

A Ghost 731

Chapter 731 The Hero Of Light's Resolve

After being called a slave of the Empire of Light, the biggest Empire of the entire Continent of Midgard, Julio became furious. The veins all over his body began growing redder, and even his eyes shone with a scarlet glint.

"Slave?! I am the Hero of Darkness, not a slave!" Julio said furiously. "We have come here to slay your people, but I guess it'll make things easier if you come at me. You've killed many nobles already; you have to pay for your crimes!"

Maria scoffed at that. Since when has the Empire of Light cared so much about other countries nobilities? The Albraun Kingdom was in direct servitude to the Empire of Light at this point, mostly through the Church of Light, but still, the Empire of Light was a selfish place, their Emperor would never really care about some nobody nobles.

There was other reason why they were here. A more direct reason, an order from the higher ups, the ones behind everything, the bastards watching from the skies above. The ones who see humans as their puppets.

"As if you were to ever care about the Albraun Kingdom! The Empire of Light is too selfish to ever remember their names. Just admit you're doing this because of Odin's divine message." Maria said furiously. "Is it because I destroyed his little son that he's all angry now?"

"Destroyed her son?" Asked Julio, it seemed Odin had not revealed this to them. "You're an amusing liar. Heh, I usually don't really like talking with those I'm about to kill..." Julio sighed. "So let's cut the chit-chat, shall we?!"

CLAAAASH!

Julio's dark blade reached Kuro in an instant! However, Kuro managed to intercept the attack and block it with his sharp fangs, which unleashed bright moonlight power from within.

"ROOOOAAARRR!"

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

Each clash against Kuro's claws unleashed a powerful ray of divine moonlight, which impacted Julio and pushed him back. His ever-growing darkness quickly paling in comparison with the divinity that Maria possessed.

"RAAAAHHH!!!"

Julio quickly summoned dozens of enormous Darkest Moons, firing them against Kuro and the city behind him. However, the lion chimera leaped over the skies and unleashed several Moonlight Beams from the jewel on above his horns!

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"W-What?!" Julio was once more shocked, stepping back as he saw all his strongest magic being completely overwhelmed. "T-This shit doesn't make any fucking sense-"

BAAAAAMMM!!!

Kuro fell down from the skies like a falling meteor, clashing against Julio and unleashing countless Moonlight Beams against him from the jewel on above his horns, while his sharp claws started slashing his armor and tearing him down!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CRAAAASH!

"UUUAAGGGH...!"

Julio had never faced such an overwhelming foe before. Kuro's resonance with Maria was incredibly high, and because he had been merged with her Divinity Body, he was naturally incredibly strong.

However, the time limit was of only four minutes. He had to hurry before it were to be too late. His attacks managed to tear down Julio's powerful protective armor and pushed the Hero of Darkness down the same crater he was left before.

παΠdαsNovel.com CRAAAAAAASHHH!!!

"GRAAAAGGGGH...!"

Julio screamed in agony as he was pushed down, never had he been so overwhelmed before, so accustomed to destroy and ravage anything with his overpowered magic and techniques. Kuro started biting his neck furiously, as Julio gritted his teeth and started stabbing the beast with his darkness blade.

"L-LET GO OF MEEEEEE...! [Darkness Explosion]!!!" "I think you should take a look at

BOOOOOOMMM!!!

Julio unleashed an explosion of darkness coming right out of his own body, risking to take damage as well, he didn't had any other option.

CLAAASH!

Kuro was sent to the walls behind him, as the chimera quickly stood back up again with minimal damage, while Julio gritted his sharp teeth while tightly grasping his neck.

"Y-You'll pay for this! H-How dare you! A-A m-mere beast and a ghost to do this to me, a glorious Hero of Humanity!!!" He was going insane in frustration and insanity. "F-Fragment...!"

FLUOOOSH!

And then, a dark power surged from within his chest once more, reaching his wound and then regenerating it, as countless tentacle-like tendrils appeared out of his wound and slowly repaired it completely...

"That power... Don't tell me this bastard has the power of an Evil God Fragment..." Said Maria in surprise. "I knew it! The Humans are really using them! You stole it from the families holding the sealed pieces that the Ancient Heroes worked so hard to contain, including my own family, just so you could use it to gain power for yourselves! Does Odin knows about this?!"

"Heheh... So you've figured out the most obvious thing already! Bravo!" Julio laughed, his wound which would had been lethal regenerated in an instant, as several red eyes slowly started opening across his body, his tattered armor was no longer of help to resist damage. "So what if we did?! Who would had cared about you stupid Ancient Heroes Descendants?! Those stupid traditions of keeping these sources of endless power... Such stupid foolishness! Odin himself said it was fine to use them! We can do whatever we want! We are the chosen ones, HUMANS! Once this is done, we'll go after the other Continents... Midgard shall conquer them all with their prowess! The Elves, Dwarves, and Giants will all have to kneel before our Empire of Light! Hahaha... HAHAAHAHA!"

"You bastard...!" Maria roared furiously. "You're the real monster here!"

"Me? Hahaha... What? Are you angry that we killed your little family? Are you angry I let my soldiers rape your mother until she died?!" Laughed Julio. "Yes! You guessed it! I was behind the death of your pitiful, pitiful family! Who would had known that their pathetic daughter would end up coming back from death as a damn ghost, getting constantly in our way! ...But that's about to end now, MARIA!"

"W-What?!" Maria cried. "Y-You...?! Mother..." Maria suddenly felt a slight pain in her mind, the memories that had been sealed this entire time... were slowly unveiling. Because she was fusing with Kuro, the fusion became unstable, and Kuro began becoming weaker.

Julio took this opportunity to strike.

"Hahaha! Are you shocked?! Angry? Sad, perhaps?!" His dark blade reached Kuro with the immense power of the Evil God Fragment merged into it!

CLAAAAAASH!!!

"Hahaha- Eh? YOU?!"

However, a ray of light surged from the skies, suddenly guarding Maria and Kuro, as a knight wearing golden and white armor emerged, his eyes flaring with golden, holy flames.

"Jonathan?! What are you doing?!" Julio cried furiously. "You dare... You dare ally with these monsters?!"

"Monsters?" Asked Jonathan. "Just as she said. You are the real monster, Julio! I never knew about this! I never knew you were behind my beloved Maria's family death! You... I won't forgive you."

"J-Jonathan?" Maria asked, suddenly beginning to remember him.

Her lover, the one that was always at her side. A knight wearing bright armor, that slowly became famous as he defended the Kingdom of Albraun from many threats, she was always at his side, childhood friends that quickly became lovers.

The man that screamed in agony and despair as he was unable to stop her death, the one she saw crying at the beginning of her life as a ghost.

"You're here?!" Maria asked.

"It seems you've recovered some of your memories." Jonathan sighed. "Maria, this time... I will amend for my sins! I won't tolerate their tyranny anymore! I will protect you and everything you love!"

"You damn TRAITOR!!!" Julio roared, his entire body beginning to shapeshift into a horrendous monster.

CLAAAAAASSHH!!!

Chapter 732 Darkbound Versus Claw!

CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

Darkbound's Abyssal Sword swung rapidly attacking Claw several times. The werewolf intercepted a few of his blows with his metal-like claws, while using his powerful Beast Aura to push the heavy Undead away from him.

However, Darkbound was like an unmovable mountain. He continued stepping forward while swinging his sword, vertical and horizontal slashes raining down over the werewolf. Each slash brought upon an explosion of darkness, already covering Claw's body with wounds.

"[Abyssal Death Blade Arts]: [Netherworld's Slash]!"

TRUUUUUMMM...!

Darkbound unleashed a powerful vertical slash that channeled the very power of the Netherworld, a blue and green-colored aura of death emerged as he unleashed this Art, impacting Claw and pushing him down into the floor.

SLAAAAASH!

BAAAM!

"Graaarrgh... T-This damn... Skeleton...! I was about to fucking eat you some seconds ago!" Claw cried in frustration. "Now my army... my men, everything..."

Claw had been told this would be an easy task, but things only became worse and worse as time went by. With Maria's Egos appearance, things quickly changed to the worst. The Frost Army was being wiped out and the werewolves that came to fight at Claw's side were all dead by the hands of Darkbound's merciless attacks.

To make things worse, he had been promised it would be an easy task by the Frost Queen herself. He, someone that was picked up by her when nobody else was there for him believed the Frost Queen words completely. And much like a loyal dog, he walked into a trap as long as his owner asked him to.

The werewolf tribe was a small tribe of beast-people that was nomadic, moving from place to place in the snow covered lands of the South of Midgard. They were often times hunted, and even discriminated by other fellow beast-men due to their more beast-like appearances, as they lacked humanoid faces and their entire bodies were covered on fur, lacking exposed skin.

Their bodies were tall, their claws incredibly sharp, and their appetite very large. In ancient times they formed enormous packs of barbarians that assaulted and killed and devoured people... Claw and his people were forced to this lifestyle for survival, but after having been almost completely wiped out three years ago by the combined forces of many Adventurers, they were left hopeless.

Starving, and with nowhere to go, they ended hiding inside a dungeon they found, and that's where they saw it, the enormous Tower of Skadi, where the Frost Queen awaited them. They were drawn into the tower's entrance, and were greeted by her.

"Become my servants, my family... And you and your pack will never suffer starvation ever again." She promised them.

Claw, without any other chance, ended accepting such a deal, and they were feed, and given shelter, and power beyond their imagination. Especially him, who was the strongest of his pack, was given a gift.

With this gift and the powers of a Dungeon that the Frost Queen controlled, he was able to easily hunt monsters and gain tremendous quantities of EXP, leveling up quickly until he became S Rank.

He promised to protect his new home, and his Queen... At all costs. He came here with the mere task of slaying some civilians, something he had done many times already, as he used to be a barbarian bandit that assaulted and killed people to steal from them.

Deep down, he might have felt slightly bad, but he always thought that "life's always been like this". And simply did as he was told... He never expected that things would become so terrible many of his great warriors died so easily, and he was now about to die himself.

"N-No... not yet...! I cannot die YET!" He cried, as he was about to be stabbed by Darkbound's sword into the chest.

The silver-colored bracelet on his left arm, which had the small head of a wolf made of silver on top of it began shining, as the power of the Ancient Wolf, Fenrir, flowed into him.

Although he was not worth to hold Fenrir's Blessing unlike Kuro, as he was fighting against his interests, he held a special accessory given to him, the Divine Bracelet of Fenrir, which Skadi had forged using a fang that once belonged to the ancient, wolf god.

FLAAAAASH!

His entire body suddenly started transforming, the explosion of divine light quickly blocked Darkbound's dark blade and pushed him back, as the skeleton knight saw Claw suddenly transform into a gigantic white wolf.

The power of the Divinity of Fenrir, even if a tiny fragment of it contained within his fang, was imbued into the body of Claw, enhancing his power to completely new levels.

"GGRRRHHH...!" Claw groaned. "GAAAAARRRGHH!"

Having completely lost the ability to speak, or to even have coherent thoughts in exchange for tremendous power, Claw leaped towards Darkbound, administering several claw attacks that unleashed shining, divine beast aura attacks with each blow!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"You've become stronger through that Divine Artifact!" Darkbound noticed, as he swung his sword vertically and horizontally, slashes of netherworld energy and abyssal darkness impacted the claw attacks coming from Claw constantly, generating explosions across the skies.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

"AWOOOOO!"

Suddenly, Claw howled into the skies, as the skies themselves opened up, showing a bright moon shining down upon him, his jaws opened, readying a tremendous breath attack!

"What the heck is this bastard, a damn dragon?!" Maria within Darkbound panicked. "Darkbound, block!"

TRUUUMMM...!

A gigantic beam of moonlight descended upon Darkbound, as he barely put his divine sword in front of him, amplifying its powers through his own Mana and the Mana of Maria!

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

The enormous, explosive beam of moonlight impacted with tremendous power. Darkbound was thrown down into the ground below, as the land shattered by the tremendous impact of the attack.

CRAAAAASH!

"OOOOOGGGH...!" Darkbound groaned, as he continued trying to unleash his own powers. "[Hekaton: Earth Shattering Slash]!"

FLASH!

The Divine Sword Hekaton suddenly shone brightly, activating its unique skill: [Earth Shattering Slash]!

SLAAAAAAAAAAAAASH!!!

TRUUUUUMMM...!

A gigantic slash descended upon the entire land, piercing through Claws Moonlight Beam and then slicing through his body!

Chapter 733 Claw's Demise

"[Hekaton: Earth Shattering Slash]!"

FLASH!

The Divine Sword Hekaton suddenly shone brightly, activating its unique skill: [Earth Shattering Slash]!

SLAAAAAAAAAAAAASH!!!

TRUUUUUMMM...!

A gigantic slash descended upon the entire land, piercing through Claws Moonlight Beam and then slicing through his body!

"GRAAARRGGH...!"

Claw roared in agony, swinging his claws and parrying the enormous, earth-shattering slash barely, although his right arm was sliced apart!

SLAAASH!

BAAM!

He landed on the snow-covered floor, gasping for air and then vomiting a mouthful of blood. Wielding the power of Fenrir brought upon him a backlash.

"Claw!" Darkbound roared, slowly standing up by using his giant sword to stand back up. "COME!"

"GRAAAARRRGH! ROOOAARRRGH!" Claw leaped towards Darkbound and began biting through his entire sword and then his arms and body.

CRAASH! CRAASH! CRAASH!

His gigantic wolf jaws were incredibly deadly, capable of biting through everything with tremendous, overwhelming strength. Darkbound barely managed to tank the hits while unleashing a storm of Blades made of Shadows and Phantoms against the wolf, piercing his eyes!

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"GRYYAARRGH!"

Claw cried in agony, stepping back as his eyes began bleeding. Darkbound used this opportunity, gathering more of his Phantasmal Magic and fusing it with Maria's Magic together, summoning enormous skeletal hands made of Abyssal Shadows and Darkness.

"[Thanatos' Abyssal Claws]! RAAAAHHHH!!!"

CLAAASH! CLAAAASH!

