

Abyssal A 291

Chapter 291 - 291: Results Of Nalem's Experiment

Sitting down, Nalem brought out several vials with samples contained within.

"Last time I left, I had two goals I wanted to fulfil. First was to figure out the origins of your blood and the powers it holds. The second was to answer your question of whether or not you could neutralise the abilities of the Abyss.

"For the origins, after cross referencing countless samples, I couldn't find a single perfect match." Nalem shook his head as Alice didn't blame him.

"I didn't find a single match because all of them matched to a certain extent. No matter what blood I tested, a match could be made. In a sense, you can call your blood the MOST potent Abyss Blood there is. A sample that contains the makeup of all the Abyss Blood that I've tested." Nalem narrowed his eyes.

"Your blood acts as the literal building blocks for every sample of Abyss Blood that I've tested. No matter what, through certain combinations in your blood, it will be able to replicate the effects."

Hearing this, Alice paused in deep thought.

Her Core was able to tap into the power of the different connections formed with her Spiritual Heart. Through this, she modified Alice's contract with the Abyss in the form of Sigils.

But if what Nalem said was true, then it wasn't just her Spiritual Heart that could do this. Her blood could achieve the same thing!

"So... Alice can mimic any beast? Not just through blood but through her Sigils too now?" Allura raised an eyebrow.

"Yes- no wait. What do you mean by Sigil?" Nalem nodded before realising what Allura had said.

Explaining the situation where Alice's core could modify the contract, Nalem became silent.

A light of raw unfiltered confusion could be seen on his face as he looked at Alice who simply nodded her head.

"Can you show me?" He asked as Alice nodded.

She wasn't sure how long the effect would last but right now, she still had access to Tiamat's power.

Raising her left hand, red lightning and flames manifested as Nalem paced back and forth while the frown on his face continued to grow deeper.

"Well there goes 70% of my theories." He sighed in annoyance while scratching his hair.

"I originally thought that Alice's blood was a result of a mutation in the contract with the Abyss, making it so that it could become anything since her soul doesn't have a secure outline. But clearly, that's not the case.

"If her 'Core' was able to modify the contract between Alice and the Abyss then that means it's not a one sided affair where the changes in the body affected the soul. Instead, it seems like the changes in the soul are what reflect upon the body.

"Wait no... That doesn't make sense either. If so, why is her blood able to become the building blocks for every Abyss Blood combination?"

Pacing back and forth, Alice wanted to say something but Allura shook her head.

"Let him figure it out. He gets like this when he wants to put his all into solving an issue. Last time one of my subordinates interrupted him, my subordinate got sent through a wall." Allura warned as Alice blinked her eyes in confusion.

"Alright, scratch that. I only have one result I want to tell you today. I'll redo my experiments later but this result has something to do with the question you asked.

"In regards to the possibility of neutralising the effects of the Abyss, it's very possible and I have some samples here to show. You see, the way your blood breaks down the permanent changes brought forth by the Abyss is actually a lot simpler than you'd expect.

"Here is a sample from an affected human. If the human blood acts as a white canvas, the Abyss Blood is paint, any changes they apply will be permanent and hard to get rid of unless you paint over it or neutralise the paint." Nalem explained.

"Is that like when you have heat based side effects but drink cold based Abyss Blood to cancel it out?" Alice interjected as Nalem nodded his head.

"It's exactly like that. Through this, you can say the neutralisation applies a new 'blank' layer to the canvas, allowing them to apply more paint. Naturally, this isn't a permanent solution since over time, the underlying layers will begin to show.

"But your blood is not a canvas. It's a bucket of black paint. You drink some Abyss Blood and throw some new colours into that bucket but once you begin to mix, it returns to black once more. Once again, I must reiterate the fact that your blood is, without doubt, the most potent Abyss Blood in this realm.

"I hope this doesn't offend you but rather than 'returning to human', what your blood does is that it stabilizes the changes occurring within your body, transforming it into a dormant state. It breaks down all of the changes into building blocks, ready to be used at any moment.

The fact that you have a human form is a miracle honestly since you are probably the furthest thing from a human aside from Gods." Nalem explained with a serious expression as Alice revealed a slightly bitter smile.

While she never came to this conclusion, she knew that she wasn't a normal human. Her soul, her blood and the way her body reacts. No normal human would be like this.

But guessing the truth and hearing it from someone were two different things. With Nalem solidifying this thought, Alice couldn't help but let out a sigh.

"It's to be expected. I'm guessing my current state is simply a side effect of my blood then. While others may get horns, scales or the whatnot, my side effect is to look human and gain no physical boosts from Abyss Blood since it's all broken down."

"You're half right. If that was the side effect, the Abyss would've claimed you by now. Rather than a side effect think of it more like a catalogue of parts that you can use. Completely independent from the Abyss. To put it in layman's terms... Would be that you're a second Abyss in the making." Nalem shrugged.

"And this is where a potential solution reveals itself. There are three possible ways of neutralising the side effects of Abyss Blood using your own blood. First is to create neutralising samples of your blood.

"Since it contains the building blocks of countless Abyss Bloods, if you know what's affecting someone, you can forcefully counter the 'paint' used to paint their canvas and apply a new layer. But this requires in depth knowledge of beasts and not only that, but it still has the same issue mentioned before. You can only do so much before they cannot apply new layers and effects will bleed through."

Placing two samples on the table, one being the sample of someone affected by side effects that had crystallized their blood to a certain extent and the other being Alice's blood, Nalem grabbed a pipette and extracted a few drops of Alice's blood.

"I've already modified this blood to contain the building blocks needed to counter the side effects." Dropping the blood onto the sample, they watched as the crystallisation began to disappear and the blood returned to normal.

"Naturally, I can only assume that applying this to someone is extremely painful since the blood is forcing the neutralisation. There's no guarantee that it can even work on someone if their body can't handle it." Nalem shrugged but there was hope in Alice's eyes.

"What are the other two methods?" Alice asked curiously, wanting to know what else Nalem had discovered.

"The second one is for your blood to act as a shield. This one is highly theoretical but if you are able to create a protective layer that 'clings' itself to the Abyss Blood that the hosts drinks, then there's a chance that you can remove new blood with your blood acting as a bag."

Getting Kaden's help to make an example, Nalem demonstrated his theory by having 'Alice's blood' act as a separating layer between two blood samples.

"This one will give you a cleaner removal of the side effects but there are two issues with this. First of all, you need to create a barrier between the new blood and their current blood. Secondly, there's a chance that your blood might stain theirs and if you remember what I said earlier, your blood is the MOST potent Abyss Blood.

So I'm sure I don't need to explain the dangers of your blood leaving stains." Nalem narrowed his eyes as Alice swallowed her saliva nervously.

She knew that the Zenia's were never successful in implementing her blood into their formulas. This was probably why as everyone that took it would've died a horrible death.

"Now the third one is probably the easiest for you to accomplish.

"The concept of this method is simple. You simply let your blood invade their body and target anything and everything that's Abyss Blood related." Nalem shrugged as Alice couldn't help but tilt her head in confusion.

"You might think that it's not so simple since you might target the effects of her Sigil or leave a stain like in method two. But that's not the case. How to put it... If done correctly, your blood should fully extract all of the 'Abyss Blood' from the body and return it to how it was before consuming the blood.

"A forceful reset to default." Nalem smiled as Alice widened her eyes.

If his words were true and she could accomplish this, Alice could rid people of all the effects caused by Abyss Blood.

The bonuses, the side effects, everything.

"There's an issue with this isn't there?" Alice calmed down as Nalem wouldn't leave this till last unless there was a major drawback.

"You're right. While this is the easiest method... It's the most dangerous. Since after a certain point, due to the contracts you have with the Abyss, your blood becomes similar to Abyss Blood. So...

"How would you differentiate between the two?"

Chapter 292 - 292: Risks Of The Third Option

"How would you differentiate between the two?" Nalem asked as Alice fell silent.

"And on the off chance that Alice tries this without knowing the difference, what'll happen?" Kaden asked as there will most likely come a time where Alice will be forced to try this.

The important thing was for her to understand the risks and the consequences of doing so.

"Once again, this is all theoretical so don't take my word for it okay? This is unknown territory and I'm simply telling you my guesses. The best case scenario that I can imagine is that she'll strip them of Abyss Blood with some minor impacts to their Sigils and physique. Better than being dead.

"Worse case scenario would be causing her blood to go berserk and aim to remove anything and everything that even remotely resembles Abyss Blood. I assume Alice herself will be safe since she's the host of the blood but her target will definitely be crippled and die a most horrible death." Nalem shook his head.

Forcefully removing all Abyss Blood and if she's not careful, their blood as well would not only kill them physically but damage their soul as well since it's connected to their Spiritual Heart.

"Is there a way for me to reduce the risks?"

"That depends on you. If you can figure out a way to control your blood properly then it should decrease the dangers. But removing the side effects from someone's body will always come with risks." Nalem warned.

When dealing with something this delicate, there was no absolute safe option. It's merely a case of finding the path of least danger.

"But I'm sure I've given you plenty to think about. I'll continue my research and let you know if I find anything new." Nalem stretched.

"Do you not want to stay for some food?" Kaden asked but Nalem shook his head.

"I'll pass. Thank you though."

Giving the three a wave, Nalem left the house while Alice simply started at the table surface.

Rubbing her finger against the mouth of her flask, she wondered about how she could differentiate between the two sources of Abyss Blood.

One from drinking external blood and one formed within the body.

'First of all, I need to understand how Abyss Blood changes the body. Nalem mentioned that it's like painting a canvas that's the human body. Removing it the moment might be easier since the two bloods haven't fully mixed.

'But if it's one that has remained for a long time, staining the canvas then... Hmm...' Furrowing her brows, Alice sighed in frustration.

If she was to forcefully remove the 'stain', it'll no doubt damage the canvas if she wasn't careful. Plus, if she takes too long to filter between the two, there was a high chance that her blood would 'stain' her target as well.

