

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 1101 Events During The Act - 1

[980 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 2:54

Location- Sky blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

Despite Anna's warning Ann decided to do what she thought was the best for the boy. If everything works out as she hoped, Anna would be thanking her for it.

'I don't, I really don't want you to do that. If anything I want you to do nothing. Ann, despite our quirk of being able to access each other's thoughts, how could you be so wrong about what I want you to do?' Anna felt that Ann was doing this on purpose otherwise considering their mental connection they both should not require to have this conversation.

'Anna, forget that why is Asong not reacting? Shouldn't she have received the news about Wyatt's death by now?' Ann skillfully switched the topic of their conversation.

Anna knew what Ann was up to by bringing this out of nowhere but what she said was also concerning, Did Asong not receive the report from her subordinates? Or was the boy's attempt to fake his death for the second time, seen through by the allied semi-demigods?

But considering that any underlying would not be enthused to report the failure of the mission, Anna thought that news about the boy's death would soon reach Asong.

'Forget about that, how do we sell Wyatt's death? Do I have to kill Aba just to keep Wyatt's fake death under wraps?' Anna was more worried about her reaction ruining the perfect fake death pulled off by the boy.

'Yes, Anna, kill Aba that will solve everything,' Ann was not being sarcastic, her words were genuine. Anna killing Aba would easily steal the spotlight on the boy's death onto itself. Ann could not think of a better distraction than this.

'Could you stop with your sarcasm at least now?' Anna said in annoyance.

'Girl, who has the time to be sarcastic, I am being serious. What could be a better distraction than you killing Aba?' Ann explained.

'And people call me the crazy one of the two,' Anna uttered as she began to think of the perfect reaction to avoid Asong having doubts about the boy's death, or doing anything else that would raise Asong's suspicion about it. The boy had faked his death almost perfectly, Anna did not want her being nosy to ruin it for the boy.

'Since when did you start caring about the consequences,' Ann muttered in dissatisfaction as she was being looked down on by Anna of all people.

'Shut up, I am thinking,' Anna went through all her tell signs and decided to avoid them during her upcoming act.

'Well, whatever you have thought of you better hurry up. From the looks of Asong's bodyguard's positioning, it seems they had received the news and are preparing for the worse,' Ever since Anna threatened Agatha and Asong came to her rescue, Ann never lost sight of what Asong's bodyguards were up to because depending on the situation they could be her enemies. Thankfully things did not come to that, though she had to pretend that it had come to that.

'Watch me,' saying that Anna began staring at Asong indifferently.

'Ah!' Asong whose eyes meet Anna's indifferent stare, screamed in fright.

Seeing her act showing results already, Anna was convinced she was headed down the right path and then continued with the act as she menacingly said, "I take it your cronies have finally informed you about Wyatt's death."

'Great, keep this up while I think of a way to send her packing,' Ann was impressed by Anna's act, and seeing Asong panicking she was more than satisfied. She felt as if Anna's years of lying were finally being put to good use.

'Whatever you end up planning, remember no killing. Otherwise, it will be hard to explain when Wyatt comes back from his fake death,' Anna reminded Ann that killing Aba or anyone for that matter was off the table.

'How do you expect me to sell that you are grieving to Asong without any bloodshed?' Everybody in Anna's circle knew if she was angry, then someone was going to have a bad day or even the last day of their life.

With such a reputation, if Anna were to not spill some blood it would definitely raise Asong's suspicion. Making Ann's task more difficult than it has to be.

Seeing Asong dare to make eye contact with her, Anna maintained her indifferent gaze and heard Asong say, "Before you do anything we all regret, why don't you take a deep breath and think this through? Agatha—"

Knowing where Asong was headed with her words, Anna following her act interrupted her in the middle in a fit of rage, "Asong, we are best friends but choose your next words wisely."

'Anna, you are on fire today. Your lying is finally coming in handy,' Ann was not surprised seeing Asong and others falling for Anna's act, otherwise, Anna's hundred years of career as a lair would be a waste.

'Stop wasting a time figuring out how to put an end to this,' Anna was doing well so far but she knew herself and knew it was about time she did something to mess up what she had built so far.

"Empty beasts are not easy to defend against. Even demigods can't—"

"So what? It was their duty to lay their life protecting Wyatt but he died and they are still alive—"

Anna continued to contradict whatever reasons Asong came up with, with an indifferent face but she never expected hysterical Susan to interrupt her, "No, Wyatt is not dead, he can't be dead, take that back."

'What does she mean? Does she know Wyatt is alive? How does she know that? Did Wyatt send her a text informing her of his well-being? Why did he send her a text but not me? Does He care about her more than me? Is she more important to him than me?' Anna's mind went to a dark place misinterpreting Susan's response.

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Chapter 1102 Events During The Act - 2

[981 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 3:01

Location- Sky blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

'Anna, snap out of it. Wyatt did not reach out to Susan about faking his, Susan is just in denial about Wyatt's death,' Seeing Anna's mind enter the dark place, Ann instantly switched to damage control and talked Anna back to the bright side.

'Really?' Anna asked Ann in suspicion.

'Just look at her she is devastated over the loss of a friend. Besides if Wyatt had informed her about him faking his death, wouldn't he have asked her to keep it a secret?' Ann explained to the volatile Anna.

'...' Anna and Ann together stared at Susan only to see her stare back at them furiously ready to fight to the death.

Seeing Susan's response Anna found Susan cute and finally relaxed feeling what Ann said was true, Susan was just in the denial stage of grieving. Soon Anna started to pity Susan because she knew though all this was just an act for her, it was all real for Susan.

'I can't believe that you, Anna Heatsend, the southern emperor adored by many were Jealous of a little card scholar girl from a humble background,' Ann did not miss the chance to taunt Anna because it was very rare for Anna to ever get jealous and act insecure so seeing Susan bring that out in Anna, Ann could not help self but taunt Anna.

'Shut up, I was not jealous. I was just angry that is all,'

...

As Anna went to the place, Susan was in the spotlight for her sudden outburst. As a weak card scholar with a humble background, she seemed out of place in this group and now she dares to interrupt the only heir of her ruler, now that was daring.

Even if Susan's company did not outcast her for background and realm but considering how disgruntled Anna was over grief it was neither the time nor place for her to act up. So everyone present could not help but feel no matter how accommodating Anna was she would not let this one slide.

But before Anna could act up, Aba ignorantly said, "Umm, I am confused. Is Wyatt alive or not?"

With this, the spotlight shifted from Susan to Aba. Hearing her everyone could not help but think how ignorant she was and wondered how she survived so far, obviously thanks to her demigod father.

When everyone formed an opinion about Aba, they did not know that Aba did not ask this question because she was ignorant. Instead, she asked this to save her friend

Susan's skin. She had already gotten the news of her friend's death; she did not want to hear another one.

Aba was clear about how the boy's death also meant the same for her but despite her worries, she acted in care for her friend. Not fearing that this made her situation even worse.

If the boy were here he could see why Aba grew to save humanity in the Clown mask's vision despite her current shortcomings. She had a big and kind heart.

As Anna and Ann's gaze landed on her Aba did not regret her choice, she continued to attract their anger so that they would forget Susan's sudden outburst, "What? Is it wrong that I want clarity? I need to know if I should be sad or happy, after all, Wyatt was my friend."

As Aba was trying her best to attract Anna's anger to keep her friend Susan safe, she heard her grandaunt Asong say, "Girl, will you shut up? Why are you provoking death, are you that desperate to meet your maker and ask him for the missing screws in your brain?"

Hearing her grandaunt say these words Aba felt insulted but before she could give Asong a fitting reply she felt Susan glare at her, this caused Aba to feel wronged. After all, she was doing all this to save Susan's skin, but now seeing Susan also blame her for being ignorant like others, how could she not feel aggrieved? Considering the situation she could give Susan an explanation and it was not certain if Susan would even believe her reason for saying such insensitive things.

Before the situation became more awkward for Aba, Ann who was silent so far suddenly spoke up, "Susan, Wyatt was assassinated. Your denying it will not change the fact. And big sis Asong, Anna has promised Demigod Windsor to take care of Aba so we will not kill for the time being but once she returns home, we will uphold our words."

Heatsend Royal Family's Honor, this was Ann's ingenious plan to resolve the situation without resorting to bloodshed.

Anna extended Aba's stay as a hostage because Demigod Windsor asked her to, he promised to reward her handsomely and Anna promised to bring some positive change to his daughter.

Anna was not the best teacher available but she had her achievements to back her merit as a teacher and not to mention she would not deter from the fact that Ann was the beloved daughter of a demigod when it came to teaching Ann a lesson.

It was a harmless win-win agreement between the two parties.

If Anna were to kill Aba now then it would mean she broke her promise which would be a big stain on Heatsend Royal Family's Honor, giving Anna a plausible reason to not kill Aba without arising Asong or her bodyguard's suspicion about the boy's death. This was the ingenious reason Ann had come up with.

Using this reason as a perfect cover Anna delayed killing Aba, contrary to her word that she would kill Agatha's precious if she could not protect Anna's precious. And from the looks of Asong and her bodyguards, it seemed that Ann's plan worked. Asong's next words were a good assurance of that, "Ann you too, I would accept this from her but you? Come on you guys, things don't have to end like this—"

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Chapter 1103 Events During The Act - 3

[1,486 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 3:04

Location- Sky blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

In the warehouse, tensions were high, thanks to the award-winning act put forward by Anna and Ann.

