

## **Shadow 1181**

### **Chapter 1181: The eyes in the dark (3)**

'Location?' one of the Five seats spoke

'unidentified' another said

'We have no enmity with Asgard'

'There is no need to fight. We probably share the same goals'

One of the other shakes his head and said

'We do not' Then there is silence again.

'This is Loki of Asgard work'

'Complain?'

One of the others then said

'Do not. He is the Gardener'

'Hmm. A hindrance that could not be removed'

The other four nodded. Once again silence reigned in the room.

They look at each other and then as it seems that they were to return to their slumber, one of them said

'What about Sithulran?'

The other four look at that one Orvan. The Orvan that has spoken is from the House of Rhobos.

'Things had changed a bit'

The other Orvan nodded.

'Sithulran knows a lot' the Orvan from the House of Sith said

The Old Ones from the House of Rhobos look at the Old Ones from the House of Sith and look at him with a hint of appreciation.

'The House of Sith and Rhobos has been allies for eons. I will spoke for her if she is brought back for trial. And we might need her'

This is the longest conversation they had. Still, not once their mouth opens up

Then one of the other Five Seat said

'She is also crazy'

The one from the House of Sith then said

'Maybe. But what we are doing now could be also called madness.'

One of the other Old Ones then said

'That is the Wheel of Reincarnation and Rebirth. It is not some low level methods. By the time, she comes out from that Wheel, is she still herself? And would she still remember?'

One of them frowned and said

'The curse is from the Creator'

'The Creator and Grand Supremacy Azul.....who is stronger?' the other one ask

The other one answer

'Past, the Creator. Present, Azul'

'The Great Supremacy Azul is not our ally. And the Creator is only moving acceding to the flow of fate and destiny. A one point, he could be an ally. At other point, he could be a force that obstruct'

There is another silence.

The waves of destiny and fate could still be felt by them, a fluctuation that grows stronger with each passing moment

Then one of them broke the silence.

'There is now a risk'

The other four nodded and then said in unison

'We will wait and see' The last one nodded and they leaned back on their throne, close their eyes and went back to their slumber.

What Azief is doing right now in the Seresian world, studying in a lab about some technology that he did not understand might seem nothing extraordinary.

But if it is something ordinary why would fate and destiny ripples so violently.

In the Heavenly Palace of the Three Thousand Worlds, Yu Wang also sense that ripple.

He was sitting on his throne thinking about the proposal of his officials.

His officials have gone to their immortal residence. But he was still on his throne, thinking which event he need to start

He has to retconned it again. Either he chose the Investiture of the Gods again, or went with Havoc in Heaven.

Though he did not know whether the Monkey would agree.

Having a place in the Blessed Lands and the Heavenly Palace, the Monkey is not some figure that they could manipulate like in the past

There is also the fact that the Monkey had recently went to that world to pay his respect to the Monk

The seal on that world was broken and there is no longer any restriction. Since then the Monkey cut off contact both with the Blessed Lands and the Heavenly Palace

One of the plan was to do another Havoc of Heaven. Of course this time the storyline needs to be changed a bit.

But as long as the Monkey agrees, the setting and everything would be provided by Heavenly Palace.

But since the Monkey has been uncooperative, he had to consider the Investiture of the Gods.

That is why he is still on his throne. But then he felt the ripples of fates and destiny.

Even though he is not as powerful as some of the ancient beings in the Omniverse, he felt the fluctuation even clearer than some other powerful beings

Because there is Karma between him and Azief.

But unlike Odin he did not send his gaze toward the Seresian world. He is one of the few that had got the message from Orvanians about the Seresian world

The matter would be put into the discussion table in the United Intergalactic Alliance.

He knows that the Orvanians must put detection seals or force field that would prevent Divine Sense from being able to infiltrate the planet before the entire process of healing and reconstructing the planet is done.

No one objects to the Orvanians efforts because they have sent a report of the measure they have taken to restore the world into a non-problematic world.

If the Seresian star system pass the assessment they would be given free reign and the United Intergalactic Alliance would not meddle too much

The United Intergalactic Alliance after all is not some kind of colonial or imperialist organization. It is simply to maintain the order of the Universe and making sure that entropy is controlled to a certain degree.

Of course, because of this he also found out about Azief in the Seresian world. He did not want someone in the court to see what he is planning

Yu Wang is not like Odin. Odin has full control over the Eight Realms.

The same for Zeus who controls Olympus.

Even though it is called a Republic with many of the Olympians having their own realms inside of Olympus, Zeus is without a doubt the leader.

He is the King of Olympus even though it is a Republic to the people living inside Olympus.

But he is not. There is the Saints. Then there is the Awakened One that Attain Oneness with All

Not everything could go the way he wanted. Because of that he needs to take more measures. For now, he noted the change

'I guess I have to be here for a little bit longer' he said to himself

On another side of the Universe, inside a fast sailing broken star that warped itself every few minutes, there is a being on a red throne.

The red throne is covered with bluish reddish aura that suddenly become unstable when the ripples passes through the broken star.

Wargod the ruler of the broken star Interium is smiling and laughing when he felt the ripples. Slowly, the fate and destiny is beginning to become out of control.

Wargod could guess that this must have something to do with Azief, the chosen of Ethernia.

The moment he walks all that thirteen steps in the Supremacy Stairway, it is the beginning of the scheme and plots of Ethernia

Wargod not even realize that there is such a plan. But when he finds out that there is such a plan, he has quickly understood what he should do.

He did not have time to stop for too long and he did not know the location of Azief but thing that could disturb the ripples of feat and destiny is not some simple feat.

Considering the ripples that he felt Wargod could tell that this ripple would spread to all over the Omniverse but only those with high attainment on the laws of fate and destiny, of calculating cause and effect could feel this fluctuation.

He has his own plans and it is not yet time for him to appear.

The Creator who is in another dimension also felt the fluctuations but he only took a glance and then he did not pay it any mind.

The Destroyer who is sailing through stars, through galaxies, through dimensional barriers, he too felt the sensation

On the planet Belthana the Three Lady of Fate of Olympus had also felt it and the effect it had on them was very different from the effect it had over all others

The moment the ripples spread onto Belthana they felt a convulsion that they have never felt before.

It was like an earthquake that shakes their entire being.

They are sensitive to the changes in fates and destiny, attuned to the interconnectedness of everything

Lady Anthropos whose face is always stern and somber now shows an expression of shock and fear.

Her golden shears cracked and she suffers pains and cough up golden blood. Her throne exploded

Her throne is no normal throne. It is made by an intangible property that made solid by the power of faith.

It is also connected to her. So, when something happens to her, it would also affect her throne.

Her red dress crumpled up as she fell down from her throne.

Lachesis, the middle child of Night is also affected. Her clothes that is made from white light, luminous like the color of the sun had dimmed.

The scenery of life behind her that always projected the fates and destiny of people become translucent.

Her rod like Anthropos shears cracked and shows sign of deterioration. She handles it fairly better than the oldest.

#### **Chapter 1182: The eyes in the dark iv**

Lachesis, the middle child of Night is also affected. Her clothes that is made from white light, luminous like the color of the sun had dimmed.

The scenery of life behind her that always projected the fates and destiny of people become translucent.

Her rod like Anthropos shears cracked and shows sign of deterioration. She handles it fairly better than the oldest.

And Clotho the youngest of the fates is also affected. Her hair become scraggly and her clothes which is made from golden lights of the stars become black.

Her face which is beautiful and youthful turns ugly and old in just a moment with the reeking of death approaching

Her golden thread was cut by an invisible force.

And like her sister she coughed up golden blood.

'Something had agitated Destiny. Fate is also thrown into disarray' Clotho said.

Lachesis nodded and then she tries to divinate it and the more she divinate it the more she felt shocked

Atropos did the same and then they look at each other and in a glance all of them understand what the other is thinking

'interfere? Clotho asked

Lachesis shakes her head. Atropos on the other hand said

'Wait and see'

Then they wave their hand and their crumbling throne rises up again.

They sat back down on their throne but their aura is unstable right now.

The Three Lady of Fates might be powerful when divining fates and destiny and their source of power is the flows and ebbs of fate and destiny but it is because of that when something happens to destiny and fate they are heavily affected.

This same kind of thing wouldn't happen to people that does not delve as deep as they did in the study of fate and destiny.

All over the Omniverse, Beings that are attuned to fate and destiny could all feel the ripple and they all affected by it depending on their comprehension of these law.

The more they understand it, the more they were affected by it.

They then close their eyes. The throne is easily repaired but not their divine armaments. They could only repair it later.

And on Earth, right at that moment when that fate and destiny ripple all across time and realities, across the Universes and the Multiverses, Yewa Hafar who had deep connection to fate and destiny shudders

He is inside a cave, eating some sustenance for his body when he felt the reverberation and his eyes opens wide.

