

## Shadow 981

### [Chapter 981: The two people of the court \(2\)](#)

Most of them were sent to the territory of the other lords of Pandemonium. Some of them were sent to the mayor of the large cities all over Pandemonium.

And some other is sent to survey the lands and create a map as fast as possible so they could see the changes of Pandemonium and determine where is the other cities and villages that used to be in Pandemonium.

She sighed when thinking about all of this.

'It seems the Palace would have to be repaired after this' she said. Lukas only nodded but then he added

'It also need renovation. And a few architect to add a few more structure. It looks a bit vast and empty. I hope the Ministry of Finance would not neglect to mention it later when they do their meeting'

Sasha look at Lukas with her eyebrows raised and said

'He would probably listen to you.'

'I believe that he would listen more carefully if it comes from you. Since our liege will be going into seclusion, I really dare not use his name in vain.'

Sasha think for a few seconds and nodded

'I would persuade him. Though, I require some of the secrets of the Minister of Interior.'

Lukas smile and said

'Deal'

Sasha then ask

'We have been walking for quite a while. There is no one around us and I notice no one that is listening to us right now. If there is anything you want to say to me, this is the right time' And Sasha stopped.

Lukas also halted.

The atmosphere between them turn tense.

She was practically glaring at him.

Sasha had a lot on her plate.

While she enjoys this kind of banter and words with double meaning and secret deals in the background, today is not such a day.

The world today, changed. And not in a small way. So, one could understand her frustration today to not want to be stuck here for long

There is now a gap with her old intel and the new intel. There are areas that needs to be mapped, organizations to be tracked and spies to be captured.

Lukas only smiles.

'Don't be impatient. That is not a good trait to have'

Sasha only snorted.

Lukas had sent a signal to Sasha when she went out from the throne room. Whether Death Monarch was in the throne room or not, he would still send that signal toward her.

The difference was that if Death Monarch was in the throne room, he would meet with Sasha after he reported all of the things that happened to Death Monarch

But, since Death Monarch had disappeared, he expedites the things he needed to do. The word "walk with me" is simply a way of Sasha saying she got the message.

They walk along deserted hallways, going as so far to go across the garden and now here is all to make sure that they were not followed and that no one is listening to them.

One might not have the gust o eavesdrop on Death Monarch.

But, these forces certainly have the guts to eavesdrop on them.

And even though there is just a great change that is happening right now that affect the palace, there is never an accident of being too careful.

Especially when they stand on a position of power and influence and possess many secrets of the world.

Even more so, they need to be vigilant so they would not leak any important secret

Yes, they were many times that they did not like each other presence.

Lukas did not like that Sasha is like the head of a secret police.

And Sasha did not like the fact that the Keeper of the Palace possess too much power in the Imperial Court during the absence of Death Monarch

But, in the end, there is quite a tacit understanding between both of them.

They did not attack each other, and at times they even cooperated with each other in the dark

Who knows? Maybe the antagonistic behavior they showed toward each other is probably also an act.

Sasha did not understand why Lukas is still not saying anything and instead still keep talking about unrelated things.

Even she did not have more topic to talk about.

And she still had a lot of things to do. Just thinking about it gives her headache.

There is Sina on the other side of the world that she also need to keep track of.

Since she could not really use teleportation stone right now since she herself did not want to be caught in an unstable space time connection, she would have to brought out her spaceship.

The military department had a lot of those cool gadgets.

Wang Jian might fight using his staff but that did not mean he suddenly forget that mechanical technology existed.

Especially after seeing the drastic improvement of the other world powers in creating more mechanical soldiers and ships.

Most of the world power right now did not worry too much about normal monster.

Most of them were left alone mostly to train the rookies of the military so they could level up.

Some schools that train people of the Pillar Forming to raise their levels also sometimes rent a few dungeons from the central government.

And there is also some of the expert in seclusion that sometime would bring his or her disciple to clear a dungeon or an area where monsters are in abundance.

There is now rarely a monster that would bring great catastrophe.

They know which monsters to provoke and which one they could not.

There is some dragon nest in Europe and Asia that some people had designated as a no go zone since they did not want to alarm the monster in those nest.

But, as for low level monster there is no such threat.

If not for all of people wanted to use the low level monsters as training for their own forces, each great power could eliminate a lot of low level monster just by sending a few thousands of mechanical soldiers.

Mechanical robot did not level up.

So instead of wasting such a precious resource which is EXP to robots, it is better for these forces to strengthen themselves.

As Pandemonium is laxer in regulating dungeons compared to some of the world powers who would monopolies the area, most of the adults of Pandemonium are all Orb Condensing realm and higher.

Those who were in Pillar Forming is mostly only children or babies or people who could not fight and did not have the courage to fight.

But that is not a common sight in Pandemonium considering the effort one must have made to come to this continent.

As such, most of the Pillar Forming realm is usually babies or young children. She shakes her head

See, her thoughts are wandering again, she reprimanded herself.

Sina is her task number one.

And then there is still Somi.

She is probably with her husband.

This woman is very low profile since the death of her sworn sisters during the Weronian Occupation.

But since Sasha is the head of the largest intelligence agency in Pandemonium, she keeps a tab for her.

From her investigation, even though she is quite low profile after marrying Wang Jian, she had also drastically improved herself and she is now a Disk Formation expert.

No one knows her upper limit since she was never put into harm's way after marrying Wang Jian.

Wang Jian as one of the Three Great generals of Pandemonium and he is not someone you would want to readily offend.

As such, no one would want to touch Wang Jian dragon scale which is his wife. Somi path is quite different from Death Monarch path.

Somi walk the path of swordsmanship.

But one could not really call her class a swordswoman either since there is quite a difference between her and normal sword master.

That is the report of her subordinate. Sasha wonders how Death Monarch would teach Somi if he really intends to take her as his disciple

And there is also the other work, that she need to make sure the location of her other secret base

With the sudden change in the world geography, Sasha doubts that her secret spot remains the same.

She needs to mobilize the Research Department to determine where all of their safe houses of the Shadow Guard went to.

Some of them have some tracking devices and recorded and could easily be tracked

But, there some of the secretive one that certainly had to be look by them, manually by relying on the calculation of these researcher

This mean she also have to give them the original coordinate. There are too many things that needs to be settled.

### [Chapter 982: An envelope](#)

At this kind of time, she wished that she would have ability like Jean where she could separate herself into hundreds of avatars and settle all of this at the same time.

She could create an avatar.

But doing so would take away some of her energy.

She is unlike those people with almost an unlimited reserve of energy in her body that she could uses haphazardly.

She still had to ration and conserve her energy

Splitting herself like that not only would split her attention, it would also split her strength.

She could not create thing from nothing. The energy of the avatar had to be taken from the original. The original lose some of energy

This is usually not a big deal. Since the original body could absorb more energies.

But, there is this limit of how many avatars she could split from her original core of energy. Unless she possesses certain methods, it would be a disadvantageous action for her.

And since she is the head of the Shadow Guards, there is many people that would want to kill her.

Sasha would not be surprised if there is some people that could reverse-engineer the ability of an avatar so that the damage toward the avatar could be transferred into the real body

Some people did not have to worry about this like Death Monarch who could create avatars from Laws.

Just to defeat the avatar of Death Monarch is already incredible enough.

The same could be said for Jean Time Avatar. Jean avatar is created from the manipulation of time.

This is even more ingenious. And Jean also could manipulate time and not an easy opponent to beat unless you are one level above him.

His mastery of time itself would prove him to be a formidable enemy. As for Hikigaya, his specialty is always creating illusion.

Who knows? Maybe when you thought you were fighting him when actually you are fighting against smokes and wind

Hikigaya avatar is mostly in the form of mist.

While in that form he could not attack with full power it had the ability to easily dissipate meaning that his true body would rarely ever be in danger.

He is not a coward. He just doesn't like troublesome thing.

Haish, she sighed again inwardly.

She should take a vacation after this.

'Ah' she thought to herself. Should she said something to the Ministry of Welfare to establish some mandatory leave like before the Fall? Five work day and two leave day?

Then she shakes her head.

'I am sure I still had to work' she thought to herself. If she works in an office that would make sense.

But, the work she does is very secretive and it is not like she could just take a break on many things.

If it is small matter maybe she could ignore it for a day or two but the problems of the Shadow Guards are rarely small things.

If she got intel that someone is about to create some superweapon in some secret base, could she just ignore it and said to her subordinate

"Hey, sorry but I will be taking two days leave. Hope that the world would not suffer any calamity in these two days!" Before slamming the door of her office

She could not just ignore it, right?

Most of the thing she deals with is very dangerous and as such, while there is an opportunity for rest, when such intel come to her desk, she needs to track, analyze and also research it

If there is a superweapon that is about to be built, she needs to know who build it? For what purpose?

Who is the supplier?

Where is it? Who is the accomplice?

