

Abyssal A 321

Chapter 321 - 321: Apostle Of Corruption

While Kaden's mimicry of the Reaper was keeping it distracted, Kaden stood next to Allura as they both eyed Shura, the Abyss Lord of Destruction.

"We should finish this quickly. I felt it earlier but it's even more evident now that I made a copy of the Reaper. It's just a cocoon right now. Once it hatches, it won't be something we can deal with." Kaden warned with a serious expression.

"It's that bad?" Allura furrowed her brows.

If Kaden was saying it like this then they should aim to kill Shura as fast as possible.

"Mnm. How long do you need to fulfil your Ritual?"

"Give me... 10 minutes. That should be enough for me to reach the Seventh Day." Allura calculated. The exact time wasn't 10 minutes but she had to give a rough estimate.

"Let's hope they're willing to wait 10 minutes then!"

Jumping in front of Allura, Kaden conjured a wall of beasts to block Shura's blade strike as the power of destruction tore through the flesh but thankfully, it gave them enough time to dodge out of the way.

The key to fighting someone who could ignore defence like Allura or Shura was to overwhelm them with numbers. For Shura, Kaden needed to supply beasts continuously to act as defences for them rather than a barrier.

And right now, this was perfect since he had just killed the Lord of Waters and got her Sigil.

From his shadow, he now not only had access to the corrupted variants of the beasts he saw but also beasts that dwell in the deep, governed by Thalassa.

Snapping his finger, an array began to expand out from beneath Kaden's feet.

Gate of the Deep!

As though imposing his Second Resonance to the world, the space beneath him began to twist and turn, transforming into a portal to the depths of the Abyss Waters.

And from the darkness crawled countless beasts of varying qualities.

Seeing the onslaught of beasts, Shura clicked her tongue out of annoyance and twisted her body, releasing an array of slashes to push back the wave.

Each time she killed a beast, another two would take its place.

Pure anger could be seen in her eyes as she glared at the duo who were focused on keeping her busy until Allura had fulfilled her ritual.

She is the Abyss Lord of Destruction and there was nothing she couldn't destroy.

Yet these vermin continued to stall her.

"Enough!" Shura shouted out as a violent aura burst forth from her body, pushing away the beasts around her.

Adjusting her grip on her blade, she raised it above her as the cross that was following her stabbed into the ground.

*CRACK!

Cracking open, spectral beings began to claw out from the cross, rushing towards Shura's blade.

Understanding that she was charging up an attack similar to Allura, Kaden snapped his finger as several beasts lunged forth from her shadow.

However, that proved to be a mistake as a connection was now formed between them.

Glaring back at the beasts, their forms began to twist before exploding into a mass of energy that rushed towards her blade.

Without hesitation, she created an orb of destruction and threw it towards her shadow.

Thankfully, Kaden realised what was going on at the last second and broke off the connection before the attack could land. If he was even a little bit slower, there was no telling what that orb could've done to his body.

And while he was safe, he had failed to stop whatever Shura was attempting to accomplish.

As the spectral beings all gathered into her blade, Shura curled her mouth up into a devilish grin before grabbing the sword in a reverse grip.

Giving the two one last look, she plunged the blade into her own chest!

"!!!"

From her body, countless strands of conflicting energy burst forth as her form began to change.

Little by little, cracks spread across her body as her obsidian form shattered, to reveal the pristine skin beneath. A pair of blood red eyes and long white hair fluttered behind her. Her dress began to shift as it transformed into a simple black dress with silver armour adorning her chest, arms and legs.

Behind her, two blades floated, one black like obsidian and the other radiant like her hair.

Closing her eyes, she cracked open her mouth and let out a chilling laugh as an aura rivalling that of the Reaper erupted from her body, sending both Kaden and Allura into a fight or flight response.

Without hesitation, Kaden prepared to open his Second Resonance but Shura was faster.

Manifesting behind him, her eyes flickered with an ominous radiance as Kaden widened his eyes in a mix of shock and fear.

He couldn't move his body! With a single glance, she had restricted the movement of his body, leaving him completely open to an attack from behind.

Thankfully, he wasn't alone. Beside him, Allura pulled her fist back and punched towards Shura's head who parried it with her blade.

Ice began to form across Allura's fist as her flames were doused within the blink of an eye! The ice began to tear apart her skin as she flinched from the assault of cold energy into her body.

Twisting her body, she launched a kick towards Shura's chest, sending her backwards and giving them the space they so desperately needed.

The period of paralysis was over as Kaden regained control over his own body.

Understanding that his Second Resonance where he tricks them wasn't going to work, Kaden went with a different approach.

Much like Allura, his Second Resonance was unique amongst the different Abyss Lords.

Most would have only one but he had two variants. The first focused on trickery, luring his opponents into his realm without realising. Yet this lacked the offensive power most Resonances have.

As for his other variant, it required the use of his blessing.

Even though he disliked using his blessing, he couldn't be worried about something small like this when both of their lives are in danger!

*BANG!!!

Activating his blessing, his Sigils began to merge into one large array of twists and turns. On his neck, the crest of Ayr surrounded by dark briar thorns and inky fluid manifested as Kaden's eye turned black with white Irises.

Ink like blood dripped from his eyes as a pair of tattered wings unfurled behind him. Dark shackles manifested around his wrists. Similar to Allura's Executioner form, a halo manifested above his head but unlike Allura, his halo was dripping with malevolence and darkness that sent a chill down the spine.

[Apostle of Corruption : Kaden]

Tilting his head back, Kaden let out a laugh as he rushed towards Shura who was shocked by his sudden change of appearance but regardless, slashed towards him with both her blades.

A blade burst out from his arm as Kaden blocked the strike. Leaning forward, he narrowed his eyes at Shura before revealing a grin.

"You shouldn't have done that~" Kaden cackled as Shura's eyes turned bloodshot. Black ink began to drip from her eyes as her skin showed signs of corruption.

Kicking Kaden in the chest, Shura jumped back as layers of ice froze over her skin before breaking off the pieces of corrupted flesh. However, that wasn't enough. No matter how her flesh regenerated, the corruption remained.

"Oi, mongrel. My corruption works far deeper than just the flesh. It corrupts the soul." Kaden taunted before creating a tear in space. Plunging his hand into the tear, he began to pull out a dark book sealed by chains.

"Do you know what this is? It's my own personal Relic." Kaden curled his lips into a dark grin.

Relics are items that people create a deep bond with. Depending on the Relic you bond with, your powers would undergo a change. People can have two Relics at most as any more and it would create a conflict of power within their body.

But for him, he was limited to one due to how obscenely violent his Relic was. No matter how he tries to change, the relic he binds himself with will always transform and become this book in the end.

Its name...

[Grimoire of Original Sin]

As the Apostle of Corruption, Kaden could be considered as a library of curses that he could apply to the people around him. Just being in his presence was enough to 'corrupt' souls of the people around him if he wasn't careful.

And as for his personal Relic... The Book held the power to impose curses and shackles of corruption upon his opponents.

Shattering the chains, Kaden opened the book as a dark mist manifested around his body.

"Curse of lethargy."

Shackles manifested around Shura's ankles as she could feel her stamina and energy being drained at a rapid pace. Realising that she couldn't let this continue, she activated her Sigil once more as Kaden found himself unable to move.

Appearing above him, energy gathered into her blades as she let out an ear shattering roar before slashing down.

But before her slash could reach him...

"Curse of Apathy."

The energy around her blade dissipated and a string of foreign thoughts entered her mind.

'Why should I even fight these two?'

Shaking her head to dispel this thought, she slashed towards Kaden once more as he transformed into a flock of ravens. Black feathers danced around the battlefield as his voice echoed out once more.

"Curse of Fear."

Sensing danger all around her, Shura attempted to slash towards the source of the voice but the only thing her blade could reach was the Ravens. Each time a Raven died, it would explode into a mass of ink and spikes that would continue to corrode her soul.

A fear of losing herself began to take root in her heart as she backed off from the flock of Ravens.

"Curse of Identity, Curse of Regret."

Kaden continued as ritualistic markings manifested on Shura's body. From needles piercing through her limbs to chains restricting her movements, she soon found herself unable to target Kaden.

And finally...

"Sin of Sloth."

As five curses were applied to Shura without her being able to break free from them, the restrictions began to fade as it transformed into a brand of Sin. A Sigil with the icon of shackles manifested around Shura's wrists.

With the Sin now imprinted onto Shura, Kaden gritted his teeth and forced the book to close before sealing with chains once more. Throwing it into the rift, he collapsed on his knee.

There were drawbacks to using this power but it was fine as he achieved his goal. Buying time for Allura!

Seven Days of Execution – Seventh Day!

Chapter 322 - 322: Apostle of Severance

Between the three of them, Kaden, Allura and Nyer, he was always the weakest in terms of raw combat power.

Allura was second and Nyer was first.

But as the owner of the Severance Blessing, Allura was first in lethality!

Taking a step forward, Allura was akin to an unsheathed blade. Just being in her presence was enough to make one hallucinate the thought of being slashed into ribbons in the blink of an eye.

Compared to her previous states, this was far different. There was no flaming aura, no explosive flames. Just pure, untainted, silent lethality.

A pair of cold blue eyes stared at Shura who was gritting her teeth from the curses imposed by the Sin of Sloth.

Allura's hair was now similar to Alice except it wasn't split down the centre. Instead, it was black that faded into a pure white colour similar to Velouria.

She wore a black and white dress that fluttered with each of her movements, gentle and composed.

Breathing out, a crest manifested on the back of neck. It was barely visible but Alice could see it clearly. The symbol of Ayr guarded by a single blade and three pairs of wings.

[Apostle of Severance : Allura]

Around her, the space began to distort as she pulled her hand back before punching forward.

*CRACK!!!

The space shattered apart as Allura reached into the tear and began to pull out a single blade. Unlike the blade she manifested before, this was different and hummed with divinity that resonated with her blessing.

As she began to pull the blade out, the fabric of space looked as though it was nothing but a veil, dragged along by the edge of the sword. Its infinite darkness overlaid the silver edge. Once the blade was pulled out in its entirety, radiant white flames burst out of her body, condensing into a black and silver armour.

Once again, the crest of Ayr was clearly visible on its surface. Allura's pride and joy.

Raising the sword before stabbing it into the ground, Allura glared at Shura before a headpiece manifested itself over the upper half of her face.

Allura had two Relics bound to her.

