

# Card Apprentice Daily Log

## Chapter 1171 Lois's Trick

[ 1,047 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:10

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, St. Raymond Cemetery

Take the blood flow in the human body as an example, if the blood flow had a leak and ended up where it was not supposed to be or it faced a blockage, there would be internal bleeding and blood clotting or a heart attack, in either situation a serious case would end up dead.

The same was true for the energies flowing in the bodies of the card apprentice, if their regular system was disturbed by foreign interference, then these energies would end up being fatal for the card apprentice in serious cases but in normal cases, they would lose their command over these energies and would be completely helpless until they manage to get the energies into harmony or at the least an equilibrium.

This phenomenon was what Ann, General Baylor, and Demigod Backster were facing in their bodies. The reason they were confused about this as Lois having control over the energies they refined for years was that they did not know how Lois was doing it and ended up attributing it as an ability of her physique. In some ways, they were right about it because without her physique Lois could not invade their ego gem or divinity through the channel connecting them to the world. Therefore Ann, Baylor, and Backster never saw it coming. If Lois concentrated enough on one target she could even make it so that the energies in the target's body ran rampant to the point where the body exploded even before the target knew what happened.

If not for Anna's field card Damned Arena working on the same principle as Lois's trick it would have been too late before either Ann, Baylor, or Backster found the trick to what Lois was doing to them.

In the Damned Arena, World's Will interferes with the energies of everyone present in the arena just enough so that nobody could access their energies and they end up having to rely on their physical prowess, the damned arena card user included. That was the penalty. And if someone were smart enough to figure out this trick then they could close their connection to the world's will to escape the penalty, good for them however the card user would also be aware of that. Not to mention by closing the connection between them and the world's will they would lose access to the rule energy

and divinity from the world, meaning they would be limited to using the energies already inside their bodies. This was true even for soul energy since the Damned Arena did not have soul energy whatsoever.

At least out here even after closing their connection to the world, Ann, Baylor, and Backster could access soul energy. Which when used with the limited energies in their bodies should be enough to get them the victory.

"Yes, I killed the boy but I am not so sure so could you calculate his fortune?" While Ann, Baylor, and Backster closed their connection to the world and tried to sort out the rampant energies in their body, Agent Lois called one of the agents in her organization asking them to check the fortune of the target to tell if the boy was dead or not. Though she was sure she killed each of the insects in the swarm that the boy's body morphed into, having learned her lesson, Lois did not celebrate her win but instead decided to make sure the boy was dead.

Though it may look like Agent Lois acted to kill the boy just now, in reality, she had been trying to kill the boy using her physique for a while now but to her surprise, she couldn't. Agent Lois's eye allowed her mental intent to travel through the world's will overlapping with her location in the material world.

While a card apprentice's will can travel through the channel connecting them to the world to enter the world's will and comprehend rules, Lois could do more than that thanks to her right eye. She could not only see the flow of rule energies in the world's will but also see the channels of different card apprentices connecting them to the world's will. But there was one condition to this, these targeted card apprentices should be within her range in the real world. So if they were within her range in the real world, their channels connecting them to the world's will would also be within her range in the world's will. Allowing her will to travel from her channel into the target's channel and wreak havoc, so much so that the target would die even before he figures out where he was being attacked from.

Agent Lois tried the same on the boy ever since their arrival in sky blossom city. But before she could get to act the boy was surrounded by General Baylor, Colleen, and Backster. So in the World's will the channel connecting the boy to the world's will was also surrounded by the channels of Baylor, Colleen, and Backster. And so it got crowded with the arrival of Uri, Anna, and Ann. It took her a while but she was finally able to identify which channels belong to whom and single out the boy's channel connecting him to the world's will.

But when her will tried to enter the boy's channel she was stopped midway by a thin barrier, surprising Lois as she had never experienced something like this before. Putting her astonishment aside Lois decided to finish what she started but no matter how hard she tried her will could not make it past the barrier. This frustrated Lois to high heavens, but she did not give up but tried every single thing she could think of but she was still unable to get past the barrier or destroy it.

