

A Glitched 291

Chapter 291 An Little Beast Spirits Class

Apparently my father wanted to register us as adventurers. I had my doubts about near eight-year-old kids becoming adventurers, but it seemed they were confident we would be able to register by using their authority as heroes... or well, S-Rank Adventurers with different names. I guess S-Rank Adventurers are allowed to do many things as well and may even be able to bend rules established in guilds and more. Well, I will see that when we get there.

But what's up with Zack? He really seemed eager to bring me a gift made by his own hunt. I guess that's very cute to be honest, seeing him all excited made me think of him as a cute little brother. Now I really want to protect that cute smile he got. The feeling is quite similar with Aquarina I suppose and it seems that he motivated her to also get to hunt something valuable to make a special gift for me. I honestly feel very flattered... I'll have to also make my best to get them something nice as well! I'll also give them some nice birthday gifts for our birthdays... Ah, well, at this point Zack is the oldest of us too, right? He's near nine in fact.

...Although I feel like Ninhursag has been the one that influenced him into hunting for a gift. I suppose she's imparting part of her tribe's beliefs and customs to him. He will take over the role as the last "descendant" of her tribe as her adoptive son, so I suppose that fits. Oh! And talking about Nin's magic, we practiced these last weeks quite a lot, but it was very hard and tiring to get our Beast Spirits out of us. As always, I have my Dragon-like beast spirit, while Aquarina got one that resembles Leviathan, and then Zack has a mix of various monsters and animals, although I've noticed that the biggest one is a brown bear with a black horn named Horned Bear. When did he ate one? Maybe Ninhursag feed it to him so he could get a strong beast spirit.

We still cannot even compare to her ability to shapeshift or anything of the sort, as her abilities involve several types of magic fused together, and also her own race trait, which is a benefit and an innate talent that is very hard to try to imitate, even my parents have hard time shapeshifting into beasts, so they usually not do it anyways. But they said that all three of us are still very young and brimming with talent, if we continue practicing each day, we might reach heights they cannot reach now that they have reached their peak. To be honest, transforming into a giant red dragon similar to Ignatius has been one of my dreams ever since Ninhursag taught us about Shapeshifting Magic and the relation it had with the Spirits of Monsters and Beasts we consume and absorb into our bodies through meals made with Cooking Magic, which carries these creatures' essences.

Hm, but now that I got Beelzebub, can I turn into a giant fly as well? ...Huh, wait, no, I doubt it. After all we need to consume it as well. The strongest monster I've ever eaten was Ignatius made through Cooking Magic by my mother after all. I never ate any parts of Beelzebub's body, although I have a sword that has infused his exoskeleton as materials, and also a part of his demon core, which grants my sword the ability to create Curse Black Flames, and might hold other powers I have yet to find out and unlock. Now that he's my new Spirit of Darkness and Poison Attributes, as he grows stronger I can also find ways to unlock his powers through his sword. Just like I use my accessories made out of Ignatius Magic Core to catalyze his flames and better use his spiritual powers.

"Well, well, before leaving, you guys will have a thirty-minute class with me. An express class. As I want to check out how your Beast Spirits have been developing!" Ninhursag said with a smile. She had changed a lot since the first time we meet her and since all of the tragedies passed. She feels like a brand-new woman now to be honest. I feel like she's way happier than ever before... I am glad I was able to help her even if a little bit too. She has already become an indispensable member of our family, and I can't imagine a day without her in our family.

"Alright!" I said while raising my arms. "I'll show you my powerful dragon!"

"I-I'll also do my best!" Said Aquarina.

"Hehe, my Horned Bear is growing stronger! I'll make him eat the other beast spirits to grow bigger. You said specialize was better right?" Asked Zack.

"Well unless you're a Skin Changer like me, yes." Said Ninhursag. "It is better to specialize in a single Beast Spirit until you master their powers before starting in a new one. So allowing your strongest one to grow stronger by devouring the other smaller beast spirits is not a bad idea."

"Alright! I'll become a powerful bear then!" Zack was very excited.

Ninhursag quickly led us to her tent while I left my parents getting everything ready to move towards the nearby village. I was very close to Ninhursag and I felt the impulse to hug her because I haven't really done it in a while. She was always warm and big, so it felt nice to hug her.

"Ninhursag!" I moved to her side and hugged her. She was so tall I could only hug her up to her waist and a bit over her belly, which was as hard as a rock with the strong muscles she had. She acted quite surprised for a bit, but giggled and petted my head.

"Oh? Sylphy, if your mother sees you hugging me she'll get jealous!" She giggled.

"But you're my auntie, I can hug you if I want to!" I said.

"Fufu... of course." She said, kissing my forehead. "You're such a spoiled little girl~"

When she kneeled, I caught her and hugged her chest as I often do- but something strange happened. When I touched her necklace which was filled with fangs and claws of monsters, I had touched a strange little blue crystal attached to it.

And I felt... something emerging inside my Soul Scape out of the sudden.

Chapter 292 Something Odd Just Happened!

When I touched a certain part of Ninhursag's necklace, I felt a strange, magical connection. Something suddenly connected to me, something soul-like that fused into my own soul and transferred from that rock. Ninhursag didn't seem to notice it and only I did it... W-What the heck was that?

I was quite nervous. I really didn't know what that was at all! I quickly and desperately looked into my Soul Scape as I grew paler, it felt weird, as if some sort of foreign creature just crawled inside my soul. Ugh, I had felt this before with Ignatius and Beelzebub, but it wasn't so bad as of now... this thing that got inside was shrouded with a lot of malice.

"Sylphy? A-Are you alright dear?" Asked Ninhursag worried because I had grown stiff and pale out of nowhere.

"Y-Yeah! I-It is nothing, sorry... Haha, I think I am a bit sleepy, auntie." I giggled, pretending to be alright, as we walked inside the tent and sat down over the grassy floor. Meanwhile, inside of my Soul Scape,

different things were happening. My spirits quickly noticed the strange arrival of a foreign entity. I traveled inside by creating an Astral Avatar and appeared with them to assess the situation.

"What's going on?" I wondered.

"T-There's something dark and blue in there." Said Ignatius. "It has a lot of malice..."

"I just became a Spirit and you brought another one?!" Asked Beelzebub. "Wow, this guy is oozing out with negativity too!"

