that look a lot like an Italian and rose color glasses.

On his wrist is a wristwatch. But the watch had no pointer and it had symbols instead of numbers.

Loki seems to perfectly captured the fashion before the Fall and complemented it with the mysticism fashion of the new era after the Fall.

He is also wearing a blue windbreaker over his suit. Formal yet casual. Loki like always put the cream on top with his transformation.

As Nathan is looking at Loki, Loki is also looking at Nathan. Then he smiles and said

‘A rotund middle age man with lush white hair, an African middle age man. Who knew that is just another disguise?’ Loki said while chuckling.

‘I should have guessed. I underestimated the ingenuity of such a man such as yourself. No wonder, you could hide so masterfully all of these years. That is high compliment coming from me’

Chuckling he added

‘I even had to craft a few schemes just to make sure I found the right place. I always had a guess that you were in Pandemonium. But Sasha, is a very tight lipped woman. No wonder, my brother trusted her very much’

Nathan did not seem affected by the words Loki had said. It did not shake him. because it did not matter

What matters was that he had found him. And knowing what he knows now, he is quite sure, his ending would not be good.

Nathan in his own house did not wear his usual disguise. He is a rotund and he is a middle age man with white hair

But he isn’t an African middle age man. He is Caucasian. When he wears the persona of the famous Broker, his face looks a lot like Morgan Freeman.

He kinda like the actor before it all goes down. When he first appeared in the world, and do the job he had done, disguise is basically step number one.

If Loki could transform to all kinds of disguise, was it so hard for the Broker who have an almost inexhaustible resource of information to find a way to disguise himself?

He changes the color of his skin, his way of talking, his manner of walking all to complete the charade and created the persona of the Broker.

Today, that persona is broken. Loki came at his sanctuary, one place he felt safe enough to let down his guard.

Loki chuckles looking at Nathan face.

Clearly, he did not think that Loki would find him. Loki was calm as there is a green mist that is coming out from his three-piece suit.

Unlike the green mist outside, the green mist coming out from him is not as aggressive. It is in low concentration

But it slowly changes the energy inside the house. The green mist coming out of his body slowly becoming colorless and Loki smiles.

Nathan did not notice this

It would be surprising if he could notice it. Because Loki is only a step away from Divine Comprehension.

And his method is even more advanced and mysterious

The perks of coming from the future.

You are always ten steps ahead of everyone else.

'When was the last time we met?' Loki asked and then he answered it by himself. Nathan does not seem to be in the mood to answer his question right now

It is quite understandable

'Is it Bolivia? Or was it Berlin? I could not quite remember. I believe that you have something to do with what happened in Berlin.'

He clicked his tongue and then said

'Never saw your face. And I have no proof you were involved in what happened in Berlin. But it had all the trademarks of your method. But, hey, it is story of the past' Loki said chuckling.

Nathan did not say anything but there is anger in his eyes. What happened in Bolivia still made him angry.

Many of his men were killed by Loki

And then Loki had tried to kidnap him but he was sent back by Void. At that time, it was very close for the Broker to kill Loki.

Of course, if he knows there is Seven Loki's he would not do such a thankless job.

But the fact was that one of Loki's incarnations or avatars of whatever you want to call it, almost died at the hand of the Broker.

One death while it would not change a lot, a change is a change. And Loki had to bring out other Loki's that have a different role and memories ahead of time.

If Nathan were to succeed that day, more uncertainties would appear in the somewhat perfect plan that Loki had crafted.

Loki even admired this enemy of his. So, today, as he comes to kill him, there is this feeling of melancholy.

Such a talented man.... if not for the fact that it was necessary for him to make sure that he is dead and six feet under, he would rather spare him and let him went free.

But, that's the thing about freedom. It is very chaotic. Most of the time Loki quite like the chaotic nature of things.

But even in chaos, there is some order. And even in the orderly systems, there is chaos. A bit like of Yin and Yang.

For now, he requires order. It is still not time for things to go into absolute chaos. Loki sighed as he was about to say something

'You know, I ad-'

Then before Loki could say another word, a whooshing sound could be heard and in front of Nathan is Riana

The dust rises up because of her speed.

She did not wear her mask and she look straight at Loki with a pleading gaze. Loki sighed

'I thought you had returned to Nowhere Land'

'I turn back' she said. Loki sigh contained many feelings. He had wanted to meet with Riana and get the location of the Broker from her. She got information from Trisha that she was in Nowhere Land.

He changed his mind halfway. This is not something that she should see or know. Loki had always had multiple plans.

[Chapter 1025: Family Matters](#)

Loki had always had multiple plans especially about the Broker. The room full with runes that he had given to the head Keeper of the palace is one of his plans.

Riana, is also one of his cards to seek the Broker. It is a card that he had never used and did not want to use.

And precisely because he did not want to use that card, he prepares several contingencies plans.

Because like Riana thought of him as her father, he thought of her as his own daughter.

Of course, right now, his true age is just right of being barely legal if one follows the logic of this world before the Fall.

There are only a few people on this Earth that knows his true age. Jean might also suspect him and so will Hikigaya.

But now, since he is Number Two, his abilities and his knowledge also enhanced in every way. While he could not erase the memory of Death Monarch who knows his true age, he could still have the capabilities to hide in front of Jean and Hikigaya.

As long as Jean could not see his true age, his suspicions would only remain to be that. And as for Hikigaya, he was never a nosy person

In the original timeline, at this age, he was just barely entering Energy Disperse Stage.

The energy of the world at this time had been monopolized by the World Government and the Revolutionary army.

Of course because of the change that had happened, the World Government and the Revolutionary Army is not the only world powers at the moment.

He sighs because he had hoped that Riana would stay in the Nowhere Land and did not have to be involved in what he is about to do next

It is not personal. It is.... necessary and practical. The fastest way to get inducted into the criminal underworld is to kill the Broker and claim his Book of Secrets

In the past, the role that Loki is about to take belongs to Azief.