Would it benefit Pandemonium or not?

That and more

But while her job is stressful there is a few things she likes about her job. At least she doesn't have a boss that keep hounding her.

And at times, she does have time to relax.

She remembers the rest she had at the Grand Canyon. Of course the Grand Canyon is full of monsters down below, but with people of her level as long as she just wanted to enjoy the sunset it would not be a problem

Of course, by enjoying the sunset means she was with someone. A spy. Like her.

Haish.... her life is after all full of darkness and death,

Every once in a while she had to vent out and air out some of her frustration.

'Tch' she clicked her tongue

She resolved that after this problem settled, she needs to train a successor so that she would not be working these hard all the time

She then focusses again her thought and annoyance is slowly rising up in her heart. How much longer?

She looks at Lukas and raised her eyebrows.

It was like she was telling him

"hurry up, out with it!"

But Lukas could only smile bitterly. Then he said

'Let us walk a bit more' This time Lukas walk forward ahead of Sasha and Sasha is puzzled.

His dark blue robe sweeps the ground as the wind blows and sways his long robe left and right

'Come along' his voice trailed backwards.

Sasha frowned.

Then she walks following him. They get past through a broken bridge and had to jump through a few cut off courtyard.

There are now far away from the throne room and even had gone down a few floor below the area from where they started walking.

Where are they going?

She had already confirm with her Divine Sense that no one is listening.

How far should they go for Lukas to finally spit whatever he wanted to say to her?

Feeling a bit impatient, she said

'Who else do you think is listening? I have confirmed that there is no one around us. If you are not confident, I could even raise some protection formation with the hexes tables so that it would protect us from being spied on'

'There is someone still listening' Lukas said faintly, his word sounds like a whisper.

'Who?' Lukas halted, turns around and sighed. he did not say a word, but he pointed his finger toward the sky and suddenly Sasha understood who is Lukas talking about.

And her eyes narrowed down toward Lukas.

That gesture of Lukas seems to be very rude.

The other one that could still listen to their conversation and that finger pointing toward the sky referred only to one person

Death Monarch

What is this Lukas thinking? What kind of secret that he wanted to tell her that even Death Monarch should not listen to?

It could not be that this person is planning a treason right? She thought to herself.

No matter how big of a gut Lukas had, Sasha believe he would not have such courage to betray Death Monarch.

And if he really intended to betray Death Monarch, he would not be that stupid to ask her to accompany him.

Sasha could be said Death Monarch hidden blade. If Lukas really wanted to plot some sinister scheme toward Pandemonium, she would be the last person that he would want to talk to

Sasha then went silent.

She did not say anything but she followed Lukas silently. This time they did not talk about anything.

There is no conversation between them

Only the sound of their footstep in the deserted hallways and the sound of thunder and rain in the distance could be heard.

Sasha is racking her brain trying to deduce what Lukas is trying to say to her, going through all this trouble and even attempting to hide the content from Death Monarch

Lukas on the other hand is still calm. He could see that the rain is slowly turning into a drizzle. On some parts of the sky, the dark clouds are slowly receding.

The thunder is still loud and the lightning still flashes, but it is slowly decrease in intensity and numbers.

'That person is right even about this' he thought to himself.

The message that he wanted to give Sasha is a message he did not dare to open and to listen to himself.

That person gives him an envelope. That person even said, if he dares to look at it, he could see it.

Lukas is not brave enough. So, he had tried to reject it. But after talking with that person, he relented.

Since then he had been holding this envelope.

Today, he knew he had to give this letter.

He did not understand the words of that person before. Because at that time, he could not have predicted that things would be like this.

But now he understood some of that person words and now is the time for him to give this envelope to Sasha

He doesn't know what waves would rise if he gives this letter to her.

But he knows he had to face the music. And since he had to face the music regardless, it is better to face it sooner than later.

And he trusts that person would not harm Sasha and would not harm Death Monarch

### [Chapter 983: The trace of the regent](#)

Slowly, they reached a very secluded hallway. Sasha raised her eyebrows as she appears on this hallway.

Even Sasha did not know that there exists such a hallway. The door seems to be medieval like design, with brass like material coating the door.

No, she thought to herself.

The door is made from the brass-like material. Lukas look at the room and he heaved a sigh of relief

Sasha notices this and asked him

'What are you relieved about?' Lukas did not answer her question immediately as he seems to search for something inside his pocket.

After ruffling his pocket for a few second he brought out a silver key.

Lukas then answer her question.

'I fear that the room would change position after the world expansion. Thankfully, other than the fact that the distance is very far from before, the door is still here. I guess I am not that bad with direction'

Sasha then thought of something.



'Is this the door of Anywhere Room?'

Hearing Sasha question, Lukas smirks and said

'Wouldn't you like to know?' Then chuckling he said

'Unfortunately, this is not the Anywhere Room' Then pausing for a second, he said

'Why are you so interested in where the Anywhere Room is? You don't see us peeking around the secrets of the Shadow Guards'

'Hmph' Sasha snorted.

'I fear what I don't know.' Lukas shakes his head and said

'I am weak. And so does most of the Keeper of the Palace. Most of them are kids. They work for the palace for a few seasons and after they had enough money, they could pursue their dreams outside of the Palace. As long as they do not meddle in the matters of the politics, the palace could easily let them go'

Sasha knows all about the Palace rules.

There is a reason why most of the people relegated to normal job like watering the plants in the gardens, cleaning the normal rooms, the miscellaneous jobs of the Palace are usually done by young Keeper of the Palace.

It is so that they would not get involved in something big.

The higher the position, the more you would be exposed about the machination of politics of the Central Court.

There are some secrets, that once you knew, you are trapped. For someone who did not mind this, they could strive to higher position.

Lukas for example had heard seen so many things, heard so many things and speak a lot in the court.

He had learned secrets that if revealed could bring a lot of harm and shock in the world.

He knows this. Which is why he is the Head Keeper of the Palace and given protection by Death Monarch.

If he tries to leave the Palace without the permission of Death Monarch, he would be dead before he could step one foot out of the large palace entrance gate.

But, if you only want some extra money, wanting some experience or wanting to protect oneself from the bitter life outside of the palace for a while, then it is not good to know too many secrets.

Then, you could never leave the Palace even if you wanted too.

This is why Lukas always said to the new recruits that did not have ambition to stay in the palace to practice the wisdom of the three monkeys

See nothing, hear nothing, speak nothing. It is a bit of variation of the see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil

In the court, if you guard your eyes and don't go around trying to see things that are not related to you, you will be alright.

But if you did not do this, you might get involved with something complicated.

And be careful about hearing the conversation between the minister of the court and the influential figures.

That also could land you into trouble.

And other than greeting and relaying messages, the keeper of the palace should not speak too much and don't get involved in the factional dispute of the court.

Just do your job and do not go out from the scope and responsibilities of your job and you would be fine.

That is the three wisdom if you don't want to get involved with the Palace for a long time.

Sasha snorted and then look at Lukas like she was scanning him and said.

'You are weak? I beg to differ' Sasha said. Lukas only shakes his head.

'It is not like whatever I said would convince you otherwise, right?' Sasha did not reply. She only reply with

'Do not think that I don't know that you are also snooping around' Lukas did not reply to this provocation.

He needs to give this envelope to her and see what she thought about it. He did not know whether what he is giving to her is a plot or a scheme.

But, he did not think that person means harm.

After all, that person had predicted all of this.

And that person even predicted that after Death Monarch returns, he would then return back to seclusion.

Of course, one of the prediction is made before the matter of the world expansion, just before that person leaves the Palace.

The new prediction is made after the world expansion. He got the message after he went out the Anywhere Room.

He sighed internally.

He then brought the key toward the keyhole. Sasha frowned and then said

'If this is not the door to the Anywhere Room, where would this door leads? And what kind of room you are bringing me to?'

Smiling, Lukas said

'You would understand later'

He then turned the key to the right and the brass door glowed and runes that was carved onto the door glows.

Before Lukas uses that key, no one could see these runes.

But the moment, he opens the door with the key the runes appears.

And then the runes seem to be merging with each other creating a pattern. A humming sound could be heard and Lukas pushed the door opens

The runes immediately disappear but Sasha could see it turns into a painting of a one eyed raven

Lukas went inside the room while saying

'Get in' Sasha slowly walk in to the room.

And then Lukas closed the door.

The door closed and the moment it close, the entire room seems to glow as she could see thousands of runes coming out from each surface of the inside of the room.

From the tile of the ground, to the walls of the room, runes exploded out of every part of the room, floating in the air around them

Then it overlaid with each other, stacked upon tens of thousands of runes.

Sasha knew some of the characters but as they stacked with each other, and connected with each other, these runes seems to morph to a rune that Sasha knows nothing about

Like a foreign language that she could not read or understand. Sasha did not only pay her attention to the runes, she also looks around the room.