[Executioner's Raiment]

The armour she dons upon herself to carry out her execution.

And finally, her blade bestowed by Velouria herself. A blade crafted with the blessing of Severance acting as a base. The first of its kind.

[Nihilism's Edge]

A blade to reduce everything to zero. To shave away at a person until they are nothingness.

"Commencing Execution." Allura spoke coldly as she flickered out of sight and appeared behind Shura who was unable to react due to the Sin of Sloth. But even without this hindrance, Allura's power had reached an all time high.

With the fulfilment of her Ritual and the dawn of the Seventh Day of Execution, she was now at a level that was above Apostles and below the Gods!

In other words, by fulfilling the Ritual, she had gained the power of a demi God.

"Severance of Sight."

At that moment, Shura was greeted by a word of darkness. Her sight that she relied upon and the sense that allowed her to 'see' through energy, robbed.

"Severance of Touch."

Shura stumbled over, the ground lost meaning as she felt as though she was floating in the sky yet she was not moving.

"Severance of Sound."

"Smell."

"Taste."

With each strike, Allura continued to strip away everything that Shura used to interact with the world but she wasn't done.

Even with all of her physical senses being robbed from her, instinctually, Shura still understood how to utilize her power. And in her current state of panic, she was unleashing the power of destruction wantonly.

"Fuuu....." Breathing out deeply, Allura unleashed a sixth slash horizontally.

"Severance of Power."

With the thread of power connecting Shura to the Will now severed, the aura of destruction fizzled out as she raised her blade above Shura's head.

Her target was now senseless and powerless. The state of a prisoner awaiting execution.

And finally, Allura slashed down.

"Severance of Life. Execution!"

In a single slash, Allura decapitated Shura as her body began to crumble away. Seven days of Execution, seven stages of Severance before reaching nihilism.

By allowing her target to have 'seven days' to prepare themselves, she is able to unleash power beyond her normal authority in a single burst to impose an execution onto them.

With Shura now defeated, the strands of her energy converged around Allura as her armour and blade faded away.

This was the second drawback of her ritual despite its impressive power. It was single target only! Upon executing her target, her boost in strength would fade away immediately unless she decides to reactive the ritual for a second target.

However, with her current state being one where she's essentially out of energy completely, activating a second ritual was impossible.

"What a bothersome ritual. I might need to make some adjustments if I want to use this more often."
Allura stumbled with a bitter smile.

Clutching her head, she glanced towards Kaden and Alice who seemed to be shouting something.

'Why is Kaden activating his resonance?' Stumbling towards them, their voices became clear.

"LUA! DODGE!!!"

"!!!"

Widening her eyes, Allura felt a chill from behind.

At that moment, a piercing cold feeling invaded her body as several blades pierced through her torso.

"Eh?"

Blood dripped from her wounds as a festering energy permeated her wounds and into her body.

Gritting her teeth, white flames roared out from her body.

"FAMINE!!!!!"

"You don't have to shout so loud~ I can hear you just fine." Famine grinned as her claws dug deep into Allura's body.

[Apostle of Famine : Deva]

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Grabbing Enris by the collar of her outfit, Velouria was seething as one could see the bulging veins on her neck. The fury in her eyes and the aura that threatened to consume everything around her.

"Explain yourself Enris." Velouria hissed.

No longer did she call people by the nicknames she had given them. No. This time, Velouria was livid.

"What's there to explain? I didn't think my children would go this far either. But so long as we get the result we wanted right? Weren't you the one who said you wanted a bit of chaos by the end?" Enris shrugged.

"Of course, there's also the option for us to fight here and now. I'll admit that I'm not a match for you usually, even when you're weakened. But right now? I feel like I can get a good hit in or two." She narrowed her eyes with a grin.

Hearing this, Velouria was reminded of who she was dealing with. The most chaotic God that didn't care about what happens so long as it entertained her. The biggest variable within their group.

Even after trying to entice Enris with a chaotic end, Velouria couldn't stop her from doing whatever she wanted.

Killing intent erupted from Velouria's body as Enris laughed in the face of danger. The air became suffocating even for Apostles that had finished their fights recently.

Both Solaris and Lumiria wanted to say something but understood that Velouria's wrath wasn't something they could calm down right now.

After all, Enris's Apostle had just injured Allura.

"I'll give my children a warning but you can't blame me now can you? It's not like I told them to attack Allura. Just for them to do whatever they wanted since it's what they do best. Who knew they would attack an ally?"

The more Enris spoke, the more infuriated Velouria became as she released Enris's collar.

"That it? How bor-"

*BANG!!!!

Before Enris could even finish her sentence, Velouria punched Enris in the face before slamming her into the ground, cracking the platform beneath them.

Panting heavily, Velouria glared at the other two Gods before turning her attention to the battlefield.

"Don't say I'm being unfair." Velouria spat out coldly as she glared down at Enris.

Reaching her hand towards the battlefield, she snapped her finger.

Suddenly, the entire Abyss began to tremble as countless black hands rained down from above. Cracks in space opened up with countless eyes scanning across the battlefield before finding their target.

And when it did, the hands lunged forth.

Seeing what was about to happen, Enris rushed to her feet but was too late.

Velouria wrapped the countless hands around the Apostle of War.

Upon contact with these hands, a corruption seeped into his soul and infested the connection he had with Enris.

Opening his mouth to scream out in pain, Abyss Water poured forth without stop as his form began to twist and crack, transforming into a malformed creature of the Abyss.

With his connection tainted and soul corrupted by the colour of the Abyss, Enris wasn't able to escape the backlash either as she coughed up a mouthful of blood.

Clenching her fist, Velouria commanded a beast from the Abyss to lunge from the shadow and crushed the Apostle!

"You b*tch..." Enris forced out through gritted teeth as the loss of an Apostle was detrimental to any God. Even though Famine may have attacked Allura, she wasn't dead.

Yet Velouria took the initiative to directly kill her Apostle of War. Stumbling to her feet, Enris glared at Velouria who wasn't intimidated.

Even if she wanted to threaten her right now with cooperation, Enris could tell that Velouria didn't care.

"Seems like you're not going to say anything even after I killed your child. What pitiful children to have you as their God." Velouria glared while Enris smiled in return.

"Let's stop it here Velouria. You already killed her Apostle, aren't you even now?" Solaris couldn't take it anymore and spoke up while Lumiria agreed.

"Hah! Even if I killed 100 of her worthless Apostles it still wouldn't equal to the safety of Lua. Don't overestimate your worth." Velouria spat out in disgust.

The only reason why she didn't kill Famine as well was so that Allura and Kaden could do it themselves.

Right now, she didn't care if the Will was laughing at her from beyond the Void. The only thing she knew right now was that Allura was harmed due to Famine.

"If you're going to go against me, you're prepared to die right?"

Chapter 323 - 323: Deva, Apostle Of Famine

Twisting her body, Allura attempted to punch Deva but her movements were sluggish.

However, it managed to push her away enough for Kaden to catch Allura.

*COUGH!!!

Coughing up a mouthful of blood, Allura gritted her teeth as she tried her best to heal her wounds but it wasn't working. Dark veins stretched from her wound, infecting the rest of her body while Kaden tried to isolate the wound.

But knowing what happened to Nyer and his wound, they understood that this was futile. Not only that, Allura's wound was far deeper than Nyer's.

Licking her claws with a sadistic grin, Deva narrowed her eyes towards Kaden and Allura. Her tattered cloak billowed in the wind as it revealed the scar ridden body hidden beneath the rags. Dark crimson hair with the symbol of the Eclipse glowing on her forehead.

"How does it feel? This vengeance for everything you've done to me. Do you know how my scars ached every time I saw you?" Deva asked as she crouched down and rushed towards the two.

"Curse of Lethargy!"

Shackles began to manifest around Deva's body but she simply laughed.

"Fighting at the end of your rope feels the best! This sh*t won't work on me!" Twisting her body, she slammed her foot into Kaden's head, launching him back.

Refusing to let go of Allura, Kaden dragged her with him and shielded her body with his own.

As they tumbled across the ground, Deva prepared for a second attack when a spark manifested next to her head.

Void Flux!

Crushing the spark with her hand, she glanced at Alice who was feeling the recoil of forcing herself to fight despite the state of her body.

"What is a little sh*t like you trying to join an Apostle's fight. You're lucky that my Lord likes you." Deva scoffed as she lunged towards Alice, wanting to knock her out.

*BANG!!!

However, before her punch could connect, Allura appeared between them and roundhouse kicked Deva on the side of the head.

Wiping away the blood from her mouth, Allura took a deep breath as flames burned against the wounds on her body.

"Allura!" Alice called out in shock. With the wound that Allura just received, she shouldn't be moving like this. And yet, she had to interfere to save her once more.

"Don't worry I'm not going to die from something like this. If she wanted to kill me she would've gone for the head." Allura smiled as she gave Alice a pat on the head.

"You're in no state to fight at all though. Your body is in shambles."

"What about you?" Alice bit her lip as she could clearly see the extent of her wound. With Cayla's vision, she could see the strands of energy being tainted as an infection festered within Allura's body. No matter how her flames tried to drive it off, the most she could do was slow it down.

"I'll be fine." Allura reassured as she pulled out a few tablets that Kaden had given her and threw them into her mouth. It was the same medicine that was made for Nyer.

In the brief moment that Alice bought for them, Kaden made a portal to get this medicine in order to help reduce the impact of Deva's attack.

Spitting out some blood from her mouth, Deva narrowed her eyes at Allura.

"Even if you kill me, that wound isn't going to heal itself you know?" She grinned, hoping to see any semblance of despair in Allura's eyes yet they were clear.

No signs of fear, worry or doubt.

"And? That just means I can kill you without worry." Allura scratched her hair as she flickered beside Deva.

Even though she was exhausted after her fight with Shura, fighting Deva was still within her limits!

Bending her body back, Deva barely managed to dodge Allura's punch as she countered with a kick but Allura blocked it with ease.

Slamming her shoulder into Deva's chest, Allura sent her stumbling back.

She needed to get Deva away from this spot so Alice could be safe and Kaden was recovering from forcing himself to use his blessing a second time.

Not only that, but he also had to make sure he didn't dispel the mimic he created to keep the Reaper at bay.

Glaring at Allura with anger, Deva gritted her teeth as this was not what she had expected. Where was the fear? Where was the panic? There was nothing!