His sense is even accurate than Odin when it comes to fate and destiny.

Because this is the destiny and fate that has been written since a long time ago, a divine promise that must be fulfilled.

A fate and destiny that he was a part of in the deleted timeline.

He got up from his sitting position and throws the food to the ground. He walks to the cave entrance and look at the stars.

It might seem that he is doing divination, looking at the stars so intently like that.

But what he is looking at is certain other things.

He saw strings, and particles and molecules and he calculates every permutation of changes of these things and he could see certain ripples others cannot.

A ripples that stretched from the beginning of time to the end.

And in between the beginning and end, this ripples connected to people.

Lines and strings of destinies and fates intertwined with each other, connected with each other, from every particle on heaven and Earth, and beyond heaven and Earth, it connected everything and affected everything.

And to Yewa Hafar surprise, he could see things changing. He did not know what had changed but he knew something had gone horribly wrong.

'Azief.....did he do something? What is this blasphemy?'

Yewa Hafar is looking at this from the perspective of fate and destiny. A wrong destiny is a destiny that is not written, a destiny that strayed from the calculation of fate

There are not many reason why fate and destiny unleash such a ripple that stretched throughout all of existence, and echoes and bounces from dimensions to dimensions, from worlds to worlds, from one parallel reality to others unless it is something that is truly big

Normal destiny, common destiny, would not create such an effect

Yewa Hafar could only think of one reason why such ripples are unleashed.

The fate and destiny of a certain being had changed.

And this person, this being fate and destiny must be something that affected all of the Omniverse for the ripples to act in such a way.

And because of that the expression on Yewa Hafar become darker.

There is only one person right now that fits the bill.

'What happened to Death Monarch?' he thought to himself

The more accurate question in his heart is what did he do to create such a change.

Yewa Hafar might be shocked to know that such a fluctuation of fate and destiny ripples happens simply because Azief was looking at the terminal computer of one Orvanian lab.

Changes multiplied in the fraction of a second the moment he did that.

The permutation of changes then become endless.

Fate and Destiny trying to correct to rectify but the current Azief is no longer just a mortal whose fate and destiny could easily be toyed about

This is his current thought

Azief even though he himself could not feel the ripples of fate and destiny that occurred because of his action he himself is protected by some force against fate and destiny

Of course this itself did not mean he is off the hook.

After all, Odin a supreme being of great power, Zeus the King of the Olympians, the Jade Emperor and many others supreme beings in the Omniverse, no matter how strong they were, no matter how many godly feats that they could do, they are in the end had to bow before fate and destiny.

But when someone reaches the level that Azief had reached, a level where he is now one with the law, walking the perfection Path that only a few people in the Omniverse had been able to walk, Destiny and fate could not easily change the trajectory of fate that is moving

When one is a mortal, its easy to arrange fates and destiny.

A mortal whose death day is decided, no matter how many ways they find a way to hide from it, anything in the world could easily be used to complete the fate and actualize the destiny

But for a person who have godlike body, certain other measures need to be taken. Fate and destiny needs to work a bit harder to kill such a being and arrange the death

Azief is in this category. Destiny and fate still has a hold over him and that hold is even stronger than before because of Jean act of reversing time and realities.

Loki of Midgard knows that the more you push back against destiny and fate, the stronger it becomes.

It is the reason why Loki did not drastically change the past for he fears that the destiny and fate of Azief would be locked into a certain fate

Because he knew what Jean had done and he knew the price of such an act. Yewa Hafar is still looking at the stars and he shakes his head.

'I feel uneasy. There are new variables.' He clenches his fist and thought to himself

'Should I go to the Seresian world?' he thought to himself but then he shakes his head.

He had never gone to the Seresian world in the other timelines. Things had already changed a lot from the original fate. Yewa Hafar fears that if he does go to the Seresian world, even more variables would appear.

'I need to set thing up so that the fate and destiny could go back on course' that is the only thing he could do.

Right now, if they are playing chess, there is suddenly a revived piece on the chess game breaking the game rules completely.

That is how Yewa Hafar felt. At the same time, Loki who was sipping wine on a luxurious balcony was looking at bustling and sparkling city in one of the region of Spain

He too felt a ripple. But he could not grasp the meaning of that ripple. He just sips a few more wine and forget about it a second later.

Then there is someone inside a hut, in a tiny island. Parked on the north side of the small island is a Narwhal-looking submarine.

This person is Erika. As the Oracle, he too felt that fluctuation. But unlike the Three Fates, she did not cough up blood. Instead she only smirks.

'A move had been made. Now I wonder how Yewa Hafar would move his pieces. And how would Loki would move his pieces. In the end, it did not matter how many chess pieces you have. It is important to know how to use them' there is a smile on her face when she was muttering this.

The waves and ripples is everywhere but it was brief.

Only around ten seconds and then the ripples could no longer be felt.

But Erika could surmise a lot. Whatever Azief did or did not do in the Seresian world, it had affected his fate.

Erika ignored it and then continue eating her food while listening to the illegal radio broadcast of the news station in World Government

And somewhere, there is a Gardener inside a garden who watches over this and shows a smile

### **Chapter 1183: One beautiful night (1)**

While the whole Omniverse sense the ripples, Azief is still in the Seresian world, inside the Orvanian lab

Not once that he thought that his simple action had created a ripple of destiny and fate that is strong and powerful enough that it could be sensed with people who have great affinity with fate and destiny magic.

He is still studying the technology of the Orvanians.

He is now reading about Nutrient Replication, Hydroponic farming and many more from advanced food processing biology and anything related to agricultural innovation and things that go beyond that.

Azief did not know it but it's been hours and then he stops. His mind itself is a bit dizzy right now after cramming all of that information in his mind.

Not to mention he still has to remember it a month later. But he felt it is worth it. Azief after getting what he wanted quickly goes back to the lift and returns back to the surface.

Qarliya did not bother with him as she does her job in the entire lab.

When he comes out of the lab, it is already almost night. The sun had just set. He could see it on the horizon, the sight of which is very beautiful.

Though this sun is a sun created by Orvanians technology, it reminded him of the Sun on Earth.

It is almost as beautiful.

Azief remembers what he promises Katarina. Tonight they need to talk about what had happened.

Azief doesn't know what he is going to say. But he knows she is right. He could not keep avoiding her.

Azief quickly flies up and in just a few minutes he was already back into the palace.

He returns to his room, takes a bath, enjoys it for half an hour or so, styles his hair, wears different clothes and then he was ready to meet her on the balcony.

Outside, stars are twinkling in the sky and an aurora-like light is passing through the area of the Palace.

This is unlike the aurora on Earth because this is not an aurora but energies that are synthesized and released to the atmosphere by the Independent Energy Diffuser space station above the skies.

This is now a common sight and this sight would continue until Katarina returns back to Earth.

The balcony itself is not some small balcony but one of the largest balconies Azief had ever been in.

It is also very luxurious. This terrace balcony has an open air living room, a kitchen, and a dining space.

Not to mention the view facing the lake in the distance. Lights have been installed around the lake and some land was cleared giving the lake a park-like appearance.

Katarina wanted to turn the area around the lake to a park. Azief was the first one on the balcony.

He sat on the sofa and waited for her. It did not take long.

He could hear her footsteps, could smell her scent and then he heard the sound of the door being opened and he opens his eyes.

Katarina is always beautiful no matter what she wears. It was like she would never have a bad day.

But today she looks more beautiful than ever. She wears a long white one-piece dress with the design of a snowflake.

Azief himself did not wear his usual black robe. He wears a casual cloth. He looks relaxed with the right amount of elegance.

Maybe it is because he had become more handsome as he grows stronger or maybe it is because of his aura, even when he is just wearing casual clothes, there is this sense of power radiating from him, and confidence that just oozes out of him

If Katarina would make everyone that sees her to be speechless thinking why even such a casual one-piece dress could make someone look so beautiful, then Azief's simple casual look makes him look manly yet at the same time elegant while did not lose that dangerousness that seems to radiate from him

He wears a quality pair denim jeans, a black crew neck cotton t shirt that hugs his body showing his muscle but not too tight that it looks like a second skin.

And he wears a loafer.

Azief looks at her and she looks at him. Then she smiles

'you look... handsome' she said and Azief is startled a bit. Rarely there are people that praise his appearance.

Well, he is Death Monarch. There are only a few people in this world that could speak casually with him.