Hearing Ann's harsh words Susan broke down facing the reality that her young boss was dead. Aba too was having a hard time accepting her friend's death. This feeling was new to her, she understood the concept of death but she never had experienced it in real life. Aba had lost her mother even before she knew her so accepting her mother's death was not as difficult.

Ada decided to grieve for the loss of her friend along with Susan instead of waiting for Anna and Ann to decide when to take her life. So she guided Susan to the only bedroom in the warehouse to get some quietness.

Aba and Susan left without caring to hear what Asong had to say about what Ann just said. But before she could get to the point once again Anna interrupted Asong saying, "I gave my word to demigod Windsor to take care of his daughter, and I will uphold it.

And I also gave my word to Agatha that I will kill her precious princess if anything were to happen to Wyatt, and I plan to uphold it too."

Asong's brows frowned not because she was interrupted by Anna again. If Asong let something as little as this get her worked up then she would not be fit for her job as a politician.

The reason she frowned was that Anna would not change her mind about killing Aba. Yes, Anna promised not to kill Aba for now but that changed nothing. Anna trying to kill Aba today or a week from now did not make a difference. After hearing the indifference in Anna's voice Asong felt it was going to be near-impossible to change Anna's mind about killing Aba.

But she had to try because the support of both the southern royal family and the demigod Windsor was important to her.

They say rich and influential friends help your career and they were correct. Asong was a fitting example of this, if not for the deciding vote from the Southern royal family Asong as a mortal could never hold a seat in the government. The Southern royal family's support helped her where her family failed to.

Now that her health worries have been put to bed Asong had big plans for her career and for that the support of both the southern royal family and Demigod Windsor's support was required.

Demigod Windsor might not be as powerful as the southern royal family but his influence was not any less than theirs thanks to his specialty. He had a lot of powerful connections who were not afraid of rubbing the southern royal family the wrong way.

With these two forces behind her, Asong felt that nobody could stop her ascend into the ranks of the government but now all that was starting to seem like a pipe dream seeing how Anna would not budge about killing Aba over a boy. This was typical of Anna but she had to convince her otherwise for the sake of world peace, "Are you guys sure you are going to make an enemy out of demigod Windsor for a— I hate to sound like an insensitive bitch but the circumstances call for it so I have to say it, a dead crush?"

Even though Anna was fully aware that all this was just an act, hearing Asong speak such words she could not help but take offense, "How dare you, you insensitive bitch? I know I have been very fickle when it comes to my partners but that was the past me, now it is different."

Seeing Anna aggressively lash out at her, Asong grinned in her mind for managing to replace Anna's indifference with anger. As an angry Anna was a lot easier to manipulate than an indifferent Anna, "How is it different, Anna? Tell me."

Anna got worked up thinking how when she confessed her feelings to the boy he too did not believe her just like Asong, who did not believe her, "It is different, I don't have to explain myself to you."

Seeing that her doubting the genuinity of Anna's feelings for the boy caused Anna's anger to grow, Asong decided to stick to it, "No, you have to explain to me, how this boy was any different from your past flings? you have to tell me."

Seeing that her past was causing even her closest friend to doubt her feelings for the boy, Anna felt it was not a surprise that the boy was having a hard time trusting her feelings for him. This realization caused Anna to grow angry at herself for being too fickle in the past and now it was affecting the only relationship cared about. Enraged at herself, Anna yelled, "Asong, I said I don't have to explain myself to you."

Seeing her strategy was working Asong continued to poke Anna where it enraged her the most, "Why not? I am your best friend, I have the right to know. Just admit it, Anna, you haven't changed one bit, you are as impulsive as back then and this boy is just another fling of yours."

Anna who was already angry at her past self for her questionable and lengthy track record of ex-boyfriends could not take any more of Asong repeatedly reminding her about her past affecting what she considered as her present and future, so she yelled in irritation, "Shut the fuck up Asong or I will, you don't know me."

Seeing Anna start to make threats that she would never be able to hold up, Asong's grin in her mind widened. Just a little bit more and she would have Anna's mind hot enough to cast her thoughts as she desired, "I know you, Anna, I know you better than my parents know me. I have seen you at your best and worst. Threatening to kill a girl over a boy, is a new low even for you Anna."

Seeing Asong starting to stand on moral high ground and starting to judge her, Anna was immediately pissed at Asong. Yes, she had fun in the past so what? That doesn't mean anyone can judge her for that, or she could not spend her present and future with whom she wanted because of that, "Asong, you don't know anything, just leave."

Seeing the opportunity Asong decided to land her final blow, "Yes, I don't know Anna, I don't know. How could I? You don't tell me anything nowadays,"

Then, Asong got up and turned to leave, fully knowing that Anna was a sentimental fool and would not let her leave after hearing the words she just spoke.

Anna was okay with being called anything but a bad friend. Anna, who was worked up about her one-sided love, now felt bad realizing that with the passing years she has been neglecting her friend. They were so out of touch that neither knew what was going on in the other's life. So she decided to confess and confide in her friend once again like used in the past, "Fine, you want me to tell you, I will tell, Wyatt was not just another

fling, he is the first man I ever loved. There it is, I said it. I am in love with a high schooler. Screw me for being in love with a high schooler."

Seeing Anna break emotionally, Asong felt her victory was imminent as long as she played her cards right, "Oh, honey, come here. I am sorry, I did not mean any of that. I just wanted you to talk to me like we used to."

Seeing Asong manipulate Anna Ann cursed Anna in her mind, 'This simpleton, this works too.'

But she did not immediately expose Asong's game plan to Anna seeing how it was all working out to help set the narrative they wanted to set. So she jumped in, to have some fun,

Weep

"Ann, honey, you too come here,"

"Big sis, Wyatt is my first love too."

"Ann, I dare you to say that one more time."

"He is my first love."

"Get your own lover."

"You two would have made Wyatt the luckiest man alive, shame he had to die so young."

An hour later

"So Anna you agree to forgive Agatha and not kill Aba."

"It will be hard but I will forgive them as long as they help find his Assassins and help me bring them to justice."

"Yes, don't worry we will not spare any effort to find the assassination organization and the hand behind the boy's death. This is my promise to you."

Asong felt a sense of achievement thinking that she had achieved the impossible.

Anna was confused as to what just happened. What did I just agree to? Wasn't all this an act? What is false, what is real?

Ann, gazing at the celebrating Asong and puzzled Anna, snickered, unable to escape feeling omniscient she thought, 'Fools.'

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[994 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 18:31

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

"This is not what I had in mind when I agreed to give you 5% of my cut of the phantom sword wood," I complained to Jill as I looked at the golems pumping in logs of phantom sword wood into a big array formation and the big array formation pump out stacks of phantom sword wood ingredient cards.

"Would it help if I told you that the operation of this array formation consumes a lot of energy," Jill spoke with a guilty smile even though she did not feel even a shred of guilt for tricking the boy.

"No, it does not. The artificial soul energy vein is powering this array formation. You speak as if you are making a loss," I honestly did not know that array formation could be used to mass produce cards of a kind, especially an ingredient card. If I had known when Jill offered to convert my share of the phantom sword wood into card ingredients for a 5% of my shares in the phantom sword wood plantation I would have rejected her without giving it a second thought.

"Well too bad you can't go back on your word now," Jill clearly was enjoying her victory but was holding back her smile in order not to rub salt in the boy's wound.

"Bask in your victory as much as you can because soon I will get you for this," Was I being petty? Yes, and I felt that Jill appreciated this petty part of me.

"Haha, bring it," Jill no longer suppressed her laughter and began to laugh without restraint. Jill was a sore winner and a firm believer that rubbing their victory on the face of the loser was the right of the winner. As a result, she had very few friends.

She restrained herself to not hurt the feelings of the boy as she really liked him. But now knowing that she could be herself around him she started to like him even more. And the fact that the boy dared to challenge her was an added bonus. Only time could tell if he could keep up with her.

"..." I was left without words witnessing Jill laugh without restraint, was it me or she looked alluring than usual.

"I was waiting for you to negotiate but you astonished me by agreeing to my proposal. I even felt a little regret for not asking for more than 5%. How can you not know that array formation can be used to mass-produce ingredient cards and other simple cards? And you want me to believe that master Lorenzo was the one who taught you array mastery," Jill was not done with just laughing at me but she also had to call me on it.

"First, I was not taught array mastery by anybody I was self-taught.

Second, Lorenzo only lent me some of his study material, he wishes he was my array mastery teacher. Get your facts straight, women," being mocked by Jill I had to make some things clear before misunderstanding becomes the fact.

"Now you confess," I did not know if Jill was saying this intentionally but I clearly remember telling her otherwise this morning.

"Whatever, are you done?" The more I refuted Jill the more she will use this to poke fun at me. So I decided to act aloof.

"Not, yet but what is it?" Jill was far from done making fun of me but feeling that I needed her assistance she paused her victory lap.

"I need these ingredients, do you have them or should we get them from the city," I said, sharing the ingredient list with Jill's grimoire.

Jill summoned her grimoire and went through the ingredient list forward by the boy. Then before giving the boy an answer she asked, "Most of these are the ingredients to create an A-rank dungeon prevention array formation, are you planning to use these ingredients to create an array that can detect the formation of soul energy vein?" Having spent decades trying to reverse engineer the dungeon formation array to create an array to detect the formation of the soul energy vein, Jill immediately noticed what the ingredient list shared by the boy was for.

