

A Glitched 301

Chapter 301 Finding A Little Girl

While we were finishing eating, everybody seemed rather happy and full. But I couldn't help but continue hearing someone weeping. I looked at my parents, then Aquarina, her parents, and then at Zack and Ninhursag but I didn't find them saying or wondering anything in particular. They were all talking about the food and simply having a carefree conversation... Was I the only one that could listen to the weeping of this child? It was a child...

Probably a little girl, crying a lot. I looked around me desperately, feeling heartbroken by hearing the cry of a little child. In my previous life I had a little sister that I loved more than anything in my life. I always felt bad when I saw her crying, sometimes she would run off into the wild woods and get lost, and I had to develop my hearing enough to listen to her weeping and follow that sound until I could find her.

This cry... I feel like I should go look out for whoever is crying. I quickly stood out of the chair and walked outside the restaurant; my parents quickly began to ask me why I was walking away but I just ignored them. The two and everybody else quickly stood up to follow me from behind.

"Sylphy! Where are you going out of the sudden?!" My mother ran behind me but I was rather far away by now. I was running, following the weeping sound of the child crying. It was calling for me, from the depths of my soul. I don't know why... I don't know why I was the only one.

I suddenly found some back alleys and walked around them, ignoring the trash and the terrible odor. Is this place... where commoners live? No... This is more than that, probably where all poverty gathers. It seems almost desolate, but I can see various eyes creeping at me while the group led by my parents was tailing me from behind. I quickly moved to the left side, walking through the alleys, and then finding something behind a large pile of trash.

When I saw her, it broke my heart into pieces. I couldn't help but cover my mouth as I opened it wide in surprise, my eyebrows raising at the same time. Without thinking it twice I rushed towards her, finding a little girl in the streets. Her legs and arms were broken and distorted to the way they shouldn't be, her little head was covered in blood, several patches of her head had missing hair, and she had two horns, both broken, cracked, and left bleeding. She was barely breathing, two of her four eyes were crushed, she was barely hanging on life.

She was a demon.

"Hahh... hahhh..." She was breathing heavily, she wasn't even crying, nor weeping. She was dying in silence here, sorrowfully and alone. How could I hear her weep from afar if she wasn't even crying physically? It felt as if I was able to hear her emotions from far away... it was something I never thought I could have as an ability.

"Hang in there... Please... Don't die!" I cried, as tears began to flow from my eyes, I quickly infused all the Mana I could muster as I called Naturia to aid me, she enhanced my mana and I conjured Verdant Healing Light and Enhanced Regeneration alongside Bone Reinforcement, Anti Bleeding, and Cleaning to clean all the blood over her body. I constantly infused all the magic I could, healing through her tiny body. Her bones were still cracked but her wounds quickly patched up, her face slowly gained a slight bit of her former appearance as it was swollen so much I couldn't even see what she was.

Who could have done this to her? Oh my god. Why? Why would anybody do this to a little girl like her? She wasn't just bullied; she was brutally hit by many people at the same time. Who could be so horrendously ruthless to brutally crush a little girl to death? The mark of boots were all over her body and her clothes...

Monsters.

Whoever did this are damned monsters!

The memories of my previous life rushed through my mind as I recalled how those bastard bandits did all these horrendous things to our village. They were all monsters, and I trained for years to slaughter them. Now that I have the power, I can kill them. I'll kill them. I'll kill these monsters that did something so terrible to a little and innocent child.

Kill. I'll kill-

"Ngh..."

My mind which was drowning in darkness suddenly was awoken by the sounds of the little girl, she seemed to be waking up. I gently held her in my arms. She was around my age but much smaller and

lighter, like a feather. I looked at her eyes which had regenerated thankfully. She seemed so weak and sleepy. Poor child...

"Don't worry, everything is going to be alright now." I told her, caressing her hair.

"Big... big shis..." She muttered, in between her sleep, quickly falling unconscious again.

Did she know somebody called big sis? Was this someone that could help her? Perhaps her family? I... I have to calm down. I was... thinking too many things. Somehow my mind was taken by a murderous intent I had lacked for a long while. I began to breathe calmly, as I looked at her and continued to heal her slowly.

"Don't worry... It's alright now..." I sighed.

"Sylphy!!!" Cried my mother, running to my side as she finally caught up to me with everybody else with her. "Why did you come all the way here- Ah!"

My mother looked at the little girl in my arms, her ability to discern damage was the best. Although I healed the most superficial wounds, she was still in a terrible state. My mother quickly realized she was still almost at the brink of death.

"T-This girl... She was calling for me, mom... I had to come... Please... heal her!"

"This girl... she's a demon?"

Chapter 302 Mist

My mother looked at the little demon girl as she was quite shocked by her state. She was surprised I was holding a demon in my arms. But I think that the name these people are given is just wrong. In my previous life, demons were beings of myths and folklore that represented all evil things and sins... but this girl is just a girl with a slightly different appearance than us.

"She's not a demon!" I said.

"Eh?"

"I hate how these people are called after such a vile name that represents monsters that embody our sins and evilness... I bet her tribe has a name of its own... She's just... a lost girl, mistreated by the world." I sighed.

"...Sylphy." My mother opened her eyes in surprise, raising her eyebrows, as she smiled gently. "You're right, leave this to your mother now."

My mother gently held the little child, as she suddenly began to emanate a bright, heavenly light that made the surroundings bloom with life. The trash nearby slowly began to dissipate as grass started growing around her. The aura she emanated was of pure life, as if she were a goddess.

"That's... What's going on now?" Asked my father in surprise.

"Mom is healing her." I said.

"Sylphy! W-Who is... she?" Asked Aquarina, catching up to me and then asking about the girl being held by my mother.

"I-I'll explain it later..." I said.

"Those broken horns... Is she a demon?" Wondered Zack.

"Yeah... I guess." I sighed.

FLAAAAASH!

The bright light emanated by my mother encompassed the little girl's body completely, infusing her with the brilliance of life itself. Her bones started to make cracking sounds as they reattached with one another and merged back, regenerating completely. Her bleeding completely stopped and she even regained vitality and stamina. Both of her horns regrew as well, bigger and sharper than before. And her entire body was cleansed alongside her bloodied clothes.