She would not be the Nightingale if she did not have some measure of vigilance in her heart. Regardless of her trust of Lukas, it is always good to be vigilant.

It is occupational habit at this point

There is not a lot to see in the room since the room itself had not furniture. It is an empty bleak large room. A large empty room of nothing.

But this room is very extraordinary.

Sasha had senses it the moment she entered the room. Her Divine Sense seems to be constrained. This is a cage.

A cage of Divine Sense. Not only it did not allow anything to come out, it also did not allow anything to go in

This secret must be something very important for Lukas to take all this kind of measure.

No, it might not necessarily because of the secret itself. This is to hide from the Divine Sense of Death Monarch

For some reason, she was reminded of Lukas gesture before.

Death Monarch could still listen in. And now she was brought to this room and she could feel that her Divine Sense did not work in this room

How could she not see the connection between the two?

'Tch' she clicks her tongue.

She seems to once again involve herself in something very troublesome. If this was any other times, she would not be this frustrated.

But, she already had a lot of work to do.

If this keep getting out of control, it would not be surprising if she were to die of overworking. Wouldn't that be quite a joke?

Lukas heaved a sigh of relief.

He did not understand the stormy emotions that Sasha is feeling right now and how she already lamented that she probably could not take a huge break after the task given by Death Monarch is completed

Lukas brought out the envelope.

There is a quizzical expression on Sasha face as she looks at the envelope.

'Someone had left it for me. Saying that you would understand if you read the letter inside the envelope.'

'Who?'

This is the question she wanted to know. Who sent such letter? Who is capable enough to order around the Head Keeper of the Palace?

And why does it need to be so secretive?

What kind of intel in the envelop that it requires so powerful of an array runic formation to make sure no one could listen and see what they were doing?

'The Regent' Lukas answered

'Regent?' It took a few second before she understood what Lukas is saying to her.

Loki the Trickster!

[Chapter 984: The reformer of pandemonium \(1\)](#)

He is the only one that would be referred to as a regent. Sasha could not help but narrowed her eyes when listening that it concerned Loki the Trickster

This is a man that Sasha very much do not want to fight. Yet, Loki had always clashed with her. He is really making it hard for Sasha to doing her job

When Death Monarch left, he had given the position of Regent to Loki.

Loki had strengthened the military, yet at the same time weakening the military faction on the court, balancing the court and cooperate with the great powers.

He had been quite the reformer.

If Death Monarch is known for his non action methods, in which he rarely makes his move, Loki on the other hand could be described as a very active ruler.

Since he is the Regent, he could very well have the power to command the Head Keeper of the Palace.

Sasha was not that close with Loki.

And she and her people was not in Pandemonium during the regency of Loki. They were doing something else. She even clashed with Loki people at that time

Of course, Loki did not mean to harm then.

He just wanted to know what they were doing. Even better, if he could control her people. That is not something that Sasha would allow and so they stay out of each other way

The thing was, what she was doing, clashed with what Loki was trying to do. Loki is now the enemy of the world after that announcement by the Mind Master.

But Sasha knows the truth.

This matter did not originate from Loki.

Yet, Loki is not saying anything and Death Monarch is not saying anything. Those in the know also did not say anything.

Since that is the case, why should she stuck out her neck?

Since everybody wanted to pretend not to know, not to hear, not to see and not to speak, she would also do the same thing

Who would have thought? The three monkey wisdom could also be applied outside of the Palace.

Sasha did not immediately accept the envelope. Instead, she looks around the room first. Then she narrowed her eyes.

Looking back at Lukas, she then asked.

'This room....is it his handiwork?'

Lukas sighed and nodded

'Why should this be hidden?' Lukas close his eyes for a second and then open it back up. He then said

'Because I don't know what is in the letter. He knows that I would be fearful of doing such a thing, keeping a secret from Death Monarch'

'But he manages to convince me and he even create this room for me so that I would not be fearful of reading the letter'

'But probably because he knows me, he knows I am never going to open the letter and probably waited until you return to give you this letter to you. He predicted that the day Death Monarch return is the day you would also returns. And his prediction has come to pass'

Then he sighed.

There are a few seconds of silence before he then said.

'The relationship between Death Monarch and the Trickster has always been complicated. For those who work inside the Court, it is even more so'

Sighing, he continued

'At times, they fought like they were enemies. But, if Death Monarch really thinks of Loki as his enemy, he would not have left Pandemonium on his hand. It might appear at times, that Pandemonium is a burden to him'

'But, it is a burden he willingly bears. Maybe, there is affection in his heart for the people living in Pandemonium. Or maybe he wanted to protect the power he got from having a large organization at his beck and call'

'Or maybe, just like other leaders and dictators of the world, he just like the feeling of being worshiped. Whatever the case was, Death Monarch really wanted to protect Pandemonium. I think we both can agree on this, right?'

Sasha nodded. She let him continue

Sighing again, Lukas then said

'Before Death Monarch return home, a month before, Loki had given this letter to me. I did not understand it back then with the word saying that when the world blames him for something, to be ready and to give this letter to you. I did not predict that such day would happen'

'But here I am. And here you are. The world is now blaming Loki for the Multiversal Convergence. And you are back. And so, I accidentally seem to get a clue about the events of today from the words of Loki, a month ago. I might not get all the answers, but I am pretty sure that I know some of the truth'

Pausing for a second, he looks at Sasha with a solemn look and said

'looking at today matters, I now understand. He had been planning for this since that time. Loki is not responsible for the Multiversal Convergence did he?'

Sasha frowned. She did not know whether she should answer him or not. And while she was shocked at the letter, she was even more shocked with what Lukas is saying

A month ago? That was before Death Monarch returns.

Then she thought again and she sighed inwardly

If time travel is possible, why not this? she thought to herself. Though, it did give Sasha a little bit more hint about Loki

Did he cooperate with the Oracle? This is another individual that Sasha has been trying to track.

She still unable to track her as she has been missing for years.

But considering that Antonius sometimes would appear in the world stage and do thing for the Oracle, Sasha is pretty sure that the Oracle is not yet dead

If not that, could it be that Loki also has the ability to look at the future? Sasha did not know the Grand Path of Loki. But it did not look like Loki had clairvoyance power.

It is something that she had to take into account of later if she were ever to clash with Loki once again.

She then shakes her head to shake off the thought from her head. Lukas look at Sasha and then said

‘Courtesy among colleagues should be maintained. I don’t think it would be that bad to tell me what really happened’ Sasha reaction looks like she did not want to tell him what happened when she is actually still thinking about Lukas word.

But Sasha quickly get her bearings. And she knows that Lukas wanted to know whether Loki was responsible or not.

She nodded.

‘It really was not him’ Lukas smiles bitterly.

‘As I thought. Quite a pity though. Having to take the blame for Death Monarch’ Lukas could easily understand what happen.

There is only one person that Loki would take the blame for

And that would be Death Monarch

Sasha then said

‘It is probably not something Death Monarch wanted’

Lukas only smiles bitterly at this.

Seconds passes and then Lukas said

‘Regardless, a month ago, Loki gave me that letter. He said it is something that you would need to read so you could prepare for some of the things he is going to do.’

What he is about to do?’ Sasha asked, her eyebrows raised. Anything that Loki would do would surely not be something that is insignificant.

Considering the fact that he would create even this room and the secrecy around it Sasha could deduce that Loki is about to do something big.

Lukas then said

'I ask him then at that time. Why would he want me to give the letter instead of...'? Lukas did not finish his word like he was thinking better of it.

And Lukas sighed

Then he continued

'He could give it to you yourself' he smiles bitterly at this. Then he added

'Of course, I know at that time, he sent his people to hunt you. So, I could guess that whatever he is going to say might not be something you might want to hear'

Sasha snorted. Thinking back at those times, she really did not appreciate Loki sending his hunting dog to capture her

She was forced to stand in the middle of the personal clash between Death Monarch and the Trickster.

It is not a good position to be in

'But as you may know, Loki would not kill you. At most he would imprison you for a while to not meddle with his matters. Haish' he sighed

'It surely is not for the lack of trying' Sasha said sarcastically.

Lukas did not say anything on this.

After all, he is not the one affected. There are many things in the court that he is aware of. But there is also a lot of things in the court he is not aware of.

And of the many things he could claim not to know in great details it would be about the matters of the Shadow Guards and the clash between Death Monarch and the Trickster.

While it is true, that it doesn't seem that Loki is intending to kill her, the fact that Sasha could not use the resources of the Shadow Guards and practically barred from entering Pandemonium during the regency of Loki had made her a fugitive.

Because while she has enemies in Pandemonium, most of the enemy she had in Pandemonium rarely could do anything to her because of the protection of Death Monarch

Outside of Pandemonium however.....she is fair game.

Not to mention the already bad blood between Pandemonium and the Crime Alliance, there is other organization that wanted her head, either for some posted bounty on some secret tavern, for fame or for the information that she had.