"Yes, yes I am," I answered Jill casually.

"Well then let me save some time for you, I have tried the same numerous times with different sets of ingredients each time but the results were always disappointing. The dungeon prevention array is very stable but even a slight change to it will cause the array formation to collapse. I have tried to figure out the root cause of this and you know what I found?-"

"You found that the dungeon prevention array formation gets unstable with a slight change because the predecessor who created it wanted it to be so," I interrupted Jill and spoke the words in her mind.

"Y-you, how did you figure that out in such little time? It took me years to come to that conclusion," Hearing the boy reach the conclusion that to her years to reach within less than half a day she was astonished.

"Don't beat yourself over this, if not for the idea behind your device, It would have taken me longer to reach this conclusion," I was not lying when I said this but I left out a fact that even if it would have taken me a lot more time to reach this conclusion, it would not have taken me years.

I had three slave consciousnesses to share my workload, Soul pupils to help me explore the mysteries of soul pathways involved, and the Hive AI to run simulations on the theories I came up with. With such efficient tools at my disposal, it would be embarrassing if it took me longer to reach this conclusion.

"No, even with my device and the research behind it, it is impossible to reach this conclusion in such a short period," Jill did not take the easy explanation I gave to her.

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Chapter 1105 Money Pincher

[992 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 18:41

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

Jill looked at me suspiciously, I don't know what was going in her mind right now but considering how she was not willing to take the easy explanation I gave her, it was clear she was trying to figure out how I reached the conclusion which took her years to reach within a few hours. Did not bother to remove Jill's suspicions as this was better than her mocking for not knowing the basics that array formation can be used to mass produce cards of a kind.

"So, can you get me the ingredients or not?" If not for me needing the ingredients I would have let Jill with her thoughts but I did like the idea of wasting time when I could be doing something productive.

Jill woke up from her contemplation and then withdrew the suspicious look she unconsciously kept giving me, "Be honest, did you hack my grimoire and steal my research data."

"Aren't you overestimating the ability of the golden grimoire?" I said summoning my golden-grade grimoire.

Even if I could hack into Jill's grimoire, my grimoire wouldn't allow me to, as it was not sophisticated enough to break through the firewall protecting the platinum-grade grimoire that the authorities and Jill, herself, had placed to stop anyone from hacking into her grimoire and leaving without being noticed. If I could I would not have bothered to take an oath just to know what Jill was up to down here in the south.

"You do have a point," Jill nodded in agreement but then added, " So how did you do it?"

"Jill, can you just let it go? I like your curiosity and enthusiasm to find the truth, that's what makes you a good researcher, but you have to know the basic social norms," I liked that Jill was eager to find the unknown, but I don't like this obsessive part of her.

"Fine," Jill agreed to leave it alone but I could see a glint in her eyes which said, 'We are not done here, buddy.'

Seeing that glint in Jill's eyes I sighed. Jill ignored my sigh and said, "I have all the ingredients on your list, but my stock is not enough to meet your demand."

"Give me what you have, and I will check if I can make do with them," It was not surprising that Jill had the ingredients I was looking for because most of the ingredients in my list were the ingredients required for the creation of the dungeon prevention array and Jill's device.

Even though the quantity of the ingredients did not meet my requirement, I decided to make do with what from Jill because the ingredients were free and I could not wait to put the theory I came up with to practical use. The ingredients for the dungeon prevention array and Jill's device were very rare and expensive. Some were even regulated ingredients. Therefore I had no complaints about their quantity.

"Aren't you flexible?" Jill was surprised by the boy's reply because most researchers would not be willing to risk continuing their experiment with even a small variable out of their calculation let alone insufficient ingredients.

"Don't worry, I know what I am doing," I assured Jill I extended my hand toward her, indicating to her to hand me the ingredients.

Jill took out a storage card and before handing it to me she said, " I will cut the cost of these ingredients from your share of the phantom sword wood."

"Fine," Only when I agreed to pay the cost of the ingredients she gave me with phantom sword wood did Jill hand the storage card to me saying, "I will be charging you for the storage card too."

"Sure," I snatched the storage card from Jill.

"Don't take it personally, I just did not want the money to come between our relationship," Jill came up with an excuse to deny that she was a penny pincher.

"Sure," I nodded and equipped the storage card in my grimoire's attack page. Having gotten the ingredients I no longer wanted to waste time bickering with Jill but could not wait to get to the experimenting as soon as possible.

Seeing the boy give her a half-hearted nod out of eagerness to start his experiment, Jill for the second time in her life felt sad for not being able to spend time with a man, the first time was with her dad, she wanted the boy to prioritize spending time her over starting his stupid experiment.

Suppressing her emotions Jill prepared herself for the second greatest thing after winning, being able to say I told you so.

Having gone through the list of ingredients the boy asked for Jill knew what experiment the boy was going to conduct. Though she did not use the exact ingredients she too had tried this experiment, to modify the dungeon prevention array into a soul energy vein detection array. After conducting numerous experiments to achieve the same, be it a different set of ingredients or a different approach, Jill had tried it all and had already come to learn that the dungeon prevention array was too volatile to change by default, so trying modifying it was just a fool's errand, Jill had exchanged decades of her to come to the disappointing conclusion.

Even Jill prepared to say I told you so to the boy yet a part of her hoped the boy would come through. Jill had a hint of expectation that the boy would be able to find something she missed. Jill had this shiver of expectation from the boy not because she thought the boy was better than her but instead because she hoped that the boy she liked succeeded where she failed. Not to mention he was conducting this experiment despite knowing that the creator of the dungeon prevention array purposefully designed the array such that it cannot tolerate even a slight change, making it impossible to modify the array formation.

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[1,001 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 18:52

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

Jill was not wrong about it being impossible to modify or try and alter the dungeon prevention array. It was indeed a waste of time to do that. So what was the experiment I was going to conduct about? The experiment was for me to check the new array formation recipe I came up with to detect the formation of the soul energy vein. Most of the theory was based on the dungeon prevention array but the recipe I came up with was not that different from it but it was a different approach.

Using the stored data of the artificial soul energy vein and the dungeon prevention array recipe, I simulated numerous experiments using the Hive AI to see how the dungeon prevention array would stop the formation of artificial soul energy veins within its range of effect. The results of these experiments were so valuable that Jill would not hesitate to kill for them. For her to gather the same data, it would take decades and lots of resources considering that she was able to accurately determine how to create an artificial soul energy vein. I was able to uncover the mystery of artificial soul energy vein creation with my soul pupils but the same luxury was not possible for Jill. First, she would have to spend decades figuring out how to create an artificial soul energy vein and another decade conducting experiments to gather the data I had in my hands right now.

If Jill had the data I had in my hand right now maybe she too could achieve miracles unfortunately for her, she did not but I did. The reason why this data was important was that it gave us information about which ingredients to use to get a particular reaction.

For example, If the dungeon prevention array was able to prevent dungeon formation by stopping the soul energy vein formation then how did it achieve that without affecting the quantity of soul energy in its area of effect? Soul energy veins were basically threads of the soul pathway containing the purest and most concentrated soul energy, so how was the dungeon prevention array able to stop these soul pathways without affecting the soul energy concentration in the atmospheres of the area? People who can afford dungeon prevention arrays are powerful, they need a soul energy rich area to continue their routine active soul control cultivation. The only reason the dungeon prevention array was able to withstand the test of time was that it was able to stop the dungeon formation in an area without affecting the soul energy concentration in the air of the area. The secret behind this effect of the dungeon prevention array was as a set of ingredients, when used in a specific sequence they were able to achieve something the array of this time would consider a miracle, warding off Soul energy veins.

Now the secret to that warding off the soul energy vein was mine, I could think of numerous possibilities to use it. Out of those numerous possibilities currently, I was

focusing on the one I call Soul energy vein summoning. If successful, I will have the all soul energy of the world at my fingertips.

I had big ambitions for this discovery but for now, I will settle for using it to create an array that could detect the formation of a soul energy vein. This was all I needed to one-up Jill.

But there was a problem, knowing Jill if I succeed then she will do everything in her power to get an answer to how I did achieve it. But considering the wide range of applications of this discovery and not to mention the cash that would flow in, I decided to do what the predecessor who created the Dungeon prevention array did, he had created his array in such a way that any that his creation could only work the way he intended for it too. If anybody tried to be smarter than the array would collapse even with the slightest change. Despite being so volatile, the dungeon prevention array had one of the highest stability when it was set up perfectly according to the recipe. The secret behind this was within the ingredients used. Studying the dungeon formation array was a big eye-opener. It changed how I viewed the ingredients and their impact on array formation and card creation. With this research, my card creation and array mastery had made progress by leaps.

From this I could only take away one thing, I haven't been using the soul pupils to their full potential. And considering the things the creator of the dungeon prevention array was able to do without the soul pupils, I had a huge respect for him. Now, this predecessor was someone I would not mind calling my teacher. Though that was not possible for various reasons, I still could learn a lot from the work of the ancient array masters. And knew exactly a place to find them, the central academic city.

While Jill watched me, I began to arrange the soul pathways of nature to define a boundary for the array, specifying the area of effect of the array. I did not have enough ingredients, so I could not create a large-scale array formation. For now, I could only settle on a small-scale one.