Most people would tremble in front of him and flinch each time he gazed at them. To them, Death Monarch is an imposing figure like a lion looking at them like they were sheep

Imposing, fearsome, intimidating. What handsomeness could be seen when everyone who had seen him is occupied enough not to piss their pants when in front of him

Other than Sofia...there would nobody that would say he is handsome. He cut the thought almost immediately

He runs his fingers through his hair trying to hide that he is happy. She smiles and Azief then said

'You look stunning'

'You always say the same thing' Katarina said

'It's the only thing I could think about each time I saw you' he said honestly.

Katarina chuckles a bit.

'I see you have progressed in your flattery' Azief laughed. It is rare for them to wear something that is not their normal attire.

Azief simply look like a handsome dude with great physique and flawless complexion. His hair is trimmed and he had styled his wavy hair that made him look like a rebellious man.

His hair is styled with loose strands with tapered side, the contrast of the clean and tapered side with the separated strand keep him from looking unkempt

His clothes hugged his body showing his muscular body. He looks like one of the front page model with his t shirt and denim jeans

As for Katarina, her white dress seems to portray herself like some kind of innocent goddess with her straight hair styled in feathery locks, making her hair look soft and giving that breezy look

They look nothing like an Ice Goddess or a Death Monarch. It was like they were back on Earth before the Fall.

They look like a boy and a girl who is meeting at a blind date. Tonight, there is only Azief and Katarina.

Not Ice Goddess Katarina that terrorized the back alleys of Moscow and the strongest woman in the world...just Katarina

Not Death Monarch that rules Pandemonium, not the strongest man in the world but only and just...Azief

For a moment they just look at each other like it was the first time they saw each other. And in each other, they saw a different kind of life.

If the Fall did not happen, could it be like this? Maybe someday Azief would go to Russia on a business trip or a leisure trip or something and saw Katarina on the street.

Maybe they would find each other presence comforting and maybe they would hit it off. And then they might fall in love with each other.

But almost immediately both of them know that if not for the Fall, it would not be like this. Azief would never go to Russia probably.

He might not even be able to afford a ticket to Russia. His life before the Fall is nothing short of pathetic.

And if he met Katarina, knowing himself, he probably could not speak a word to such a beauty

He would not then see that this beauty has her own scars, scars that made this beauty always felt she wasn't enough

In that reality, he and Katarina would never fall in love with each other.

He would not love Katarina because he would never make the time to understand her.

And she would never love him because he would never love such a man. But, fortunately, that is not their reality

Their reality....is that they met under an abyss of ice, trapped together in that area for three days, and Katarina fell in love with him and him with her.

That is their reality. And it is a reality that they very much grateful for. Azief could never think he would ever love somebody from another country.

Most people would find someone they love near them.

To be honest, he didn't even think that he would ever be able to find love even in his own country.

He is living the dream. The woman he used to have one sided love with loves him. The most beautiful woman in the world also loves him.

To some it is like a dream come true. If this is a rom com or a harem story, all of this might be a happy story.

But this is real life. And real life is always messy. Love is not as easy as those rom-com shows you.

### **Chapter 1184: One beautiful night (2)**

Katarina then ask him

'Are you just going to sit there and stare at me?' she said. Azief suddenly get up and Katarina looking at this chuckles

'I thought we were going to talk'

'Well, it is night. And I am hungry'

Azief rolls his eyes.

'We don't get hungry'

Katarina tilt her head and then said

'You really don't know how to set the mood'

Azief hearing this walk forward and his sudden move startled Katarina who takes a step back. Azief is close to her, so close she could smell him

And he smells good. Really good. What kind of cologne he wears? She thought to herself. Did the Orvanians have some kind of cologne? It sure as hell not coming from the production of the Seresian world, she thought to herself.

She thought of all kinds of things to distract herself from thinking of what happened yesterday.

Azief could see she was blushing and he takes another step forward, a naughty smile on his face.

He leans down a bit and look at her eyes.

'I don't know if I told you this before' he begins, his eyes looking at her, like a predator looking at his prey, a smirk on his face, yet, she could not help but stares at that eyes, one of them hazel, the other have a tint of green 'You are very, very attractive' and he smiles

And she blushes even harder. He is the only man that could ever make her respond like this.

His tone of voice, his smirk, all of it seems to be perfect.

Her heart is beating fast.

Katarina is the most beautiful woman in the world. She did not give herself this title. But it was everybody else that gives her this title

And so, it has always been a common occurrence for someone to compliment and flatter her appearance.

But never in his tone of voice. Or maybe.... maybe it is not about the voice. Maybe, it is about who is saying it.

She blushes because it is him saying it. And saying it so close to her, that she could hear his heartbeat speeding up

Beings like them could control their heartbeat. And Azief is actually practically an energy form based being.

He could scatter his body into tiny particles of Laws, merged with the world and the laws around him

So, controlling his heartbeat might be the easiest thing he could do. yet, the sound of his heartbeat sounds like the rushing of a horde of warhorse in the plains.

It is a signal to her. All of this makes her feel all kinds of feelings. Azief inches closer, his lips are so close to hers.

And then just right before his lips grazes on hers, he stopped, looks at her, smiles and said

‘What about now?’

‘About what?’

‘The mood’ he said in that teasing tone.

Katarina smack his chest and a shockwave exploded.

Azief saw the shockwave in slow motion and could see that if he did not contain it, the balcony would be destroyed. He just waves his hand and the shockwave dissipated almost immediately

‘Hmph’ she snorted as she passes him by and goes to the open kitchen. He just shakes his head with a smile.

When godlike beings like them do normal things even as simple as simple hitting, it could create a disaster.

But they also had learned how to deal with it like Azief method of containing the shockwave with a force field

‘Hey. Don’t get angry. You were the one saying that I’m not good at creating the mood. I just rise up to the challenge’

‘You just like teasing me’ Right now, even though they look like they are complaining to each other, they are both smiling.

Tonight, they were like normal people.

There are no world powers that they need to think about, there is no plots and schemes, nothing to consider, their actions would not affect world power or the world itself

At this moment, they could be a version of themselves that they used to be. Yet, it is not exactly the same version of themselves.

It is a version of themselves that is better.....better because they both have experience so much, and learn so much.

A version of themselves that have become better, because they found love. And love found them.

A version of them that have experience pain and come out of it stronger.

There is still pain, there are still scars.....but right now, in this moment of perfect bliss and happiness.... those pains are forgotten, the scars for a moment is not there.

Katarina goes to the kitchen and Azief follows from behind.

'What are you doing Katarina?'

'I like to cook'

Azief raised her eyebrows and shakes his head

'Cook? You?'

'What?'

'I tasted your omelet before'

'And?'

'It's horrible.'

'I think you are exaggerating' Azief put his hands up like he was surrendering and said

'Trust me. I am not'

Katarina pouted.

And Azief chuckles.

To him, she looks very cute when she is pouting like that

She is already at the stove and on her hand is the pan.

She is ready to make another omelet.

Katarina used to eat from a can or things that his brother cook for her. She herself never cook that much.

Though, she doesn't think there is anything wrong with her food.

That is of course until she became the Ice Queen and have access to many foods. Only then she knows that she is not exactly a good cook

But she doesn't think that she is a horrible cook. Azief come to the kitchen, grab the pan from her hand and said

'Let me cook.'

She lets him. And then she went to the sofa and sat down. Azief then suddenly realizes something and he laughed

He looks at Katarina who is on the sofa. All the while he is opening the gas and put the pan on the stove and putting oil on it.

After a few second Katarina could felt that Azief is staring at her and she looks at him. He only looks at her, with an expression that he knows what she is doing and feeling guilty she could only say

‘What?’

Azief laughed

‘You tricked me into cooking’

Katarina then chuckles.

‘You were the one that volunteers to cook. Don’t blame me now’ Azief look at her and he could only shake his head while smiling

He did not care that much to be honest.

He cracks a few eggs and began cooking. He looks around him and he nodded to himself

The vibe, the ambience, everything is perfect. It is a beautiful night. Every once in a while he would steal glances at Katarina who is waiting for him

Then once again, last night memory come into his mind and his smile falters a bit.

‘This is not the time to think of that’ He did not want to think too much. At least, right now, at this moment he just wanted to enjoy this happiness

It did not take long for Azief to whip out a good meal. Azief had develop many skills in his years of roaming the Multiverse.

He brought the food to the table and Katarina eyes widened.

With one glance she could tell that Azief had cook quite an appetizing meal. There is a bit of meat, a few wrapped food and an omelet.

It is not that fancy of a meal.

But it is enough for them. If they wanted a fancy meal they could call the chefs to cook up a dish but that is not something that they wanted

Azief put down the plates and the bowl

‘You made soup?’ Azief nodded

‘It was very fast. I thought it would take some time for the soup to boil’ Azief pointed to his eyes

‘Heat vision’

‘Ah’

And Azief meals would not be complete without his own brewed coffee. It is a habit he could not rid of. Katarina chuckles as she saw Azief put down the cup of coffee in front of her.