What has she been looking forward to all this time? Where was the satisfaction of her vengeance as Allura realises what was about to happen to her?

The more Allura uses her blessing, the more pain she would be in and the faster it'll take over. Essentially making her a normal person with Sigils. However, because she's focused most of her Sigils on her Blessing, both of them are linked together!

Meaning she can't use her Sigils either unless she wishes to die!

And yet she showed no sign of fear in the face of death and a lifetime of pain.

"This is wrong... This is all wrong!" Deva shouted out as a black aura burst out of her body.

"Kaden get Alice out of here!" Allura shouted out as she wanted to reactivate her Blessing but the strands of infection dug deep into her flesh, causing her to flinch. Even with the medicine made for Nyer, her wound was far worse than what he suffered.

Before Alice could protest, Kaden grabbed her by the back of her jacket and pulled her into the shadows then teleported them away.

Seeing this, Allura smiled as she can stop putting on the act now.

Turning pale, she collapsed onto her knee and watched the swarm of dark energy rush towards her.

Her white flames roared out in defiance but they were weakening.

"What a sh*tty day." Allura smiled bitterly.

She had no more strength left in her. It was taking all of her focus to stop this infestation from reaching deeper into her body.

"You always drop your guard when you think a battle is over. Why haven't you rectified that habit of yours?" Nyer's voice sounded out with sadness as he landed next to her. There was a sign of pain in his eyes as Allura gave an embarrassed smile.

"Sorry about that Commander, I messed up." Allura scratched her hair.

Looking at her wound, Nyer glanced down and sighed.

"Kaden gave you the medicine right? I don't think it'll be very effective for you. You'll need something stronger. Something to suppress whatever her infestation has latched onto."

The Blessing of Famine was akin to a bottomless black hole. Whatever it latches onto, it would seek to 'eat' it all until there is nothing left. The stronger you were, the more painful this process becomes.

Of course, if this had hit Allura when she wasn't injured then she would be able to fight it off to some extent. But Deva chose the exact moment when Allura was exhausted and off guard. This combination allowed her Blessing dig far deeper than what Allura should've allowed, leaving her in this state.

"The Will is stirring. Master is livid and the Gods are about to fight. We can't waste our time on small fry since the boss is about to appear." Nyer reminded as he swatted his arm towards the surge of energy.

At that moment, the Abyss beckoned to his command as the space collapsed in on itself, consuming the power before expelling it away from the battle.

Neither Allura nor Deva understood what had happened as this was far too different to Nyer's usual ability.

Taking a step back out of instinct, Deva widened her eyes.

'Did I just take a step back? Me? The Apostle of Famine? The right hand of the Eclipse? ME?!'

"ARG!!!" Letting out a shout to suppress the fear inside her mind, she rushed towards Nyer and slashed towards him with her claws.

Letting out a sigh of annoyance, Nyer glared at Deva with a blank expression.

'Sh*-'

Before she could even finish her thought, an invisible force slammed into her body as she felt her consciousness fade briefly.

Grabbing her by the ankle, Nyer threw Deva against the ground.

*CRACK!!!

The sounds of bones shattering along with the ground echoed out as even Allura flinched at the force behind that attack.

Blood dripped from Deva's body as she gurgled on her own blood, unable to form a single word.

Lifting Deva by the ankle, Nyer glanced down at her before twisting his body and slammed her against the cliff.

*BANG!!!!

Creaking a cavity in the cliff, Nyer shook the blood off his hand.

Usually, Allura would be happy with Nyer's arrival. But something was strange this time. There was an aura around him that she hadn't felt before. With Abyss Lords dying across the battlefield and the Will beginning to descend, it felt as though Nyer had become someone else entirely.

Forcing herself to stand up, Allura took a step back with a frown.

"What's wrong? Afraid Deva will get back up?" Nyer smiled, turning towards Allura.

However, this smile felt fake.

"You don't need to smile if you don't want to Commander. Care to share your troubles?" Allura forced a smile, taking another step back.

"Troubles? Mnm... Yeah I have a few of them. Which is why I'm sorry for what I have to do to you and Kaden. I wanted to see if Alice could talk to the Will but the other party doesn't seem to be cooperating. It's merely watching everything happen until the last moment when it'll show up." Nyer sighed as he glanced into the sky.

There was a frown on his face now as his eyes showed signs of exhaustion.

"When Velouria shared her blessing with you and Kaden, she planted a part of herself in the blessings so that she could keep you two safe while you fostered your strength. This piece of her is still dormant within your body." Nyer began to explain as Allura felt a chill.

"If I gather enough pieces, what do you think would happen?"

Chapter 324 - 324: The Betrayer

Narrowing her eyes at the three Gods around her, Velouria sighed inwardly. Things were never going to work out from the beginning. There was too much bad blood between them and a single move was enough to shatter this fragile alliance.

That move being the ambush Famine did to Allura.

Of course, she had the choice of merely injuring the Apostle of War rather than kill. But that was not the point for Velouria. The fact that they even dared to make this kind of move means they were unafraid of true death.

And so she instilled it back into the heart of the Apostle before killing him.

'So this is what you meant by I will die a most gruesome death. Seems like Lua was attacked like this in the true history and I fought against the three Gods.' Velouria chuckled as no one made a single move.

The moment someone did, all hell would break loose as four Gods would begin to fight each other.

But it's more of a three vs one situation.

She could sense the Will's gaze on her. That unbearable smirk as it watched as though everything was within its plans.

Focusing on her connection with the Will through her Divinity, it seemed as though the time had stopped.

The faceless being manifested in front of her with the smirk she had been expecting to see.

"Here to beg?" The Will grinned as Velouria shook her head.

"No, merely to have one last conversation. One last face to face though... You don't really have one so that isn't entirely accurate."

"Why would I share a face with vermin?"

"Exactly. I presume this is the future that happened in reality. Lua gets ambushed and me and the Gods begin to fight one another. Even though it's off script, seems like some things are unavoidable." Velouria began to circle around each of the Gods.

The hesitation in Lumiria's eyes, Solaris's false bravado and Enris's calculating gaze.

"Why, have you become curious as to how you die?"

"Perhaps. But isn't everyone curious about how they die? I merely want to see how different my fate is." Velouria chuckled. She wanted to know the true ending of her life. The true ending of Ayr and not this world trapped in a memory.

She wanted to know what happened to everyone after she died.

"I suppose it's no harm to humour you. You might even show me an expression I'm not expecting." The Will chuckled as it floated beside her.

"Without Alice's interfering, you still create the alliance between the four Gods. However, they were more upfront about betraying you rather than trying to target me." The Will laughed as it recalled the memory of a forgotten past.

An era where the current Scholars have all but forgotten what had transpired and with good reason.

All they knew was that every God had gone down for an expedition to the depths of the Abyss and everyone except the Gods and Apostles died. Of course, a few Apostles still died but each of the Gods chose to hide the events of that day, preventing the world from learning the truth.

And little by little, Ayr was forgotten. At first, it was regarded as a myth.

A secret location within the Abyss where humans could find refuge. Then it became a domain where one could find hidden relics and secrets of the past. A treasure trove of knowledge and power but reaching there was near impossible.

Naturally, traversing the Abyss without the aid of Ayrian technology proved to be a far harder task than what the people of the surface had expected.

Compared to the safety of the surface, the Abyss no was different from a hellhole where all manners of beasts crawled in the dark.

And over the course of centuries, Ayr and its glory days were forgotten. Now only a handful of extremely old Hunters remember that the Abyss had its own nation and that there were four major religions.

The fourth being that of the Abyss.

"During the final battle, you received a sneak attack from Enris much like how Allura did. By capitalizing on your weakened physique, she sought to kill you immediately from that strike but you survived.

"Although Nyer had other plans, he came to your rescue and the two of you fought against three Gods. Upon pushing back the three Gods, he sought to steal your power and he succeeded to some extent. More than half of the divinity I granted to you was siphoned to him and with that, he injured all three Gods."

Hearing this, Velouria paused as a sad expression appeared on her face.

"He did so expecting to transfer your burden to him as well. However... The burden placed on your body isn't a result of your divinity, isn't that right?" The Will laughed as the truth of the matter was something else.

"You should've seen his expression once he realised what had gone wrong. He worked so hard to take away the Divinity, to harm both Kaden and Allura, to break the bonds he cherished yet for all his work, he only gained power while losing everything else.

"With your divinity stripped from your body, it was practically an instantaneous death as your body could no longer hold back my expansion. Afterwards... Let's just say he overestimated himself a little and suffered the consequences of acquiring God like power despite not being a vessel for a God."

Taking a deep breath, Velouria sighed.

"Ayr was soon erased by the Gods, its citizens fell to my control with no Goddess to help them so naturally, I turned them back to their primordial forms. Kaden overused his Corrupted Blessing and suffered the consequences. Allura injured to the point where she could not live without drowning in medication. Nyer disabled and cannot move.

There are a handful that survived but they live in secrecy, not daring to make themselves known in fear of the Gods.

"That is the ending of your precious Ayr."

". . ." Velouria didn't know what to say. To think her precious retainers and beloved citizens and friends would have such a fate after her death.

Was her approach wrong this entire time?

Not only that, but for Nyer to be the one ultimately responsible for her death.

"However, it doesn't end there. Nyer. He is nothing but a fool, desperately trying to patch things haphazardly even though it's progressed to this stage. In the true reality, after stealing away your divinity, he didn't stop there. With the rest of his strength, he took your corpse away and began to harvest it.

"The body of a fallen God, what kind of power do you wish he gains from it?" The Will asked as Velouria bit her lip before giving up.

"I don't care anymore. My powers are already stretched thin as it is, what else can I do? Nyer will do what Nyer wishes to do. Kaden will come to hate him and Allura is as wounded as she is in the true reality. There's only one thing I have to say to you." Velouria sighed as she glanced up at the faceless being.

"F*ck you."

"Such harsh words." The Will shrugged.

"You deserve worse. But this will be the last time we talk. Goodbye." Velouria shook her head as she began to cut the connection between them.

"Enjoy what remains of your life, my daughter." The Will grinned while resting his head on his palm.

"I am not your daughter."

Born as the extension of the Abyss and the first 'human', Velouria was the closest thing to a family for the Will, a daughter.

Yet it never showed her love nor care and Velouria didn't think of the Will as her father either. The only family she had was Kaden, Allura, Nyer, Alice and everyone in Ayr.