But the problem was if the array I was creating had a limited array of effects then how will it detect the artificial soul energy vein at the core of the dungeon? To answer this problem I could do what Jill did, create a device that was not limited by mobility, or I could turn it into a field card. If it was for commercial use then I would have gone with Jill's approach but this was just an experiment, I already knew where to find a soul energy vein, so a field card would be enough to serve the purpose of my experimentation.

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[1,005 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 20:28

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

The dungeon I was in was the product of the artificial soul energy vein which was the accidental product of the soul energy leaking from the dungeon relocation apparatus.

The researchers of the dungeon relocation project had accidentally managed to recreate the process of dungeon formation from scratch. But these researchers were not equipped to notice what was happening right in front of them, until Jill.

Jill who was on the brink of uncovering the very truth of the dungeon formation had a narrow vision, all she cared about was her research so she failed to see what she uncovered was more than her research. Maybe she did but did not pursue it knowing her current limit was not enough to handle what she had found therefore she decided to stick with what she was best at and once she was done it would not be too late for her to venture further with what she had uncovered at the dungeon relocation experiment.

But she would have never thought that while she was taking it slow, the boy whom she did not even consider a threat would use what she had stumbled upon to uncover the very secret of this world.

I uncovered that the card world we were in started when the sentient energy in the spiritual plane interacted with the matter in the physical plane.

The process of the energies of the sentient energy in the spiritual plane interacting with matter in the physical plane gave birth to the world and every existence on it.

The world on the physical plane is the card world and the sentient energy in the spiritual plane is the world's will.

World's will, embodies the rules and the purest and most concentrated form of soul energy that when introduced into the world, after interacting with the matter of the physical plane form soul pathways that become the essence of every existence. But in some rare cases, these pure and concentrated soul energies come together to form soul energy veins, and at these veins end of dungeons are formed.

I was able to conclude this secret of the world after learning how the soul energy vein came into being using the knowledge of how to create artificial soul energy veins and how the dungeon prevention array created by the ancient array masters could prevent the formation of the dungeons.

While uncovering the secret of the world, I also uncovered various other secrets related to array formation through the dungeon prevention array created by ancient array masters.

Two of which were how to ward off soul energy veins and the second being the secret to conditional equilibrium used by the ancient array master to keep the principle and working of his creation from being misused, for example, altering the array to achieve a different purpose instead of using it for what it was originally intended for.

I singled out these two secrets that were uncovered from the dungeon prevention array formation because I was going to use one of them to create what I called Vein Detection Field Card and one of them to make sure that nobody can misuse the working principle of the card I had created to serve their nefarious purpose.

The warding off of the soul energy vein was a miraculous trick pulled off by the dungeon prevention array but this trick also allowed me to create an array that would identify the soul energy vein based on the data I collected through the simulation of my experiment on the reaction of the dungeon prevention array toward artificial soul energy.

Despite the obvious limitation of the field card over a mobile item, I settled for creating the vein detection array formation as the field card because of two reasons

1. An item and an array formation are two different things. To convert the array into an item I will have to hold up on the idea of starting the experiment to come up with a new item recipe based on the array recipe I wanted to test. That would take a lot of time. Compared to that, converting the array recipe into a field card recipe was a lot simpler.

2. Even if I take the time to create an item card recipe based on the vein detection array recipe, I lacked the ingredients, I had more than enough ingredients for a field card but I will not know if I had enough for an item card or if I would need other ingredients. Compared to a field card conversion the item card conversion had a lot of uncertainty.

In the end, for the experimental purpose converting the Vein detection array formation into a vein detection field card was the most efficient and time-saving choice over a vein detection item card.

So following the vein detection array recipe I arranged a small vein detection array formation using the limited ingredients I bought from Jill at a sky-high price.

Once the array was arranged next I had to transfer its soul pathways into an appropriate core and then morph it into a field card.

[Card Name: Vein Detection Field

Card Type: Field Card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 7-Stars

Card Durability: [99/100]

Effect: The user can summon a field of a 20-meter radius to detect Soul Energy Vein within its area of effect.]

Jill watched as the boy not only successfully set up an array formation using the ingredients he bought from her but he turned it into a field card.

This caused her to doubt if the boy's experiment was really about soul energy vein detection based on the working principle behind the dungeon prevention array and her soul energy vein detection device. Considering the numerous failures she suffered in that domain Jill growing skeptical about the boy achieving something she wasn't able to achieve was not a surprise, that was human nature. Jill could not hold back and tried to peek at the card the boy had created but before she could get a glance of the card's info he had equipped the card in his grimoire.

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[1,423 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 20:28

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

Jill's little action caught my eye but I did not bother to call her out. Instead, I asked her, "Since you are free, can you take me to the core area to conclude my experiment?"

The core area was surrounded by the phantom sword wood array, I could use my soul pupils to find a safe through it but I wanted Jill present by my side as I achieve something she has been trying for decades now.

"What do you mean I am free? I have a lot of work, can't you see," Jill said, playing hard to get.

"Fine, I will go by myself then," Knowing Jill will ask to see the card info of the card I just created in exchange for her help I made it clear to her that I could travel across the array formation even without her help.

"Fine, I will lead the way since you asked so nicely," Jill said, being sarcastic.

"Lead away," Under the direction of Jill, we finally arrived at the core of the dungeon where the artificial soul energy vein ended.

Arriving at the core area, I walked to the edge of the hole, and then, summoning my grimoire, I chanted, "Field card- Vein Detection Field."

Soon the Vein detection field card started to output a string of data to my grimoire. The data shared by the field card to my grimoire spoke to the presence of a soul energy vein within the field, the location of the soul energy vein in the field, the direction the soul energy vein is entering the field, the width of the soul energy vein, the purity, the concentration of the soul energy in the soul energy vein, and lastly the time to the for dungeon formation along with the rank of the dungeon to be formed.

This data was for the physical proof, but as the holder of the card, I was able to use the field to feel the presence of the soul energy vein, which was nothing compared to the visual given by my soul pupil, but better than the analog graph displayed by Jill's device.

Yes, my field card range was not any better than Jill's devices but this was only because I was limited by the availability of the required ingredients. If I had enough quantity of ingredients, like the dungeon prevention array that can cover an entire city, my vein detection array could also cover an entire city.

Back to the field card, the card apprentices could use this field card to feel the soul energy vein similar to how an array master or a card creationist can feel the soul pathways of ingredients or their surroundings through their spirituality. It was like an add-on to the card apprentice's spirituality.

Thinking of this I shut down my soul pupils and use my spirituality to check the surrounding soul pathways. I could feel the soul pathway clearer than before, this was thanks to the field card. I was astonished to find that other than helping its user feel the presence of the soul energy vein the vein detection field card made the user's spirituality more sensitive to the soul pathway.

This was not my intention but it seems one of the ingredients or a sequence of ingredients I used to create this card was responsible for this. Thankfully I tried the card before handing it over to Jill to show her that I am better than her. It would be so embarrassing to hear from Jill what the card I created could do.

This was an unintentional perk, seeing how this effect of the card was not mentioned in the card info as an additional effect of the card, shows how this effect is a complementary effect of the field. Once I isolate the ingredients that led to this effect, I can perfect the vein detection array recipe/field card recipe such that it gets an added array/card as an additional effect. Or even use the ingredients to create separate cards just for the effect of enhancing the card apprentice's spirituality.

This discovery, though appreciated, had put a dent in my display to Jill. I was fine with sharing that I had managed to create an array to detect the soul energy vein with Jill but not the complementary effect of the array that enhanced the spirituality of the user within its field. I planned to use Jill as the cover to sell the vein detection array formation. Therefore I decided to use the card and show off in front of Jill, and then let her obsessive behavior do my bidding. This way though Jill got the fame of discovering the vein detection array, I would be the one enjoying the wealth it brought without attracting any unwanted attention towards me.

Unlike Silver milk powder which was still stuck at the production stage, the vein detection array recipe, vein detection field card recipe, and vein detection item card recipe would rack in wealth as soon as they were copyrighted. Yes, the wealth of the copyrighted recipes would go to the person owning the copyright, Jill Norley. But because of a prearranged private oath between us, she will be diverting all the earnings of the vein detection copyright recipes to me. This way I will have money to speed up a lot of projects which were still in the development stage or start the projects that were previously on hold due to lack of funds. But all my plans of using Jill as the front to launder the wealth of the copyrighted vein detections recipes will have to be put on hold for now that I have another challenge at my hands.

I need to make sure that the vein detection array/ field card/ item card recipes only help the card apprentice create an array or a card that helps them feel the presence of the soul energy vein and not boost their spirituality. If not I will be making a huge loss on these recipes as it would be like offering 1kg gold free for buying 1kg silver.

Forget the loss, being greedy here can be my end. I say so because I did not have any idea of the limit of the boost provided by the array to one's spirituality, did it only work for low-level card apprentices or even high-level card apprentices like Card Demigods? Whether the boost provided by the array increases with rank? Just thinking of these implications I felt a chill on the back of my neck. Even with Jill covering for me, I would not be able to avoid the consequences of this one. Boosting one's spirituality meant boosting one's understanding of the world, those old demigods who have reached the ceiling of this World and feel being imprisoned by the World's Will will go to any lengths even if there was a slight possibility that they could break through the ceiling of this world's realms.

