

## Abyssal A 121

### Chapter 121 - 121: Blight Caller Shard

Waking up in the morning, Alice and Ria had some breakfast while waiting for Gin to return. With their trip down to the Howling Depths now complete, Allura granted them a bit of rest until Gin came back with the equipment that Ria would need for this hunt.

After all, everything was prepared, they'll be leaving for the small fishing hamlet called Anivari and renting a boat there.

"I don't think the news regarding the Storm Leviathan is known by a lot of people so I doubt there will be competition for it but knowing the underground, a few VIP's may have gotten wind of the news already.

"When we arrive in Anivari, we'll be taking a direct route to reach the main channel near the Slaughter Docks. If you find several boats heading the same way then you'll know who your competition is. Depending on the situation, they might offer for you to join them since this is no easy hunt." Allura warned while leaning back on her chair.

"Are they going after the Sigil as well?" Ria asked curiously but Allura shrugged.

"Maybe, maybe not. A few Hunters might be there to harvest the corpse instead. It is known for Harvesters and Hunters to work together to collect as much as they can from the beast."

"Harvesters?" Alice raised her head upon hearing an unfamiliar term.

"Yep. They're Hunters who specialise in dealing with the aftermath of a hunt. You wouldn't see them in low star hunts as even the basic Hunter can harvest the corpse. But for valuable beasts, especially one such as the Storm Leviathan, there will be Harvesters that try to make an agreement with the Hunters trying to kill the beast for its Sigil.

"In lending their strength, they will be promised a sizable portion of the corpse while the Hunter will get an easy Hunt. Harvesters are usually deployed by noble families as it is not a very popular job compared to being a Hunter.

But the Hunter's Guild recognises their existence and all of the Hunters generally have high respects for powerful Harvesters since they can guarantee the success rate of a hunt with the only trade off being losing out on parts of the corpse." Allura explained as Alice made a mental note in her mind.

"I see... Then I suppose there is a Harvester's Guild as well then."

"Bingo." Allura nodded her head with a smile.

"For now, I'd suggest you two avoid dealing with Harvesters as not only are they strong, they're also rather stingy. Unless you can settle things with a Law of Agreement, verbal promises can only take you so far." Allura shook her head.

"Did you get scammed by a Harvester before?" Ria asked curiously as it sounded like Allura had some interactions with them before.

"Only once. Though they're not really a Harvester. After that, anyone who tried to scam me died by my hand if they don't heed my warning. As for the person who scammed me, not only did he sabotage my hunt, making it so that I had to find a new beast, but he also destroyed the entire beast so I couldn't get anything out of it at all." Allura rolled her eyes with a sigh.

"Who was it?" Alice asked as her interest had been piqued. Considering how Allura was, it was surprising that anyone could scam her.

"You know him pretty well. It was Kaden. When I was hunting for my fourth Sigil at the time, we met each other and he sabotaged my hunt. He compensated for it later but that was the first time I realised a hunt could be sabotaged in such a way." Allura waved her hand dismissively.

Hearing about these stories regarding Kaden, Alice really wanted to see what he was like before and compare it to the him now.

The outspoken and 'free spirited' Kaden who would break into one of the most heavily guarded places on the surface seemed rather reserved in the past.

"Anyways enough about mentioning the raven b\*stard. Just thinking about him annoys me since he's not taking responsibility at all. He just runs around the surface everyday doing whatever he wants." Allura sighed.

"Huh? Who's the raven b\*stard?" Ria tilted her head in confusion.

"He's the one who gave Alice the Eye and threw her into the Abyss for me to deal with. If I wasn't around at the Slaughter Docks, Alice's would've been a slave and forced into some dangerous events."

Hearing this, Ria had to do a doubletake before looking over to Alice, wondering if this was true.

Seeing Alice nod her head, Ria was speechless.

"What the crap have you been talking about now? I just came back and Ria is looking at you two like you just did something stupid." Gin's voice interrupted as he walked through the front door with a rather large sack behind him.

Placing it down on the table with an audible thud, Gin ordered some alcohol for himself while having the inn keeper refill his canteen.

"Nothing much. Just about how I met Alice in the Slaughter Docks. Seems like you got everything prepared." Allura smiled, giving the bag a quick glance.

"Somewhat. There's a few things I couldn't get my hands on in a short time since it seems like there will be some competition for this beast. A bunch of people have already bought up most of the supply available in the market. If it wasn't for the Underground helping out, I don't think I could've got my hands on these." Gin sighed as he opened the bag.

Placing all of the contents on the table, Alice was rather surprised by the tools that he had prepared.

There was a pair of silver armoured gauntlets, a pair of boots, a scarf, bow with some arrows and lastly, a strange white and purple metal shard.

"Still, you managed to get quite a lot. If they really are gathering the equipment needed for this hunt, I'm surprised you managed to get your hand on this shard since it's the most important." Allura remarked as she held up the shard and examined it closely.

"Rather high quality at that too."

"It wasn't easy but I managed to snag the last one." Gin nodded as he leaned back and relaxed.

"So... how do I use these things?" Ria asked, picking up the gauntlets and seeing if there were anything strange with them or not.

"Lightning Viper Scale gloves and boots. A pretty common equipment for fighting lightning-based beasts. It can absorb some of the lightning and use it to enhance your own abilities. It's especially handy if you are a lightning ability user like you are since it'll enhance the power of your Sigils. The boots let you run faster while the gloves let you punch harder.

Simple yet handy for you who fights in close quarters a lot." Allura smiled, pointing to the gloves and boots.

"Scarf made from Dream Wraith skin and flesh. It increases your speed and lets you evade detection easier since it hides your presence. Against the Storm Leviathan, it'll help you dodge its attacks and travel across its body with ease.

"Bow made from Nether Howler bones and tendons. Arrows made from Thunder Caller Spikes. The bow is durable enough to withstand the force needed for the Thunder Caller Spikes while the Thunder Caller Spikes will let you deal substantial damage to the beast.

It requires lightning to fire and when it hits the target, nearly lightning attacks will be redirected towards the arrow, causing it to explode and launching a lightning spear through the wound."

As she reached the final equipment, the purple and white shard, Allura looked at Alice.

"This is what'll allow you to assist Ria in this hunt. Blight Caller Shard. The Blight Caller is a 5 star beast that could be considered the enemy of the Storm Leviathan. Using this shard will allow you to manifest the powers of the Blight Caller to cancel out the abilities used by the Storm Leviathan. When Ria cannot dodge certain attacks, it'll be up to you to protect her.

Not only that, after using this shard, you will be able to weaken the Leviathan for a brief period of time.

"It's made from concentrated Blight Caller Blood so if needs be, you can snack on it and treat it as Abyss Blood but that's only as a last resort. Remember, this is Ria's hunt. Interfere too much and it'll become troublesome. With other's wanting to hunt the same beast, I'm not afraid that Ria wouldn't be able to contribute the most.

What I'm worried about is you accidently doing too much! Allura reminded as Alice nodded her head.

She could still remember how Ria had helped her during her hunt against the Blood Maiden. So long as she makes sure she didn't wound the beast too much and focused on covering for Ria, things will go smoothly.

Meanwhile, Gin had choked on his drink the moment Allura told Alice to snack on the shard if needs be.

"Allura, you're... not serious when you told Alice to use that shard as a snack right?" Gin frowned.

"Nope, I'm being deadly serious. Trust me, I'm not saying this without reason." Allura reassured.

Knowing Alice's resistance towards the Abyss, eating the shard was more beneficial than just activating it as none of the side effects would linger. If things truly go south, this was their best method to salvage the hunt so that Ria can get her Sigil.

Staring at Allura, Gin sighed and leaned back.

He had gone through this set of emotions far too many times now and was beginning to just accept the choices. It wasn't like he could affect what she decides on and if she had told Alice to use it as a backup plan then she must have her reasons.

'What a headache...' Gin thought to himself. If it wasn't for the fact that he was an Abyss Lord and had long grown accustomed to Allura's insanity and choices, he would've lost his own mind by now.

Explaining how to activate the equipment, they started to plan for the fight.

As the battle will be happening above Abyss Waters, they had to be careful with how they fight and they will begin the battle using the bow to maximise how much damage Ria could do towards the beast. This is the best way for her to rack up the contributions and once the beast becomes enraged, Ria will fight it in close quarters.

With the plan prepared, the group hired a carriage towards Anivari

Chapter 122 - 122: Nolan

Riding in the carriage to Anivari, Alice couldn't help but glance back at the city of Zdash.

With their next destination in mind, they weren't going to be coming back to this place for a long time considering after the hunt, she and Ria will be making their way to the mainland.

"So what kind of place is Anivari?" Alice asked as she sat back in her seat and looked towards Allura.

"It's a pretty small place. Nothing really remarkable about it. The only reason why I know the place exists is because an old acquaintance of mine retired there. If he's still around we should be able to get a pretty good boat to use for this hunt.

If not then we'll have to figure something else out without stepping into the Slaughter Docks." Allura recalled as the acquaintance she had in mind was an old man called Nolan.

Nolan wasn't someone famous or powerful, merely a normal civilian who was good with his hands and decided to retire early to a remote city.

"You don't have to concern yourselves with the city since we won't be staying for long. With what Gin found out, we shouldn't waste too much time since there are others trying to hunt down the same beast we're going after." Allura waved her hand dismissively.

"But if we're going against others, shouldn't we hurry up then?" Ria furrowed her brows but Gin shook his head.

"I doubt they'll be able to finish the hunt quickly unless they want to fail the hunt with not enough contributions. By my estimations, it should take them 4 days to kill the beast?" Gin shrugged.

"And we're supposed to just rock up and steal the kill?" Ria raised an eyebrow in surprise.

"Exactly." Allura nodded.

With a hunt like this, it was best to let the others tire themselves out first. Otherwise they would not only have to deal with the beast but also other Hunters.

"The hardest part will be how to run from the place. Even if you don't get the kill, I'm pretty sure the rich m\*therf\*cker trying to get the Sigil and the Harvesters won't let you two leave for free." Allura chuckled as both Alice and Ria sighed at the same time, knowing that they'll have to run for their lives after getting the kill.