"Fooo! Foooo! FOO!" Naturia seemed pumped up for a fight.

"I can detect something powerful... I am still analyzing it but it seems to be a similar case to Ignatius and Beelzebub, Sylphy. It is the soul of a powerful entity... capable of emerging here, faintly so. It is bound by a large quantity of resentment." Said Alice. She was using her system capabilities to analyze the components of this new foreign entity.

I tried to see it through my abilities as well, finding out the mild humanoid body of a blue-skinned... person? A man? He was so shrouded in shadows that it was getting harder to discern what the heck he was. But I was sure he was a guy. He also had a pair of big black horns.

"Pain... It hurts!"

He began to cry desperately, as the darkness emanating from his body continued to spread out across the Soul Scape. It seemed rather malicious. I don't know if it can actually hurt my soul, but it would be better to calm him down for now.

"Alright, let's stop him!" I said. "Ignatius, Beelzebub, Naturia, stop him with everything you've got!" I ordered my spirits, as the three flew forward immediately after my commands.

"Alright, let's see if you can handle this fire!" Roared Ignatius, his aura shaped into an enormous draconic head, unleashing a storm of flames engulfing the figure of our foe.

BOOOM!!!

"Guuhhh... Guaaaaahhh!!!" the entity roared in pain, as it suddenly unleashed a storm of darkness against Ignatius.

FLAAASH!

"Not before my sight!" Beelzebub moved forward, as even as a little caterpillar, he was able to absorb the darkness and concentrate it in a single sphere atop his head, stopping the foe's attack completely.

"FOOO!"

And Natoria quickly went to capture him, as she created several wooden branches and roots and manipulated their shapes, surrounding the foreign entity with a cage of wood. With the help of Beelzebub, we drained all the darkness and malice surrounding him, until something smaller emerged from within.

It was the body of a blue skinned man with horns, a demon... Well, more like his soul. This guy was the Blue Demon we fought in the Amazon Forest, the very one that forced us all to move out to begin with... His soul... I know I had gotten his EXP when he was killed by Ninhursag, but I never thought that Ninhursag kept his demon core, which was most likely what she had in her necklace.

Does this means that she ate him to transform into a blue demon? So she can even transform into people if she eats them? Well... demons are more close to monsters than humanity, but still. I guess... well, it is part of her ritual. Perhaps she did it thinking he would live on her. She seemed quite depressed after the whole fight. She ended pitying the demon a lot more than we thought. However, she already got over it some time ago.

To think that the catalyzer for a part of his soul to emerge inside of my Soul Scape would be touching his demon core which Ninhursag held with her... I also felt slightly stronger now, as if I gained a large amount of magic power. It seems that each time one of these souls from strong beings emerge in my soul scape, I gain a nice amount of raw magic power, and my affinity with their main elements is strengthened.

But what element did he even had? His soul was mostly shrouded in the darkness of his resentment and hatred, but now that we managed to get that off him, he was very weakened, he was missing his legs and his left arm, and half his face too, he was in a very weakened state soul-wise. It would be better to make him into a spirit right away through a contract.

But he's not really responding. I doubt I can force a contract into him either, so I am left with him just sitting there for the moment. I don't know if he even has an element. The darkness wasn't related to his soul element and his only power was manipulating Green Skins for all I know. I don't know how he could help me out... but for now I don't really care if he'll be useful or not. He seems tired so he should really just take a rest for the moment.

"He's just... sleeping?" Wondered Alice. She looked at the body of the demon. He seemed stable despite his appearance.

"Yeah, let's leave him like that for now. He needs a rest." I said.

"I see... I guess that's how it is..." Sighed Alice.

Chapter 293 Growing Stronger Little By Little

After what had happened with the Blue Demon's soul, I decided to calm down and listen to Ninhursag's classes. As always, she started by letting his make Mana flow across our bodies. It was not hard at all to get to that step. And after that, we had to concentrate a little bit to get out the Beast Spirits. Back then, she had to help us getting them out with her magic, but now we can get them out... slowly and barely, but we can.

"ROAR!"

An enormous brown bear with a sharp, spear-like black horn emerged from within Zack's body, emanating like green and golden light essence, spiraling and spreading out. He was having a hard time concentrating the entirety of his elemental mana into the Beast Spirit, which seemed to be Wind and Lightning Element.

"Nngh... Ugh..." He was groaning while gritting his teeth. Ninhursag walked to his side and checked on his Beast Spirit, quickly finding it had many interesting things.

"Good, good, it is growing bigger I see. I cannot see any other beast spirit by now, it seems you're making this bear your main for now, Zack?" Wondered Ninhursag.

"Y-Yes...!" Said Zack while resisting the beast's power.

"The Wind and Lightning Attribute Mana is flowing nicely, but you're still lacking a lot of manipulation on it, you're leaking a lot of your Mana..." Said Ninhursag, as she walked to Aquarina's side.

Aquarina was resisting the same as Zack, if not a little better. The power of the Beast Spirit she had was quite notorious, an enormous sea snake roaring with a furious intent. It was splashing mana as if it were water everywhere and creating a storm around itself.

"GROOOAARRRR!!!"

"Hmm! It is strong and it seems way more realistic as well, the scales and the details are better than Zack's Beast Spirit... And your control is also nice..." Said Ninhursag, noticing that Aquarina was lacking something, however.

"But your recipient is still small. Your body can control mana very well but it lacks the physique to sustain the enormous burden of this Beast Spirit, which is way stronger than Zack's one... Keep practicing and do more physical exercises with your papa, Aquarina." Said Ninhursag.

"O-Okay!" Said Aquarina. She had a great potential in terms of physique due to being half Amazon, who all have enormously strong bodies. She was a child and she was already pretty strong, but it seems that Zack's physique was greater, well, he was also a pure Amazon, and a male, so perhaps he was superior to her in terms of physical strength. I am actually the third out of the three of them in terms of physical strength... If I don't go all out by abusing my Endless Mana through buffing my muscles with various spells to compare to them.

Lastly, Ninhursag walked to my side. Unlike Aquarina and Zack, I was the best already at controlling the Beast Spirit. Although it was enormous and the burden was painful to bear, I was actually managing

quite fine by my own. It seems that the immunity to soul pain I had developed through my fights for years against Ignatius inside of my soul scape made it so I was in total control of this pressure and its pain, without letting it stop me from thinking and manipulating the power.