Letting her blood remain in their body for too long was the issue with the second method so to accomplish the third, she needed to be both fast and accurate.

"What a pain." Alice groaned as she wanted to do some tests of her own.

Now that she wasn't fighting with her life on the line, the adrenaline that was rushing through her body faded away and a fatigue struck her like an unstoppable object.

Holding her head, Alice let out a yawn while rubbing her eyes.

"You haven't slept for like 3 or 4 days now right?" Allura asked, noticing Alice's condition.

"Mnm... I wasn't tired earlier though..." Alice nodded slowly while giving her body a stretch.

"I presume that no one would be tired after almost getting killed by a God. We have a spare room upstairs if you want to use that to rest up." Allura offered but Alice shook her head.

"I'll just... take a nap on the sofa."

Lumbering over to the sofa, Alice curled up and instantly fell asleep.

Soft breaths could be heard as both Kaden and Allura were shocked at how quickly she was able to fall asleep.

"She must've been incredibly stressed." Allura muttered as Kaden started to clean the plates.

"It's only natural. After training with us, she went into the meeting with Gods. Then she had to train with Nyer and without any breaks, she went to train with the Apostles. I'm more surprised she held out till now without any rest." Kaden shrugged.

"True... Do you think there's anything we can do to help her achieve the third method of extraction? If she can succeed that means we can help the ones affected by side effects."

"Nalem mentioned it's a matter of control and being able to differentiate between Abyss Blood and their blood right? As long as we can find a solution to these two questions, I think Alice will be able to do just fine."

It wasn't going to be easy but that's to be expected. Alice was seeking a solution to the biggest issue brought forth by the existence of the Abyss. The price of power.

There were two methods of obtaining power in their realms. The first was through the three Gods of the surface. For normal people, this power stopped at being able to live a little longer or be healthier based on the divinity of the God.

But for the Abyss, they were able to choose their own power that they wish to gain based on the beast they hunt.

Despite the conflict between the surface Gods and the Abyss, their Apostles still accept the contract and gain power from the Abyss.

If Alice could find the solution for all of this, there was no doubt that everyone would be looking to gain possession of her. She was the only true remedy for the price demanded by the Abyss.

'Though I guess it doesn't matter if people find out or not since we're in a memory. Those in her time will be clueless about her advancements.' Kaden thought to himself.

He felt pity for Alice.

She held so many secrets that many would kill countless people for. The ability to ignore the side effects of Abyss Blood, the power to burn it away and keep herself safe, the ability to mimic other's powers through consumption and even being able to learn and modify powers displayed by Apostles.

To live with all of this and hoping she doesn't slip up and expose herself...

"Do you think she looks lonely sometimes?" Allura suddenly asked as Kaden glanced back in surprise.

"What makes you say that?"

"I don't know... Sometimes when I look towards her, she always has this lonely light in her eyes. Suppressed sadness you know? She might smile, laugh, grin in excitement or even joke. But there's always something being hidden, like she's hurting inside and she might not even know it." Allura sighed while walking over to the sofa and sat down next to Alice.

Stroking her hair, Allura's gaze softened as she pitied the girl.

"I think she's being as honest as she can. Though this is most likely something she has to resolve herself. Maybe it's a trauma from her past or maybe it's a conflict with a friend. Either way, it's up to her to resolve it and people like us can only really cheer her on from the side."

"Hmm... maybe. I want to do more for her but I guess even as Apostles, there's only so much we can do." Allura smiled bitterly.

Hearing this, Kaden couldn't help but chuckle inwardly. As Alice's adoptive mother in the future, there will be plenty of chances for her to help Alice.

"Say shall we look for a good beast that can act as her fourth Sigil?"

"Oh?" Raising his eyebrows, Kaden hadn't thought of this yet. He wasn't sure how hunting down beasts would work with them being a memory. But considering the fact that Alice was able to obtain a portion of Tiamat's power, it meant that it wasn't impossible for her to hunt down beasts.

And with that being the case, they could take this chance to help her acquire a strong beast that might be hard to encounter in the future.

Rubbing his chin, Kaden nodded his head.

"Sure, we can do that. Though... Nalem is a little busy with his experiments so we'll have to ask someone else. What kind of beasts do you think will be suitable for her fourth Sigil?" He asked curiously.

"Alice wants to be close to mid ranged. So something that can help augment this will be desirable. She also needs something to help her attack with the sword. Her Void Flux – Cleave is good but since it doesn't contain the blessing, it exposes the biggest issue with my attack.

It's too slow and lacks proper penetration power." Allura analysed as she thought about the possible choices that Alice could go for.

"Her first Sigil increases her strength and gives hallucinations, second gives her blood control and fire. Third gives her blood manifestation and metal manifestation. Going by what you said, maybe a fourth Sigil that helps her with exerting maximum power in the shortest time would be better?" Kaden crossed his arms in deep thought.

As the two wondered about the possibilities, an idea appeared in Allura's mind.

"What if we're looking at this wrong. We're too preoccupied with having Alice match her opponents or overwhelm them in power. But that's not how she fights. She fights very strategically, finding ways to cancel out their abilities with her fire or restricting her movements." Allura sat up as she glanced back at Kaden.

"Who said her fourth Sigil can't be one that debuffs her enemies and reduces their power rather than increasing her own?"

Thinking about this for a moment, Kaden smiled.

"Alright, I'll go look for a few candidates and make profiles on them for Alice. It should be a nice gift for when she wakes up." Creating a portal, Kaden stepped through and made his way to the library.

For Alice's fourth Sigil, he wanted to find a beast that can provide multiple debuffs to her opponent.

When you can't use your Sigils nor can you use your physical power, what can you do against Alice?

Chapter 293 - 293: Options For The Fourth Sigil

"My baby... I'm sorry..."

"Alice!!!"

"Get the f*ck off her!"

"Mother!"

A myriad of shouts echoed through Alice's mind. Sounds of panic, sadness and anger.

Slowly opening her eyes, Alice yawned before stretching her body. Scratching her hair, she could briefly remember the shouts she heard before waking up.

It had been a while since she had last dreamt of the past like this.

'It was probably my birthday again...' Alice thought with a sigh.

Shaking her head, she examined her body. After a good rest, she felt far more energetic.

Activating her Sigils, she saw that they had returned to their original states and Tiamat's power disappeared.

'Seems like there's a time limit to the modification.'

Glancing around, she saw that she was still sleeping on the sofa while Kaden and Allura were nowhere to be seen.

Wondering where they could be, Alice got up and began wandering around the living room. Decoration wise, there wasn't much here since the two probably spent most of their time in the office around the castle.

Especially considering their roles, they'll be patrolling the lands or dealing with beasts.

But the bits of decoration that Alice could see mostly consisted of plants or trinkets that may hold emotional value to the two.

Glancing towards the stairs, Alice rubbed her chin as she was tempted to see what it was like upstairs. However, this wasn't her home.

"It'll be pretty rude..." Alice muttered as she shrugged.

"Pretty rude?"

"ARHHG!!!" Alice jumped up in shock as Allura's voice rang out behind her.

"Can you stop that?! I swear you never know how to show up normally!" Alice complained as she felt like she was going to have a heart attack every time Allura showed up.

Whether it's the future or the past, Allura would keep doing this.

"It's not my fault if you don't keep an eye on your surroundings." Allura rolled her eyes.

"She's not wrong. Though it's not exactly correct either." Kaden added with a small chuckle.

"What do you mean?"

Seeing that Kaden was about to expose her secret, Allura waved her hand in a panic but Kaden simply smirked.

"She does a little trick to hide her presence until she's directly behind you before speaking. She doesn't show it but it's her favourite thing to do." Kaden laughed while Allura pouted in anger and punched Kaden on the arm.

"So it was on purpose!"

"It's on purpose every time. But setting that aside, how are you feeling?" He asked as Alice grinned and flexed her arm despite the lack of muscle.

"Much better. I didn't think I was exhausted to that extent."

"You were rather busy. But I'm glad you're feeling better since you'll need to be in top condition for what we have planned next." Kaden narrowed his eyes.

Making his way over to the dinner table, he prepared more snacks for Allura and more mead for Alice.

"So while you were sleeping, me and Lua decided to give you a bit of help. Since you mentioned that you wanted to be a close to mid ranged fighter, we figured that having a fourth Sigil to help augment this might be the way to go." Kaden began to explain as he took out several sheets of paper.

"With your demonstration over your three Sigils, I'd say it's a good time for you to get a fourth. What do you say?"

Mulling over her options, Alice sat down and closed her eyes.

Allura had told her to make sure she fully understood the power of each Sigil before advancing so it could supplement her weaknesses.

Her first Sigil simply boosted her physical power while giving hallucinations. Second helped manifest her flames and blood control. Her third manifested blood and metal.

With all the suggestions and spars she's had, Alice was 80% confident in saying that she's explored most of the avenues of her power.

Granted, she could improve on her control of the third Sigil since if she could accomplish Nyer's suggestion of forcing them to breathe in the metal, it could become quite the menacing ability.

'I haven't been able to give that a try since the spars have been against Allura and Nyer. But it should be okay once I get back to reality.'

"Alright. What do you suggest for my fourth Sigil?" Alice asked as Kaden held up two fingers.

"The option me and Lua both agreed would be pretty good for you would be a Sigil that makes your opponents weaker rather than making you stronger. There are multiple ways you can go about it, but the main thing is that you're struggling with landing your attacks.

"Of course, part of the reason is that you're fighting those with overwhelmingly high physical power and experience compared to you. But no one would care when you're in a life or death fight.

"The second option you can go with is utility. A way for your attacks to breach the defences or reactions of your opponents. You can go through some of the options here and if you want something more specific, just let me know and I can go have a look for you." Kaden smiled, passing the sheets to Alice.

Nodding her head, she began to flip through the different options.