Azief after breaking out the prison of the World Government would then take refuge in the criminal underworld and become one of the most fearsome enemies and disruptor of the world powers.

He facilitates trades of criminals, brokered deals, supplies weapons among other things. But he had his own code of conduct.

It wasn't until he is strong enough by himself, that he shed off the title of the concierge of crime.

That is the role Loki is about to take.

And if he were to take such a role, he need enough information. To be more accurate, all the information he could get.

When you have enough information, you would become a force unto itself.

If there is one information that could shake the world that alone would put you in many death list of many great powers.

But if you have enough information that could start a world war, then you are no just longer some simple crime lord.

It is also the only role that would enable him to still move freely while having enough power and influence to shake off the dogs that the world powers would send for him

Azief method of declaring his support for him does help him a bit.

But the great powers of the world had always had secret forces that could not be traced back to them.

There would also be personal vengeance that individuals would have against him seeking his head.

He needs to be ready for it.

Loki look at Riana and Riana look at him.

As Loki also had his own feelings looking at Riana, Riana also had her own complicated feeling looking at a man she regarded as her own father.

Since the moment Loki picked her up, her fate and destiny changed.

She would probably be dead on a ditch or some dark street in Berlin if not for the fact that Loki pick her up.

She was younger than Trisha but older than Greisha among the Three Sisters. She could be considered the middle sisters.

Trisha, Riana and Greisha all came from different fathers and mothers, and they did not even come from the same country but they do have similarities.

They were all abandoned to die. And they were all picked up by Loki. He offers them a deal. He would offer them power.

But as most things with Loki, everything has a price. Loki had given them two choices when he had saved them

The three of them were not the first children that Loki had saved in his journey.

But the three of them were the only few that chooses the second choice.

The choice was either safety or power.

They could have chosen safety. If they had chosen that, Loki would have given them a warm home, a chance to strike it out there and after they could stand for themselves they could leave him

He would even help them to look for their parents.

As for a warm home, the three of them find a warm home beside Loki. A chance to strike it out there? They were too many dangers. And as for looking for their parents?

Trisha seems to hate her parents. Greisha on the other hand did not remember much. Like she repressed her memories. And as for her? She is an orphan.

They all choose power when given the chance. They have felt powerless and as such the know the importance of power.

But by choosing power, there is price to be paid.

And it is a price that she had gladly paid. To her, in the beginning, Loki was like a teacher. He was her savior and then her teacher. And then a father figure she never had.

Unlike most men that she had met after the Fall, Loki was not interested in her body. She was young but she was not naïve.

The World power would have led you to believe that the monsters were the sole cause for the fast pace of how civilization fall.

It is as much as the monsters fault as it is human dark desires.

She had never been raped.

But she was almost raped many times in her journey. That alone should send chills

And while men were the majority that tries to rape her, women are as bad. It one would think that men and women were so different in their dark desires, one would be mistaken.

In a world where energies could be absorbed by anyone, strength is no longer so disproportionately given

At the same time, women who had no way of realizing their dark desire as before, now have powers and just like men, now have the same playing field

Riana had once captured a woman who were using little boys as her playthings. And since it is playthings, they would be discarded after she is done playing with it.

There are women serial killers that is even more brutal than man.

There is even one that uses the skin of men to decorate their houses. A Witch somewhere in the wilderness of Siberia

Riana felt very satisfied when she was throwing that witch into the dark prison of the Nowhere Land.

The difference between a serial killer and a normal person is sometimes only because the serial killer could kill and the normal person could not.

Riana had seen dark things. And as one of the Wardens of the Nowhere Lands, as there are as many men in that prison, there is an equal women prisoners are there

Darkness and evil lies in everyone. Power corrupts. And it corrupts equally.

As for her feelings for Loki, she had never blamed him. This is the result of the choice she had made and until today, she felt happy for making that choice.

She still remembers that day like it was yesterday

She was sure that she would die before she reached Berlin.

There was snow that keep falling. She was cold and shivering the broken street leading to Berlin. Every once in a while, she could hear the howling of large beast in the distance.

Along the road she would see corpses. Some of them had no heads and some of them rises up from the dead, appearing like zombies.

She hides most of the time. And each time she hides, she prays. She was always afraid, trembling in fear.

Each time she survives, she takes a step forward. She had no destination but at that time she heard there is help in Berlin.

And then one day she was unlucky. She met a band of criminals. They were about to capture her.

But Loki appears and like those painting of angels in churches she had seen when she was in the orphanage, that is how he had appeared.

A savior. A teacher and a father.

Loki treated all three of them differently. But always with affection. She seems to reminisce the past as she looks at Loki

[Chapter 1026: A mistake](#)

Trisha is the oldest. She is fierce and brave. She is also the most loyal toward Loki.

And she loves Loki. Loki might see all of them as his daughter. But that does not mean all three of them look at him the same

Trisha had always love him. Riana believe Loki notices this. But he had never acknowledged this feeling that Trisha had felt for him

As for Greisha, she was the youngest. Loki when he first brought that child in the house, he doted on her.

At night when he had nothing to do, he would tell her fairytale stories and would conjure magical sight for her to see, so she could laugh.

She likes to snarl at Loki, like a feral kitten when she first came. She was hurt by the world and she was healed by Loki.

The three of them were all abandoned to die and they were all saved by him. It is this bond that binds them together.

And it is this bond that made her to have such conflicting feeling now that she is face to face with him like this.

She could only plead with him with her eyes. Since she had the power to fight on her own, she had never disobeyed any orders that Loki had given her.

At times, the task is dangerous. Other times it is easy. But whatever the task that is given, Loki always give them all the same advice.