There is also the fact that there is a rumor that she has the Death List. Who knows who spread that rumor?

Though, Lukas had a suspicion that the rumor probably springs out from Loki himself

[Chapter 985: The reformer of pandemonium \(2\)](#)



She was ambushed in Sicily by a thousand members of the Crime Alliance because of that rumor.

If not for the fact that she had lifesaving measure by Death Monarch, she might probably die because of Loki action.

But then, thinking about it again, Loki might have predicted that Death Monarch had left her a few lifesaving treasures.

Maybe, he wanted to force out all of her methods and then finally come swooping in and capture her.

Knowing Loki, this is very possible.

She then focusses back to Lukas. Lukas did not notice that Sasha had been thinking about something else as he said

'Death Monarch trusted him enough to leave Pandemonium in his hand, but at the same time, he wanted to dismantle and contain Loki scheme by using the Shadow Guards. This is why these two brother gives mixed signals to the officers of the military and the officials of the court. But who could complain? Who dares complain?' He asked.

At this question, even Sasha do not know how to answer.

Even she, considered as many as the number two in Pandemonium dares not complain to Death Monarch

When she did, it is only because she was sure that Death Monarch would not kill her because of her words

And after years of accompanying this tiger, Sasha had developed a relationship of trust with Death Monarch

But even then, there were times when she is afraid of Death Monarch. What to say of those people who did not have such relationship?

They would probably be even more terrified.

Death Monarch is a silent and expressionless boss. It is very hard to know his mood and his desire

It kept the official guessing and the fact that Death Monarch did not have anything to constrain him other than himself, one could imagine the terror of trying to complain to such godlike being.

Sasha nodded at Lukas word as she understood this too.

Lukas then continue

'When he first gave me that letter I hesitated. After all, while Loki at the time was the ruler of Pandemonium, I was loyal toward Death Monarch'

'But, never underestimate Loki charisma or his scheme. Whatever his fault was, he did good for Pandemonium, deescalate the tension between the World Powers, establish order and create a beneficial cooperative relationship with the other great powers'

'Pandemonium had a lot more cities and a lot more people than the other great power and developing steadily each day. One could argue that is not what Death Monarch would want but the thing is nobody really knows what Death Monarch wanted unless he said it himself. His silence, most of the time is considered assent'

'Pandemonium is prosperous and people are happy during his rule. There were many more babies and people were more confident of living in Pandemonium'

Sighing, he then added

'I would not say that all of Loki decision is correct as there are some questionable things he did during his regency. But I dare say that most of the things he had done had contributed a lot to the peaceful world the past six years'

Sasha did not interrupt Lukas words

Sighing again Lukas then said

'He had said to me that if I wanted to, I could read what is in the letter. Whether because he knows me that much, or whether because he trusted me, I have never open the envelope and peek at the letter'

'Probably because he knows my personality that he had bestowed the envelope towards me. He knows I would probably be too afraid to read it. I too sometimes follow the wisdom of the three monkeys'

Smiling bitterly, he then said depreciatingly

'I know I would be tempted. I am not like those officials that always said with their own mouth that they could not be bought. I know I could be bought. If the price is good enough'

'Then why have you never been bought before?' Sasha asked

Smiling, Lukas answered

'The Price has never been good enough'

Sasha only laugh

'Probably the risk doesn't justify the rewards' she said. Lukas laughed.

'I dare not betray the strongest man in the world.'

'If he is not the strongest man in the world?' Sasha asked

Smiling, Lukas answer

'Then, mark my words, I would not be the first to leave him. In the end, I am still someone who would seek safety. I would not be the first to stick my head out, but I also would not be the last to leave a sinking boat'

'That is a bold statement to make' she said

Lukas reply

'I am being honest'

'Maybe if Death Monarch heard it, he would be furious?' Sasha said with a hint of teasing Lukas laughs and said

'he found it to be refreshing. I once spoke like this to him. He found it interesting. He said it reminds him to not forget the basis of the peace of Pandemonium'

Sasha did not say anything at this. There was silence between the, for a while as she sighed. Knowing Death Monarch, it would not be surprising if he really did say such a thing

Lukas then said

'As for this room, it is because Loki knows that'

Then after a second pause, Lukas said

'He said that the thing he wrote down in the letter must not be revealed to Death Monarch'

Hearing this Sasha was puzzled.

This looks a lot like some scheme. If they were not careful, they could easily lose the trust of Death Monarch

Thus, this is why she couldn't understand Lukas. Why he is so brazenly saying such thing, and not only that, brazenly saying it to her?

'I am, like what you said before, the blade of Death Monarch. Didn't he expected that if the content of the letter is harmful to Death Monarch I would inform him? Did the Trickster expect me to protect him? Or did he expect me to betray Death Monarch? If the answer is yes, to any of these question, then Loki had really made a mistake'

Lukas nodded

'I thought as much. And that is what I told him. You know what he said in reply?'

'What?'

'He said that after you read the letters, you could decide what to do with the content. And you would not be so quick to judge'

'This room is fitted with all kinds of runic inscription and other symbols that even I with the extensive knowledge of the Pandemonium Library do not recognize. It is a room to hide from Divine Sense. Maybe, it is like what the Trickster said, that he wanted to cover this letter and the content from Death Monarch. Or maybe he simply wanted us to believe that and wanted to hide it from someone else'

Sasha did not answer as she too was thinking about the deduction of Lukas

There is an implication that there is a spy.

That is the implication of Lukas word.

Loki is as complex as Death Monarch.

If Death Monarch appear mysterious because of his silence, Loki was the opposite. He would say one thing and do another

One should not trust him at face value.

He is adept at using other people desire against them. He plays with your fears, feed your doubt and nourish your desire.

And when he got what he wanted, then you are left to dry. People always said Loki the Trickster.

The Trickster is his title

It is not only because he had taken the name Loki, the very same name as the Norse god of trickery.

It is also because his personality is truly like that of a Trickster.

Most of the common people would not know the inside story of the many trickeries that Loki had done.

Those who knows, know how tricky it is to deal with Loki.

His enemies usually steer their way away from him and if they can, they don't want to clash with Loki

Loki himself is a man of many faces.

Nobody knows which side he is on.

He could appear to be on your side but when all the cards are down, who knows?

Maybe, there is Joker card in the deck and when all is revealed, you might find out that he is not at your side at all.

There is always a trump card.

Where would he hid it?

Inside that hand sleeve?

In his pockets? Under the sole of his shoes?

That is what is so frustrating about it. He never shows all of his card. Even the deck of the cards is probably not the only one he had.

'Haish' she thought inwardly.

When the common people think of Loki, they would think of the little brother of Death Monarch

They would think of one of the integral founding members of Pandemonium.

Everyone knows the story of how Loki recruited and save Wang Jian who then went on to became one of Pandemonium pillars.

A powerful but close to the people kind of person.

Loki with all of his bad reputation actually have quite the good reputation among the common people of Pandemonium

He was close to the people unlike the other great heroes and heroines of this era

Death Monarch Azief sit tall on his dark throne, like a guardian god. He is worshipped and look upon in awe. People felt instinctive fear and awe when facing him

Raymond is the Supreme Commander of the World Government military forces. Like Death Monarch, he is put onto a pedestal.

How about Katarina?

She holed herself up inside her Ice Mountain and her punishment is swift and merciless.

She was elevated into a position of high stature and with her cold persona, not many would come close to such a woman.

Her beauty and her power bring the inferiority in one heart.

Then there is Jean.

Yes, unlike the other heroes and heroine of the world, he might seem approachable.

But, if he was really approachable, why was it the common people fears him and some even despise him?

Many people forget that during the invasion of Europe, Jean and his generals had done many things one would find very reprehensible.

One could argue they were trying to survive. That it was war. And Jean had changed. But, it still did not change what happen.

Jean had been good at managing his reputation after he had joined the Republic but some people still remembers. There is blood on his hands

Of course, after this it might change considering that today, Jean had probably save millions of people by using his Time Avatars.

Then there is Oreki and Hikigaya.

This two people have their close friends and family that they could be close with.

But to the rest of the people of Japan and the Council members of the World Government, Oreki and Hikigaya is a warlord.

One did not get the title of warlord by being nice

Then there are others.

But none of them is quite like Loki. Loki...yes...he is a pain in the ass to many powerful men and women.

He meddles in matters he did not have to and he has schemes that has always bear fruits

But, he rarely pulls in the innocents. Instead, many of his schemes and plots usually end up for the better for the common people

'Haish' she sighed inwardly

### Chapter 986: The strength of the head keeper of the palace

'Haish' she sighed inwardly

She herself did not know what to feel about Loki. Sometimes she hated him. Sometimes, she admires him.

