

## Shadow 1031

### [Chapter 1031: The basement](#)

As there are all kinds of heroes, there is also all kinds of criminal.

There are criminals who have their own codes and they are also criminals which is the run of the mill psychopathic cruel criminals.

But one thing that unite them all is their sins.

Loki lack that.

Hence, the Multiversal Convergence, the cause of probably tens of thousands of people dead, that is quite a sin.

A bloody reputation is created. If fame makes a hero, then infamy created a villain.

The sins provided him an in to the inner circle of the Crime Alliance.

It is lucky that the Multiversal Convergence was happening at the same time as the world began to expand.

The expansion of the world causes the population to not be concentrated at one place and there is the fact that Death Monarch had quickly repels the Otherworlders invaders with his magical means.

If not the casualty would be even higher. Loki wanted to infiltrate the Crime Alliance for some reason.

That is what he concluded from the information that he currently has.

Smiling, he said toward Loki

'You might pretend to be like us, like those monsters, but no, you are not. Other people might not see it but I know you are hero material. There is kindness in your lies. And in your anger, there is justice. Tricks that is harmless.'

Pausing, he then said

'You are not one of us. You are too bright. Just like a true hero. Sacrificing himself in the background while the whole world mocks you'

Loki scoffed.

'Don't curse me with the title hero. I don't dare to be burdened by such title'

Nathan only laughed.

Even though Riana had already stand up from her chair and seem ready to fight, Nathan is still on his chair and his hand is still grasping Riana hand

He did not tremble or cower in fear.

At this last moment of his life, he seems to have been able to muster his courage. He wanted to protect Riana, and protect his most precious treasure.

And because of that, he had courage he never knew he had.

And so, he accepted it.

Nathan continues by saying toward Riana who now seem eager to fight.

'If he kills me and then said that he has the Book of Secrets, not only my death would convince the Crime Alliance, it would also serve as an offering toward the Crime Alliance. I think when I die, you would tell the upper echelon that I was working with the enemy right?'

Loki nodded.

'Haish. I hate to be right.'

'But that would be hard to prove' Riana said.

Nathan shakes his head and said

'I have been helping the Shadow Guards and the Department of Secrecy in many matters involving the intelligence of the other world powers'

'I did not give them all of my information because then I would have no leverage. But if he wanted to prove to the Crime Alliance that I betrayed them, it would not be hard. I even help some of the development of the technology department of the Three Army by using the stolen technology from the other world powers'

'There is too many traces after all. It is not hard to uncover it if you know where to look. The reason why nobody ever found my involvement with many forces of the world is simply because they were looking at the wrong place. But once you know where to look....it would be very easy. Usually I would never let people know since the beginning. That is the most safest way. To pluck it from the roots. But, I no longer have the same resources I have in the past'

Smiling bitterly, he looks at Loki and shakes his head

'You really think of everything didn't you?' Loki only smiles. There was a silence between them for a few seconds.

Riana heartbeat seems to quicken. It felt like a battle is about to commence. Nathan grips her hand tighter.

Then the silence is broken as he said

'But you would not make it public. Because that world hurt Sasha. Everyone knows that Death Monarch hated me. I did not do the terrible things that the other crime lords had done. But it is true that I have facilitate them'

'No one could know how Death Monarch would respond if he knew that his blade, the leader of his Shadow Guard is actually cooperating with one of his enemies'

'You were worried that if you tell the public about this, then Death Monarch would punish Sasha. See, you are not that heartless like those crime families. '

Loki nodded, acknowledging it. Nathan continued by saying

‘If the upper echelon knew that I was not actually hiding but instead was helping the Shadow guards pinning them down, they would feel that you have proven yourself’

‘And the most compelling reason is probably because if I am not here, if I am no longer alive, no one else would have the control to the Book of Secrets. And no one else could create another book of Secrets’

‘The criminal underworld then has to accept you even if they hated you. Because you are the only one who could control the Book. And so does the secrets contain in it. Who knows how long you have been planning to take over my position. I commend your commitment’

Loki nodded and then sigh

‘That’s the thing about the Book of Secrets. You have created something very dangerous. Secrets that you know are very dangerous. And secrets that are in that Book could shake this world to its core. Don’t worry. Like you I would not tell how I get their secrets’

Nathan smiles as he slowly stands up from his seat

Loki could see that Nathan was determined now. he had a resigned expression. Loki almost wanted to laugh

But he endures it and then he said

‘I am sorry that it had to be this way’

BOOOM!

The moment he said that a burst of green energy exploded out from him.

‘I am coming’ he said like he is announcing his arrival.

The mist around the house and inside the house suddenly thickens. A powerful fluctuation of energy exploded from the thick green mist that covers the entire area of the forest.

The green thick circular rings around the forest suddenly exploded into fine mist that then surged toward the house.

The sky above the house were parted apart.

The birds and monsters around the radius of fifty kilometers all felt that powerful fluctuations of energy and quickly made themselves scarce.

Like a beacon such a surge of power could not be hidden from people close to that area. If this was in the past such surge of energy would fill half of Pandemonium.

On the sky, tens of thousands kilometers away from them, is Sasha. She was floating in the air, the clouds around her flowing slowly.

She was closing her eyes.

Her ears are open trying to hear anything that is out of the norm. All kinds of noises enter her ears but none of that of the target she wanted to hear.

Her Divine Sense is also trying to detect those in the ground but the thick energy of the world had made her unable to detect anything clearly

The reason why she stopped is because one of the operatives that is still in the Department of Secrecy had managed to make a 3D model of the terrains of Pandemonium before the expansion of the world and enlarge that 3D models and triangulate the longitude and latitude of the safe house.

It is supposed to be around this area. But there is always a margin of error. But then a powerful energy pulses around the area

All she could felt was the weak ripple of that energy but she opened her eyes.

She focuses and she could see tens of thousands of kilometers away from her position, the sight of clouds parting

The fluctuation of energy is also very powerful that it could reach her, tens of thousands of kilometers away

But that is not the only thing. The aura that comes from the energy is an aura she is very familiar with  
Her face tightened and her eyes widened as she realizes why the aura felt so familiar.

‘Loki!’ she thought to herself.

‘Shit’ she curses.

She thought she would be the first to arrive in the safe house. It is clear that Loki had arrived there first

‘That location’ Sasha thought to herself.

Margin of error was to be expected. That was the operative told her. But she did not think that the margin of error would be tens of thousands of kilometers away from the supposed location

‘I hope he is still alive’ she thought to herself

She no longer hesitates as she kicks the air and fly with her fasts speed toward that forest, hoping that she was not too late.

A sonic boom echoes in the air

#### [Chapter 1032: Precious treasure](#)

In the skies of Pandemonium, someone is approaching toward the forest with the speed of lightning.

The sky trembles and the wind roars.

At the same time, in that safe house, Riana no longer hesitates.

‘Father’ she shouted and then she made the first move. Power bursted out from her as a shockwave exploded all around her.

Flames comes out from her eyes and her entire being is burning with life force. She burns her life force to increase her energy.

Air pulsates around her like she is some kind of tornado. The green mist that is about to wash over her was forced to split apart by that potent life force.

She is resisting.

The table and the chair around them were instantly vaporized into atom particles.

All the other furniture on the first floor and the second floor also exploded as the force coming out from Loki body sweeps the entire house.

But Riana had managed to resist it and she also extend the same repelling force to Nathan. If not both of them would be flung backward by now.

In the basement, is the precious treasure that belongs to both Nathan and Riana.

It is also the most protected place in the entire house. Loki immediately frowned. Now he understood why he could not seal the entire house completely.

As he was thinking this, Riana shot a punch towards him.

The punch is heading straight toward his face. But Loki seems to not care as his eyes seem to see through the ground and look at the basement.

He saw runes in the basement walls. There is a force attacking his mind the moment he tries to see at the basement

But that force was instantly broken the moment it tries to attack his mind. Loki specialties lies in his deep knowledge of the study of runes.

He daresay that on the Earth right now, there is no one more adept in the study of runes than him. hence, to him it is easy for him to break that force from entering his mind

But for anyone other than Loki, that rune would have made the person confounded and confused.

He also saw that the runes were quite exquisite and unique.

Runes combination and array formation ranging from protection formation to Confounding and Diffusing Array formation were carved onto the walls and even on the tiles of the floor.

There is even an Anti-Divine Sense devices and Psionic Coating over the crystal like door in the basement.

Loki was surprised that Riana was able to create such a place that even he did not notice until right now.