If they were not able to do it, if they felt that their life could be threatened, they must return and they must fight to live.

Now as they look at each other, in Riana eyes there is this hesitation.

She had never raised her hands against Loki.

But in Loki eyes, it is very clear. Even though Riana had appeared in front of him, his eyes is still as clear as it is before. Like his purpose is pure and righteous.

‘My lord’ she said.

‘You notice me?’ Loki ask. though he was not that surprised seeing her here.

Riana could only nod.

She heard the sound of the rock music and she only knows one person that could be this playful and theatrical all at the same time.

The pop culture references, the songs, it is a trademark of her teacher. She immediately left the basement and uses her super speed to reach Nathan position in the blink of an eye.

And now she is. Confronting the man who she had regarded as her father. She answers the question

'Back in Black. AC/DC. That is how I knew it was you. And other than Sasha, you were probably the one that would find a way to reach here.'

Loki chuckles and he said

'I'm impressed you know the song.'

Riana reply

'Greisha always like to rummage around your office. She found the CD. And I always knew you like to collect old stuff from the time before the Fall. We listen to it'

'You like it?'

Riana shakes her head.

'Not my taste'

Loki chuckles again.

'I thought so. A pity. The basslines had always been thought as iconic and legendary. It pumps me up and it does give me quite the entrance. Nothing beats a dramatic entrance with hard rock song accompanying you.'

Then he clicks his tongue

'After all, not everybody could control the Heavens and let the thunders and lightning go wild just too announce their entrance. That is way above my abilities. Had to settle with some conjuration magic.'

The person he is reoffering to is probably none other than Death Monarch.

Riana only bitterly smiles, seeing her teacher talking like that

'Greisha like it though' Riana then added.

Loki only smiles at this.

'She had so much similarities with me'

Riana face expression turns hard and then said

'You doted on her the most' Loki sighed while shaking his head

'I doted on all three of you' Riana felt her heart beats even hard. But she is still there. In front of Nathan.

Ready to fight.

For a moment there is silence between them. Outside there seems to be some force entering the house. It is invisible, colorless but it is not entirely traceless.

Riana could sense it. Out of the three of the sisters, she had the most acute senses. Her class is a secret class.

She is an Empath Witch.

Which is one of the secret class of Witches.

She could emulate and mimic other people class.

Because of this there were many misunderstanding about her true class in the reports of many intelligence reports of the world power.

It is a lot like the abilities of one of the advisors of Hirate.

There is an advisor of the President whose codename is Mimic. No one had seen his face but many believe that his ability is to Mimic other people abilities.

Since no one had never seen him fight no one knew whether that is truly his abilities. But to be given the codename Mimic, it must have something to do with his abilities.

Riana abilities is also able to mimic. Now, she is already at the Disk formation leveler. She could mimic up to Seven classes.

'You need to leave, Riana'

'My lor-'

'Leave!' Loki seems to have been influenced by certain traits of Death Monarch. Loki might not have as many subordinate as Death Monarch have.

But each of Loki subordinate could create world shaking chaos.

When he sends an order, he only needs to send it once. When he orders the same instruction, that means he is getting serious.

'I can't. I love him....' and after hesitating, she said

'Please, father'

Loki then said coldly

'That is a big mistake'

Loki shakes his head and said

'I let you leave with him in the past. I let you save him from the forces of Pandemonium before. I just did not expect that instead of sheltering with me, you would send him to Shadow Guards. If you had sent him to me, persuade him to ask help from me, then today would not happen.'

Loki takes a move and his hand in piercing motion went straight toward Nathan. But, his eyes went to Riana.

Almost like he wanted to see what Riana would do.

It is a test. It is always test. In that one moment, time seems to slow down for all three of them.

It is not that Loki was slow but because all of them quickly move in super speed so everything seem so slow.

A dust falling down from the debris on the ceiling could be seen moving in the decreased speed times by ten thousand

Riana was tested many times. There is always a test. And this test, this attack is a test of loyalty. Out of the many things Loki regarded the most important among his people is loyalty.

A loyalty that could not be bought by money, coerced by torture or tempted by sweet dreams. It is the reason why Trisha was the most trusted out of the three of them

Loki makes his move and the green mist crawl the walls of the house. It did not go down to the basement but it enveloped the house.

Thin green mist in the house, thick circular mist twelve meters away from the house.

Riana knows her father would not stop. Nathan open his eyes wide trying to see if he could see any weakness.

Only question marks appear in his gaze when he looks at Loki. Loki is also Disk Formation like him

But for some reason, he still could not see through him. Like he had some other methods to conceal his appearance.

He did not have the power to stop that strike.

Even when he wanted to move, it seems some kind of force nail him to the ground.

There is no pressure when he did not move but the moment he tries to move; he could feel a powerful pressure on his knees.

When he wanted to burst out with energy a thin green thin translucent membrane would appear around the area where he wanted to burst out his energy and forces that energy to calm down.

He is transfixed in place.

Riana also make a move and moving in a speed that surpasses sound they clashed with each other.

Loki only uses his physical power and not his magic. Riana also uses some kind of Warrior class power. Her body is shrouded with thick flaming orange aura

It is the Berserk state of a warrior.

She forcefully deflects Loki strike with her palm attack forcing Loki to change his piercing motion into a palm attack.

Riana kick the ground and spin in the air as her foot strike toward that palm

Loki casually glided backwards like he is a father floating down from above. Loki was not affected in that short exchange of strikes.

But the same could not be said about Riana.

Even though she deflects the piercing motion, she had injuries all over the side of her right arms.

The piercing motion might not reach Nathan, but the blast of the energy that was neutralized by Riana exploded towards her.

And her feet are feeling like thunder is crawling all over her skin. Her knees are trembling and in pain. Veins on her feet all become tensed.

Her arms and her feet is full of pain. She only winces once.