When the little girl slowly opened her eyes, she found herself in the embrace of my mother, smiling gently at her. Her shiny emerald eyes met with the girl's golden eyes, as the girl felt the warmth of mother's magic, and felt comforted, perhaps without realizing it, she hugged my mother with her tiny arms.

"Big sish..." She said gently.

"I am not your big sister..." Said my mother while caressing her hair, even the parts with hair missing had regrown. There was certainly nothing my mother couldn't heal, it seemed.

"No...? Ah... Uwaaah!" The girl finally came back to her senses, realizing she had been in the arms of a stranger. "W-Who... Wha... where?" She wondered, looking around as she noticed there were all of us looking at her.

"Are you alright now? Can you move?" I asked her, walking to her side as my mother gently put her down. The little girl stood with her feet as she looked at them with surprise, her little toes moving around as if she had never seen them move before.

"W-Wow... My wounds... My legs and arms were... they were... Ah... Uguh... Sniff... They beat me up..." She cried, as her four eyes started to cry out rivers, she covered her face with her tiny arms.

"D-Don't worry, it's alright now... Are you sure you're okay now?" I asked.

"Yesh... T-Thank shyu..." She said. She seemed to have a hard time talking. "It was very painful... But I feel better now..."

"I am glad..." I sighed. "W-What's your name? From where you are?" I wondered.

"I... I am Misht..." She said. "I live in the orphanage..."

"Misht?" I wondered. "You mean Mist?"

She nodded.

"It seems her name is Mist then..." Said my mother. "Dear, what happened to you? Did somebody bad beat you up to such a terrible state? They... almost killed you."

"T-They did..." She asked. "M-my memory is fuzzy... I... Ugh..."

The girl suddenly felt sleepy out of nowhere, almost falling into the floor, I barely managed to catch her in my arms. She seemed to be rather malnourished though, something my mother couldn't really heal. She needed to quickly eat something with a lot of vitamins and proteins. She had been probably only eating bread if she lives in these conditions.

"There, there..." I said, caressing her head. "Mother, we should bring her back to the tents, right? We can leave the Adventurer Requests for later I think."

"Yeah, I think so too." Said my mother.

"Alright then, let's go..." Said my father.

We all quickly decided to go back to the tents set up around the woods near the fiefdom where nobody could annoy us. In there, we left Mist resting over my bed, covered in blankets because she got very cold out of the sudden. Her face was quite particular, although she looked almost like a human girl, her mouth could expand, and went all the way up to her forehead. It was most of the time closed while she talked, but it seems it could open up wide, she also had a lot of sharp teeth. Instead of eyebrows she had smaller black eyes over her normal-looking eyes and... that's about it.

"I've never seen such a demon tribe like this before, they look a lot like humans except the obvious features..." Said Arafunn. "Are there more demons living in this village? I had no idea... Could these be refugees from the invaders of the war? But how could they bring children?"

"Hm... Well, it has been many years since the war ended, this girl obviously looks way too young to have seen the war. She's most likely the daughter of surviving demons..." Said my mother.

"A daughter of the survivors from the war... Could there be more like those in the orphanage she talked about?" Wondered my father.

"Perhaps..." Said Shade. "Maybe we should go check it out... I feel... obligated to help these children if possible. After all, they ended stranded in a continent unwelcoming of them all because of our fault..."

"Hm... You're right." Sighed Nepheline.

It was decided that after Mist woke up and had a big meal to recover stamina, we would move back to the village with her, hopefully finding out where her orphanage is so we can bring them some help.

Chapter 303 Faylen's Past Traumas

"She's not a demon! I hate how these people are called after such a vile name that represents monsters that embody our sins and evilness... I bet her tribe has a name of its own... She's just... a lost girl, mistreated by the world..."

Sylphy's voice resonated through Faylen's mind, whispering constantly the words she had said to her mother. It was already very surprising that a girl at the age of 8 had such a grasp in the meaning of words, and even more in the true meaning of the word "Demon".

This... for the first time in hundreds of years, made Faylen think. What was a Demon? Could the name that everybody referred to the people that originated from the Demon Continent be wrong? What was the true definition of this word, and why did it... hurt Sylph so much even though she wasn't a Demon herself?

Why... do they call these people as Demons, when the only different they have between one another are appearances, but everything else is... so similar? Despite the myths saying that both humanity and demonkind are different... somehow, both live similarly, love their families, and have emotions and personalities.

Is the life of a demon really so low in value, even below that of a human or an elf? What makes the difference? Is appearance everything that makes a demon one? What else... could one identify a demon as? Was this little child, mistreated and beaten to almost death... a vile creature deserving of the name of a "Demon"?

"Of course not..." Sighed Faylen, waving her head. She smoked a bit from her pipe, as she sighed while looking into the starry night sky. There was a bright full moon glowing atop the sky, shining beautifully with silver light.

Her memories quickly recalled her past as she remembered how beaten down the little girl was... Such horrendous and dark memories resurfacing through her mind once more...

A dark landscape, with the sky covered in black clouds, as lightning was falling from the skies and an intense downpour was covering the entire battlefield, washing away the blood, the corpses, and the souls of the fallen... before her magic.

She stood in silence atop a cliff, as she was being praised by a large group of human soldiers for the destruction she had brought to these people... hundreds- no, thousands dead in just seconds. How frail was life before the ultimate magic she had learned over the many years of her life...

"Excellent work, Lady Faylen!"

"You have surpassed our expectations, Saint."

"Incredible, with this, we'll be able to charge straight towards the Demon King's last stronghold... We are close to end this war!"

"Demons... you're nothing but ants before the might of the heroes! Hahahaha!"

Faylen remained in silence, filled with contempt. She was trying to keep herself calm for what she had done, thinking that the goals justify the means... That this had to be done so they could continue moving... After many of her beloved companions died by the hands of the Demons, this was the least she could do to help humanity keep going and finally end this war.

But she couldn't contain her emotions. No matter how old she grew, she was still within her heart, a woman with emotions. She looked down into the charred corpses, fried alive by her lightning, countless of lives lost, who all were trying to protect their territory, their lives, and their people from the humans invading it.

"Hahhh... Hahhh..."