The moment he was thinking of this, the punch finally hit Loki face.

But the moment that the punch hit his face, Riana face immediately frowned.

Because the moment that the punch hit Loki face, she felt like she was punching air.

And she was right.

Loki face morph the moment that punch connected as it exploded into a mist of green.

It fuses with the already thick green mist that covers the area around them as Loki appears behind Nathan.

Nathan did not want to drag Riana with him but that did not mean when he is face to face with his own mortality that he would not flinch.

He flinched.

And by flinching, it means he wanted to escape from Loki.

He wanted to buy time for Riana. After all, he was the target and not her

His foot kicks the ground and he glided forward. Loki. Loki only smiles as he makes a spiral motion with his hand.

A powerful force gathers around his hands. The air cracks and the ground seems to be pushed downward by some gravity force.

The entire house appears like it is going to collapse. The roof gave out and turns to dust the moment it falls down.

The pillars all cracked and the tiles dissipated into atom particles.

But Loki controls it so it did not destroy the entire house. He seems to have some other reason to make sure that the house did not get destroyed.

the green mist seems to take the place of the walls and the pillars and so it was reconstructed with the green mist as the foundation.

In that moment, not only did Loki reconstructed the house with the green mist, he is also trying to capture Nathan.

When he makes that spiral motion with his hand, a powerful pulling force also appears from his hand. And the target of this pulling force is none other than Nathan

Nathan eyes widened as he could feel his body is pulled backwards.

He tries to mobilize his energy but the pulling force was so strong that he felt like his bones will be dislocated if he tries to run forward.

Riana was still on the other side of the room. She had just punched Loki incarnation before realizing that Loki was trying to capture Nathan

'No!' Riana said as she uses her super speed to appear almost in an instant in front of Loki. She quickly throws a punch at that instant

This time Loki did not turn into a green mist.

Instead, he deflects the punch and then capture her wrist.

'What were you hiding in the basement, Ana?' Loki said. The moment he said this, Nathan who had almost wanted to give up and accept his fate suddenly burst out with energy.

He might not have that powerful attack power. But what is under the basement is not something that Loki should touch. He would not allow it.

Riana on the other hand was pale in the face. Loki still did not use any killing methods toward Riana.

He did not like taking unnecessary life.

The target had always been Nathan.

Not this woman that he had raised since she was young.

At time he might sound cold but the fact that Loki did not immediately blast Riana into pieces with his power shows how much he cares about her

Loki then flung her away.

BOOM1

A powerful shockwave fills the area as she was flung to the other end of the living room. Loki did not use his full power

If he did she would not be simply flung to the end of the corner of the living room. And the green mist seems to cushion her crash

Riana immediately wanted to get up but the green mist suddenly morphs into the shape of a rope.

It then flew with the speed of lightning toward Riana and bind her to the wall. Loki narrowed his eyes as he looks toward Nathan

'Now, it's your turn'

At the same time this was happening in the safe house, his ravens a few thousands of kilometers away look toward the sky and saw something flying in the sky.

The ravens then flew away from the branches. But before it could run far away a sword will descend upon these ravens and split all of them apart.

Loki who was in the house, clicked his tongue.

'She is near' he muttered to himself. The scene that the ravens saw was also transmitted to him.

The ravens are like his surveillance camera. And now they have fulfilled their task. He knew that the time is near.

He is now at the right place at the right time.

He clicks his fingers and his body exploded into a mist of green. Riana had managed to release herself from the rope that binds her with a powerful burning of life force

And Nathan no longer felt that pulling sensation. Loki had disappeared from the living room. He seems to have suddenly left them alone.

But they both did not feel at ease. Instead both Nathan and Riana look at each other and with one look they both understand each other

The basement, they thought at the same time. Nathan runs toward the basement with his own super speed and the same for Riana.

As they were running toward the basement, Loki was already there.

The formations and the arrays were broken almost immediately the moment it touches even one part of Loki body.

Like a sharp knife tearing over paper.

He appears in front of that crystal door. And his eyes narrowed. Inside that eyes of his, permutation of all kinds of runes formation seems to flash by inside his eyes.

His eyes seem to analyzing the runes on the door.

He smiles as the runes on the door glows menacingly. But Loki did not seem to care as slam his palm upon the door.

In his palm, a runic formation materialized floating in front of his palm.

His palm strikes the door. In that split second, that runic formation on his hand slam the door, it seems to solve all the arrays of the door.

So, in that split second the runes on the door was neutralized and the only thing that remains was the powerful force of his energy slamming down on a normal crystal door after being stripped of its array protection.

The crystal door cracks in a thousand direction and then it exploded downwards.

‘Hmm. It seems they put a lot of thought in this’

The door after being destroyed did not burst into fragments but instead it was a programmed reaction after being destroyed.

‘They were protecting something’ he thought to himself.

‘What treasure is here that they need to protects it this much?’

#### [Chapter 1033: A girl that wanted a family](#)

Loki did not know what they were protecting but it must be something fragile for them to program the door to be destroyed in the way that it did.

The dust settles.

there is a long straight narrow path leading toward a wide rotunda hall. Loki close his eyes as he turns into green mist again and then then appears inside that round hall.

And then when he opens his eyes, he was shocked.



'Hah' he exclaims to himself. There is a trace of regret and sadness in his voice. It was almost like his voice is trembling.

Now he understands why, they were both eager to run.

Why Nathan could give up his life so willingly and why Riana was so insistent in wanting to resist him

He was suddenly reminded of the past where he had brought Riana to Greece and he sighed.

'No wonder' he said to himself as he looks at the precious treasure that Riana and Nathan had hidden.

As Loki saw the treasure, Nathan and Riana appears in the room. The dust rises up because of their speed.

They then look in shock as they saw Loki is already there. Bad premonition is rarely wrong.

They were too late. Loki had seen it. There is only silence in that large round hall.

They both did not dare to move. Riana gulped. She seems to fear the reaction of Loki. There is even a bit of hope.

Loki had noticed that the two of them had appeared. He sighed long and hard. The silence felt like an eternity

And then Loki suddenly said

'You did not tell me about this, Ana.' He said it without turning his face toward her. All Riana could see was his back.

And then tears falls down from her eyes.

'Father...I...did not know how you would respond'

Loki close his eyes and sighed. He then turns his back and face both of them

He shakes his head and said

'You have a daughter' On a huge stone altar is a baby girl wrapped with a red blanket.

The red blanket itself has protection arrays. No normal weapons could hurt the baby girl unless they are at least Seed Forming leveler.

One could say such protection is very luxurious. The stone altar seems to have four slots on the corner of the four direction of the stone altar.

The formations and the runes all suggested that this stone altar is like some kind of teleportation formation.

One glance and Loki could tell that the destination of this teleportation array would not be on this Earth.

This kind of teleportation would break space and time and breaks barriers between worlds. It means Riana and Nathan was always prepared to send their baby into the Multiverse.

Probably a weak world where this baby would be like a deity where nothing could hurt her. Loki knows that there is such world out there in the Multiverse.

After all, even though she did not yet level up, the second generations of humans after the Fall is built differently than the first one.

The second generation inherits their parent abilities. Like some kind of metahumans. Some of them did not even have the status window

That is an abnormality but also something that would be common in the future. They might have tried to send this baby away in the case of emergency.

It is not surprising considering the background of this baby. Her mother is the subordinate of the Trickster. Her father is the Broker of information for the criminal underworld.

Both of her parents have a long list of enemies.

But the Multiversal Convergence storms had caused them unable to send their baby away. And there is also the fact that Will the Golden Speedsters and the Orvianians had tightly closed any tear between realities and dimensions

If Riana was determined to do it, she had to tear a channel between this world and the destination world for her daughter.

But Loki bets the Orvianians would be alerted if anyone tries to open a channel to another world this recent after Earth Prime just narrowly being able to close the Multiversal Convergence with the least possible damage

Loki had expected a precious treasure hidden in the basement. He did not think he would find something even more precious than gold and powerful weapons.

A baby. A life

There is nothing more precious for a father and a mother than a child of their own. It is no wonder that they could not leave.

It is no wonder that Riana would disobey him this adamantly. There is no winning a mother's love.

Loki had seen some terrible mothers in his journey. There are mothers who would sacrifice their child. There are mothers that would abandon their child.

And some even torture their own children. But not Riana. Not her. She could never leave her child.

Because she felt what it was like to grow up without a father and a mother. She was raised by him.