Loki only shakes his head. On the second floor, the Back in Black song had ended. The house is silent.

[Chapter 1027: A test](#)

The walls are full of green mist. Loki turns back as he seems to be looking at something. He clicked his tongue and then mutters to himself

‘Not quite yet’ he mutters to himself.

He then looks back at Riana. Riana in that one second when Loki look back toward the door, she grabs Nathan and flew toward the back door.

The ground crack and with her speed it causes the space and Time around her seems to be pushed away.

In that one moment, she changes her class to that of an Assassin, maximizing her speed even more. A few of her items glows and increases her speed even more.

Everything seem to slow down

But the moment that she did that a tall wall of thick green mist acted as barrier in front of that back door.

Loki only smiles.

She charges into the green mist and when she came out of that green mist she was returned back into the house.

‘Disobedience. Traitorous’ Loki said. He said it calmly. There is no trace of anger in his voice. His expression also did not indicate any anger.

But to Riana it did not seem that way. Even though Loki did not seem to be angry, Riana had always felt to judge her father using his face expression is a stupid move.

Everything is a trick. One must remind themselves of this when dealing with Loki.

Look carefully because when dealing with the Trickster, the most dangerous is the unseen trick

Nathan on the other hand was shocked when Riana wanted to go out of the house. After all, their precious treasure is still inside the house. He looks at her and tries to send a telepathic message

But it seems his telepathy message is being jammed. He is quite sure this has something to do with the green mist all around the forest he is in and in this house.

He could only whisper it to Riana

‘What about-’ Riana understand what Nathan was trying to say and she said

‘I intend to throw you out of the house. At least one of us need to get out and find a solution’ Nathan expression turns hard

Riana knows that Nathan is angry with her so she said something that she did not know would make him even angrier.

‘And then I would face him. I would have begged him to let you live. We will think of a way. I would never leave.... our precious treasure here’

Nathan did not know what to say. The reason he was angry is because this is not what she should have to endure.

This is his past catching up to him. She.....He did not love her so that she would be.... suffering.

‘You don’t have to do that.’ Nathan said. There is determination in his eyes.

‘This is my matter’ But Riana shakes her head.

‘You don’t know him like I do’ Nathan could only scoff at that

‘Let me negotiate with him’ Nathan then grab Riana hand and put her behind him. he was shielding him

Not that she needs any shielding. After all, the target has always been him. Even Loki would not be so coldhearted that he would kill the woman he had raised, right?

He then looks Loki straight in the eye

Loki is still vey casual.

He did not seem to care whether Nathan is in the front or whether it was Riana. But at the same time he also did not make any other moves.

He seems to be thinking of something

Behind him the green thin membrane seems to distort reality, space and time all inside and outside the house.

‘You have change, Broker’ Loki said as he clicks his finger and some of the green mist spirals toward him

He guided the green mist with his finger and pointed in front of him.

The green gaseous substance swirls in that area for less than a second before a wooden chair appears.

He sat on the chair, his eyes look lazily toward Nathan

He clicks his finger again and a table appears in the space between him and Nathan. The debris around the house seems to morph into beams and pillars of the house.

Loki is conjuring and creating matters from the destroyed pieces of the house.

To create something from nothing is quite hard.

But to morph energy and matter from an already existing matter is a simple matter for Loki whose class is a Transformation Lord.

Of course, his transformation magic had also improved after all of this years.

Riana narrowed her eyes. It looks like the tricks Loki had always done when he is interrogating criminals in the Nowhere Land.

They could not run.

Riana look behind her. However, she knows something. Something that she did not share with Nathan

If she wanted to, she could run alone. She was quite confident of it. But if she wants to take Nathan and her precious treasure with her, she would not be able to.

This is the way Loki tempts her. Or maybe this is his way of ascertaining her loyalty and her traits.

She has long been beside Loki. While she did not dare to say she knows all of the peculiar trait of Loki, she does know some of them

He likes to test people before he did anything. This is the reason why his plan rarely strays from what he had predicted.

She felt that feeling. Loki is testing her.

If that was the test of loyalty or a test of honor, Riana knows she just had failed. She could escape alone. But not if she brought someone else with her.

The fact she did not escape shows that she is insisting to fight against him. Loki then understand her stance.

Maybe that is the reason why he seems to be thinking of something. Loki might look playful and nonchalant, but he is quiet cold when he already decided on something

And Riana knows this

‘Another test’ she thought to herself. But she only looks at that back door for a second before she holds Nathan hand tight.

‘Together’ she thought to herself. Then she said the same word to him

‘Nate. Together’ Nathan turns back, look at that clear eyes of this woman nodded and mustering his courage he smiles and said

‘Together’

Another chair was conjured and Loki gesture to the chair and said

‘Please’ Nathan still frowning sat down on the chair. Beside him another chair appears. He then looks at Riana.

One look is enough for Riana to understand. It was disappointment and there is even a trace of anger hidden underneath that casual expression.

Loki could only sigh.

'It seems you did not appreciate the kindness that I gave you Riana.' The moment he said that, the back door of the house changes into an exquisite door.

There is a faint fluctuation of magic from the door and Riana knows that Loki had sealed all of the exit

Riana still have a few trump cards but as long it did not reach the most critical point she would not easily show her full hand. She learned a lot from her teacher.

A trump card that is shown, is no longer a trump card. She sits down beside Nathan. Nathan then said

'I could give you the Book of Secrets' Loki only smiles but he did not say anything. Nathan then continue saying

'I know why you want to kill me. I understand what you wanted to do and what you needed to do. I live among them. Among the beast of the world, those criminal lord would not easily be convinced that you have gone to their side.'