Both gigantic claws impacted upon Claw, pushing him down into the ground. The wolf ferociously started biting and tearing apart the skeletal claws with ease, but that gave enough time for Darkbound to summon even more of these, which started falling over the giant white wolf like gigantic fist meteors!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

From above, below, left and right, Darkbound unleashed an endless barrage of punches that started to slowly overwhelm the giant white wolf, his entire body beginning to distort with all the wounds and broken bones.

"YOU WILL PERISH BY MY HAND!"

Darkbound gathered all the giant skeletal claws together into a gigantic fist, pushing down Claw into the ground and crushing his bones even more!

BAAAAAMMM!!!

"GRYYYYAARRRGH!"

Claw vomited a mouthful of blood as he glared furiously at the skeleton.

"Y-You damn pile of bones...! GRAAAARRRGGH!"

His spirit was still one of a warrior to the very end, leaping towards Darkbound even as his body was being torn apart and opening his jaws!

"YOU WILL DIE BY MY HANDS!" He barked back, unleashing yet another Moonlight Beam!

BOOOOOOOOMMMM!!!

"Unngggh..!"

CLASH!

Darkbound fell like a ragdoll into the floor, his black bones slightly beginning to shatter. His right arm suddenly fell into pieces over the floor, and half his skull was shattered. However, his willpower was endless.

The knight made with a hundred souls stood back up, relentlessly. His eyes glowed bright blue, like will-o-wisps glowing within his empty skull.

"I cannot die here... Not yet... I must protect... Protect my people!" He roared, rushing towards Claw.

Both were exhausted and their bodies were on tatters. Their clashed against one another, tearing themselves apart even further. Claw relentlessly gave deadly bites and slashing attacks using his claws, while Darkbound used his magic and blade to pierce through the giant wolf's body and deal lethal damage.

"ROOOOAAARRRR!"

"RAAAAAAHHH!!!"

Their strongest blow was given to one another, as an enormous explosion of divine power and mana was unleashed, spreading across the skies, and forming an arc, while their surroundings were cleared of all the accumulated snow, showing the floor and dirt beneath.

CLAAAAAASHHHH!!!

After the clash, silence befell.

Claw's jaws biting ferociously on Darkbound's torso, shattering his armor and slightly forming cracks on his Core, while Darkbound's blade pierced through his neck all the way up to his brain.

"GRAAAGH..." Claw gave a last beast-like groan before it fell down into the floor, dead.

"Hahhhh..."

BAAM!

Darkbound fell into the floor, his body could not grow exhausted but his soul was very much tired. And his core had gained several cracks, weakening him even more.

However, as his fusion with Maria ended, her magic quickly reassembled his body and healed his Core's cracks, which was his greatest weakness, well, the weakness of most Undead strong enough to reach S Rank.

"Hahh... My liege, thank you." Sighed Darkbound.

"We're not over yet." Maria said. "[Rise]"

FLAAAASH!

The giant white wolf suddenly stood back up again, as Maria simply inserted back the soul of Claw that was left wandering around. With her Queen of the Undead Title, Claw's animosity instantly changed, as he became more cooperative.

"E-Eh? I am back?!" Claw asked in surprise. "I-I am still dead? What... what's going on?!"

"You're dead, I've given you a second chance as an Undead, and so all your pack." Maria said, as all other slain werewolves appeared behind her, from within her shadows, as Undead.

However, Maria's necromancy had advanced so far that they didn't even look like zombies, but looked very much as fresh as alive, and with her wound repairing skills, even the giant white wolf that Claw became looked freshly alive. It could be said to be an ability to preserve things in a fresh state, even after death... A magic she mostly uses to make preservation on food though.

"A-Amazing... we're back?!"

"We are undead? It doesn't even feel like it!"

"W-Woah..."

"Boss, you became a giant wolf?!"

Claw was surprised. He really thought this was it... yet as long as the soul remains, there's always a second chance. Something that was impossible with the other Frost Generals that attacked the Dwarven Country, as their souls were destroyed.

"It does seem like you'll permanently keep yourself as a big white wolf, I'll be taking this loot though~" Maria said with a smile, taking the Divine Bracelet of Fenrir for herself, its powers reacted with hers. Unlike the other divine artifacts that were destroyed, this one was still working as intended. "Now, we should-"

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

However, the troubles were far from over for Maria's Abyssal Body Ego, as she and her Undead suddenly saw hundreds of giant fireballs falling towards them from the skies.

"This bitch..."

BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM! BOOOM!

Chapter 734 A Swift Change Of Sides

B O O O M!

B O O O M!

B O O O M!

B O O O M!

B O O O M!

The enormous fireballs fell down upon Maria and Darkbound and her new Undead, only for a powerful Barrier of Abyssal Darkness, channeling the power of the Bracelet of Fenrir to defend against the deadly magic.

Once the rain finished, the entire surroundings were ablaze though, and this level of magic could quite easily destroy an entire city.

"T-That's Anastasia's magic! Well, seems like she didn't even hesitate to burn us to a crisp! Fucking bitch! She's a coward that escaped too!" Claw barked angrily. "GRAAH! Fuck it! Maria, as long as you promise me to rescue the rest of my tribe that's living on the Frost Queen's dungeon, I'll join you!"

"Oh really~? Well I was just planning to force you to cooperate anyways, but fine." Maria laughed. "But what with the sudden change of sides?"

"The Frost Queen... lied to us, she sent us here convincing us it would be an easy win. We were completely outmatched after you arrived, and well... here we are." He sighed. "And I don't like the other Frost Generals anyways! They're all nasty bastards! And I hate how she just decided to cooperate with

those damn Humans from the Empire of Light... They're the bastards that hunted my tribe for generations, they see us as nothing but beasts!" Claw barked angrily.

It seemed he had a very deep grudge against the Empire of Light. Maria sighed, but this was to be expected. It was the most influential country in the continent and they ruled over the others with iron fist. Those that did not abide to their rules would, sooner or later, be destroyed.

They were the ones behind the death of her family, and behind the death of many other families similar to hers, who descended from the Ancient Heroes that had sealed the fragments of the Evil God long ago.

"Anastasia is a frail and cowardly Sorceress. I guess it makes sense she would run away and hide somewhere while conjuring magic at us. She's quite smart for being a dumb puppet of the Empire of Light!" Claw said angrily. "However... she might be able to hide with her magic from mana observation abilities, but she cannot hide her smell." Claw started sniffing the air. "I can feel it, she's not that far!"

The other werewolves quickly followed Claw, assembling, and beginning to sniff the air, quickly sensing the scent of the cowardly sorceress.

"She's there, Maria! Let me go and kill her!" Claw said angrily.

"Don't be reckless, Claw." Maria sighed. "She's not a Hero for nothing. If you go right now as you are, you're going to get killed easily. Tell me more about these heroes... I am beginning to remember things as my other body fights that Darkness Hero."

"They're the Heroes from the Empire of Light that were given the task of slaying you and your subordinates. They're part of the Church of Light Faction, who prays to the Aesir, Odin and his children, mostly." Said Claw. "They have come with the pretext of avenging the nobles you killed, but they recently got a Divine Message from Odin that told them to cooperate with us. The Frost Queen also got the same Divine Message from Skadi, the owner of the many artifacts she found."