"Amazing job, Sylphy! You're not letting go of any excess Mana, and the dragon is not going out of control either!" Said Ninhursag. "You're the one that has improved the most... But you still got a long way to go, you're still feeling the burden just as much as the rest."

"Ugh... You're right." I sighed.

"Alright, maintain this posture and let your Spirit Beasts for the next twenty minutes... I will help you slowly keep your mana in place." Ninhursag said. She was incredibly helpful and an amazing teacher despite having never taught magic to anybody before like this.

I think my mother said she was an innate magic teacher and could even work as a magician teacher in the elven kingdom. Polymorph magic and Beast Spirit magic were very rare, so a teacher that specialized in that subject would be appreciated, apparently. Ninhursag had yet to even think about it though, she wasn't into the life of a teacher and liked to adventure and hunt. Working as a teacher wouldn't really give her all the freedom she enjoys having on her own.

After we finished classes, Aquarina and Zack were stuck to me praising me a little bit for how much I've advanced... I felt a tad bit embarrassed.

"You were amazing, Sylphy! You can already control that powerful dragon you got!" Said Aquarina. "Well, I couldn't expect anything less from you!" She said while hugging my arm.

"Well you were also quite good at it, Aquarina." I said. "I don't really need praises, but you were pretty good, your progress has been great."

"Hehe... Really? Y-You're being a bit exaggerated again..." She said.

"Well yeah you were pretty amazing though, Sylphy." Said Zack. "To tell you the truth I am super jealous, I wish I had the same talent as you! But I'll make up for it with extra hard work. I have been practicing this same thing every night, so I am going to eventually catch up!"

"Wow, every night?" I asked surprised. "I suppose you're putting a lot of effort into it, Zack... You should be more careful, you might collapse out of exhaustion... Is Ninhursag okay with this?"

"Yeah she's helping me out in that!" Said Zack.

"Ah... I guess she was probably the one with the idea to begin with then, isn't it?" I sighed.

"Well, she said I had to work extra hard to compare with geniuses like you girls." Said Zack. "As we keep growing you two will keep growing stronger, I can't fall behind at all... Or it would be too late for me to stay at your side when the time for you to fulfill your duty as a hero finally begins... I cannot allow that to happen."

"Zack..." I sighed with a smile, as I hugged my two friends tightly, and kissed the two's forehead.

"I love you two so much! I am so happy to have such good friends!"

"Uwawahh... Sylphy... y-you kissed my forehead...!" Cried Aquarina in embarrassment.

"S-Stop it! C-Cut it out! T-This is embarrassing!" Cried Zack, just as red as Aquarina.

Chapter 294 The Heart Of The Boy

As everything was ready for going to the village with my parents, we quickly gathered back with them and use the carriage we used the other time to enter the previous village we went into. This one was way larger and seemed like a small city, it even had paved floor and large houses surrounding a hill where a castle surrounded by many manors reseeded. This place was governed by several noble families with the Lord governing most of this Fiefdom. The Village was very advanced and had gone through many expansions, with thousands of people living in here and several Noble Families that were mostly descendants or family members of the Lord himself.

Sometimes commoners would also be given Noble Titles in rare occasions, or can purchase it directly from the Lord too, gaining Noble Status and many things. Most of those capable of purchasing Noble

Status were Merchants who had a lot of money to begin with. Those that usually paid a lot of taxes would hold higher authority within the other noble families as well and could take part of political affairs and even make decisions with the Lord, or even for the Lord himself.

I didn't know much more than that, as what I knew was mostly common sense of this world imparted to me by my parents over the years since I was born and taught everything I know by them. However, aside from that, this village has a church temple, and several guild offices. One of them is the Adventurer's Guild, where we are moving towards.

Aquarina and Zack were quite surprised when Sylphy suddenly hugged them and said she loved them. The two had been her friends for years by now, especially Aquarina who knew Sylphy since she was a year of age. The two had gone through many adventures together, and Zack had also gone through adventures with the two girls.

But what did the two thought about her? what were their opinion in the entire situation? And the trip as a whole? Well, to say the least, the two had been moving with the flow, as children they don't have much to say about anything, and much like Sylph, they had been simply enjoying the trip and the beautiful scenery while traveling.

However, quite recently, something happened that sparked some rivalry between Aquarina and Zack. Although their rivalry had been there for a while now. Since Zack emerged on Sylphy's life that he had felt a certain attraction to her. She had always been hyperactive, adventuring around at any time, doing many things, and always showing both maturity and strength, with a certain lady-like charm and even a slightly tomboyish personality.

Zack had never felt like this to anybody ever before than with her, and without realizing she became someone quite important to him... And well, with Aquarina, it was more like friendship, he did found her cute but she was often quite rude and overprotective of Sylphy, which Zack wanted to approach to the most, so they ended becoming more rivals than actual friends for some time. Although these last years they had been strengthening their friendship and their insults against one another already stopped.

Zack's appreciation and love for Sylphy had not stopped though, and it had only grown stronger with each passing year. Realizing that Aquarina was also overprotective of her and might like her as well, he had felt like she had been her rival for a while.

The two were children, they were immature and had yet to experience many things, so they were childishly having a rivalry for Sylphy's love. Ninhursag had noticed this rivalry and the feelings that Zack had for Sylphy, and how oblivious Sylphy was about the whole situation, perhaps she knew but simply acted like this to not make her friends fight for her even more... she seemed to want the two to get along, but as their emotions and personalities developed more, and as they got closer to their teens, such emotions of love simply developed even further, becoming rather heated.

Ninhursag noticed how Sylphy's and Aquarina's parents had decided to simply not intervene in children's love, thinking it would be something that would eventually pass away, but as she saw her boy suffering over his love for Sylphy and how he wanted her attention, she decided to impart on him her knowledge as a member of the Skin Changers and also the Amazon Tribe (partially).

Zack still remembers that conversation she had with Ninhursag.

"So you really like Sylphy, huh? Yeah, it was pretty obvious dear." Sighed Ninhursag, sitting at the side of her adoptive son.