Loki tap one of his finger on the table. He is still not saying anything. Nathan continue by saying

'I don't know how much you had planned all of this. But I never put it pass you. I know some of my old enemies would one day be able to track me. And out of all of my enemies, you were on the top of the list' Smiling bitterly, he then said

'During your time as Regent of pandemonium, there are some questionable things you have done'

Loki only raises his eyebrows as Nathan continue saying

'You might be able to hide it from the eyes of the populace, but people talk. And people in dark places talks a lot'

Loki just look at him with amusement

Nathan continued

'You were quite lenient to some of the crime family. You did not allow it in Pandemonium, of course, since that would surely raise objections from the Central Government and the Three Army. You have many enemies in the court after all. Not everybody was glad that you were to be Regent. The Military wanted Wang Jian or Athena. The Central Court wanted their faction leaders. The Keepers.... well, the Keepers like always, remain neutral. But they were a lot more that wanted to see you fail then to see you succeed'

Loki nodded.

Nathan let a few moment pass before he said

'But, I know you mobilized certain military arms of the Central government to aid a few crime lords'

'You use the operatives of the Central Government to sanction a few black ops. Black sites were created all over the world. From the wilderness of the Amazons, the Sahara Desert to the frozen tundra of Siberia, you have created so many black sites for Pandemonium clandestine operation that even some of the Centre Intelligence Agency headed by the Central Government might not know all the secret sites you have constructed.'

'Off the book trials. I know you uses it to cut a deal with some of powerful criminal family. Kidnapping some rival crime family heirs or authorize some assassination that would help a rival crime lord to prosper. A cunning man as always'

Loki only smiles at this as Nathan continue saying

'You executed any crime lords that dare to make business in Pandemonium, yet if there were only visiting you will let them go. You made deals with them and even aided some of them. One feet in the criminal world another in the glorious and powerful mortal world as the Regent of Pandemonium'

Nathan shakes his head but there is admiration in his tone

[Chapter 1028: An innovation ahead of its time](#)

Loki then said

'It seems you are not that uninformed as the world believes you to be. I already reminded the Corleone family that underestimating you is an unwise move. Yomi however were quite wary of you.'

Nathan then said

'I know some of their secrets' Loki laughs

'It must not be some small secret if Yomi is that wary'

Nathan only smiles bitterly and said

'It is not that damaging to the world. But it will create a lot of problems for their internal structure. I don't think it would have made a difference that much. But you know that the people who created Yomi is not exactly the most open minded bunch. Some secrets are better off being buried after all. They should have not been that worried. I already destroy that secret and did not pout it anywhere. No one knows that secret other than me'

Loki only smiles and then he said

'It seems you still have a lot of eyes and ears all over the world. But still, this is remarkable. It is almost like you have never left. Or is it because of the Book of Secrets?'

Nathan did not say anything about the Book of Secrets.

Loki chuckles.

'It seems you are a bit defensive. Don't be. Before I came here, I already have some fact about the Book. Of course, the facts that I have is unconfirmed. But, if it was really as some of my people told me, what you did, what you were able to do to create that Book.....it is remarkable. I even feel it is a waste to kill you'

Sighing, he then said

'What did you think I was doing during those six years? I still need to have leverage. Sasha is not some doe eyed naïve woman. Underneath that beautiful face, lies the coldness of winter'

Loki chuckles

'Yes, she is a cold hearted woman sometimes. She takes her job very seriously. It is no wonder Death Monarch trust her very much'

Then Loki looks at Riana. Riana was trying not to show any expression on her face but her body language betrays her expression

Riana was shocked.

She never knew that her teacher did any investigation regarding Nathan

Loki knows what she was thinking so he immediately said

'A conflict of interest. That is why' Riana did not seem to understand what he means so he elaborated on his words

'I hid it from you because I know the moment the mission is known to you; you would have probably told him. As you have demonstrated, love for him is higher than love for me.

'Father. I'm...'

'I will save you the trouble of lying to my face, Ana' Then Loki suddenly smiles like nothing had happened and his gaze return back to Nathan

'Dear God, look at me rambling about when you are speaking. Pardon me' he said while smiling

'Continue' He, after all still has a lot of time to kill.

After all, for his scheme to succeed, it needed to be done at the right time, in the right place.

He is already in the right place.

He is just not yet at the right time. He still has time to kill. He also wanted to know how much of his plan that Nathan had been able to foresee

Nathan continue by saying, brushing off about Loki words that he was in investigating him since six years ago

Even if he starts talking about it, it did not have any value. What is valuable right now is his continued survival.

He still wanted to live after all.

'I think since that time you were preparing for this. Unlike Death Monarch, you did not have enough clout and trust of the world if you were to strike it out of your own. Of course, Death Monarch would always protect you. But it is clear, that it is not the protection of Death Monarch you wanted'

Sighing, he then said

'I don't know the conflict between you two brothers but it is clear that he seems to want to control your movement. That is what I concluded' Loki smiles a bit listening to Nathan deduction

He was not wrong about the matter.

Loki continue listening.

'He did not want to harm you yet at the same time he tries to keep you out from a lot of matters. Pandemonium under you thrive. But if I'm right, the responsibility of guarding Pandemonium is to chain you down.'

Loki only chuckles as he gestures for Nathan to continue.

'You might have taken the blame for Death Monarch because of brotherhood. But you also want to get out of Pandemonium. You wanted to be free doing whatever you wanted to do. You always have your own scheme.'

There was a pause for a while before he said

'There is another way to get out, to amass power and influence other than being in the upper echelon of the World Powers. And that way is on the other side of the law. You were already planning to join the Crime Alliance didn't you? It was a little contrived but everything seems to fit perfectly like some kind of an ingenious plan' he said

'Compliments. That is always music to my ears' Loki said, smiling. Nathan ignore Loki comments and continue by saying

'That questionable decision you made were all to prepare for today. So, that you could enter the criminal underworld'

Loki did not deny it

'Those people might not have honor, but they do know that favors needs to be repaid. Contracts and promises is nothing but wind for criminals. But reputations are something that needs to be protected at all cost. You understand this. Which is why even though you help some of the criminals, you did not help just anyone. Just the one you knew who would have had their reputation damaged if they did not repay the favor you have given them'

'But.... that is not enough. they are criminals after all. Beast like that do not change their stripes easily. Reputation is important. But that would only last you for a few days. At most a week.'