The presence of the Devil alone was indication enough for the card apprentice that the card demigod realm was not the end of the road in cultivating active soul control. So if they feel like there was something that could help them even take a peek at what's next, they would be willing to burn the entire humanity to the ground.

This was one of the reasons why the demon worshippers were able to wreak havoc in this world for centuries. The devils had seduced many card demigods at the end of their road with the false promise of a power higher than that of a card demigod, an existence on equal footing to a devil. These promises were why my demigods formed demon cults and let humanity die in its own hands. Thankfully before it was too late it was found that

the devil did not have the power to fulfill its promise, leading to the near extinction of the demon worshippers and its present-day circumstances.

In conclusion, If I don't think this through, the ability to boost one's spirituality could start a war that could mark the end of this era and the beginning of a new era.

"Wyatt, what happened? Was your experiment a success?" Seeing the boy fall into deep contemplation after activating the new card he created for experimentation, Jill asked for the results out of curiosity though she felt that the odds of this experiment being a success were not high enough.

Hearing Jill call me, I snapped out of my thoughts, and glancing at her I slowly shook my head saying, "It was a failure."

...

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[1,024 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 20:36

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

"It failed? How? Didn't you successfully create the card?" Jill was surprised by the boy's answer.

"I did create the card I was aiming for but the result did not turn out to be what I wanted," I explained heading back to the base avoiding eye contact with Jill.

"Oh, what happened? Let big sister help you," Jill offered her help.

"Big sister?" I stopped on my track and turned to look at Jill with a grossed out expression. I mean just this morning my tool cleaned her pipes.

"It sounded right in my mind but when I said it out loud I heard it non the less all I am trying to say is you have a A1 morningstar researcher at your hands, you might as well make the most of it," Now, Jill just seemed to be pushing the boy to ask her for help.

"You don't say," I looked at Jill with a playful smile and said, "You know what Jill, I think you are right, I should indeed make the most of the resources I got."

"Okay, so how can I help you?" Jill asked the boy enthusiastically. Now was her time to show the boy that he needed her around.

"Miss A1 researcher, could you help me understand why the soul energy lost by the dungeon relocation apparatus created a artificial soul energy vein and not just dissipate in the surrounding, like the thermal energy does when you boil water," As I asked this question, Jill enthused smile froze and grew quiet as she did not have the answer for this.

"Miss A1 researcher, do you want me to repeat my question?" I called out to Jill who tried various ways to elegantly put that she did not know why, but seeing the playful glint in the boy's eyes she realised that he was messing with knowing fully well that she did not know the answer for this.

Learning that the boy was just playing her, Jill's cheeks puffed up and she strode towards the wood in a fit of rage but then she turned around and came right up to the boy's face and pointing at his nose she yelled, "Just so you know, I take pride in what I do and I am celebrated for it. It might be boring but it keeps me going when I don't know all the answers. And I refuse to let know-it-all shithheads like you rub it on my face."

"Rub what on your face?" I asked Jill in confusion, not understanding what she was so furious about.

"Me not knowing that why the soul energy lost by the dungeon relocation apparatus gathers to form a artificial soul energy instead of dissipating in the surrounding like the thermal energy lost during boiling water," Jill explained and then felt dumb for saying it.

"Look, I am not going to tell you how you are supposed to feel or not feel but I think that the fact that you do not know the answers to everything bugs you is what makes you a good researcher and what you are celebrated for," I said while pulling Jill in to a hug and brushing her hair.

Hearing the boy Jill rested head on his chest and wrapping her arms around his waist she said, "Really? Well good and I think so too."

"So what was all that about?" I asked Jill, trying to understand why a smart and confident woman would suddenly start acting like a girl.

"Here's the thing, I want us to take what we here to the next step when we get out of here," Jill spoke her mind even though it made her vulnerable in front of the boy and then she immediately added, "I know you have girls outside, so I want to make the most of the time I have with you to show you that I am a better than the hoes you have waiting for you in the sky blossom city."

"Hoes, really?" I tilt my head down to look into Jill's eyes as I said this, as I was not comfortable by Jill calling Anna or Susan as hoes.

"I am not done sharing my embracing thoughts, do you mind?" Jill glared at the boy, seeing how he was more focused on the part of her calling his hoes hoes instead of her feelings for him.

"Yes, mistress please continue," Being glared at I acted submissive, knowing that it took a lot of courage for one to be emotionally vulnerable in front of another, especially in front of the one who you have a crush on particularly when you were someone as prideful as Jill.

"But no matter what I try you seem like you have everything under control and do not need me. Not to mention, you keep bringing up about leaving again and again as if spending time with me is suffocating you. It hurts when all I want to do is make you see me," Saying that embarrassed Jill buried her face in my chest.

'Now, what am I supposed to do?' I don't want to hurt Jill but I don't want to hurt Anna and Susan too. And, 'Why can't women take a hint when we say that we are not available? Not to forget, what happened to the part where we agreed to emotion free pure primal intercourse.'

"Wyatt, you are awfully quiet, say something," Jill asked

"What?" I knew what Jill wanted to say but I had to rip the bandaid off or atleast that's what I thought.

Jill lifted her head from my chest, let go of waist and glaring at me she said, "I pour feeling out and all you have to say to that is, 'What?' Oh my god, I am so embarrassed right now, I can't believe this is happening to me."

"Jill, listen to me, you agreed to casual sex, you said no feelings would involved—" I tried to explained to Jill that from the start I was not perapred to accept her feeling for me but before I could finish she interrupted me yelling, "Are you calling me a slut? Get the hell out of my face..."

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Chapter 1110 A Boy & A Girl Can Never Be Friends

[973 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 20:42

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Unknown Location

"Are you calling me a slut? Get the hell out of my face..."

"You know I did not say that and you don't mean it"

"Yes, I do"

"Jill, calm down, I know you feel hurt and ashamed for being rejected," I tried to console Jill as she began to lash out at being rejected by me. Why? Because without her I would have to find a new way to monetize the new version of Vein Detection array/card recipe once I have modified the current version of the vein detection array/card recipe.

"But?" Jill looked at me hoping that there was more to my words, something that would help her cope with the pain from the rejection.

"There is no but, if I knew how to magically make the pain of rejection or break up go away, I would be insanely rich even if I sold it to everyone who needed it for a cent," saying that I looked in to Jill's wet eyes and said, "All I am trying to say is that this does not have to be the end of the friendship between us."

"Better yet I could hold a grudge and try to ruin your life, this would make a perfect origin story for the enmity between us," Jill said with an indifferent face, making it impossible for me to tell whether she was kidding or for real.

"Please tell me you are kidding," I begged Jill.

"When the time comes you will know," Jill answered mysteriously and then headed into the woods, leaving me worrying for the remainder of my time in this dungeon.

I hurriedly followed behind Jill and asked, "Jill, how long do you plan to continue stealing the soul energy from the dungeon relocation experiment of Luna for the phantom wood plantation."

I asked this because this had to stop at some point for Luna to complete the dungeon relocation of the D-rank silver beach gate dungeon. This way the southern watch stationed at the sky blossom city can finally relocate the dungeon to the secure region and I can leave for the southern royal palace to complete Luna's order.

"If you want to leave, then leave, I will arrange a golem to take you out of the dungeon," Jill answered impatiently.

"I thought all the golems were busy," I reminded Jill of what she told me earlier.

Jill stopped on her tracks, turned to glare at me and grudgingly said, "Well, guess what one just got free."

I did not take Jill's attitude seriously because as the person who rejected her I had to take it without complaining if I still wanted to continue being her friend with her. As part of my new initiative of growing less dependent on Anna and the southern royal family I had decided to branch out by being more open minded and tolerating. My friendship with Agatha was the best example of this.

"For your information, I wasn't asking because I want to leave, instead I want to know how long before Luna grew suspicious that something is amiss with her dungeon relocation experiment," I said, trying to clear the misunderstanding Jill had.

"Oh, but what do you mean by 'For Your Information'? As if I care if you stay or leave. For your information, I don't care," Jill clearly was not done venting and it appeared she would not be done anytime soon.

"So how long?"

"How long, what?"

"When will you end your side business," I said pointing at the phantom sword wood surrounding us.

"When I feel like it,"

"And when would that be?"

"What is it to you? Didn't I already say you can leave whenever you wanted to," Jill returned to her closed self that I saw during our first meeting.

"Hey, come on, Jill, you are making it harder for me to be your friend," I know I could just leave just as Jill suggested but something in me would not let me do that, and I prayed it was my greed for money and not something else.

"Good, my father said that a boy and a girl could never be friends," Jill's father sounds like he has broken his share of hearts back in his youth.

Hearing Jill say that I raised one of my eyebrows and asked her, "Jill, are you saying that either I am your lover or a nobody?"

"No you idiot, don't you get it, I am saying that I will make you mine," Jill yelled out of nowhere.

"Okay, now you can get me that golem, I want out of this dungeon," learning that Jill was still gunning for a relationship even after I shot her down, I knew screw money, I

need to get out of here. Why do I keep crossing paths with crazy Chicks? Susan, I miss your sweet smile.

"Sorry, I can't, all of them are busy helping with my research or the plantation," Jill lied

"You just said you had golem free to take out of the dungeon"

"I did but when you said no, I assigned it a task," Jill spoke as if all this was my fault.

"Your doing this on purpose aren't you,"

"What gave me away?"

"Well, will you atleast tell me when you will stop stealing from the dungeon relocation experiment," I did not plan to leave without knowing the answer to this anyway.