She understood.... the meaning of what it means to be family. It is not blood. It was never about blood.

A family is those who were beside you, who were there to help you and guide you. In the end, blood is only one of the factors that made a family, family.

Loki now understood why. That is why he sighed.

Suddenly, the tense atmosphere seems to be alleviated.

Loki come closer to the baby.

Nathan was worried and he was about to attack Loki but Riana step in front of him and hold him at bay

She looks at Nathan and said

‘My father would not hurt her’

Loki did not seem to care about Nathan attempt to attack him as he come closer to the baby. He looks at her and he smiles.

‘Did you two get married?’

Riana look at the back of the man she regarded as her father and it seems to look like such a lonely back.

She replies to him

‘I did’

‘Is it in Greece?’

Hearing this, there is a faint smile on Riana face

‘Yes’

‘Is it Crete?’

She nodded and reply with another yes. Loki laughs a bit. There is joy in his laugh.

‘You told me once that if you were to get married, you will get married in Crete.

I remember, she said.

Loki hold the child under his arm as he remembers a story from a few years back. The baby moves a bit but she did not wake up from her sleep.

Nathan was worried but Riana was not. Loki on the other hand was remembering old memories as he holds that baby on his arm

At the time, Loki took them to a vacation in Crete. Of course there is monsters all around that area and he also have some objective going there.

The Seven Warlords of Greece was all over Greece solidifying their holds over the large cities. And Loki had something to do there.

He also wanted to check up on the Oracle at that time. Fortunately, at that time, The Oracle did not yet get the full memories of the Oracle from that other timeline.

He was also trying to see if the Magician of Aleppo would come to Greece. There is something that he needed in Greece.

But like the matter with Oracle, Loki came to early.

But even without all of these, there is still a few drug cartels to dismantle, assassin to interrogate, kicking ass and taking names and all that stuff but after solving that, he brought them playing in the beachside villages of Crete.

There are not many people in the villages around the beachside other than powerful levelers because of sea monsters but for people like Loki and Riana and her sister, sea monster do not scare them

Loki chuckles and he said to Riana

‘Pink sand beaches of Elafonissi and the Great Gorge of Samaria in the rugged White Mountains to the adorable hill top chapels. I still remember it like it was yesterday. The beach was a little deserted and the chapel was broken in many places but it is still a great place to have a wedding’

Riana then said

‘the beaches are as pretty as it was before. The Great Gorge of Samaria is a breeding ground for monsters and there is a dungeon beneath it but if you do not disturb them, they would not come out from there. And the chapels were reconstructed when I went there again’

Loki chuckles.

Then he asks Nathan

‘Did you know, Nathan? Out of all the three sisters, she was the most romantic one. A girl that wanted a family of her own’

‘heh’

He chuckles

‘Greisha is a dreamer. Trisha is a realist...at least most of the time. except for the matters of her heart, she is a realist and she could always make the most rational decisions. As for Riana, she always found some romance in everything. No wonder, she ends up with you. You have many problems. And she wanted to fix it’

#### [Chapter 1034: Nathalie](#)

‘That’s the thing about her. She always wanted to fix things. I believe this has something to do with her trauma in her earlier years. And even she knows this about herself. But even if she knows about it, she could not stop it’

Loki stopped talking for a second as the baby moves.

He fears that he would wake the baby. After seeing the baby went back to sleep like nothing is wrong, he continues speaking.

‘And against all odds, she managed to fix it. Maybe, there is a chance of true love between you two after all’

Then he sighed. And there is another silence.

Only the sound of the wind from the outside could be heard. Then Loki said

'You should have invited me for the wedding'

Heian this Riana was shocked and she said, her voice was trembling

'I thought you did not approve. I fear you would be disappointed in me. I fear.... that you would cast me out'

'Heh' hearing this Loki chuckles.

'No father could win against his daughter' he said and hearing this, Riana close her mouth as she forced herself not to cry.

'You should have invited me nonetheless. I might not have approved it, but still, you should have your family around you in your happiest day. Our family might be an unconventional one, but still we are your family.'

'And now, you even have a daughter. I am sad.....that you did not think that you could not come to me with this matter.

'I was afraid.... afraid that you would....'

Loki shakes his head as he looks at the baby sleeping soundly. He swings the baby slowly left and right

'What a beautiful child' he said. Loki could not help but feel happy seeing the baby.

'What is her name?' Loki ask

'Nathalie' And Loki finally turns his face to look at Riana. He smiles before he chuckles and then he laughs.

'You still could not forget her? Nathalie. That is the name of the nun that save you, right?'

She nodded.

There was silence again. Loki shakes his head. In his mind right now, he could that his ravens are being slaughtered right now.

Sasha is coming and she is coming fast to this location. She did not mind killing anything in her way.

This is also an effective way of cutting his vision. It is actually hard to distinguish between his ravens and normal ravens

But it would be easy if she just killed every ravens that she saw. He smiles thinking of how determined Sasha is in getting him

Loki could no longer hesitates. The discovery of the child shocked him but it did not change his decision. After all, it is already meticulously planned

He could not change the plan midway. It would affect all of his other plans if he did that.

But he does have to make some modification to the plan since the baby is an unexpected surprise.

He sighed and the moment he did that a powerful pressure fills the entire house. By now, the green mist could no longer be seen in the forest.

Instead it swirls around the house like a smog. It is hard to see what is happening around the area of the house.

In the house, this changes could not be hidden from Riana and Nathan.

The green mist from the living room had also come down toward the basement. In that process of them talking the green mist had already fills the area of the basement

Loki then click his fingers and all three of them was transported back in the living room.

Even Riana and n Nathan was pull in by that teleportation force as they appear with Loki in the living room at the same position they were before, like they never have left.

Only the difference this time is that Loki now have a baby under his arm.

'Sasha is coming'

Riana was not surprised that her father would notice Sasha. Even though she did not say anything about Sasha, it is just so Loki to know all the enemies trump card.

Loki as an ally is a reliable. But as an enemy, he is very fearsome.

He looks at Nathan and Riana and he said

'I'll make sure that she would be brought up well. Come here. To me.' Nathan seems to know that Loki had made his decision.

He would protect the child and Riana. But not him. Riana look at Nathan beside her and there seems to be reluctance.

But Nathan only smiles.

He shakes his head and said

'You don't need to be that stubborn for me. This is good enough for me. Nathalie need at least one of his parents alive. She would need her mother'

'No' she said as she grips his hand tighter. Nathan close his eyes. There is no anger. Only resignation to his fate

He had made his bed a long time ago. He just never had thought that he could at least experience what it was like to be.... kind and good.

With Riana he is all of this. But the past would always catch up to him.

In a world where Karma is real, and there is punishment for good and evil, where justice could win, where Laws of the World itself would find a way to manipulate fate and destiny to bring judgment, this is the best kind of ending he could hope for

He only hopes that his daughter would take toward her mother and not him. What an unfortunate thing if she were to take after him.

He had a lot of things to regret in his life. But there are also good things. After all, it could not all be bad.

He opens his eyes and then he hugged her. Loki only look at him, seemingly not caring. Nathan look toward Loki and Loki just nodded.

Like he could understand what Nathan is going to do.

Nathan lean on Riana left ears and said

'Thank you. Sorry. I love you' Then Nathan move his hand. He was about to incapacitate Riana.

Time suddenly seems to slow down for Riana

Riana is always stronger than him.

The moment that Nathan make his move, Riana could feel the body of his husband jerk. She knew that Nathan wanted to incapacitate her, to render her unconscious and deliver her to Loki, deliver her to safety.

If she wanted to, she could push Nathan right now and deflect that attack. She could do that

But that.....that action is an emotional reaction. She might be the most romantic among all the three sisters but she is.... still Loki daughter.

She was trained to be rational. Her heart wanted to stake it all and fight against her father with Nathan.

But her mind is telling her, this is the best way.

No, more accurately this is the only way for her right now. if she was alone, if she did not have Nathalie, she would not hesitate.

But she had a child. That child is her weakness. It is her strength. Her hopes and dreams.

And Loki knows that. If there is a way to make sure that only one person dies today, Loki taking over Nathalie is that perfect way

Loki had been in control since the beginning. She did not know how she supposed to fight against Loki at this point and win

And she had felt that the rune in the house and the surrounding area was covered by the green mist

There is many discipline of magic in the world. As for her, she made a sealing formation with the runes

And one of the rules of sealing magic using runes is that in a given space only those who inscribe the runes could use their magic.