Loki nodded

'Benefits. Benefits is one way of reeling them in' Nathan said.

'For them to really fall in line, you have to offer some benefits. That's where I come in. The Book of Secrets contain among others, the identity of all the spies in the World Powers including that of Pandemonium. Other than the name of spies, there is also information about all kinds of secret experiments, black sites, personal secrets of some powerful men and women in all of the Seven Great Powers and the Great World Powers deep and darkest secret. Secret network, secret places and secret information.'

'The Book of Secrets is the culmination of all the information that I had'

Loki nodded. There was silence between them for a moment. Nathan look at Loki expecting some kind of reaction. Sitting beside him is Riana who is holding his hand tightly.

Around them, the green mist is getting thicker. A second later, Loki said

'Yes' he admitted. Then he added

'I know a lot of people in the Crime Alliance. They have fragmented a bit after that assassination attempt toward Void but I still have a lot of connection in the criminal underworld. The fact that Void had become the figurehead leader of the Crime Alliance for that long is actually remarkable to me knowing how hard it is for those crime lords to agree on one thing'

Smiling he continued

'But, unlike the World Powers, the Crime Alliance power increase more when they are scattered instead of being united under a single banner. I know, I know. The Crime Alliance was never supposed to be a long term thing. You just wanted to threaten the world with it. Void holding the leash of the monsters and you are the dog trainer'

Nathan nodded and said

'A move born out of necessity and desperation'

'Yes, but nonetheless, that desperate move does have a threatening effect to the world. But for criminals, it is very dangerous if they were to meet at the same place all at the same time. If Death Monarch ever decided to hurl some red lightning or swing his sword to the place you are meeting, I could foresee a terrible future'

There is a pause and Loki with a smiling face then said

'Yomi, The Corleone, the Inquisitor of Darkness, new factions have risen under the umbrella of the Crime Alliance'

Smiling, Loki then said.

'I need the Book of Secrets because I simply could not move as freely as before if I did not have information. I have been the Regent of Pandemonium for the last six years so I know a lot of things. But I bet the information that I had on the world would not be as comprehensive as the one you have in your Book of Secrets. I had a guy, who knows a guy, who knows a guy and he told me how you crafted the Book of Secrets.

Nathan eyes furrowed.

'Like I said, it was very revolutionary' Loki said as his eyes seems to look deep at Nathan.

'Ah, I'll spare you the suspense. He told me you have extract the power of the Will inside your class and seal it into a book'

'The Sealing of a Will. How novel of an idea' Loki said.

And he was smiling wide. This kind of thing is not uncommon later in the future. But that is still a long time ahead.

The fact that Nathan could have think of such methods shows that his understanding toward the system given to humanity is quite high

He probably had crack the mystery of the system. The fact that each class represented a Will. The Will of an Ethernal.

Ethernal destruction paved the way for the creation of all beings for they make up many of the building blocks of creation.

Their bodies and the traces of their history might have been erased by the passing of time but their Will remains.

Those who could summon them, resonate with them will be given their abilities like the Savi'krian race that could use the Speed Source

That is why when Loki heard about how Nathan managed to create the Book of Secrets, he was pretty shocked. Because it touches upon the operation of the system windows itself

[Chapter 1029: Nathan ford \(1\)](#)

The system seals the Will of an Ethernal and bestowed it to humanity.

When those who have the system complete some quest, they actually were fulfilling hidden requirements of being bestowed the will of a particular Ethernal. This is the reason why Unique class or secret class have different prerequisite for each one, none is the same

The concept of the Book of Secrets is the same as the system. Nathan extract the Will that resides in his being from the moment he took the Unique class of Observer.

And put it in a book. The book might have been just an ordinary notebook. But when the Will is sealed inside the Book, the book then become Fate-bound with him.

Fate-Bound and Life Bound items are different. For Life Bound items, it is usually ownerless, an item sometimes created by the accumulation of the energy and the will of the world.

Like the Dragon of Krakow in Poland. While that Dragon is not an item, it could be tamed and become someone else mount.

Life bound items could be bound by some rituals like dripping some blood or injecting energy. But for Fate-Bound items it is a bit different. Most Fate-Bound item is created.

The Book of Secrets is not only a book that contain secrets. It also holds all the abilities that Nathan possess

In other words, if someone were to try to extract ability from Nathan, they would fail since his abilities and all the essence of his power was sealed inside the Book of Secrets. Giving the Book of Secrets is as the same as giving all of his abilities to Loki

Loki was not surprised because in the future, there were some people who wanted to escape Death.

Some of them even created Fate Bounds items to store some of their life energy so that if they reached a point where their life energy reach to the point of the end, they would be able to still live using their Fate-Bound item.

And there are also other uses of Fate-Bound items.

As the name suggested, it is Fated. Hence, even if the item was to be chuck out of the planet, as long as the Universe had the Laws of Fate and Destiny, it will return through the machinations of fate and destiny

Some even tries to split their souls and hide it in items.

That is Soul Bound items.

As for the Book of Secrets, the moment it was extracted and put into a book, the Book of Secrets then became like a supercomputer.

It has the processing power of a supercomputer and probably have some other shocking function

Loki did not know how but Nathan seems to find a way to observe information in a way he could not when he was having the power of Observer.

His method of power then comes from the book.

The stronger the book, the stronger he became.

And unlike him, the book did not have his restriction. His ability to gain information become even more powerful and faster.