With that as their final exchange, Velouria opened her eyes and faced the three Gods once more.

Since it's come to this stage once more, she'd do what she can!

From her body, her divinity burst forth at full power and ignored the pain she was feeling. With this as the signal, the battle between the four Gods exploded into action.

###

After bringing Alice to safety, Kaden reached into his shadow and pulled out some medicine for her as well.

It was something that was created for Allura in her younger years as she was reckless in using her Divinity. A medicine to help offset the burden caused and while it may allow you to move, it didn't fully heal the damages.

"You should feel better after eating this. But don't fight anymore." Kaden explained after feeding Alice the tablets.

Sensing a strange energy flowing through her body, Alice sat up with a frown.

"What about Allura, we can't leave her behind there!"

"It's fine, Nyer's appeared. He's taking care of Deva right now as we speak." Kaden reassured but Alice froze up in panic.

"No... No! That's the worst-case scenario! Nyer isn't thinking straight right now! We have to go get Allura out of there immediately!" Alice shouted as she forced herself back on her feet.

Just as she was about to activate her fourth Sigil to teleport back, she felt as though her body was splitting apart and collapsed on her knee.

"That's what I mean, don't use your powers for now. I don't know why you're on guard against the Commander but-" Before Kaden could finish his sentence, his pupils shrunk in fear as he turned towards where Allura and Nyer were.

Wrapping himself in shadow, he left the area immediately as Alice clenched her fist and punched the ground.

Seeing Alice like this, Alyss furrowed her brows before taking a deep breath.

'I got a plan, do you want to hear me out?'

###

Biting his lips, Kaden stepped out of the portal and observed the scene in front of him.

Standing above Allura's bleeding body, Nyer glanced over at Kaden.

"Ah, you're here. It saves me the trouble of going to you."

"Oi... What's the meaning of this." Kaden asked, trying to hold back as his voice trembled in betrayal and anger.

"It's exactly as you see it. Please don't make me hurt you more than I have to. Lua forced my hand, I don't want to do the same to you." Nyer sighed turning to Kaden as he shook Allura's blood from his hand.

"Nyer!!!"

Hating the fact he didn't listen to Alice, Kaden gritted his teeth and rushed towards the Commander of Ayr, the Betrayer.

If only he had been here a moment earlier. No, even a second earlier would've been fine.

But the reality was that he hesitated and Allura suffered as a result.

Chapter 325 - 325: Stealing Blessings

Massaging his neck, Nyer looked down at the bleeding body of Kaden. Even now, he was trying his best to attack him as he reached out his trembling hand.

Grabbing him by the ankle, Kaden tried to use his blessing to corrupt Nyer but nothing happened.

Biting his lip, Kaden glared at Nyer who only sighed before pulling his arm back.

*BANG!!!

Punching Kaden and cracking the ground beneath them, Nyer dusted his hands before closing his eyes.

During the time he was away with Cayla, he had created a contract between them. In essence, it allows him to 'borrow' her power.

Opening his left eye, the whites of his eye turned black as his pupil turned purple.

'Master is fighting against the other Gods. Alice is... She's resting since her body isn't in good condition. Doesn't seem like she's going to be able to talk to the Will. ' Nyer thought to himself with a disappointed sigh.

He had hoped that Alice would be able to make a move before he was forced to step in. But at the rate that things are progressing, it would be impossible.

Glancing back at the Reaper who had lost its target since Kaden had been incapacitated, Nyer stretched his body.

"Might as well clean up after these two since it's my fault anyway."

Walking towards the Reaper, Nyer could see its body cracking apart before exploding into blood mist.

Within this mist, its gargantuan figure disappeared and all that remained was the figure of a woman. She had short black hair and crimson eyes without a single spot of white.

On her right side, a strange black and red energy made up her body, crackling like lightning yet growing like tree branches. Within this strange energy, countless eyes blinked in and out of existence as she revealed a wide grin that would send shivers down the spine of any Lord who was to see this being.

And yet, Nyer remained composed. A bored expression could be seen on his face as he sighed.

"You're just like your Master. Eyes on everything that happens and think yourself to be all powerful." Nyer grumbled as he didn't even take out his blade.

"Come, I'll humour your new birth. Show me what the Reaper is capable of."

Nyer smiled as he gestured with his finger for her to attack.

Unaffected by his provocation, the Reaper slammed her hand into the ground as countless strands of this strange energy shot towards Nyer.

*BANG!!!

Colliding with an invisible barrier around him, the strands couldn't approach him no matter how hard it tried. However, little by little, it began to infect this barrier.

Eyes started to flicker into existence while Nyer chuckled.

"So you control something similar to Kaden but more lethal and takes longer to activate."

Snapping his finger, the barrier pulsed outwards, expelling this infection. Just when he was about to attack, he felt a chill behind him and activated the power he gained from Cayla.

Information flooded his mind as he created a small blade of light.

Slashing behind him, a shadowy figure was cut to pieces while the Reaper lunged towards Nyer.

"Even though I chose to humour you momentarily, you didn't take that opportunity to heart. Or perhaps you couldn't understand me to begin with. Regardless, I've given you more time than what you deserve.

"So scram."

Blessing of Severance!

A single blade slash rushed towards the Reaper before she could react. With her connection cut off with the Will, the strange energy that permeated her body faded away.

Widening her eyes, the last thing the Reaper saw was Nyer's cold eyes before her body was consumed by a mass of black liquid that erupted from the ground!

Blessing of Corruption!

Adjusting his shirt, Nyer stepped away from the area as the biggest issue was now dealt with.

The Reaper was a slight issue before but not unkillable for him in his normal state. However, now that he's stolen the Blessing of Severance and Corruption from Allura and Kaden, it is an easy task for him to kill the beast.

He never obtained a Blessing because he never needed it. But now that he has gotten both, aside from the Gods, he was the strongest.

Not to mention the fact that he was the one who taught Allura and Kaden how to use them. Making use of these blessings was as easy as breathing for Nyer.

Before going towards the Gods, he decided to clean up the rest of the battlefield first. He knew what he must do but he needed to steel his resolve. After all, once he faced Velouria, it was the point of no return. Whether that be this memory of the reality where Alice came from.

Everything will end and a new order will begin.

###

'I got a plan, do you want to hear me out?' Alyss frowned as this would allow Alice to recover her injuries and stop Nyer but at the same time, it was risky.

'I'm all ears.'

'I'm going to change your blood and physique momentarily. It'll allow you to recover from the injuries sustained and give you some fake Sigils to work with momentarily. However, it also means that you come into contact with the most concentrated portion of our blood.' Alyss warned as Alice understood the consequences of doing so.

It was her blood that prevented the Will from changing her outline since she was akin to a second Abyss. The countless beasts merged into one that flowed through her veins.

'Not to mention, this is just a memory. There's no reason for you to go this far for thoughts that would disappear in due time.' Alyss sighed. She gave Alice the option and the warning since she understood her twin.

She understood that Alice wanted to make a difference for those that treated her well. For Allura and Kaden who guided her with care and for Velouria who helped her when she was lost.

Even though this was a memory, the help they granted her was real.

'I just need to talk to the Will. Are you able to make that happen? We don't need to think about complicated things for now.' Alice asked as her tone was strangely calm.

With Cayla, she could see what occurred between Nyer, Kaden and Allura. She also understood she couldn't stand against Nyer right now meaning the only way she could change things aside from using Alyss's suggestion was to talk to the Will.

'I mean... I have some theories that I can try. But I'm not sure.' Alyss shrugged her shoulders.

'Trying is better than giving up. Let's give it a try, do you need to take over my body?' Alice smiled, sitting up.

'For a brief moment.'

Nodding her head, Alice closed her eyes as golden chains manifested around her limbs.

Taking over, Alyss was immediately assaulted by the pain of Alice's wounds and gritted her teeth.

'Holy sh*t how the hell did twinnie keep herself composed with this.' Alyss thought to herself in shock as she took a deep breath to calm her mind.

Closing her eyes, she sensed the connection she had towards her Spiritual Heart. The countless tethers connected to her existence.

Each beast crying out in pain, seeking liberation from this mass of souls. Even for Alyss, this was horrific to look at yet this was her own soul. A soul she shared with Alice.

Within this mass, there were now the souls belonging to Abyss Lords meaning they could tap into their power whenever they wanted but that was not the goal right now.

Activating Cayla, a cluster of strands illuminated with colour as Alyss curled her lips into a grin.

'Found you.'

The time where Alice met the Will, it was at the place where she would choose her Sigil upon fulfilling her bounty. And many times in the past, it's where Cayla was as well.

So long as Alyss traces this strand of energy, she should be able to access that mental space once more.

But just navigating it wasn't enough.

Little by little, Sigils lit up on her body as Alyss bit her lip. From the edges of her fingertips, her flesh and skin began to get dyed with the same colour as Sigils.

A phenomenon that only appeared when Alice entered her Resonance state. As though dipping her hands in ink, it crawled up her arms before stopping around elbow height.

Currently, Alyss was diving deep into her Spiritual Heart in search of the connection between her, Cayla and the Abyss. And it is in this gap where she hopes to seek out the Will.

But no matter how she navigated, it wasn't enough.

Activating the crown, the marking along her neck lit up as the obsidian symbol of power manifested itself above her head.

*Ba-dum... Ba-dum... Ba-dum...

Her heartbeat rang against her ear as all three began to resonate with one another.

The broken Eyes of the Abyss, the newly fixed Crown of the Abyss and finally, the Faux Heart of the Abyss.

Little by little, she could feel a new connection taking place. A new perspective towards the Abyss, as though she's become a part of it.

She was an extension of the Abyss and the Abyss an extension of her. She could feel the fluctuation of power from each individual across the battlefield, the fulfilment of bounties deep down in the layers and the birth of new beasts.

The presence of the Old Abyss Lords, sealed in the depths of Terminus and across the different layers.

Information flowed towards her as Alyss felt as though her mind was about to burst.

Before she knew it, she was once again in the strange world where Alice had met the Will.

And before her, a blank figure stood.

This time, without a smile.

Even without eyes, Alyss could sense its gaze upon her, scanning her from head to toe. And soon, its face cracked open to reveal a frown.

Its gaze was now filled with confusion.

"What are you?"

Chapter 326 - 326: Alyss And The Will Of The Abyss

"Aren't you rude. What do you mean what am I?" Alyss frowned as this would be a normal question had it been anyone else.