'What?'

'You still like coffee?'

What. It's good'

I know. She said still smiling as her finger hold the handle of the cup and the coffee immediately turns cold

'But I like mine cold' Azief just shakes his head.

'Tell me about that story' she said as she took the fork and take a bite of the poached eggs.

Azief sat beside her, like it was the most natural place for him.

'Which story?'

'the barista in Australia'

'Ah' Azief smiles 'That'

Azief then began his story with a smile on his face. And Katarina smiles because Azief was happy talking about it.

Katarina and Azief had this certain magic between them. A magic that needs no spell, need no ritual

Love.... the simplest and hardest magic of all. It requires luck and effort and unlike certain other magic...everyone could have it.

And it is a magic like none other

A magic that could change your life. A bad love destroys one life. A true love saves one soul. It is the only few magic in the Universe that touches someone deep into their soul

It is a magic that have darkness in it, and yet it also contains so much light and love.

And it is this love that made them be able to have simple conversation yet it fills the soul like a thirsty man in the desert finding an oasis that quench all thirst and fatigue

### **Chapter 1185: One beautiful night (3)**

Azief had never liked art. To him, art is simply equal to fraud. It did not do anything for the people. It did not fill a starving stomach and it could not be used to make shelter

It had no purpose.

As for beauty that people raved about in art, he could see it every day when he opens his eyes, looks out the window and see the sun rising, seeing the birds flying in the sky, the clouds moving pushed by the winds, the waves that kiss the shore, the green of the forest, the majestic beauty of mountains.... the beauty of nature.

When you see it, you find no other painting that could beat it.

But.... because Katarina likes it, he made the effort.

He became patrons of artist in Pandemonium and he even set aside some budgets for art related project, he collects beautiful painting and even sometimes bought some of the painting that is painted by the Immortal Couple.

There is a garden in the Centre Palace of Pandemonium. It is called the Garden of Pandemonium and it is the most beautiful garden in the world

It had a famous Botanist, a rare class of Herbalist that maintains the garden. Azief is known for his brutality and merciless punishment to his enemies.

But many artists in Pandemonium regarded Death Monarch as a patron of arts as he has many sculptors and painters in his retainer.

Azief had hired and recruited people to beautify the Garden of Pandemonium.

What some people don't know was that there is a section on the garden that he had dedicated to Katarina

One part of the garden is designed to look like Claude Montre's Garden, in Giverny of Northern France.

That area has a pond filled with water lilies. That area is a tribute to Katarina who loves Monet artwork.

The painting of the water lilies.

Azief created it simply because Katarina when she looks at arts, talks about it, there is this kind of light in her eyes

And Azief love to see that light. He loves to see her smile. It almost felt like her happiness infected him and he too become happy

He had never understood art. But he did not need to understand it. It matters that Katarina loves it and because it matters to her, he makes an effort to make it matter to him

And it is the same thing for Katarina. Katarina did not like coffee that much. But she has learnt to love it.

She knows that it is Azief most favorite thing to do, brewing coffee. And he is pretty good at it. To be more accurate, he is an expert in it

She likes her coffee a bit sweet. Azief called her having the palate of a child and he had always tease her about that.

And Azief.....this man that he loved always have a good story about coffee.

It is unthinkable, probably for the rest of the world, that one of the most fearsome person in the world, a threat to many world powers is a man that is so excitable when talking about coffee.

There are only a few topics that Azief would feel excitable about and Katarina knows each one.

She knows why Azief likes to brew coffee. It is not simply just because he likes drinking coffee. It is because he used to want to become barista.

Maybe some people would laugh and not believe it. A Barista? The strongest person in the world? That person who kills without batting an eye? That kind of person wanted to be a barista?

People forget that before the Fall, most of the powerful figures in the world right now from Azief to the World Powers high echelon, most of them are normal people

Raymond for example was a cosplayer stuck in a Comic Con when the Fall began.

He is basically a nerd before he became Raymond the Earthshaker. Now, no one could imagine Raymond as a young kid going to Comic Con

Before the Fall, Raymond every year he would go to Comic Con to meet his favorite celebrities, to buy comic, and connect with like-minded people who also likes comic

Of course, Raymond himself was quite an oddity among the more extreme nerd. He was a bit chubby but he was a confident person.

He likes comic but he was sociable. The stereotypes that people who likes comic and nerdy stuff are all people who could not socialize is not all correct

Of course, there are some nerds like that. But there are also the kind like Raymond who channels his inner kid once a year.

He was basically a normal guy with a normal hobby whose life changed because of the Fall

He became a leader and in that desperate times he leads the people that was trapped with him to fight monsters.

Katarina did hear that in the beginning of Raymond rise to power, he had a falling out with the leader of the group

But from what she heard, Raymond was preferable and those who were loyal to him ousted the leader in a violent coup.

Since then, that normal guy become the leaders and eventually called himself the King of the United States of America.

Of course, it is not like there is no resistance. The United States was special in that almost all of their people has access to gun.

You think that would have helped them.

But when facing monsters that have thick skin like a tank a few hundred bullets from AR 15 would not help

Some places like Japan have just a few powerful monsters.

But there are some that are unlucky like Australia who is ravaged by monsters from the sky, monsters from the sea and even monster from the bottom of the Earth.,

And then there is China whose population was decimated by dragon monsters that burns, eat or freeze them to death.

United States on the other hand, while they did not have such powerful monster attacking them like it did in China, it is by no means weak monsters.

Most of the casualties of the United States happens in the first 24 hours of the Fall. Raymond was a shining beacon of hope as he pacifies the states with his generals and for a time, he was the ultimate ruler of the United States before he relinquishes power and put the United States of America under the jurisdiction of power of the World Government

And this man, this person....in the beginning was a young man who went to Comic Con one day and become one of the most influential people in the world.

Then there is Hikigaya and Oreki, the Two Twin Sages of Japan

Hikigaya and Oreki both of them were just high school senior when the Fall happens. They were basically high school kids that eventually went on to be known as the Dragon of Echigo and Tiger of Kai

To many they were like Shingen Takeda and Uesugi Kenshin as Oreki come from the area which used to be Echigo and in his earlier conquest he pacifies those areas which used to be the ruling area of the Uesugi clan and to spread his prestige some people began calling him the Dragon of Echigo

It is the same Hikigaya whose sphere of control in the beginning is around the area of Takeda Shingen territory.

In that early days, there are many warlords in Japan. When the world order crumbles, there are some sick people that rises up.

In the past, they were constrained by laws and by societal pressure. But ethics is a vague concept

And vague concept is easily abandoned. There were many warlords all over Japan that all wanted to become powerful people, wanting to have harem like some kind of reincarnated hero story.

There are some extreme people, sick people in the head that rises up. But humans, any humans with a heart, would always gravitate to light

The darker it is; the more people gravitate to light. The other warlords wanted to satisfy their desire

It did not matter whether the warlord is a man or a woman. The man rapes the woman, the woman rapes and tortures man.

It is people with sick heart and sick mind having power that brings tragedy to the world.

But Oreki in Echigo ruled the people under his protection fairly and justly. It did not mean that he did not do any wrongs but as for the people under his protection, he did not touch

In a world where one could die at any moment, at least they should die with dignity.

The same is for Hikigaya. And so, people went to them, run to them wanting to be taken under them

These two warlords then easily expand their powers and influence because of one simple thing that they did.

They treated humans...like humans.

Light shines brightest when there is a great darkness. In that warring period, people seek hope. And even a slightest light shines bright like a sun burning its lights.

Not before long, the whole island nation knew of this two people, the two prominent warlords. And as they have more people, they have more resources and the safer it is to join them.

The more resources they have, the stronger they became. There is Hikigaya and then there is Oreki.

One by one, the other warlords fell under them. They gained the hearts of the people and so they gained the world.

Such thing did not change even as the world turns fantasy-like. In the end, there is only two great powers in the island nation.

As for the other power, they would surrender and become vassals of these two great warlords.

And as they always clashed with each other without no clear victor, the title of Oreki Dragon of Echigo and Hikigaya Tiger of Kai solidified.

#### **Chapter 1186: One beautiful night iv**

These two people when they were warlords is still a high school senior. Probably just a day before the Fall, they were playing around with friend, worrying about the next exam, thinking where to go when school ends, what they should with their future

They might even be thinking of what certificates and what kind of skills that they need to have to enter the working world

Who could have thought that these two young kid would then be a warlord that in the end split the island nation into two in an agreement signed in Kyoto.

One of them would be in charge of the Kanto area. The other one would be in charge of the Kansai area.