Fed up, Lois finally gave up and then looked at the boy only to find that the boy was looking at her with a smirk on his face. When their eyes met Lois suddenly felt that the boy could see through her every move. But she could not help wondering why the boy did not tell this to his protectors. Ignoring that thought, Lois decided to kill the boy the old-fashioned way.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 1172 Teaming With Enemy's Traitor

[ 1,083 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:11

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, St. Raymond Cemetery

The southern royal family heirloom worn by the boy, the dummy ring, was missing along with the boy's grimoire. These two items should have dropped when she burnt the swarm of insects to ash. So Lois thought that it was highly likely that the boy was not dead but rather alive. Therefore she did not hesitate to contact the agent in her organization to confirm her doubts by reading the boy's fortune while she scanned the entire cemetery for any insects and killed them.

As for Ann, Baylor, and Backster, they had finally regained control of the energies in their bodies and slowly circled Lois. Being totally cut off from the world, their strength was limited by their limited energies. Not to mention they were still not clear on what Lois's legendary physique was capable of. So putting aside their differences and pride they decided to suppress Lois together as it was the fastest and safest bet. But that was not simple as Ann and Backster were not able to bring themselves to fully trust Baylor. Cooperating while guarding their backs was not possible.

"You three finally made it, unfortunately, I have to leave," Lois mocked the trio, and then with a poof she vanished having finally received a reply from her colleague, 'The boy's fate is still foggy I can't tell anything but since I can perceive his fate that means he is still alive.'

"Again?" Backster yelled in annoyance because this was how Lois was able to get to the boy earlier.

To understand Backster's annoyance one had to know that when two demigods meet in a battle they continuously disturb the surrounding space so that the opponent could not use space-related cards or rules like instant teleportation, long-distance teleportation, etc to escape or attack. Yet, Lois somehow seems to be able to use teleportation abilities without any difficulty.

"I think she is not using this space to teleport but traveling through the world's will. I don't know how but I think it has something to do with her physique. General Baylor, do you have anything to add?" Ann explained based on her knowledge but she was not certain so she asked Lois's colleague for confirmation.

"I don't know, I just met her yesterday. What about Wyatt, is he fine?" Baylor answered Ann and enquired about Ellen's son.

"He is fine," Ann hesitated a little before answering because she was not sure about Baylor's intentions yet. As for how she knew if the boy was fine? She not only knew if he was still alive but also knew where he was hiding but not how he pulled this miraculous escape off.

Ann was starting to admire the boy for real and not because of the secondhand feelings she got from reading Anna's thoughts and memories. At first, when she heard that the boy was able to fool a group of semi-demigods she was amazed but was not clear on the details so did not think much of it, witnessing it for herself, Ann had turned into the boy's genuine admirer. She was starting to see the charm that Anna saw in the boy, the adrenaline rush she felt watching the boy evade death twice and escape Lois's clutches was something she never experienced.

Ann though took pride in memorizing the whole dictionary, word to word, was unable to think of a few words to explain the overwhelming feeling she felt for the boy. This was the first time Ann was without words. Her heart raced whenever she thought of the boy. She could not control her emotions, her mind told her that it wasn't the right time for her to have the thoughts she was having for the boy but her heart and emotions did not listen.

If Ann were to check the panty she was currently wearing, she would find a fresh skid mark. Ann would not agree but she did get wet out of this ordeal. Ann could not help but compare the experience she had been through with those she read in action romantic novels she used to read trapped in Anna's origin card.

"Southern emperor, do you know where Wyatt is hiding? We need to bring him to safety," Backster asked Ann, though Ann looked like Anna, he did not have any feelings for her as he knew she was not Anna. Demigod Backster has been with many women, card emperors, even semi-demigods, and one demigod but none came close to his time with Anna. His feeling for Anna had transcended the physical realm, if he were to use one word to explain his feeling for Anna then it would be 'addiction.' His addiction would only be satisfied by cocaine, not the white sugar powder that looked like cocaine.