But magic is always subject to circumstances.

And runes have its own rules. It has its pulling force, and opposing forces. They are runes that constrained each other, repel each other, attract each other, and overcoming each other.

And Loki had always been her teacher. He knows more than her about magic. And he certainly knows more runes than her

This act of filling the house with green mist is a familiar trick of the Trickster.

The green mist has certain properties of Concept and Laws of the World. What the Concepts and laws contained it, only could be known by the caster.

Riana had fought many people, witches, warlocks, and all kinds of people who uses magic in her many missions.

Whether it was one of the orderly discipline of magic, or those that uses rituals magic that summons an otherworldly force, channeling it from the Great Void, she had never seen someone more knowledgeable in magic other than her father

All she knows, all of her powers come from him. How could she then able to stop the descent of her own father?

It is then the easiest thing for Loki to break all the enchantments and the array formation in the house. If its anybody else, their secrets might not have been revealed.

But because it is Loki, everything seems to became meaningless

She had no power in this place to go against her father. The choice then become simple. Either she fought her father and lose or let Nathan go and have a chance for her daughter

It is a tragic decision. But it is the only decision she could take right now. She could only curse at her own powerlessness.

#### [Chapter 1035: The grain palace](#)

Her thought then speeds up and everything seems to slow down even more. She could see that her husband is using a chopping motion toward her neck slowly.

Like a very slowed down video

There is a force swirling around his hand. It is not enough to kill but strong enough to make someone unconscious.

If she wanted to evade, now is the time. Her heart says fight. Her mind said to let it go. In that moment, she looks toward Nathalie under Loki arm.

Loki seems to notice as he looks toward her. And he smiles.

Even in this situation where everything seems to slow down, that her thought process become so fast that synapses is shooting off in her brain nerve, Loki seems to be able to sync his consciousness with her, matching up with the speed of her thought

It is akin like moving in super speed where everything seems to slow down only it is different in that only the perception of time was slowed down.

But even that did not escape Loki eyes. She made her decision right at that moment. She did not show any signs that she would deflect that attack coming towards her

Tears of sadness falls form her eyes and then she let go.

Time seems to move again for her and just right before that hand reach her neck, she whispers to him



'Sorry. I love you' And then the strike connected.

A shockwave exploded and disperse some of the green mist around Nathan and Riana. Riana was about to fall down but Nathan grab her and hugged her unconscious body.

Nathan eyes is moist with water. He hugged her and he almost didn't want to let go. Loki then sighed

'You made the right choice.'

Nathan did not answer. Instead he said

'It did not feel like it'

Loki smiles bitterly.

'She is still one of my people after all. At the end, she chose to be a mother. I know she would never make this choice if not for the baby in my arms' Pausing for a second, he then added

'She did not like abandoning people. Because she was abandoned herself'

Nathan did not say anything as the moment keep on moving. A second felt like a year. And he wished that time would stretch out for infinity as he hugged her tightly.

He closes his eyes, fearing that his tears would fall down. Sadness comes in many forms. Nathan had suffered a lot in the course of his life

And he had made people suffers before. A life of a sinner

It is not like this is the first time he felt sadness. But nothing trumps this sorrow he is feeling right now

A sorrow where even if he screams and sobs and unleash all the tears in his eyes, it could not be stopped.

Bottling up like some kind of poisons that coursing through his vein. A sadness that have no name.

He had felt what it felt like to fall in love. To live a normal life. A happy life. A life without no waves. Only calmness and peace.

He felt the joy of being a father. Felt the joy of being a husband. Of someone who have been loved and of loving someone.

And right now, at this moment, when death was so close that all of this happy memories flashed inside his mind and his sorrow multiplied by a hundred fold. Knowing that he has to leave it all behind

But then, thinking that his daughter would be safe, then that sorrows, the regrets and the fears all dissipated. The tears fall, but the sadness is no longer.

He then looks at Loki and said with a cold voice.

'keep your promise' Loki nodded

'I'll take care of her'

Nathan then carries Riana on his arms. One arm under her legs and the other supporting her back and he carried her toward Loki

And then he laid her down on the ground near Loki.

Loki click his fingers and a bed made of green mist appears from underneath her and it floats before flying slowly behind Loki

Nathan takes a deep breath. It is not every day that one knows exactly when they are going to die. It takes courage to face death, to accept death the way he is right now

The Nathan in the past would never be this brave. But, he now has Nathalie. That child not once she was disturbed. She sleeps very peacefully. He then walks toward Loki

'Let me see her' Loki nodded as he let him close. Nathan did not plan any sneak attack. He did not plan a last minute escape attempt. He just looks at her baby daughter and he smiles

He did not leave any last words. Only a smile on his face and a few tears coming down from his eyes.

Then he leans down and kiss the baby forehead. Then he walks away from Loki. He fears that if he flinched, if he suddenly attacks, the attack would also harm his precious treasure.

Loki smiles and then he brought out something from his sleeve. His jackets flutter a bit as the wind seems to waves violently outside the house.

But even so, it was not able to move the house. The green mist seems to protect the house. Loki smiles as he looks at toward the distance.

In his eyes, he could see that Sasha had been sending attack toward the barriers he had set forth a few hundred kilometers away from this house

She is now tangling with the barrier. It would not be long now before she arrives here. But Loki did not seem panicked

To him, she came just right on time.

Loki then look back at Nathan and shakes his head

'What?' Nathan asked

'Maybe.... just maybe, I judged you too early. You have learned self-sacrifice. You have learned what it is like to be kind. And you have learned to love. I would have never believed it if I didn't not see it with my own eyes. That you were capable of such thing'

Nathan did not have the energy to keep playing this game. He would rather die quickly. Now that he had made his decision, his eyes return to that coldness in the past.

The eye of the predator is back. When he is like this he is quite stoic. After all, just like politician, criminals also wear mask.

And this is the mask he wears. The mask of a cold man.

He simply said

'So, how do you want to do this?' Loki smiles mischievously. And then bringing out something from his sleeve, he showed him something.

Nathan had to squint his eyes to look at what Loki was showing him. There on top of Loki palm there is a grain.

Nathan then understood. He knows that grain. He had never seen it but he heard stories about it. The Grain Palace.

It is said that in the early days of the rise of Loki, he had used the Grain Palace many times to bring his forces undetected.

Other than the people who have been inside the Grain Palace no one knows what is inside the Grain palace.

But some people said that the reason why the grain is called the Grain Palace is because if one enters the small grain, there is a space inside it as large as a heavenly palace.

In other words, the Grain palace is an artifact that manipulate space and maybe even time.

Since Nathan had never had any information about the abilities of the Grain Palace he did not know much about its capabilities.

However, he does know that the Grain Palace is undetectable not only because of its size, it is also hard to trace its fluctuation of energy

But last he heard the Grain Palace belongs to Budiman, the Head Researcher of the Research Department of Pandemonium.

Budiman himself is always travelling the world. Last he heard he already got married to some Japanese woman he met on his journey.

But he still headed the Research Department. After all, he could still communicate with Pandemonium even when he is far away.

He has his own communication method and channels.

It might be inefficient for the Head Researcher to do his job when he is on the other side of the world enjoying life, but the truth of the reason why he was give the position is because Budiman had been recognized by Death Monarch

And what Death Monarch recognize about him is that he was loyal to him. he was capable and he is loyal.

What more could Death Monarch ask for?

while Budiman rarely research the more intricate technologies, neither did he pioneer new technologies or discoveries, he had built a few dozen Battlestar Destroyer class spaceship for Pandemonium

The Head Researcher title was a title of honor and of certain power in the Research Department

Nathan knew that the Research Department is very vast in its size of people working there and the researchers there

It might be only rivalled by the Order of Thinkers researchers

#### [Chapter 1036: The signal](#)

However, Nathan did not have the chance to uncover all of its secrets because Sasha had warned him not to dig too deep toward the Research Department

And he stopped because he knew that there are some secrets, that once you knew, there is no going back

As for the title of the Head Researcher, there were other researchers that research other technologies and their research is sometimes outstripped Budiman importance.

But Budiman is still considered a bigshot in the Research Department because of his close relations with many of the inner circle of Pandemonium.

The Head Researcher of the Research Department is like a supervisor. Budiman was also given the most freedom.

And what most people didn't know was that Budiman is not the only Head Researcher.

There are others. It was like the Professor title for the Research Department. And unlike the other professors, Budiman was given the freedom none of them have.