She looked at the letters and then she decided to open it. She notices that Lukas is still looking at her

'You are not going to leave? You know, maybe to let me read the letter?' Lukas shakes his head and said

'If there is something in that letter that is harmful to Pandemonium and Death Monarch, then I would also report this to Death Monarch and accept the punishment'

There is also a veiled meaning in his word.

Lukas probably doesn't trust her.

Maybe, Lukas thought that if she reads the letter and if the letter have some kind of plot and she was tempted, then it might spell trouble for Pandemonium

It is quite logical to think of such a thing. By now, everyone probably knows that Death Monarch would surely goes after Katarina

If he did not want to after Katarina why bother with trying to breakthrough?

It is because he wanted to goes after Katarina, that he wanted to go into seclusion and attempt a breakthrough.

In the absence of Death Monarch, most of the internal security matters of Pandemonium probably would once again fall into Sasha lap.

And if the one responsible for the internal matters of Pandemonium were to cooperate with Loki, and if Loki had a dark plan, there is a lot of damage that could be done

For him to have such worry is warranted.

But, Lukas is an old fox. He did not show any such suspicions on his face as he continues saying

'I don't believe that Loki would do such a thing. Not after the stunt he did trying to take the blame for Death Monarch. But who knows with him? No one could be sure one hundred percent. And there is always a chance that this letter is a trap for you. If that is the case, then I would protect you.'

She snorted.

'Protect me? You?'

Lukas smile mysteriously and then he unlashes his aura.

BOOM!

Ripples of energy emanated out from him as the space around him distorted.

The dust around him seems to be disintegrated into particles of atoms as a powerful burst of energy hit toward Sasha.

Sasha also unconsciously burst with energy but she was still forced a few step backward.

She frowned as she could feel that her body seems to be under some powerful suppression.

There is a trace of Laws around Lukas body, causing the space around him not only to distort but seems to spiral and there is circles of light on the bottom of his feet that is spreading larger and larger.

There is a feeling of being blessed by some divine power that surrounds her as the circles of light seems to take away the suppression weight from her.

Sasha was shocked the moment Lukas reveals his true power.

'You hide deeply' she said to Lukas, this time the expression on her face is grave. Lukas just release his pressure and that pressure is Disk Formation Peak realm

It is enough to overwhelm her

'You said you were weak. I guess you could really tell lies without even one bit of wavering' Lukas only smiles and said

'Deception and scheming. Don't blame me. I just take a note out of the Shadow Guard playbook. But with this power, I think I am qualified to protect you'

Sasha could not help but agree as Lukas added

'As far as I know, Loki did not yet break through to Divine Comprehension. With my strength, as long as it did not reach that level, I am confident I could protect you. And if there is a poison inside it that I could not resolve, there is still Death Monarch. I would still be able to keep you alive, at leads until I sent you to Death Monarch. If Loki really wanted to harm you, then we could only complain to Death Monarch

Sasha snorted. Not at the plan of Lukas but at the feeling that she has been deceived by this harmless looking caretaker.

She was surprised that Lukas had such a high level and from the emanation of power that is coming out from his body, he had reached peak level a long time ago and his grasp on the energy around him is very stable.

'You hide deeply. If those military officials and those ministers knows that the Head Keeper of the Palace possess such powerful cultivation base, they would not dare to treat you just as the Head Keeper of the Palace. With this strength even if you go out of the Palace, you would be a great expert that could rule an entire country'

Lukas smiles and simply said

'If not for Death Monarch, how could I reach this level?'

Laughing, he then said

'Every once in a while, our lord would advise me on my path. He did not talk too much, expected of such a busy figure, but the reason is also, so that I would not be influenced by his grand path but he also did not talk too curtly so that I would not understand the path. Moderate in both. Not too little that I would not learn anything, not too much that it would influence me'

Sighing, Lukas continue

'I am grateful. And as for fame and power? Why should I strive for fame when I could live my life in peaceful serenity? Why should I fight for power when it is not something that I want?'

'From what I see, if you have fame but do not have enough strength, boasting about it and doing things wantonly, sooner or later, you would die. I pretty much like my life right now. I am a man of habits and routine.'

Sasha then said

'As always. You are long winded' Lukas hearing Sasha words laughed and then Sasha quickly said before Lukas could bring the conversation to become longer

'You even revealed your level to me. This is your trump card right?' Lukas smiles and said

'A trump card that is shown is no longer a trump card' Once again, a word laden with meaning

Either this is his last trump card or he is saying that the reason he shows her the trump card is because he had another

Sasha did not say anything to reply to this as she decided to increase her vigilance against this Head keeper of the Palace.

There is too many secret surrounding this person. Even his level is higher than her. And she did not even know it. If today, Lukas had different plans, he could easily deal with her.

While this should not have happened, there is always a possibility that it could happen.

After all, Lukas is not her friend and not her family. Their relationship, while most of them is very cooperative, it also has its clashes.

'That is another thing I should put in my list of work'

She shakes the thought out of her head and instead look back at the envelope. She tears down the envelope head and then brought out the letter.

Lukas expected something would happen. But nothing happened other than listening to the sound of the envelope get teared up.

He was expecting fireworks, white power or green mist to explode out form that envelope the moment Sasha open the envelope.

He was so ready for that possibility that his body almost bursted with energy when Sasha tear the envelope head.

Sasha too were surprised. Loki.....did not do any tricks? That is like saying clowns do not do clowns stuff.



A bad analogy, but the best analogy that she could come up with at this moment

Sasha did not discount the possibility that Loki would try to create trap with the letter. She is thinking quite like Lukas.

So, she already was ready to throw the letter if any runes suddenly come out from the envelopes or some poison coming out of the envelope.

Sasha did not underestimate the creativity of people when they wanted to harm somebody especially someone like Loki the Trickster who is known to be very adept in the use of runes.

Maybe he could even attach rune to letter and send it out or maybe he could use in some other way.

But nothing happened. Lukas look at the expression of Sasha and he smiles

'I guess you were also wary of it' Sasha snorted and said

'Loki is a trickster. I would not be surprised if there really is a trap in the envelope. Now, I am surprised there is no trap in the envelope' she mutters to herself.

Lukas nodded by his side

It was like Loki had said.

There is a letter inside that envelope. No one could have known that opening an envelope could this nerve wrecking.

But, this is the effect of the reputation of The Trickster.

#### [Chapter 987: Opening the letter](#)

Sasha is a person close to Death Monarch. It would not be the first time someone would try to target her by sending her things

That is why both Lukas and Sasha was very wary even when opening the letter. They fear that Loki had left some trap in that letter.

Lukas would not know how to explain to Death Monarch if the letter he brought to Sasha would then be used to harm her.

That is why he is standing by near her and very much voluntarily revealing some of his trump card and eagerly protecting her

Of course, he could have given the letter to Death Monarch and end it there and then. But, Lukas quite admire Loki and for a while, Loki was the ruler of this Palace.

Certain respect should be given

'I guess Loki speak the truth this time. How.... unfamiliar' Lukas said. Sasha then open the letter. She raised her eyebrows as she read the letter.

Her eyes read the letter written on that piece of paper and she frowned. And then there was a trace of amusement on her face.

Even Lukas who were not that curious in the beginning become curious. He raised his eyebrows and said 'What is written inside it?' Then Sasha laughed

'Hahaha' she laughed.

'What is it?'

'Is the Trickster is trying to make a joke here?' She said.

She shows the letter to Lukas. He reads it and then like Sasha, he also had a complicated expression on his face.

'A recipe?'

'Is he trying to write a cookbook or something?' Lukas thought before he suddenly widened his eyes.

[ This is a reference to the Twilight Series, To Serve Men]

He remembered something so he once again looks at the letter

He recognizes that there is something very wrong about these words on the letter. Sasha grab back the letter and was about to throw it to the ground

She was quite frustrated. She had wasted her time for this.

'Don't!' Lukas shouted. Sasha stopped and she look toward Lukas

'Hmm?' Coming to Sasha, he said to her

'It is encrypted'

'Encrypted? This letter? What do you mean?' Sasha herself knows encryption method.

After all her job demand it.

But, she did not able to see how this letter was to be encrypted. There are no formation arrays that cover the envelope and the letter looks normal and did not have any fluctuation of energy

Lukas hurriedly shows him the silver key on which he used to open the door. Then he pointed toward that last signature on the bottom of the recipe.

There is the signature of Loki the trickster and then a symbol.

Lukas pointed that symbol and then pointed it back at the key. Sasha then looked back at the letter and then she smiles

'Ingenious' she thought to herself.

It did not take long for her to understand. In one look, the writing after the signature look like a symbol of some ancient character.

Sasha did not look at it that intently because she was shocked by the cookbook recipe.

Now, that she thinks about it, maybe if anyone open the envelope and read the letter, the only thing that they would got from it was that whoever had the letter is trading cook recipe.

But if they really looked at it calmly, it is actually the drawing a thin keyhole.