"I have already collected the data I could get So we can stop after the new batch of phantom sword wood planted by the golems is mature enough to harvest. We can leave after all the phantom sword wood stock is turned into a card ingredient," It seems after declaring that she would not stop pursuing her feelings for the boy to him Jill was in a better mood than before. And answered the boy without making things difficult for him.

"Great," I exclaimed knowing that Luna could finally complete the D-rank silver beach gate dungeon relocation.

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Chapter 1111 Inevitable End Worse Than Death

[996 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 21:11

Location- Central Region, Unknown Location, Circle's headquarters.

"Why the hell is it taking you so long to open the boy's grimoire?" Karl yelled at the semi-demigod in charge of the sun blossom incident.

Being yelled at by the supreme leader, the semi-demigod stood still with his head down in silence. He knew his silence would only make things worse by enraging the enraged supreme leader even more but he had made his piece with it.

This morning after returning from the sun blossom city having acquired the boy's grimoire from the allied semi-demigods, the circle's semi-demigod, tried to replicate the soul energy signature of the from the blood stains on the grimoire using the regular method but after the 8 hours long wait, to his blood did not belong to the boy. Realizing this he did not panic but frowned over the wasted effort and resources however he thanked his preparedness for having collected a few hairs from the boy and his clones when he held them captive. Since it was impossible to tell which one of the clones was the boy's real body they planned to cast a small soul bewitchment curse using all three hair samples to determine the original body of the boy as the soul bewitchment curse would only affect the original body of the boy that had the a soul and not the clones but it did not come to that.

Now he could use one of these three hair samples to replicate the boy's soul energy signature and it did not matter which one of these hair samples belonged to the original body of the boy because they all were made from the boy and his soul energy, that was enough to get the job done.

8 hours later, the semi-demigod finally started to panic. Yes, he was able to replicate the boy's soul signature using the hair samples he had collected but the problem was the grimoire that he believed to be the boy's grimoire was not the boy's grimoire. HOW can this happen? He asked the allied semi-demigod to take an oath and everything, yet how were the allied semi-demigods able to dupe him. Now what? He could not go claim a refund from them as this grimoire was not acquired by honest means. What did this mean for him? Something worse than death awaited him. There was no way he could avoid it, it was only a matter of time.

And now, Karl looked at his semi-demigod subordinate who stood in front like a stiff statue unable to answer him, by now if he did not realize something went horribly wrong he might as well give up being the supreme leader.

"What went wrong?" Karl frowned and asked hoping the damage was small enough to be savaged but seeing how his subordinate was not even bothering to beg for mercy and prepared to face what's to come the odds of the damage being small were less likely.

"The grimoire that we brought does not belong to the boy," the semi-demigod spoke without emotion as he knew no matter what he did there was no way for him to struggle free from what's coming.

"What?" hearing his subordinate Karl thundered as the damage was beyond repair. He lost one of his most prized collections.

"Since you have already accepted your fate, I will not delay it but before you leave any last regrets?" Karl summoned his grimoire and asked his subordinates if he had any last unfulfilled desires.

"Please spare my family," The semi-demigod did not lift his head instead asked the supreme leader to end his wrath with him and not extend it to his family.

"Nonsenses, your family is my family, why would I hurt them, we are one after all," saying that Karl activated his origin card adding, "I hate that it has to end like this but it was nice knowing a part of me this closely."

Hearing the supreme leader, the semi-demigod was not surprised by his weird term of phrase, as he was indeed a part of the supreme leader.

As Karl's origin card activated his semi-demigod subordinate instantly turned into a ball of soul pathways and arrangements, even his grimoire and ego gem had turned into a sequence of soul pathways and arrangements. But the interesting part was that at the center of this ball of soul pathways was a tiny phantom, which looked exactly like Karl himself.

Seeing this Karl let out a sigh saying, "You were one of the capable ones."

After that he took out a refined common core usually used by card creationists and array masters, then he transferred the floating ball of soul pathways in front of him into the common core and then placed the core containing his semi-demigod subordinate's soul pathways on the card creation page of his grimoire. Then he excited the soul pathway of the core that morphed it into a card. As the core morphed into a card the tiny phantom of Karl rushed out and merged with Karl's original soul and the resulting card was a unique grade card with no card ratings or card durability, it was an origin card. And this origin card seemed to belong to the semi-demigod subordinate that Karl had just used as an ingredient to create this card.

Karl did not even bother to go through the origin card info and directly scarified the origin card to his origin card and sighed again muttering to himself, "This card doesn't even come close to making up for the loss of the Myriad Devil body origin card."

Then Karl closed his eyes and went through the memories of the subordinate he had just devoured to get the exact overview of the situation. And after a few minutes he opened his eyes and then thought, 'This incident needs to be covered or at least the part about the disciple of the Yin-Yang harmony sect using the sect's signature desolate punisher array to slaughter the customers he was hired to protect.'

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Chapter 1112 Karl's Origin Card

[1,232 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 21:23

Location- Central Region, Unknown Location, Circle's headquarters.

Karl shook his head knowing that it was near impossible to hide the news that one of the disciples of the Yin-yang harmony sect had used their sect's signature array, the desolate punisher array, to slaughter their employer. If this was an isolated situation then he may have been able to keep the lid on this by buying and silencing whoever he could but the southern royal family and cronies from the central government were involved in his incident, making it impossible to keep this incident hidden.

Thinking of this Karl sighed, not only did loss one of his priced origin cards, Myriad Devil Body, but it was starting to seem that his plan for the Yin-Yang sect was about to end even before it started.

Karl's origin card allows him to create the perfect incarnations of himself by sacrificing a small percentage of his active soul control to refine a developing foetus inside a womb into his incarnation. The incarnation created by his origin card would have a complete and perfect individuality with capability to feel emotions have virtue and sins, making the perfect incarnation which even the world's will would fail to trace back to Karl allowing these incarnations to contract their own grimoire and have two unique origin cards. Incarnation created by this method, themselves have no idea that they were the incarnation until Karl himself wants them to and despite their individuality the incarnations would be under control of Karl as he can control their life and death using his origin card.

Using this origin card of his, over the century Karl has been able to plant many incarnations of his in many big and small sects and organizations across the world. The semi-demigod subordinate he just turned into a origin card and Mike from the sun blossom city, both were his incarnations. Not just these two but the entire core membership of the Circle were filled with Karl's incarnations.

Since the entire core management of the Circle was made up of Karl's perfect incarnations, it was not very hard for him to turn the circle from a small criminal organization from the sky blossom city to occupy a foothold at the central region's capital city. With the entire core management of the circle made up of him, the circle was like a well oiled machine, everyone working towards one goal without any office drama and politics. Making it the secret of the circle's success.

Karl's origin cards applications did not end there, it had many other additional effects that would make it simply too easy to communicate with his incarnations, as if all of them were one and the same despite Karl being the dominant of all his incarnations. This was also the reason why Matron was not able to use her origin card to make her way into the Circle's core. This huge secret of Karl's was what brought Sansa to trust him as a partner.

"How did it come to this?" Karl muttered to himself as he has never taken such a huge loss since he founded the circle. Both Myriad Devil Body and the relationship with Yin-yang harmony sect were the key pieces to his plan of world domination but he lost them in just one night.

One of Karl's incarnations was fighting for the spot of the position of the next leader of the Yin-yang harmony sect. This all started with the unexpected death of the Demigod Yin Widow, despite what the Yin-yang harmony sect had made the world believe, as one of the elder Demigod and with a demigod son, Yin Widow held a key position in the Yin-yang harmony sect, even after her numerous scandals she had strong following and authority in the sect. However with her death the balance maintained between the forces of the sect fell, making it possible for one of his incarnations within the Yin-yang harmony to fight for the position of the heir. As a show of power of his incarnation in the Yin-yang harmony sect, the circle had made many lucrative deals with the sect in return Circle was able to avail many of Yin-yang sects privileges.

But now as one of their headquarters became the origin for the upcoming public relation shit storm for the Yin-Yang harmony sect regarding the safety of the desolate punisher array, Karl felt that it would weaken the stance of his incarnation in the Yin-yang harmony sect succession wars. Yes, it was not the Circle's fault that Ji Feng decided to use the desolate punisher array to bite the hand that feed him but in the politics this did not matter if the Circle was one of the victim here, as long as it helped their agenda that would call their father impotent and mother a whore.

"Where did it go all wrong?" having gone through the memories of the semi-demigod he just converted into an origin card, Karl was starting to believe that there was a huge conspiracy behind this incident, but he could not put his finger on it.

He had already eliminated the southern royal family, Demigod Windsor and Asong as the culprits, seeing how they had no knowledge of the Matron and paw clan, it was clear that these people were not up to date about the undercurrents of the all five regions.

As for someone from the Yin-Yang harmony sect, it was less likely because this incident was going to cost a lot, they may become a wallflower from the social butterfly they are now. Therefore the Yin-yang harmony sect was definitely not behind this.

Leaving only one person, the person who informed him of the boy attacking the sun blossom city headquarters, Matron. She knew everything about this incident, from when the boy would be attacking to the semi-demigods protecting him, and how to overcome

Mike's origin card ability. This doubt of Karl was the reason why he had asked his semi-demigod subordinates to prioritise retrieving Mike's corpse from the boy instead of killing him. As he suspected, Matron had already prepared a response in case he did not take her bait to kill the boy, that was to have her men assassinate the boy.