But the one saying it was the Will of the Abyss. If not even the Will knew what she was then what is she?

"Hmm... Are you a human soul? Or a construct? Yet you stink of countless beasts. What is the secret behind your conception I wonder." The Will circled around Alyss as she realised she couldn't move a single muscle in her body. She was subjected to the Will's every whim.

"Does it really matter what I am? Aren't you the one hoping Alice shapes up to be a good vessel? She wants to talk to you so why don't you go talk to her instead of dwelling on what I am." Alyss forced a brave grin as the Will leaned close to her face.

"Do you want to live a life away from her? Have your own body, control your own fate instead of being chained together." The Will asked as Alyss paused.

Does she want a life away from Alice?

If it had asked her before, the answer would've been yes.

Alice, her twin who shared the same body and soul. Someone who during their period of being experimented on, threw everything to her to endure. With that kind of person sharing a body, who wouldn't want to live separately?

Hell, even if they didn't go through that, the freedom that comes with having your own body was liberating.

However, Alice was someone who required shoulders to lean on. Without her around, Alice would struggle.

"Nah I'll pass. My twinnie is someone that needs me after all." Alyss smiled as the Will burst out into laughter.

"Twinnie? Is that how you see her? What a kind name for a parasite. Could it be that you don't realise the state you are in? Or perhaps was it something else entirely?"

Furrowing her brows, Alyss wasn't sure where the Will was taking things.

Leaning against her ear, the Will curled its mouth up into a devious grin.

"What if you are the original? What if this entire time, Alice had been nothing but a parasite taking over your body? You simply didn't realise what had happened and thought yourself to be second.

"What if... You are the original Alice?"

Alyss's pupil shrunk as the Will planted the seed of doubt in her mind. All it takes is one seed and the time to let it blossom before the strongest friendships shatter.

For their goals, people are able to destroy the lives of others if they see fit. Nyer was a great example. For the life of Velouria, he was the catalyst for the destruction of Ayr, Kaden and Allura.

Had he never tried to steal Velouria's divinity, perhaps he could have kept Ayr safe with Kaden and Allura. With what power she had left, Velouria could've allowed them to stand their ground against the Gods.

But it was all cut short due to Nyer's desire to save Velouria.

For Alice and Alyss, this was even more detrimental. If one side refused to cooperate with the other, there would be an imbalance within the body. The Soul and body, each fighting for control.

"Does it matter?" Alyss revealed a weary smile.

"Huh?"

"Does it matter who's the original? It's already happened. It doesn't matter if I'm the original Alice or if twinnie is. We were both betrayed by our family. Our father, brothers, the butlers and maids that looked after us. We were both abandoned by the Zenia family.

"I already had theories that one of us was created the moment the syringe was injected into our body. It could be me, it could be her. We're simply a consequence of unfortunate scenarios. She's already doing all she can to let me experience what it feels like to live with my own body. I don't need your temptations.

If we can't learn to accept who we are, how can we accept others to look at us with sincerity?" Alyss chuckled as there was no cloud of doubt in her gaze.

There was no confusion, no delusion of grandeur, only a pair of eyes that saw the reality for what it was.

The Will's smile disappeared as it took a few steps back and looked at Alyss once more.

"No fun."

"We're usually more fun if you're not trying to break us apart or sabotage our friends." Alyss shrugged, finally regaining control over her own body.

"Well you can go back and tell Alice that I'm not helping you two. Nyer will do what he wishes to do and I'll simply observe. As the Will of the Abyss, I'm simply an observer so do your best and save Velouria if you can~" The Will laughed as it snapped its finger, sending Alyss out of the realm.

###

'Alyss!!!'

Hearing Alice's voice calling out to her, Alyss groaned as she scratched her hair and sat up.

Seeing that she had passed out momentarily to talk with the Will, she sighed and closed her eyes.

Facing Alice in her mental space, she could see the worry on her face.

'I'm fine don't worry. I managed to connect to the space where you saw the Will before but it wasn't exactly helpful nor did it want to have a proper conversation.' Alyss sighed as Alice looked down with a sad expression.

Seeing this, Alyss chuckled and patted Alice on the head.

'It didn't offer any help but it doesn't mean we can't stop Nyer does it? You saw what he looked like, he didn't want to do this either.'

Nodding her head, Alice resolved herself.

'I'll leave the rest to you. Just call for me when you need, I'm always here.' Alyss grinned as she returned control back to Alice.

But seeing that Alice was still in this mental space, Alyss was confused.

She had her hand up in the air as though she was waiting for something.

'What are you doing?' Alyss raised an eyebrow.

'It's called a high five. I guess it's like a sign of teamwork.' Alice chuckled as Alyss smiled before nodding her head.

Raising her own hand, she gave Alice a high five as Alice opened her eyes in reality.

Creating a blood mirror in front of her, she located Kaden and Allura and teleported next to them.

Seeing that both of them were leaning against the wall, Alice reached into her pouch and brought out two vials of Healing Blood. Feeding it to the both of them, she could see their breathing stabilize yet they still weren't waking up.

Meaning the damage they took must've been heavier than what she had expected.

Hesitating for a moment, Alice leaned towards Allura before licking the blood that had flowed from her wound before the Healing Blood fixed the damage.

Feeling her body reaching the threshold once more, she gritted her teeth and suppressed the pain she was experiencing.

As long as she keeps this short, it should be fine.

'Nyer's ultimate goal is to reach Velouria. I need to get to her before he can and help her fend off the Gods. At this point, I don't care if I expose our nature since things have developed to this stage.' Alice frowned.

'Good call. I don't know how well I can negate the abilities of Gods but I'm rather curious what we'll feel if we drink the blood of a God. Of course, there's the risk that our body can't handle it since we're already reaching our limit.' Alyss agreed.

Thinking back to the first time she saw a Old Abyss Lord, Alice could still recall the desire to drink its blood. Now that she's tasted the blood of Abyss Lords, her next goal was naturally that of a God.

'Do you think we gained Allura's blessing by drinking her blood?'

'Hmm... I don't think so? I don't feel anything new in our body.' Alyss shook her head.

Before they could continue their conversation further, the skies began to crack and fracture from the onslaught of a God's power.

They could feel the surge of an oppressive energy enveloping the battlefield as four auras battled for supremacy.

'It's Velouria!' Alice widened her eyes as Alyss nodded her head.

Without wasting any more time, Alice created a mirror leading to the Gods.

###

Panting heavily, Velouria was bleeding from several wounds across her body while the other three Gods weren't looking much better.

Similar to how Abyss Lords fight, Gods exert their will into a realm of their divinity, dragging others in and subjecting them to their will.

For the God of the Sun, he's able to render himself impervious to damage within his own divine realm. For Lumiria, she is able to target the soul and create multiple 'hosts' for herself to avoid attacks. Enris drowns herself in the pleasures of war and battle, increasing her strength the longer she fights for.

As for Velouria, the Abyss was her divine realm.

By using the Abyss as an extension of herself, she's able to corrupt and sever the power of their divinities, making them easier to kill. But even with this advantage, she was still just one severely weakened Goddess.

Each clash between the Gods was instantaneous.

*BANG!!!

Exploding into action, Velouria slammed her hand down as darkness exploded out from her body, enveloping everyone nearby into the bowls of the Abyss while Solaris wasn't going to let her have her way.

Raising his hand, he conjured a spear that radiated the might of the sun and stabbed it into the ground, dispelling the darkness.

Meanwhile, Lumiria invoked the power of the Moon and overlayed it atop Solaris's sun, creating an Eclipse that bolstered Enris's power as she grinned and rushed towards Velouria.

The powers of Famine and War burst forth from her blade, attempting to plant a parasite into Velouria's body so that she would lose most of her abilities.

However, after seeing what had happened to Allura, Velouria was prepared. The instant Enris was close enough to stab her, Velouria ducked down and kicked up, disarming Enris.

Jumping back and recalling her blade, Enris narrowed her eyes at Velouria who was running low on energy and stamina. It was clear that she was showing signs of fatigue and pain from her connection to the Will.

Despite all of her wounds and fatigue, her gaze was clear and focused!

She is Velouria, Goddess of the Abyss, Queen of Ayr and the strongest God between the four of them.

Chapter 327 - 327: Crystallisation Of Myth

Pushing her palm to the side, she managed to divert the path of Solaris's spear, causing it to miss.

Twisting her body, shadows stretched out from beneath her before jumping up to form a barrier, blocking Lumiria's attack.

However, Enris managed to sneak through the sudden burst of attacks and appear in front of Velouria. Twisting her body, chains and rusted blades exploded from the ground in an attempt to restrain Velouria.

Quickly jumping back, Velouria managed to dodge and clasped her hands together.

Divinity burst forth from her body as the Abyss screamed out in anger. Eyes manifested around her as a flood of energy crashed down from above.

Howls of beasts and blood poured from the realm while Solaris conjured a shield and slammed it on the ground.

*BANG!!!

A golden dome manifested around the three Gods while Velouria took this moment to catch her breath.

The progression of the Will's influence tore through her body as she could feel herself losing more of her power with each passing second.

To begin with, she wasn't a great fighter. Her power against the other Gods was merely exerted through brute force. The power granted by the Will and the Abyss allowed her to suppress the other Gods even if she couldn't fight.

But she was slowly losing her advantage.

'I can't let it continue like this.' Velouria groaned as she closed her eyes.

A God has five powers available to them. First, the power of their Blessings or the Divinity they rule over.

Velouria with Severance and Corruption. Enris with War and Famine. Solaris with Protection and Preservation and finally, Lumiria with Immortality and Spirituality.

Whatever power they grant to their followers, they are able to use as well.

Of course, a God can manifest more blessings if they wish to create more Apostles but doing so causes them to lose more personal power, making it dangerous when facing other Gods.

The reason why Gods stick with two Apostles no matter the time frame was because the difference between no Apostles and two Apostles was negligible and at that stage, having two Apostles help you look after your domain was better than none.

Naturally, having Apostles also creates weaknesses for the Gods which is why Allura diverted some of her attention in stopping the other Gods from locating Allura and Kaden.

Using her Divinity over the Abyss, she had restricted the sensory abilities of the Gods and Apostles.

The second ability granted to a God was their Divine Realm. Similar to the Second Resonances of Hunters, it's a domain that allows them to exert their power to the fullest. A realm where they can use their Divinity to its full extent, even ignoring the rules of the current realm they are in.