As long as he checks in every few years, building a few Battlestar for Pandemonium, he is free to go wherever he wants.

The Grain Palace has always been under Budiman possession.

And since he had been roaming the world, while Budiman did meet a few prominent figures in the world in his journey, from what Nathan remembers, there was no such information that Loki had met Budiman.

But if they did.... what did Loki offer to Budiman to give the Grain Palace to him?

Nathan was puzzled.

Loki look at the puzzled face of Nathan and he immediately knew what he thinks about

'It's not what you think' he said.

Nathan frowned and said

'And what do you think I am thinking about?'

Loki smirks and said

'I know you think that I got Budiman in my pocket. That I bribe him to get the Grain Palace.'

'You didn't?'

'No'

'Then, how it is now in your hands?'

Loki chuckles a bit and said

'I ask for it' When Loki answers like that, Nathan was speechless for a few seconds and then he said

'That easy?' Loki laughs a bit. He did not seem to care that Sasha is coming closer to this house. And he did not seem to be worried of anything.

Everything seems to be moving according to plan.

Though, he had to make a few adjustments with the sudden appearance of the child, this amount of changes is acceptable.

Loki answers Nathan question

'The Grain Palace belong to me in the first place. I have never relinquished my right to it. I got it from a giant Lamia in Greece. It was mine. I guess you didn't know that. Well, that is understandable. When I was doing all that, I doubt you have as extensive of a network of secrets like you do now. And, well, you didn't have the Book of Secrets back then'

Nathan then understood.

While he knows of the Grain Palace he did not know its backstory.

People close to Death Monarch or those who had been seeing him in the early days of the Fall, they rarely talk a lot about what happens in those early days

It was like they were protecting a secret. The funny thing was, that Death Monarch himself had never issued a gag order about his origins and his past

It is just something natural. Those who know him in his earlier days, is wary of sharing Death Monarch past, fearing that they might offend him

Not many people wanted to look at the sky above and wonder whether a sword or a thunderbolt is going to strike them down.

And with the Shadow Guards releasing rumors after rumors about Death Monarch, obscuring Death Monarch past even more, those who knows Death Monarch after the rise were left with only the mysterious image of Death Monarch that unfathomable guardian god of Pandemonium.

So, there is a hole in Nathan information. Loki did not know what Nathan is thinking as he continues talking

'And it's not like Budiman did not have any other space related items. He still has the Golden Pagoda of the Three Eyed Asura. That is also an items that have some abilities like the Grain Palace. But I must admit, that the Pagoda is more like some kind of defensive treasure. Unlike the Grain Palace which is stealthier.'

Nathan did not say anything else. He knew why Loki emphasizes the Grain Palace stealth. In Bolivia, he was caught unaware by Loki.

Thinking about it again, it might be because of the Grain Palace.

Loki smiles at Nathan and then he made a pulling gesture with his other hand with his finger pointing toward the grain. Both Riana and the baby was sucked into the Grain Palace.

Loki close his hand and the grain disappears. Nathan could now breathe easy. Loki would not kill Riana and her daughter.

Because while Loki could be cruel, he is not entirely heartless.

And now there is only Loki and Nathan in the house. There was silence for a few second before Nathan said

‘Kill me’

Loki shakes his head

‘Not yet. But I do think it is appropriate to make some preparation beforehand. After all, it is now the finale to this performance’

Saying this he put his hand together like he was praying. When that hand clapped with each other, it was like the sound of thunder was breaking out.

The green mist surges toward Nathan and envelops him.

It tied his feet and his hand. And he was forced to float in the air as translucent chains connected the manacles on his hand and his feet

Loki smiles and he said

‘This is the finale. I hope you would be satisfied’

BOOOM!

And then a sound of explosion could be heard and with the sound exploding out, it created a powerful force.

The shock coming from the sound created a powerful shockwave that surges toward the sky and burrow to the Earth

The powerful force tears apart the clouds above, making the sky clear of any clouds. Some unfortunate flying creatures that was late in running away was swept by this force.

The stronger one were flung a hundred kilometers away, but the weak tear itself apart.

The ground around the area where Loki was standing cracked and then depressed down like some powerful force of gravity is pushing it down.

The pillars of the house cracks and crumbles, all of its protection was stripped away by that powerful force.

The sound of trees falling with a powerful snap echoes in the large forest. That force had flattened the forest around it.

And the green gas in the surrounding area were all absorbed toward the house, creating a storm of energy that distorts the Laws and the Concepts of Time, Space and affected reality itself.

That is how powerful the sudden surge of energy had accumulated in that instant. And right at that moment, Loki smiles, like his plan had borne fruit.

At the same time, somewhere in an empty island, there is a woman wearing a red smiling demon mask with horns on each side who is looking at her bracelet.

She was wearing flowing red robe. This woman is none other than Trisha the Red Smiling Demoness.

She looks away sometimes.

But after a few second she would look back at her bracelet. She was waiting for something and then her bracelet glows and she nodded.

She got the signal. The moment that Loki had created that surge of energy, he had also sent a signal to Trisha.

Trisha knowing the full plan of Loki had always been in standby. This island she is in is not too far from Pandemonium and yet also not too close.

If it's too far, Loki fears that the signal would be distorted. Especially with Time and Space dilation is everywhere in the world right now

If it's too close, someone might notice and that also would complicate things with Pandemonium.

Trisha knowing the plans knows that while Death Monarch declare his support for her lord, her lord plans is not to stay at Pandemonium and accept Death Monarch offer.

But who knows what Death Monarch would do? Maybe he would imprison Loki for his safety or he might put him in house arrest.

And it is not like Trisha could relay harden he heart to kill her former allies if they were to meet with each other

Their objectives are different. It is better not to meet with each other

She had sent her avatar with Greisha to Nowhere Land to make sure that the criminals there did not escape.

At the same time, Riana had also disappeared. Trisha then was sure that Riana went to meet with the Broker.

Riana shares with her everything about her life...except her relationship with the Broker. She did not broach her upon the topic and Riana herself also did not say anything about it.

She just hopes that Lord Loki would not be too hard on her second sister.

While her avatar was supervising the security and making sure that Greisha could do her job without mistake, her real body was here, finishing up the finishing touch of Loki plans.

On her right wrist is a bracelet. The bracelet is now glowing intermittently.

That is the signal.

#### [Chapter 1037: For whose benefit](#)

The signal had gone off. She shakes her head

‘Going have to do this right’ she mutters to herself

Right now, most of the world power had their communication cut off.

Other than some few people who have powerful abilities to contact other people in other continents like Hirate, most people in the world right now have no way of communicating with each other.

But Loki somehow is able to send signals tens of tens of thousands kilometers away, unaffected by the storms of energy or the density of the energy that is filling up the world

That is in itself is remarkable. But as Trisha had learned, she knew better than to question Loki the origins of all of this technology.

Regardless of all of that, she had received the signal.

‘Lord Loki had finished his preparations there. I just have to make sure that there is not mistake in my part’ she reminded herself.

She began looking at the circle she had made inside the large cave.

On the walls of the cave, there is runes.

These runes that Trisha had carved using a special carving knife all had space and time properties.

Even just looking at the runes one could sense the power of the Laws of Time and Space.

On the ground, there is a circle. These circle is overlaid with matrixes of other circles that overlapped with each other.

inside each of these circles, are runes, hieroglyphs and symbols. There is strengthening runes. Bonding runes. Pulling and pushing runes. And many others.

Most of them are runes that made it able to combine so many different principles of array formation that come from different methodology

She took a walk and look at the walls and the ground and she nodded to herself, satisfied. She had check it for the third time. There is no mistake.

She did not build this array in the open space because she fears that some people would be able to see her.

Death Monarch might be in seclusion but not the other two.



Lord Loki said to her that Jean will not have extra power to look over Pandemonium while he is maintaining the portal toward the Seresian world

However, the same could not be said for Hikigaya.

No one knows what he is doing right now. She then sat on one of the stone boulder inside the cave and waited.

She hopes that Loki would not punish second sister that bad. And then she sighed.

'As long as my lord did not go overboard, everything would be fine' She convinced herself. Then closing her eyes, she waited for another signal to come

In Pandemonium, right now, as the surge of power radiated outwards, it creates a massive powerful shockwave that flatten the forest in the radius of a thousand kilometers.

The monsters and gigantic beast nearby was also affected as they flee from the area as fast as they can.

The sound of explosion echoes endlessly.