It just looks like an ancient symbol because of the curved parts of the drawing.

And since there is this preconceived notion that Loki would put some runes symbols in his letter, it is easy to miss it.

Sasha look again at the letter, this time, she looks at it more carefully. And she smiles as she notices something else inside the letter

there is another symbol on the uppermost top corner of the letter. She then looks at the key on Lukas hand and she nodded to herself.

Sasha was not able to see the key clearly before because she was preoccupied with talking with Lukas.

Now, that she sees the key, she could see that there is a symbol carved on the body of the key

That is why she said it was ingenious.

This is how Loki encrypted his message! That is the thought of Sasha.

No wonder she had never been able to catch a hold of any chatter between the Three Demoness.

Right now, Sasha could already figure out how to read the letter.

'Loki really is quite the trickster' she said again what she always felt about Loki. This method of secrecy is very inconspicuous and hard to detect or track.

'If anybody else get this letter, they would only see the cook recipe. They would not understand why Loki would be writing a recipe book.' Lukas said with a smile on his face.

He too had quite the experience in secret messages.

One could argue he is better since many of the secrets he had known and seen would probably bring a great fallout if one of the sensitive one were to get out.

Loki method is a method that they are actually researching. Who would have thought that Loki could already uses such method?

He must have solved the frequency problems and the master key problems, Lukas thought to himself.

'This letter requires a key for it to be read' Sasha nodded. It would not be surprising for someone like Loki to create such a deceiving method.

'One way to find out' she said as she took the key and slowly brought it to the letter.

Then Sasha could feel that the key is about to fly out from her grip.

Instead of tightening her grip, she let the key go. The key in front of their eyes shrink and turns translucent. Then it flew toward that keyhole drawing in the letter.

'Amazing' Lukas could not help but exclaim seeing such thing

The letter glow blue and purple and then the words in the letter rearranged itself. Sasha did not hide the content from Lukas.

It is not because she trusts him. But because she did not want Lukas to think that she is hiding it from Death Monarch.

If it's a treasonous plot, then she would have to squash it. And she would have a witness if she needs to explain this matter toward Death Monarch.

And by the fact that Loki give the key to Lukas, he might have predicted her action toward it. It did not take long before the glow ended and Sasha could read the letter.

The first words already confirmed Sasha thoughts about Loki. He greeted both her and Lukas in the opening intro of his letter.

Then it reaches the important stuff.

And she frowned after reading it. Lukas shakes his head as he slowly back away, trying not to read the letter until the end

The more he doesn't know about this, the better. This seems like a job for those spies in the Shadow Guard and not for the people of the Palace.

He had already determined that the letter did not have any treasonous plans for Death Monarch and Pandemonium. It is enough for him

This matter is about Loki and the Shadow Guards. It did not involve the Palace, did not involve the Court, did not involve Pandemonium and did not involve Death Monarch

Since that is the case, it is better for him to practice the wisdom of the three monkeys

Sasha notices Lukas movement but she did not stop him. She could understand Lukas desire to wash his hand of from this matter

What Loki wrote in his letter is a plan. A scheme of the highest kind.

It is quite detailed.

That is one compliment she had about the letter.

Detailed and concise.

The letter did not act like normal letter.

It seems to know when Sasha and Lukas read the letter. When they finished reading the words, the letter would fade away replaced with may more new sentences.

It is like messaging only it has been written beforehand.

The first plot was what shocked Lukas and so he backed away after knowing that this plan would not be harmful to Death Monarch.

But, Sasha did not have such luxury to distance herself from this matter. After all, the letter is for her. She sighed as she keeps reading the letter. The more she reads, the more she knows how deep Loki plans goes.

Then after finished reading it, there is a postscript notes.

'This message would self-destruct in five second' the numbers even appear on the letter, as it countdown to zero.

Loki does like his reference.

'Mission Impossible' she thought to herself.

Loki had a theme. He always had a theme when he is in the mood for joking.

Sometimes he references some obscure cult film. Other times, it is pop culture reference. There were even song and movie lines that he always like to bring out.

One of his many quirks. This time, the theme might be the world of spies. She sighed.

'You are really relaxed, aren't you, Trickster?' she thought inwardly

#### [Chapter 988: A trap](#)

Sasha finished reading the letter and then grabbing the letter which has now once again become solid and filled with cookbook recipe, she throws the letter away

when it reaches zero, the letter turns into motes of light that dissipated into the air.

She sighed.

Lukas look at her and said

'Nothing harmful for Pandemonium?' he had read most of it. But, it is always good in making sure.

Sasha shakes her head.

'What are you going to do?'

There was silence for a while. She had a lot to do. But now, she did not know what to do. her plans now had to be changed with this new revelation.

Sasha still hold suspicion of course.

Why now?

Why reveal such an important thing to her?

What is he hoping to achieve by telling his plan to her? That is the thought that is in her head right now

Lukas read the first part of the message. But he did not read until the end. So, he knows a bit what Loki plans was.

Sasha look at Lukas on the corner of the room and she lamented

'This man really knows how to stay away from trouble' she thought to herself. Lukas notice Sasha gaze though he thought that Sasha is thinking about his silence

Sasha then suddenly said

'I am not going to tell this to Death Monarch' Lukas nodded before saying

'Then I am not going to say anything either. And knowing Death Monarch, he would be pretty busy this week. I don't think I should burden him with this' Lukas already set up a reason why.

Sasha only sighed.

'As for the Trickster?' Lukas suddenly ask

'What are you going to do about his plans? Would you tacitly consent to it? Or are you going to stop him?'

Lukas smile.

Sasha could feel that Lukas is setting himself up as a spectator, like a viewer looking at a fascinating story while munching on their popcorn

'If you let him do it, then I think it is quite beneficial for the Shadow Guard. But "that person" did not really done any bad things. At least not to my knowledge. And "that person" had been quite low key. If Loki did what he planned to do, then there is a lot of thing he got to break'

Sasha close her eyes and the release her breath. She need to think carefully her next move

This matter is very complicated. She had killed a lot of people since she takes the job as the leader of the Shadow Guard.

As a clandestine secret organization whose job is to protect Pandemonium from hidden enemies, there are some questionable things she had done to protect the people of Pandemonium

Of course, because of Death Monarch deterring influence, rarely she had to choose between darkness and light.

But, there were cases where she did not know whether the decision she made was right or not. As for Loki, she already had her answer

'I have to at least try to stop him' she said

Lukas become puzzled.

'Why?'

And Sasha already had the answer.

'He is Death Monarch brother. I know if Death Monarch is in my place, he would not let Loki stain his hand with blood more than necessary' Sasha then walk toward the door and quickly went out.

Outside, the rain had already stopped, and there is no longer any dark clouds or thunder. Lukas is still inside the room. Who knows what he is thinking about.

Not anything good, she supposes.

The sun is about to set. Night is about to descend.

'Just at the right time' she thought to herself.

She had to quickly regroup her people.

She had to bring out all the spaceship in the Hangar Forty-Seven to quickly establish communications with all of the Shadow Guard operatives

She had to stop Loki from killing the Broker.

Yes, one of Loki plans was to take the place of the Broker by killing him. It seems that Loki had found out where the Broker is.

And if the world finds out where the Broker is they would be shocked.

The Broker had already stopped appearing in the criminal underworld but he still has a lot of influence.

There is still many information that he had. Information that in the wrong hands would be catastrophic.

Loki outline his plan quite well.

He wanted to take the Broker place and integrate himself with the criminal underworld. Every once in a while he could help Sasha with his position inside the heart of the criminal world

In other words, this plan is not exactly harming Pandemonium interest. Instead it could even be said that this plan would benefit Pandemonium in the long run

Sasha does have spies in the criminal underworld but it is not many and they did not occupy important position.

As for Loki, Sasha knows that Loki had many operatives in high position in the criminal world. If Loki plans succeeds, Loki could may very well be the next broker.

But the methods that Loki is going to use is.... something that Sasha did not like. There is no need for him to spill so many blood and carry so many sins for Death Monarch

What she said to Lukas back there was not a lie. Death Monarch probably did not want his sworn brother to soak their hands in too many blood.

And how about Sina? Sina is a precious friend of Sasha. How would she feel when she heard this later? How could she defend him?

She clicked her tongue again. Right and wrong, it is hard to differentiate such thing in her world. But she is pretty sure that this is wrong.

And there is another complication to Loki scheme.

And that is the fact that The Broker was actually under the protection of the Shadow Guards.

He is in some kind of witness protection program. Not many people know this.

Right now, he is probably living in some neighbourhood in Pandemonium. Loki could not have chosen a more perfect time to execute his plans.

Before, the area that Broker was living in was very close to the Palace.

Since Pandemonium is Death Monarch territory, not many people would dare to do such flamboyant thing as trying to kill someone under the foot of Death Monarch.

But now?