The deadly thing about this plot was, if his semi-demigod subordinates did not return to sun blossom city to get the real corpse of Mike from the boy the allied semi-demigod present at scene would believe that the assassins belonged to the Circle, and worst part of this was that they would start connecting all the assassination in the central region conducted in similar fashion to the boy's assassination as the doing of the circle. This way the rumors of a secretive assassination organization would disappear and the Circle would be left taking heat from the world.

This was why when Agatha insisted about the information about the assassins that killed the boy, Karl allowed his semi-demigod to speak of the secretive assassination organization killing important people around the world.

Due to all these seemingly coincidental incidents Karl had already begun to believe that Matron was conspiring against him, while making sure she was not breaking the simple oath they took to strengthen each other's trust in the other.

The only reason why Karl was not acting out against the paw clan despite believing Matron was conspiring against him and his organization was because of his secret that she held in her hand.

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Chapter 1113 Old Minister Richard

[991 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 8:12

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Royal Palace

'I thought after advancing to the demigod realm I will be able to avoid the Royal duties and politics but some wannabe secret organization almost succeeds to assassinate me, now the ungrateful husband and children of mine treat me as the weakest of the link of the family, and am stuck being the only Royal presence managing the Southern region.

For god sake, I defended the Way Beyond for more than a century and took the lead in monster war... sigh,' Colleen complained in her mind as she sat on the throne and listened to her loyal ministers bicker about the state affairs and the appropriate use of this year's state budget as a considerable chunk of it was being planned to be used for building Luna's private army.

Being stuck with managing the state's politics, Colleen was already annoyed and the bickering of the ministers was only adding to her annoyance. She wanted to yell at them but they put forward reasonable points, the southern region did not need another private force so wasting a sizable chunk of this year's state budget on it made no sense. However, the ministers did not know that the royal family never planned to build Luna's private army for the southern region but for the Royal family and their agenda.

"Silence," Colleen yelled, causing her sound to vibrate throughout the palace hall and turning the babbling ministers quiet.

Then Colleen's majestic gaze scanned throughout the palace hall and every minister in it, seeing she had everyone's attention she declared, "half of the cost for building Luna's army will come from the state's budget, and the other half will come from the royal treasury."

Hearing Colleen declare her order the ministers could only nod their heads even if they did not agree to Colleen's orders as they had no choice but to follow them.

It may seem like Colleen was inappropriately using the state's budget but there was more to it than that. Luna's private army's current purpose was to fulfill the Royal Family's agenda but once that was done her army would be deployed alongside Southern Watch to guard the southern region. The Royal treasury may seem like the Ruler's personal property but it was mostly used for emergencies as a last resort such as monster disaster relief funds for the people.

"Next," Colleen said, asking the minister to speak up about the next agenda at today's royal meeting.

As soon as Colleen said this the ministers whispered in low voices but no one stood up to address the next agenda on the list. Until one brave old minister finally stood and spoke up, "Your Highness, the next agenda is about the princess's large-scale spending..."

Before the old man could finish, Colleen suddenly interrupted him by declaring, "My daughter has her reasons and I assure you her actions will help develop the south. Next."

The old man shook his head hearing Colleen, it was not that he did not trust the Royal family he would lay his life for them but the amount of capital being directed on the

Princess's project was an enormous amount and was starting to seem a never-ending expense.

"The next agenda is about the dungeon relocation experiment being conducted by her highness Luna at the blossom district. She has borrowed a huge amount of top-grade soul jades from our banks for this experiment, we think that the morningstar university is responsible for any expense regarding her highness's experiment," the Old minister almost fell to his chair seeing the amount of top-grade soul jades borrowed by Luna for her dungeon relocation experiment, with that amount of soul jades they could buy two SSS-rank gate dungeons.

"Yes, the morningstar university is responsible for the Soul Jades borrowed by Luna. I have already spoken to them about it and it is not of concern. Next," Colleen lied, yes she did speak to the morning star university but it was about renting the dungeon relocation apparatus. It was the royal family that owed morningstar university money, not the other way around. Colleen had to put up this pretense because she did not want people to figure out that what was going on in the blossom district was not an experiment but something that would determine the future of the southern region and its people.

Sigh The Old minister sighed in relief hearing Colleen. And began to speak about the next agenda, "Your Majesty, the next agenda is about the silver milk powder scam and the southern emperor's involvement in it."

"Why do I feel like a few questions ago this meeting took a turn from discussing state affairs to scrutinizing the actions and expenditure of the Royal family," Colleen thundered at ministers in the hall and then glancing at the old minister she said, "Richard, out of consideration for your merits, I will let you undermining the royal family's authority slide this time. If there is a second time your merits will not be able to save you."

"This humble one apologies for his audacity and thanks your highness for your generosity," The old minister named Richard bowed to Colleen as an apology and chose to move to the next agenda.

Colleen's reaction was a clear answer to the Southern Emperor's involvement in the silver milk powder scam. Colleen would not have reacted so intensely if there wasn't any truth to this matter. Not to mention Richard did not take Colleen's warning to heart, because he knew what she meant by harsh words, 'You have known that girl long enough to know whether she was involved in that scam. Sigh, I don't want to talk about it.'

Thinking of this Richard could only sigh helplessly, just when he thought Anna was showing signs of growth when she asked him for the documents on southern watch military development proposals and other state affairs, but her involvement in this scam proved that she had reverted back to her old self.

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Chapter 1114 Royal Court Ministers

[990 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 8:35

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Royal Palace

"Next," Colleen spoke such harsh words knowing Richard could take it, and not to mention with the paw clan spies active in the palace she could only choose to dodge such sensitive questions.

Hearing Colleen, Richard who was shocked by what was next on the list of agenda turned to face the ministers and yelled, "Which one of you fools wrote the next agenda, and the idiots who supported it stand up for me now."

Seeing Richard flare up reading the next agenda, intrigued Colleen summoned her grimoire and went through the list causing the gap between her brows to grow narrow in a frown. Then she glared at ministers with frightening malice. Unlike Richard, Colleen knew the real reason behind the next agenda so she was enraged seeing that it was brought up in the court.

Seeing that both Richard and Colleen were very dissatisfied with the next agenda on the list, the ministers who were unaware of what was actually going on shivered in fright. But none stood up to take the blame, seeing this Richard yelled, "You idiots stand up before I began an investigation into this."

For an agenda to be presented in the royal court, it has to be supported by a minimum number of ministers as a matter of concern. Since this agenda had made it to the court then it must have acquired the required number of votes to gain representation in the royal court. Now, this was a real concern for Colleen, she was surprised to see that spies had such a huge influence in the court.

"I- I was the one who added the agenda to the list," A young minister got up claiming responsibility, and then added, " I have shared the list of ministers that support me on this agenda to your grimoire, Minister Richard."

"Good now, read the agenda out loud for our colleagues," Richard said while other ministers shook their heads knowing this young minister's career in politics had come to an end.

Despite the malice-filled gaze of Colleen, Richard, and the pity-filled gaze of his fellow ministers, Young Minister maintained his and read the next agenda aloud, "Your Highness, the next agenda is about the new security clearance levels and policies. Most of us ministers are finding it difficult to do our jobs due to this new transition. It would put our minds at ease and allow us to do our jobs if you were to enlighten us with the reason behind this new change in the palace security."

Richard was about to speak but Colleen interrupted him saying, "Do any of you ministers feel the same as him? Speak up now. If a majority of you feel the new security changes surrounding the palace are a hindrance then we can abolish it and adopt the old one."

Colleen knew it was a long shot to expect the paw clan spies to fall for this but she could only give it a try. If the unexpected happens then it would only mean that things were more serious than they assumed them to be.

If the majority of the ministers were to oppose this new security protocol setup to flush out the paw clan spies then there was a possibility that the paw clan spies had a grip over the majority of the royal court ministers. Now that was just insane, it meant that the cancer-named paw clan had spread enough to become the downfall of the southern royal family.

Thankfully none of the ministers dared to voice opposition to the new security protocol and some even went as far as to yell at the young court minister that put forward this agenda. This meant that the grip of paw clan spies in the royal court was not strong enough for them to act blatantly.

"Richard, open an investigation regarding this issue, put the entire Royal court under arrest, and send the southern watch soldiers to arrest the court ministers that could not make it to this meeting. Nobody will be leaving until the investigation is complete," Colleen decisively ordered Richard, and then glancing over at the ministers in the hall she said, "If you have not done anything wrong then you have nothing to worry about."

"As you wish your majesty," Richard saluted Colleen and began to make arrangements accordingly. Though Richard was not aware of the truth behind the new security protocol, according to him questioning the new security protocol was akin to questioning and undermining the royal family's authority. Which was a crime enough for one to be punished with death.

In the wake of the sudden turn of events, the ministers started to panic and whisper. Their cultivation was not high because in politics the person with the fastest wit wins. So they were not to be underestimated not to mention the ones that could make it as royal

court ministers were the cream of the crop. They have bested hundreds of thousands of loyal and capable people to come into power. But no matter how loyal they were to the royal family and the southern region most of them were not perfect, some accepted bribes, some skimmed money in accounts and some practiced nepotism. Therefore most of them could not help but panic hearing the internal investigation, causing every one of them to fear for their future, making the court noisy.