"Either way, it won't be the challenge you originally anticipated but it's still good. You'll have to get used to fighting others for the reward in the future anyways." Allura shrugged.

"Would we need to kill them?" Alice asked curiously.

She wasn't against killing since it didn't bother her but she wasn't sure about the consequences of doing so. The only times she's killed so far were when she was a slave and the Cultist. Both of which basically had no consequences.

"Hmm... Honestly I would suggest you to avoid doing so if you can. Unless you want to deal with all of the witnesses."

Hearing Allura's reply, Alice nodded her head.

"You won't need to kill your way out. Just focus on running away once the Hunt is finished." Gin explained as they would step in if things got ugly. After all, if they arrive late and still earn the contributions needed then it was their fault for not being able to do enough with the time given to them.

The journey to Anivari took roughly a day with no beasts daring to approach the carriage.

With two Abyss Lord level beings guarding the carriage, even thinking about attacking meant death. Naturally, this meant the journey was smooth as they soon approached the hamlet of Anivari.

Looking towards the hamlet, Alice could see a handful of houses and some boats docked by a wooden pier. It couldn't compare to Zadash nor the Slaughter Docks and Alice wasn't sure how they were supposed to get a boat that was suitable for embarking on a hunt against the Storm Leviathan.

Giving her thanks to the driver, Allura led the group into the hamlet and they received a few confused and wary looks.

"Pardon me sir, do you happen to know Nolan Ziroy? He should be an old shipwright that lives in this hamlet." Allura asked with a smile.

Upon hearing that they were looking for Nolan, the man immediately frowned.

"No I don't. I don't know anyone who's called that." He shook his head before turning around and running away as fast as he could.

Blinking her eyes in confusion, Allura scratched her hair before looking to see if there were anyone else whom she could ask but none of the residents seemed to be willing to help now that they made their goal known.

"Well... this is unexpected." Allura crossed her arms as she thought this would be a simple task.



"Want me to look for him?" Gin offered.

Thinking about it for a moment, Allura nodded her head. They were only here for a day so it didn't matter too much on how they go about finding her acquaintance.

With Allura giving him in the green light, Gin kneeled down for a moment before placing his hand against the ground.

"Care to explain what he looks like?"

"Hmm... He should be old, grey hair, a pair of glasses and a clean face with no beard. It's been quite a few years since I last saw him so I'm not sure about what he looks like now." Allura shrugged.

"Well I have a few that matches your description. One of which isn't exactly in good condition. Might explain the sudden displeasure that man felt." Gin frowned.

Hearing this, Allura had a bad feeling in her heart and had Gin lead them to the location of the injured man.

Walking over to a remote corner of the village, they could see an old wooden house with an old woman, preparing to go fishing.

Upon seeing the group approach, she immediately ran back to the house and picked up a spear.

"W-What do you want now?!" She shouted, pointing the spear at the group.

"Woah there, we're just here to find someone called Nolan Ziroy. Do you know him? I'm an old acquaintance of his." Allura raised her hand in surrender as she slowly approached but the old woman didn't drop her guard.

"N-no I don't! Please leave!" She shouted out, not wanting Allura to get any closer.

"Look, we're not here to hurt any of you. I just want to see if the injured man in the house is the person I know. If he's not, we'll leave. If he is, we'll help him okay?" Allura sighed as she wasn't sure how she should deal with the woman in front of her.

Biting her lip, the woman looked at Allura up and down in hesitation. The man inside the house needed help but she wasn't sure if she should let the group approach.

The fact that they're respecting her space instead of just barging in was swaying her impression of them.

After a brief period of silence, she sighed and nodded her head.

"My... Huband is inside. He needs help immediately." She bit her lip and gripped the edges of her shirt. She prayed that they knew her husband so that they could give him the help he needed.

Stepping through the door, the group was immediately assaulted by a deep pungent smell that even caused Allura to take a step back.

Closing her eyes for a moment, she opened them and stepped into the main room where they could see a 'man' sitting on the sofa.

". . . Nolan." Allura muttered after a moment of silence.

Stepping behind Allura, Alice was horrified by what she saw.

Sickly green flesh and scales could be seen rupturing from large pustules while gills flapped on his neck. Sharp teeth dug through his skin and the edges of his human flesh looked as though it was rotting away.

Half of his face had been melted with some of his bones being exposed.

Large fish eyes could be seen around the infected flesh as Nolan turned his head slightly and caught sight of Allura.

"Ah... How... Many years... Has it been?" He muttered.

"Far too many old friend. I... Don't know how I can help you." Allura sighed as she kneeled down in front of him.

Even without hearing what had happened, Allura could guess as this was a sign of consuming a large amount of Abyss Blood within a short period of time. All of the side effects had fought to manifest themselves, resulting in this mass of flesh that was growing out of Nolan's body.

"I... Know my condition well. A pitiful end." Nolan sighed, mustering as much strength as he could.

"I have... Some blood that can ease the pain. But it will not change your condition." Allura hesitated since she didn't expect to see him in this state.

"Yes please... Even talking... Is difficult right now." Nolan nodded.

Reaching into her jacket, Allura rummaged around for a bit before pulling out a small vial of blue blood.

Opening the vial, she poured the liquid into his mouth.

"Fu... Thank you." Nolan smiled.

There was no discernible change in his disposition but he seemed to have regained some strength.

Sitting up slightly, he looked at Allura.

"So... I don't suppose you've come to this remote place just to say hi."

"No. I had planned to come here to ask you for a boat but... I suppose that is impossible now. Can you tell me what happened?" Allura asked with a sigh.

"Just annoying the wrong people at the wrong time. Some rogue Hunters wanted my boats and well, I was in the way so they left me in this state." Nolan smiled bitterly.

"Would you like me to hunt them down?" Allura asked. There wasn't much else she could do for him other than to ease his suffering for a bit.

"If it is no problem for you. Though they might be pretty far away now."

"Don't worry. I'll make sure they suffer worse than what they did to you." Allura promised.

"Thank you..."

Standing up, she sighed softly before leading everyone else out of the room.

"Can my husband be healed?" The old woman asked as Allura shook her head.

"I'm sorry. But if it gets too painful for him use this. It'll ease him into a deep slumber where he can pass on peacefully with no pain." Allura pulled out a small vial of blood for the woman who broke down crying.

Stepping away from the house, Allura took a deep breath.

"We're going to hunt some b\*stards first before we leave."

Chapter 123 - 123: Allura's Anger

Looking at Allura from behind, Alice could tell that there was a deep anger simmering beneath the surface.

'The rogue Hunters didn't even finish him off but instead left him in this state...' Alice thought to herself while glancing back at the house.

To her, this was her worst nightmare. She didn't know if her resistance to the Abyss would disappear one day and this would become her fate.

She had long lost count of her fear when being injected with Abyss Blood, the fear when watching her own body mutate and change before her very eyes.

Shaking her head, she glanced at Ria who had a bitter expression on her face. She didn't know what to say either as she didn't expect to see such a sight.

As for Gin, he was calm since he had no ties to the man but expressed his annoyance towards the rogue Hunters.

"Nolan said they came for his boat. They should still be down this channel. From the looks of things, they attacked pretty recently too so we should be able to catch up without too much issue." Allura said as she pulled out a cigarette.

Taking a deep breath, she sighed out before glancing back.

"I'll leave a few of the weak ones to you two. I'll deal with the rest of them myself."

Hearing this, Alice and Ria nodded as they weren't going to stop Allura from venting her anger.

Tapping the ground with his fingers, several skeletal birds appeared from the ground as they took flight.

"I'll see if I can track them down." Gin muttered as Allura nodded her head before leaning against a wooden pillar. She had her eyes closed and didn't say another word.

'I suppose this kind of cruelty is not unique to the Zenia family... It was like that back at the Slaughter Docks and the same here.' Alice thought to herself.

With no one being able to ignore the side effects of the Abyss except for her, there is always a guillotine above the heads of every one who drinks the cursed blood. Someone could sneak a large dosage into your drink or food without you knowing, stab you with a needles like what happened to her during her birthday celebration...

The threat of the Abyss is something that no one can deny.

'Can I evolve my fire to the point it can heal people? Since I'm the only known person that is unaffected... Can I extend my protection using Sigils?'

If this was possible, she could stop incidents like this from happening in the future.

She was not oblivious to the cruelty that the Zenia family shows to others, not just to herself. Their legacy of blood was built upon a mountain of corpses of people who died a horrid death. She was just the one lucky enough to survive due to her body.

'Allura." Alice called out suddenly as Allura glanced up.

"Mnm?"

"Do you think I can... stop side effects from happening using my fire? You know how it can burn away Sigil powers and stop them from using their abilities? If I can find more Sigils that'll manifest the potential of my blood, would it be possible to 'burn' away the side effects?" Alice asked as Allura was silent.

She hadn't thought of this before but now that Alice had mentioned it, there was indeed the possibility. But it was uncertain as Alice's condition was something not even her master could explain.

"It's possible. But how would we even find beasts that'll give you the Sigils you need? Considering the nature of your last hunt, the Blood Maiden was a special beast created by the Cult's experiments. I doubt you can run into a beast like that anytime soon." Allura shrugged.

"True..." Alice sighed, it was not going to be as easy as she thought. Not only that, but if she was to take a healing ability for others as one of her Sigils then her own fighting power would be decreased as a result.

"Well don't be discouraged. I'm sure something will pop up for you." Allura reassured since she has Cayla helping her. If it was anyone else, Allura would say it's impossible.

But with Cayla curating Alice's bounties and helping her find the right target, it was simply a matter of time for her to find the target she needs.

"Found them. They're just on the outskirts of the Slaughter Docks and seemingly sailing out to sea. It's a rather sizable group so they might've recruited a few people from the Slaughter Docks. I don't see anyone too strong but there are probably a few that'll be too much for these two to handle." Gin said as she glanced towards Alice and Ria.

"That's fine. I'll take care of the majority. Just make sure Alice and Ria don't get hurt." Allura nodded as she stood up and made her way over to Alice and Ria.