For Solaris, this means being able to summon the Sun in the Abyss of perpetual darkness where only the light of the stars and the false moon can exist.

And for the third ability, a manifestation of their legend/myth. On top of gaining followers, each God must have achievements that can be condensed into a myth. And from this myth, they gain abilities.

Legends were actions seen by their followers, Myths are stories told in their name. It is also from these stories that the Gods are able to bestow relics of immense power.

Solaris was said to have created a sun. With a single spear toss, he pierced the night veil and created a hole leading to a realm of light. Capturing that infinite light into a single orb, it is now known as the Sun.

The Myth of Solaris the Night Piercer.

Lumiria was said to have birthed Spirits and ghosts to pray for those departed, allowing them to settle old grudges or bid farewell to loved ones.

The Myth of Lumiria, Mother of Spirits.

Enris granted humans the feeling of violence and conflict. With every war, you sing her name. With every battle, you praise her being.

The Myth of Enris, Progenitor of Wrath.

Velouria didn't have a Myth. Unlike the Gods of the Surface, she wasn't born a God. All she had was Legends, actions that her followers have seen which then crystallised into her power.

In the eyes of those in the Abyss, she represented Hope. For those of the surface, she represented the gatekeeper of this infinite darkness and wellspring of power.

When the Abyss and Surface first linked their borders with one another, Velouria held back the army of beasts. With each flick of her finger, she governed this realm and created a holy sanctuary known as the Holy City of Ayr.

But therein lies the issue between Myth and Legend. Legends are events beholden to the eyes of the observer. Stories are concepts passed on from person to person. An exaggeration of their achievements that grant the God a further boost in power.

"Manifestation!" Solaris shouted out as his veins bulged. From his hand, an orb of pure light appeared before transforming into a radiant spear.

[Night Breaker Spear – Crystallisation of Myth]

Holding his breath, Solaris released a loud roar before throwing the weapon.

*BANG!!!!

Widening her eyes, Velouria had a split moment to react.

"Manifestation!" Slamming her hands down, golden energy threaded together to form a pristine wall with the illusion of a city behind her.

[Abyssal Sanctuary: Ayr – Crystallisation of Legend]

*CRACK!!! BANG!!!

As the radiant spear collided with the illusionary wall of Ayr, cracks formed across the surface as Velouria was pushed back. And soon after, it was shattered apart!

The Night Breaker Spear, a spear that can only be thrown once with the power to create the Sun. One of Solaris's trump cards yet the trust and belief Velouria's citizens have in her allowed her Legend to block this spear long enough for her to get to safety.

"Tsk!" Clicking his tongue, Solaris gritted his teeth as his right arm was steaming from throwing the spear. For a brief period, he was unable to use his right arm to attack. For the duration of this fight, he was unable to bring out the Night Breaker Spear.

"Get her!" He shouted as Lumiria sighed and snapped her finger.

"Manifestation."

[Dream of a Distant Paradise – Crystallisation of Myth]

Dew drops gathered on her fingertips as they dripped to the ground. As though colliding with the surface of a lake, ripples expanded across the battlefield. In an instant, it seemed like they were standing above a mirror.

One side stood the living, the other stood the dead.

Velouria could feel a foreign energy trying to take over, her hand began to wither as she was forcefully being pushed to the realm of the dead.

Gritting her teeth, Velouria bit down on her left hand as blood began to flow from her wound.

While this was not her Legend or Myth, it was an extension of the Abyss. If she wanted to tap into its power, she'd need to synchronise herself with her connection to the Will. It had its drawbacks but she couldn't be picky right now otherwise Lumiria would send her to the afterlife!

"Manifestation!" Velouria shouted out as a swirl of blood exploded from her wound, surging towards the withered hand.

[Blood Ambrosia of the Abyss – Crystallisation of Myth]

Her wounds healed up in an instant as she was brought back to the living. The grips of the deceased couldn't hold her as Velouria conjured a blade made from shadows.

Twisting her body, she activated the Blessing of Severance and slashed towards Lumiria but her slash was blocked by Solaris who diverted it using the Blessing of Protection.

"Enris! Stop watching!" Solaris shouted out. Even though Velouria was weakened, her Blessing of Severance wasn't something that could be diverted or blocked easily. It boasted the power to sever anything and everything including divinity which is why he needed to be careful.

"I know I know~ I'm just seeing which one suited this the best." Enris laughed as she had many myths surrounding her.

Myths of immortality that so long as war and famine exist, she will manifest. Myths of how she orchestrated the downfall of Empires. However, none of these Myths had the power to kill Velouria right now.

But if she had to pick one, it would be the Myth regarding one of the most brutal wars known to the surface.

"Ah~ This'll be perfect." Enris curled her lips into a grin as she clasped her hands together.

"Manifestation~"

[Bloodbath of a Thousand Nights – Crystallization of Myth]

The Bloodbath of a Thousand Nights, a war between the Cult of the Eclipse and every faction that existed on the surface. A lawless battle that stretched on for a thousand nights, coronating the birth of the new order belonging to Enris.

Countless killed in the name of the Eclipse. Sacrificing anything and everything from people, children to even animals. A slaughter that knows no bounds.

But Enris wasn't done.

Her favourite weapon wasn't a relic that could be summoned. No, it was a follow up to the crystallization of this particular myth and the product of a God's fourth ability.

The ability to create holy relics!

[Cleaver of Endless Slaughter – Holy Relic]

In her hands, she held a large cleaver bigger than her own body. The long handle was wrapped in chains and dried blood. The blade itself was filled with scars and jagged edges.

The material was clearly metal yet there were glowing red veins along the face of the blade that pulsed with life. With each passing moment, blood oozed from the metal with no clear source.

Crouching down, Enris let out a maniacal laugh and lunged towards Velouria as she hacked away at anything that stood in her way!

No matter what defences Velouria threw at Enris, she couldn't stop her advance and soon, the two of them came face to face.

"Bye bye~ It's been fun Veli."

But before her attack could land, a blood mirror appeared beside them.

Executioner's Blade!

Chapter 328 - 328: Replication

Executioner's Blade!

Lunging out from the mirror, Alice recalled every moment she saw Allura use her famous technique. The power of severance behind her strike.

While she didn't have the blessing, she could replicate the attack with her Void Flux – Cleave. The only requirement is for the speed and power behind it to match the strike.

But now that she's drank Allura's blood, it was possible!

*BANG!!!

Landing in front of Velouria and forcing Enris to jump back as she thought it was Allura, Alice snapped her finger and activated her first Resonance.

As the crown manifested above her head, violet flames danced across her body and blade.

'You have eight Sigils to use. But the first four are still your own. Meaning you have access to four of Allura's Sigils, Berserk Force, Instant Slashes, her seventh Sigil that's linked to her Seven Days of Execution and the eighth that she just got now, the power of Destruction.

I don't know what she chose but we can try everything we saw Shura do.' Alyss reminded as they've essentially made themselves a target for the three Gods.

'Keep all of them for now. The other Sigils we have access to might not be a good match. Plus, I've seen Allura fight plenty of times. In terms of understanding, these are the best ones for me.' Alyss replied as she took a deep breath and scanned her gaze towards the three Gods.

Her attack might've taken Enris by surprise but it still failed to hit and now, the three of them were scanning her in return, seeing if she was truly a threat. But the fact she now radiated the power of an Abyss Lord confused them. The last time they saw her, she only had four Sigils!

Not only that, but she could also use Allura's technique.

"What are you doing here?!" Velouria widened her eyes as this was too dangerous for Alice.

However, Alice didn't have the luxury to respond right now as Lumiria sent spectral chains towards her.

Even without knowing its uses, Alice knew that getting hit by the chain was bad news and activated her third Sigil.

A swirl of blood and metal manifested around her before combusting into a storm of violet flames.

Upon contact with the flames, the chains started to get burned!

Seeing this, Lumiria widened her eyes in confusion while Enris charged towards Alice.

In her hands, the Cleaver of Endless Slaughter hummed with excitement, ready to claim its next victim.

But Alice felt as though the blade was extremely weird. Fused with the metal was the souls and cries of countless lives, souls lost in battle. The blood they bled, the cries they screamed. Everything was linked into a single blade.

Instinctively, she understood that clashing her Void Fang with this cleave would instantly result in its destruction!

Gritting her teeth, Alice decided to go with a different method.

Snapping her finger, countless blood mirrors appeared around the area as Alice created one beneath Enris's feet, hoping to knock her off guard as she jumped back and created a bow with Void Fang.

Void Flux!

Creating an arrow using Void Flux, she aimed for Enris before firing! The arrow of concentrated energy and flames roared towards Enris who simply slashed towards it with her Cleaver. Upon contact, the arrow was drowned out by the malevolent energy and souls of the blade.

Even though it was a single slash, the act of that slash was multiplied countless times as though each soul was doing the same attack!

Unable to stop Enris's advancement, Alice wanted to teleport to safety when Lumiria stepped in.

Framing Alice between her hands, she narrowed her eyes.

Lumiria had just anchored Alice's 'soul' to this realm! Meaning she couldn't teleport unless she was willing to leave her physical body behind!

'Twinie swap with me!'

Without hesitation, Alice agreed as golden chains latched around her limbs.

Opening her eyes and revealing a wide grin, Alyss stood her ground and flooded the area around her with violet flames.

From her shadow, black hands lunged towards Enris who slashed towards it with her Cleaver.

*BANG!!!

"!!!"

Widening her eyes, Enris realised she couldn't slash through these hands and frowned.

Rusted spears rained down from the sky as Alyss took a step back and transformed Void Fang into a spear.

Adjusting her posture, she swapped with Alice.

Absolute Zone!

Knocking aside every spear that entered her optimal range, Alice wanted to counter when Solaris appeared above her.

Unable to counter, Alice moved in a way that would minimize the damage she would take.

But that proved to be unnecessary as Velouria stepped in!

Blocking Solaris's spear jab, Velouria pushed Solaris back as the five of them were stuck at a standstill once more.

After using his Night Piercer Spear, Solaris had exhausted roughly 80% of his power while Enris and Lumiria could still fight.

Velouria was running on fumes while Alice was using eight Sigils to fight against God level beings. Had it not been for Cayla's boost in kinetic vision and Allura's Sigils that heavily boosted physical prowess, she wouldn't have been able to keep up with Enris's movements.

"Since you're here, I won't ask you about why. Rather I can only hope you came here with a plan that won't end up with you being dead." Velouria forced a bitter smile as this was the last thing she wanted.