As for the other island around the nation it is free game for anyone. That is the origin story of Oreki and Hikigaya, the Twin Sages of Japan.

But who remembers that? The people of Japan only remembers the powerful appearance of these two people that protect the people of Japan from the encroachment of the world power.

When they spoke of Hikigaya, the first image that comes to their mind is a wisely sage inside a cave surrounded by mist.

Everyone knows that the Illusionist Archmage usually meditates in caves to further his illusion powers. And when one thinks of Oreki, they would think of thunder and lightning and the Raijin Army.

They would not think that these godlike beings that some of the people of Japan worshipped had normal feelings, normal concern and regardless of how they portrayed themselves to the world, Katarina knows that there are some parts of Hikigaya and Oreki that is still childish.

They have feelings and sentimentality that they would not show other but only to their loved ones.

Then there is Jean, the son of the alley, living in the dark side of France. The child of the street, the son of a prostitute.

At least that is what some people said about his mother. Katarina herself did not know whether this is true or not since Jean is not exactly forthcoming about the details of his past

Azief is also someone whose past is not known to many people. Some people only knew that he came from the ruined nation of Malaysia, a country in Southeast Asia.

Other than that, nobody knows who is his old friends, his parents and before his conflict with the World Government, nobody really knows who he is.

It is the same for Jena. Most of what known of his apt is hearsay and rumors, some is true and some are exaggerated.

Most of the people he conquered did not like him and it is not unreasonable for them to make up rumors about the sordid background of Jean the Time Monarch.

But one thing is true. It is that Jean was the children of the street. This is something he acknowledged.

He nearly became the Emperor of Europe, nearly unifying all of Europe under his rule. But unlike others influential people in the world, during his rule, there were a sense of terror and his expansion ideas runs counter with the World Government

The reason why he was reviled so much is because most of his general is very racist.

Such problems had abated after the Weronian Occupation but during the rise of Jean in France, humanity still see each other as different.

France is color blind when it is about race. But reality isn't. There is a difference, a dissonance between its universal ideals and its day to day life.

Katarina did not know much about France

In fact, she did not know much about the world before the Fall since she is usually at home.

There was no internet at her home because her father believes that the corporations is spying on them and honestly, her father is not exactly wrong.

What she knows about France is what she found out from Jean and the people that lives there and they all have different perspective on what France is like

And Jean is a boy in the street, making money dealing drugs. Though Jean had never admitted it publicly, his silence against the assertion is enough

France ideals were noble but it run up against the complexities of lived reality

France before the Fall is one of the most multiethnic societies in the West and just because it doesn't formally recognize race doesn't naturally mean that race or racism doesn't exist.

France, unlike other nations does not formally keep statistic about race or religion, recognizing only two categories of people, citizens and immigrants

But racism exists and it is instituted by Jean general. And it is not the normal white racist men oppressing the black man narrative.

Jean had many generals.

Some of them are Algerian and some of them are Arabs.

But they are French.

There is also a few Chinese French, the Roman, the Berbers and he had diverse people becoming his general.

Europe is not a small continent. And Jean could not be everywhere at the same time....at least not during that period of time.

Some of his generals are very racist. When one of his general went to Algeria, this general which is very racist against people of religion had massacred the entire city

And this is only one of the few atrocities committed by his generals

And so on and so forth and it is because of this Jean had to bear with a tainted reputation since then.

Even now, he had enemies wanting his head.

People had a certain idea about him, about his life and about his intention.

People would not know that Jean at that time was just a boy who wanted to survive. That boy almost did something which Napoleon and Hitler couldn't do.

Take over Europe.

In the end, he relinquishes his control over the Empire, letting the Empire to be broken up ruled by the Senator approved by the Republic.

Whether fortunate or not, the Weronian Occupation happens and racism between humans drops a lot

It helps when you have a common enemy that one could band against.

Katarina had met with Jean. After all, that he had achieved he only wanted to live peacefully with his lover, Paulette. A simple life for a complicated man.

And what about her?

A girl that do not know the world. A girl that only knows that dark room. And she is now the strongest woman in the world

People only saw who they are now and they forget under that surface appearance, under the light of glory, there is still that core of them.

But for Azief.... that core of his being, the topic that could make him excited, he only shares it with only a few people.

And Katarina is one of those people

This is the kind of understanding between them. Katarina thought went to many places as she tasted Azief coffee.

Azief is looking the distance, and she is looking at his side profile thinking of how handsome he looks and blushing after thinking about it.

It is good that the area is not so brightly lit or her red face would surely be seen by Azief. And knowing him, he would obviously tease her.

Azief make an effort to love the thing she love and she makes an effort to love the things that he loves.

This compromises, this effortless effort is almost natural to them, like an imperfect soul that met each other and complete each other

This kind of effortless love, in the best sense of the word, a love that requires no effort because it was so easy, as easy and as important as breathing, makes them feel comfortable and safe with each other

Azief then began telling her about the story of the Barista in Australia. She only smiles.

Azief always had a talent of storytelling. Or maybe it is because it is him that telling the stories that Katarina does not mind listening to it

Many people do not know this but Australia has quite the coffee culture' Azief began and Katarina nodded

The more she response, the more he become enthusiastic. To her, Azief look like a little child right now.

There is this joy that comes from him when he could talk to someone about the things he likes.

To others it might seem unnatural that one of the most fearsome men in the world would look so happy talking about coffee.

But this is the side that Katarina loves. Azief had his manly side. And he has his gentle side. And his cute side.

And she loves all of it.

Of course Azief himself tell her that did not know that Australia has such a rich culture in coffee in the past.

He had never been to Australia but when he takes over Australia continent and make it his Pandemonium, there is a few survivors of Australia that returns back to Pandemonium.

One of them is a barista before the Fall. He took the Herbalist class. But for some reason he activated some secret requirement and get a unique class of Barista.

Azief hired him to Pandemonium Palace and even ask him to teach him how to make a good coffee.

He told her of how he messes up in identifying the coffee beans and how to brew and he takes prides in it.

Katarina smiles and chuckles a few times. She could imagine the barista feeling awkward and at odds seeing the ruler of Pandemonium being so passionate about coffee.

### **Chapter 1187: One beautiful night v**

This is the kind of talk that they have been at for the past couple of months. They talk about simple things. They talk about the past trying to know each other better.

It is one of the things that Katarina envious about Sofia. Sofia has a connection with Azief that she did not and that connection is the connection of the past.

That connection is something that is hard to break. Because Sofia knows the Azief that she doesn't know An Azief of the past. She could only know from his stories. Then Katarina would tell him stories. Unlike Azief there is not much to share.

She did not have that much of adventure and as for the dark things happening in her life, she did not like to tell it and Azief did not like her to relive it.

They eat and they talk. But they did not touch the issue of last night.

They always skirted around the issue. More like they were in the prologue and the main story has not yet started

They come here both because they have something to say. No...to be more accurate, Katarina has something to say and Azief had something explain.

But as they were drinking coffee, eating the good meal, sharing stories, it almost like they don't want to talk about what happened.

Last night, something happened.

Azief was also here last night.

They were sitting in the balcony, looking at the lakes and the stars. For the past five months they have been catching up with each other

Azief told her about what happens on Earth and she told him about what she experienced in the Seresian world

So, before last night, they have told each other almost everything that had happened. Of course, Azief did not share a few things.

One of the few things he did not share with her was the fact that he would one day fights the world.

It is the matter regarding his time travel escapades.

He also did not share with her about the diamond like things thing he got in that Thought Consciousness domain.

This is because this is something that does not need to be shared. He himself still did not know what it is.

And he had the feeling that this thing is something of a trump card of him

He had been planning a lot of things since he saw what he would become in the future. And he is making some preparation.

And then there is the thing about Sofia. He had been maintaining the distance between him and Katarina because of this.

Because of his conflicted feeling. These are the few things he did not tell her.

But last night, something changed.

Was it because the moon was beautiful? Or was it because of the lights? Or was it because last night Katarina looked so beautiful? Or is it because of his loneliness?

Whatever the reason was, Azief blurted out about him and Sofia breaking up. He and Katarina were bantering back and forth and suddenly he blurted it out.

It shows how comfortable he had become with Katarina that they even had their own way of bantering and in that moment when his guard is down, joking around, teasing each other, something that he did not want to say comes out of his mouth

And once it comes out of his mouth he could not take it back. And then there is silence. He could see Katarina was hurt because of that

Because he did not tell her. Or maybe it is because he hides it from her, knowing fully well how she felt about him

There was silence and there was this subtle change in their relationship in that instant.

Suddenly Katarina felt more conscious of herself and he on the other hand felt like he was standing on a floor made of needles.

And then Katarina began asking him why does he feel the need to hide it from her.