"I don't suppose you want me to carry you there as well now do you?" Allura asked with a smirk, lightening the mood.

"I'll pass. You already have your hands full and I'd rather not be seen being carried by someone else." Gin coughed as it would be an embarrassment for him if he let that happen.

"Lead the way then."

Nodding his head, Gin wrapped himself with dark energy before soaring into the sky with Allura following closely behind.

Flying across the sky, Alice could barely keep her eyes open with how fast they were going. And in the blink of an eye, they were now hovering above a boat that was sailing in the middle of the Abyss Waters.

"Careful not to drop into the water. Keep away from the edges and feel free to knock them in if you have to." Allura warned as she dived down headfirst.

Landing on the boat, she took a deep breath and scanned the deck with several Hunters looking at her in confusion followed by wariness.

"What the hell do you think you're doing!? Who the hell are you?!" One of the Hunters shouted with a frown.

"This is a nice boat you got there. Care to tell me how you got your hands on it?" Allura asked with a smile as she could already tell that these were the people who stole Nolan's ship. After all, his signature emblem hadn't been removed yet and it was clear to see.

"This is Harvester's business. If you have an issue, you can take it up with my boss, we're simply Harvesters doing what we're told." One of the Harvesters replied as he had a bad feeling about this woman. There was something about her that warned him not to annoy her.

After all his years as a Harvester, there were people who seemed reasonable but wouldn't mind killing you in a heartbeat.

"Harvester business you say? Very well. You seem like a reasonable man, can you answer me one simple question?" Allura smiled.

There were a few Hunters who were aiming their abilities towards Allura but hadn't made a move yet.

"Who was there when you acquired this ship from a man called Nolan?" She asked simply while trying her best to control herself.

She knew that some of these people were recruited from the Slaughter Docks so there were no need to kill them all.



Furrowing his brows for a moment, the man felt conflicted. On one hand, it was his employer who was paying an exorbitant amount of money for this trip and to protect the ship. Yet on the other was a group of four, three were hovering in the air and this woman was giving him the chills.

Taking a deep breath, he sighed and raised his hand.

"I wasn't there when it happened. I was recruited from the Slaughter Docks for a high price. If you have an issue with my boss then it's no business of mine. You can talk with him." He shook his head and stood to the side.

"Galagar?! It's just one woman! Are you crazy?" One of his friends shouted as Galagar glanced over.

"Most of the people here were hired from the Slaughter Docks except for the Hunters and the boss. They already had the boat when they hired us." Galagar explained as he leaned against the railings.

"I see... Thank you. You're a smart one." Allura praised with a smile as she gestured for Gin to come down with Alice and Ria.

"Well if there are any issues with this boat, the employer failed to mention it so it's none of my business. Please, do as you wish." Galagar gestured for Allura to do whatever she wanted.

As Alice landed on the deck, she noticed that most of the Hunters here had 4 Sigils with a few having only three.

"Seems like we'll be rather diplomatic with this one. No need to fight unless they make the first move." Allura chuckled as she made her way to the captain's quarters.

Just when some of the Hunters were about to stop Allura, a single glance was enough to send chills down their spine.

The fear that rooted them to the spot reminded them of their first Hunt when faced against a beast that could kill them with a single swipe.

It was at this moment they realised that this woman was dangerous!

Opening the door, Allura ducked down slightly as she was too tall for the door frame and stepped inside. She could see three people standing around the desk who simultaneously turned to her in confusion.

"Who the hell are you?" The captain asked with a frown as he was wondering why it was rowdy outside.

"Just a passerby. Say, you wouldn't happen to know what happened to an old man called Nolan would you?" Allura asked as she grabbed one of their chairs and sat down.

"You see, I couldn't help but notice you have one of his boats. In fact, I might even go as far as to say this is probably his last boat. Now, how do you think I felt seeing dear old Nolan about to die because someone fed him a bunch of Abyss Blood and left him to die?" Allura asked as the Captain understood that she was hostile.

Without hesitation, he activated his Sigil and a metallic stinger erupted from his body, piercing towards her.

\*BANG! CRACK!!

Flicking the stinger with her finger, Allura shattered it with ease as she narrowed her eyes.

At that moment, all three felt a heavy weight crushing against their body as their legs gave out, causing them to collapse on the floor.

"Now, how do you think I should take revenge?"

Chapter 124 - 124: Allura's Anger Part 2

"Now, how do you think I should take revenge?" Allura asked as she knelt down in front of her captain.

Grabbing him by his hair, she lifted him up and stared at him.

"Well? How should I deal with the b\*stard that turned my old friend into a half beast half human mess? Well?" Allura asked once more.

She was no longer smiling and her tone was cold.

Unable to utter a word, the Captain felt as though a terrifying beast was baring its fangs at him, leaving him unable to react in fear of making the beast bite down, killing him in an instant.

Sighing out softly, she stood up while keeping her grip on his hair.

"Are you two involved as well?" Allura asked, narrowing her eyes towards the other two that was in the room.

Turning pale, they both shook their heads in a panic knowing that if they were, they would be the target of this woman's anger.

"Well no matter. There are ways to verify the truth."

Grabbing the other two by their collars, Allura threw the three of them outside before looking over to Galar.

"Were all three involved in taking this boat or just the Captain?" Allura asked as Galagar furrowed his brows as two sets of panicked gazes focused on him.

"All three were there already. I'm not sure if they were involved or not. I just know me and my group of Harvesters were hired when they docked in Slaughter Docks." Galagar shrugged.

He couldn't help but feel relieved knowing he chose to let this woman do whatever she wanted to do. The fact that she had the power to drag all three out with ease was more than enough proof to tell him that the most dangerous person on this boat right now was her!

"I see... And you're saying the three of them are already on the boat by the time they've docked at the Slaughter Docks yes?" Allura smiled as Galagar nodded his head.

"Perfect. Seems like all three of you are responsible. Gin, can I trouble you to get me a barrel of the Abyss Water?" Allura asked as Gin nodded his head.

Despite how Allura was normally, she could either be the kindest person you ever met or the cruelest. Subjecting Nolan to a fate worse than death was the last thing they should've done.

Grabbing a barrel from the ship, Gin filled it almost all the way with Abyss Water and placed it next to Allura.

"Thank you. Now then, onto the main show. Since you're the main culprit, let's see how you like the feeling of having your body turned inside out and mutated before your very eyes." Allura narrowed her eyes as she grabbed him by the head and plunged it into the barrel, forcing him to drink the Abyss Water.

Most of the crew turned their head away as his muffled screams mixed with gurgles rang out.

Allura continued to plunge his head into the barrel before pulling it up so he could breathe.

With each push, teeth would fall out as his skin started to bubble. Blood boiled in his throat as spikes, stingers and tentacles started to push through the gaps of his skin. The Sigils around his body started to manifest themselves before fading away as he was losing to the influence of the Abyss.

Just like Nolan, his skin started to melt away, revealing the bones beneath his flesh as even Alice flinched at the way the Captain was squirming while Allura continued to torture him.

It wasn't until Gin grabbed hold of Allura's wrist did she stop.

Panting heavily, she glared at Gin who shook his head.

"He's already dead. Calm yourself." Gin reminded as Allura paused before nodding her head.

Taking a deep breath, she sighed out before glancing at the rest of the crew who were responsible for Nolan's condition.

"Just throw them overboard. If they're lucky they'll live. Give them one lifeboat to fight over." Allura ordered, before tossing the Captain's mangled corpse over the edge and making her way to the quarterdeck.

With Gin taking control and having Galagar identify the Harvesters, the Hunters tried to fight back but Gin was able to take care of them easily.

Meanwhile, Alice ran after Allura.

Arriving at the quarterdeck, Alice could see Allura sitting on the edge while glancing out to sea.

"A-are you okay?" Alice asked hesitantly.

"Yeah. Sorry you had to see that. Care to take a seat?" Allura smiled as she patted the space next to her.

Nodding her head, Alice jogged over before sitting down.

"You see... There are very few things I hate in this world. By hate, I don't mean dislike. I mean something that brings out the anger from within me. First, are the orchestrators of the war that tore down Ayr. Second, are people who force others to mutate through side effects, making them live a life worse than death." Allura sighed as Alice nodded her head.

She too hated to see people suffering from the side effects as it always reminded her of her own nightmares. The thought of how much Abyss Blood had been injected into her body over and over again. If all of the side effects were to break out, what kind of monstrosity would she become?

"I suppose it's rather hypocritical considering I used the very method I despised to take revenge against the Captain." Allura chuckled as she sighed out.

"I think he deserved it if he made someone else go through that pain. Even though it's been a long time... I can still remember the pain I felt when I wasn't used to the side effects." Alice muttered.

From feeling the pain of her skin peeling off to her insides tearing through her body, she had felt it all and the sensations were as clear as day in her mind.

"You know... When you told me you wanted to see if your fire could remove the side effects, I was quite happy. I had thought that with what you had to go through and your experiences up till now, you would hold a deep grudge against people. And yet you still have the heart to care for those that are suffering. Remember that feeling and never forget it okay?"

It's what separates you from beasts in human skin." Allura smiled as she reached out and had Alice lean against her to relax.

"Beasts in human skin?"

"It's just a figure of speech. It basically describes people who act like beasts and don't care for others." Allura explained herself with a soft chuckle.

"I see... So not literally." Alice muttered.

Hearing this, Allura couldn't help but smile as she patted Alice's head. Despite her being the guardian, she found herself being helped by Alice in more ways than one.

"Well then, now I'm feeling a little calmer we can probably ask Galagar about his contract with the Captain. Since he was hired, he was most likely informed on what they were doing. We might be able to get some information this way." Allura smiled, feeling refreshed after talking with Alice.

Nodding her head, Alice turned around and hopped off the railings as she noticed Gin and Ria waiting by the stairs.

"Did you finish your family talk?" Gin smiled as Allura chuckled.

"Yes, yes we did. Do you think we'll be able to enlist the Harvesters help?" Allura asked but Gin shook his head.