Zack was cleaning his tears because he felt very frustrated about everything and had ended crying over Ninhursag's lap. He was a child after all, not a grown man, and he was prone of letting out his emotions strongly.

"Ugh... I-I am an idiot, right? I shouldn't be thinking about this when we should be getting stronger... I just... I want to be at her side." Sighed Zack. "I want her to recognize my strength at the very least..."

"So you want her to praise you?" Wondered Ninhursag. Zack didn't exactly wanted her to be his girlfriend or something, as such concepts didn't seem to exist within their culture.

Males and females came together at adulthood when the either of the two impressed the other. Males and female Amazon both were equal in this regard, and if they really liked someone, they hunted down strong beasts and offered these beasts to them, or even crafted weapons, armor, or accessories out of them as offerings.

Of course, they could be rejected, the most desired males or females often were competed furiously by the other Amazon that wanted to get together with them in hunting competitions that could take years to decide a winner.

"I-I... Maybe..." Sighed Zack. "I know its unrealistic to think she'll even become my wife or something... She's too strong and carefree, I doubt she'll ever chain herself with anybody."

"Hm... You may be right there." Said Ninhursag. "But that doesn't mean you can't try, right?"

"But... what can I do?" He sighed.

"Hunt! Bring her a strong beast! That's what you people do to impress a female, right?" Asked Ninhursag.

"Hunting..."

Chapter 295 Aquarina's Feelings

"You must Hunt!" In that moment, Ninhursag told something important to Zack. If he wanted his strength and efforts recognized by Sylphy, for the possibility of a slight chance to be chosen as a companion to go by her side in the far future where she could become a hero of humanity, he had hunt mighty beasts and gift them to her.

Despite his age, Zack was incredibly realistic, as he immediately thought that it would be way too hard for a girl that was always concentrated into discovering and training magic and sword skills to seek any sort of romance any time soon. But as someone that loved her, he really wanted to receive her praise and be given more attention than other times... He often felt jealous of Aquarina because of this, as she was always given attention and even could slept at the same bed as Sylphy, something Zack had always dreamed of...

However, he was motivated by his adoptive mother and he ended running into the nearby woods in the morning, catching a mighty beast that took him all the effort he had and all the strength he has been cultivating until this point to defeat! However, as he defeated the powerful crystal horned deer, he realized how strong he had grown on his own and seemed to begin earning more self-confidence. His

child-like heart was filled with happiness and a sense of accomplishment and has brought the giant carcass of the beast to Sylphy, he was even more happy when he received her praise and her happy smile, her green eyes shone the brightest that time as well!

Sylphy's birthday was approaching, so he decided to not only gift her all the meat of his hunt, but the pelt and everything else, and promised her that he would craft beautiful accessories using the mighty deer's magical crystal horns. Aquarina was shocked by how happy Sylphy was, as if she had been charmed by Zack... And this ended sparking even more rivalry between the two, as Aquarina was now dead set into hunting a mighty beast to gift to Sylphy as well. She was an Amazon child as well so the custom was also shared by her.

After what happened there, the two went to train their Spirit Beasts and after it ended, Sylphy happily hugged both of them and kissed their foreheads, saying she loved both, and that she was happy to have them as her friends... This only made them two more in love with her than she could have ever wanted. Zack was still thinking about it, even though he responded to her affection with embarrassment, he was secretly very happy, and so did Aquarina.

"I-I can't believe she kissed my forehead..." Sighed Zack. "I'll never wash it!"

"Fufu, youthful love is really something cute, isn't it?" Sighed Ninhursag with a calm smile. She herself had lost into even experiencing this type of feelings of love, growing alone and resentful of what had happened to her family. She was happy that her son was able to experience all these fuzzy feelings. Even without certainty if Sylphy would ever choose him as her husband or not, it was still the experience that was worth it, the driving emotions that made him happy and euphoric, even.

"H-How can I tell that...?" Asked Zack while acting a bit zealous and embarrassed at the same time. He was currently walking with Ninhursag towards the village near the carriage ridden by Sylphy's parents. Sylphy was sitting between both of her parents so he didn't have the chance to sit at her side for now. He and his mother were acting as some sort of guards, alerting the carriage if anything like bandits or a wild monster would emerge in the road.

"Never mind~" Giggled Ninhursag. "Tell me, dear. How do you feel now?"

"I-I... I feel warm inside of my chest... I kind of want to keep being at her side... I don't really mind if she doesn't love me... Being at her side is what makes... it makes me very happy." Said Zack with a smile. "Ugh... This is so embarrassing..." Zack quickly covered his face with his hands, as Ninhursag giggled at his side.

"Oh my, you've gotten so open with mommy lately..." She laughed, acting more motherly over time.

"C-Cut it off..." Sighed Zack, as he was being petted by Ninhursag. "But... What should I make for her?"

"Hm... A ring, necklace... she already has earrings, I doubt you'll want her to replace them..." Said Ninhursag.

"A ring and maybe a bracelet too! The jewels of the crystal deer horns are beautiful... I also want to make her a mantle with the fur, it will keep her warm in the cold night." Said Zack.

"Wow, you really think about everything." Said Ninhursag.

"I just want to help her and protect her... Even if she's so strong, she's way too reckless sometimes... I want to be at her side and be her shield, and take care of her back." Said Zack.

"Hehe, you're very dedicated, but don't let that become an obsession, alright?" Sighed Ninhursag.

"O-Okay..." Sighed Zack. "It's not like I am going crazy or something... I also look at other girls! Like... the girls of the village. There are some that always praise my muscles!"

"Oooh~?" Asked Ninhursag. "Well, not like you're interested in anybody but her."

"Ugh... Don't tease me like this!" Said Zack, growing angrily and crossing his arms. He was like a little gremlin getting all angered about.

Meanwhile, Aquarina who was sitting over her mother's shoulders while being carried by her looked around the vast grasslands, and then at Sylphy who was laughing and talking with her parents.

"Guh... Sylphy..." She muttered. "I-I'll catch a big monster for you!"

Aquarina's words were overheard by her parents, as they seemed slightly worried about this growing rivalry she had with Zack.

"Aquarina... You're really in love with Sylphy, aren't you?" Asked her mother.

"W-Wha... What are you talking about, mama?!" Asked Aquarina, growing as red as a tomato.