But because his abilities are not battle-oriented, instead of him becoming stronger when the book levels up, he instead become full of knowledge.

Even though he is right now a Disk Formation leveler, this is only the level of his energy.

If he fought with a battle oriented leveler of Seed Formation level, he might even lose.

But, what he lacks in strength, he makes up with intelligence. And that sometimes is even more terrifying.

The Observer is like the Analyst. But there is a difference between them

Since the Book of Secrets is an item, and if Loki deduction is right, it is an item that could mask itself from detection and get away from the normal barriers of protection, then in the past six years, Nathan might have send his book to all the great powers and learn about the secrets of the Great powers by letting his book doing the job.

He did not even have to be there. One could only imagine the kind of information he possesses.

Even though Loki was the Regent of Pandemonium, even when he was investigating many leads about the other great powers, he doubts that he would be as efficient as Nathan Fate-Bound Item.

Nathan did not know the significance of him able to seal the Will of his class into an item. But Loki who came from the future knows

That Will is a Will of the Ethernal.

When a Fate Bound item matures and level up, they might even form their own consciousness.

Items that have consciousness always are cranky and have their own personalities. If there is one that Loki could make an example, it would be the talking mace of Raymond

That mace had a potty mouth and have a way of making other people felt angry. It lacks manner unlike his wielder.

It is not exactly a bad thing for an item to have their own consciousness. But it would be very chaotic.

Loki even felt threatened because of the Broker abilities. At the same time, Loki was thinking of all of this, Nathan also has his own thought

And his thoughts come with pressure. Loki came to his house and declare confidently that he would kill him.

there was no hesitation in his tone and there is no denying that Loki is really determined to do what he said he would do.

As such, his mind is actually working in overdrive right now. he is trying to find that sliver of light that would show him the way of survival

But other than feeling scared, angry, mixes of all this emotions, he also felt shocked when Loki talks about the Book of Secrets.

He did not think anyone would ever found out how the Book of Secrets was created. At least not in such details

The fact that Loki knows about the Book of Secrets in the first place is shocking enough. And now that he knows how that item is crafted, he felt even more worried.

It is not every day that the famous Broker knew less than the people around him. he was used to being the one knowing the most in the room.

Riana who was silent for all the conversation then said

'You could have it. Take the book. Father, you don't have to kill Nathan' Loki frowned hearing Riana called him father

He did not mind being called that.

The only one that did not spoke to him like that is Trisha. But for Riana and Greisha, they sometimes called him father when they are in private.

But now, saying father like that...Riana is pulling all the tricks she has out of the hat. She wanted to appeal to him, as the girl that he had raised.

Emotional attack.

He taught her well.

That is the thought running in Loki head. He might even be impressed if not for the fact that right now, he had his own plans that could not be violated.

At the same time, Nathan was frowning as he looks toward Riana.

The reason he was frowning is because Rina spoke his name. The one that knows his true name is Riana alone

Since he knows that someone could put a curse on you if they know your name, Nathan had always been hiding his name from the world.

It is the reason why a lot of criminal since the massacre at Socotra uses codename. By now, most people know that Witches and Warlocks could curse a person using their name.

Riana shakes her head and said

'If he knows all about your book, I bet he knows your real name too' Loki nodded.

'You still know how I operate' Loki smiles a bit and then he added while his eyes look straight toward Nathan, he began telling him what he knew about The Broker.

'Nathan Ford. A consultant for political candidates. There is not much I could get other than that. But I know you have an ex-wife, no children, a poor kid turning rich. Allegedly engaging in insider trading. A Wall Street guy before turning to become a consultant for politician'

'You helped some Democrat candidates win some election, some Republican here and there. A peddler of misinformation, right? At least that is what I gathered from my information gathering'

Then Loki chuckles a bit before saying

'I must admit; your resume was very colorful. And very hard to dig out. Most of your colleague have died, or hidden by you. But there are some that you missed. After all, you could not harden your heart entirely'

'Heh' Nathan only smiles bitterly.

'It seems you have found a lot. I should not have been so merciful. I should have eradicated every trace of me.' He could only sigh

There were some people that he had spared. He did not want to be a cold heartless man entirely and so they were some people that he did not hide and kill

Old friends from an old life.

The story that Loki is telling about him seems like another person story.

It is the life he had before the Fall. He had changed a lot since then. He was quite arrogant, stuck up person in the past.

For many people, the Fall was a great reset button. They were able to change themselves into something else.

The same opportunity landed on him

Some people might like to reminisce the good old days before the Fall. But Nathan hated it. He hated his past.

He was not the easiest guy to be around with.

[Chapter 1030: Nathan ford \(2\)](#)

Loki then ask

‘Ever helped someone get to the White House?’ Loki ask.

Nathan scoffed and said

‘People think it matters who sit in that house. It didn’t. Multinational corporation and criminals runs the world. Most of the politicians there is in some corporation pocket or have an agenda to champion. They all wears a mask in public only to reveal it in darkness’

Loki only chuckles

‘Hence, you become the information broker for the criminals of the world’

‘The criminals wanted information. There was no one providing it. At least not as organized as I have. There is a void. I just filled it. There is demand so I just supply the demand. The simplest concept of economics’

‘Ah, the old corruption hated a vacuum maxim. I understand. I did not mean to condemn you. We did what we had to do to survive. A monster has their own way of surviving right’

Nathan shook his head and said

‘I am no longer that man’

Loki only smirk at him and then he sighed. A second passes between them as there is only silence between them. Riana seems to be cut off from the conversation entirely.

And then Loki said

‘I still have to take your life’

Riana stood up from her chair and then said

‘Father, please. He could give you the Book. That is basically all of the information that you could have. There is no need to kill him’

‘It is not enough’ Loki said. While Riana did not understand, Nathan understood

‘You can’t convince them just by the book right? I wanted it to be false. But when I heard from Ana that you were coming to kill me, I could guess what you were thinking’ Nathan said.