Faylen began to breathe heavily, as she gritted her teeth. The more she looked into these corpses, the more her heart felt like it was about to burst in sorrow. Regret began to eat away her entire being, as her entire face darkened, disgust filling her throat as she was barely containing herself from vomiting out of the disgust of the scene, while all those behind her laughed... as if this was something beautiful and funny.

"What... what have I done?"

Faylen fell to her knees, every time she saw the demons corpses, she felt a stake hitting her heart. Each stake was more painful than the other, a wave of agony was washing over her entire body. Tears quickly began to flow like rivers from her bright emerald eyes. She not only noticed adults, but there were children... many children. Demons had lost most of their troops by now, and the children, teenagers, had begun to join their ranks in hopes to protect their families, their mothers, their grandparents, and anyone they loved.

And she... she took away their lives in a single second.

"No... T-This... What... Why did I do this? Was I blinded by the rage and sorrow of losing my comrades?!" She cried, hitting the ground. "I... I didn't learn magic to kill others... I didn't learn magic to do this... I... I just wanted to heal people..."

Faylen constantly felt the same emotions she felt back then, as she fell to her knees suddenly. The memories of such traumas were eating away her sanity, as she began to burst into tears. She felt horrible, as if she were a monster... as if she were the real demon, and she remembered her daughter's words.

"I hate how these people are called after such a vile name that represents monsters that embody our sins and evilness!"

She realized she was perhaps the most worthy of such a name...

"I am the true demon here... Sylphy... I've always have been a demon..."

"Faylen!"

However, the warm voice of the one that kept her sane came running behind her. In a split of a second, a hug caught her from falling even deeper into her traumas. The warmth of his body quickly spread through her cold and freezing skin, calming her down.

"Don't cry... I know how you feel... Please... That was long ago! I know that demon girl might... awake old memories but... You're not alone... I am here for you..."

"Allan..."

Faylen hugged her husband, resting her face over his chest, and crying silently.

Chapter 304 A Strong And Reliable Husband

"Allan... How do you know I...?" Asked Faylen, as her tears were being cleansed by Allan's hands.

"Isn't it obvious? You've been all strange since we rescued that little girl." Sighed Allan. "I guessed something was happening to my wife the moment I noticed you were walking away from the tent to stay alone..."

Allan gently kissed Faylen's forehead as he continued hugging her tightly. He had felt similarly to her many times, to the point of also crying alone... But unlike her, he continued moving forward while carrying such sins, he felt regret and sorrow, but perhaps his heart was stronger, capable of bearing such things.

But Faylen, despite her age and experience, had a weak heart. Since she was a little girl that she had always been gentle-hearted, nice, and very sensitive and empathic with everybody. One of the big reasons that made her into the woman she is today was because she wanted to heal everybody, especially those incapable of affording expensive treatment in her Kingdom.

"You know me well..." Sighed Faylen. After she rested and cried all she had to cry, the two sat next to one another and shared a warm herb tea that Allan brought.

"Better now?" He asked.

"Yes... I am okay now... Sorry, I guess I had a little breakdown there... It's just that..." Muttered Faylen, afraid of saying what she had in mind.

"It's because of what little Sylphy said?" Asked Allan.

"Yeah... She left me thinking too much. I ended recalling the past and... That time... when I... I..." Muttered Faylen, afraid to recall more. "That time I did all those horrendous things... I... She's right... I am a demon, right? These innocent people are not really deserving of carrying such a terrible name... The one most worthy of such a name is me..."

"Faylen... Don't say such things." Said Allan. "You're not a demon... You're the sweetest woman I've ever meet in my entire life."

"Allan..." Sighed Faylen. "But I've killed so many..."

"And so I have..." Said Allan. "I... also regret what I've done countless times over. But drowning in our own sorrow... It won't lead us anywhere."

"It is hard..." Sighed Faylen. "I wish... I had the brave heart you have. I wish it was so easy for me..."

"It is not easy for me either, Faylen." Said Allan. "I bear with the pain every day. Every time I wake up, every time I eat, every time I look into the sky and breath... Every time I sleep... In my dreams and when I

wake up again... These lingering memories, these traumas never disappear from my mind, they're ever-present."

"T-Then how... How can you...?" Asked Faylen.

"How can I cope with it?" Asked Allan. "Because you're here with me... Because I got my little Sylphy too... The spirits... our friends... everyone."

"Ah..." Faylen gasped.

She had forgotten the most important and crucial things in her life, all her family here... Perhaps because she had such a long life, that these years she had spent with all of them had been little compared to her long life, her own mentality had a hard time putting them inside of her mind as much as her traumas.

It was a problem she had suffered for a long time now, and even Sylph had noticed how her mother sometimes forgets she has a family that loves her, and drowns herself in sorrow and regret, thinking she's alone. Maybe... she doesn't recall them because her own self-esteem is so low she can't even put into her mind those that love her, because she doesn't even love herself.

"It's true... I am sorry... I often... don't take such things into consideration... I don't know why.. I am... I am such a cold-hearted person... I am really the worst." She cried.

"Come on now... Don't say that." Sighed Allan. "You're the most precious thing in my life."

"A-Allan..."

"You're my greatest treasure... well, Sylphy is here too, but you're still... well, I hate to compare you two but... you're two equally loved." Said Allan. "You have to also remember her, Sylphy... She might have said something that was shocking, but she never said it to offend you. You know how she is, right? Sylphy is an angel, she loves everybody! If you want to, we can talk with her tomorrow and ask her to apologize for the misunderstanding. I am sure she'll do and even feel regret, she'll hug you and might even cry if she knows she made you cry for saying such things."

"I-I... No, there's no need to bother her like that." Said Faylen. "You're right, she's a love. I... I was being dummy. Maybe my age is getting the best of me. I need to meditate some more to calm my emotions... Perhaps I am growing senile..."

"Senile? But isn't your father thousands of years old? You're still in the bloom of your youth, Faylen. You're a beautiful young maiden." Said Allan. "My princess."

"P-Princess?! G-Geez... I am so old and you call me princess!" Sighed Faylen, getting all embarrassed and blushing.

"You've always been." Said Allan. He approached her cheek and kissed her. "I love you."