And they both know the answer

It is because Azief needed a reason. A reason to distance himself

And there was silence again. And then they began talking. Screaming actually. Emotions running high and powerful auras exploded around the area.

At that time Azief contained it with his own force field.

But their shouts and anger produce thunders and lightning in the sky. Snows falling down with hails and sharp powerful winds.

If they were normal people, their argument would probably only make the neighbors feel angry because of the noise disturbance.

But when these two are angry, when their emotions are running, these two people who are godlike in power get angry, they affect the matters around them, they affect the properties of particles.

So, when they are angry, thunder roars, lightning strikes the ground, dark clouds gather, snows fall and wind storms appear.

Katarina was angry and she was sad. There are some harsh words traded with each other, but Azief could never get angry with her.

Because she is not in the wrong. And because tears are falling down from her eyes. Azief is not weak against tears.

But that depends on who it is. He knows Katarina. He knows that this is a woman that has always held back her tears.

But since meeting him, she always was forced to cry. Azief calms her down and hugged her and they were just hugging each other without words

The world calms down and Azief doesn't know what to say. He knows that Katarina is just venting.

Without a word, trying to arrange their feelings.

And then while embracing each other, they look at each other's eyes and Azief leans down and kisses her.

And she replied with her action. Shine upon by the moonlight, the scene was beautiful and yet at the same time gives one the feeling of a bittersweet reunion

It was not the first time they kissed each other. Katarina and him both remember that spring blossom day again.

Azief had promised her that he would come and when he came to her they kissed and that feeling of happiness is once again felt by both of them

But it felt like the first time all over again. And sometimes for good things, it is good that they could experience it all over again

Then Azief releases her. There is a complicated expression on his face when he looks at Katarina

He sighs and then leaves the balcony area, not knowing how to explain what happened and why he did what he did

And that is why in the morning, the vibe between them was so awkward.

'I am finished' she said and it brought him back to the current time. Katarina had finished her meal and her coffee

looking at Azief across from her and said

'We need to talk'

Azief could feel that this was coming. He just did not expect Katarina to be this direct. He looks at her and said

'Do we really need to talk about it? It's good now' he said but Katarina just remain silent and Azief knows this is her way saying that she is serious about this.

Azief did not say anything. Katarina seeing this ask

'I want to know why did you kiss me?' Today, she will make it direct. Azief likes to talk in circles sometimes, especially when he knows he did something wrong.

The best way to deal with Azief when he is like this is to go straight to the point. Katarina did not want to argue with him. She did not want to force some kind of responsibility to him. She just wanted to know.....why?

Why the kiss? She wanted to know what this man is feeling. What feelings he hides under that expressionless face?

Azief put down the fork and the spoon.

The coffee is also half drunk.

He closes his eyes for a second and then he got up from his seat.

'Wait for me on the sofa. Let me clean this up first' he then began taking the plates and the bowls and the cup and put it on the tray and brought it to the sink.

Katarina look at this and she just shakes her head and got up and went to the sofa.

She leans back her head on the sofa while closing her eyes.

Azief went to the sink and began washing the plates. Actually, if he wanted to he could swish his hand and could clean the plate with a wave of his hand.

But he did not do that.

Because he wanted to take some time.

And Katarina could also tell so she just went along with it.

Azief is trying to think and trying to understand why he did what he did yesterday

As for Katarina, she wanted answers. She is already shocked enough to find out that Azief and Sofia had broken up.

The kiss is something that she did not expected. She did not hate it. She just wanted to know why he did it.

Is he pursuing her? Or is she just the rebound girl? Or was he affected by the vibe of last night?

Was it his true feelings that leaks out?

What does he think of her? What does the kiss mean?

Of course, Katarina knows that a kiss does not have to mean anything and Katarina knows this.

But that only applies to other men. And Azief is not like any other men. Because she knows him. This is a man who deny his feeling in a daily basis

This is a man that created a nuclear bunker around his heart. A man that find sharing his heart more terrifying that fighting horned monsters or titanic beast

A man who was so hesitant about choosing who he les because he fears that he would hurt the other one.

Decisive when it is about anything other than love. Maybe because to him love is very important, he treated it too cautiously.

In love he is kind. In other things, not so much. He did not show his passion openly but away from the prying eyes of the world, those who he loves understand how much love this man has for them

So, a kiss is never just a kiss. Not for him.

### **Chapter 1188: One beautiful night vi**

He respects her feelings enough to know that kissing her like that, like a thirsty man finding water in the desert, so passionate yet so gentle...that kiss means something.

Because it is him and because of her feelings.

Katarina knows that even after he had chosen Sofia, he had never fallen out in love with her. But that is what makes it so hard for her to forget him

Because he is doing things like this. It is like he could not help it and she also could not help it.

He loves her but can't be with her.

But he still wants to protects her.

That is why he sent his secretary to look after her. This secretary is of course Sasha. She is the only person in Pandemonium that is recognized as such.

When he could not see her, could not protect her the way he did before, he sent Sasha to look after her.

But knowing this Katarina felt a bit angry.

Azief could sometimes be a coward. He did not want to show affection to her, but he also does not want her to fall into any disaster

He hurts her but doesn't want to feel guilty.

So, she sent Sasha back. She did not mind Azief feeling guilty. At least he would still be thinking of her.

The feeling of anger is something that is understandable.

What is he trying to do?

On one side, he told her to forget her.

Yet, how could she forget him, when he still trying to protect her, trying to help her and always a trace of him could be seen around her.

It is a bit selfish of him

And her feelings are not something that could be turn on and off just like that.

Even if she wants to forget, she could not

Even if she wants to turns it off, she could not

And she is angry that Azief felt kind of guilty kissing her. He did not say it but Katarina could guess what Azief was feeling when he broke the kiss last night and go away

She did not do anything wrong to anyone and neither did Azief.

There is nothing to be guilty about

From what she understands he and Sofia had broken up.

Katarina had respected Azief decisions when he chose Sofia. She was sad...but she did not throw a tantrum, she did not attack Sofia. She just wallows in her own feelings.

Of course, it would be best if she is the one beside him.

She wishes that it was her that he had chosen.

But since he had chosen Sofia, she chose to respect that. Because she wants him to be happy.

But she still loves him and as such when the Demon King was battling Azief, she also sends her attack, trying to help Azief.

But, this...last night, what happened....is not something that she could understand.

Azief did not only tell her that he had broken up. He also told her how and why he had broken up with Sofia.,

He had proposed to Sofia and Sofia rejected him. To her, this mean it is over between Azief and Sofia.

And there is nothing for Azief to felt guilty about

And since this happens, Katarina did not feel that she is doing something wrong. She had never hides how she feels for him.

The whole world knows about it when she created that mountain of ice, fully intending to die together with him

Then the sound of the plate being put on the dryer brings her back. She could hear him coming to the sofa

Azief finally finished washing the plates and he walk slowly to the sofa. He sat beside her and Katarina opens her eyes.

Azief puts his hand together, and one could see from his expression that he is thinking how to say something.

He gives up and look in front of him. She also looks at the direction he is looking.

They look at the stars and the night sky in the distance and there was silence between them. Katarina would not repeat the question.

She knows Azief had heard her loud and clear. So, she is now just waiting for his answer. Azief uses both of his hand to rub the back of his neck

He then sighed and said

'It's complicated' that was his answer. Katarina did not say anything and Azief knows he did not answer her question

What she wanted to know was why he kissed her. And he could tell that Katarina would not accept that answer

He looks at her and said

'I don't know why.' Finally, Katarina looks at him, there is a trace of sadness in her eyes.

'You know' she finally said

Azief shakes his head and trying to find the perfect word of how to start this kind of conversation. Azief was never an eloquent speaker.

And because of his reputation and image, there is not a lot of places where he needs to speak. So, finding the perfect word for this kind of situation is not easy

Because...and he perish the thoughts in his mind. Not wanting to be tempted by the feelings he had hold back.

'This past five months.... I got to know you again' he said. Katarina nodded and then Azief continued.

There is a smile on his face

'I always have this certain idea of you. But I never really knew you. I know your pain. And I know what makes you happy. But all of it was on the surface. There is a lot of things I don't know about you'

Katarina then ask

'And knowing me.....were you disappointed?' she asks. Azief shakes his head and said

'I've never been more proud and happy to know you. The you that I don't know. The you of the past. That Katarina. That little girl that grows up to be this beautiful and most breathtaking woman I have ever had the pleasure of knowing'

'And then I realized something as I know more about you, learns more about you.'

'What did you realize?' She asks. Azief look at her, looking at that green eyes and black hair and he said

'I realize that I truly had fallen in love with you from the very first moment I saw you' he said and there is a smile on his face.