"I doubt it. The risks in this is simply too high to justify their services. We may be able to get away but they would struggle, bringing them along would only lead them to their deaths and they know this too. Galagar has agreed to share as much as he knows but other than that, they plan on heading back with some of the lifeboats."

"I see... Well that's fine. The plan was to have Alice and Ria fight it as a duo anyways." Allura nodded as she made her way down.

Seeing that most of the Hunters had been tossed overboard with only the Harvesters left, Allura approached Galagar.

"So then, what do you have for me?" She asked with a smile.

"We know the target for this hunt is the Storm Leviathan. The priority placed on this hunt is the highest I can be, they're offering the whole corpse so long as we can get the employee his Sigil." Galagar explained as he pulled out a sheet of paper from his pocket.

Giving it a quick read, Allura nodded her head.

"I can see what you mean. High risk high reward, if you failed then that would be quite the debt for you to pay off."

"Considering the beast is as weak as can be right now, there's no better chance. But oh well, we're giving up this job since we'd rather not get caught in the fight when you clash with them." Galagar laughed as he scratched the tip of his nose.

"Indeed. Won't be able to guarantee that you'll make it out alive if you decide to join us for the next part. So do you know about the ones who employed you?"

"Yes. They're the Mariya Family, their second son is going after his fifth Sigil and chose the Storm Leviathan as his target. They've already dragged the beast away from its last known location, it should be in the far north now. If you hurry, you should be able to make it there on time." Galagar explained.

"Do you know what kind of guards they have with them?" Allura asked as this was the most important question. Depending on who was at the scene, it may prove difficult for Alice and Ria to fight the beast without their interference.

"Unfortunately no. We're just the reinforcement as the hunt isn't going as they planned. Which is why the Law of Agreement we signed was relatively loose when it came to restrictions. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to take a step back when you wanted to see the boss. But I can assume there are a few high level Sigil bearers standing guard.

They probably can't do much to help with the hunt in fear of messing things up."

Hearing this, Allura was silent before nodding her head.

"Alright, thank you. Take as many lifeboats as you need to get back to the docks. There should be enough for your crew if you squeeze a little."

Bidding farewell to Galagar and his group, Allura had Gin take the helm and steer the boat towards their goal.

Chapter 125 - 125: Malicus

With Gin steering the boat, Allura helped clean up the surface of the boat before gesturing for Ria and Alice to gather around her.

"Now that we're approaching the hunting zone, I want to take this time to give you a brief lesson." Allura smiled while sitting against the railings.



"What kind of lesson?" Ria asked, curious as to what else she needed to know.

"Lesson on picking Sigils. You see, even though Lightning Ascent is one of the best Sigils you can get, if there is another that synergises with your skills sets more you can go for that one instead, you don't have to pick Lightning Ascent." Allura explained as she pulled out a poster from her jacket.

The poster depicted a young man wearing a suit of armour, wild short hair and a grin on his face. The key detail regarding him was the black and white lightning that coursed around him while manifesting as a spear in his hands.

"Malicus, genius of the Neliphem family. He's what you would call a pioneer as he went against the standard methods for choosing your Sigils that synergised well with one another. The result of which allowed him to control a new kind of ability yet he is technically limited to just 'one' Sigil now." Allura explained as she pulled out an old newspaper extract showing his wounded body.

Placing it on the table, she revealed his back that was covered by one large Sigil that stretched across his body.

"As you know, the Abyss's powers manifest in the form of Sigils across your body. Depending on what kind of ability it grants, the placement of the Sigil may change though that is merely speculation. There are hundreds of theories on why the Sigils appear on certain parts of the body and unfortunately, I don't have the answers to that.

All I know is that what he has is not just your average Sigil that combined thanks to resonance." Allura shook her head.

"The most likely scenario is that he chose Sigils that overlapped one another in terms of power and gained what he has today. Without meeting him and fighting him directly, I have no way of knowing." She shrugged as Malicus deserved the title of Genius since he discovered a secret of the Sigils that no one else in history had discovered.

"So if you find something else that fits you better, trust in your guts." Allura smiled as she was also directed to Alice.

The fact that her choice had allowed her to discover a new kind of power that could go against the Abyss was proof that they should trust in their instincts. After all, this was their life, their choices and Allura wanted them to live without regrets.

"I see... I mean what else can it give me?" Ria asked as from the way Allura worded it before, Lightning Ascent is the best it could offer.

"Well other than Lightning Ascent, the Leviathan can give you Sigils that boost lightning effectiveness as well as making your target extra weak to lightning. All things considered, you should look over all the choices and pick the one that resonates with you the most."

She was mainly warning them regarding the possibility of strange Sigils such as the one that Alice got. With how the Abyss was changing after Kaden implanted the Eye in Alice, she couldn't reject the notion that the Sigil would start the change as well.

The established structure of the Abyss was beginning to change as though welcoming the dawn of a new era.

"While we're waiting to arrive at the battle, Ria you should take this time to practise some archery while Alice can do the same since you'll be using the bow to kickstart your contribution to the hunt. The faster you can rack up your contribution the better since we'll be at a disadvantage the longer we stay." Allura chuckled as she had found some bows left behind by the Hunters.

Creating some fire with her Sigil, Allura had them float around the boat at high speeds while Ria tried to land her shots.

Alice was joining in as she felt rather relaxed with the bow.

Maybe it was instinct, but whenever she held a weapon, it felt natural for her. Almost as though she knew exactly how she should use it to take the life of another.

Aiming it up at the fire, she pulled back on the string and released the arrow. Piercing through two of the fireballs, Alice picked up another arrow and repeated the process.

Even when Allura adjusted the speed, she was able to hit them with relatively high accuracy.

Meanwhile, Ria was struggling once the speed increased. All of her arrows missed as she scratched her hair in frustration.

She didn't want to lose against Alice but she didn't know how Alice was so accurate with her weapons despite only using her dagger most of the time.

"How are you so good? It's the same when you used the threads, it's like you've been using them for years." Ria sighed as she picked up an arrow and tried again, barely missing the fireballs.

"Erm... It just kind of happens. Once I get into the flow of things, my body just kind of moves by itself." Alice explained as she wasn't sure either.

Creating a dagger, she swung it around her body for a short while before flicking it towards the fireballs, piercing two of them while piercing a third on the way back.

"It's like... If you see a road and you're driving the carriage. You see a turn to the right so you turn right, you see a turn to the left and you turn left. I just have to go through with the motions in my mind." Alice explained as best as she could.

Everything she did with a weapon was focused on taking the life of her opponent. She didn't know how she became like this but after arriving in the Abyss, this mindset had shown itself more than once.

The bloodthirst she feels when she fights, the sadistic pleasure and the maniacal grin on her face as she feels the life of her opponents disappear within her hands, it was strange. Scary even.

Almost as though she was taking a backseat while something else entirely took over and fought the battles she fought.

"Some people are just suited with weapons while others are better with their bodies. Isn't that why you chose to become a physical fighter Ria?" Allura chimed in as Ria nodded her head.

Just like Alice, she felt at ease when fighting in hand to hand combat.

'Perhaps Alice sees the world like I do when I fight with my arms and legs...' Ria thought to herself. However, for her, it was a mixture of instinct and muscle memory. She had lost count of how many times she had sparred with her grandfather and Allura, each battle served to hone her instincts and improve her chances of survival.

"You also have to take into account how you approach battle. Ria, you react fast to changes while Alice observes. Try to observe the fireballs, learn their movement pattern and predict their movement." Allura explained.

However, there was another reason that Alice was able to reach this level of precision and that was due to Cayla. Even if she was to fight in close quarters combat, the fact that Cayla can boost her perception to the point the worlds seems to move slowly is a huge boon to her that'll only grow as she continues to get stronger.

"Hmm... alright!" Nodding her head, Ria took a deep breath and focused up.

Narrowing her eyes at the fireball, she pulled back her arrow and held it there. Observing the movement, she didn't move a single muscle and spent the next moments watching without a word.

"Remember how they moved before. Look for a pattern. See how they try shake off your aim and the reasoning behind their dodges." Alice's voice rang out as Ria let go of her arrow.

Watching it fly through the air, it pierced two of the fireballs dead centre.

"Yes! Gotcha b\*tch!" Ria shouted out in joy as she turned to Alice and raised her hands expecting a high five back.

Remembering this motion, Alice smiled and high fived Ria.

"Congrats." Allura smiled, feeling happy that they were helping each other out.

'This is how it should be.'

"Once you get a hang of this level, we'll be moving to harder levels where the fire moves faster and becomes more erratic okay?" She called out while enjoying the breeze.

Despite the fact that they were sailing above the Abyss Waters, Allura felt at peace.

"We'll be sailing for about a day before we catch up. They'll be moving slower to drag the Leviathan away into what I can assume to be a trap that'll make it easier for them to kill the beast. I've sent a bird ahead of us and its already found some shipwrecks, they're running out of boats." Gin called out as Allura nodded her head.

"That's probably why they were in a rush to get their hands on as many boats as they could. It'll be good news for us if they're almost gone by the time we're there. I'd appreciate it as well if the Leviathan wiped them out so these two won't have to worry about the others fighting them for the kill."

###

Standing on a large warship with a frown, a man with long black hair and a pair of purple eyes watched in silence. He wore fancy suit and tie and tapped his fingers away at the railing.

"How much longer will this take? We've been out at sea for 3 days now and this beast still isn't close to death. How many Hunters have we lost already?" He asked while glancing back at his attendant.

"I'm sorry young master, but if we go any faster there is an inherent risk that you will not be guaranteed a Sigil. Even if this Storm Leviathan has lost most of its powers trying to reforge its body so it can reach the next stage, it is still not an easy beast to weaken." The attendant reported as the man sighed and nodded his head.

"The reinforcements should arrive soon, once they arrive we'll be able to bring this hunt to a close young master."

"Alright. I can't stand it any longer out here so they better make it quick."

He was Haerun Mariya, second son of the Mariya family and the one who was contending against Ria for the Sigil of the Storm Leviathan.

#### Chapter 126 - 126: Infiltrating The Fleet

As Gin was steering the boat, he narrowed his eyes before gesturing towards Allura.