"Sigh... I love you too." Said Faylen, hugging him back and kissing him in the lips. "Sorry for worrying you, I am alright now... I've realized that... there are things in here that I should keep close to my heart. Despite the regrets and everything I have... I have a life now that I must keep on living, people I love I must protect... I will do my best, okay? So... you don't have to worry so much for me."

"It's no problem for me to worry for my most beloved maiden." Said Allan. "I will always be at your side no matter what, no matter the time, or the age... no matter the era... I'll remain at your side protecting you, okay? I'll never leave you alone, never."

"S-Stop talking such embarrassing things!" Said Faylen while crossing her arms. "L-Let's go back to bed..."

"Alright... Let's go." Allan quickly carried his wife with his arms like a princess.

"D-Don't carry me like this! Y-You idiot!" Cried Faylen, growing even redder like a tomato.

Chapter 305 The Lazy Elf Bard And The Righteous Vigilante

A handsome elf saw Faylen and her husband walk back to their tent below a nearby tree, as he smiled faintly.

"It seems that things went well. Allan has a thing with words... Little Faylen had always been such a sensitive girl... I am glad he found a strong man that can keep her happy. I don't think there is... anybody more deserving of taking care of her. I wonder if her father... my brother, would be okay with this." Arafunn wondered, as he covered his face with a hat and decided to sleep below the stars, as he liked to do. The night was rather warm in these regions, so there wouldn't be any problems.

"Hahh~ Oh well, things are alright for now..." He sighed. "Thought that little girl... The demon... Hm, she got a lot of secrets... Well, we'll find out more later- Ah, Melodia, don't go around without my permission! Come back this instant." Arafunn suddenly ordered an invisible entity, as the spirit in the shape of a little fairy emerged before him. She had long white hair and bright green eyes with butterfly-like wings.

"But master! We need to go see the other children! What if there are more demon children that need our help?" She sighed, pouting while crossing her arms.

"Dear, I've told you that sometimes you need to take it easy. The little girl is sleeping right now... Come on, we'll do some more investigation tomorrow." Said Arafunn.

"But... haven't you noticed?" She sighed. "This entire town... it emanates a lot of Malice, like I've never felt before... I am afraid, master... T-The children might be being threatened..."

"Hmm... You're such a worrywart." Sighed Arafunn. "Come on, come to papa."

"Geez! Master you're a dummy!" Said Melodia. "The Malice... what is going on in there?!"

"Hmm..." Arafunn looked into the town carefreely. He immediately noticed through his special magical eyes that there was indeed a large black cloud. It was mostly invisible to the eyes of everybody that didn't possessed Magic Eyes, a special ability that only a few Elves are born with. It allowed them to see energies, essences, spirits, and souls that others couldn't detect.

"There is a big black cloud of Malice, you're right... But who is doing something so bad it is festering such an incredibly large amount of Negative Emotions...? Is there a witch in here or something?" Wondered Arafunn. "There's indeed something fishy about this!"

"See? See? We have to go!" Said Melodia.

"Not yet..." Said Arafunn. "I first need my beauty sleep. Do you want this handsome man to have bags below his eyes or something, dear?"

"W-Why do you care about something like this?!" Cried the fairy.

"Unsummon Spirit..." Sighed Arafunn, unsummoning Melodia and leaving her inside his Soul Scape.

"Master! T-This is unforgivable! You'll have to pay with tons of sweets if you want me to forgive you after this!" Said Melodia, crossing her arms. Arafunn's other spirits looked at her with surprise. She was the most noisy of all his spirits.

"Hm... I can feel a lot of resentment in this town... Just what does the nobility of this place hides?" He wondered. "I am so tired though... Let's do some investigation tomorrow... I've never been an innate hero like Allan or Shade, and I am quite lazy so whatever..." Arafunn sighed, getting comfortable over the grass and putting his hat over his face.

However, the figure of Shade emerged within the shadows at his side.

"Arafunn, there's something weird in this town, can you feel the darkness?" He asked.

"UUUGH! I am trying to sleep, for Yggdrasil's sake!" Arafunn sat down and looked at Shade's serious poker face. "What do you want?"

"Why are you so pissed?" Asked Shade. "Faylen sadly lacks Magic Eyes, but you do have them, you can see Malice, right? Is there any?"

"Sigh..." Arafunn sighed. amongst all the heroes, Shade was the most heroic and stubborn of them all. He was so righteous he acts as a vigilante through the night, catching thieves, bandits, and other things in any town he gets close to.

The last town they visited was wiped out of a drug-selling organization without anybody realizing other than Nepheline and Arafunn... It was all Shade who did it. He's always like this, and it really annoys the carefree and slightly selfish elf.

"Okay but if I tell you can you let me sleep?" He asked.

"Yes." Said Shade.

"Alright... Indeed, there's a big cloud of darkness over the town! Happy now? Let me sleep for now." Sighed Arafunn, resting over the grass.

"Hm... Malice... I will go take a look for now." Said Shade, disappearing just as he appeared, meddling with shadows.

Arafunn sighed, Shade was not someone he liked that much, but he was still a friend which he shared many hardships.

"And there he goes... Amongst all of us, he's probably the most tormented by our past. He feels like he has to do something for others or he can't even sleep well at night..." Sighed Arafunn.

Meanwhile, within the Dungeon close to the town, a girl with long blue hair and sharp red eyes was walking through the second floor, walking upstairs towards the first floor. She carried a large leather sack filled with bloodied corpses of monsters she had hunted. Her entire body was shrouded in wounds and blood, but despite that, she seemed mostly fine, although exhausted.

However, she seemed to not be older than 14, for such a young girl to be alone inside the dangerous dungeon... it was unheard of.

"Hahh... I hunted a bunch of Horned Wolves and Goblins..." She sighed. "This should be enough to feed us for the next week... Hahh... I want to see Mist and everybody already."

She carried the sack while walking upstairs, reaching the outside of the dungeon.

And she was greeted by a group of people that were waiting for her...

"There she is..."

"Hoh, is that heavy? Let us carry it for you, dear."

"Haha... She's really a monster for hunting so much..."

"But I bet she's tired to death now..."

"Yeah, just like boss said, she comes to hunt at night!"

The girl's sharp red eyes glared at the men expressionlessly.

"Again with you scum?"