The expansion of the world had changes the geography of the world.

She could not help but curse herself.

She herself forgot that there is a ton of criminals under that Witness Protection program.

The Broker is not the only one but he is probably the highest profiled one among those criminals

That is how the Broker had managed to remain undetected by the other great powers and the organizations that wanted to buy and sell information to him

He also acts as an informant of the Shadow Guards and as he is very knowledgably, there were many cases that he had helped the Shadow Guards with.

It is a secret that she did not tell Death Monarch.

Knowing Death Monarch, there is fifty-fifty chance that he would kill the Broker the moment he set eyes upon him

Because Death Monarch could afford to live in a world of black and white. Her's however could accommodate gray.

'Tch' she clicked her tongue. This time it is out of annoyance and anxiousness. This is her quirk.

'Loki must have found some clues when he was the Regent' she thought to herself.

Sasha is now running and jumping down the floors of the Palace.

At the same time. she is reading the map direction on her nano contact lenses which shows the location of one of the secret black site of the Shadow Guards.

'I'll stop you. There is no need for you to take that burden' she thought to herself. In her mind, there is Sina and there is that Demoness.

'The Broker must not die' she thought as she is determined to make it so. Not very long after that she went out of the Palace.

She still follows the rule of the Palace. She did not fly inside the palace compounds.

The moment she went out of the Palace grounds, she looks at the sky and kick the ground

And the Nightingale fly over the open sky.



In the distance, someone is looking at that Nightingale, beautiful as the color of the moon on the open sky night, Lukas smile looking at all of this

He rubs the back of his hand and smiles widely. He went out of the room, ready to return back to his work

'I, too would be busy after this. Those court officials, who knows what they are going to do. And I am pretty sure there is a spy inside the Palace.'

But, he did not think to report this to Death Monarch. This is not a big problem. At least it is not a big problem for Death Monarch

What the spy could steal is the information about Pandemonium and would not be information about Death Monarch

If this spy managed to steal the secret of Death Monarch, then would Lukas tell it to Death Monarch.

At that point, Lukas no longer need to move since Death Monarch would be the one that would take action.

Since the matter did not require him to report it to Death Monarch, he is still pretty happy about it.

Of course, there is another reason why he is happy.

Now he had a card he could use against Sasha. Loki was not lying when he said that Lukas would also get some benefits on this

He closes the door and lock it with the silver key and as he turns to his left, the smile on his face faltered.

His eyes widened for a second before he quickly regains his calm and take a deep breath

Sighing, he said with a tired tone

'So, this is a trap' he mutters to himself.

#### [Chapter 989: Nightingales and ravens \(1\)](#)

The moment he turns to his left he saw someone that should not be here. That made him stood transfixed for a second because of the shock

In front of him right now, is a young man with a long blond hair, reaching the shoulder but neatly tied

He stands at six feet four with lean body and handsome face.

Wearing a dark red suit and stylish leather shoes, with a scent of fragrance that is pleasant and not overpowering, this young man is someone that Lukas had never seen before.

But, even though it is a face he had never seen before, Lukas knows who this person is.

There is only one person that would appear here at this moment, looking at him with such a rotten smile and that would be Loki the trickster.

He was shocked, yes, but he was not scared. This is the Palace. This is his turf. And his strength is enough to deal with Loki.

And he of course knew Loki had many trump cards and artifacts. It is not that Lukas looks too highly of himself that he was confident that he could defeat Loki

It was just simply he was confident that if a fight is going to start here in the Palace, he was confident he would be safe.

While he could not defeat Loki, one shout is all he needs. And with his level, one shout is not much to ask

One shout to the heavens and he is pretty sure Loki would be easily caught by Death Monarch. But he did not fight and he did not shout.

He just looks at Loki

Loki look at Lukas and said

'Ah, you chubby little friend' Loki said

'I told you I don't like that nickname. And I am not that chubby.' Lukas said as he takes a step backward. Loki seems to realize it but he was not that bothered about it.

Instead, he smiles and then he laughs.

'Don't be so guarded. You hurt my feelings' Loki said. Lukas only smiles. This is the way the trickster jokes

Then Loki become silent. He looks around and then he looks toward one of the tower among the many towers in the Palace.

Lukas knows where that gaze stopped. It is a place where most of his gaze also lingers when he walks around the Palace ground.

Then Loki said

'He's not here.'

'He's no here. Like you expected' Lukas repeated.

'That will make it all of this be easier' Loki said smiling. Lukas was of course puzzled what Loki means when he said that it would be easier

What would be easier?

There is many question in his mind right now. One of them why is Loki here?

He is now being hunted by all kinds of forces.

Even though Sasha had told him that there is a conspiracy, and Lukas had deduced that Loki was not the one responsible for the Multiversal Convergence, the world believes that it was him that did it

So, if he were the one who is a fugitive, he would not return to Pandemonium.

Yes, Death Monarch would protect Loki.

But that is not something Lukas think Loki would do. If Loki really wanted the protection of Death Monarch, he would simply have returned with Death Monarch

There is no need to meet him. This and many other question is filling in his mind right now

But the advantage of Loki coming unannounced is that, Loki would not give him that much time to think about all of this question.

Loki arrival and appearance here was not something that Lukas had expected.

There were times of course he rendezvouses with Loki in the past, talking about secret plots and devious scheme.

But most of that time, he was ready. It was not like today where he is caught unprepared.

'Come on, little cubby Lukas. I need you to do something for me. And it is very easy for you to do it'

Lukas frowned.

'Straight to the point. Quite rare for you. Usually you would start with some kind of story first before finally talking about your true aim' Lukas said

He remembers that Loki once start with one of Aesop fable story to drive down a point. At times it was a quote from some famous person.

Other times, it is an anecdote of his own life story.

Death Monarch had some theatrical tendencies.

He likes to appear in forceful and imposing manner, creating the image of invincibility in the minds of his opponents, pressuring them even before he arrives in front of them

Thunders and lightning. Storms and earth shaking. All of this is the usual method of Death Monarch

But Loki himself is not too shabby. While Death Monarch uses props, which is the worldly laws and nature itself to pressure his enemies, Loki uses words.

Be careful when he talks to you with gentle words and amiable smiles.

And when he started breaking into a story, you know that you are not there for something good.

Lukas was once in such meeting where Loki was talking about a story of some fisherman who tries to fish in a storm.

Lukas has forgotten what the story was about.

Loki had a lot of those

But, the story, the anecdote, the quotes or whatever strikes Loki fancy that day probably had a point.

Regardless, the moment he finishes his story, Loki then pierce that person chest and dug out his heart and incinerated it on his hand

So, this is quite the anomaly. Lukas thought he would at least do the story bit before going to the point.

But it seems, even the always relaxed, always clam trickster is also anxious. It might not show on his face or his demeanor, but with this it shows.

Lukas smiles at Loki like he could see through Loki anxiousness,

Loki chuckles looking at Lukas smiles and his words and he simply said

'I am a man that knows how to flow with the circumstances. Today, I don't have much time. I don't know how long my big brother would be outside of Pandemonium. He is too powerful for me now. I am quite sure that he did not like the things I did. The thing I Do for my brother' he said with a smile on his face.

He shakes his head and said

'Pretty weird way of him showing his love to me, don't you think? Big brother, he is always looking out for me. This time, it is my turn. What do I care about how the world look at me?' Loki said as he sighed for a moment

Lukas heard what Loki said about Death Monarch but he did not dare comment.

When it is about the relationship between these two brothers, Lukas did not dare comment.

Death Monarch Azief had another brother. The Golden Speedster is Death Monarch sworn brother.

That relationship is what Lukas would describe as a healthy relationship between brothers. They supported one another and would die for each other.

The ideal brotherhood. They were even closer than most blood brothers.

The relationship between Death Monarch and the Golden Speedster is something that Lukas and the world could understand

Loki however had never make a sworn oath with Death Monarch. But everyone recognizes him as Death Monarch little brother.

And he is probably the one that Death Monarch loves the most among his brothers

And Death Monarch also acknowledges it. And Loki himself acknowledges Death Monarch and sees Death Monarch like a big brother figure

Yet, how could their relationship between them seems to be so twisted?

At times, it seems like they were feuding with each other. And there were times that Loki had done thing that clash against the intention of Death Monarch

At times they were even like sworn enemies.

But, after seeing what Death Monarch do.....or in this case doesn't do to Loki, everyone was convinced. This is family, alright.

The fact that Loki had done many things that goes against Death Monarch but Death Monarch still could not bear to hit or punish Loki, shows how Death Monarch views Loki

And when other people tries to scold Loki, one could very well incur the wrath of Death Monarch, displaying that familial love.