In the distance, they could see dark storm clouds with occasional flashes of lightning. They had already steered past several wreckages on their way here with monsters floating around the debris, those of which they assumed to be the survivors that unfortunately fell into the waters.

"Alright! Ria, Alice! Get ready. We'll be approaching them soon and I doubt they'll be happy to see us there." Allura called out as Alice and Ria made their way out of the sleeping quarters. Since the journey was going to take a while, after their training they took the time to rest up so they could be at peak condition.

Ria had already equipped the gauntlets and boots while holding the bow and a quiver on her back.

As for Alice, she was holding onto the shard in her pouch, waiting for the time she needed to use it. Her role for the main part would be to steer the ship and make sure Ria has ground that she could step on.

"Remember, if the ship takes damage and is going to sink don't hesitate to try to take another ship. We won't interfere at all until I deem you dead, okay?" Allura reminded since this was going to be a good lesson for them. If they find it easier than expected then they can continue to 'steal' kills in the future.

"Alright. I suppose I have to shoot them at max range?" Ria asked but Allura shook her head.

"If you think you can hit then go for it. If not then don't waste your arrows. We only have a limited stock and they're what can help you rack up contribution points quickly. When you start the fight, expect heavy resistance. I doubt they'll speed up their rate of killing the beast since they need to make sure the second son gets the Sigil.

Use that to your advantage." Allura smiled as she nodded to Gin and the two of them disappeared, leaving them to deal it with on their own now.

Taking a deep breath, Alice sighed out before running over to the helm.

"So, what do you think our plan should be? We're not sure how close the beast is to dying so making ourselves known too early might be bad." Ria sighed as Alice was silent before opening her mouth.

"Allura said that they won't speed up their rate of killing and that we should use that to our advantage. What do you think she has in mind?"

"No clue. But going by how she usually does things, she probably wants us to find a way to contribute overtime and stall right? The only way I can think of doing this is infiltrate but we'll need to convince them we're reinforcement." Ria sighed.

"What if you use the Law of Agreement? Make them think we got into an accident but because of the Law of Agreement, we have no choice but to keep going even though it's just the two of us. I'm not sure how far reaching the Law is so not sure if it'll wear off after death." Alice shrugged.

Thinking about it for a moment, Ria understood that it was probably their best choice.

"Alright, I'll think of something on my end. Plus, I doubt they expect a three star and two star Hunter to try steal the kill from under their nose." Ria smirked as Alice nodded her head.

"But if it goes wrong we'll have to fight straight away." Alice reminded since this plan had its own risks.

If they decide to interfere later, it'll be difficult to rack up enough contributions and leave it up for a gamble. But if they go with this method and they don't buy the lies, they'll be wiped out immediately.

"True... Even though grandfather and Allura have us covered, they won't be around when we go on our own after this. We need to start properly accounting for the risks we take." Ria sighed as she leaned against the railings.

After contemplating for a moment, she decided to stay with this plan as it was their best hope of avoiding conflict while racking up contributions safely. They'll only need to act out once the beast is almost dead and push the contributions in their favour.

"Let me get some normal arrows as well. Thankfully the Thunder Caller Arrows don't look too different and if they're in a pickle, I doubt they'll look too closely." Ria shrugged as Alice nodded her head and started to steer the boat closer to the storm that was brewing in the distance.

###

"Young Master, we have a slight problem..."

"Hm? What is it?" Haerun asked with a frown.

"We have a ship steering towards us. We assume it's more reinforcements but..." The attendant hesitated since he wasn't sure on the origins of this ship.

"But what? Spit it out. If it's reinforcements then good, we've lost enough men as it is with one of the ships even breaking apart the moment it arrived." Haerun scoffed as his patience was running thin. The fact that this hunt had taken this long was a disgrace, especially with a beast that was at its weakest.

Even now, he was still firing off his abilities whenever he had the chance to keep his contributions high. If he didn't then he wouldn't be able to get this Sigil.

"That's the issue Young Master... There are only two people on that ship and they look relatively young." The attendant scratched his cheek in confusion as this was rather absurd. Even if they were running low on Hunters, this kind of reinforcement was almost laughable.

"Ha??? Two? Have one of our Captains ask them what happened. If they're curious people send them away. If they're reinforcements have them help out. The faster we finish this hunt the better.

I cannot stand it out here any longer." Haerun ordered as the attendant nodded his head and relayed the order to one of their Captains who is overlooking the situation.



###

With Alice and Ria approaching the storm, they could see the beast from a distance and Ria had a forced smile on her face. Even though she knew the risks, she didn't expect this beast to be much larger than normal and not only that, but an army of boats was also circling the beast while constantly firing long ranged abilities at it.

"Allura wanted us to fight that thing with just us two and some tools..." Ria muttered, feeling grateful that someone else had decided to invest in this hunt.

Noticing someone approaching them from the fleet on a lifeboat, Ria gestured to Alice and nodded her head.

Whether or not they could infiltrate this hunt now depended on Ria. If she fails to convince them then it'll be a difficult battle.

Taking a deep breath, Ria prepared herself.

'I need to mix lies with the truth if I want the best chance at convincing them. I know that the Captain sought reinforcements from the Slaughter Docks and had them sign Law of Agreements but it was shoddy.

He probably set the conditions for fulfilment wrong otherwise Galagar and the others would be forced to fulfil their end of the bargain.' Ria thought to herself as Law of Agreements, when done properly, can extend past death of the original contractor.

If the Captain set the rules properly and fulfilled his end of the bargain, Galagar would've been forced to help out.

'Since the Law of Agreement was broken and Galagar could leave, I'll use it to my advantage. The boat could be attacked by a swarm of Sirens, an uncommon beast but not impossible. There are some damages to the boat but not much...' Ria thought to herself as she watched a man jump over the railings and land on the deck.

He was a muscular man that was almost as tall as Allura, large tattoos were sprawled across his body in the shape of a dragon. A pair of crimson eyes with white and blue hair. He didn't wear anything on his upper half except for a pair of gauntlets.

"Name and business." He grumbled as his eyes scanned over Ria's equipment before looking at Alice who gave a small wave.

"Ria, we're here as reinforcement for the hunt. Unfortunately, we ran into some trouble on the way here and only me and Alice remain. But... because of the Law of Agreement, we can't turn back so we're here to help." Ria reported seriously as she stood straight like a soldier.

Narrowing his eyes, he grumbled but nodded his head.

"What were you attacked by? There's not much damage on this ship so it's probably a beast that does mental damage."

"A swarm of Sirens sir, a kind we haven't seen before. Me and Alice are lucky since we were off shift at the time. We only have some of the basic equipment left over in the storage to try and help." Ria replied, not wanting to give too much information or else it'll expose the lies. She had to play into his own thoughts and conclusions that he ended up at to increase the chances of their success.

"Alright, that lass doesn't seem too familiar with handling the helm so I'll take over this ship. I'll have some recruits join us to man the ship while you help with the hunt. How many Sigils do you two have?" He asked as Ria manifested her Sigils, revealing that she had three while gesturing for Alice to do the same.

"Three and two huh? No wonder you got lucky when you're off shift. If Carlos got taken by the Sirens then you two would've been taken too if you were above deck. Count you blessings, this hunt is almost over so it's relatively safe if you have someone capable at the helm." He smirked before walking over to Alice.

Taking a step back, Alice allowed him to take control of the ship before jogging down to Ria.

Smiling at each other, they knew that they had succeeded and all that was left now was to join this hunt and rack up her contribution points.

#### Chapter 127 - 127: Joining The Hunt

With the ship now sailing towards the fleet, Alice and Ria began to feel nervous as they were now deep into enemy territory.

Expose themselves too soon and 'death' was guaranteed.

They could see that out of the original fleet, only 8 of the ships survived not including their own. Countless wounded Hunters could be seen leaning against the walls while they took turns to fire their abilities at the beast.

'Most of them are four star Hunters. Even if they're injured, they have access to Resonance that me and Ria don't have. Though the main issue was still the five star Hunters that surround us...' Alice thought to herself as she observed their surroundings.

Shaking her head, Alice sighed as it was still too early to be thinking about fighting these Hunters and Harvesters. The key they needed to do here was to rack up contribution points against the beast that is the Storm Leviathan.

Compared to its proud deposition that she saw in her mind, this beast was bruised and battered to the verge of death.

Large cavities could be seen across its body with blood and Abyss Water mixing with one another. Its organs pulsed with every breath while lightning flickered faintly across its innards.

Countless spikes were broken across its body and it was left with just one arm out of the original four that it had. As for its eyes, it had been almost blinded with only 1 eye left and swung wildly around it.

Despite all of the damage it took, the power it commanded was still a force to be reckoned as even a single swing was enough to kill a Hunter with three Sigils. Had it not been for the fact that it lost access to most of its lightning in an attempt to evolve, it wouldn't be placed in this precarious state.

As they approached the fleet, the Hunter had Alice steer the helm once more as he explained the situation and gathered some resting Hunters to help man the ship so that they could attack.

Most of the other ships were armoured to the core while heavy ballistas and cannons were mounted within the ship. Despite the fact that standard weaponry was less effective against a beast of this magnitude, a little was still better than none.

Glancing at one another, Alice and Ria nodded their head as Alice borrowed some weaponry from another ship, mainly a bow and some arrows so that she could help out without using the shard.

The bow was of a lesser quality when compared to Ria's bow and the same went with the arrows. However, they were sufficient to keep up the act.

"All hands on deck! Prepare to join the fight! Man the balistas or the cannons below deck! If you have weapons of your own use them! This fight is almost over!!! Rest is just around the corner!

Keep pushing!" The man who greeted Alice and Ria shouted out.

His name was Fulton and he was one of the few five star Hunters responsible for overlooking this whole operation.

With him taking charge, a few of the Hunters seemed relieved but the fact that so many ships had already been sunk proved that even a ship commanded by a five star hunter could disappear at a moment's notice.