Chapter 306 The Merciless Demon Girl

Her sharp red eyes glared at the men in front of her. She had sharpened herself through many experiences in battle, despite her youthful appearance, she was older than she looked like due to the blood flowing through her veins. She quickly analyzed the situation, dropping the sack of monster corpses in the floor to get ready for battle. She had no staff or wands despite being adept at magic. She only had her fists and legs to fight... oh, and a strong bite.

She analyzed the seven men in front of her, they were not here when she came to the dungeon three hours ago. They had most likely stealthily chased her around and have been patiently waiting for her to walk outside the dungeon to take her down. She didn't know them, but they spoke about a "boss". She immediately figured it might be one of the many thugs living in the red-light district that wants her dead. After all she was the only person getting in the way of them getting rid of that small orphanage sheltering mostly demon children.

This town only had protection for the nobles, commoners and those below could never count on any soldiers or guards for any type of help, everyone was on their own in here. And no matter how much she could scream, nobody would come to save her... but she had taken down several monsters alone. What was so different from these monsters and this scum?

Well, the monsters were stronger.

"If you don't want me to break your necks move aside, I am pissed today."

"Hoh, she's a bold bitch!"

"We are going to break you good..."

"We'll you our whore, you won't even talk back like that ever again!"

The girl had heard such words countless times through her life already. Thugs loved to threaten young girls about doing terrible things to them, even more terrible than just killing them. She emotionlessly glared at them and raised an eyebrow.

"From where do you come from? Who's your boss?" She wondered, slowly walking straight towards them.

"Oh, she's coming to us?"

"She's really confident in her own strength..."

"But no matter how much I look she's just a tiny girl."

"Yeah..."

"Our boss? Well, you will see him later when we make you into an obedient bitch."

As they stubbornly continued talking nonsense, the girl began to lose her patience.

"How strong do you think you are, big man?" She asked, looking at the man in front of her, the one that was talking the most about making her "a bitch".

"Enough to beat a shitty brat like you senselessly! You're already all out of mana, aren't you? Without magic you aren't nothing but a doll!" Laughed the man, stretching his arms and attempting to grab her. However, she moved faster and directly towards him. Her leg moved upward, hitting straight in the middle between both of his legs. A cracking sound, as if nuts were being shattered resonated through the small alley surrounding the dungeon entrance.

Crack!

"GRYYYYAAAAAH!"

The man began to scream out loud, as the girl jumped at a fast speed, twisting her body, and kicking him in the face strongly, his face was quickly disfigured horrendously, as he fists hit his face several times over, breaking his nose and leaving his eyes bloodied and swollen.

"Uuuuagggh...!"

BAAM!

He fell into the floor, unconscious... and barely alive.

The girl shook off the blood from her hands, as she looked back at the other six men.

"Who's next? I don't have all the night for you losers."

"Y-You damn brat!!!"

The six men left ran straight towards her. Some of them were able to use magic as well, mostly low-tier magic that enhanced their physical strength, covered their skin in a layer of stone, or let them unleash fireballs. They were not the average thugs but had some magic power to them.

But nothing she couldn't beat senseless without her sheer physical strength... and a tail.

She evaded three fireballs coming her way by kneeling in the floor, just before two men with swords rushed to her side, about to stab her. Her eyes glowed bright red in that moment, as her tail emerged out of her torso, as it was wrapped around of it. it was a long, black-colored whip-like tail, with a sharp blade-like end.

SLASH! SLASH!

She intercepted both swords and then swept the two men with the blade-like growth from the tip of her tail, slashing their torsos and making them bleed intensively, dropping in the floor.

"Uuaggh!"

"Aaggh!"

"I forgot to tell you, my tail has venom on it." She said with a smile, her sharp teeth were shown, making the little and inconspicuous girl look even more menacing, it was a terrifying contrast with her beauty.

"Stone Bullet!!!" One of the men that had been preparing an incantation for a few seconds unleashed a barrage of dozens of stone bullets from a magic circle he conjured, each stone could easily crumble when hitting a wall, but he fired them at such a speed that they could still leave a painful wound in someone's body if they were to hit them.

"Don't throw dirt at me, I am already nasty enough after the dungeon..." She sighed, as she moved her tail incredibly swiftly, intercepting each stone bullet and slicing it in half, all while her hands intercepted the other stones without problems, her reflexes and strength were top notch.

"W-Wha...?!" The mage muttered in shock, as the girl pounced towards him, ignoring the other guys trying to attack her. She moved her tail swiftly and pierced the man's neck with it.

"G-Gah...!"

"Good night."

With a loud thud, the man fell into the floor, struggling to breathe as the venom seeping from her tail began to quickly paralyze his nerves, a direct infusion through the neck was lethal, and she knew how to use her strengths better.

"A-A human with a tail?!"

"She's clearly not a human, you idiot!"

"So it was true... the rumors of the blue haired witch being a half-demon... they were true! Y-You damn kid...!"

"Sigh... Now that you know my secret, I can't possibly leave you alive." She sighed.

Chapter 307 The Demon Orphanage

Shade ran across the rooftops of the village, jumping without making a single sound, as if he weren't there to begin with. His aquamarine eyes looked across the night sky, attempting to find the origin of this much Malice, but wherever he saw, there was small tidbits of darkness he could feel flowing upwards... it wasn't just an area concentrating it, everywhere had some of it.

However, he could easily tell that such Malice was accumulating a lot from within the district of nobles, where most of their houses were. Whatever was happening in there, it wasn't something normal... Shade, however, decided to limit himself to the area of the red light district, and out of curiosity, wandered around the dungeon, which was being guarded by guards and soldiers around the area of it, but there were many unguarded sides to it, and it seems that soldiers feared standing next to the entrance, so they were quite far away from it.

In there, he found... seven bodies of men in the floor, and blood splattered all over the entrance of the dungeon as well. His eyes opened wide in surprise, as he jumped down like a ninja, reaching the floor without making a sound and looking at the corpses of the men.

"A monster attack?" Was the first thing he thought, as he saw piercing, slashing, and biting marks all over the men bodies, as if a wild beast had massacred them. There was even a man with half his face bitten off horrendously. However, most of them died not out of bleeding or wounds, but venom. "Venom... was a monster capable of doing this to seven men there? They all look capable of beating at least E Rank monsters, or even a D Rank Monster together... How come they died here so terribly?"