"Oh, I see how it is." Maria nodded. "I knew it, all of this is something that bastard orchestrated. Alright, I cannot accompany you but someone else is going there with you. I have to go help everyone else."

Suddenly, a giant slime made of liquid metal appeared, shining brightly with an aura of rainbows. It was nobody else than Mercury!

"T-That's the giant slime that one of the Heroes should had killed?!" Asked Claw.

"It seems whoever he was, he held back a lot." Maria said. "Mercury's body is very big and moldable, so he managed to survive even after his body was almost destroyed." She said while petting the adorable metal slime. "Now, Mercury, accompany these men."

"Guuuuh!"

"Don't worry, it's not as if I am not going either..."

And a second Maria appeared, this one was wearing a purple dress, and had dazzling purple eyes and hair. It was Maria's Poison Body Ego, who had decided to accompany them.

"Then let's go kill that damn coward!" Claw roared.

As Maria saw her Poison Body Ego and Mercury accompany Claw, she glanced into the entrance of her ruins, an army of Frost Monsters was approaching from the faraway Dungeon where the Frost Queen was constantly summoning them.

It seemed she was not only a Calamity but became a Dungeon Master, being able to control the powers of the Dungeon, she was able to conjure the power of the Dungeon's ability to summon monsters and has been abusing such power with her enormous quantities of Mana and Divine power fueled by the Tower of Skadi, constantly summoning them.

"We have to go protect the city, Darkbound! Let's go." She said. "You too, come as well!" Maria brought with her the werewolves as well, rushing towards the city.

F L A A S S H H!!

As she ran, the memories of her other bodies reached her. The death of Lancelot, and then the rush of memories coming as Jonathan revealed himself all at once. It was a bit too much for her. She felt a slight amount of despair, and hope mixed together.

It was a strange feeling that made her wonder if all her struggles were even worth it... Yet when she saw an army of Giant Black Spiders approaching and defending her home, as a tiny and adorable little white-haired girl commanded them... such thoughts faded away rather quickly.

A friend she had made long ago appeared out of the blue, willing to come out of her dungeon into the world she feared, just to protect her.

"Arachne...?"

Chapter 735 The Corruption Of The Heroes

As Maria was shocked by what Julio had revealed to him, her powers and the fusion with Kuro started to destabilize, giving the corrupted Hero of Darkness the best chance to strike her down.

"Hahaha! Are you shocked?! Angry? Sad, perhaps?!"

His dark blade reached Kuro with the immense power of the Evil God Fragment merged into it! A gigantic, overwhelming aura of chaos surged from within, too fast for the shocked Maria to react in time.

CLAAAAAASH!!!

An explosion of darkness and chaos echoed everywhere, shattering the floor below Maria and Kuro, and letting out countless black lightning strikes.

"Hahaha- Eh?"

FLAAAAASSHHH!

However, a ray of light surged from the skies, suddenly guarding Maria, and Kuro, as a knight wearing golden and white armor emerged, his eyes flaring with golden, holy flames.

It was nobody else than the Hero of Sunlight himself, who had suddenly disappeared for a brief moment, only to reemerge once more, now with the intent to help Maria, his enemy.

"YOU?!" Julio roared with fury, his eyes beginning to glow redder as the power of the Evil God Fragment started flowing across his body.

"Julio, that's enough!" Jonathan roared, his eyes shining.

His words only made the Hero of Darkness madder.

"Jonathan... What are you doing?!" Julio cried furiously. "You dare... You dare ally with these monsters?!"

Jonathan squinted his eyes to the word "monsters", growing furious.

"Monsters?" Asked Jonathan. "Just as she said. You are the real monster, Julio! I never knew about this! I never knew you were behind my beloved Maria's family death! You... I won't forgive you."

"J-Jonathan?" Maria asked, suddenly beginning to remember him.

The appearance of this person emerged within her ever-growing memories. A knight wearing bright armor, that slowly became famous as he defended the Kingdom of Albraun from many threats, she was always at his side, childhood friends that quickly became lovers.

The man that screamed in agony and despair as he was unable to stop her death, the one she saw crying at the beginning of her life as a ghost... She always wondered where he was, and what was happening with him. And of course, why he cried that time.

It was him... Someone unable to fight against her fate.

However, now, he was siding with her, no longer caring about "honor" or "loyalty" anymore.

After losing her once, he realized all those things meant nothing if he would lose the most precious person in his entire life.

"You're... You're here?" Maria asked.

"It seems you've recovered some of your memories." Jonathan sighed. "Maria, this time... I will amend for my sins! I won't tolerate their tyranny anymore! I will protect you and everything you love!"

Jonathan's eyes pierced through Maria's heart. Her personality of both her life as Maria, the noble, and her life as Maria, the ghost slowly melded together.

There were many things she wondered, many things she doubted, yet... she couldn't help but feel relieved, and happy to have him with her.

Julio, however, couldn't simply accept such treason... especially from Jonathan, whom he planned to slowly torture, forcing him to kill his loved one's allies one by one.

"You damn TRAITOR!!!" Julio roared, his entire body beginning to shapeshift into a horrendous monster.

His entire body started growing several times larger. His armor instantly shattered into pieces as his giant body continued growing much bigger, and muscular. Julio's body was wrapped around hundreds of black tentacles, as red eyes emerged all across his body.

The angered face he had slowly transformed, fusing with the miasma and chaos of the Evil God's Fragment Powers, his face suddenly growing several red eyes and demonic horns... The Hero of Darkness, a "champion of humanity" became an aberrant monster.

The Blade of Darkness he held mutated, becoming bigger and more sinister as it channeled the powers their wielder held. Julio's powerful aura spread out further, growing much stronger.

"J-Julio... What have you become?!" Jonathan asked, terrified that his old friend, and his disciple, turned into an aberrant monster, a host of a parasite.

"What? Do you not like my new, stronger form, Jonathan~?" Laughed Julio, his voice becoming sinister and monstrous. "This is my truest form! This is what I've become to finally match your strength! With this, I am invincible!" He laughed.

"Invincible?" Asked Maria with a giggle. "You know I've defeated several people that thought that when they held that same power, right?"

"But were they Heroes of Darkness?! Huh, WITCH?!" Laughed Julio, his Darkness Skills and Powers, which came from his Hero of Darkness Class fused perfectly well with the power of the Evil God Fragment, converging into an overwhelming shockwave of power. "[Abyssal Wave]!"

TRUUUUUUMMMMMM...!

A wave of pure darkness spread everywhere around, shaking the ground and about to arrive over the city far away.

However...

"[Sunlight's Grace]!" Jonathan roared, unleashing the very power of the sunlight itself into his surroundings, spreading it further and slightly overpowering the darkness!

FLAAAAAAASH!

However, it wasn't enough. The abyss continued spreading further and further, Jonathan seemed incapable of protecting everything at this point, the attack covered too wide of a range, and if he utilized all his powers, he might risk destroying the city as well.

"You've always been a man that would jump in front of others to sacrifice yourself..." Maria said as her spectral form surged from within Kuro's body, still fused with him, but showing her appearance while riding over his back. "However, I am not the same weak Maria I once was... [Eternal Moon Mirror]! [Mystical Moon Phase Circle]!"

FLUOOOSH!