"Remember, learn its pattern and movement before firing at its weak spots. Seems like you might be able to sneak an arrow into its body through the cavity if you're precise enough." Alice reminded as Ria still missed shots but her accuracy had been improved drastically.

"Don't worry, I know. I have to be careful with these arrows right? I just have to overcharge them with lightning when I fire and it'll sort itself out." Ria reassured with a smile.

She liked to play around but even she knew this was a time to be serious.

Walking over to the edge, Ria narrowed her eyes and pulled out a normal arrow.

It was best to mislead their expectations first, once they 'think' that she was limited by what she could accomplish with her Sigils, that's when she'll unleash her true power with them being taken off guard.

Activating her Sigils, lightning flickered from her body as she fired the arrow without hesitation.

**\*BANG!!!**

Rushing through the air with a trail of lightning flickering behind it, the arrow stabbed deep into the flesh of the beast before erupting with a pulse of electricity that burned the Leviathan's flesh.

'I'll fool them with these attacks for now while placing the Thunder Caller Arrows within the beast's body. I can have remote nodes placed on the arrow tip and detonate them when I need.' Ria thought to herself as she fired off a few more normal arrows before placing a Thunder Caller Arrow on her bow.

Since they required a large stimuli of lightning to activate, it was potentially possible to have them lay as traps since she had control over her nodes. All that was left was to make sure she could sneak it past their detection.

Charging the arrow with lightning as she had done several times, Ria let go of the string and watched as the arrow shoot through the sky.

Taking a step back and taking a deep breath, Ria 'took a break' as she couldn't keep firing off high powered shots otherwise they would wonder if she was truly an average Hunter or Harvester.

With her initial display, she had already attracted a bit of attention towards their ship.

"Grab tight! The beast's focus is on us!" Fulton shouted out as he took a hard right with the helm and barely dodged a tentacle that rose up and tried to slam down on the ship.

Surprised by how easy it was for the ship to turn, Fulton couldn't help but wonder where they found such a ship as well as a Hunter like Ria.

'I didn't think the Slaughter Docks had a Hunter and a ship of this quality... It's a shame most of the crew got dragged off but seems like we're blessed to get her help. This Hunt should be going slightly faster than before.' Fulton thought with a grin as he conjured a wall of crimson energy that protected them from the Leviathan's attack.

Since he and the other five star Hunters couldn't assist much, defending and helping out with the ship was still doable as it didn't raise the contribution points by much.

Glancing up at this wall of force, Alice narrowed her eyes as she took over Ria's job for now, firing several arrows but didn't infuse them with her purple flames.

After all, if she were to do that, there was a high chance that the fire would just spread across the inside of the beast and kill it from the inside out. That was something she wasn't willing to risk as she didn't have total control over her flames.

Instead, she focused on shooting her arrows where it hurt. Between the dips, deep in the intestines or lodging it above the stomach. She made sure her arrows struck the already exposed weaknesses.

'Even if I don't use my Sigils, I shouldn't get many questions my way since I'm doing quite a bit of damage.' Alice thought to herself as she noticed a wave of lightning crashing towards them.

"Everyone duck!" Fulton shouted as loud as he could, steering the ship away from the impact yet it still struck the ship.

After the wave of lightning, spikes shot out from the beast's body as Alice threw her dagger towards the mast and used it to pull herself from safety.

Attaching herself to the sail, she narrowed her eyes at the beast and fired several arrows in retaliation. A few of the unfortunate Hunters were struck by the spikes and were instantly shredded in half as the force of the spikes was not something they should underestimate.

Rejoining the fight, Ria gathered her lightning into a normal arrow and detonated it on the side of the beast, forcing it to crash down towards the right side, giving them some room to breathe as some of the Hunters tended to those who were still alive.

"Damn... Just one attack and a bunch of them died just like that." Ria muttered with a frown as she climbed up next to Alice.

"Yeah, it's starting to retaliate harder. The fact that it's turned its attention to us means your attacks have clearly annoyed it. Not sure how that translates into contribution b- wait..." Alice shrugged as she noticed something dark swimming below the surface of the Abyss Waters.

It was hard to notice had it not been for Cayla but she knew she saw several shadows moving in the water.

Widening her eyes, Alice understood what the Leviathan was planning as she watched as it reared its entire body back, dwarfing the fleet with its large size and let out an ear rupturing howl.

Tens of giant tentacles broke through the surface of the water and loomed over the ships like a guillotine, ready to strike down as Alice opened her mouth.

"IT'S GOING TO BREAK THE SHIPS I HALF!" Alice shouted out as Ria didn't hesitate to point her next arrow to the tentacle that was about to slam down upon them.

Gathering more lightning than before, she fired the arrow only to watch it get slapped aside by the tentacle with barely a mark!

"Alice!" Ria shouted out as she reached out to grabbed Alice's arm before jumping out of the way of the slam.

\*BANG!!!

Before the tentacle could break the ship in half, Fulton had managed to create a barrier that pushed the tentacle off to the side but was unable to stop the Abyss Water from washing the deck.

With the cursed liquid coming into contact with several Hunters, their bodies immediately started to react as they began to mutate into beasts of the Abyss.

Only 3 of the other ships managed to divert the tentacle in time as one of them belonged to the Young Master who had a face of anger towards the beast. With it taking out 5 ships at once, the finish line seemed to drift further and further away from his grasp.

Landing on the unsteady deck, Alice and Ria could see Fulton calling for them to deal with the Hunters that had turned into Abyss beasts first. Only after they were dealt with should they focus on the Leviathan.

However, with it abandoning its path to the next stage, the storm raged overhead as it intended to sink everyone with it before it died! The last desperate act of a beast on the verge of death.

#### Chapter 128 - 128: Abyss Hydra

"It's given up on surviving! Everyone! Deal with the mutated Hunters then deal with the beast!" Fulton shouted as he made his way towards the main ship where the young master was located.

Hearing this, Alice and Ria looked at one another before nodding their head.

Once they deal with these beasts, it'll be time for them to shine and steal the show.

On their ship, there were 3 mutated Hunters while 2 normal Hunters were barely able to fight.

Meanwhile, above them, lightning started to rumble with the beast now going all out and giving up its chance of evolving.

"I'll take two, you take one. Careful you don't get splashed by the water that's still on the deck." Ria suggested as she jumped back and fired an arrow at one of the beasts.



Nodding her head, Alice dashed towards the man on the right. Turning her bracelet into a sword, she narrowed her eyes and infused a small spark of fire in her blood. It was small enough so that even if it did try to go out of control, she could extinguish it without issue.

The man had turned into a beast with countless arms erupting from his back while his skin turned pure white. Several different faces emerged from his head as it tore his skin apart while his blade merged with his hand.

"H-HELP ME! ARGGG!" The man screamed as the blue energy pulsed through his body. What remains of his Sigil could be seen spreading across his body as spikes erupted from the ground.

Jumping to the side, Alice was able to see his movements clearly as he seemed to be more occupied with making the pain stop than trying to hurt her. The attacks were merely a side effect of him being unable to control his power and his instinct for self-preservation.

There was pity in Alice's eyes as she knew the pain well.

'I'll end it fast...' She thought to herself as she activated her first Sigil, boosting her speed twofold and closing the gap between them.

Four arms crashed down towards her as she twisted her body, cleaving up with her blade and slashing the arms.

Continuing her attack, Alice ducked down before slamming her elbow into his chest, causing him to stumble back.

"S-STAND BACK!!! DON'T KILL ME!" He screamed out in hysteria.

Four Sigils carved deep into his skin as the blue energy shifted to a deep purple with his flesh bubbling beneath the surface of his skin.

'Sh\*t! Resonance!' Alice widened her eyes.

She could see the Sigils that floated above his head beginning to link to one another with a briar thorns as she understood that this was an Anti Hunter type resonance. Not only that, but there were also cracks in the designs of his Sigils.

'Is it because he's turning into something not human? Or am I missing something here?' Alice thought to herself.

With the man activating his resonance, a wave of force pushed Alice back as the hands around his body started to get covered by dark purple scales.

"W-ait! No!!! T... This isn't my resonance!" The man panicked.

Erupting from his chest, a dark purple crystal emerged as he clawed away at his face.

Widening her eyes in horror, Alice watched as his skin tore apart, revealing a set of scales while his fingers merged together and slowly formed serpentine like heads.

The flesh around his body started to bubble and grow as his size started to grow.

Purple chains started to appear around his flesh as he grabbed them using his claws and tore them apart.

\*BANG!!!

Releasing a baleful aura that shocked the Hunters around them, Alice watched as the Sigils above his head fractured and disappeared before being replaced by something else entirely.

[Abyss Hydra (Juvenile) - ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆]

He now had several serpentine heads coiled around his torso and dark purple scales protecting his body. Two large claws helped him stand upright while his legs had fused together into a tail.

'He turned into an Abyss Beast?!' Widening her eyes, Alice felt goosebumps on her skin as the threat of danger rang out in her mind.

In a panic, she jumped to the side as the Hydra released a stream of dark liquid.

Rolling back onto her feet, Alice glanced back and saw the liquid splash onto the body of another Hunter, causing him to scream out in pain and slowly begin to mutate.

'It spat Abyss Water!'

Gritting her teeth, Alice knew that she had to take care of this beast quickly before they were surrounded by more beasts. The faster they deal with this, the faster Ria could resume her fight against the Storm Leviathan.

She could already tell that the fight was beginning for real as the sound of thunder strikes rang out across the seas with the beast focusing his attention on the stronger Hunters and leaving them be.

Taking a deep breath, Alice dodged another stream of water before turning her blade into a dagger. Twisting her body, she threw the dagger at the beast while running to the right. Controlling the dagger remotely using her blood, she swung herself around the beast before pulling the thread, causing the beast to roar out in pain.

But Alice wasn't done. There was a thin stream of her own blood travelling up the thread as she ignited it around the beast's neck, burning through the flesh and causing it to writhe around in pain.

The force of his pull dragged Alice off her foot as she could see the thread beginning to burn away from the repeated uses of her fire.

Even though the thread was powerful in deflecting elemental properties, it was still a material that was harvested from an Abyss beast. It was no wonder that the durability would run out quicker when using her flames.