"No, need. Wyatt has proven that he can take care of himself. Our objective now is to hunt down Agent Lois. before she gets to him," Ann ordered then added, "Don't open your connections to the world's will, You will only be opening yourself for Lois's attack."

"Good, I like your idea," Baylor liked the idea which did not involve using Ellen's son as bait to lure Agent Lois.

"Alright, but how do we find her? I just scanned the entire city and its outskirts, there was no sign of her. If she is hiding in the spiritual plane, I don't think we will be able to unless she wants us to find her," Backster said the obvious.

"Let's divide and spread out, increasing our range of action. Once Lois makes her presence known the nearest will stall her while the other two rush over. Considering Lois's ability this strategy is almost useless but we only have to hold her back for 15 minutes by then field marshal Heatsend will act," Baylor who knew that Lois was pressed by time so she came with a smile strategy to delay Lois until field marshal Heatsend arrived.

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[AN:

Spiritual Plane is where World's Will is. (Spiritual plane = World's will)

Physical Plane is where the World is. (Physical Plane = World)

Soul energy from the spiritual plane(World's Will) enters the Physical Plane forming Soul pathways that gather into various soul pathway arrangements to give birth to the world in the physical plane and the various entities on the world.

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Channel connecting the card apprentice's ego gem present in the physical plane to the world's will in the spiritual plane to comprehend rules, existed in the both spiritual and physical plane and also between them. ]

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 1173 Lois's Secret Teleportation Technique

[ 1,085 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:11

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, St. Raymond Cemetery

"That boy is still alive, anyway can you track his location by reading his fortune?" Lois asked the agent from the organization.

"No, I cannot. If it was someone else, maybe I could but not him. As I mentioned earlier his fortune is foggy, when I tried to forcefully peek at it I was faced with severe backlash. I have never seen anyone with such mysterious casualties. Anybody who comes in contact with him has their casualty affected by his. Take yours for example. A week ago it was glowing brightly to show long life but now it is covered by a haze. I cannot tell what is going to happen. So I can only warn you to be careful in this mission," the Agent warned Lois to be careful because she could not predict her fortune as it was affected by the boy's mysterious casualty.

"Don't worry, I can run away anytime I want," Lois assured the Agent that she could take care of herself and then continued to say, "I have pieces of boy's cloth, can you use them to track him?"

"Track him, I can curse him to death with that," the Agent said confidently.

"No, don't waste your time cursing him, he has the Heatsend family heirloom, curses won't work on him. Just get me his location as soon as possible so that I will kill him, finish my mission and leave before field marshal Heatsend appears," Lois was confident in the abilities of her physique but in face of field marshal Heatsend's absolute strength she has no confidence of completing her mission, she could only choose to escape.

"Southern royal family's heirloom, the dummy ring, the nemesis of all curse masters, that ring. Mysterious casualty and the royal heirloom, what exactly is the identity of this boy?" the Agent could not help but express her awe.

"Focus, I am sending you the cloth pieces through the transfer card. Get me the boy's location asap," Lois too was curious about the identity of the boy, she had little understanding of casualty but she knew that there was no one in the world who could erect a barrier protecting invasion from the world's will. Not that no one could achieve that but no one felt the need for it.

Most card apprentices could barely sense rules in the world's will let alone sense the channels of the other card apprentices to invade and attack them. Card apprentices were busy trying to figure out a way to increase the synchronization rate of their ego gem but this little card soldier had achieved a way to protect his ego gem from invasion from the world's will. What was surprising was that this barrier of the card soldier was

strong enough to withstand the full force of her mental strength. A card soldier warding off the attack of a semi-demigod was unheard of.

At first, Lois thought that it might be an unknown physique but then seeing it was able to withstand her full frontal mental attack without a scratch to show Lois began to wonder if it was another legendary physique yet to be discovered.

When this thought came to her mind, coming from an organization that liked to collect various strong physiques, she wanted to kidnap the boy and then decide his fate depending on the use of his physique but then she thought it would be easier and in the organization's best interest for her to bring his corpse back and have the organization researchers figure out the rest.