Maria's Moonlight Essence merged with her grand quantities of Mana into a single, gigantic mirror made in the shape of a giant moon, which then divide itself into hundreds of smaller mirrors, all reflecting the darkness coming to the city, and then... reversing it back to their owner!

FLAAAAAAAASH!

"W-What?!" Julio was flabbergasted.

The darkness transformed, suddenly gaining moonlight attribute, and becoming a lethal beam of gray and purple light, striking Julio down with a thunderous explosion!

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

Chapter 736 An Old Love

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

Maria gave back Julio what he unleashed, as his Abyssal Wave turned into a Moonlight Beam of catastrophic proportions, blasting him into the ground as it pierced right through his chest, leaving a gigantic hole!

"G-Graaaggh..." Julio groaned, vomiting a mouthful of blood as he glanced at his own wound.

Flesh and guts were coming out of it, and a river of blood. The power of Maria's Moonlight did not stop in that either, as it was also able to cover wounds and not allow them to recover so easily.

"Unnnnggh... W-Why am I not... recovering- AAKHH...!"

Julio fell to his knees surprisingly, shocking Jonathan. The Hero of Darkness continued vomiting blood as his vitality was slowly receding.

"Incredible, Maria! You did it- Huh?! Maria!"

However, Jonathan was quickly scared as he saw Maria falling to the floor, her phantasmal body seemingly too tired, it looked as if it was slowly fading away.

"Grooaarr...!" Kuro was also exhausted after the fusion, going back to his normal self.

"Ungh... It's fine, I am alright, just too tired. That attack spent all of my remaining Moonlight Essence in this body." She sighed.

"Body?" Jonathan asked.

"As you can see, I am a ghostly being now, Jonathan." Maria sighed, giving him a head pat. "You're always so slow at catching up, aren't you? My body can divide into many parts. Right now this body is only a piece of it."

"O-Oh, so that's how it is." Jonathan quickly understood. "Are you okay? Can I do something to help you? Ah, an Elixir?" He asked, offering her one.

"That'll work." Maria smiled, taking the Elixir out of his hands, and drinking it.

It slightly worked as intended, even if it had a bit of Holy Water, it didn't hurt her at all and her HP and MP began to recover, making her grasp the situation much better as her mind did not feel as dizzy.

However, Moonlight Essence was a different source of energy that doesn't recovery with these types of potions, and would only recover slowly over time.

"Hahhh... We have to kill that thing before it goes out of control." She said.

"Right." Jonathan nodded, standing back up. "Maria... I..."

"I know, dear." Maria sighed. "We have a lot to talk about. I am honestly really mad at you for how you were not able to help me before, and how you let it all happen though."

Jonathan sighed, looking into the floor.

"Sigh... Your expressions are like those of a kid sometimes." Maria sighed, with a bit of nostalgia. "But I also know your family was held hostage, and that... if you helped me, they would had killed yours."

"Maria..." Jonathan sighed.

"I know what you went through, and I know what this change of sides means for your family too." She said. "We've gotta hurry and save them after we're done with this, right?"

"You're willing to...?" Jonathan asked. "I... feel like I am not worthy of your aid."

"You helped me out, it is the least I can do to help you out back." Maria giggled.

"Maria I... Even if you're now a ghost, even if you've changed, you're still you. I can feel it, and I can also feel my feelings for you, which I've always held, blossoming once more." Jonathan confessed gallantly. "Could you...?"

"Well, we can talk about that later." Maria interrupted him, she had yet to reveal him she now had three lovers and three children. "We've got this bastard to kill... And looks like reinforcements have arrived just in time!"

TRUUUUMMM...!

The sound of countless of giant black spiders rushing into the surroundings of the kingdom echoed everywhere, as Jonathan saw in shock as a tiny little girl and another Maria, this one made of darkness, accompanied by a skeleton knight, led the army against the thousands of Frost Monsters that the Frost Queen has been constantly summoning towards this area.

Maria's Abyssal Body quickly reached her Moonlight Body, as both fused together into Abyssal Moonlight, recovering part of the Moonlight Essence her Abyssal Body had pocketed.

FLAAASH!

"Well, with this it should be enough." Maria said with a nod.

"T-That's a huge army of spiders..." Jonathan was having a hard time thinking these were his new friends.

Well, it wasn't as if seconds ago, he wasn't part of the side with the giant frost monsters as their allies...

"Mama, want help?" Wondered a little silver haired girl, sitting over the largest black spider's head and looking at Maria and Jonathan with an adorable, yet expressionless face.

"Not for now, dear, but protect the city. This bastard's someone we'll take down by ourselves. You too, Darkbound" Maria said.

"Very well, milady." Darkbound nodded.

"Got it." Arachne nodded, rushing to protect the city instead.

"D-Did she called you "mama"?!" Asked Jonathan, gasping in shock. "W-Who's the father?!"

"A big and ugly spider, hehe." Maria laughed.

"EEEH?!" Jonathan felt dead inside.

"Hahaha! I'm joking, calm down." Laughed Maria. "Though I do have a dragon husband right now, and two cute girls as my wives, a vampire and a elf."

"W-What...?" Jonathan felt slightly heartbroken, however, Maria gave him a head pat.

"Jonathan, I've had to continue my life as my own, you know?" She sighed. "They're good people, and I love them. But I still have a place in my heart for you. If you truly want to stay at my side even after knowing that fight with me, and if not... You're free to go."

Jonathan looked at Maria, his eyes seemed slightly doubtful at first... But all these memories he spent at her side, all this love, it wasn't going anywhere. He might be a more... "traditional" man, but he had already changed his mind and sided with the "monsters", he was already undergoing many changes in his mentality.

"GRAAAHHH... JONATHAANNN...!"

The roar of Julio in the background was the last nail in the coffin for him.

"I hope there's a place for a second husband then..." His blonde hair waved by the icy cold winds, as his radiant and handsome face slowly started to regain his vitality and passion. "I'll stay at your side, no matter what, Maria!"

His aura of radiance spread out everywhere, clashing against the aura of darkness of Julio.

"There might be a spot for you, dear." Maria giggled.

"RAAAAAARRRGH!"

Chapter 737 The Hero Of Darkness' Last Stand

Julio couldn't take any more of this soap opera. His face twisted as countless red eyes started popping up from within his open wound, slowly beginning to regenerate as more and more tendrils appeared, slowly starting to regenerate his wounds.

"I won't fall so easily...! I am the Hero of Darkness!!! JONATHAAAANNNN! I'LL KILL YOUUUU!!!"

TRUUM! TRUUM! TRUUM!

His steps started making the entire ground shake constantly, as his body started transforming and trying to adapt to the deadly wound that destroyed over half of his internal organs... for that, he had to accept even more of this power, to become part of his own body.

"GRRRAAAARRRGGH!"

He rushed forward towards the two of them, ignoring everything else happening around, even as the Frost Army was being completely overwhelmed by the Arachneia led by their little Queen, Arachne.

Julio reached Jonathan and Maria in an instant, swinging his massive Chaos Blade, and unleashing an utterly titanic slash of pure darkness and chaos concentrated together.

SLAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

TRUUUUUMMM...!