"It is quite obvious at this point." Said her father.

"Eeeeh?! P-Papa?!"

Aquarina resulted to be quite oblivious about the perception that other people had for her, especially her parents.

Chapter 296 Understanding Parents

Aquarina and her parents had gone off the carriage as well, working the same way Ninhursag and Zack, watching over the surroundings from the large carriage so nothing bad could happen. The two quickly noticed how their daughter was intensively looking at Sylphy being with her two parents and her uncle. She was happy with the three of them, but as she thought about what happened with Zack, she was growing more and more concerned that she might lose her or something. Once more, she was being overly childish, just as childish as her own age, as she was a child and not a grown adult, she was prone to commit many mistakes and misunderstand many things.

It was part of being a parent to help guide their children through such misunderstandings and feelings that made her feel so conflicted with herself, which also created this rivalry against Zack. Therefore, her parents had to point it out because they had felt like it for a while. It was pretty obvious by this point that Aquarina was in love with Sylphy even though Sylphy was of her same gender. They would be lying if they said they didn't find it slightly odd at first, but as they saw their daughter being more and more clingy with Sylphy, it became rather obvious at the end.

"W-What are you talking about?" She cried, feeling embarrassed by finally having been found out.

"Dear it was as obvious for a long time... Years by now." Sighed her mother. "Calm down, we don't find it bad. Loving someone of your same gender is not rare, even amongst our tribe."

"Indeed. Don't feel bad about it." Said her father. "We support you."

"E-Ehh... I-I think you're misunderstanding, I only love her as my sister... friend!" Said Aquarina.

She was near her eight years of age and the concept of love was very similar to fairy tales for her, realistic romance and other sort of things were too far away from her scope, even more things regarding sexuality. Nonetheless, she still felt a romantic attraction and a need for her attention, warmth, and praises. Not even Aquarina herself had come into terms with her own feelings mostly due to her age.

"Haha... Okay, I am sorry." Said her mother. "We won't bother you about it."

"Y-Yeah, perhaps we stepped too far?" Sighed her father. "She's too young still."

"S-Shut up..." Said Aquarina timidly, raising her voice against her parents for the first time.

"Geez dear, don't get so embarrassed, it is fine." Said her mother. "You're with your parents, you should trust us more than anything!"

"Ugh! S-Shut up!" Cried Aquarina, growing as red as a tomato as she began to smack her mother's head with her tiny arms. Of course, her mother was as resilient as a mountain so she didn't feel any of her hits.

"Ahahaha! Come on, don't be like this! you shouldn't be hitting your own mother, little girl!" Laughed Nepheline, finding her daughter's embarrassment as adorable, and ending up teasing her a bit more.

Shade quickly grabbed Aquarina's hands and stopped her.

"That's enough, Aquarina... Calm down." He said.

"Muh...!" Aquarina crossed her arms and looked elsewhere, completely angered at her father and mother.

"She got really mad..." Sighed Shade.

"Ah... We... maybe we overdid it there." Sighed Nepheline.

They were young parents after all, they couldn't be the perfect parents that didn't committed mistakes. Even though they were doing their best to make their girl happy and comprehend her better, they ended making her feel very embarrassed after they said those things, and also angered, as Aquarina felt like her own sense of privacy such as her feelings she had been trying to keep a secret from everybody were suddenly revealed.

"W-Well, the thing is, maybe you should take it easy, dear." Said Nepheline. "Trying to compete with Zack will only lead to a worse relationship with him. aren't you two becoming good friends at long last?" Sighed Nepheline as she looked at Aquarina.

"I-I... Zack is my friend... I was just surprised he brought a big monster... I also want to gift something to Sylphy... I don't see anything wrong with it!" Said Aquarina, adamant about not changing her decision.

"Oh well... There's a nearby dungeon though, so I suppose we can go there for you to get the monster you want. We can help out in crafting something for her! How about it?" Asked her father.

"Really papa?" Asked Aquarina happily.

"Yeah." Said Shade with a gentle smile.

"Okay!" Said Aquarina, smiling happily. Shade and Nepheline looked at one another as they sighed. It was impressive that their daughter only got happier when it involved making a gift for Sylph... But that's how she had always been.

The two heroes smiled as they looked into the vast skies and the beautiful grasslands and forests surrounding the fiefdom they were moving into. They slightly recalled the past, the wars, and the

battles, and slightly smiled as they realized how far they had come. With a daughter with them and their friends and children, they were slowly moving towards a better future, or so they hoped.

But even in the peaceful and carefree-looking Fiefdom, the darkness of human society was being reflected in the back alleys and districts farther away from the eyes of the commoners. Blood, pain, and hunger were a daily occurrence, as people and even children fought and stole food to live another day.

Near the streets where most of the people walked through, a little girl stood carrying a small wooden pot. Her face was as pale as porcelain, and smooth, and she had long white hair like snow. Anybody would be surprised that such a beautiful girl wasn't the daughter of a noble... but she had something different than the many humans, few elves, and beast-kin walking across the streets. Two black horns were growing at each side of her head... She was certainly not part of "humanity". However, due to her human-like complexion, many didn't seem to notice until somebody finally approached.

Chapter 297 The Demon Girl

When somebody finally approached her to give her a small bronze coin, pitying a girl asking for money in the streets, they were greeted by a creepy smile, as her mouth, seemingly split from all the way up her forehead, showing sharp teeth, and four eyes adorning the sides of her large and strange, monstrous mouth.

"Thankyu shir!"

The man's face quickly changed from pitying the little girl into complete horror. He had never seen somebody with such an ugly face on his entire life. The worst part was that her mouth was filled with sharp teeth that could easily tear apart flesh and bones, a beast that could threaten the life of anybody with just a bite of her strange mouth.

And to make it worse, below her beautiful and shiny yellow-gold eyes there were two smaller black eyes that at first glance would look like eyebrows, but were in fact a second pair of strange, monster-like eyes...

"W-Wha.... What sort of monster...? G-Get away from me!"

"Oh... Ah! Tshe coin..."

The man ended being scared away by the girl's appearance, as he dropped the bronze coin into the floor. The coin rolled around the streets, as the girl followed it around and caught it with her tiny hand. Having grown used to the response from people about her appearance, the girl ignored the man for the most part and caught the coin, looking at it with her bright golden eyes.