Sasha who is in the sky right now, now flies without obstruction. Her speed become even faster as the premonition of something bad is about to happen resonate strongly in her heart

The beating of her heart, this feeling of uneasiness that spreads all over her body, this is without a doubt, a premonition.

Something bad is going to happen. And because of this feeling of uneasiness, her speed become faster.

The clouds parted, the wind split apart and sonic boom echoes in the sky

Without no obstruction of the green mist, Sasha arrives in front of that safe house a few minutes later.

She stopped in the air, creating a blast as she stopped suddenly. Another sonic boom exploded in the sky as the air around her seems to be distorted.

She frowned the moment she arrives near the house. She looks down at the house and click her tongue

'Am I.... too late?' she thought to herself. Taking a deep breath, she then landed slowly to the ground.

There, in front of the house, there is someone looking at her. She narrowed her eyes. She did not need anyone to introduce that person to her

As she walks closer to that person, and she could see that person more clearly she is confident that person is none other than Loki the Trickster.

Only he would be this elegant and calm in such a situation. And he is the only that could have come here faster than her.

Loki come with a new face this time. She smiles. It is not the first time she had been dealing with the Trickster.

A new face, a new style, every time they meet.

Maybe that is why he is so hard to read.

Loki wears what looks like some kind of a tailored high end three-piece suit, with a marron tie that complement the blue windbreaker over his suit.

On top of his head, there is a fedora that complete this style of him that make him look imposing just by standing there.

There is a sense of calmness around Loki, a smile on his face, with a glint of mischief in his eyes. he wears a leather shoes, clean even when all around him seems to be the painting of chaos.

Trees cracking on its seams, dead birds and monsters, cracked earth and smell of soil like it caught on fire, all could be seen, heard and smell all around him

A picture of chaos.

Yet, in that picture, Loki seems to be standing in the center of it, like some kind of focal point of the painting, unaffected by all of it.

This time he dressed in a way that makes him look intimidating, imposing and elegant all at the same time.

‘Like his brother, he sure likes to pressure his opponent even before they talk to each other’ she thought to herself as she comes closer to Loki

There is no longer any green mist in the area. It seems to disappear completely.

Sasha is puzzled but she knew this must have something to do with the sudden surge of energy a couple of minutes ago

Loki had done something.

And because of that she became even warier. She tries to spread her Divine Sense. But the moment she did that, she frowned and her body trembles a bit.

Her eyes narrowed

‘Too chaotic’ she mutters under her breath.

In that moment when she tried to spread her Divine Sense, her Divine Sense bounced back from the area and she almost suffer an effect from a backlash of energy.

Fortunately, she did not force it.

Whatever Loki had done, it creates an unstable space and time around the area. And it is not some simple distortion which would go away in a few minutes.

This is a strong distortion of Laws.

The energy had distorted the concepts and laws of the world around here, from the laws of time and space, and also the elements.

She looks back at Loki, wonder what this Trickster is planning to do.

There is a broken house and in front of that broken house is Loki. The house itself seems to be hanging by a thread

Some of the house pillars is standing only by some kind of illusory green pillars that probably was made by Loki green mist.

If that were not there, then the house might already all crumbled.

And Loki was not alone. There is the Broker floating in the air, with chains around his hand and feet, floating weakly beside Loki

Nathan seems to be in a trance state, his eyes shows whites. There did not seems to be any response from him

Around the house is the scene of utter destruction. There are no clouds above the area. And there is a deep rift behind Loki. Half of the house had fallen into that rift, while the other half is teetering on collapsing.

All around, tears of time and space could be seen with the naked eye.

Sasha was puzzled.

There is many question in her head. But the most important question of them all, is Why wait? Why wait for her?

Loki smiles that charming smile towards her.

‘Sasha, we meet again. It has been a long time since I see you’ There is a smile on his face that would charm almost anyone.

That is the allure of Loki the Trickster. His face is a mask, and it is the same for his words and his demeanor.

All of it is a mask, to hide his true intention. Most people would be disarmed by his smile. So enchanting, so alluring, but Sasha is not anyone

She knew better than anyone how dangerous the smile of this man is. Tricks, secrets and lies. That is what Loki is. Everything about him is a lie.

To trust him when you are his enemies, his obstacle, is not a wise decision. And she also knew that the reason why he said that is not simply him being happy seeing her.

He had been hunting her for the six years.

One could imagine that Sasha mood at seeing him is quite complicated. She wanted to stop him from doing something that there is no going back from.

But at the same time Sasha herself is not quite fond of Loki. But she knew to ignore her personal feud with this man and focused on the more important thing.

Sasha narrowed her eyes and then she sighed

'Loki...you do not have to do this. Death Monarch had declared protection for you. Stop. Come with me to the Palace. No one is going to die today.'

And then she added

'Doing this.... will not benefit anyone' Loki chuckles

[Chapter 1038: Fighting in the dark, serving the light](#)

'Oh.... but you are wrong. Doing this will benefit someone.'

'You?' Sasha ask, there is disdain in her tone

'No' Loki shakes his head, a mischievous smile on his face.

Loki pointed his finger toward Sasha.

'You.'

'It will benefit you' Sasha close her eyes for a second before opening it. She had guessed it. But she did not like being right at this time.

Loki then continue saying

'You also were afraid of the Book of Secrets abilities didn't you?' she sighed and answer

'The Broker is allied with us.'

'That is not an answer. And.... Did my brother know that?'

Hearing this Sasha forehead creased.

'No'

Loki smiles as he said

'What do you think he would do to you if he knew you did this behind his back? Knowing his temper toward criminals in general, he would not be happy with you'

'The decision of the Shadow Guards is under my authority. Death Monarch trusted me, knowing that whatever decision I make, I make it in the sole purpose of protecting him' Sasha answer

Loki sighed.

'I know my brother. He would never kill you for this. And that is why you did this. But he still has to set an example'

His eyes look straight at her. And she looks at him, unflinching.

His voice is deep and terrifying. It is unlike the Loki she knew. Loki had always been playful.

But now, there seems to be a darkness around him. A darkness that he himself wanted to inhabit.

Sasha had read the plan in the letter. In that letter he outlined what he would do and why he is doing it.

That is why it is complicated.

She came here to stop him killing the Broker. But she never intended to fight with him. She knew what he had sacrificed.

She wanted to persuade him. But she knew Loki. She knew that Loki would not come to Death Monarch

Because Loki is man with all the plans. This is a man who knew what he wanted and did not hesitate to do whatever it takes to get it.

Ruthless, determined.

That is her assessment of Loki the Trickster. Like he is being guided by some noble purpose, he would not stop and he would not change his plan to accommodate others.

And that is why she had begun contacting her operative in secret from the beginning of her conversation with Loki

Loki is not the only one with the gadgets. She is buying time. Loki did not seem to notice it. Or maybe he simply doesn't care

Sasha still did not know why Loki wanted her to be there. She still did not understand fully Loki plans.

And while she is talking, it seems that Loki also seems to accommodate her. Maybe this is simply theatrics. Or maybe, he had something to say.

Probably because Sasha is the one that knew all the backstory, knew what this Trickster had done, had sacrificed for Pandemonium and Death Monarch, he wanted her to know and understand him.

Loki then continued by saying to her

'If he knew about this, he had to punish you. Regardless whether sacking you from the position of the leader of the Shadow Guards or showing his displeasure in other manners, whichever way he chooses, it would affect the stability of Pandemonium'

'And even if he does not punish you, that would also affect the stability of Pandemonium. After all, it would show that you could do anything you want. That would attract enemies that you would not want. Trust me'

There was silence between them.

The wind moves fiercely behind them. But it did not affect them, like they were in a separate dimension.

The rift behind Loki also seems to echo some noise from the ground. Sighing, Sasha then said

'There is another way. Come with me. There is no need to do this. We could find another way, Loki'

Loki only smiles, shakes his head and he said

'You and I, we both know that the stability of the forces in Pandemonium is very fragile. One moment of carelessness is enough to induce chaos. If the forces in Pandemonium sense that Shadow Guards is being distrusted by Death Monarch, then you could imagine the consequences'

Sasha frowned at this thought

'The Central Court had never liked you. The Three Army also have a bone to grind with you. Not to mention the individual ministers that was targeted by your investigation. Then, there is still other intelligence agency of the other world powers that would like to attack you when you were down. To take down the Shadow Guards would be quite an accomplishment for them. For it weakens Pandemonium'

Then Loki added

'You are the dog that bites and barks at any enemies of your master. But if that dog no longer have the protection of its master, then that dog would get beaten to death'

Sasha shakes her head and said

'Death Monarch would not let it go that far'

'Yes, my brother would not let it go that far. But, the attack to you would change the status quo. Peace would be broken. And knowing my brother penchant of leaving Earth every few years, there would be casualties. What would you do.... when he leaves again?'