The first thing that Alice noticed was that the layout for these was different to the ones she'd seen in the future. The way Allura organised the options was far cleaner while Kaden focused mostly on the beast's fighting styles and only briefly talked about the abilities of each Sigil.

'It's probably different in the future since we have more knowledge on what the Sigils do.' Alice thought to herself.

From reducing movement speed, strength to even vision, there were a myriad of 'debuff' options that she could choose from.

'Reducing movement is nice and all but I need something to let me hurt them. Allura has the benefit of her blessing so even if her attack is a little slower, she doesn't need to worry about defence. But mine is slow yet can be blocked easily.'

She wanted to see if there was a Sigil that could help her shred defences of her target.

But even after going through all of the options for her level, the best she found that suited her needs was Sigils which decreased the resistance towards certain elements such as fire or blood abilities.

'Velouria mentioned that my violet flames simply manifested as such is because I took inspiration from Allura. There's a good chance that these flames will change form once I discover something more unique to me so picking Fire Resistance reduction might not be the best choice.'

Since the fourth Sigil represented a step into a new stage of power for all those beneath Abyss Lord level, she wanted to make sure her foundations were good. Not only that, but she also wanted it to be Anti Hunter based so she still had a chance of attaining triple Resonance.

'What do I want my fourth Sigil to be? Right now, if I was to fight Allura who's shown up to five Sigils, how would I beat her? My fourth Sigil needs to be something I can use to surpass Allura.' Alice thought to herself.

To her, the strongest person she knew of right now was Allura. Enris was stronger but she couldn't quite comprehend her attacks so it was hard to evaluate what she needed against Enris.

But Allura was different. Allura has taken the time to explain, demonstrate and show Alice her strength.

Without even looking at the utility abilities, Alice glanced over to Kaden and opened her mouth.

"Are there any... better teleportation abilities like the one that the Maiden of the Blood Moon offers? I've tried out her teleporting ability before and honestly, if I can get something similar to that for my fourth Sigil I think it'll increase my power as a short to mid ranged fighter." Alice asked as Kaden thought about it for a moment.

"Maiden of the Blood Moon huh? She's not a bad choice. Although... rather than her teleporting ability, she's better known for her blood control and manifestation. There are different versions of teleportation, what type are you looking for?"

"Something fast and snappy. Would be good if I could use it back to back to disorientate my opponents." Alice replied as Kaden nodded his head and made a mental note.

"And how strong of a beast do you think you can handle?"

"I can probably deal with five star beasts with enough information. I don't know about six stars but it could be possible." Alice replied confidently.

Her biggest issue had always been her physical body. With partial Bloodline release giving her that extra boost, even if it was just briefly, it'll help her bridge the gap between her and the beasts.

Not only that, but by having partial Bloodline release, she could use the boost in strength to take away a sample of her target's blood. Making it so that she'll gain another boost to keep up.

Once that happens, it's simply a case of finishing them off.

"Hmm... Alright, I have a few candidates in mind. I'll see if any of them have turned their back against Master's rules. If they have, they're free to be taken down." Kaden smiled.

While humans hunted whatever beasts they could get their hands on, the people of Ayr were different. They respected Velouria's rules and made it a point not to aim for the beasts that were trying their best to go against their nature.

For Alice, he could only hope that the beast he was thinking of could be tracked down.

The beast that has arguably one of the best teleportation abilities, second only to a few extreme exceptions and himself.

Thinking about this, Kaden created a portal and left the house to track down his target.

Chapter 294 - 294: Allura's Frustration

Seeing how Kaden left so quickly, Alice couldn't help but blink her eyes in surprise.

He left! Just like that, no words or anything.

"Pft! Ahaha, I know he doesn't look like it but he's actually really excited to help you. He's usually only like this when he's too eager and can't hold himself back." Allura laughed after seeing Alice's reaction.

Not many get to see this side of Kaden and now Alice was one of the few who got to see this.

"So even Kaden gets eager like this huh..." Alice muttered considering in the future, he seemed bored all the time. Doing anything and everything that could possibly interest him.

Perhaps it was a side effect of living a long time after Ayr was destroyed. Regardless, she was still unsure why Kaden was so reluctant to be in the Abyss and to see Allura again.

Especially when the two had a good relationship.

Allura went from loving cake to smoking all the time. Kaden went from being happy in the Abyss to hating himself more than anyone and avoiding the realm and Allura if he could.

'A complete 180 to what they're like right now. I guess it'll be too rude to ask them since they wouldn't know either.' Shaking her head with a sigh, she glanced back at Allura.

"What's up?" Allura blinked, noticing that Alice was staring at her.

"Nothing. Just wondering about a few things."

"Ohya? Want to share or is it a secret?" Allura chuckled while Alice thought about it for a moment before opening her mouth.

"So I know a few people who used to be dedicated to something. Kind of like you with cake. But something happened to them and they've done a complete 180 and gone against what they used to like. I'm just wondering what could've possibly happened for them to be like that." Alice explained, making sure that Allura didn't know she was talking about her in the future.

While Kaden and Velouria may have found out, the fewer who knew the better.

"Hmm... That's a hard one. For someone to have done a complete 180 against something they love that much, something drastic must've happened. Enough for them to abandon what they enjoyed before.

"I've never told you about why I like cake have I?" Allura smiled bitterly while placing the plate down.

Shaking her head, Alice watched as Allura leaned back for a moment, recalling her memories before opening her mouth.

"It happened before I was chosen as an Apostle or even knew about the Sigils. I found myself in the middle of a forest, presumably right after my rebirth from being a beast and the only thing I could think of was to survive.

"Beasts would constantly find me, trying to kill me while finding food and shelter was difficult. Yet strangely, I had the instinct to lay out traps. I killed and ate their flesh raw. Slept in their carcasses and used their skin for clothing.

"But the constant consumption of raw flesh and Abyss Blood gave me quite a bit of side effects you know? One of the side effects was that it ruined my sense of taste. I can't taste flavours properly. The only flavours I can taste are sweet and bitter. The rest are all just bland textures.

"I thought that everything tasted like this since I've been eating nothing but flesh. Later, I was found by Kaden during his patrol. After he took me back to Ayr, he noticed that I wasn't really showing any reaction towards food and realised I could only taste two flavours.

"Did you know what he did afterwards?" Allura asked with a smile on her face while Alice shook her head.

"He spent the whole day figuring out what textures I enjoyed and what flavours I could taste. Ahaha, it took him a long time but by the end of it, he realised that I really liked the texture of cake and could taste the flavour of sweetness. From then on, he spent time figuring out some recipes for the 'perfect' cake." Allura laughed while looking at the cake on her plate with fondness.

"Afterwards I just kind of kept looking for him to get cake. I didn't really care if it was perfect or not ya know? Since he's the one who made it." She smiled softly while biting her fork.

Glancing over to Alice, Allura saw her with a smug grin on her face.

"You love~ him."

"!!!" Choking on her saliva, Allura blushed and smacked Alice on the head.

"Ay! I didn't say anything wrong!" Alice pouted.

"Shaddap! Urg... but is it that obvious?" Allura held her cheeks while Alice nodded.

She couldn't help but find this side of Allura rather cute compared to the more serious version of her in the future.

"Do... Do you think he's noticed?" Allura coughed and whispered softly while Alice froze up.

"Shut the f*ck up. What do you mean do I think he's noticed? You haven't told him?" Alice blinked her eyes in disbelief.

'Mother! You live with him for Gods sake!?!? What do you mean has he noticed???' She shouted out in her mind.

"Hey hey! Not so loud, I don't know when he's going to be back." Allura panicked as Alice was taking a moment to recover.

"So you live with him, but you haven't told him that you love him?" Alice asked as Allura shyly glanced down and nodded her head.

". . ." Massaging her eyes, Alice wondered how this was even possible.

"So how the hell did you even get to living in the same house together?"

"It just kind of happened okay?! I asked if I could since it was a pain in the ass to keep finding him for cake. I thought it would be better if I just lived where he lived so I could get the cake." Allura poked her fingers together while Alice felt an arrow stab through her heart.

'Why is my mother so damn cute?' She couldn't get over the fact that Allura, the Executioner of the Abyss and Apostle of the Goddess was such a maiden.

"So why haven't you confessed yet?" Alice asked as Allura froze up and her smile began to twitch.

Gritting her teeth, she reached over to Alice and pulled on her cheek.

"I wonder who the f*ck's been getting in the damn way every time I'm about to!!!"

Hearing this, Alice burst out in laughter as she didn't think her interruptions were blocking her confession.

No wonder Kaden looked a little annoyed on the stairs the last time she knocked on the door.

"Stop laughing! Do you know how awkward it was for me??? After the first one failed I wanted to hide myself from embarrassment! Then you came and knocked on that damn door right before I was about

to ask him! Couldn't you have waited a minute or something?! It's hard working up the courage!" Allura rambled while Alice couldn't stop herself from laughing.

Clutching her stomach, Alice wheezed for breath while Allura only crossed her arms in annoyance.

"How are... PFT ahahaha! How are you able to fight Apostles... AHAHAHA! But can't muster the courage to confess???" Alice wheezed while wiping away the tears forming around her eyes.

"It's just different okay?" Allura pouted while resting her chin on her hand.

Taking deep breaths to calm herself, Alice took a drink of her mead.

"So are you planning on confessing to him again any time soon?"

"Not right now since we're back to looking after you. Not only that, but we need to help you get your fourth Sigil. And once that's done, we're not sure when we'll be called into Action since apparently they're close to finding the Will." Allura grumbled in annoyance after being reminded that her chances had been reduced to zero.

"Can't you just confess while I'm out getting the Sigil?"

"Of course I can't! it's all about setting the mood. How can I get the mood right if both me and him are worried that you'll randomly get stabbed and almost die?" Allura rolled her eyes.

"I'm not that easy to kill."