A smile that seems to hold all kinds of meaning. It is like a mix of happiness, pride and all around wholesome feeling contained in one smile.

He said it with such serious tone and Katarina, even though she was trying to maintain her tortured expression could not help but blush

Azief chuckles as tap her nose with his finger

'Hey' she said and Azief laughs. Then he said

'I realized then, it didn't matter what I know or not know about you. I would love what you love and hated what you hate simply because from the first moment I saw you, you have enchanted me, both mind and soul'

Such words, such powerful words strike Katarina heart like a Cupid shooting its love arrows. But, she doesn't understand what point Azief is trying to make.

He shakes his head and he said

'When I first came to this world, I was in a bad place. I just had broken up with her. Sofia rejected me' Katarina nodded

She had heard the story.

Azief continues

'But I am not angry at her. I know why she did it. I could understand it in my mind why she would do that'

Sighing, he said

'Because I know her pain and I know her scars. She sees me and she reminded of a mistake in her past, a mistake she knows too well not to repeat. I could not assuage that fear because that is not something I could do. It is something that she must solve by herself. There are things I could help with and then there are things that one must fight for themselves'

He closes his eyes and lean back on the sofa and then opens it back again and then he said

'I have my own demons to fight. Some is easier to fight when someone is with you. And some are demons that only you could fight. And if you want that happy ending, you want your happiness, then that is a fight you must win. So..... I accept it' he hesitated to say something but then he added

'Each moment since she broke it off with me, I restrained myself not to just fly toward her and bring her back with me to Pandemonium. I could do that. I could just warp space around me, opens up a portal around where she is, I could listen to her, see her wherever she was...but I did not do that. Because I understand her pain'

'And? What about you?' She asks. Azief was shocked for a moment and his eyes looking at Katarina become even gentler.

He shakes his head and said

'Yes....me'

He then said

'I understand her actions.... but that did not mean it doesn't hurt'

'When you love someone, when you ask them to marry you, hoping to spend the rest of your life with them, hoping that in that moment, the split second moment from the moment you ask her to marry you and then hoping the words that come out from her mouth is yes, it was the most nerve-racking moment in my life'

Katarina didn't like hearing about him, talking about another woman in front of her but she did not stop him.

It was like he is venting and she ask him

'You told me you pull out a ring'

Azief nodded

'It is not my culture to propose using a ring. But I did it because she once mentioned that she finds it romantic. I'm not telling you this to hurt you. I'm telling you this so that you could understand why when I first arrive here and saw you, I could not admit the truth'

'You have always been good in hiding your pains' Katarina said and Azief snickers, probably at himself.

'That is not a good ability at all'

Then he said

'I believe she would come back. I wanted to give her time. And I don't want to do something wrong'

'I know what you feel for me Katarina. I feel it too. But, I know she would never come back if something happened between us. Because her fears were always about us. She fears to be betrayed. To be lied to'

'And because of that she found it easier if I blame her. She wanted to end it because she didn't like who she had become and she didn't like that she knew that she would always, always will be paranoid about me and you. The jealousy, the envy, it turns her into something else and she did not like that. And to her, it is better to hurt me now, before I hurt her later. Because.....the pain is now too much'

Katarina look down for a second, trying to digest what Azief had been saying and then she understood something

### **Chapter 1189: One beautiful night vii**

She sighed and said

'She found herself falling deeper and deeper in love' she suddenly said. Azief smiles weakly and nodded

'The more she loves, the more she would be hurt. And since she could not handle the pain anymore, she decided to break it off. And I could not stop her because I had promised her before that when it gets too much for her, I would not stop her'

'But I always believe she would come back to me'

Then he looks at Katarina and said

'And since you had never ask about my relationship with her since I came to this planet, I have never felt the need to- '

Katarina slap him on his thigh and she glares at him

'The need to? I didn't ask because I don't like hearing that you are happy with her. I might be alright with it.... but that is because I want you to be happy'

Sighing she continued

'I can't force you to love me. But me being alright with you being with her did not mean that I want to listen how happy you got it'

'And that is why I didn't ask anything about you and her. Because I don't want you caught me wishing that it was me. I don't want you to see me being pathetic. I'm trying to be cool about it and that is why I didn't ask anything'

'And you knew that. You should have told me then'

Azief then said

'I thought you and me.... we could be just friend. I thought that if I pretend that whatever we have is not there, if I pretend it to be natural, it would be. I tried so hard'

'You try to lie to yourself'

Azief nodded

'You are like a magnet. And I could not help but keep getting pulled towards you. Last night.... maybe it is because the moon was so beautiful, or maybe it is because of how beautiful you look, or maybe it is just because of the vibe, but I just lost control and before I knew it, I had kissed you'

Katarina smiles and said

'I'm not looking for self-control' Azief look at Katarina eyes and he could see yearning in her eye

Katarina then put her hand on his thigh. Azief did not push her away and just shakes his head

'I could not'

'Why?' Katarina ask.

'You and her are broken up. It's over'

'I believe she would come back' he answers

Katarina did not say anything to this. But then she come closer to him that they both could hear each other heartbeats and she asks

'Do you love me.... still?' she asks. He looks at her and then before Azief could say a white lie, or another vague words, Katarina said

'No lies. No "I don't know" or "I'm not sure" kind of answer. Not tonight. Be honest with me tonight'

'I want to know what you feel for me. You push me away, then pull me back. You said you want to forget me but you make it impossible for me to forget you. It could drive a girl crazy. I want something real. I want honesty'

There was silence again between them.

Azief look at the sky and sighed

And then he confesses

'I do love you'

'Then what is stopping you. I'm here' she said.

Azief look at her face, that beautiful face that could enter a dream and turn a nightmare into a happy dream

He looks at her lips, tempting him, and she looks at Katarina beautiful green eyes. This is not just any other woman.

Katarina might be just a normal woman in the beginning of the Fall but as she grows stronger and understand many more things and learn things, she had this aura around her

It was the same aura that Azief has. The aura of a powerful person. Like their experience and their strength of heart emanated and oozes out of them

Katarina herself over the years had transformed herself so much so that she befits her title as the most beautiful woman in the world.

When she is with him, she is very casual. But even in her casual action there is a certain grace and power, nobility etched in every gesture.

How could anyone not love her? He thought in that moment. He sighed and then said

'You deserve better' he paused for a second and then said

'I'm not a perfect man' he said

She shakes her head

'I never ask for a perfect man. I want you' the word is very bold and very telling.

'You're my summer, my spring, and my winter' she said and she smiles like she was recalling something

'It's crazy how much I love you. And it is crazy that we are in love with each other, and yet we could not be together'

She smiles bitterly and then continue

'I don't know when it starts. But the moment I fall in love with you, it seems that there is no way out. I just keep falling deeper in love with you'

Katarina then brought her hands to his cheek and come closer to his face, so that he would see her and she smiles at him

'I.....am like you Azief. I thought you were still with Sofia. So, I wanted to treat you like you are a friend. Because I don't want to make you sad' there is tears forming in her eyes and as the first drop was about to fall, Azief wipes it

'Don't cry. Not you' he said. Katarina smiles and said

'I can't fight for us.... if you don't want to fight for us'

There was silence between them for a moment.

On the sky, the clouds did not cover the moon, the moonlight shining brightly illuminating the night sky, so much so, that one might not feel that it is night

It gave the night a certain ambience. The wind blows gently and everything seems beautiful

Then she said

'Last night, when I heard that you have broken up with her, I felt.... both sad and yet I was also feeling happiness. I felt sad that you have to go through that. I felt sad that she broke your heart. And I felt sad because I don't understand why she would do that. I know you and her must have some reason. Maybe it is because of me. Or maybe it is because of something else. I don't know'

Azief just listen to Katarina. He does not know where Katarina is going with this

'What I do know is this. If I love you and you love me and we are together, I would never let you go. I was never a lovesick girl until I met you. I have never loved something and worried about something as much as I loved and worried about you. And I felt sad for her because I know she made the wrong decision'

Azief look at her and raised his eyebrows

'What wrong decision? Breaking up with me?'

Katarina shakes his head

'Saying no.' she smiles and said

'Saying no to spending the rest of her life with you' Azief was shocked to hear her say that.

'I felt happy because now I can express what I feel. But I can't do it alone' Then Katarina lean in and kiss him.

It is a light kiss, not like some kind of a passionate lover kissing. It is a gentle kiss and it is brief. In her kiss, there is a demand. A demand for an answer.

And Azief answers it as he kisses her back. Just five minutes before midnight.

That is the feeling that they both felt, right at the last moment, when everything is said and done, one action reveals all of their feelings.