Death Monarch basically displaying to the world

“I could scold him, and shout at him and punish him. But not all of you” That is what he is showing to the world

So, Lukas refrain from commenting when it is about Loki and Death Monarch relationship. Loki look at the silent Lukas and smirks

‘Ah, I forgot. You are.... very averse to danger. Like an obedient monkey. Which I rarely see. There was this one monkey that was quite the troublemaker. He was born from a ston- ‘And then he stopped himself

‘Ah, there I go again. Nearly breaking out into stories again, as you would call it’

‘Hehehe’ he laughed and then he sighed as he added

‘And there is of course Sasha. She seems pretty determined to not let me succeed. So, as you can see I am quite in a bind right now. Got to skip the stories and all of that theatrics today’

Lukas did not say anything ash he was also deep in thought. The silence between them is heavy. In Lukas mind right now there is many thoughts.

He thought of all the possibilities and trying to discern Loki intention and plan. Of course this is easier than done. He rarely meddles with Loki matters.

The reason is because Loki matters rarely had something to do with Court matters which is Lukas best forte.

Even Sasha who clashed with Loki many times had never claimed to truly understand the Trickster, so how could he who have an even less interaction with Loki could understand the trickster.

And not understanding such a person, how could he then divine Loki intention. He could only sigh inwardly

### [Chapter 990: Nightingales and ravens \(2\)](#)

However, he still has a few question to ask. Even though he is quite sure he would regret asking it, he still had to know.

‘Did me activating the room inform you?’ Loki knows Lukas was puzzled about it and he did not have the intention to hide it from him

‘Bingo!’ Loki said. But then he raised his hand and said

‘Now, this is no time for me to describe the complication and intrigue behind all of my scheme’

Lukas however did not stop asking. He was determined to understand it.

The moment Loki confirmed that him activating the room bring about this Trickster into Pandemonium, he regretted hearing it

But since he already regretted, it is better to know the full story.

'By opening the room and using the runes in the room, that is how you bypassed all of the protection formation, right?'

Loki nodded. Lukas sighed as he shook his head. His face pales a bit and he clenched his fist. He is feeling frustrated now.

If its anyone else that had done such a trick to him, Lukas would bury him in the ground of the Palace with no one would ever knowing that they exist.

But, the person in front of him is not a person that he could do as he pleased. So, he could only clench his fist. Expressing his frustration with a sigh.

This is the trouble of being too smart.

His plan had backfired.

He was too confident of his own deduction.

However, mistake is something that is wonderful

It serves to taught him.

It perfected a person.

Someone who had never make mistake before had a flaw. The flaw is never making a mistake. Once you make mistake and acknowledge that mistake, one could grow

But that is that. This is this. And right now, he really felt anger and felt like he was fooled. He sighed again and then said

'Haish. You now landed me in a huge trouble, Loki' Lukas said. He finally understands what he had done.

He had created a loophole in the formation of Pandemonium by leaving this room in Pandemonium

Even he himself did not realizes it.

If he was a normal official, just the charge of destabilizing the protection formation of Pandemonium would land him a spot in the execution field.

Of course, he is not a normal official.

And the one that he brought is not exactly an enemy of Pandemonium.

However that did not change the fact that he had unknowingly created something that could bring in people from the outside, free from the detection of the protection formation

It could be a big matter.

Or it could be a small matter. It depends on what will happen after.

Of course, Lukas had never thought such a thing could be created in the first place.

That the room he created could do such a thing to the protection formation of Pandemonium is unthinkable to Lukas.

It is not surprising why Lukas had such thought about the protection formation

After all, the one creating the protection formation is Death Monarch.

Lukas however forget that Loki is a master in understanding runes and using runes to neutralize or strengthen protection formation.

As he could strengthen, he could also weaken.

But, he didn't even think that Loki could even found such a flaw in the protection formation that Death Monarch had created

Underestimating the Trickster.

When Lukas thought of this, he could only sigh.

That is one of his mistake.

He also forgot that Loki was the Regent of Pandemonium and he probably had the full schematics of the protection formation of Pandemonium which would enables him probably to see some weak spot that he could manipulate.

Not only Loki the Trickster had been known to have deep understanding of the runes and array formation, he even got a cheat code in the form of the schematics of the protection formation.

Considering that Death Monarch only strengthen the energy and the power that the protection could withstand and did not change the base of the formation, Loki truly could create some kind of backdoor formation that only he could use

In all of possibilities, this was the highest.

Lukas sighed again as he rubs his forehead.

First, it was Sasha. He thought he was already let off. Who knows there is a big problem ahead? He did not like entering into this type of muddy water

He is all too familiar with dark muddy water of the court.

But the conflict between two brother who stand on top of the peak of the world, added with that the terrifying resources of the Shadow Guards, the merciless and efficient three Demonic Sister and the dark forces that Loki had in the criminal underworld, this is the type of dark and muddy water that Lukas is not familiar with

In that world, he had no capital and had no power or influence. He could not protect himself in that muddy water.

As such, he did not want to get involved too much. But now, he had gotten involved. And the taste on his mouth has never been this bitter.

'It is not a big trouble. Not yet.' Loki said, like he could guess what Lukas is thinking about

Lukas could only nod and then he said

'What do you want then? I doubt you come all the way just to chat with me'

Loki come close to him. Lukas did not retreat as Loki lean on the side of his face and whisper to his ears

'Where is the house of the Broker?' Lukas frowns for a moment but then he did not hesitate as he whispers the answer to Loki

He knows now, that Loki probably had known that Lukas also keep a tab on the secret things that Shadow Guards had done.

Hence, since Loki had known, there is no reason for him to delay and that play that game

And this room is probably more than just a place to hide from the Divine Sense of people. Loki is planning something that requires the participation of Sasha.

What that plan was is something that he did not know. And at this point, he is too scared to ask. He did not want to get pulled deeper into this game between Sasha and Loki.

It is enough.

And the plans that Loki had outlined in his letter is not necessarily bad for Pandemonium. It is bad for Shadow Guards.

But Shadow Guards is not Pandemonium

And while Lukas is the Head Keeper of the Palace, and he usually only cares about what happens inside the Palace, in the end, the Palace is still in Pandemonium

If he had to choose, he would choose Pandemonium. And he is probably the most objective one.

Since he didn't have an agenda like Sasha or schemes like Loki.

So, he only frowned for a second before telling Loki where the house was.

Loki nodded and only smiles

'I like doing deals with smart people' he said before his body slowly dissipate like mist, leaving Lukas alone in that area.

Lukas is no longer smiling. Instead he sighed deeply. Loki had gone away as silently as the way he came.

Lukas is alone again in the hallway. He looks left and right. He really has to make sure that Loki has gone for sure.

His Divine Sense spread out and he could not sense anything.

'He is really gone.... just like that. The Trickster is really...tricky' he muttered to himself

'Phew. At least, I could calm down now' he then heaved a sigh of relief. The reason he checks his surrounding again this time is because he fears another person would appear.



His heart really couldn't take it if another person appears. Who knows?

It might be Death Monarch that would appear next

If that were to happen, Lukas would probably suffer a heart attack.

Even though Lukas had reached Disk Formation Peak realm, there is still many things that scare him

After all, he had arrived at that level not entirely by his own efforts. One could say that his Disk Formation peak realm level is flawed.

He had to polish his foundation and slowly refine each of his past foundation for him to be truly considered a true Disk Formation peak realm leveler.

But his cultivation level does a good thing to intimidate people.

This itself did not mean that Lukas is weak. Only compared to the bigshot of the world, he is still pretty weak.

Which among the great figures of the world had flawed foundation?

Some of them even found their Grand Path and is walking toward the end of that path. He sighed as he looks at his surroundings.

The cold winds of the night breeze by his long robe as his long robe sways left and right. The hallway is deserted and dilapidated with cracks on its wall.

He had already stored the key back inside his hand sleeve.

He looks at the door in front of him. There is a thought in his mind

Should he destroy this door or not? He clicked his tongue as second passes and he shakes his head.

'I just need to remove the backdoor formation that Loki had used to piggyback the frequency of the formation. A room where it is free from the prying eyes of the Divine Sense is a very good room. It would be a waste to destroy it after all the resources I poured into it'

Clicking his tongue, he said to himself

'Though, there is a need to relocate this room. Sasha had seen it after all. Maybe, I could just say that Loki had uses it as a way to enter Pandemonium and said to her I destroy it. Would she believe that?' He then shakes his head

'Whether she believes it or not, that is her business. As long as she couldn't find evidence that I did not destroy the room, she could only believe me'

And smiling like he had solved the problem, he already knows what to do later. He is ready to leave this area.

Then talking a deep breath, inhaling and exhaling he calms himself down

'Now, I have to be a monkey' he thought to himself as he walks alone in that cold and lonely dark hallways, with that smile, not that different from that famous Trickster.

The moon shines brightly up above, the world is peaceful and everything seems to be in order.

As most night in the Palace was.

What a beautiful night, with Nightingales flying in the sky alongside ravens, he thought to himself.