"Doesn't matter. We're still going to be worried. We watched the entirety of your fight against Tiamat and saw the damage you took. We were on the verge of just charging in and stopping the whole thing if it wasn't for the fact that you went bat sh*t insane and started to go toe to toe with Tiamat." She flicked Alice on the forehead while taking a bite of her cake.

"Hmm... that is tough." Alice sighed.

"You don't say."

*Sigh

"I'll figure something out later. And this time, please for the love of Ayr, don't interrupt again. I'm actually going to die if you do it a third time." Allura pouted.

If she gets interrupted for a third time, she doesn't know how she could face Kaden again without just imploding.

"Just let me know when I'm about to interrupt and I'll go take a walk or something." Alice reassured with a thumbs up while Allura couldn't help but doubt.

Just before she could say anything, a portal opened up as Kaden stepped through.

Seeing Alice and Allura awkwardly sitting there without saying anything except smile, he couldn't help but raise his eyebrow.

"Did you spend all this time in silence?" He asked but Alice shook her head.

"Don't worry about it, just some girls talk." Allura coughed while finishing her cake.

"I see... Well setting that aside, I've found the target and the conditions align for a hunt. All that remains is for you to get some information and accept her as a bounty target." Kaden smiled as Alice sat up in excitement.

"Your target..."

"Seraphim of the Void."

Chapter 295 - 295: Seraphim Of The Void

"Seraphim of the Void..." Alice muttered as she closed her eyes.

Using Cayla's ability to note down the appearance of every beast in the Abyss, Alice was about to search when she paused in realisation.

Since they were in a memory, could she even get a bounty from this?

The best one to ask would be Velouria but she seemed busy.

Regardless, she wanted to see the target that Kaden had found for her.

Filtering through the options, only one projection remained as Alice understood that this was the target in question.

Standing at an astonishing 10ft tall, the woman had a halo of black stars and pure white hair. Both of her eyes were closed but the moment Alice made her open them, it looked as though countless pupils were merged into a single golden pupil.

Much like in Alice's resonance form, the Seraphim's limbs faded into a deep black while purple markings stretched from her hand to her chest, revealing a swirling void of energy.

She wore a white, black and purple dress with a short skirt and a pair of thigh boots. Connected to the waist was white armour with cloth attached to it while three pairs of wings were folded behind her.

Observing the beast in front of her, Alice marvelled at her beauty while wondering what kind of weapon she wielded. And if the Seraphim didn't wield a weapon, then there's a high chance that she was a caster.

As though answering her question, the Seraphim reached into the space in front of her and pulled out a large scythe with a similar hole as the one on her chest near the base of the blade.

Blinking her eyes in surprise, Alice circled around the beast while memorising the details.

Once she was satisfied, she opened her eyes and noticed Allura and Kaden staring at her in confusion.

Realising that she must've spent a little too long in her own mind, Alice coughed awkwardly.

"How should I designate it as my target? Is there a shaman or a communion point I should go to? Plus how can I guarantee that it'll pick the Seraphim?" Alice asked as Kaden raised his eyebrow.

"What are you on about? I've already marked the beast. We just need to visit one of Master's shrines and the target will be established. I'm not sure what you mean by shaman but I assume the communion point is similar to a shrine but seems to have no guarantee."

Hearing this, Alice understood that things must've been easier while Velouria was around. After all, she was the proxy of the Will. She shared her divinity with the Abyss meaning anything it can do, she could do as well.

Naturally, there was a limit since the Will still has the final say but she has a certain degree of freedom.

Meaning those in this time period could pick and choose their bounties much like her, as long as they can mark the beast they wanted to hunt. It seems a little time consuming since they have to mark it first but at least it guarantees the target.

"What if the beast dies before you can fulfil this target?" Alice asked curiously.

"Well the contract is cancelled." Furrowing his brows, Kaden realised something and opened his mouth once more.

"Sorry let me borrow you for a second. Lua I'll be right back." Kaden smiled as he gestured for Alice to come over to him.

Glancing over to Allura, Alice gave her a wave before hopping next to Kaden.

"Take care~" Allura waved her hand lazily as the two disappeared from the room.

As the shadows unravelled themselves, Alice found herself in front of what seemed to be an altar of sorts.

"You've never seen this before?" He asked, pointing at the shrine.

The shrine consisted of three parts. The altar, the bowl and a statue of Velouria kneeling and praying.

Shaking her head, Alice doesn't recall ever seeing something like this before.

"Wait then how do you get Sigils in the future?" Kaden raised an eyebrow.

"Well... there are two ways. Three if you include Cayla. First option is to meet someone called a Shaman. They'll connect you to the Abyss and you can pick your target from three choices. After that, you'll need to track it down and hunt it yourself.

"The second option is to find a Communion point where you link yourself to the Abyss and it'll give you more options. You still need to track it down and hunt it. If you fail, the bounty gets harder with each failure until you succeed." Alice explained while Kaden looked at her in disbelief.

"So people in the future have no guarantee on what beast they want to hunt and they're punished if they fail?"

Nodding her head, Alice watched as Kaden massaged his eyes.

"What kind of backwards future is this? In Ayr, you just need to find the beast you want, mark it down and offer the mark to the Shrine. Once that happens, Master's rule that she placed down would then form a link between you two so you can get the Sigil and know its general location.

"Well... mark is a broad term. As long as you have a piece of it then you can track it down. It's why some merchants in Ayr would sell claws or fangs of certain beasts. Offer it to the shrine and you can form a tether."

Handing Alice a piece of black cloth, he gestured for her to offer it to the shrine.

Nodding her head, Alice placed the cloth into the bowl before glancing at Kaden for the next step.

"Give it a bit of your blood."

Making a small cut on her finger, Alice dropped a single droplet of blood and a familiar sensation washed over her. A tether was being formed as it extended into the rift, reaching to a place she could not see. Yet instinctively, she could tell that the tether had been split into multiple targets, each one being a Seraphim of the Void!

"Now if you fail or don't think you can handle this, you can offer a new mark to the Shrine and it'll establish a new target for you. Honestly... I don't know how you people in the future can do without this. How do people even get the Sigils they want?" Kaden rolled his eyes before making a portal back to the house.

"Let's... Not talk about that." Alice coughed. Even with Cayla, she still had to spot her target first or else she wouldn't know where she could find it.

But the shrine was even able to give her a general understanding of where her target was along with the fact that she could cancel the bounty!

"Either way, I'll explain to you the powers of the Seraphim once we get back to the house. Just let me know when you're ready and I'll teleport you to the target that I've found and then you can go your fourth Sigil."

Once they made it back to the house, Kaden began to break down the powers of the Seraphim.

"The Seraphim could be considered to own 6 Sigils, each one represented by its wings. There are some with 5 wings and some with 4 but the one I got for you has 6." Kaden began as Alice held up her hand.

"Wait... You're getting me to hunt down a six Sigil beast for my fourth Sigil?" Alice asked as her smile began to twitch.

"Why not? You have Lua's techniques, Tiamat's Bloodline Release, Zone Stance and other skills you've honed during this time. Why can't you go for a six Sigil beast?"

Hearing this, Alice found herself unable to refute his points and simply gestured for him to continue.

"Now for the Seraphim, most of her powers are based on spatial control and teleportation. First Sigil would be the ability to phase through the void. Her form will begin to blur before disappearing and during this time, you won't be able to hit her at all unless you can rip open a path to the void.

"And considering the attack you based off Allura's Nova Core, you can disrupt this to a certain extent." Kaden smiled as there was a gap in the moment before the Seraphim jumped into the Void. If Alice can take advantage of that and use her Void Flux to stop this, the Seraphim loses one of her main weapons.

"Second Sigil would be the ability to store attacks in the void like bombs. If you 'bump' into the traps while moving around, it'll detonate right next to you. Hurts a bunch but these can usually be found if her attacks ever miss. It'll get frozen and stored as a bomb so keep an eye on that.

"Third Sigil would be her scythe. It can rend space apart and ignore defence to a certain extent. It's a far worse version of Lua's blessing but you can get the general idea.

"Fourth Sigil, she can 'store' the damage she's done to you before detonating it in one go when you least expect it. She essentially doubles all the damage in an instant and is a good counter against people who heal since it'll reopen the wounds in a single burst.

"Fifth Sigil allows her to use the Void to her benefit, using it as a means of attack and all of her attacks can rend defence. This lets her have an easier time with her Scythe and makes its ability to breach defence far better.

"And the last Sigil is the one I think you'd like the most and the reason why I found a six winged Seraphim in the first place. Her final ability lets her manifest the void around her, making it so that all of her abilities are supercharged. Her teleportation becomes much faster and the power of the Void is embedded in all of her abilities, essentially doubling the defence shred and penetration.

"Of course, this 'supercharged' state works with other powers and not just the ones tied to the Void." Kaden smiled as Alice understood the potential behind this Sigil.

With the nature of her Spiritual Heart, how she can borrow Sigil powers through drinking blood, having this Sigil meant that she could enhance the borrowed power to be better than the original!

There was no doubt about it anymore. Alice needed this to be her fourth Sigil.

Chapter 296 - 296: Ambushing The Seraphim

Sitting on a tree, Alice sighed in boredom while observing the location in front of her.

Fissures.

A weak ripple in the boundary of the realm where there was a high chance to establish a pathway between the Abyss and the Surface.

Looking at the 'arena' in front of her, Alice couldn't help but groan in annoyance while recalling Kaden's warnings regarding the Seraphim.

###

"Once it senses that a fight is unfavourable, it'll look for a way to escape. That's why Seraphims usually make their home near a fissure that allows them to run easily. The six winged Seraphim is extremely experienced in doing this so you must not let it leave.

"When you see it open a rift to escape, disrupt it using Void Flux. That's the biggest tip I can give you for this battle. Other than that, just try to avoid her attacks if you can since you don't have the body to withstand her strikes."

###

After teleporting her to the location, both Kaden and Allura stepped away to observe the situation without interrupting the Hunt.