"Bronshe coin..."

The little girl kept staring at the coin brilliance below the light of the sun for way too long, interrupting the people walking through the streets. Some quickly pointed out her horns, finding out she was some sort of demon or a beast-kin, and trying to force her out of the way.

"A demon?"

"What is a demon doing here?!"

"Get off the road!"

The girl quickly ran away, snapping out of her daze and trying to run into the back alley, as a man selling fruits and vegetables nearby grabbed a broom and used it to intimidate her.

"Get away from here! Don't get close from my place, your ugly face scares off the people!"

The man roared angrily and ruthlessly hit the girl with the broom over her head, the pain was severe, making her cry out.

"Auuuh! Shorry... Shorry!" She cried while running away, as her four eyes quickly began to cry out of pain. Her head began to bleed and her beautiful white hair was stained with scarlet red.

The man looked at her running away and put the broom in place, quickly calming down his customers about what had happened.

"I was not aware there were demons crawling in this city..."

"D-Does that demon appear frequently here?"

"N-No! Please, calm down. She wanders around the streets but by hitting her with a broom she quickly runs away. Please don't mind her! The order of knights had been tracking her down and those related to her so don't worry, please. The fruits and vegetables are freshly harvested this morning! F-For the bad time, I'll give you a discount!" The man desperate to earn any money from the harvest of his family desperately tried to make his customers happy and to stick with him, he was desperate for money for his family, and had no time to pity a demon.

Meanwhile, the little girl ran off through the streets, as her four eyes began to cry rivers. Her face was bleeding off severely, and she hid beneath the trash of the back alleys, gasping for air.

"It hurtsh..."

She touched her head but quickly felt the jolt of pain even more severe. She gritted her sharp teeth and then began to concentrate Mana into her hands, masterfully conjuring a tiny spark of white and yellow light, which reached her head. The wound that was bleeding off slowly closed off, as the pain, still there, became lesser.

"Hahh... Grandpa... I miss you..."

The girl looked into the bronze coin she got, as she quickly saved it inside a small pouch she kept inside her mouth. Due to her nature, she had an incredibly big mouth that had pouches like hamsters, where she stored things. She quickly took off a small leather bag and opened it, saving a tiny coin in there.

It was mildly filled, as she had been saving money for years by now, doing all kinds of works, asking for money in the streets was something she only did in the mornings when there was a lot of people, as she usually worked at helping people carry stuff with her slightly abnormal strength. Of course, she often wore a mask in her face due to her hideous appearance, although she disliked the mask because it didn't allowed her to breathe well.

"Gulp..."

The girl quickly swallowed the bag again, quickly walking through the streets. She was moving back to her "home" the place she had been living for a long time now, the orphanage.

"I hash to hurry... big shis ish waiting for me...!" She said, running across the mostly empty streets, only for a group of men to suddenly stop her. They emerged from the alley to the left side and bumped on her. Without being able to see it in time, she ended falling over her butt.

"Ouch... Eh?" She slowly looked upwards, finding a trio of men way over their twenties, their faces... she kind of knew them. They were rather famous around here for a single thing... thievery.

"Look who's here... The little demon girl again, huh?"

"Why are you not wearing your mask, misfit?"

"Are you not afraid you'll scare people to death with that horrid face you got?"

"A-Ahh... T-This..."

The girl began to tremble in fear. She had managed to escape these men many times due to her small and swift body, or because she was saved by her big sis... but today there was nobody to save her, and behind her there were just walls.

"What's wrong? Are you out of words?"

"Must be hard to speak with the mouth of yours..."

"Yeah, now give us anything you've got, brat."

Chapter 298 Agony

The little demon was surrounded. She had just acquired her bronze coin and wanted to go back to the orphanage for now, but on her way stood three men. They were similar to her. Since they have memory that they had no parents. Perhaps they were once part of the same orphanage she attends to... They were the same as her, and well, they still are. But instead of making money by their hard work, they had decided to take the easy way out of it and steal from the vulnerable.

Of course, thievery is a crime punished with prison in this fiefdom, criminals often are put inside dungeons and then made into criminal slaves, who have to work for nobles or commoners to pay for the debts they have. If the crime is too severe, however, they're punished with death. Most of the time hanged in the middle of the streets, although such occurrence is very rare, it often happens a couple of times through the year when bandits or thieves are caught and recognized as having done many crimes by a large group of people.

But in the back alleys where people is not watching all the time, and where mostly commoners, afraid from getting involved in affairs that might negatively impact their lives don't do anything to help others in the situation of the demon girl, nobody is going to save her. Thieves can pretty much do whatever they want, but even them know their limits. They're talentless with magic but their physique is quite strong. Their targets are usually women, elderly, and children.

This little girl had been their target for a while. They know she had been working hard every day to earn her money. But they didn't pity her, in fact, they envied her. She had an horrid face that made people scared, yet somehow she had worked so hard to fit in society that she had even gotten jobs to carry things and help others for a few pennies... they thought she didn't deserved it, and constantly tried to rob her. She was swift, however, sometimes escaping in time or managing to see them from afar and taking other routes. But today she felt dizzy after being hit with a broom in the head, her Mana Sense abilities, innate to her race were dulled out, and she was incapable of sensing them in time.

Now they finally had her, and their growing frustration against this little and horrid-looking girl to them was boiling hot. They wanted to rob her of all the things she had, jealous and envious of everything she had that they didn't had. They had the heart of greedy and wicked thieves, society had shaped them in such a way, but when they had the choice to become different, they never took it. Although society itself could be blamed, it was also their fault for having chosen such a path... Well, it wasn't as if they even felt guilt. Their growing lack of empathy made them even rob little children.

"I-I don't have anything..." She cried, her words could barely come out of he mouth. Her mouth wasn't even made to speak human speech and she had been learning for years, but even now her voice came out weirdly due to the teeth getting in her way of the movement of her mouth.

"We saw you save some bag of leather inside your mouth...."

"You weird demons are disgusting like monsters... to think you got pouches inside your mouth to save things..."

"Come on now, give us everything, you little monster!"

"I-I... I worked hard for it..." She cried. "It's mine..."