"Agent Lois, I got the cloth pieces you sent," the Agent informed that she received the cloth pieces of the boy's attire.

"Now, how long will it take for you to track him?" Lois asked the Agent.

"It will take me about a minute to mark him and create a marker card. You can use the marker card to track him anywhere he goes in the next three minutes. It would have been a lot longer but his mysterious casualty is ever-changing and formless. Forgive me, this is already the best I can achieve," the Agent answered and apologized for not being of much help.

"No, that is enough. This time I will not underestimate him. And I will be the only one catching him off guard," Lois said confidently.

As a semi-demigod with a legendary physique, not being able to kill a card soldier on her first try was the biggest shame of Lois's career record. She had killed demigods but failed to kill a card soldier, she used two of the assassination techniques of her physique yet she was not able to kill him. If this was not a shame on her part then what. A little card soldier was able to evade death in her hands twice and escape her grasp, without even getting a dent. Lois's pride as the holder of the legendary physique was badly hurt. And she planned to ice her bruised ego by killing the boy. Killing the boy was no longer a mission for Lois but something she must do to regain her pride.

"Agent Lois, I have transferred the marker card to your transfer card. The rest is up to you. All the best," saying that the agent hung up the call.

Soon the Marker card arrived in Agent Lois's Transfer card, she immediately equipped the card and decided to come out of her channel connecting her to the world's will to track the boy and kill him.

Yes, Lois never teleported from the place she was at. Rather her entire body moved into the channel connecting her to the world's will thanks to her legendary physique. That

was to say she moved her body between the spiritual plane and the physical plane. Making it look like she teleported in the eyes of Ann, Baylor, and Backster.

She used the same principle to teleport next to the boy despite the surrounding space being disturbed. Moving into the part of her channel that was between the spiritual plane and the physical plane, Lois used a teleportation card to move to the part of the boy's channel that was between the spiritual plane and the physical plane, then she moved out of it appearing right behind the boy. She could not use teleportation in the physical plane because of the space disturbance but in space between the physical and spiritual plane, she was free to teleport as long as she had a destination.

This was the secret to Lois's teleportation.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 1174 Alter Ego Possession

[ 1,026 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:12

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, St. Raymond Cemetery

Having equipped the marker card Lois appeared right at the spot in the cemetery where she had disappeared. Ann, Baylor, and Backster instantly became aware of her presence and realized that Lois never teleported away but was hiding using her physique.

Agent Lois paused to check the location of the boy in her grimoire and learning that he was hiding 60 miles away from the outskirts of the city she dashed towards the opposite direction at the fastest speed she could fathom.

Seeing this Baylor asked Ann, "Southern Emperor, is the direction she is heading toward where Wyatt is hiding?"

"No, but let me confirm," saying that Ann texted the boy's grimoire the ring's coordinates asking, 'Is this where you are hiding? Or did you ditch the ring there intentionally?'

Ann did not have to wait long, she received an instant answer from the boy while the two temporarily allied demigods pursued the fleeing Lois.

[Ann,

Yes, I am hiding right at these coordinates. And why would you think that I would ditch the ring? With so many people cursing me every day I would have died already without this ring on my finger.]

[Wyatt,

Hang tight, I will come to get you, once it is safe.]

After getting assurance that the boy was in the position indicated by the ring, Ann began to wonder why was Lois running. Was she fleeing? Ann did not buy it as she did not like that Lois was able to flee after attacking the southern royal family. Disappointed Ann informed the two demigods that Lois was not heading in the direction where the boy was hiding so they could stop pursuing Lois.

"Southern Emperor, I will catch her and bring her to justice, " replying to Ann, Backster did not wait for her to answer but rushed to capture Lois to show that the southern region was not the place where she could come, create trouble and go as she pleased.

"Wait..." Ann wanted to ask Backster to stop his pursuit of Lois and return to stand guard along with her, after all, they still had one uncertain variable to handle General Baylor.

But before she could ask Backster to come back, General Baylor followed suit with Backster in his pursuit to capture Lois, saying, "I will help him."