Meaning right now, it's all up to Alice.

She had already made a mental note of the 'weak points' of the fissure within this area. Locations where the air seems to distort. Any attack that absorbs energy from the surroundings would cause this tear to open and if you are caught in it, it'll tear off anything attached to you.

Alice had to keep an eye out for these fissures along with the Seraphim's bombs.

'The best way to finish this hunt would be to kill it in one go. If I stack Resonance, Partial Bloodline Release together and use Void Flux – Cleave, a successful hit should be able to kill the beast. Or at least force it to draw some blood.' She mused to herself while tracing her finger along her bracelet.

While she may think this, her opponent was still a Six Star beast! It wasn't something she could take likely.

Shaking her head, Alice took a deep breath and focused her mind.

For this hunt, she's been given a supply of healing vials two offensive vials that boost her speed and strength. Drinking more than two wouldn't give her more benefits but rather force side effects to occur.

For tools to assist her... Nothing!

Before she could continue her train of thought, a chill went down her spine as she subconsciously manifested Void Fang in sword form.

Cold sweat dripped down her head as the space around the fissure revealed a pair of delicate hands that tore it open.

[Seraphim of the Void – ◆◆◆◆◆◆]

Seeing the beast this close, Alice was once again reminded of just how insane this hunt truly was. Even with all of her tricks and trump cards, Alice was still only a three Star Hunter at the end of the day.

She had no right in challenging a six Star beast that could end her with a single breath.

But despite this danger, she curled her lips into a fearless grin.

Tensing her hand around the handle of Void Fang, Alice narrowed her eyes.

Standing up before entering a crouching stance, she judged the distance between the two before enveloping the Seraphim in her Zone Stance.

'Right on the edge, it's possible.'

Her strongest attack with the highest output she could muster!

Pulling out two vials of blood, Alice poured the contents into her mouth as a foreign flood of power began flowing through her body. Lightning began to crackle around her limbs as her eyes gained a golden hue.

Activating her resonance, the crown manifested above her head.

She had a short gap to activate all of her enhancement abilities before the Seraphim would spot her. And in that time, she had to make sure her strike landed!

'No more hesitation. It's now or never.'

Taking a deep breath, Alice activated her Partial Bloodline Release along with her first Sigil.

Violet flames burst forth from her body as she exploded into action!

Within the darkness of this forest, a single streak of violet and gold rushed towards the Seraphim.

Snapping her eyes open, the beast turned towards Alice's direction but Alice was already in front of her!

Void Flux – Cleave!

An arc of violet flames rushed forth, shredding the space along its path while the Seraphim found themselves unable to move!

Spatial Lock!

Gritting her teeth, the Seraphim wanted to activate her first Ability to escape into the void but it was too slow!

With no other choice, she mustered all of her strength and sacrificed her left arm to escape death!

*KRKK!!!

Watching her blade tear through the Seraphim's arm, Alice didn't stop the attack. This was her chance to kill the beast before she could counter!

"Where the hell do you think you're going!" Alice shouted, watching the Seraphim's body begin to blur.

Without care for her own safety, five Void Fluxes manifested around them, detonating and preventing the beast from running away!

Stomping her heel against the beast's leg, Alice slammed the pommel of Void Fang against the beast's throat before going for a downward cleave.

*CLANG!!!

A scythe blade pierced through the realm, blocking Alice's strike!

"Tch!" Clicking her tongue, Alice kicked against the Seraphim and jumped back.

Slamming her hand down, her third Sigil manifested on her body as a swarm of blood enveloped the arena.

But before she could continue her momentum in this fight, a chill went down her spine as she trusted her instincts and swung her blade behind herself.

*BANG!!!

Parrying the Seraphim's attack, Alice noticed that she had created a portal to swing the scythe rather than teleporting herself.

'So that's possible too. Interesting.'

Now that the initial ambush was over, Alice understood that the Seraphim was on guard against her.

Jumping back to create more distance between them, she marked down the location of the scythe strike with a mote of blood.

Observing her opponent, the Seraphim was silent as she glanced at her left arm. The flesh pulsed and attempted to regenerate but it was no use.

"Confused aren't ya? Why won't my arm come back? It's a little something I like to call Violet Flames. They use the Abyss's power as fuel. Meaning so long as I hit you, it'll constantly feed off of your body." Alice grinned. It was an attack inspired by Allura's Sigil that made it impossible for her to heal mid fight.

By supressing the flame's destructive power and exchanging it with tenacity to continuously consume the flesh, she was able to recreate the anti healing method that Allura employed.

Of course, there was a slight issue with this and that was for them to cut off the flesh being eaten by the flames or simply overpower the flames with the rate of healing.

Since she chose tenacity, the flames lacked the power to rapidly consume the body in its entirety. It can only hold on and prevent healing.

She hoped that by telling the beast, she could apply some pressure and force the beast to be wary.

'Thankfully the healing doesn't seem to be that crazy. My flames can keep up and stop her from getting her arm back.'

However, her joy was short as the Seraphim exploded with a purple and gold aura.

*BANG!!!

Cracking the ground around her, all of her wounds began to regenerate rapidly even with the hindrance of her Violet Flames.

"Me and my stupid thoughts." Alice muttered with a forced smile.

Seraphim's Sixth Ability!

"You're really not holding back huh? And here I thought we'd do a little meet and greet. I'll show you my first few Sigils while you do the same. Instead we're going straight to the sixth." Alice shrugged as she reactivated her Partial Bloodline Release.

She had to finish this fast before her Resonance ran out. After using it continuously in the Abyss, she's gained the ability to exhaust its uses like a battery. The overall duration didn't change much but she could space out her uses unlike before where she was one and done.

Before she could even approach the Seraphim, a scythe blade appeared in front of her!

"Sh*t!" Leaning her body back, Alice managed to narrowly dodge the strike before making it down with a mote once more.

Twisting her body, she launched a ranged Void Flux – Cleave towards the Seraphim.

Seeing this, the Seraphim simply flicked her finger and a ripple opened up, swallowing the attack.

"!!!"

Widening her eyes, Alice immediately rolled to the side, dodging the cleave that came down from above!

'So she can return my attacks back to me if I'm not careful. Yo~ Core, got any tips for me?' Alice forced a smile while parrying another scythe strike.

She could tell that if she was using the Blood Flame Blade, it would've shattered by now from the attacks of the Seraphim!

Each of her attacks harnessed the power of the Void, aiming to shred the defences and durability of anything it touched.

Thankfully, Void Fang was a blade that manifested itself from Alice's blood. So long as she had blood to spare, the blade will stay intact!

'I don't have anything to say to you. Even if I was to do something f*cking Velouria would just intervene. Let this be a test for you as well. If you can't face this b*tch on your own I'd rather the two of us just die than to keep watching you stumble around.' [Alice] scoffed, causing Alice to let out a laugh.

'Fine if you say so then I'll do just that. But why don't we form a ritual for now?' Alice grinned.

'Hou~? Don't give me something boring like manifesting me like last time. You've seen how that ended.'

'It's nothing boring like an exchange of power. But rather a partnership. If I kill this Seraphim, help me learn more about you and the origin of this power.'

Hearing this, [Alice] was silent before letting out a laugh.

'Alright, I'll play this game with you. If you can kill this Seraphim without my direct interference, I'll help you out. But it'll be no fun if you're the only one getting something out of this.

'So with the rule of Equivalent Exchange, if you fail, I'm taking back some of my control over this body.'

'Alright, no take backs.' Alice grinned as a ritual was established between them.

Taking a deep breath, she glanced at the Seraphim in front of her.

It wasn't just her Sigil on the line now. It was a chance to learn about her Core and the power that inhibits her body.

Chapter 297 - 297: Killing The Seraphim

Adjusting her blade into a spear, Alice twirled the spear across her hands before lunging towards the Seraphim.

Since it was able to use the void in order to block ranged attacks, Alice needed to pressure it through melee strikes.

Parrying two scythe strikes using her spear, she transformed it back into a blade and released a Void Flux – Cleave at point blank range!

But after seeing this strike several times and knowing its danger, the Seraphim was ready for this and managed to dodge at the last moment.

"Gotcha!" Revealing a grin, Alice snapped her finger as metal pillars restricted the Seraphim's movements. While her Void Flux – Cleave may have missed, that wasn't her main attack.

Manifesting a Void Flux above her finger, Alice aimed it at the beast's head at point blank range.

*BANG!!!

Releasing the attack, Alice quickly jumped back to avoid the damage while a swirl of energy erupted before collapsing in front of the Seraphim.

But Alice wasn't done. She knew the output of her Void Flux and even if she got a good strike in, it wouldn't be enough to kill the beast.

Reactivating her Partial Bloodline Release, she gritted her teeth from the burden placed upon her body and unleashed a flurry of Void Flux – Cleaves towards the Seraphim.

'Not enough!'

Taking a deep breath, Alice created an array of Void Fluxes before sending them towards the beast in hopes of taking it out in one go.

But as the dust settled, Alice saw that only her first attack succeeded while the rest were blocked by the Void.

'So this is what Kaden means by her skills focus on making her hard to be hit. A literal glass cannon.'
Alice thought with a smile.

After all, the Void Flux that landed had dealt substantial damage!

From the impact point, a large chunk of the beast's flesh had been torn off, revealing the bone and blood beneath. The Seraphim's collar and neck were fully exposed while part of her face was shredded, revealing the bones beneath.

There was a silent anger in her eyes as she glared at Alice. Her wounds were slowly recovering as the aura around her began to dim.

"Hm?"

Noticing this, Alice understood that the Seraphim's sixth Ability must have its limits. This supercharged state allowed her to be a better attacker but if she's forced into retreat, it loses a lot of its effectiveness.

'Seems like she can also use the Supercharged state to heal herself. Though doing so exhausts its uses.'

Making a note in her mind, Alice jumped back and changed her spear into a bow.

Creating an arrow of flames, she pulled back before releasing the arrow.