Shade quickly decided to use some magic before even giving away his presence here by asking the soldiers far away, who seemed completely unaware of what had happened here. The bodies were still warm as well, which meant they just died.

"Shadows of the dead, speak to me and rise once more... Shadow Persona."

FLAAASH!

Shade quickly conjured an easy yet high-tier Shadow, Darkness, and Death Attribute spell, as darkness flowed out of his hands like rivers, reaching all seven bodies and then absorbing whatever lingering life they had, alongside emotions and memories. The shadows then raised from each body; these were Shadow Personas.

They were entities made of shadows that possessed lingering emotions and memories of the dead, they were not actually their souls, but whatever remained of their bodies after death. This spell often only worked on fresh corpses.

"Ooohhh..."

"It hurts..."

"That kid... she was a demon! A demon!"

"It hurts... all over..."

"I am paralyzed... it is cold..."

"It is very cold... help! HELP!"

Shade remained in silence as he heard the wailing sounds of the lingering emotions of the Shadow Personas of these people. He quickly touched them without even engaging in a conversation with them, and quickly saw through their memories.

He could only see fragments, but each fragment of memories contained important info. In an instant, Shade learned that these were thugs that came to capture a girl simply named the "Blue Haired Witch", that was a protector of the orphanage in the red light district, that harbored mostly demon children.

"Demon children..." Said Shade, quickly looking into the distance.

He realized the girl had fought them to defend herself, but... she overdid it a lot. She was incredibly strong even without her Mana to back her up, and she crushed them all with ease... Shade couldn't help but think they deserved it though, they were terrible people that had done horrendous things. As a vigilante, he could see himself killing them as well.

"But... She was a monster." He thought, he saw her fight through their memories, her movements, her sadistic smile, and how she saw everyone with disgust as she crushed them... Alongside that, she had a venomous tail that infused paralyzing venom into wounds, paralyzing her targets and easily killing them by stopping their hearts.

"She's... a half demon?" Wondered Shade. "This tail is from the Venom Tails Tribe, a tribe of demon warriors that had joined the Demon King's army in the war... They were strong and their venom put down thousands... She must be a hybrid, a child between one of them and a human. But her way of fighting and her strength... Is she accustomed to kill people?"

As Shade saw that smile in her face, he couldn't help but feel pity. This girl... she was shaped like this by this unforgiving world. Perhaps she was once a lovely and innocent girl, but the world that didn't

accepted her, discriminated her, and mistreated her... it forced her to become the monster she was now.

Shade, who was always thinking about the consequences of his actions in the war, couldn't help but relate to the girl and think that she was... quite similar to him, and that perhaps she was a victim of the actions he had done in the war. He had wished many times to go back and change how he did things, to do something different... However, Shade wasn't a man that cried out loud, he contained all his sorrow and regret within his heart and remained in silence.

He sighed and jumped into the rooftops once more chasing down the trails left by the girl. She had a strong Malice emanating from her, perhaps due to her dark mind and her nature... he followed such trails of dark fog, suddenly reaching the orphanage.

"See-through Sight."

FLASH!

His eyes suddenly shone bright blue, as he gained the ability to see through buildings, a special spell that he learned long ago to spy even better at targets. He quickly saw the girl, she was unpacking several monster carcasses inside the storage, and taking out a knife, slowly butchering them.

"Celeste, what are you doing? You should go to sleep now... It is late, and you're all covered in blood." A beautiful girl with red skin and blonde hair wearing nun clothes approached her.

Chapter 308 Celeste And Mary

The girl, named Celeste, was being reprimanded by a woman with red skin wearing black and white nun robes. She was obviously a demon, as Shade immediately recognized her as a Red Demon, or Oni for short. They were mighty warriors stronger physically than even Amazon. They took a large part in the war, and many of them were the demon king's soldiers and close retainers.

They were a tribe of demons that prided themselves in their physical strength. However this woman was... incredibly different than how Shade remember those valiant warriors that sought challenges and exhilarating battles. Back then in the Demon King army, there were many demons of this tribe.

She had a very passive expression in her face, and she had a large scar across her nose, such a scar went through her left eye, which wasn't orange red like the other, but gray, probably having lost its vision. Also, Shade was very sure that both males and females of the Red Demon Tribe had enormous and sharp horns that grew out of their heads, which they used as weapons to pierce foes by charging at them like bulls.

However, she had none. They were... horribly cut. And that was not all, Red Demons also had long and strong tails which they used as a fifth limb to fight and smack foes, but she also lacked a tail. Her entire body was covered in scars, even her hands looked as if they were disfigured after having been burned through searing and unforgiving flames.

Was she a survivor from the war if she was so filled with scars to this point? What could she have gone through for such a thing to happen to her? And to boot, she was wearing nun clothes, meaning that she was part of the church that protected the orphanage... Shade had never seen a pure demon being a nun, especially because to become a nun, a woman had to swear allegiance to the Gods that protected humanity, and that would be a terrible sin worth death for any demons, who prayed to their own Evil Gods, or the Ancient Demon King, the first to have ever existed, which was a religious figure to them.

Celeste heard the words of the girl, as she looked back at the red-skinned demon girl.

"Mary, where's Mist? I didn't see her."

"Mist..."

Celeste quickly stood up, without leaving aside the knife covered in monster blood. Mary looked at the knife, scared, she fell to the floor and crawled away in fear.

"N-No! Please!" She screamed as if she was panicking. Celeste quickly realized she had scared her friend, and dropped the knife in the floor, running towards Mary.

"Mary, I'm sorry! I-I didn't mean to scare you..." She said, infusing a bit of light into her body. Mary slowly calmed herself, breathing softly and looking back at Celeste.

"Hahh... S-Sorry... When I see... things with blood I..." Muttered Mary, her face darkened as she recalled a terrible past.

"Don't worry... Sorry for that, I forgot... I-I will go take a bath afterwards but... where's Mist?" Asked Celeste.

"Mist is... She hasn't come back yet... I thought she was with you like always, Celeste!" Said Mary, as her hands began to tremble. Celeste's eyes opened wide; something was wrong. Mist was missing! And it was already so late and she hasn't come back either...