Even if she was to die, it was fine since this was a memory for her. But Alice? She was the successor. She couldn't allow her to die in this place.

"Ehhh that's debatable. But I can't sit by and do nothing." Alice chuckled as she noticed something during that short exchange.

The black hands that Alyss conjured, they were able to hold back Enris's blade even if it was briefly.

"Is it okay if I deal with Enris alone? As long as Lumiria and Solaris aren't there to stop me I should be able to handle it." Alice asked, surprising Velouria but she nodded her head.

"Alright, I'll keep them off you."

Naturally, Enris heard this as a vein bulged on her forehead.

"The little girl who couldn't even react to me using a bit of my power has matured huh? Thinking you can hold back a God. I don't know where you got this sudden boost in power but you're in way over your head!"

***BANG!!!**

Bursting forth with explosive speed, Enris appeared in front of Alice in an instant. The giant Cleaver she held above her was swung as though it had now weight!

Stepping to the side, Alice twisted her body and launched a kick to Enris's head who blocked with her arm.

Following up on this kick, Alice jumped up and slammed down with her heel.

'We need to force her into close quarters combat so she can't use that cleaver of her's.'

After the heel, Alice dropped to the ground and pushed against it with her hands, launching a kick to Enris's chest.

With the sudden onslaught of kicks, Enris furrowed her brows as she tried to grab Alice by the ankles but Alice was ready.

Just as she was about to punch as a counter, she felt a tingle down her spine and she immediately shifted her body to the side.

From behind her, a spear erupted from the ground, aiming to pierce her back but she managed to narrowly dodge it!

Flames gathered around Alice's fist as she narrowed her eyes at Enris who stabbed the Cleaver into the ground.

Creating a set of spiked gauntlets, she punched toward Alice who ducked under the swing.

A quick one-two jab into the stomach before another dodge into a jab to the face.

Her attacks weren't doing much damage to Enris but rather than damage, Alice wanted Enris to lose her cool.

Tilting her head to the side to dodge a forward jab, Alice followed up with a uppercut before ducking under an arm sweep. A kick to the back of the knee into jab to the sternum.

Partial Bloodline Release!

With things going in her favour, Alice activated her bloodline release to further boost her physical power.

*BANG!!!

Each of her jabs and punches sounded like cannon shots as Enris stumbled back only to have metal manifest behind her, disrupting her footwork!

Veins bulged on her neck as her anger reached its peak.

Just as she opened her mouth to shout, Alice jumped into Enris's range and slammed her fist against Enris's chin, forcing her mouth shut.

Jab to the throat into a three hit combo on the body.

Each movement of Enris's muscles, her gaze and desperation became simple for Alice to read. Right now, she could see every movement that Enris wanted to do and counter accordingly.

"Enough!!!" Slamming her fists down, the blessing of Famine burst around her, draining the energy from everything it touched.

Jumping back just in time, Alice created a barrier of violet flames to counter this attack but her flames were overwhelmed.

Tendrils of energy burst out from Enris's body as her form began to mutate and distort. Grabbing the handle of her Cleaver with this tendril, she swung the blade towards Alice.

*CLANG!!!

Blocking the strike using the black hands, Alyss took over and dodged the multitude of strikes. What she couldn't dodge she would block.

Slamming her hand down, Enris dragged Alyss into her Divine Realm!

Shielding her eyes, Alyss found herself in a field of broken weapons, corpses, burning flags and flaming skies.

Furrowing her brows, she could feel this realm slowly draining her energy. She needed to get out fast but Enris wasn't going to get her escape.

Appearing above her, Enris slashed down with the Cleaver as Alyss rolled to the side and tried to counter.

However, a blade shot out from the ground in an attempt to pierce Alyss in the back, forcing her to cancel her attack.

"Tsk."

Clicking her tongue, she jumped back and took a deep breath.

While Alice could replicate skills, Alyss had a different idea.

Her eyes scanned the Cleaver in Enris's hands. The way the souls melded with the metal.

She could see the strands of energy connecting them together, how power flowed from one to the other.

Allowing Void Fang to absorb her blood, the edge began to change as black hands crawled across the face of the blade.

[Replication – Void Fang of Endless Slaughter]

Chapter 329 - 329: Avatar Of A God

Seeing the black hands crawl across Void Fang, Enris stopped smiling as her eyes widened.

Curling her lips into a grin, Alyss adjusted her grip and entered an offensive stance.

"Oi, what do you think you're doing?" Enris questioned. There was a layer of hidden anger beneath her voice.

"What's wrong? Surprised that I can copy your weapon? Honestly, if you have any worthy techniques, my twin would've stolen it instead." Alyss laughed as she lunged towards Enris.

Flames erupted around her body as she arrived in front of Enris in an instant and swung down with her blade.

*BANG!!!

Colliding with the Cleaver, she wasn't pushed back at all as Void Fang was now contesting against the Holy Relic!

Gritting her teeth, Enris felt anger rise up as Alyss dared to copy her favourite weapon.

"A fake can't surpass the original!" Enris shouted, forcing Alyss back as Void Fang was knocked to the side and opened Alyss's guard.

Following up with a downward cleave, Alyss grinned as she swapped places with Alice.

At that moment, a blood mirror appeared beneath her as Alice allowed herself to fall and teleport above Enris.

Narrowing her gaze, she tightened her grip on Void Fang's handle.

Several sparks flickered across the blade as violet flames soon took hold before being compressed into a single glowing edge that seemed to distort the surroundings.

Executioner's Blade!

Activating Allura's sixth Sigil, Alice's body became a blur as the travel time between the slash and her target was eliminated!

*BANG!!!!

Landing heavily on the ground, blood splattered in the air as her slash managed to cut off Enris's right hand!

Enris's pupils shrunk and became bloodshot as an array of rusted weapons erupted from the ground around her while Alice jumped back in order to dodge the attacks.

Parrying what she could, she created blood mirrors to teleport those that she couldn't.

Looking at the blood of a God being wasted on the ground, Alice swallowed her saliva and held back her desire to try it out. She noticed that it had a different look compared to the usual blood she was familiar with.

Each droplet seemed to be filled with a strange shimmering radiance as though the entire night sky was condensed into a single droplet, flowing with the light of the stars.

"That's it, I've had enough of this sh*t! Worthless trash!" Enris shouted as her hand reconstructed itself.

A malevolent aura exploded from her body as her hair flared up from the pressure around her. Each step created a crack in the ground as the realm tried its best to suppress Enris but it was no use.

Not even Velouria could stop her right now.

'This... isn't looking good.' Alice's smile twitched as she looked into the air and froze.

A storm of clouds gathered above them as an oppressive aura crashed towards the battlefield.

Little by little, a figure began to reveal itself!

A God's fifth ability, the power to manifest their true form upon the battlefield.

Even without attacking it, Alice instinctively knew that she couldn't harm the Avatar of a God.

'Okay. Maybe, just maybe, we're a bit in over our heads this time. Even if we drink the blood of a God, and on the off chance that we can even contain that power, we still can't go against that.' Alyss agreed as she too was feeling nervous.

Parting through the clouds, a robed figure leaned down towards the battle. Tattered robes fluttering in the wind, its figure too large even for the skies of this realm.

Countless tendril-like limbs and broken weapons scattered across its body while the scent of death emanated from its form. Yet within this chaos, there was a strange sense of elegance.

White lights manifested through the cracks of its 'face' or rather, what would've been the face. Beneath the robes, one could see glimpses of the remains of a body. Bones that peeked through the gaps and the twists of muscle.

Hollowed whispers and cries echoed out all at once as Alice could feel her every sense being overwhelmed.

Her mind could not accept the presence of a God's true form as she collapsed on her knee and began to bleed from her nose.

From the right side of the avatar's body, its robes were pulled taut as countless limbs squirmed beneath the fabric.

"Enris!!!" Solaris shouted out in shock.

Even if they wanted to deal with Velouria, this was not the way!

"Shut up! I don't care anymore!" Enris bared her teeth as her eyes glowed with a maniacal red.

Burns appeared across her body as the scars of chains manifested yet she continued the descent of her Avatar.

From beneath the tattered robes, a single withered hand revealed itself and reached towards Alice.

Velouria wanted to interfere but Lumiria prevented her movement.

An invisible force latched onto Alice's body as she was pulled towards the Avatar helplessly. Even with Cayla, she couldn't comprehend the energy behind this being. The power that crafted its body and the power it's exerting over the realm.

As she hovered above the Avatar's palm, tiny as an ant, Alice came face to face with the hooded figure.

She was able to see the amalgamation of limbs, smoke and lights that threaded together into an unknown.

Her mind, escaping this madness to imagine a 'face'.

A single glowing red mote that represented the eye bore down on Alice as she could feel her energy withering at an alarming pace.

Gritting her teeth, Alice wanted to use Allura's power to break out of this. Yet the moment she summoned her strength, it faded away almost instantaneously before she could even use it!

'Alice swap with me!' Alyss called out, hoping to use the nature of her soul against this Avatar.

However, no matter how Alice tried to swap, she was stuck here.

Her pupils shrunk as she instinctively closed her eyes.

"I asked you to seek an answer with the Will. But it seems like you have failed as well. The Will is someone who simply wishes to observe and I guess neither of us can change that." Nyer's voice rang out next to her ear as Alice opened her eyes and saw Nyer standing next to her.

Narrowing his gaze at the Avatar in front of him, he activated two markings on his body as the power of Severance and Corruption erupted from his body.

Aiming his index finger and middle finger towards the Avatar of Enris, he swiped down.

*BANG!!!

Crashing down from above, golden chains manifested and whipped around the Avatar's neck.

"ARG!!!!" Crying out in pain, Enris stumbled back as a burn mark started to manifest on her neck, matching the chains on her Avatar.

"How... How is he using the Natural Laws of this realm?!" Enris shouted out in anger.

Velouria could no longer use the Natural Laws that encompassed this realm as her control had waned. Yet Nyer was doing what Velouria couldn't. Her knowledge that Velouria couldn't use these laws was why she was so confident in summoning her Avatar.

But if Nyer could use the laws, summoning her Avatar was suicide!

Closing his eyes, Nyer activated Cayla's power as he brought his fingers together before snapping them.

*CRACK!!!

Tearing the fabric of the realm apart, spectral hands far larger than what Velouria had summoned before descended and wrapped around the Avatar, Grabbing hold of the Avatar, Nyer curled his lips into a grin.