General Baylor really did not want to follow Backster and help him capture Lois, what he wanted was to stand guard to the boy with Ann, but he knew if he stayed behind Ann he would not be comfortable so he decided to help Backster capture Lois so that all three of them can stand guard to protect the boy without making it awkward for him.

But his actions had the opposite effect on Ann because she thought this was the plan Baylor and Lois were working on. Baylor would sympathise with the boy and gain their trust, later Lois would run separating Ann and Backster, then Baylor would follow suit to help whoever ends up pursuing Lois and once they were far enough, Baylor would team up with Lois to kill whoever between Ann and Backster had followed Lois. Then Baylor and Lois would quickly return to kill whoever between Ann and Backster stayed behind to protect the boy. Lastly, together they would search for the boy to kill him in cold blood and leave in time.

With such a narrative in her mind, Ann called Backster, saying, "Demigod Backster, return, it could be a trap..."

Before Ann could finish her explanation to Backster, the fleeing Lois suddenly turned around, then with her left eye closed she opened her right eye wide, in an instant, a brilliant white light shone on Demigod Backster and General Baylor who was behind him before they vanished.

Witnessing this the goody-two-shoes Ann cussed, "Fuck!"

And without wasting a second she turned around and hurried toward the location of the Boy. She planned to meet him and use Anna's teleportation card to send the boy to the southern royal palace, where he could be safer.

Knowing that her trap would only be able to slow demigod Baylor and Backster for a few minutes at most, Lois immediately rushed to the direction of the location indicated by the marker card. As for Ann, Lois did not consider her a threat even though Ann's realm was enhanced to that of a Demigod by borrowing power from the array covering the southern region. Not to mention, Ann's destination seemed to be in the same direction as hers. This saved her some time, she will handle Ann on her way to the boy.

"Anna, bare with it, I have no choice," Ann said aloud as she felt the presence of Lois behind her becoming stronger and stronger which meant that with her current speed, Lois would soon catch up to her. Then Ann suddenly felt the presence of Lois vanish from behind her and appear in the mid-section of her channel connecting her to the world's will. Ann no longer hesitated and instantly used the ace in her hands yelling, "Origin card additional ability, Alter Ego Possession."

With that, the barely conscious Anna had been summoned from the unparalleled arena and began to merge with Ann, just then Lois who had shifted her body to the mid-section of her channel, teleported to the mid-section of Ann's channel, then instantly appeared behind Ann.

Lois did not wait for Ann to execute her killer ace and attacked the two merging figures of Ann and Anna but they were in an ethereal state, Lois's attacks just passed right through their bodies as they combined to form a single wounded body. That was because severe wounds on Anna were now shared with Ann while Ann's healthy body was shared with Anna, so though the new body was wounded it was not that severe compared to Anna's previous condition.

As the newly possessed body of Ann opened its eyes, it was greeted by a sneak attack from Lois, to which Ann's new body reacted beyond the concept of physical speed and caught Lois's incoming punch with a single hand and uttered, "Bitch, it's our turn now."

This was Anna in Ann talking.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

[ 994 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:12

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"Bitch, it's our turn now."

Seeing her sneak attack was caught by possessed Ann at an insane speed, Lois was astonished and then said, "So, the rumors about you were true."

Lois may be a semi-demigod but her physique made her physical body stronger than the body of any veteran demigod. That was how she was able to chase Ann. She might have used teleportation to save some time but she would not be required to do so with her agility stats if not for the nearing time limit.

"Don't talk about things that you have no idea about," Ann(Anna) said as her grasp on Lois's fist grew tighter.

"No wonder his highness Heatsend chose you as his heir despite it meant he would be potentially dissatisfying his allies. You southerners will always put strength above innovation, this is to be expected by you barbarians. No wonder your region never made any proper development," Lois blatantly provoked Ann(Anna), fully aware that one of her fists was still in Ann's grasp.

"I told you to not speak of things you have no idea about," Ann(Anna) yelled as she threw a punch straight at Lois's face.

Seeing Ann(Anna)'s incoming fist a grin formed on Lois's lips, as she moved her head to receive Ann(Anna)'s fist with her face.