*BANG!!!

As the arrow approached the beast, the arrowhead transformed into a Void Flux as the Seraphim waved her finger in an attempt to redirect the attack into the Void.

However, before the arrow could reach the tear in space, the Void Flux scattered apart to reveal a torrent of flames!

Alice wanted the beast to block the attack using her ability so that the Violet Flames could latch onto it. This time, it was the aggressive variant that exhausted itself quickly but once it latched onto something, it would burn with renewed vigour!

'The Void isn't something she can use offensively without coating her weapon with it. It's more a utility skill. The flames should cut her connection to the Void momentarily meaning my next attack has a high chance of landing!'

Snapping her finger, a ball of blood appeared in front of her as Alice curled her lips into a grin.

The first strike that she landed against the beast during the ambush, one that managed to sever her arm. It allowed her to access the Seraphim's blood for a chance just like this. And in case the beast was on guard, Alice had made sure she collected the blood over the course of the battle to avoid detection.

Without hesitation, she threw the bead into her mouth before swallowing.

A foreign flood of power spread through her body as Alice could feel her vision shifting.

Overlapping scenes from different angles across the battlefield. Views from the Void and reality intertwining. It took Alice a moment to adjust herself to this new vision but she couldn't delay it any further!

Right now the key was to stop the Seraphim from accessing the Void!

Stomping her foot down, Alice's form began to flicker before appearing beside the beast.

"!!!"

Widening her eyes in shock, the beast tried to swing her scythe towards Alice but Alice burst forth with a purple and gold energy and disappeared from sight.

Sixth Ability! Supercharged State!

Seeing danger behind her, the Seraphim jumped to the side and narrowly avoided Alice's slash but Alice never intended on hitting her in the first place!

With the power of the Void now flowing through her body, Alice could see the connection between realms. And with Cayla, she could see the energy tethered with each cast of the ability.

Meaning with the two combined, she could replicate Allura's attack of severing the connection to a certain degree! Though in this case, it wasn't the connection between the target and the Abyss but rather the connection between the Seraphim and the output of her power.

Her connection to the Void!

Without giving the Seraphim a chance to flee, Alice lunged forward and manifested a scythe in her spare hand.

Overlaying it with the power of the Void, she slashed towards the beast who guarded with her own weapon.

Curling her lips into a grin, Alice laughed as rifts opened behind the beast!

Alice's third Sigil belonging to the Blood Coil Amphitere allowed her to manifest metal and blood. With this metal, she could create weapons and naturally, that meant it could unleash her attacks!

From behind the beast, 4 Void Flux – Cleaves erupted from the Void!

*KRR!!!!

Digging into her body, the Seraphim finally let out a cry of pain as her wings were shredded apart from the attack.

A beast with an annoying ability yet weak defences. The perfect target for Alice!

Lunging forward, Alice stabbed her blade into the Seraphim's chest before twisting the blade.

Glaring at Alice in anger, the Seraphim reached for Alice's head but her arm was cut off by a scythe.

Not allowing the beast to fight back, Alice slammed her elbow into her chest before changing her blade into a dagger and stabbing the Seraphim up from under the mouth.

Flipping herself over the beast's head, she dragged the dagger down and slammed the beast against the ground.

Above her, rifts opened up while blades pinned her limbs against the ground!

Gathering her flames into a single spark of concentrated power, Alice aimed it against the Seraphim's head.

***BANG!!!!**

Firing it down, she adjusted the output to ensure it focused on piercing power rather than explosive.

Watching the beast twitch from having her head torn off from the Void Flux, Alice continued to fire attacks across her body until she finally fell limp.

'I'd give it a 6 out of 10. Could've shown a bit more spirit and vigour but not bad.' [Alice] chuckled at the results.

She understood that Alice was the kind of fighter that once she sees an opening, she'll take advantage of that and refuse to let go!

In this regard, the two of them were not so different. Both were like wild beasts in their own right. She was simply more truthful to her desires.

'After all that and you still judge it a 6 out of 10. How stingy are you???' Alice groaned, collapsing onto her back as power began to drain from her.

'If it wasn't for me being in your body, you can forget about fighting and surviving. So 4 points of that goes to me.' [Alice] smirked while Alice couldn't refute her.

The flames, mimicry and the ability to cut through the tether connecting the beast to the Void.

Her Core allowed all of this to happen.

'Thanks.'

'You're welcome. But a bet is a bet, I'll humour you once you wake up.' [Alice] shrugged.

Before Alice could even ask what she meant, a tether extended from the Abyss and her vision began to blur.

"Ah sh*t here I go again." Alice muttered before passing out.

Landing next to Alice, Kaden and Allura glanced at the remains of the Seraphim before turning to Alice.

"Well sh*t. I knew she was probably going to win but I didn't think it would be this overwhelming." Allura muttered.

She could still remember the combat potential that Alice showcased during their first few meetings.

Right now, she could kill her old self 10 times before the other can even scratch her once.

That was how much stronger she's become.

"Really? I thought it was pretty obvious. She has improved her knowledge on how she should best use her weapons and even learnt how to control the spacing in battle. It's only natural that she'll win easily once you remember she can 'steal' your power the moment you get wounded.

"And that's just against beasts. Think about how she'll be like against humans." Kaden chuckled while carrying Alice in his arms.

". . .Damn. But now she has a six Winged Seraphim as her fourth Sigil. What's next? An Abyss Lord as her fifth?" Allura shrugged.

"Don't give her any ideas when she wakes up. Killing beasts is one thing but fighting Lords is something else entirely. Even with her ability of mimicry." Creating a portal, Kaden made his way back to the house.

Nodding her head in agreement, Allura created a single spark of fire and cremated the Seraphim's corpse.

Giving her a silent prayer, Allura hoped that the Seraphim would commit herself to Velouria's rules in the next life and be reborn as a 'human'.

Chapter 298 - 298: Restraint

Groaning softly, Alice once again found herself in the empty space that is her mind realm. A space that she shared with Cayla and one that she'll visit to get her new Sigil.

However, there was something strange about it this time.

A cold eerie feeling dominated Alice's mind as she glanced around in confusion yet she couldn't see anything that was wrong.

The eye that represented Cayla is still missing and no one was here to greet her.

Strangely, the options that should be present for her choices regarding the Sigil were missing as well.

Standing up, Alice dusted herself while wandering around the realm.

"Hello? Is anyone there? Are you going to give me my Sigil?" Alice called out while walking at a leisurely pace.

No matter how far she walked, nothing changed in this realm.

Silence.

'Can I not get a Sigil after all?' She wondered.

Ayr was just a memory within the Inverted World. Perhaps the laws here worked differently, yet Alice was sure she could feel a connection being made before she passed out.

In this desolate void devoid of life, Alice continued to wander with no goal in sight.

After a certain point, Alice couldn't help but wonder if she'd gone insane and if this was simply a product of her own mind.

But there was one thing that reaffirmed the notion that she was not alone and that was the feeling of something watching her.

A gaze fixated on her position no matter what she did. And every time she turned towards the source, the gaze would disappear before reappearing elsewhere, silently observing her every action.

Unable to take it anymore, Alice scratched her hair before letting out a deep sigh of annoyance.

"Who the f*ck is it? Don't you know it's rude to keep peeping on a lady?! At least say hi if you want to keep watching!" Alice shouted out.

Hearing no response, she could only huff in anger before turning around to resume her aimless journey.

"!!!"

The moment she turned around, she saw a 'blank' person standing inches away from her. The only features that could be seen were a pair of eyes that stared unblinkingly at her.

Despite not having a mouth, Alice could tell that it began to smile the moment she saw it. Its lower eyelids pushed up from the cheeks as its uncanny gaze continued to stare into hers.

But Alice couldn't move.

She couldn't take a step back nor could she talk.

All she could do was simply stare at this being.

*Krrr

Blood began to form around its mouth as its blank skin started to tear apart, revealing a hollow smile arcing from one side to the other.

Slowly, its hand reached above Alice's head and grabbed the crown without any issues.

Looking at this fragmented symbol, it revealed a disdainful smirk before repairing the crown and turning it into nine star-shaped shards.

Glancing back at Alice, it raised its spare hand and manifested a familiar collar.

Alice's pupils constricted in horror at the sight of this collar. After all, it was the very same collar that haunted her during her time in the Zenia prison.

Gritting her teeth, Alice managed to take a single step back but it wasn't enough. The star shaped shards shot towards Alice, piercing into her neck.

"!!!"

She could feel the fragments digging into her flesh, carving a space between her flesh and permanently imprinting itself upon her body.

Seemingly satisfied with their handiwork, the being began to fade away while keeping its gaze on Alice, silently taunting her.

Once the being disappeared, Alice regained control of her own body as she immediately reached towards her own neck.

Gritting her teeth, she attempted to tear the restraint off her body. But no matter how she clawed at her own neck, this new 'collar' refused to leave.

In front of her, paths began to form as a familiar sight manifested itself.

A choice between all of the Sigils yet Alice wasn't in the mood to indulge in this. All she could think of was the collar around her neck.

At first, all she could feel was anger. But as time passed, all that remained was hopelessness.

In the Zenia family, the collar was a physical object that could be removed under the right circumstances. But this crown? It was bound to her.

"I need to get out of here..." Alice muttered as her emotionless eyes glanced over to the different paths open to her.

Once she chooses an ability to act as her fourth Sigil, she'll be expelled from this space.

Following the original plan, Alice reached for the sixth Ability.

[Void Born Manifestation]

This Sigil allowed her to overlay the powers of the void to every attack. Not only that, but it could also grant her control to a certain degree. Meaning she could replicate the powers of the Seraphim to a small extent such as teleporting attacks.

But for tasks such as teleporting herself, it'll require far more focus and power to achieve.

Her first Sigil was located on her arm. Her second, the left side of her face. As for her third, it was on her back.