Recalling the dagger, Alice pulled back with her arm and had her flames burn off the second of the thread that was around the beast's neck before reconnecting it to her dagger.

Jumping towards the beast, she bent her body back, avoiding a stream of water and stabbing the blade into the beast's tail.

Even though her thread had burnt the beast's neck, it was not enough to decapitate the monster.

Before she could get any closer, several heads snapped towards her, calming her mind, she turned her dagger into a blade and recalled it to her hand.

The moment she grabbed the blade, she cleaved up without hesitation, splitting the first head in half before ducking under the second.

Slashing down diagonally, she decapitates the third before stabbing it down the throat of the fourth.

Compared to the attacks of the Maiden of the Blood Moon, this was slow and easy to deal with. She could see the gaps in its flurry of attacks, how despite being a beast, there was still fear and panic in his eyes.

Somewhere deep down, the Hunter was still conscious within this beast.

Slashing her own forearm with the blade, Alice coated it in a layer of violet flames before rushing in. In the blink of an eye, she had breached his defences and stabbed the blade into his chest.

Adjusting her grip, she tore a large hole in his chest as the flames started to burn away at his insides.

Hearing his screams, Alice could only apologise in her mind as she wasn't able to give him the painless death that she had promised.

But she didn't have the time to worry as another Hunter had been mutated with his water attack.

Just as she turned around to face the other Hunter, she saw Ria jump down from above with a lightning infused arrow in hand and split the man in half, killing him in an instant.

"Gross. I knew the waters transformed you but I didn't think it would do so in this manner." Ria frowned as she dealt with her targets quickly.

They weren't able to withstand her attacks as their guard was down due to the pain of transforming.

"We can ask Allura later. We need to hurry up and deal with the Leviathan then run while we have the chance." Alice nodded as she had her own questions regarding this matter.

"Alright. See if there are any lifeboats left for the Hunters. We'll escape using this boat once we're done." Ria nodded as she glanced into her quiver.

Making a mental note of how many Thunder Caller arrows she had left, she activated her Sigils and wrapped herself in lightning then jumped towards the Leviathan's back.

Even if she was discovered, the strong Hunters wouldn't be able to target her without risking the chance of hurting the Beast. If they were to do that, it would put the entire Hunt in jeopardy and she gambled on whether or not they dare take that risk.

To them, she was just a simple three star Hunter, they wouldn't expect that she'll try to get a five star Sigil for her forth.

###

"Gods dammit! We need to kill this thing now or else it's going to sink all of us!" Haerun shouted as he sent out a wave of lightning to counter the Leviathan. Even if they were to succeed in this hunt, it'll be useless to them if they had no boats to get away from this place.

"We cannot make this any faster! If we do, we risk making you lose this Sigil." One of the five star Hunters replied as he was focusing on defending the ships and making sure they don't take extra damage.

But the Storm Leviathan was akin to a natural disaster right now. Each swing of its arm conjured a storm that crashed down upon the barriers surrounding the ships. Each breath released a torrent of lightning and each movement it made cause the Abyss Waters to rise up like a tsunami.

Gritting his teeth, Haerun was desperate as this was his best chance to get the Sigil of the Storm Leviathan. If he missed this opportunity, he would have to fight a much stronger beast that gained the blessings of the Abyss.

Noticing something on the back of the Leviathan, Haerun squinted his eyes and realised that it was a person!

Ria was currently planting Thunder Caller Arrows all over the Leviathan's body with nodes placed against the arrowhead, ready to detonate at a moment's notice.

Her goal was to detonate everything at once with the hope of killing the beast in one shot!

## Chapter 129 - 129: Ria's Plan Against The Leviathan

'I have only four arrows left that I need to plant into its body. The beast hasn't noticed me yet, which is good since it's preoccupied by the Hunters. As long as I can plant these four, I'll be able to release the strongest attack that I can.' Ria thought to herself as she weaved through the countless spikes on the beast's back.

Ducking under some lightning, she swung herself into an opening on the beast's body before shooting the arrow into its flesh.

Just as she was about to make her way to the next area, she noticed a few of the Hunters turning their gaze toward her.

'Seems like I can't hide it huh... Though to be honest, I am running on the Leviathan's back. Even with its size, it's pretty hard to miss me.' She mused to herself as she continued to jump across the spikes, making her way to the cavity on the chest.

Meanwhile, Haerun furrowed his brows as he didn't think anyone would be gutsy enough to climb onto the Leviathan's back. The moment it decides to sink into the waters, she'll be in trouble.

However, he wasn't concerned about what she was doing as she should be bound by the Law of Agreement to keep her contribution to a minimum. All he could see her do was shoot arrows into its body.

"Look at her! Here you are hiding on the ship while she's actually taking the fight to the beast! That's what I call dedication!" He grinned as he shouted at the other Hunters, blaming them for their laziness.

Even though the Hunters felt wronged, they couldn't say anything as he was their employer.

"What was her name again? I'll grant her a bountiful reward at the end of this hunt." Haerun smiled as he asked Fulton, who was in charge of that ship.

"I believe her name was Ria sir. The crew on that boat were besieged by Sirens and they were lucky enough to escape. But as they were bound by the Law, they had to continue their journey here. She has three Sigils and her friend has two." Fulton reported.

"Three Sigils huh? Quite brave she is. Alright, support her and make sure you don't hit her by accident! We'll be taking this beast down tonight!" Haerun commanded as he conjured a ring of golden energy that fired a pillar of lightning toward the beast, attracting its attention.

He didn't need to hold back at all as he was the one going for the Sigil!

Curling his lips up into an excited grin, he could feel the hunt coming to an end.

Four Sigils lit up on his body as lightning flashed around him.

\*BANG!!!!

A bolt of lightning crashed down on him as he emerged with a full suit of silver and gold armour. A helmet appeared on his head and it a set of wings could be seen on the side.

Cracking his knuckles, Haerun gathered all of his power as the skies seemed to darken as his yellow lightning turned to a violet shade with two large arms of lightning manifesting next to him.

Without hesitation, he jumped into the air and he pulled his arm back before launching a punch towards the beast, causing it to stumble back.

Grabbing it by its mouth, Haerun gathered his lightning into a large arrow before shooting it into the opening.

\*BANG!!!!!

"Woah!" Almost falling off the back of the Leviathan, Ria saw this and furrowed her brows. She had to hurry it up or else it'll become impossible to keep up with his contribution!

She wasn't doing much right now but that was because her attack was being charged up!

On top of all the Thunder Caller Arrows that she had planted, she had also spread out as many nodes as she could within the beast's body.

Even though the Storm Leviathan was a beast of lightning, it wasn't completely immune. Especially after it had tried to evolve!

Channelling her lightning across her body, Ria gritted her teeth and dashed up the back with her new boots giving her an extra speed boost.



Jumping off one of the spikes, Ria pulled out two Thunder Caller Arrows and notched them into her bow.

Pulling back as far as she could, she narrowed her gaze and fired it into the mouth of the beast.

'Just one more arrow then I'll be done.' Ria thought to herself as she was about to land when she noticed one of the Leviathan's eyes snap towards her direction.

Seeing the bloodshot eyeball stare at her with fury in its pupil, Ria felt a chill down her spine as countless coils of lightning appeared around her.

Landing on the beast's back, she tried to jump out of the way but the coils followed her.

With each passing second, she could sense the lightning gathering into the coils ready to explode at a moment's notice!

"Sh\*t!" Ria cursed out loud as there was no way for her to dodge this attack.

A flickering figure appeared in her peripherals as Ria turned to her right and saw Alice launched herself up the side of the beast.

She had transformed her dagger into a pair of gauntlets that dug deep into the Leviathan's scales, allowing Alice to climb up its back without any issue.

After their training session in the Howling Depths, scaling up a wall was as a simple task for Alice.

"Ria! Come to me!" Alice shouted out.

She had noticed how the coils stayed around Ria, tracking her movements and there was only one solution that she could think of!

Nodding her head, Ria dived down head first as the lightning energy reached its peak and the clouds rumbled above her.

Reaching out her hand, Alice grabbed onto Ria as she pulled out a shard from her bag.

Allura had mentioned that the Blight Caller was essentially the enemy of the Storm Leviathan. Using it would allow her to manifest the powers of the Blight Caller and use it to cancel out the lightning used by the beast!

'This is probably what Allura meant by attacks that Ria can't dodge.' Alice thought to herself as she activated the shard without hesitation.

\*BANG!!!!

Lightning crashed down on them as a pillar of energy connected the water to the sky.

But it wasn't over. From the sky, countless flashes of lightning struck down on the same spot as the realm was illuminated by the attack.

Each Hunter that saw this took a step back out of shock as they didn't expect the beast to still have this kind of power but what was more shocking was that there was a spot of darkness within the storm of lightning that only continued to grow.

Gritting her teeth, Alice was currently blocking the lightning with everything she could muster. After activating the Blight Caller Shard, a black and purple malevolent energy erupted from the shard and wrapped around her body, conjuring a robed spectral figure that overlapped her own body. Countless orbs of black and red fire with eyes and a mouth grinned at the lightning.

Opening their maws, they started to eat away at the attack while Alice had covered Ria with a dome of shadows, protecting her from the attack.

With each bite, the orbs continued to grow as ribs started to form before manifesting limbs and a tail.

With each second she stayed in this state, she could feel her stamina and power draining rapidly while the malevolent energy invaded her own body.

Myriad of hollowed whispers echoed out in her ear but Alice tried her best to ignore it.

The robed figure that loomed over her seemed to sneer at her struggle as it was growing larger with each subsequent lightning strike.

**\*BANG!!!!**

With a final bolt of lightning, the Leviathan's attack had finished and Ria was unharmed!

Panting heavily, Alice glared at the beast before taking a deep breath.

Ignoring her pain, she had a brief window to weaken the beast so Ria could finish it off!

Wrapping herself in the dark energy, Alice shot up as she understood the properties of the Blight Caller from the first activation!