The power of this single slash of pure black energy made all the ground around them shatter apart and fly into the skies.

However, Jonathan confronted the powerful attack head-on, as his own Divine Blade started shining brightly...

"[Sunlight Blade Arts]: [Heaven Fall]!"

FLAAAAASH!

An enormous shining light erupted from Jonathan's Divine Blade, as it impacted Julio's darkness slash with enormous force. The impact between darkness and light started shaking the heavens, as a loud explosion shook the earth.

CLAAAAAASSHHH!!!

"Hahahaha! Not bad!" Laughed Julio. "But can you deal with this?!"

Julio's entire body shapeshifted, as he extended his upper half into a slimy form, surrounding Jonathan and opening a giant red eye on his chest, firing a massive chaos beam at his back when Jonathan was concentrated on his own technique!

BOOOOOMMM!!!

FLUOSH!

However, as the smoke dissipated, the enormous beam of chaos that Julio fired was, instead, absorbed by a large moon-shaped mirror summoned by Maria, who was riding over her giant winged dark lion chimera, Kuro.

"Huh? Not that again?!" Julio cried.

"Take your shit back, asshole." Maria smiled.

FLAAAASH!

The chaos transformed and fused with her Moonlight, becoming a beam of purple and silver color impacting the giant red eye of Julio, a classic weak point in many video games, resulted to be a weak point in real life as well!

BOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

"GUUUUAAAGGH...!"

Julio's giant red eye was also created through the power of his Demonite Core. After all, he only carried but a part of the Evil God Fragment's Essence within his chest, a Demonite Core of immense quality and power.

When Maria's beam hit his chest, the Demonite Core started to slowly shatter.

Crack... CRACK!

"Uggh...! Y-YOU DAMN BITCH!"

Julio was furious, as he rushed towards Maria while shapeshifting his form around, resembling a formless mass of miasma and darkness, his giant dark blade quickly pointing at Maria, attempting to pierce through her body!

"DIEEEE!"

FLAAASH!

"Not so fast!"

Jonathan flew there at light speed, as he utilized his [Light Embodiment] Skill, which cost a lot of MP to utilize, but that could temporarily transform him into pure light to travel at incredibly fast speeds.

He quickly materialized back to normal, as his Divine Sword also turned back to a material state right in front of Julio's attack, the impact of his sword with his overly charged divine power generated a bright flash of light, shaped into a piercing blade that slashed across Julio's arms and tentacles!

"[Sunlight Blade Arts]: [Sunshine Slash]!"

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLAAASH!

It was as if countless rays of light descended upon Julio's entire body all at once, slicing him slowly into pieces! He despaired, as he felt each of his pieces disappearing at the same time!

"Uuaaggh! W-What the hell?!"

He glanced at Maria, noticing that she was catching each fragment at lightning speed and devouring them! Her Mana continued growing larger as well.

"Let's see how far can your damn regeneration go!" Laughed Maria, pointing her Magic Staff at Julio, and unleashing a massive beam of moonlight.

TRUUUUUMMMM...!

CLAAAASH!!!

"GRUUAAGH...!"

Julio was being burned by both moonlight and sunlight, as he started stepping back, his regeneration was failing him more and more as he realized Maria's very presence was draining away his energy... This was, of course, Maria's Ultimate Skill into action.

"Being near that woman is like looking at a black hole...!" Julio thought. "My complete power is being drained constantly! What kind of ridiculous monster is she?! And with Jonathan helping her, they're incredibly tough to fight against!"

Julio panicked, as his body constantly shapeshifted, his Chaos Blade was moving around his body constantly, as he swung it with multiple tentacles, attempting to shake his surroundings while letting out Abyssal Waves.

"No... I cannot lose here!!! DIE! DIE! DIE!!!" Julio cried, attacking everywhere frantically.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

However, Maria's Moonlight Magic and Jonathan's Sunlight Blade Arts constantly intercepted his blows and sent them straight back at him!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOM!

Julio gritted his sharp and multiple jaws at once, unaware that his humanoid body had completely changed into an aberrant mass of shadows and tentacles with eyes and jaws.

"You damn pathetic fuckers! Fuck you Jonathan! I hate you!!! FUCKING DIE!!!" Julio started screaming like a child, attacking Jonathan constantly with Chaos Beams and slashes of his Chaos Blade.

"Julio! You've been corrupted by the brainwashing of the church for a while..." Jonathan sighed. "I still remember when you used to be such an upright and good-hearted disciple! Now look at you, you've become a raging monster, you're not even yourself anymore!"

"SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!!!" Julio roared. "I always hated how they gave you all the attention, all the recognition! I once... wanted to be like you, but not anymore... I am stronger, I am INVINCIBLEEEEE!!!"

The Hero of Darkness let out all of his energy at once, as a gigantic shockwave of chaos and darkness spread everywhere!

TRUUUUUMMMMM...!

Chapter 738 The Corrupted Hero's End

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Julio was Jonathan's first disciple. An upright young man that awakened the legendary-rank class, Hero of Darkness. He was destined to be someone as great as Jonathan, and the church quickly appointed his teachings to him.

He always looked up to Jonathan, the Sunlight Hero, a young man that became a famous hero of the Empire of Light, their face and pride. Someone that conquered dozens of dungeons, killed millions of monsters, and protected humanity.

"I-It is nice to meet you, Hero Jonathan!" Julio said back then, young and naive, bowing his head nervously before Jonathan, who had just recently hit 24 back then.

"Hahaha, you don't have to be so nervous! Calm down for a bit." Jonathan said with a smile, extending his face. "One day, we will become complete equals, Julio, so let's get along. I'll teach you everything I can, and I'll help you grow stronger, we'll be sticking with each other for a while, so let's get used to one another."

Julio looked at his hand with shiny eyes. Back in his village, he really admired the hero, and wanted to be someone just like him.

"Y-Yes sir!" Julio nodded, giving him a handshake.

Their journey together started that day. From day to night, the two trained and explored the vastness of the beautiful continent of Midgard. They shared many adventures, and many challenges and trials.

In their travels, thanks to the church's red of information, they learned about the Sorceress of Blazing Flames, Anastasia, recruiting her into their party, and later on, they ended having another person join them temporarily.

Maria, a Dark Magician that had become a D Rank Adventurer. Compared to them, she was actually quite weak, but possessed unique Abilities, her Unique Skills, allowing her to conjure magic with ease and to absorb mana, having an endless source of it.

Over time, Julio and Anastasia realized Jonathan shifted his attention to Maria, he slowly fell in love with the snarky and funny girl, that seemed as if she had come from another world by how different she was from other girls.

Over time, Julio and Anastasia harbored a great jealousy of her... And as the two saw how their growth stagnated, while Jonathan continued earning many more feats, and always getting the spotlight with Maria, they slowly changed.

Hate blossomed in their hearts, and as the church slowly corrupted itself from its former righteous teachings by Odin himself, who commanded a new priest of light to change the church's pacifist ways even more, they were slowly convinced they were special, that they did not deserve this treatment.

The love and admiration they had for Jonathan became second before their hate and envy. The upright young man changed, as Julio grew corrupted by slowly being influenced on his weakest point.