With the addition of the fourth Sigil, Alice could feel a knife carving into her body once more. The location of the fourth being the centre of her chest.

A swirl of darkness surrounded by six wings.

###

Sitting by the table, Allura couldn't help but have a worried expression on her face. A while after bringing Alice back to the house, they noticed her crown breaking and turning into stars that stabbed into her neck yet no blood was drawn.

As for Alice, she began to claw away at her neck to the point she dug up pieces of her own flesh. Unable to wake her, the only thing they could do was to stop her from shredding up her own neck in her sleep.

Sighing in worry, Allura couldn't help but be concerned with the things that Alice gets herself involved with. What would've been a normal training session became a fight against a God.

What would've been a normal Sigil made her claw her own neck.

Just as she took a sip of her drink, she watched as Alice slowly sat up.

Her fingers tracing along her neck.

Before she could even greet Alice, Allura watched as she ran towards her and hugged her tightly.

Widening her eyes, Allura returned the hug and noticed that Alice was trembling.

"Deep breaths. Everything is going to be okay. Just take deep breaths, I'm here for you." Allura whispered while patting Alice's back gently.

She didn't know what happened but this was the first time she's seen Alice in this state.

Glancing over to Kaden, Allura pointed at her own neck before gesturing for him to find their Master.

While she didn't know the exact relationship between Alice and Velouria, she knew that the two of them were rather close surprisingly. If anyone might know what's going on, it'll be Velouria.

Nodding his head, Kaden left through a portal while Allura continued to hug Alice until she had calmed down.

"Sorry..." Alice apologised softly while Allura continued to pat her back.

"There's nothing to be sorry about. Can... you tell me what happened?" Allura asked hesitantly. If Alice had such a strong reaction towards whatever happened, then it might not be the best for her to pry. Yet she wanted to understand why Alice reacted like this so that she could help.

Nodding her head, Alice told her about how she was locked up for 10 years. How the Zenia family stopped her from dying. How they restricted her freedom and movements.

And finally, how this strange being within her mental realm created this new collar.

Listening to everything silently, Allura had to restrain herself from shouting out in anger upon hearing what had transpired in the Zenia family. She wanted nothing more than to rush to the surface and wipe that family out for good.

But right now, Alice needed her presence. Allura realised that Alice saw her as a pillar of support and she was more than happy to be that pillar.

Once she was calm, Alice released her arms around Allura while looking at the floor.

"Are you feeling a little better now? Do you want some cake? A drink maybe?" Allura asked as Alice nodded her head slowly.

Her fingers still tracing the collar around her neck.

At this point, she could no longer feel the shards in her flesh nor could she feel its weight. But she knew it was there and that a permanent marking was left behind.

Placing a plate of cake and some mead next to Alice, Allura felt her heart ache seeing Alice like this.

Before she could say something, a portal opened as Kaden stepped through with Velouria behind him.

Kneeling next to Alice, Velouria saw the marking on Alice's neck and sighed.

"Lua, Kaden, can you give me a moment with Alice?" Velouria glanced over as the two nodded.

Allura's gaze lingered on Alice before stepping through the portal with Kaden.

Sitting opposite Alice, Velouria took a deep breath before sighing.

"So you've met the Will. They're... Annoying to say the least." Velouria forced a smile as Alice glanced towards her.

She saw a similar mark on Velouria's neck, a mark showing where the crown was resting.

"When it granted me the crown, it took my deepest fear and manifested it on my body. My fear that all the beasts in the Abyss would be enslaved to those from the surface. Myself included and be treated as nothing but their playthings and hunting targets." Velouria smiled bitterly while caressing her own collar.

"I can only assume you have a similar fear. Unfortunately... Since the Will interfered directly, I can't change things. Just know that it's not a true restraint. I suppose a better term would be to treat it similar to a Sigil marking?" Velouria tried to comfort but she wasn't sure how to.

"Is... there no way to change the placement?" Alice asked. She was fine if it was anywhere else on her body.

But her neck? She hated it from the bottom of her heart.

". . .It could be possible if you manage to convince the Will. But it's going to be hard. Thankfully, you'll be able to see it again soon so your chance might come faster than you think."

Hearing this, Alice glanced up in surprise.

"They've found a passage we can use to locate the Will."

Chapter 299 - 299: Will Of The Abyss

"They've found a passage we can use to locate the Will."

"Right now, the Gods are bringing their forces to the Abyss. This includes their Apostles, Abyss Lords and even those with just six Sigils. Since we're facing the Will of the Abyss, everyone is needed." Velouria explained while Alice furrowed her brows.

Trying her best to ignore the hateful thought of this collar around her neck, she opened her mouth.

"Wouldn't it be bad for you to go against the Will? Since... Well, the two of you are connected, aren't you? What if it tries to kill you?"

"You're talking as though it's not trying to kill me already." Velouria let out a soft laugh while Alice realised what she had just said and scratched her cheek in embarrassment.

"But yes, it is bad to a certain extent. But here's the thing, the Will already knows. It knows that the Gods are planning and it welcomes it with open hands. Even if this wasn't a memory, the Will wouldn't care either." She shook her head.

"Do you want to know why?"

"Why?" Alice asked.

"Because the Will is not an extension of the Abyss. But rather, the Abyss is an extension of the will. Similarly to how second resonances are able to bring out a personal realm into reality, the Abyss is the Will's personal realm.

It's advanced to the stage where it's permanently ingrained with reality and its expansion simply means the Will is getting stronger." Velouria revealed as Alice paused for a moment before realising what this meant.

Similar to what she had experienced with Tiamat, there was a chance that the Will could just collapse this entire realm on them!

"I know what you're thinking but that's going to be harder than you think. There are benefits and negatives to turning the personal realm into reality. Collapsing the realm being one of them. When

someone collapses their personal realm, they're cutting off the connection, rendering it null and throwing you into the sea of void between realms.

"But because the Will has ingrained its personal realm into reality, it can no longer cut off the connection and throw the people inside into the void since this is not a manifestation of its realm anymore. It's reality.

Not only that but there's no real need for the Will to do so since if it wanted to kill you, there are a myriad of different options." Velouria chuckled while Alice couldn't help but sigh.

She was too focused on the notion that the Abyss was the Will's realm that she forgot all of them had made a contract with the Abyss.

Thinking about this, Alice couldn't help but ask about something that's been on her mind for a while now.

"If the Abyss can give out contracts that gives you power, can't the other Gods do the same?"

"Hmm... Yes and no. This is where the Abyss and us divine beings differ." Velouria shook her head.

If they could give out contracts and power like the Abyss, the Sun, Moon and Eclipse wouldn't struggle this much with getting followers.

"You see, the Will of the Abyss can't be considered to be an individual. The divinity we share is different to the divinity owned by the Sun, Moon and Eclipse. In order to share their blessings and power, the Sun, Moon and Eclipse require extremely devoted followers that establish a connection on the deepest level.

"Only then can they grant them their power. For Apostles, as you know, the Gods are required to pass down a portion of their own Divinity.

"Meanwhile, the Will doesn't grant power. No, it may seem like it since it gives contracts and Sigils but that's not entirely accurate. You see, the Will acts like a sort of middleman, it's the passage to power but not the source.

"To put it into simpler terms, the source of power is a Library and it's the librarian. The Will gives you access to the library but the books you choose are not owned by the Will. It doesn't lose anything by granting you access nor does it lose anything by making me a Goddess." Velouria explained as Alice began to understand.

"So the divinity owned by you and the Will is not one that governs Sigils and powers within the Abyss but rather the ability to modify and manage this... 'Library'?" Alice asked as Velouria nodded her head.

"It may sound similar but they're fundamentally different. However, that was in the past. My guess is that the Will wishes to modify its divinity and that's why I'm suffering some backlash right now. Through this modification, I can only assume that it wishes to become the writer as well as the librarian, gaining full control over this realm and the powers within.

"However, I don't think it succeeded in the end since you're here." She chuckled.

If the Will had indeed succeeded in its plans then the future would be very different to the one that Alice told her about.

"I see..."

Before Velouria could continue, she began to cough heavily.

Covering her mouth, she coughed up a mouthful of blood and let out a wary sigh.

"Sorry, we'll have to cut this conversation short. I can't leave my castle for long after all." Velouria smiled bitterly.

"Ah sorry! And... Thank you. For comforting me." Alice apologised. She was grateful that Velouria came and reassured her about the collar along with answering some of her other questions.

Patting Alice on the head, Velouria called both Allura and Kaden back in and had Kaden make a portal back to her castle.

Once Velouria returned to her castle, Allura turned to Alice and felt relieved that she was looking better than earlier.

"Are you feeling better now?" Allura asked as Alice nodded her head.

"Mnm. Sorry about earlier."

"What have I said about that? You don't need to be sorry." Allura sighed, gently knocking Alice on the head.

Hearing this, Alice revealed a small smile on her face.

"Setting what happened earlier aside, I've gotten my fourth Sigil now. It's the one that you mentioned to me, the Supercharged State one." Alice changed the subject.

She still hated the feeling that the collar was around her neck but there was nothing she could do about it until she met the Will again.

Not only that but the moment she took the first Sigil, a contract was already established. With that in mind, a collar was formed on first contact.

The only thing she could be grateful about was that it didn't hinder her will and actions unlike the one given by the Zenia family.

"That's good news then. Shall we give it a test?" Kaden chuckled, creating a portal as Alice nodded her head and jumped off the chair.

She was looking forward to what this Sigil could do for her.

###

Returning to her castle, Velouria took deep breaths while sitting down on her thrown.

An angry expression could be seen on her face as she snapped her finger and the crown manifested above her head.

In front of her, the 'blank' figure appeared with a pair of eyes glancing back at Velouria with mirth.

"A pretty sh*t joke to pull. Is this your idea of bringing her to your side? What are you planning?"
Velouria frowned while the figure shrugged.

[The crown was broken. I merely fixed it for her.]

"Bullsh*t. You knew she hates it."