Katarina release him from her kiss and they both are out of breath. She looks at him and she smiles like a little imp, like she got the answer she wanted

Azief look at her dumbfounded, because of what she did and what he did.

She smirks and chuckles and then she got up from the sofa

'I wanted to talk to you tonight because I wanted to know where your heart lies. And now...I see that you are still confused. You love me, you wanted to kiss me, you wanted to hold me but yet you don't allow yourself to do all this. But....' and she chuckles a bit, 'Some part of you is very honest'

Then she sighed and said

'I don't want to force you to love me. That is not the kind of love that I wanted. And I will not be giving you an ultimatum. But I hope that.... that you know what you want Azief. Because you cannot do this to me...all the time'

'You could not give me hope and then breaks it. You could not say that you would forget me but protect me from the dark. I want you to know what you wanted'

'And if that is me, then that is great. If its Sofa, then that's good. But.....know what you want. Because I will not always be here. And I will not always be waiting. If there is anything that I have learned since the Fall, it is that life....is never certain'

Katarina look at the stars in the distance and she smiles bitterly and then she said

'I will forget what happen last night. But I hope you would not forget about what tonight. I would just treat what happens last night as a day where you suddenly get sentimental and want a warmth of a person you know' Then Katarina walk away from the balcony.

Azief look at her back and there is a complicated expression on his face. He knows he should catch up on her.

But he also knows if he did that, then tonight would be a beginning of something new. He got up from the sofa, looking at the back of the woman he loves, walking away.

And he is struggling with all kinds of emotions and memories, his hope about Sofia, his desire not to hurt Katarina and the feeling of love he felt for both of these two beautiful and amazing woman and he knows he has to make a choice. He had made it before but it did not go the way he wanted

He doesn't want it to not work again. And it has only been a few months. He could not just forget about what happens with Sofia and just goes to Katarina like he is changing clothes.

That is not just who he is. It is easier, if he just did not want anything. But he wants many things. And he doesn't know how to solve these feelings and those two feelings.

The silhouette of Katarina is fading. Azief is still looking. And then he made his decision. He looks at the moon first and he thought to himself

'The moon is beautiful, isn't it?' He thought of the words that Natsume Soseki uses and he smiles

Then he takes his step

### **Chapter 1190: A helmet (1)**

A Month Later

Azief slowly opens his eyes and he could see the white light from the lamp of his room. The lamp is an orb suspended on the ceiling like a fluorescent thin tube light only that it did not have a tube

The light itself is dim.

Azief then said

'Morning mode' the light suddenly becomes brighter.

A disembodied voice then echoes over his room

'Sir. Do you want me to read the schedule for today?'

'There is no need, Alfred. Engage silent mode. Today, I would like to do things manually'

'As you requested Sir'

Azief smiles a bit. He still felt that he is about to laugh each time he called his semi-autonomous Artificial intelligence that is embedded into the apartment programming Alfred.

He gave the AI his name Alfred. It is Batman butler. Most of the time, he names his Artificial Intelligence AI, as it looks like the acronym of Ai

He is not good at naming things so he simply copied the name of Batman butler. He could also choose the kind of voice that he wanted for his AI.

Orvans technology is very convenient

As for this Artificial Intelligence it is embedded into this apartment but this Artificial intelligence is basically only a bit more advanced from Siri but it is unlike Qarliya who have independent thought and could even be considered a true living lifeforms.

The AI in the room is simply just programming that looks like real, there is limitation to its thoughts, it did not possess emotion other than what is programmed into it and there is limiter to restrict any anomaly that might occurred because of the interaction between the AI and the particles that exists in a particular world

He is still sitting on his bed and then he refreshes his memories and then he nodded

'There is a lot of things to do today. I guess Qarliya had managed to prepare it for me.' He had asked Qarliya to do something for him. What he didn't expect that it took her a month.

Though that is quite understandable considering that this is the month that Katarina would be leaving this planet with him.

So, Katarina and Qarliya had been busy at work making sure that the Seresian planet is ready to impress the United Intergalactic Alliance.

Though Qarliya is very accurate in her calculations.

She said it would take about a month.

And before he had gone to his apartment, Qarliya appeared before him yesterday and told him the equipment will be ready by the morning.

'I hope everything went well for them' and then he sighed.

Most people waking up in the morning would not look as energetic as he is but Azief had never need sleep in the beginning.

But he found that when he is sleeping certain things become clearer for him, memories that is in his subconscious usually pointed something to him when he is asleep.

Maybe because it would not be long now for him to return back home, he is not that particular this morning

He did not feel groggy at all. He got up from his bed and stretch his body a bit. He takes a breath and he could energy sucked into his body.

Of course, with his current location, shielded by all kinds of enchantment, the amount of energy he could take from the surrounding is very little but it is enough for him to get reenergized.

Right now he is half naked showing his well-toned abs.

He quickly goes to the bathroom to take a bath and then wears a normal t shirt with jean. He then opens the radio, and songs coming from the radio is Ne Yo with the song So Sick.

He looks at the radio and he nodded.

'It's the 2000s now. Well, it is the 90s yesterday. So, the two thousand is a good choice' Azief thought to himself.

While the song was playing he brew a coffee with the coffee machine.

He also put a few bread on the toast, got to the kitchen and make some juicy omelet.

It did not take long for all of this to be served. He put all of it on the table on the kitchen. Then he brought out the newspaper from his room to the kitchen.

By now, Ne Yo song had ended and now there is Nelly and Kelly Rowland song playing, a song titled Dilemma.

Azief take a bite of the bread slathered with juicy omelet and he smiles with satisfaction. Taking a sip of coffee, he felt refreshed.

Azief right now is in the lab.

For the past few weeks he had been living inside the lab to memorize all kinds of information and technology that the Orvanians allowed him to bring back to Earth

And as he lives inside the lab, he got to find out that the lab had many more things that is beyond his imagination

This room is one of many rooms inside the lab. It is very luxurious and there are many templates that he could use.

The room follows the template of 21st century Earth design

There are many others like the medieval era theme, the Stone Age theme, the Asgardian theme, the Three Thousand Worlds Template Immortal cave theme and many others.

He just needs to apply the theme and the matter inside the room would morph into that theme.

There is an element of nanotechnology and matter reconfiguration in the technology in this room.

As for the eggs and the other organic things, inside the lab there is a highly independent farm that could easily be harvested anytime he wanted

There are also many toys that Azief had been playing with, toys that he did not know that the lab possess.

For example, the radio that he is listening now. The radio is playing song that is around the 2000 and 2010 period on Earth

That is why there is songs like So Sick and Dilemma. Azief chose that particular time period because he likes the song around that time

And also because he had heard the 90s yesterday

The radio itself is not a normal radio.

It is a Multiversal Time Dimensional Radio.

It had a longer name a name that but since it is him now he just called Multiversal Time Dimensional Radio and sometimes he just called it Multiversal Radio

It is a trinket, a toy to the Orvanians.

Simply things to relieve their boredom when they are at some other star system or some other dimensions and sometimes they use it to understand a certain alien civilization cultures

It is actually simpler if they use some other technologies to understand other alien civilization culture but there are times when the Orvanians wanted to take it slow and since that is the case they would sometimes use this radio.

But most of the time the radio is simply used as a tool to relieve their boredom

This radio could tap into any kinds of radio communication in all of the Multiverse regardless of time and space differences.

It recorded and it stores all of the data into it and could access the radio signals from almost all of the Omniverse ignoring the space and time in between

That is the advanced version of it. Azief got the not so advanced version of it. But that is enough for him

What it means was that the radio that Azief is listening to right now is a radio signal from a radio station on Earth.

that radio station is Flyfm. It is one of the radio station he heard when he was a teenager in the year 2011.

'Felt like a lifetime ago' he mutters to himself.

When the song ended and the radio segment began, the radio is actually tapping onto that radio signal during that time.

In other words, he is listening to a radio station of the past. It is live yet to Azief it is the future. Of course, this radio work only one way.

He could not send a radio message to the past even though right now he is connected to the past.

If one could hear the radio, the host of the radio is saying that it is live radio and it is. What Azief is hearing right now is live radio in the past

It is not that Orvianians could not make such features, it is just they banned such features toward some of their technologies.

After all, when time is changed, and certain timelines get disrupted, then there would instability in time and space and that means work for them

So, while they are certain technologies of theirs that had time-based application, most of their other creation did not put the feature of trying to tamper through time

Though Azief was thinking of a technopath. Surely, there would be some technopath in the Omniverse that could hack this radio and send a message to the past.

What if he hacked the radio and send a message to the past saying that Earth would be filled with monsters?

Chances are, the people in the radio station would chalk it up to some people just being crazy. And Azief also would not do that even if he could. He knows there is a price for tampering with time.