Seeing them panic and kick up a noise Colleen wanted to order them to behave but before she could say anything one of her aides came up to her and said, "Your highness, Demigod Baylor from the central capital region is seeking permission to use the royal warp array formation to enter the southern region."

With the aide's words, Colleen's expression turned grim considering demigod Baylor's connection with Matron and she asked her aide, "Did he give a reason for his request?"

"None your highness, but he did say that he would be traveling with his wife."

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Chapter 1115 Demigod Backster

[983 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 8:47

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Royal Palace

"What did you say?" Colleen exaggeratedly asked her aide to repeat himself to check if she heard him right the first time.

"Demigod Baylor has not stated his purpose of visit but he said that he will be traveling with his wife," the aide repeated himself in detail.

"..." listening to her aide repeat the same thing the second time, Colleen was sure she did not hear him wrong the first time and thought, 'that bitch is daring.'

The paw clan's ambush that nearly claimed her life during the mission forsaken treasure was still fresh in Colleen's mind. Ever since she found out that the mastermind behind the ambush was Sansa she has been waiting for a chance to rip her a new one. If not

for her daughter convincing her to maintain the status quo she would have sieged the Baylor manor in the central capital in a fit of rage the very next day. She was where Anna learned how to hold a grudge.

Old and new grudges aside, Colleen was confused not knowing the purpose of the demigod Baylor's visit with his wife.

The clown mask had already made it clear that the central capital Baylor family was not involved with Matron's paw clan. So Colleen knew Sansa was coming here as demigod Baylor's wife and not as Matron.

But considering the timings, Colleen felt skeptical. She opens an internal investigation for the royal court ministers to find the paw clan spies and the big lady boss herself shows up at her doorstep, coincidence?

It has to be because even with her origin card Sansa could not pull something like this, it hasn't even been five minutes since Colleen had ordered an internal investigation into the royal court. Matron was capable of many things but omnipotence was not one of them.

"Your highness," at the risk of being rude, the aide called Colleen for an answer. If the guest were not a reputed demigod then the aide would not bother.

"Uhm," Colleen thought hard about whether to give the demigod Baylor permission, considering the lethality of Sansa's origin card Colleen did not know if it would be a good idea to invite the wolf into the pigpen. So she was conflicted.

If it was up to her she would have prepared a guillotine right at the royal warp array to behead Sansa as soon as she steps into the southern region but things were not that easy, as a royal, even her small actions had serious consequences so she could only bury such thoughts and with great perseverance say, "Permit him... on a second thought I will be personally receiving them. Prepare the necessary arrangements to receive them."

"Yes, your highness, right away," the aide bowed to Collen and left to make the necessary arrangements.

As the aide left, Colleen summoned her grimoire and called one of the demigods on duty to guard the royal palace.

"Good morning, your highness. How may I be of your service today?" A playful voice answered Colleen's call. Hearing it Colleen's frown deepened as she warned, "Backster, I am not in the mood for your shenanigans today. So don't make me repeat myself twice."

"Your wish is my command, my liege," Demigod Backster answered.

"Sigh... I am receiving an important guest at the royal warp array so I need you to keep the entire royal court under lockdown and help Richard with my internal investigation into the royal court ministers," knowing demigod Backster long enough Colleen just gave up and stated her purpose.

"Is it regarding the mysterious Matron and paw clan?" demigod Backster was one of many demigods who originated in the southern region and were employed by the southern royal family. His loyalty towards the Heatsend royal family and the southern region was unquestionable, therefore he was informed about Matron and the paw clan. But not about the Clown mask and her future vision.

"Yes," Colleen answered.

"Your highness, you should have led with that, leave it to me. I will be right there," demigod Backster finally got serious, learning that the current issue was regarding the paw clan which was slowly rusting the southern region.

"On that note, Marton is traveling with the important guest I am about to receive at the royal warp array," Colleen revealed and then added, "she will be traveling as Sansa, the wife of demigod Baylor."

"Is she aware that we are aware of the existence of her second identity?" Demigod Backster did not waste his breath questioning the obvious and directly asked the crux of the issue.

"I don't think she knows but let's see," Colleen was also worried about Sansa noticing that they were aware of her second identity and her plans for the southern region. The reason for her worry was the more Sansa was in the dark the more time they had to undo Sansa's web over the southern region.

"If you want I can receive the guest and you can continue with your internal investigation into the royal court," Demigod Backster was fully aware of the bad blood between the Matron and Colleen, so considering Colleen's anger issues he thought it would be for the best if he received demigod Baylor and his wife.

"No, I got this besides I need you to use your infamous item card 'Heart's Mirror' on every royal court minister," Colleen had her plans for Matron's visit to the southern region. And demigod Backster's item card 'Heart's Mirror' was the reason she called him for help with an internal investigation into the royal court instead of any other demigod who took their job seriously.

"No wonder you called for me, you needed my item card 'Heart's Mirror' not me, and here I was thinking I had finally managed to leave a good impression on you and change your mind about me," demigod Backster said sarcastically as he was well aware that Colleen was not a huge fan of his.

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Chapter 1116 Anna's Ex

[1,004 words]

Date- 4 April 2321

Time- 8:55

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Royal Palace

Hearing demigod Backster's sarcasm, Colleen did not add any comments. Though he was her employee she could not stop him from expressing his dissatisfaction with his employer.

"Your highness, how long are you going to hold it against me? I used to date your granddaughter, I loved her more than anything in the world. I was considering to marry her, I even asked his majesty for his blessing to make an honest woman out of his granddaughter but just when it got serious she sent me to scour the unknown grounds of way beyond to get her the mythical nectar, by the time I returned she had slept with my best friend and bunch of other friends.

Who in the right mind does that? I was willing to die for her but she... If anybody has the right to be angry here it should be me, the love of my life cheated on me with my friends and the worst thing is I still love her. And I hate myself for that," demigod Backster poured the grievance in his heart out.

"Son, I am not angry towards you, my granddaughter did wrong by you, I feel ashamed, I just can't bring myself to face you. So I can only choose to avoid you," Colleen clarified that she was not angry with Demigod Backster instead she felt guilt for what her granddaughter did to him.

The day her husband told her that demigod Backster was going to propose to her granddaughter, she was happy for her granddaughter but then Anna went and did something nobody could have predicted or comprehended to this day.

"..." hearing Colleen answer that the reason she has been avoiding him was because of her guilt towards him, demigod Backster was without words and felt embarrassed for jumping to conclusions and creating a scene.

"If it helps, I was rooting for you two but I guess you two were not meant to be," Colleen added, hoping her words would console demigod Backster.

"It helps your highness," from demigod Backster's voice it was clear as day that he was still hung up on Anna.

Knowing Anna was hung up on somebody else enough to change her ways for good, Colleen could only shake her head feeling petty for demigod Backster, and said, "You should move on, Anna has already moved on."

"What do you mean your highness? Is Anna in a serious relationship with somebody else?" demigod Backster asked, realizing Colleen's words had an underlying meaning to them.

"I hate to be the bringer of bad news for you however Anna seems to be serious about a boy but considering it's Anna I am not sure," Colleen genuinely meant what she said. She had known Anna long enough to know it was not easy for Anna to open her heart to someone but if she does then she grows dependent on them to the point of suffocation.

"Your Majesty, if you don't mind me asking how long has she been dating and how serious is she about it?" For someone who claims he hated himself for loving someone who betrayed his love and trust, demigod Backster seemed to have no qualms about investigating his unfaithful ex.

"Son, don't do this to yourself," Colleen said, thinking the best for demigod Backster.

"Your highness, please this may be what I need to move on," demigod Backster begged Colleen.

Colleen knew better but her guilt towards demigod Backster clouded her mind and she spilled the beans, "I don't know what those two have can be considered as a relationship but I know that Anna was serious enough to abstain from doing the deed for the boy, it hasn't been long but I haven't seen Anna so hung up on someone before. This was the first time I have ever heard Anna say she was in love."

Another reason for Colleen to cave was she felt demigod Backster was a better fit for her granddaughter than a country body even if he happens to be the inventor of the infamous silver milk powder.

Colleen has seen Anna jump from one man to another like changing clothes but she had never heard Anna describe the man she was dating as the love of her life. Despite her opinion about her granddaughter's love life, Colleen hopes that this was it.

"What?" demigod Backster said in surprise, having dated Anna for a while he knew about Anna's high carnal desires so it came as a surprise to him that Anna still had not done the deed with her new partner.

While Anna was in a relationship with him she never once uttered the word love. And when he said it to her she would thank him. Because of this, demigod Backster used to think that despite her hyperactive sex life and numerous partners Anna was very serious when it came to love. So it came as a shock to demigod Backster when heard that Anna said she was in love with her new partner.

The more demigod Backster thought of his relationship with Anna, the illusion of a perfect relationship started to fall apart but they began to doubt Colleen's words and asked, "Your highness you sure Anna said she was in love?"

Demigod Backster found it easier to believe that Colleen was lying rather than think that what he had with Anna was just his imagination, an illusion that he used to fool himself into thinking that the girl he believed to be the love of his life was also in love with him.

It was not clear if everything between Backster and Anna was him imagining things that were not there out of his love for Anna because Colleen, her husband, and her daughter also believed there was something between Anna and Backster.

Demigod Backster may be delusional but what about Anna's family? They were hoping he was the one for Anna, they would not think that unless they saw something real between Anna and Backster.

The answer to this was only known to Anna, others could only speculate.

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