"STOP!!!!" Enris shouted out, jumping towards Nyer in a panic as he ignored her cry.

Reaching forward with his hands, he took control of the spectral limbs and tore the Avatar apart!

Widening her eyes, Enris threw up a mouthful of blood as her bloodshot eyes glared at Nyer.

Power left her body as she helplessly fell towards the ground.

*BANG!!!

Slamming against the floor, Enris was motionless in a pool of her own blood, struggling for breath.

Seeing this, Solaris's expression turned sour as he gritted his teeth in anger. He had to come to a decision and quick!

As for Lumiria, she understood that their advantage had been lost. Now that Nyer was here seemingly with the power to control the Natural Laws of this realm as a God would, it was clear that they weren't going to win this.

"Sorry but I'll take my leave here. I'll be safer in my own domain." Lumiria shrugged as her body began to decompose into moonlight, fading away from the area while Solaris felt his vein pop from his anger.

"You b*tch!!!" He cried out. His anger reaching a point where he could only utter those two words as he created some distance between him and Velouria.

As much as he wanted to kill her, the only thing he could do right now was to retreat!

Seeing the two Gods run away, Velouria let out a bitter laugh before sighing. Understanding what was coming next.

If Nyer has obtained the blessing of Severance and Corruption then there was only one thing he had left to do.

Restraining Alice with chains, Nyer placed her to the side while approaching Velouria from behind.

"Seems like you've made up your mind." Velouria smiled bitterly as she glanced up at the sky before looking at the battlefield.

With their Gods leaving to save their lives, the soldiers lost their guiding light and was now being slaughtered by the beasts that remained.

"I'm sorry... You can hate me if you want." Nyer apologised as he clenched his fist.

Shaking his head, Velouria turned around with a small smile.

"I don't hate you. I'm... Simply regretful that things have gotten to this stage." She sighed.

Biting his lip, Nyer hesitated before shaking his head. Closing his eyes, he strengthened his resolve. Once he opened his eyes once more, his gaze was firm.

Before he lost his will to go forward with what he wishes to do, Nyer burst into action. To go past the point of no return.

*KRRRR!!!!

Plunging his hand into Velouria's chest, he tore out her heart.

Chapter 330 - 330: Nyer's Plan

"NYER!!!" Alice shouted, trying her best to break out of these chains but they refused to budge.

*Ba-dum... Ba-dum...

Beating weakly in his hands, Velouria's heart pulsed as Nyer activated Cayla. Upon seeing the threads of energy still connecting the heart to the body, he protected this connection using his powers.

Grabbing Velouria before she could collapse onto the floor, Nyer laid her down gently while Cayla manifested beside her.

A bitter expression appeared on her face as she looked upon Velouria's weakened form.

"Don't think too much. Just focus on the task at hand." Nyer reminded as Cayla nodded her head.

Turning to Alice who glared at the two of them with bloodshot eyes, Cayla felt guilty.

"I thought you were close to Velouria!?" Alice cried out, targeting Cayla who turned her head away.

"Because this is necessary. In this memory, Velouria is no longer the possessor of the Heart of the Abyss. This heart of hers is nothing but a placeholder for what once was here. Even if the Will can recreate the Crown and the Eyes with ease, the Heart is a different matter. It is the key that holds everything together." Nyer explained, walking over to Alice.

Kneeling in front of her, he placed his hand against her chest and slowly dug into her flesh.

"Ack!" Gritting her teeth from the pain, Alice could feel his hand reaching deep and wrapping around her own heart.

"Hm? This is... unexpected. You actually possess a fake Heart... Who made this?" Nyer muttered before shaking his head.

"But this is perfect. It'll act as a catalyst to summon the real Heart."

Once he had wrapped his hand around her heart, he didn't hesitate to rip it out just like what he did to Velouria.

Losing her strength, Alice felt her vision flicker and fade. She could hear the sound of Alyss's shouting next to her ear but couldn't make out what she was saying.

As Alice closed her eyes, chains began to appear on her limbs.

"Nyer what the f*ck are you doing?!" Alyss shouted out in anger, surprising Nyer as he paused and glanced up at Alyss.

When he 'extracts' the heart, he also extracts parts of their Spiritual Heart. And by that extension, the host shouldn't be able to do anything during this time. And yet Alyss was cursing him right now.

"Two souls resting in one body." Nyer muttered in realisation. But at the same time, having two souls in one would disrupt the balance. With that in mind, there was only one conclusion. Two sides of the same coin.

Perhaps Alyss was the one he'd been seeing appear occasionally when they sparred.

Regardless, Alyss couldn't affect the outcome of what he was going to do.

All he needed to do was allow her to sit there and ignore what she was saying.

With two souls in his hands, he stepped towards a clearing while Cayla activated a ritual circle using her body as the catalyst.

To awaken the Heart was a rather simple task as it only required the resonance between a vessel, the crown and the eyes. All of which he's obtained.

What wasn't simple was the fact that they're a memory. The real Cayla is fractured and broken, the crown was only recently repaired and Alice couldn't function as a real vessel right now.

Meaning he had to bridge this gap using what they have. By merging the 'fake' with the real, he could use it to repair some of the damages caused.

"I'm ready." Cayla nodded her head as she took a deep breath, resolving herself.

"Then we shall begin."

***BANG!!!!**

From the centre of the ritual circle, a pillar of energy burst into the sky. The light from this pillar drowning out the darkness of the Abyss Realm while Nyer stood in the centre, unphased.

Holding the two beating hearts, he narrowed his eyes.

Letting go of the hearts, he watched as they floated upwards.

"Fu..." Breathing out, Nyer summoned his blade and activated the blessings of Severance and Corruption.

What he needed to do now was to pierce through the veil that separated the Abyss and this memory.

Upon doing so, these two hearts, the Crown, Eyes and vessel will resonate the true Heart.

"ARGGG!!!!"

Letting out a shout while exerting all of his strength, Nyer cleaved towards the sky.

###

Rescue attempts for all of the students stuck in the inverted world were successful.

All of the special class students made large contributions with Luke helping them defeat targets that they would have otherwise struggled intensely with.

Ria, being one of the last few to be saved, had spent her time helping other students instead. Making her way through the inverted world with her speed and taking down all the beasts she could.

The only one left was now Alice.

Everyone else that belonged to her group had been saved yet her inverted world was different. Resilient.

No matter how they tried to enter, even the principal couldn't breach the veil and enter the Inverted World.

They couldn't see what was going on inside, all that remained was the entrance that pulsed with an alarming amount of energy.

Around this entrance, there were first aid stations set up as some students were too injured to be moved away from the site and had to be treated immediately.

Ignoring her wounds, Ria sat by the entrance of Alice's Inverted World with a deep frown. She couldn't stop tapping her foot from nervousness, worrying about Alice's safety.

Even though she knew how strong Alice was with her special traits, she still worried about her safety.

"I'm sure she's kicking up a storm in there right now. She might have even gotten carried away with things." Luke tried to lighten the mood while bringing over some warm tea for Ria.

"I hope so." Ria sighed, accepting the cup of tea as she glanced towards the principal who was busy running back and forth.

After the incident, she was busy with ensuring the safety of students along with the complaints of a myriad of factions outside of the academy, questioning their safety measures.

Compared to the first time they saw her, she had lost her original flare and composure which was to be expected.

However, what surprised Ria the most was the figure sitting where the principal used to sit.

With a lazy posture, his gaze was fixated on the entrance to the Inverted World, not wanting to miss the moment when it would open or if Alice would escape.

Even though he told the principal to just be stronger, he couldn't leave everything to her in the end. He couldn't help but worry about Alice.

*RUMBLE!!!

Feeling the ground tremble, he furrowed his brows as the entrance to the Inverted World started to shake. A strange yet familiar feeling pulsed out, causing his frown to deepen.

"Oi Vampire." He called out as the principal rushed to his side, not daring to annoy him as he was her lifeline right now!

"Yes? What can I do for you?"

"Help move the students further away from the entrance unless you want some corpses there." Kaden ordered while the principal could only force a smile.

"Of course."

'Why can't you put it nicer?!' She shouted out in her head but didn't dally on the command.

Ria didn't want to go too far but one look from Kaden was enough for her to follow without a word.

Standing up, shadows began to flicker from his body as it formed a perimeter around the entrance.

He could sense something trying to break through and it wasn't Alice.

That familiar presence, that sickening aura.

"Nyer..." Kaden mumbled as veins bulged on his neck from anger.

While he didn't know why his aura was being felt from the Inverted World, he was ready for the moment that b*stard steps through the entrance.

###

Alice wasn't sure what happened after her heart was ripped out.

Right now, she felt as though she was floating down a river. A soft current that carried her body away, free of worries and free of responsibilities.

Opening her eyes, Alice was surrounded by a realm of white light yet it didn't hurt the eyes. Instead, it was gentle and soft.

[This has become quite the mess hasn't it, o' master mine.]

A familiar voice rang out as Alice revealed a slight smile.

"Cayla, you're finally awake. Though it's a tad too late considering I got my heart pulled out." Alice sighed.

Above her, a figure of light manifested as Cayla took Velouria's form.

[It took me a while to acclimate to the changes occurring within your body o' master. Plus, I'm incomplete. Seeing the traces let on you, it's clear that you've seen mine form in its prime. When I held the power of both eyes rather than one.

[Though even now, the only reason I've woken up is because of the resonance formed between the three key components. A forced awakening if you will.] Cayla explained, sitting on an invisible chair.

"What now then. Let me guess, am I dead?"

[It's been long yet also short. Who knew mine master would become such a pessimist in this time.] Cayla chuckled while Alice simply rolled her eyes.

"Who knew you would become so articulate in this time? What else can I do? He's just casually pulled out my heart. Hell I'm not even sure how I'm talking to you right now."

[Because Nyer does not wish for your immediate death. You still need to serve your purpose. A simple glance is enough to let this one know of his plans. He seeks to create a new vessel from imaginary to reality. To allow for the memory of mine old master to inhibit the new alongside the Crown, the Eyes and the Heart. This effectively allows her a new lease on life.

[And once that happens o' master mine, you die.]

Hearing this, a frown formed on Alice's face.

"I hope you're not telling me that to see my response in the face of death."

[Of course not. I'm here to hopefully assist you with a solution.

[I hope that you, my current master, will survive this ordeal.]