'We have managed to contain it before' Sasha said

Loki nodded and said before rebutting her again. It almost seems like Loki is teaching her

'Yes, but still people die. Imagine if Pandemonium had an open internal instability. The schemes and plots of the court, the self-sacrificing mindset of the army, and you are looking at a lot of dead people that would get suck into this whirlpool of power struggle inside Pandemonium'

Sasha become silent. She knew this to be the truth. Loki smiles wider

'That is what none of them understood. But I knew you would understand me. People said that Pandemonium is heaven on Earth.'

Well, Pandemonium isn't exactly a utopia. But, the reason why it has such a reputation is simply because Pandemonium is safe. Death Monarch is here! The strongest man in the world sits at the throne of the strongest force in the world!'

He said with a bitter smile. Sasha did not interfere. She seems more concerned about Nathan behind Loki.

While he was talking, she is thinking of ways of trying to release Nathan.

Loki continues

'The problem of a monster horde did not affect the lives of the people of Pandemonium. We have enough elite forces to drive back and even annihilate monster hordes. We are so powerful against these monsters, that sometimes we even let some of them live so we could train soldier recruit so that they could level up.'

'But this...place....is not perfect. As there is light, there is darkness'

'You do not publicize how many people died because of internal conflicts that happens the last time. Unknown spies that dies in the shadows. Ministers that were framed. Soldiers who had died in the line of duty. Not to safeguard Pandemonium safety but because they were embroiled in the power struggle between the forces of power in Pandemonium. This time, if such a thing happens again, expect that casualties to rise even higher. Because the stake is even bigger this time'

He did not stop.

It seems like Loki had a lot to say.

Like he is leaving an advice for her. Knowing what she knows now, she believes that Loki is doing this for the continued dominance of Pandemonium

She herself did not know how to feel about this. Her own relationship with Loki is complicated to say the least.

But after reading that letter, she knew this is bigger than some enmity between her and him. This affects Pandemonium.

There is always a hesitation in her heart after reading that letter

She did not really know when push comes to shove, would she be really unhesitant? After all, the plans that Loki had made, is not entirely harmful to Pandemonium.

Instead, it could even be regarded as a very useful and beneficial to Pandemonium development. But she still did not think that Loki had to go to this far.

For some reason, even though she herself was accustomed to the darkness that lies on the other side of the light, seeing the dark desires that not many people could see, evil scheming, terrible plots, a part of the darkness that not many people could see, she still yearns for the light.

She is inside darkness, but she was fighting for the light. She would not say she is fighting for justice or truth.

That is not what she was fighting for. She was fighting for the chance for people to live happy. She could not protect everyone.

But she could protect a lot of people. She could protect the people she loves and the people under her.

And now, she could protect the people of Pandemonium

A woman fighting in the darkness, serving the light. And as such, even though she knows that Loki plans is good, she at least wanted to preserve some kind of light in Loki

Because while he is someone that had been hunting her for the last six years, Loki had never meant harm for her.

His action might have led to some bad encounters, but in the end, it is because they look at different things and chasing different things that they have a conflict.

It is not because they hated each other.

### [Chapter 1039: Internal problems of pandemonium](#)

Loki respected Sasha and even admire her loyalty. And Sasha respected and admire Loki self-sacrifice, and his vision that could see the bigger picture, a better tomorrow

And the other reason is because Loki is Sina beloved. And Sina is her friend. If Loki kill the Broker and take his place, there is no going back

There would be a huge target on his back. he would become a fugitive in every sense of the word.

The infamy is no longer undeserved. It would become real. She knows that Loki wanted to enter the Crime Alliance.

Once he enters that, regardless of the declaration of Death Monarch, the hunt for him would intensify.

Many people died in the Multiversal Convergence. People are angry and they know who to blame. And that anger would explode.

The whole world will be searching and trying to capture him. Because, like Loki said, Azief would not always be in this world.

He would leave. And when he would leave, Pandemonium would have bigger problems to deal with rather than focusing their forces trying to protect Loki

As long as Loki did not enter Pandemonium, there would always be a chance that he could be captured or killed.

Not that it would be easy to capture and kill the Trickster, but the possibility is there. Sasha do not know the right answer.

So, she could only sigh inwardly as Loki keep talking to her as she tries to sort out her messy thoughts

Loki did not know what Sasha is thinking about as he continues talking

'If my brother isn't there, foreign interference would flame more resentment between the forces in Pandemonium and borne more conflicts. We don't know that the next time my brother decided to leave Earth, it might take him a decade to come back'

And then he smiles as he said

'Or maybe he would not even come back. I shudder to think the impact of such long absence would do to the forces inside Pandemonium. Last time is bad enough. The Central Government had cut off contacts with the Three Army. The Three army establishes their own court independent of the Central government'

'If my brother did not return home at that time, and resolve the misunderstanding between the civil officials and the military, then I suspected that the only way to resolve that conflict were for them to kill each other or annihilate each other'

'I don't think it would come to that' Sasha said

But Loki shakes his head



'There were nearly a civil war in this land. All because of the death of some soldiers and ministers. That is how fragile the peace in Pandemonium'

'And that is how easy it was for one person to sow distrust and discord between the forces in Pandemonium. Death Monarch gave us a lot of leeway. That had caused us to do our own things. When he is here, it is easy. Because he is the focal point of our unity. But when he is not there, then we are like lone branches. Easy to break.'

Sasha went silent at this. She also known about that conflict. And she also knows how bad it was. There was the Southern Court and the Eastern court.

The military exercise control over the four corners of Pandemonium while the Central Court governs the administration sending decrees to the city lords.

There was a sense of alienation. There was this feeling of discontent that was about to blow up. And it was all because of one-person scheme. It was Void scheme

One person was all it takes for the government to fragments into pieces.

It tells more about the disunity between the forces of pandemonium rather than highlighting Void scheme

Void scheme was not particularly genius. It was even elementary. It was simple to uncover. But there are some people, in the military, in the court that wanted the conflict to come to a head.

But no one wanted an open all-out war against each other.

At least, it did not reach that point.

At that time, the battle was conducted in the dark. The civilians did not feel the shakings of the political fragmentations.

But for the forces in Pandemonium, the reason they did not touch the civilians or embroiled them in their political struggle is simply because it would then become a justification for the other forces....to attack under the banner of righteousness

And the other reason was that no one would dare to bear the wrath of Death Monarch when he returns if he were to find out that some subordinate forces of him touches the people of Pandemonium.

He might forgive political transgression but he would not forgive involving unaffiliated citizens into the struggles of the powerful

What he said, is his will. And his Will, will be done. Fortunately, the matter was resolved

But what Loki is saying is something that is not out of the possible scenario that could happened.

Loki then said toward Sasha

'If you want Pandemonium to continue existing, then you have to rely on the people here' Then looking left and right, he smirks and said

'It is imperative for you to reduce your enemies, and add more allies. If you were to be distrusted by Death Monarch, that stability would crumble'

'I believe that he would still trust me' But Loki only smiles as he said

'Trust is hard to earn. It took years to build a reputation but it would only take a few second to destroy it. The people, the court, the army always believed that the power of the Shadow Guards come from Death Monarch. But if he even shows even a hint of not believing you, a hint that his trust in you is not as absolute as some people had thought, it is like you are bleeding in the middle of the ocean. And sharks will come. And they will pounce, Sasha. Mark my words'

Sighing, Loki then said

'I propose only the most beneficial ending to what an otherwise a gory conclusion'

Sasha did not say anything.

She knew the risk.

She knew that Death Monarch would not punish her heavily.

But she also knows that if it is revealed that she had been sheltering the founder of the Crime Alliance, Death Monarch reputation as the leading figure against the criminal activity of the Crime Alliance would be questioned.

Because one might ask some uncomfortable question. Like, whether the Crime Alliance was actually a secret force of Pandemonium.

It did not matter that it is not the truth. What matters is what people believed to be the truth. Like the matter with Loki and Death Monarch

Since Loki had admitted that he was the one responsible for the disaster of the Multiversal Convergence, if Death Monarch comes out right now saying he was the one responsible for it, people would only have thought of him as trying to cover up for his little brother.