"No... She didn't come to visit me in the dungeon like she always does, she told me in the morning that she would come back to have lunch with you and the kids..." Sighed Celeste. "Mist... what happened to her? Damn it... Damn it!" Celeste ran off upstairs, reaching the room where all the children were sleeping. Her commotion woke most of them, as Shade realized they were all particular in shape and forms, they were either demons, beast-kin, or hybrids.

Celeste calmed down the children while she ran off into Mist's bed, collecting the little white hairs left behind by her over her bed. She quickly grabbed them and began conjuring an incantation, forming runes masterfully into a magic circle, all while the hair was being burned down by blue flames.

"Phantoms of the night, guide me towards my target, use these hairs as parts of her body, and lead me to where she is..." She chanted.

"Incredible, she can use high-tier magic so easily!" Said Shade. "This girl is brimming with talent... But Mist? Isn't that the girl we rescued? Should I go there to tell her or..." Wondered Shade, as the girl suddenly saw a phantom guiding her somewhere.

"Mary, I'm going off, protect the children for me, alright? Here's a charm!" Said Celeste, giving Mary a kiss in the cheek and a small talisman.

"C-Celeste, wait!" Cried Mary, without being able to stop her.

Shade quickly began chasing down Celeste as she ran off through the streets, she was incredibly fast, and he immediately noticed that she was able to administrate mana all over her body through special

Mana Veins she had formed some time ago. It seems she had managed to cultivate her own body through special Physique Refining Techniques that used the Mana Flow Technique as its base. It was a rather basic way to grow stronger physically for beginners, but because she was a half-demon, it was enhanced multiple times and she was easily someone comparable to a C Rank Adventurer in terms of strength and reflexes, which was incredible.

He quickly began to compare her with Aquarina, Sylphy, and Zack, and he immediately could tell that she could beat all three of them together... Perhaps Sylph could stand until the end if she went all out though, her bottomless Mana also meant endless possibilities in a battle. But this girl seemed experienced in battling people as well, too experienced, in fact.

"Mist is... out of the village?!" Asked Celeste to the small phantom, which seemed to nod. She jumped over the city's walls, and looked out into the grasslands, noticing several tents near the Faraway Forest.

Chapter 309 Mist And Celeste

"Mist is there? Why is she all the way there? Well, at least she's alive but... Who are these people? I haven't heard about nomads setting down their tents... Ugh, I hope she didn't get in any trouble! If these people have her there because of her own fault, I'll have to apologize to them." Sighed Celeste. "At least tribe people is often and surprisingly more open-minded than the assholes of this place. I've met a few."

Celeste spoke with the little phantom guiding her, as Shade decided to greet her by running faster than her and waiting for her near Mist's Tent.

"Hahh... I am here... Huh? Is everyone asleep? Maybe I should stealthy retriever her back and get out of here..." Said Celeste, quickly finding a tall pale-white man with glowing aquamarine eyes and short white hair, his entire body was tightly wrapped in black clothes, and he covered his mouth as well.

"Hello, did you need something, little girl?" He wondered.

"AH...! W-Wha... I didn't even see you there..." Celeste fell to her butt over the grass. Shade was surprised to see her acting like a child after she had been such a bloodthirsty demon girl against those thugs.

"Y-You've seen a little demon girl with white skin and hair? She has a weird mouth that opens in a cross shape!" Said Celeste. "Please, forgive her if she did something bad! She's a little adventurer and likes to go around everywhere. She even talks with strangers sometimes!"

"Hahah, don't worry. She's sleeping right now. Most of my family is sleeping as well. How about you stay the night here with her? You seem dead tired." Said Shade.

"Huh? I... I would prefer to just retrieve her back... But wait, you saved her?!" Asked Celeste.

"Yes, not me, a friend. They found her in the streets, all beaten down and almost dead..." Sighed Shade. "Her bones were broken, and both of her eyes were bloodied, she had lost her vision and was in the brink of death."

"W-Wha..."

Celeste's eyes sank, she looked back at Shade, who emanated a charming yet mysterious presence.

"Did you...?"

"We healed her. We got a competent healer in our clan, so don't worry. We are not monsters that would leave a little girl to her death."

"Even... if she was a demon?"

"That's not really something that would stop us."

"Mist..."

Celeste sighed in relief.

"W-What's your name anyways? What's your tribe? I had not seen you guys here before! My name is Celeste, I am a witch of this town, I protect the orphanage where Mist and other children are living!" Said Celeste happily, immediately trusting Shade quite quickly... It surprised him a bit, perhaps she still had some childishness to her.

"We are the Amazon Tribe, we are in a journey towards the Continent of Elves, it is long and arduous, so we take a break to resupply our things in each town we come across." Said Shade. "Come, let me show you Mist."

"Amazons... I have only heard of you guys. I remember there was a Hero that was an Amazon woman, right?" Asked the girl with an innocent and childish smile.

"Hahah... Yeah." Said Shade, deciding to keep Nepheline's identity a secret.

Celeste followed the man inside of the tent, as Celeste found Mist leisurely sleeping with her mouth wide open. There was a green-colored magic barrier around her constantly healing her wounds so there wouldn't be any bad sequelae in her body after recovery.

"Mist... Sigh..." Celeste sighed, slightly happy to see Mist being alright. "I am glad she's okay."

"You calmed quite quickly. I am Shade by the way. Everyone is sleeping right now, the elf that healed her said this barrier would allow her to fully heal well, so I wouldn't recommend you grabbing her away right now. How about you stay in here at her side? I can bring you a small bed." Said Shade.

"You would do such a thing?" Asked Celeste.

"Yes, there's no problem. I am simply trying to be friendly. Is it weird? I lack a lot of... experiences with interaction with people. I've always been on my own through my life. Just these last years that I've interacted a lot, but I still can't beat innate talkers like a good friend of me." Sighed Shade.

"N-No, it is alright, thank you." Said Celeste. "I had just forgotten that there's good people out there."

"Hah, I wouldn't blame you for that." Sighed Shade.

At the end, Celeste slept at the side of Mist while watching over her. She almost didn't sleep through the entire night because she was worried about Mist, and was constantly thinking about the bastards that did this to her and who could have been...