\*Boom\*

Receiving the punch head-on with her face, Lois looked at Ann(Anna) condescendingly and taunted, "Is that the best you got?

Ann(Anna) was astonished to see that Lois received her punch with her face. What's more unbelievable was that Lois's face was not hurt, it did not have a bruise or scratch as if it was never attacked.

In her current state, all of Ann(Anna)'s skills, traits, physique, and stats were increased tenfold. With buff of the array covering the southern region, Ann was already powerful

enough to kill a demigod, now with her alter ego possession buff Ann's strength was increased tenfold, yet her attack did not manage to leave a scar or a bruise on Lois's delicate white face.

This testament to how durable Lois's physique was, but as the holder of the Unparalleled bloodline Ann(Anna) knew nobody's physique was this durable. Her punch just now was enough to induce an 11-scale magnitude earthquake in a 50 miles radius. Though she did not hope her punch to pop Lois's head off she thought it would be able to put a huge dent in Lois's skull, to her surprise, it did not even manage to leave a scratch on Lois's fair skin.

So in response to Lois's taunt, two diamond grimoires appeared, one on each side of Ann(Anna), as Anna(Ann) chants,

"Activate, S-Rank mythical grade card Giga Force, Giga fattening, Giga punch."

"Activate, SSS-rank Legendary grade card Booster Dice."

[Dice Rolled!]

[Dice one - 6, Dice two -6]

[Host's next attack will gain dodecat-booster]

Ann(Anna) yelled, "No, Anna, don't.."

"You are crazy!" Lois, who blatantly taunted Ann(Anna), lost her carefree demeanor, feeling the entire space surrounding her begin to collapse on her.

Right now under various buffs, Ann(Anna)'s strength had grown to the point where it could no longer be measured with regards to veteran demigods, especially the strength of her next attack, it had surpassed the regular demigod level and ascended to a level where the fabric of the world could not hold her strength, giving her the glimpse of realm her elder family members were perusing.

Alter Ego Possession's buff increased all skills, traits, physique, and stats of the user tenfold. Meaning the effect of the Southern Emperor card that allowed Ann(Anna) to borrow the power of the array covering the southern region was increased tenfold. Then came the card Giga force, its capability was also increased by fold and the same was true for the card Booster dice. Giving Anna(Ann)'s next attack dodecat-booster x10, which meant Anna(Ann)'s next attack was going to be 120 times stronger.

Each card Anna(Ann) activated had received an individual increase of tenfold and they all stacked together giving Anna(Ann) a temporary strength that ascended the norms of a typical demigod. A strength that was so strong that the fabric of the world collapsed.

Faced with such strength, Lois, who did not take Ann(Anna) seriously, could not help but feel dread for her life as the space surrounding her began to crumble with Anna(Ann)'s attack nearing her.

But to Anna(Ann)'s disbelief, even in this dire situation, Lois moved her face with her left eye closed and right eye wide open to receive her attack head-on. As for Ann(Anna), she was sure that her hypothesis about Lois's ability held merit but hated that Anna(Ann) acted rashly before she could warn her not to.

This time, Ann and Anna both felt it, before their fist could even make contact with Lois's face, they left a strong suction force swallowing all the force behind their attack on Lois. And the source of this suction was none other than Lois's right eye, the right eye of the world.

Once again, without surprise, Lois managed to take Anna(Ann)'s attack head-on without even a scratch to show for it. And with a sneer, she added, "For a second I thought I was done for but I guess even though your body has been fused perfectly your mind hasn't fused properly. Well no matter how good a card is, it can only be as strong as its master."

A newbie gunner and a pro gunner can use the same gun but the result will not be the same. Anna's origin card was strong, unfortunately, she never practiced using it with Ann.

As per Lois's comment, though the bodies of Anna and Ann were perfectly fused their minds weren't. With the ability Alter Ego Possession both Anna and Ann's minds should be fused but they did not, showing how disagreement between Anna and Ann had become the hindrance to the power of their card's skill, they were opposed to each other in everyway, when it came to fusing each other's mind they were afraid that they lose themselves to the other, especially Ann.