The same would apply if the world finds out that Sasha was sheltering the founder of the Crime Alliance.

At that time, speculations would be flying left and right. Even if she denied it, even if Pandemonium itself denied it, it would not matter.

People would think that they were just washing off their hands from the responsibilities. Lies travels faster than truth after all

And this is only one of the effect of the fallout if the world knew she harbored one of the most wanted men in the world.

Void is dangerous. But he is not a danger to the world. His powers made him very lethal in one on one combat. But he was never the mastermind.

He did not gather criminals and negotiate their alliances. He was not the one that founded the cornerstone of the Crime Alliance.

The Broker did.

He was the mastermind of one of the most dangerous organization in the world, gathering criminals and misfits, deviants and demons and devils

This infamy.... affects a lot of things.

Especially if it is revealed. If Sasha was not afraid of the bad reputation of the Broker, why would she not reveal it earlier?

As such, the following scenario that Loki had said would not be impossible. Instead, it is the likeliest possibility

Sasha shakes her head and then said

'Then we just have to reveal that the Broker is cooperating with Pandemonium. He had change his ways and is now helping the forces of good. It would not be the first time we launder another person identity. It would be hard, yes, but it could be done. We could tack a few noble achievements under his belt and give him a clean identity' Sasha said trying to persuade Loki

Loki hearing this only chuckles as he has a question of his own.

'Then why didn't you do that in the first place?' Loki said smiling. The reason he asks that question is because he knows the answer

Loki chuckle and then said

'Isn't it because you know that saying it like that, would surely kill him. There is no difference in outing him out and killing him. The Broker knows secrets. The problems about that is that he knows too many secrets. That is not good. That is not good at all'

#### [Chapter 1040: The nightingale and the trickster \(1\)](#)

'There are more people in this world that wanted him to shut his mouth rather than opening it. Some of the Crime Lords knows that the Broker possess an artifact that enables him to gain information. Some of them know what is called. Some of them is ignorant. The fact is, the secrets he kept is his insurance. If he started singing like a bird, then what do you think would happen?' Loki smirks and shakes his head

Sasha is silent again. Then she sighed and said

'You do not have to sacrifice yourself this much'

Loki look at Nathan behind him and shakes his head. Then he looks back toward Sasha. And then he said

'You do not know the internal structure of the Crime Alliance. You needed someone in the inside. I have that someone. But that is not enough. I already outlined my plan. After this, if we were to meet each other, pretend that I have gone to the dark side. I would sell information to the Shadow Guards and I would sell some information to the Crime Alliance. A small sacrifice for a lot of big fish.'

Sasha sighed and then she said

'Would nothing I say convince you to do otherwise?' Loki shakes his head. She hesitates to say something but in the end, she said it anyway

'He had married Riana'

Loki smiles and said

'I know' Sasha eyebrows raised up. Clearly she was not expecting that answer from Loki. She frowned and then she said

'They had a daughter together'

'I also know that.' Sasha began to frown. If Loki knew all this....he would still kill the Broker? She thought to herself. The more she thought about it, the more she believes that Loki would not hesitate to do what he said he would do.

He is this determined? She muttered to herself. Sighing, she said

'What will you with those two?' Those two none other referred to Riana and her daughter

Loki reply was nonchalant as ever

'They have nothing to do with this. I would protect them. Do not mistake me, Sasha. This is not personal. This is simply a necessity driven by circumstances. The Book of Secrets is necessary for me to have a firm foothold in the Crime Alliance. And killing him and revealing some things about him to the Crime Lords is important if I were to sit at the High Table. They need to believe that I am one of them'

Sasha was not ready to give up so she said

'We could fake it'

'No, it has to be real' Loki said. Even as Loki and Sasha is talking the space and time around the area is still distorted. The energy is also in disarray.

Loki then said.

'You do not know the methods of the Crime Alliance. They have a girl who could reconstruct past scene. If I know them, and I do know them, when I present the news of the Broker death, they would want details. When that times comes, they would verify it'

Sasha frowned

'Then why are you revealing it right now? If what you said is true, someone will come here to reconstruct the scene. At that time, the scene of you and me talking would also be captured' Loki smiles and said

'While I do not have the full confidence to evade all of their detections, at least right now-' and he pointed toward the air around them '-with the energy in disarray, with time and space distorting, they would not capture what we are talking about. They might see glimpses but not the full conversation.'

'Always with the tricks' Sasha said.

'But, I could not let you do this' Loki eyebrows raised up

'Oh. Even when it benefits you?'

Sasha then said

'I know all of the things you said. I thought about it while I was flying here. I thought about all of that. The consequences of trying to save the Broker. The benefit of having him gone. It would not be hard to scrub any of his involvement with the secret ops of the Shadow Guards. But...I made a promise to myself. I would not let you be this...evil man the world believes you to be'

Loki then chuckles loudly.

'Could it be that you.... are fond of me?'

Sasha shakes her head and simply said

'Do not speak nonsense. Sina loves you. I would not let you do this. And the broker is a good man. He is a changed man'

Sasha was trying to delay time as long as she could. But the words she said is not false. What she is saying right now does come from her emotions.

'I have killed a lot of people, Loki. I've shot them, stabbed them, suffocated them, I kill them in variety of way and I did not regret. I live in a world of darkness full of monsters. Evil men and women that ravage the world with their evil. And I'll come for them in the dark of night and rob them of the only thing they care about, their life. I have no pity or mercy toward monsters. But there is one thing that I avoided doing in my job. And that is to try not to kill innocent'

Loki smiles and said

'The Broker is far from innocent.' Sasha nodded

'But, he is trying to be good. Tell me, Loki. Out of everyone that survives the hellish landscape after the Fall, the Fake World power struggle, the Weronian War, is anyone that survives all of these events.... innocent? Those who sat at the highest seat in the world right now, from President Hirate to our very own Death Monarch, which one of them did not spill blood of innocent whether accidentally or intentionally?

'Playing towards my emotion. You have improved Sasha'

Loki then look at his left and right. He smiles and then made a grasping motion with his finger. The moment he did that a knife appears in his hand, formed from the green mist that still exist under his feet

Even though the green mist is scarce after creating that surge of energy, it is still around the house even though it is in low concentration

'Enough talking. I said all that needs to be said. I have told you what you needed to do' Sasha eyes narrowed. With that knife in Loki hands, Sasha knew that Loki is about to end the Broker life.

This time Sasha could no longer remains calm.

'Why wait?' finally the question that Sasha wanted to ask come out from her mouth. Loki only smiles and then he spins toward his back.

The knife held tightly in his hand. It is clear that he wanted to stab the Broker behind him. Sasha also made her move.

With her speed, she kicked the ground.

BOOOM! A supersonic explosion occurred as the ground that she had kicked were pulverized by the force of friction and speed.

In that brief moment, Sasha moves faster than lightning. And in that brief moment, she come in between Loki knife and the Broker unconscious body.

She is now in front of Loki and she push Loki hand that was holding the knife away. Loki strengthen his hand and while that deflection did stop his knife from reaching its target, his hand was not pushed away.

BOOOM!

A blast of shockwave exploded as both of them is in a stalemate as the flow of time around them become normal. Just now, they fight in a hyper speed environment.

Only now that they stopped that the blast that was contained during their fight in hyper speed was unleashed to the world.

Loki smirks and then using his other hand, he balls up his fist and punches toward Sasha chin. The simple movement created sonic boom that distorts the air and soundwaves.

Both of them once again moves in super speed.

Sasha evade to the right, as the punch misses its target.

The force of that punch shoot straight toward the sky, creating a powerful blast that clear up the sky and created another sonic boom in the sky

Sasha brought out her sword in that brief moment and began slashing toward Loki.

Her slash splits apart the air in front of her and created a tear in space. Loki hand that was holding the knife was released.

He smiles as he saw the sword intent were flying toward him

He was not panicked as he mutters

'Shield' one rune come out from his left palm and turns into an illusory shield that block all of the sword intent.

He moves out of the way and using that other hand he will finish what he has started. His knife once again about to attack the Broker when suddenly, his sure fire attack missed

In that brief moment when Loki was defending against the shield by throwing one of his rune to the sky, Sasha uses an illusory rope to tied itself around the Broker and pull him to her.

So, as Loki was trying to stab the Broker, Sasha pull the Broker towards her causing him to miss.

Loki smiles as he kicks the ground underneath his feet.

The entire ground shakes before it exploded.