The three young men looked at one another, their faces devoid of emotions. One of them quickly acted, kicking the girl's face with his boots mercilessly...

"Augh!"

The girl cried in agony, rolling through the floor. Her face was bleeding, and one of her eyes was red and swollen while a few of her teeth were broken, falling off her mouth... She cried with pain, as she tried to crawl away from the trio, her tiny arms and legs quickly stood up, only to be thrown down once more by the legs of another of them. A strong kick in her back threw her down once more, mercilessly, without regards of her small and delicate body.

"Aaggh...! Sniff... Stop! Please!"

The girl looked into the three men, as she didn't find any humanity in their eyes. Their emotionless faces only looked with disdain, hatred, and jealousy. They hated her even when she had done nothing against them, they despised her even when she never bothered anybody, and they wanted her to suffer, even though she had never made anybody suffer.

This was human nature.

"You little bitch, you think you can just say 'no' to us when we are fucking assaulting you?"

"You really got cocky because you got that fucking witch as a friend..."

"Well, she's not here to save your ass anymore. You're alone... And we'll enjoy it."

The girl's eyes continued to cry as she saw the monstrous nature of people once more. The nature she had been desperately trying to not see as something that every human had in common. She desperately asked for mercy, but they didn't listen.

"Pleashe... Merchy..."

"Fuck off!"

Another kick hit her in the head, crushing her down into the floor, several more of her teeth broke, as she felt such agony she had never felt before. Another kick reached her tiny left hand, so strong that it cracked her hand, her fingers dislocated as blood began oozing out of the wounds made by her broken bones piercing her flesh.

"Aaaaaagghhh!"

Their mercilessly crushed her tiny body, hitting her strongly, as if she were a creature, a monster. They pushed her around like trash, until they found she didn't reacted anymore. Almost dead, they grabbed her and opened her mouth, grabbing her long tongue and pushing her upwards, making her vomit everything she was carrying.

"Aghhh! Uugh... Sniff... Ahh... B-Big sis..."

The cries of agony of a little girl resonated through the alley, but nobody heard her.

Or perhaps... nobody wanted to save her.

Chapter 299 Four S Rank Adventurers

(Sylphy's POV)

Thanks to my father and mother's authority, and also Aquarina's parents who also have the same certificate cards my parents had, we easily got through the gates of the city, and we got in! The beautiful interior was just as I imagined, the floor was all paved, there were colorful houses everywhere, people wandering about attending the market and other areas. There seemed to be a blooming market with many specialized shops selling clothes, armor, weapons, food, and even pastries and freshly baked bread! Uwah, I want to go there...

There was also an enormous assortment of street vendors, selling all sorts of goods. Weapons, armor, clothes, used stuff, fruits, vegetables, and also food stalls and carts selling skewered meat or sweets... there was a lot of the good stuff.

"Wow, there's a lot of stuff in here! Isn't this place way bigger than the previous village we visited? This is just a full blown city..." Said my uncle, smiling rather happily as he saw everything. "Doesn't this inspires you to sing a little bit? Hahaha!"

"Arafunn you're not going away!" Said my mother. "You always had a terrible sense of direction in big cities, if we let you go you'll wander about everywhere and its going to take us a while to catch you up!"

"Eeeeeeh? But I wanna explore! Explore! Right, Sylphy?" Asked my uncle, as I couldn't help but nod.

"Yeah I wanna explore!" I said, raising my arms.

"See? Let's go!" Said my uncle, grabbing my hand and about to jump off the carriage. Only for a yellow-gold thread to grab his neck and stop him from moving.

"Uakh!" My uncle cried a bit in surprise, looking back at my mother to find her controlling this magic thread.

"Binding Thread..." She sighed. "I prepared this magic just for you, Arafunn..." Her look seemed menacing to the point even my uncle began to tremble in fear.

"F-Faylen, come on... C-Calm down, I was joking! I wasn't actually going to jump..." He said while trying to avert his gaze from my mother, which grew more menacing as she got closer to him.

"Oh yeah?" She asked.

"Hahaha... Come on, Faylen, calm down for now. We are getting closer to the Adventurer's Guild." Said my father. Aquarina and her parents and Zack with Ninhursag were behind us inside the carriage where there were some goods that my father brought here as a pretext of being a merchant to sell off, even though we don't really need to do that.

"Oooh, so that's the Adventurer Guild!" I said, looking into the big, three-floor building that took almost an entire square. People of all shapes and sizes were walking inside and outside of it, it was a beautiful building made of brown wood and decorated with many signs, it seems that merchants were allowed to put signs selling off their products and announcing them for some pay... interesting.

"Yes, there it is, the Adventurer Guild of this place... We'll register you there alongside the other kids and Ninhursag." Said my father as he seemed to be rather excited. We swiftly moved inside as I saw Aquarina and Zack quite nervous as well. The moment we walked inside the building we found several people buzzing everywhere, it was very chaotic and even confusing. Everyone was tall compared to us, so it was even easier to get lost in here with our size.

"S-So much people... I have never seen so many people together in a single building..." Cried Aquarina.

"Woah..." Said Zack.

There were also people sitting around large tables, celebrating something. Perhaps some people celebrated having completed a request and having filled their pockets with money or a successful monster mitigation. Most of the place reeked at alcohol and food, it seems that this was also an enormous tavern, although our parents quickly guided us to the second floor, which was where most people carrying items moved to, the receptionists of the guild were waiting us there. Often attending people and accepting requests they had, or letting adventurers take requests as well.

"Welcome to the Adventurer Guild. May I see your Adventurer Card?" Asked a young brown-haired man with white skin and sharp green eyes.

Our parents quickly showed off their Adventurer Cards, they had false names of course, and had used some illusion magic to look slightly like the pictures showing in the cards. When the receptionist saw the "S-Rank" golden stamp on it, he almost had a heart attack, especially because it was four at the same time.

"T-That's... S... S-RANK ADVENTURER?! A-AND FOUR!" He cried in surprise. Most of the people in our surroundings quickly stopped doing what they were doing, looking at the alarmed receptionist. The words he said were quickly spread out everywhere. The man quickly took a device to check if the cards were authentic... and they were, as the device glowed bright green.