"They targeted me right after her... Who is the bastard behind this?" She wondered. "I am going to look for them later... For now, I have to watch over her..."

(Sylphy's POV)

The time to wake up came and I quickly jumped off bed. And there she was, Aquarina, the little rascal, had infiltrated my bed at night like always. I looked at her for a bit and caressed her long hair. She was really cute today.

I gave her a kiss in her cheek which quickly woke her up.

"Fweh?" Aquarina suddenly looked around in surprise. "S-Sylphy... Goo' mornin'..." She said while being half-asleep.

"Good morning, Aquarina." I said, petting her head. "You once more came to sleep at my side!"

"Hehehe..." Aquarina didn't even apologize this time, only giggling maliciously.

"At this point we should share the same room, you're really irredeemable!" I said.

"I-It's just... more comfortable when I sleep at the side of somebody... I feel less afraid." She said.

"Afraid?" I wondered.

"S-Since the time that we were captured inside that space back then... That I've had bad dreams, so I need to sleep with someone or... I can't sleep well." She sighed.

"Eh? Y-You never told me that..." I sighed. Now it really made a bit more of sense... I suppose ending with traumas after such a thing is normal, it was a terrible experience.

I wish... I could have done better back then.

Chapter 310 Brand New System Magic

Without realizing it, I ended feeling all down, so I just sat over the bed all tired, thinking about those times. I had surely grown way stronger than back then... I wonder if I could have stood a better chance against that damn skeleton. Hm... There were some remnants of his core, maybe I could make a ring out of it and get him as my spirit too. I will just make him submit to me the same way I did with Beelzebub! ...Well, more like I befriended the giant fly with a lot of comprehension and understanding. He couldn't really beat the power of friendship, hehe.

Anyways, thinking about that skeleton really angers me though. With the Blue Demon, Ignatius, and Beelzebub, the conflict was rather indirect, but with this damn skeleton... I don't want him as my friend to be honest. Maybe I would think different if I didn't engage him directly, but I guess I got a grudge against him now... He tore me to pieces after all. It would be better if he remained dead forever than to be revived as a spirit by me. He always used to escape death and revive through his unique power after all. Damn, I am such a selfish person... I guess I am really a human then, part human, I suppose.

Maybe if I didn't engage in a fight, even if he made others suffer, because I am a stubborn person, I would probably want him to be my spirit like it happened with Beelzebub... Though, now that I think about, I am really curious about this skeleton's past, but it has been so long since I fought him that I would rather just not think about him... Maybe my hatred is connected with the trauma I also have about him. Although it would be nice if he could become something like a Spirit of Death to let me learn Death Magic or something. Well, for now let's not think about him, right? There's more important things in my life such as a Caterpillar crawling around the forest of my Soul Scape, a rolling blazing egg, and an adorable floating seed that was now sprouting a big little branch out of her body. Oh right, how can I forget the System, Alice, and Furoh, my wormy friend?

"Hey guys, how's it going!" I said to everybody.

"I am hungry..." Sighed Ignatius.

"Where are the sweets?! You promised them to me every day!" Said Beelzebub.

"Food... Meat!" Said Furoh.

Geez, these three guys are really just interested in food!

"Good morning Sylphy, don't listen to these two grumpy spirits." Said Alice with her gentle and lovely voice. "More importantly, I spent the last week doing some research regarding something you've been wanting to use for years but couldn't... Now that I am a Spirit, I've finally managed to get the knack of it!"

"Fooo!" Naturia said, adding nothing to the conversation, but she was very cute.

"Oh, what is it?" I wondered. I really didn't remembered anything I had been asking her for, but Alice seemed very happy to have finally figured it out after a while of being a Spirit. Maybe I forgot about it? I really can't remember-

"I have finally figured out System Attribute Magic!"

"EEEEEH?!"

I ended screaming loudly inside the tent, and Aquarina who was trying to sleep again jumped off the bed, looking at me terrified!

"Sylphy! Why did you just screamed?! Is something wrong?"

"I-I... No..." I said. "There's nothing wrong in here! A-Anyways, how about we... wake up and go have breakfast?" I helped Aquarina stand up from bed, then helped her stretch her little body, and sent her off back to her tent.

"I'm gonna take a quick bath so don't come peeking!" I said.

"But we can take a bath together..." She said.

"I-I am already big enough to take one alone... I-It is a bit embarrassing!" I said.

"O-Oh... Alright, sorry..." Said Aquarina, as she walked back to her tent a bit saddened.

Ugh, I hate to pretend to want some privacy when I am already accustomed to do almost everything with her sticking to me... I love being with her but this is a thing I must do alone! I ran into my bed and quickly asked Alice about the Magic again.

"Sorry about that earlier, Alice... now that everything is cleared up, can you tell me what's up?" I wondered.

"Alright... I already told you but I've figured out System Magic! ...Well, partially."

"Partially?"

"Yes, there are only a few spells you can use for now. This Magic is actually super complicated, probably the most complicated there is, but because I am made out of Runes from this artificial element, it is actually possible to use my own runes to give you the power to use this magic directly, unlike Polymorph or Cooking Magic, where you need to first learn other Magic Tiers first."

"I see... Show me more about it! What can I do? How many spells do I have?"

"Well, first of all, it seems System Magic is quite... strange. It doesn't seem to have any offensive power yet, and it is related with our own System directly. I don't know, but it seems quite impossible to fix the bugs as of now, but it does seem doable to do other things, modifying the System, the Status, and even... giving a non-bugged Status to others!"

"What?! Alice, are you serious about this?!"

"Yes but it takes a toll on me... For now, we can only make a System Seed, a single one! After a bit of a cooldown, maybe we can make more. So... you have to choose someone you trust to give it to them. This Status they'll gain will not be bugged, so they'll be able to actually level up and gain Skills easily... Which is a bit weird when you can't... But you got Immortality and Infinite Mana instead, so it is not so bad when you compare them, right?" Asked Alice.

"Y-You're right I guess... But who should I give it to? Aquarina? I don't really know if she could handle it..." I sighed.

"Hmm... You'll have to think about it! Anyways, the two Spells you can use right now are [System Seed Creation] which has only one use for now, and then the [System Modification]!"