The Blight Caller Shard allowed her to conjure familiars that would consume all of the lightning nearby and empower itself, making the source of the lightning weakened to the point even its own power would harm it!

For a beast like the Storm Leviathan, such a state was practically a death sentence! With how much lightning it has coursing through its own body, this weakness would cause it to almost kill itself by just existing!

Glaring at the beast from above, Alice dived down head first as dark orbs appeared around the Leviathan.

Absorbing the power that the familiars had gathered, Alice snapped her fingers and large spikes erupted from the orbs, piercing deep into the Leviathan's skin!

\*ROARRRRR!!!!

Letting out a cry of pain, the Leviathan tried to escape its bindings but was unable to. Each spike dug deep into its skin as black markings spread across its skin like countless tentacles, clawing away at its scales.

Seeing this, Alice could feel the power fading from her body as she understood that her task had been completed! The Storm Leviathan was now extra weak to lightning!

Just as she was about to shout towards Ria, she noticed that Ria was already on the move.

'Seems like she knows what's going on.' Alice thought with a smirk as it was now too late for the other Hunters.

Everything was now set up for Ria to claim her victory!

Speeding up the Leviathan's back, Ria was holding the last Arrow she needed to plant.

There were over 30 nodes within the Leviathan's body as of this moment. She didn't think she had a limit but any more and she would not be able to control them, causing them to detonate and losing most of their power!

She had to act fast before the Blight Caller Shard lost its effect as this was her best chance to kill the beast.

Jumping over the beast, Ria was akin to a firework, shooting up into the sky as the Haerun and his Hunters understood what she was planning.

This power that she was gathering, the preparations that Alice had done for her, it did not belong to a Harvester that wanted him to get the kill. No, this was someone who wanted to steal his glory!

"Stop them! Stop them now!!!!" Haerun shouted out in a panic but it was already too late.

Gathering lightning into the arrow, Ria curled her lips up in excitement and fired the final arrow infused with everything she's got!

Chapter 130 - 130: Killing The Leviathan

"Dammit! Stop her now! Block her attack! KILL HER!" Haerun roared out in a panic as he jumped up, trying his best to interrupt the arrow but he was too far away to stop what was inevitable.

His eyes were bloodshot as he could feel his heart leaping out of his throat. He could see his goal slipping further and further away as Ria had clearly planned this from the beginning!

How she continued to attack the beast and contributed as much as she could before this final blow!

Even though the final blow was not decisive to who gets the Sigil, there was now a very high risk that she could overtake him in contribution and doing so meant everything he had planned had gone to waste! This opportunity, the tools and the manpower! Everything! Gone to waste!

"Stop!!!" He shouted, practically begging as failing this hunt meant his next hunt would be much harder.

When would he find another chance like this? Where a weakened Storm Leviathan would try to evolve to the next stage? He could already imagine it, his peers and those weaker than him overtaking him as he would become stuck on his fourth Sigil, unable to get a fifth unless he killed another Storm Leviathan.

A desolate future awaited him as the arrow burrowed deep into the Leviathan's head.

With its resistance to lightning now practically nullified, the arrow tore apart its scales without an issue as the node detonated within its head.

\*BANG!!!!

An eruption of lightning exploded from its skull, breaking apart its bones and ripping the flesh, causing the beast to roar out in pain but it was not over!

From the initial explosion of lightning, a chain reaction erupted across its body with every single node detonating at once before synergising with the Thunder Caller Arrows.

Their property was to redirect nearby lightning, transforming it into a spear with greater power!

\*CRRR!!!!

Countless spears of lightning shredded through the Leviathan's body as blood poured from its wounds. Bones snapped in half as they were unable to withstand the damage and the Leviathan's body collapsed in on itself with his structure now in shambles.

A storm of lightning brewed within the beast's body as it roared out in desperation, trying to seek any sort of protection but it was futile.

\*BANG!!!!

With a final spike piercing through its neck and tearing the head from its shoulders, the corpse of the Leviathan slammed into the waters as nearby ships tried their best to steer away.

Despair haunted Haerun's mind as he landed on his ship with a loud thud, cracking the planks.

Looking towards the corpse of the Leviathan, he couldn't feel the Abyssal power filling his body. He couldn't see the Sigil manifesting itself on his skin, he couldn't feel the rewards of his bounty.

His breathing slowly increased as anger filled his mind.

Panting heavily, he snapped his gaze towards Ria who was falling towards the Leviathan after losing most of her strength.

"GRAB HER! BRING HER TO ME! I WILL SHOW HER A WORLD OF PAIN!" He roared, pointing at Ria as the five star Hunters around him rushed towards her, all of them activating their Sigils so that they could capture her as fast as they could to appease their master.

Meanwhile, Ria was unable to move as a wave of lethargy washed over her mind. She could feel a string of power rushing towards her from the corpse of the Leviathan as a smile appeared on her face.

With this, she knew that she had gathered enough contribution points to enjoy the reward of her bounty.

Ignoring the pain that was manifesting on her body, she could see Alice sailing the boat towards her as she prepared to intercept the Hunters aiming to capture her.

Closing her eyes, she entrusted the rest to Alice.

Even if she wanted to, she could not fight back anymore.

Narrowing her gaze, Alice jumped from the boat and rushed towards where Ria was going to land. Looking over to the Hunters, she could see 4 five star Hunters aiming for Ria as there was no way for her to fend them off, even with her second Sigil. Their speed and power were more than enough.

However, if Allura hadn't appeared yet then there is a slim chance that she could make it out alive.

'Fu... I can do this. Allura gave me the option of eating this shard if I need. I have to fight my way out so that she can go on her own journey without worrying! I don't want her to keep worrying about our safety!' Alice thought to herself as she opened her mouth and threw the whole crystal in.

###

"IDIOT! What the hell is that girl doing!" Gin shouted, preparing to rush down but Allura held him back.

"Calm down Gin, Alice has this covered. Surely you can piece it together by now, that Alice is no ordinary person." Allura smiled as she watched everything calmly.

"I know she's not ordinary dammit! She has a fire that cancels the powers of the Abyss! But this isn't ordinary either! The essence of a Blight Caller dammit! She just ate enough blood to kill a man!" Gin shouted back, he knew they kept their secrets but he couldn't help but worry every time he saw Alice do something borderline suicidal.

"Allura! I know you have things calculated and planned within your mind. But as an old man whose granddaughter has been thrown into the thick of things yet not know anything, do you know how hard it is for me to watch this happen?! How can I go with you to clean up loose ends if my mind is filled with worries of their safety?!" Gin shouted, unable to hold himself back.

He had tried to ignore everything that had happened, convincing himself that Allura had it planned and that everything would be okay but he couldn't do it. He simply can't watch them continue doing reckless things that through his experience, would be considered suicidal.

". . . Alright. But you can ask Alice yourself if you are worried. It's her secret that I have no business in sharing.

You just need to know that I keep in mind all of the factors before encouraging them to do things." Allura nodded, understanding Gin's anger.

Gritting his teeth, Gin took a deep breath and sighed.

"Fine. We're going to have a talk and Ria deserves to know as well. Call me paranoid, call me old fashioned. But I don't want Ria to journey with someone who she doesn't know anything about." Gin huffed as Allura chuckled.

"Honestly, at this point, Ria probably knows more than you but less than me. Their fight against the Cultist might've made Alice reveal more than she wanted and had Ria keep a secret."

Hearing this, Gin was speechless as he had been kept in the dark on all of this.



"Dammit... She's beginning to act like you with each day you two spend together." Gin sighed as he massaged his eyes.

"Just keep watching for now. We'll interfere if we have to."

###

Just as the Hunters were about to reach Ria, a dark shadow intercepted them as Alice caught Ria before she crashed onto the Leviathan headfirst.

She was currently wearing a black and purple dress with the same hood that the figure was wearing when she first activated the shard.

Her hair was slowly turning into a deep shade of blue on the edges as she glared at the Hunters who were sizing her up.

The fact that she was fast enough to intercept them meant that her speed was on par if not slightly faster.

Fulton had a frown on his face as he recognised her to be Alice.

"Hand her over to us. Do it now and we'll spare you. Surely you don't think you can handle the four of us while protecting her." Fulton warned.

"The Hunt is over. The prey is dead. Trust me when I say that you'll regret it if you continue. Is this really worth throwing your life away for?" Alice warned as she snapped her finger.

Flaming orbs appeared around her as they transformed into the familiars that she had conjured before but this time they had been mixed with her second Sigil.

Instead of a black flame, a violent purple fire now made up their body and they were far more aggressive than before.

The Four Hunters could feel their instincts warning them of the strange purple fire, a feeling of rejection and disgust.

"Stop talking and fight! We have orders to retrieve the other girl but this one can die!" One of the Hunters frowned as she activated her Sigils.

Her body became wrapped in a strange spectral blue energy, her limbs becoming semi-transparent and revealing the bones within her body.

Rushing towards Alice, countless floating skulls erupted from behind her as blades shot out of their mouths, ready to kill Alice in one fell swoop.

Seeing the female Hunter act first, the others followed up with their own powers.

Narrowing her eyes, Alice jumped back and placed Ria on the back of the Leviathan before clasping her hands together.

Separating her hands, a black orb could be seen between her palms.

Aiming it towards the first Hunter, Alice disappeared and swapped places with one of her familiars that was closer to the Hunter.

"Too easy!" The woman grinned as she swiped towards Alice, releasing a wave of skulls that slashed towards her, ready to tear her to pieces.

But Alice was prepared. She had seen everything using Cayla and ducked under the first swing before snapping her finger.

The orb in her hand expanded into a spike that erased the ghosts in an instant as it had been mixed with her second Sigil! The powers that ate away at the abilities originating from the Abyss manifested itself in the orb as Alice rushed into the woman's guard, using her as a meat shield against the orbs before slamming her hand into her throat.

"Wai-!"

Before the woman could cry out, a familiar manifested itself and tore her throat out with the flames burrowing deep into her body like a parasite.

Jabbing her elbow into the woman's chest, she sent her stumbling back before activating her flames and having it manifest as a familiar that clawed its way out of the woman.

"Who else wants to throw their life away?"