Over time, a plot to take back the sealed Evil God Fragments from the families of the old heroes surged... And Julio and Anastasia were at the head of this. Their target was obviously Maria, member of a family that had one of these fragments.

With the help of nobles, they were falsely framed, and detained. Maria was not there when it happened, but aside from her aunt and her little brother, her two parents were executed, and the sealed fragment was stolen.

When Maria was falsely framed as a witch, Jonathan tried to defend her, but Julio and Anastasia were there, using their bond with him, and with the help of the corrupted church, they were forced to separate... Of course, threatening his family and holding them as hostages did it for them more than any other threat or emotional talk.

Jonathan could still remember that time... The words of Julio and Anastasia, their false pity, their fake empathy, their words... Once, they were his beloved disciples, those he fought with and taught.

But now... they changed.

And Julio, the innocent and naive boy he always protected and took care of as if he was his own child now became a monster beyond his own comprehension.

After doing so many atrocities... could he even forgive him?

There was a really good chance before, but after he learned he was even behind Maria's parents' death, and what happened to her mother before her agonizing death... he couldn't forgive him.

"Hahah... HAHHAHAHAHA! I AM INVINCIBLE WITH THIS POWER!" Laughed Julio. "Master, your teachings were useless, good for nothing! I have become much stronger, all by myself!"

"This is not your strength, Julio..." Sighed Jonathan. "No, you're no longer Julio, but a husk of his former self. I once had a disciple named Julio... but you're no longer him."

Jonathan's eyes glowed bright gold, emanating a powerful divine light like Julio had never seen before... Only for him to realize that Maria was nowhere to be seen, in fact, she had fused with Jonathan.

"Maria... Please, give me your strength and resolve!" Jonathan shed a tear of sorrow as he readied his sword against his once beloved disciple.

"Of course! Now that we are united, I will always be there for you, Jonathan!" Maria whispered to his mind, filling him with the strength he needed.

Sunlight and Moonlight Divine Energy converged together, as one of Jonathan's eyes shone brightly with the golden light of the sun, while the other shone with the silver light of the moon.

A divine power unique to the two as they fused as one.

"[Divine Eclipse Blade Arts]: [Eclipsing Radiance]!"

Both of their voices echoed together, as Jonathan's Divine Blade echoed with a tremendous combined power, piercing through Julio's eternal darkness, and then, his core and soul.

SLAAAAAAAASSHHH!!!

And slicing him in two perfect halves...

Crack...

"Huh?!"

Crack, crack...!

"W-What... happened...?"

Crack... CRACK!

Julio didn't even realized what hit him before his Demonite Core... shattered into pieces.

And so did his soul at the same time.

CRAAASH!

"Impossible... T-They... promised me... A power even beyond him..."

Julio's consciousness slowly faded away, filled with frustration and regret as an explosion of sunlight and moonlight consumed him completely.

BOOOOOOMMMM!!!

Chapter 739 Claw & Mercury Against Anastasia!

As Julio was being dealt with and Arachne led an army of her Arachneia to fight against the Frost Army and protect the city, in the outskirts of the battlefield, another battle was happening. A sorceress has been pushed to her limits, as a giant white wolf, a metal slime, and Maria's Poison Body Ego was all it took to force her to this state.

"Hahhh... T-To think you would betray us like this, you damn beast!" Roared Anastasia, glaring angrily at the giant white wolf, Claw.

"Betray?" Asked Claw with a laugh. "You're the ones that didn't even considered me an ally, what loyalty should I have for you?!"

"You damn dog..." The sorceress gritted her teeth, covered in wounds and with several parts of her body being half frozen, while deadly poison was coursing through her veins, and quickly vomiting a mouthful of blood. "Guh... And you..."

"Hehe, it has been a while, Anastasia." Maria giggled, her poisonous body ego form overflowing with bubbles of poison and corrosive liquid around her body. "Are you having a hard time?"

"Y-Youuu...!" Anastasia roared. "When I learned that you were a ghost, I couldn't believe it! You fucking bitch! You came back to life just to ruin my life! I should have Jonathan for me, that was the deal THEY promised me!!!"

"For you?" Maria laughed. "Well, it seems that even before he knew I was here... He was already rejecting all your advances."

"S-Shut up!" Anastasia cried. "Jonathan is a crazy creep obsessed with a dead woman! Why doesn't he look at me instead?! I am so pretty and beautiful! Everyone praises me, and there are so many male nobles that want my hand in marriage! I am the ideal most desirable woman... Yet that arrogant bastard of a man..." She started gritting her teeth tightly.

"Preferred a ghost over you?" Laughed Claw. "Kahahahaha! Yeah, it is FUCKING hilarious, bitch!"

"Anastasia, I knew you had a crush with Jonathan back then." Maria sighed.

"Eh?" Anastasia asked angrily. "And yet you still became his girlfriend?!"

"I told him many times you were in love with him." Maria giggled. "But you know what he always said?"

"W-What?" Asked Anastasia. "What... did he said?!"

"He laughed." Said Maria with a perverse smile. "He said you were a spoiled little girl, and he wasn't interested in you at all. He only saw you as his little sister and would never fall in love for someone like you. You never had a chance, not in a million years, Anastasia."

Anastasia's face was filled with rage, even turning red... Her eyes became bright red, as flames slowly started emerging from her chest, unfreezing her frozen wounds provoked by Claw's ice magic, as the power of miasma and chaos started coming out of the Demonite Core in her chest.

The power combined with her own Skills and Magic power, and her powerful Class, the Scarlet Flame Sorceress, a Class almost equal to the Heroes, many even called her the Hero of Flames already...

And such power erupted into countless black flames, her anger and fury incapable of being contained anymore. Her jealousy of Maria for taking away Jonathan, the only man she had ever loved, consuming her completely.

"Jonathan is mine... MINE, MINE, MINEEEEE!!!"

TRUUUUMMM...!

Her entire body continued to change as it grew larger, covered in flames, she suddenly resembled a giant maiden made up of black flames, as two black angelic-like wings surged in her back, made of black fire.

The shockwave of black flames spread everywhere, as Claw, Mercury, and Maria struggled to keep ahold of the ground within the presence of Anastasia's ever-growing magic power.

"Once I kill you for real this time... Jonathan will have nobody else to go to than me... And he'll prostrate in front of me and ask me for forgiveness!" She laughed. "He will become my man... My toy." Her face distorted, showing a perverted smile. "Hahhh~ I can't wait!"

"I can't believe this young farm girl ended becoming this degenerate." Sighed Maria, laughing.

"SHUT UP!!!" Anastasia roared, rushing towards Maria as she unleashed countless giant black fireballs out of her flame body. "[Abyssal Demon Fire Rain]!!!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Black flames covered the entire snowscape. The snow melted and only dried grass below was left behind. The flames absorbed the grasses' tiny souls and any vitality within them, and even the ground was burned and infested with miasma, turning black.

"Hahahaha! This is IT! This is the power I needed to do as I please! Julio doesn't matter! If he dies I wouldn't care at all! As long as I have this power... I am unstoppable. I can do ANYTHING I want!" Anastasia was drowning on her own power, her ego constantly growing further and further.