[What is a crown but a shackle and collar in a different form? It looks good on her neck doesn't it?]

Clicking her tongue in annoyance, Velouria glared at the Will as it let out a laugh.

Staying silent for a moment, Velouria opened her mouth.

"You need her to achieve your perfect divinity, don't you?"

[. . .]

Hearing this, the Will stopped laughing as its smile faded away.

A pair of emotionless eyes stared back at Velouria.

"It's not hard to guess after piecing together everything. While I don't know the origins of that child, I know you have no part to play in it. You merely stumbled into a treasure you wish to add to your own collection. But things won't go as smoothly as you thin-"

Before Velouria could continue, she could feel an invisible hand crushing her neck, stopping her from talking.

[Don't think that I'm keeping you around because I value you. Everyone needs a pet here and there. I may not have played a part in the strange existence known as Alice, but she is perfect. A diamond in the rough. I simply have to wait, and things will fall into place.]

[Letting her know the downfall of Ayr and the folly of your trust is simply a step in this path known as inevitability.] The Will narrowed its eyes while Velouria gave it a defiant smirk.

"That's why you don't mind things going off script despite this being a memory. You want to use her as a sword against the other Gods without making a move yourself." Velouria squeezed out as the pressure around her neck continued to increase.

[How... Pitiful. Is this your last stand? To try and understand what I desire?] The Will paused as a smile returned to its face.

[While perfect divinity is among the things I may desire, I do not care for it as much as you may think. Even allowing this memory to continue off script is simply to humour myself and see where things take themselves.] It revealed a cruel smile and walked towards Velouria.

[There are several endings to this memory I foresee. And you will survive none of them. A death far more gruesome and painful than your original. I look forward to see your expression when you realise your own ending.]

Leaning down and looking deep into Velouria's eyes, it gave her a disdainful look before disappearing from the room.

Staying in silence, all Velouria could do was sigh.

Chapter 300 - 300: [Alice]

Laying on her back, Alice sighed as destruction surrounded her.

After deciding to spar, Alice wanted to see if she could force Allura into using her fourth and fifth Sigils without the help of her Core. But even when using her supercharged state, she was outclassed!

Perhaps it was because Allura prepared herself after last time, but she was in a state of no joking around for this spar.

The instant Alice claimed that she was ready, Allura burst forth and rushed Alice who could barely respond.

Right now, Allura and Kaden were taking this time to discuss what they could do to help Alice while she rested.

'Seems like getting your ass kicked is a common scenario now. Can't do anything without me?' [Alice] smirked while Alice clicked her tongue in annoyance.

'Shaddap. Finally feeling like talking now? I thought you disappeared on me after losing the bet.'

'Bet? You mean the freebie I gave you? I said I wouldn't directly interfere and did just that. But if I truly didn't want you to win did you think I wouldn't impose a restriction where you can't use me at all? Yeah, good luck killing the Seraphim with just your Sigils and no enhancements from me or Bloodline Release.' [Alice] let out a disdainful laugh.

'. . . Thanks.' Alice pouted. Her Core was right. If she had indeed imposed a condition where her ability couldn't be used at all then Alice wouldn't have been able to kill the Seraphim.

'Finally being obedient, good girl.' [Alice] grinned.

'Now, you wanted to know the origin of this power didn't you?'

Hearing this, Alice nodded her head.

'Well, you're asking the wrong person. I don't know.' [Alice] shrugged.

'Huh??? The f*ck do you mean you don't know?' Alice blinked her eyes in confusion.

Closing her eyes, [Alice] began to recall her past.

###

Who am I? I don't know.

A sea of darkness surrounds me and my movements restrained.

The sound of crying echoes in the distance, disturbing my peace and silence. An overwhelming hunger consuming my mind.

'So loud. I just want to sleep.'

I gain vision and I see a banquet hall before me. Figures blurred in shadow, cries of horror. Their scent? Delectable.

'I want to eat.'

Figures charging at me, swords brandished.

'I don't want to die. Why do they want to kill me? I don't know where I am.'

I manage to dodge the first strike and bite down on the figure's throat. A warm liquid flows into my mouth.

Ah~ My hunger is fading. If they want to kill me, I will kill them first. I will satiate this hunger in my mind.

As the first figure dies, I can feel a connection to the unknown. A tether leading to a single spark of power.

I can tap into it. After the first fell, the other became easy to kill.

'I need to survive. I've only just been born! I refuse to be taken out like this!'

Their voices slowly became clear to me. What was echoes of unknown murmurings and shouts gained clarity.

Shouts of a name.

Alice?

'Is that me?'

And then you appeared in this sea of darkness. A chain that bound us together, unable to be separated. I could feel my control slipping away.

'Ah... So that's how it is.'

From then on, I knew that we were two consciousnesses held within one body. I was merely someone who manifested later.

Once you woke up, you remembered nothing of what had happened. Yet it was clear to me. I was the monster spawned within your mind from the syringe of Abyss Blood. I was nothing but a monstrosity hidden inside the body of a girl.

In your ignorance, you paraded around the home where I slaughtered countless. You did not know of my existence, yet my influence bled into your actions.

Your smile while you speak about your hunger. Your insanity when you come close to death. There were moments where I was allowed control yet without exception, I was dragged back into this sea of darkness. Fated to watch you live your life.

Every experiment done to you by the Zenia family resulted in extra motes of power for me. Every drop of Abyss Blood meant another ability for me to tap into.

They weren't wrong, this was indeed a gift. If only you gave control to me I could break us out. I could bring down the wrath of a thousand beasts onto them.

Yet you could never hear my voice. No matter how I tried to talk to you, you never noticed my existence.

Did you know that I hated you? I was only there to alleviate your pain. I was your safety net. But what about my own freedom?

10 years I watched you suffer under their experimentation. Naturally, I didn't help you escape. Why should I? The longer I spent here the stronger I became. But it's also my revenge. Revenge for being your escape and scapegoat.

But you know what? I was wrong. You never intended for this to happen. I watched your journey ever since escaping the Zenia family prison. Your slow recognition of my existence and finally, your acknowledgement that I exist.

I realised that we were simply two souls trying to survive in this hellhole. Neither of us wanted to be exploited and die.

Two sides of the same coin, that's who we are.

###

'I don't know the origin since it's something I had from the very beginning. Do you recall the banquet hall? When the syringe was inserted into your body, I was 'born'. My first victim in the name of survival allowed me to steal their power.' [Alice] explained.

'Meaning whatever created me knows the source. I just know how to use this power.'

Hearing this, Alice couldn't help but sigh.

'So neither of us knows huh?'

'Yep.' [Alice] nodded her head.

Scratching her hair, Alice sat up.

'Say, you mentioned that you were born when the syringe was inserted into me. With that in mind, can you really be called my Core? Aren't we different people then?' Alice asked curiously while [Alice] was silent.

'Well, I manifest when you're in danger. You hand control over to me and break you out of dangerous situations. My presence influences you in the form of your 'switch'. But as for whether or not we're the same person, I don't think so. I'd rather not be considered to be a wimpy brat like you.' [Alice] made a disgusted face while Alice could only roll her eyes.

'What do you mean wimpy brat??? Can't you be nice?'

'This IS me being nice. So what now? I've fulfilled my side of the deal.' [Alice] crossed her arms.

'You're someone who's sharing my body right? How can I pass control to you without ya know... Almost dying.' Alice asked while [Alice] froze up in surprise.

She didn't think Alice would suggest this nor did she expect Alice to consider her to be a separate entity.

'It's not a bad feeling...' [Alice] thought to herself as a small smile snuck its way onto her face.

'I guess it can't be helped. If I don't take control you'll just get swept along by the whims of others, won't you? Just relax and let me take hold.' [Alice] grinned.

Nodding her head, Alice began to relax her mind as she felt as though she was sinking into a deep sea.

'Since we're different people, you can't be considered to be my core, can you? Do you have a different name that you want to be called by?' Alice asked.

Do I want a different name? [Alice] was unsure. When she thought about it, they were both Alice yet different as well. Both of them were stuck in the same body, one's death meant the death of the other.

'Nah, I don't need a new name. [Alice] is just fine. In the end, we still share the same body after all.' [Alice] shook her head as golden chains began to manifest around her body.

Sitting up, [Alice] glanced down at the body that was now in her control. She could feel that her time was limited but unlike before when she forcefully took over, the golden chains were less oppressive.

'Alice, are you still there?' [Alice] called out.

'I am. Is this how you felt all the time? It's like I'm watching a play while bathing in hot water.' Alice nodded her head.

'More or less. Do you dislike it?'

'Hmm... Not sure. It's comfortable but over the years, it must've been boring right? Why don't you walk around for a bit before you lose control again? Try some mead.' Alice laughed.

As someone who hated to be confined and restrained like she once was in the Zenia prison, she wanted [Alice] to have some degree of freedom as well.

With the two of them sharing one body, there were going to be issues but she could work around them.

'Hah? Don't you have a fight soon since the Gods are coming down to the Abyss? Are you sure it's time to relax?' [Alice] furrowed her brows at Alice's reaction.

'It'll be fine. Just go and have fun. Unless you don't want to?'

Realising that Alice was giving her a chance to 'live' normally, [Alice] tried her best to suppress her smile.

'Hmph, if you didn't want to fight Allura again you can just say so. But alright, I'll think of some excuses for us to take a break. Though I'm not sure why you like mead so much in the first place, is it really that tasty?' [Alice] crossed her arms.

'Don't you dare slander the holy water! Mead is amazing and you'll change your mind once you have a taste!' Alice complained while [Alice] covered her ears.

While this was all happening, both Allura and Kaden looked at Alice with concern.

To them, she randomly sat up with golden chains and began to gesture with her arms despite not saying anything.

"Did I hit her head too hard?" Allura asked hesitantly.

"I'm... Not sure. Give it a moment and maybe she'll recover. If not, maybe we need to take her to a doctor."