Loki chuckles while pointing toward Nathan

‘See, he knows what I am talking about’

Riana was about to argue, but Nathan grip her hand tighter, giving her a signal to stop. Riana look at him and he just nodded.

It is a sign between them. Sighing, Nathan said in a resigned manner

‘The Book is simply one of the benefits. It is necessary but not the most important thing’

Loki close his eyes for a second and nodded before opening it again

Then he said toward Riana

‘To gain more information I need the Book of Secrets. I would use some of the information in the book and sell it, trade it with more information. It is the same method that your beloved had done’

‘One thing he could not have possibly foreseen was how Death Monarch would rise. He was too fast for others to catch up’

Then he looks back at Nathan and continue one

‘Even if you have information about him, you would always have to worry going out of your house and get struck down by red thunderbolts. Or maybe a sword will that will cut you into pieces. You made your bed the moment you become the broker of information for the criminal underworld.’

Loki smiles as he said

‘I daresay, if you were faster than Death Monarch in the past, you might even be able to suppress him. But “What If” scenario is useless to think about. Here I am, and here you are’

Then Loki look toward Riana and said

‘Trust me, Ana. This is not personal. I really could not approve you loving this man, but I know one thing. It is time to let you go and make your own decision. Whether that decision is right or wrong, it is your life. I could give you advice, give some help here and there but I could not live your life. So, this is nothing personal. It is just a necessity.’

‘Why?!’ Riana shouted.

This is the first time that Riana shouted at Loki. Loki was not surprised. instead he was quite calm about it.

He did not answer.

But it was Nathan that answer her. He was quite calm even though knowing that Loki is planning to go through with his plan killing him.

‘The Crime Alliance have always doubted the allegiance of Loki the Trickster. Yes, Loki had helped them a couple of times. He even participated in a few gathering of the criminal underworld’

‘And while he did terrible things, one could not help but realize those that suffer the trickster schemes and torture is also monsters like them.’

'Loki the Trickster did not make his hobby killing innocent. And Loki always had a place to go back home to. And that home is Pandemonium, the strongest world power that had mark the Crime Alliance as their enemy.

'They felt that you were not like them' And there is a smile on Nathan face.

Loki did not say anything as he let Nathan to continue talking.

'To the world right now, Loki had cut his relations with Pandemonium. And then he was even accused of starting the Multiversal Convergence. All in all, that already pushed him to be more accepted by the people of the Crime Alliance'

'Loki, the wanted man, number one on probably every single kill list of the World power except that of Pandemonium'

'But Death Monarch declaration of protection towards him, once again put people in the Crime Alliance wary. I might even say that Death Monarch declaration is like throwing a wrench in Loki well-oiled plan'

'They might think that Loki is a spy, someone that Death Monarch had sent so that he could destroy Crime Alliance from the inside. Even though it is very different from the way Death Monarch do things, there is still this wariness. As such, Loki need to prove himself. Only then could he truly be accepted by the Crime Alliance. like some kind of initiation before entering a gang'

Loki simply said

'I could not stop him from making such a decision. I am touched but it is true that his protection did make convincing the people of Crime Alliance a little bit harder. But where is the fun, if everything is that easy, right?'

Loki said while chuckling.

Nathan only scoffed.

It is useless trying to gauge Loki true intention or his emotions right now.

Dealing with him had made Nathan knew that even though most of the time, Loki appear nonchalant, a jokester he is very different from what he portrayed himself to the world.

This is a cunning man and you should never fall for any of his tricks. Even the expression on his face could be regarded as one of his tricks. It would not be surprising if it is.

Nathan knew that with all the suspicion on Loki right now, if Loki come to them now, he would not be able to access the upper echelon of the Crime Alliance and his movement will be limited.

Not only that, without the Book of Secrets, there is not many things he could influence in the world

They would always be cautious of him.

Because Loki is not one of them.

The World Powers will also be hunting him not to mention the plethora of powerful individuals that lost their family during the Multiversal Convergence.

Their anger now has a target.

Nathan knew that the one responsible for this is not Loki. But the same fact is not known to the people of the world.

Nathan also understood the reason why many powerful people in the world would want to cover up the fact that Death Monarch is the cause of the Multiversal Convergence

But if the real culprit of the matter were to be revealed, then the World power whether they wanted to or not, they have to show support to their people and fight against Death Monarch

Even the great powers still have to listen to their citizens. But what that would mean is a war. A war between the great world powers and Pandemonium.

And Nathan is not quite sure who would be the winner in than kind of rumble. One thing he does know is that whoever emerges from it, would not be as strong as it is before.

A war with Pandemonium, a war with Death Monarch is not something that would strengthen Earth.

With barbaric alien race from the stars, demonic kings from some other dimension, Otherworlders from parallel worlds, Earth needed a champion.

A protector and a guardian.

No matter whether Pandemonium wins or the great powers win, the loser would still be Earth.

So, he understood why the great powers covers up the matter. But he did not know why Loki would sacrifice himself in the process.

Maybe other people believe that the only thing driving Loki to sacrifice his reputation and even risk his life is simply because of brotherhood.

But knowing Loki, that must not be the only thing.

Knowing him, this is another long con.

And after knowing he wanted the Book of Secrets, Nathan knew that while to others, to be branded as the one who causes the Multiversal Convergence is a calamity for a lot of people, for Loki it is the badge of acknowledgment as one of the Big Bad of the world.

That would earn him a seat in the Crime Alliance. But the problem remains.

Even if he now has a notorious reputation, the Crime Alliance still did not trust him. It is ironic but those in the criminal world also have trust

But the kind of trust criminals wanted is different.

They need to trust that Loki was like them. A criminal to the bones