"I-It is an honor to see such legendary figures in this establishment!!!" Cried the man, lowering his head in reverence. S-Rank Adventurers were revered as legendary figures, no normal people could become an S-Rank Adventurer. Even A-Rank Adventurers were near impossible as well. This was because they did not only need insane amounts of strength but also the approval of whole nations and many nobles, even kings themselves. It was a title equal if not higher than nobility.

People that were A-Rank and S-Rank had done incredible feats that nobody else could have done. They were incredible in the very sense of the word. They needed to be recognized as heroes by the kingdom's nobles and even the governors, so it was something very big. They often were kept within kingdoms because nobles wanted to use their strength for themselves, although adventurers have carefree hearts and do as they please, so this is not often what happens.

"Haha, don't sweat over it. Can we have a meeting with the local guild master? We need to ask him for a tiny favor." Said my father carefreely.

"S-Sure thing!!!" the receptionist ran out to call the guild master, and in a few more seconds he came gasping for air, leading us to the third floor, which had many offices, the biggest door there led to a large room where an old man was waiting for us, the Guild Master.

Chapter 300 A Mysterious Voice

The Guild Master was someone that looked way past his forties, if not fifties... But he was somehow still in perfect condition and was buff! He looked so muscular I was surprised. However, his face was still covered in wrinkles and he had a long white beard made into braids similar to those of dwarf men I saw in the adventurer guild. His sharp golden eyes looked at our party as he analyzed all of us in silence.

"Welcome to the Adventurer Guild... I am the Guild Master, Bostranof Vargaza. I am an half-dwarf if you're wondering and... My bear is funny looking, girl?" He asked to me, as he looked down on me. I was admiring his beard, it was very well taken care.

"N-No... It is pretty!" I said. "You've taken care of it, haven't you?"

"Oh... Why yes! It seems you've got good eyes, lad." He said with a smile. "A-Anyways, ahem! It is an honor to meet four S-Rank Adventurers. It has been around five years since we had another like you in here... A receptionist just told me you wanted to meet me right away so I quickly brought you here. Is there something you require? I'll do anything I can within my power to help you out."

"Yeah, we want to make these children Adventurers." Said my mother. "Is that possible?"

The Guild Master raised an eyebrow as he looked at all three of us... His eyes then suddenly shone brightly with some sort of magic power, as his pupils shaped as magic circles. He was using some sort of magic or innate ability that allowed him to "see" through us with detail.

"These children are... incredibly strong for their age." He said. "I am pretty sure you're well aware that it is against the rules to register people below the age of restriction, isn't that right?"

"Yes." Said my mother, sitting in front of the guild master. "We are also well aware that S-Rank Adventurers get many benefits."

"Indeed. One of them is bending Guild Rules to your liking... Haha." Sighed the man, he seemed completely hopeless. He was trying to act intimidating but my mother's gaze quickly forced him to look elsewhere.

"The children are possibly D-Rank based solely in strength, and I would say that the red-haired girl had such an immense quantity of mana that I cannot even discern it. I would guess she could even reach as high as B-Rank based in that alone. If she has such a large amount of mana, I can't imagine what sort of destructive spells she would be able to conjure..." He sighed. "By any chance, are these kids your children?"

"Yep." Said my father. "This is Sylphy, our daughter. She's a half-elf." He said, pointing to me. Then, Shade and Nepheline pointed out to Aquarina.

"And this is our baby, Aquarina." Said Nepheline.

"Mooom! Don't call me "baby"! I am already grown up!" Said Aquarina.

"She's a bit grumpy today." Said Shade apologetically.

"And this is my adoptive son, Zack." Said Ninhursag. "I-I am not registered as an Adventurer but I am a good friend of the four..."

"She's as strong as an S-Rank Adventurer, part of the rare Skin Changer tribe. She can transform into a fifty-meter big chimera and wreak havoc, so she probably deserves at least B-Rank Adventurer Card which should be doable for you without needing the approbation of nobles or any sovereign, right?" Asked my mother.

"Y-Yes, a Skin Changer! This is my first time seeing one. Indeed, your mana capacity is overflowing too." Said the guild master. "M-May I see... your magic?"

"Sure..." Said Ninhursag, as she quickly shapeshifted into a large Gray Wolf.

POOF!

"Oooohhh! T-This is true polymorph magic! I had only seen two other Polymorph mages before, one of them was a Blue Mage capable of copying monster spells and skills... And the other was a half-demon that could only morph into a demonic monster." Said the man. "Incredible... can you take more shapes?" He asked excitedly.

"Erm... yeah." Said Ninhursag, as she began shapeshifting into an eagle, a large panther, a six-limbed lizard, and even a large crab! Wow, I didn't saw that one. So that's the pincer she got in her necklace for!

"So you're really one... amazing!" He said. Ninhursag felt a bit embarrassed by all the praises she was getting.

"Anyways! Are you willing to or not?" Sighed my mother.

"Oh right! Yeah, sure... Let me... do this and this."

At the end, we took a small written test which was quite easy to complete, it asked about basic safety stuff. Zack got the worse qualification but it was just enough to qualify anyways. After that the man asked us to touch an orb that somehow calculated our total combat power or something. For me it couldn't be calculated and showed weird signs... at the end he gave up on this and just gave us the cards after asking for a drop of our blood, Ninhursag included. We all ended as E-Rank Adventurers as my mother said it was better to start from scratch. The registration was quite easy and swift, and after that we quickly moved to a nearby butcherer for Zack's hunted beast.

We left the beast there for the butcherer to dismantle carefully. The man had praised him for how awesomely he managed to hunt down the beast, and I was honestly just as amazed as him. I continued praising Zack because he really deserved some praise, and he got quite embarrassed each time, which made it fun to tease him for. Aquarina was getting a bit grumpier, so I stopped after a little while... She's really jealous, isn't she?

After what seemed like an eternity, we finally got into doing some nice and fun stuff, and with everybody we explored the large streets of this city, buying all sorts of provisions for the Amazon people as well. And at the end, we went into a restaurant to eat some nice lunch, it was very filling and the food in here was truly wonderful!

However, as we finished eating, I couldn't help but think about something odd. I was hearing a strange... sound? Perhaps because of my enhanced senses and because I was using the Enhanced Hearing Spell, but I felt as if someone was weeping nearby.