"You're so full of yourself, you damn bitch!" Claw barked, using his frost magic to evade or defend against her flames rapidly, on top of his body was Mercury and Maria. "Maria! Do you have a plan to get to her?!"

"Yes, an easy one. Just jump there." Maria said with a smile.

"J-Jump?! And get roasted alive?!" Claw asked, opening his wolf jaws in shock of the request.

"Don't worry, we're there for ya~" Maria giggled. "Right, Mercury?"

"Guuu! Guguu!" Mercury nodded, now much smaller than before.

"What are you planning- UWAAH?!"

FLAAAAASH!

Maria quickly touched Mercury and then Claw at the same time, using Spirit Fusion on both at the same time, and forcing the two to become one as well, through her own powers!

"T-This power...?!"

Claw was shocked as he saw Mercury transform, fusing with his body and then turning into a brilliant silver armor around his body, while Maria merged with his own soul and kept the two together with her powers.

A dreadful aura of poison spread around his body, emanating a terrifying power. It fused with the power of his ice magic, and his beastly aura, transforming him into a giant werewolf with armor and red fur.

TRUUUMMM...!

His power and aura, even for a second, seemed to match Anastasia's.

Chapter 740 The End Of The Sorceress Of Flames

"What sort of...?!"

CLAAAASH!

Anastasia was unable to speak properly as Maria, now fused with Claw and Mercury, reached Anastasia, and swung her giant wolf claws against her, filled with deadly poison and frost to the brim, she was thrown down into the floor with a gigantic explosion.

BOOOOOMMM!!!

"GRAAAGGH...!"

Anastasia vomited a mouthful of blood, looking at her own body torn to shreds. Blood was coming everywhere from her wounds, her guts were all over the place, and the deadly poison was freezing her from the inside out.

"Hahhhh... N-No... NOT YET...!"

FLUOOOSH!

Her Abyssal Flames surged from the deepest of her chest, engulfing her wounds and slowly burning the poison, as her body quickly regenerated back, but at the same time constantly changed in appearance, twisting more and more.

Her woman-like appearance was only but a silhouette, not even her face remained, as it was completely made out of black flames, with big, red eyes glaring at the werewolf falling directly towards her.

"[Abyssal Inferno]!"

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!!

The massive flames exploded out into a giant tower of fire, reaching Maria in an instant. However, through Claw's jaws, she smiled, combining the powers of the werewolf with Mercury's endurance and her own magic, she generated a giant wave of purple-colored ice, Poison Frost, firing it as a beam coming from her jaws against Anastasia!

TRUUUUUMMMM...!

Both powers impacted against one another, making the sky and the ground tremble tremendously. Thunderous sparks of lightning spread everywhere, as countless explosions started to emerge one after the other, their magic beams hitting each other constantly.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Anastasia was confident, as she noticed Maria was struggling. At most, fused with these two, she was able to hold her ground for a bit, but she lacked a weapon and could only do this much...

Or so she thought.

FLAAAAASH!

Maria saw the opportunity, rushing down towards Anastasia again and swinging her claws multiple times against her. Anastasia retaliated with countless fireballs, many of them exploded on the spot but didn't stop Maria from pushing forward.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

"Hahahah... HAHHAHAHA! As much as you try, you cannot easily-"

However, Maria caught her right in front of her. Instead of swinging her claws, however, she gathered the power of her Poison Body Ego and then...

"[Pandora's Box]"

She summoned a box made of darkness out of nowhere, which slowly opened.

Creeaaak...!

And then, an eternal darkness, poison, and chaos surged from within.

"W-What?!"

BOOOOOOOOMMMMMM!!!

Anastasia was completely consumed by the spell, falling into the ground. Her entire body was divided into pieces... But they slowly started to regenerate back together, even with all the damage she had taken.

She turned into flames, as her soul was consumed by the flames and so the Demonite Core, all together into a giant, monstrous mass of black fire.

"Jonathan... will be mineeee... You won't... get him..." She muttered, her entire mind going more and more insane as the Demonite Core twisted her mind even more... "YOU WON'T GET HIM!!!"

FLUUOOOOSSSHHH!!!!

A giant eruption of flames spread into the skies and everywhere else, attacking Maria constantly with countless blazing explosions.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOOOM!!!!

"Unnggh..." Maria groaned, and so did Claw and Mercury that were taking as much damage as her.

CLAAAASH!! think you should take a look at

Their fused body fell into the floor, suddenly dividing back into three... Their fusion didn't even lasted that long.

Anastasia was greatly weakened, however, her power was immense, and with her near endless regeneration, they would need much more strength to completely defeat her.

"Hahaha... Useless... I'll burn you to ashes... And Jonathan will be mine afterwards... I love happy endings, hehehe..." Anastasia slowly floated towards them, her mass of flames of a body didn't even resembled a woman anymore, it was just an endless fireball with fire-made tentacles and red eyes.

"You've truly become the monster you've always had been, huh, Anastasia?" Asked Maria with a confident smile. "You've taken a bit too long though."

"A bit too long?! Hmph! What are you so confident about?! I'LL BURN YOU!!!"

Anastasia leaped towards Maria and her two Undead, her flames about to engulf them and burn them into ashes.

"DIE, MARIAAAAA!!!"

SLAAAAAAASSSHHHH!!!

However, right in front of Anastasia, a slash combining sunlight and moonlight reached her, slicing her body and soul into two halves...

"E-Eh?"

Her Demonite Core shattered into pieces, and her soul was divided into two, this vision quickly turned into many cracks, each crack making her soul shatter into pieces as well.

Crack... crack...

"T-This is... J-Jonathan...?"

Anastasia saw with her last moments of life as Jonathan had appeared, slicing her into two halves with an enormous, combined power.

Maria, Claw, and Mercury merely bought enough time, fully knowing Jonathan was coming here to slice her up...

"T-This... No... Y-You bastard... How can you kill... someone so beautiful such as me...?!"

CRAAASH!

Her Demonite Core and her Soul shattered into pieces, as her consciousness faded away before everything else were to be consumed by a loud explosion of light.

BOOOOOOMMMMM!!!

Jonathan sighed in relief, as his fusion with Maria ended right after that. Her Poison Body Ego fused back with her Moonlight and Abyss Body Ego, which had also picked up her Swarm Body Ego in the way there.

FLAAASH!

"[Undead Restoration]" Maria said, touching both Claw and Mercury, as she restored their wounds and quickly brought them back in a second.

"Hahhh... We barely did it." Jonathan sighed, resting over the snow. "I'm... exhausted..."

"Ugh?! Ah! I am alive?!" Claw wondered, opening his eyes again.

"You're not exactly alive anymore... But yeah." Maria laughed.

"Guuu! Guguu!" Mercury started leaping over the floor happily.

However, they couldn't really celebrate for long...

"GRRRHHHH!"

"ROOAAR!!"

"SHAAAH!"

In mere seconds, they were all surrounded by hundreds of Frost Monsters, with more coming on the way, almost endlessly...

"These damn Frost Monsters..." Claw groaned.

"They keep coming without end?!" Jonathan asked.

"Don't worry about that either, we've got it covered." Maria smiled.

Within the skies, several figures appeared, as they descended around the large forests surrounding the city, one by one they started crushing large blue jewels hidden with magic...