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Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 1176 Impulsive Anna / Cautious Ann

[ 1,041 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

A person's individuality was the greatest freedom they could have. And no one would give it up for a second. The same was true for both Ann and Anna. The Alter Ego Possession allowed both of them to fuse their bodies and minds to turn into one greater being with enormous power that transcended levels but neither Ann nor Anna trusted each other enough to allow the skill Alter Ego Possession to fuse their mind with the other.

Yes, it was Ann and Anna who did not let the skill Alter Ego Possession fuse their minds into one just like it did with their bodies. Though they posed as twins, they knew they weren't twins, they both were the same person. What if they fuse their minds and one of them loses themselves to the other? As much as they did not want to lose their individuality to the other, they also did not want to lose the other. Anna and Ann had spent decades not agreeing with each other, underneath it all they both knew that they would miss the other.

So all the times they used this skill they never actually fused their mind. And because of this their perfectly fused body was missing a perfectly fused mind but instead, it was running on two mediocre minds. As expected the body had control issues, it was like a puppet with two mediocre puppeteers. If Ann and Anna were to work in sync, they might actually pull this off but they both never actually got along or agreed on things.

Anna was impulsive, she acted on the first thought that came to her mind whereas Ann was cautious, she liked to think twice or thrice before acting. They were opposites, when Lois taunted them saying, 'Is that the best you got?'

Anna fell for Lois's taunt and her first reaction was to shove her fist into that bitch's face. Whereas Ann, did not fall for Lois's taunt, rather she carefully considered the events, where Lois received their devastating punch with her face, there wasn't a scratch on her face to show after. How was that possible?

While going through events in her head Ann realized that their fist had lost all force behind it even before it connected with Lois's face. Ann clearly remembers she felt a kind of suction on their fist. Learning that there was a trick to Lois's stunt, Ann wanted to explain it to Anna, as Anna was the one who was controlling the body but that hothead had used the strongest strength they could summon to attack Lois again, it was too late for a warning yet Ann said, "No, Anna, don't."

Once again even before their fist connected to Lois's smug face, they felt a suction force that swallowed the force behind their punch. Since the attack this time was stronger than the last one, Lois could not use her ability subtly as she did previously. So this time even Anna realized that there was a trick behind Lois daringly taking their fist to the face.

"Do you want to take any more shots? Because when I start you guys might not get the chance to," Lois said with great confidence. But it felt more like she was talking big as she could still not free her fist from Ann(Anna).

'Anna, don't attack her, it seems her right eye can swallow the energies in our attacks,' Ann mentally conveyed to Anna and then added, 'Though I am still not clear on the range of Lois's ability to swallow energies of the attacks directed at her, how about we experiment by crushing her hand first.'

'Now you're talking my language,' Saying that Anna immediately tightened her grip around Lois's fist caught in her palm, this time to crush Lois's fist for real.

\*Crack\*

Blood splattered and Lois was finally free after Anna(Ann) crushed her fist. This was also what Lois wanted because she knew that if she wanted to separate and gain distance between herself and the southern emperor, she would have to sacrifice her fist which was in the grasp of the southern emperor. Lucky for her, the southern emperor helped her make the difficult decision.

As her fist was crushed by the southern emperor, Lois groaned in pain, abandoned her mortally wounded fist, and hurriedly retreated to create a little distance between her and the southern emperor. And then used a card to regrow the palm of her hand at an incredible pace, later she summoned a potion and drank it, and with that her fist grew in a few seconds as if it was never crushed in the first place.

'Anna, it seems, the range of her swallowing ability is less than her melee range. I have very little info to work with, so I may be wrong about this but I think the reason why she keeps receiving our punches with her face must be because of the limited range of her skill. This time aim at another part of her body and try to avoid her face even if she tries to receive your punch with her face,' Ann mentally explained her hypothesis to Anna and then asked her to attack Lois avoiding her face.

'Watch me,' saying that Anna(Ann) prepared to attack Lois but then she heard Lois say, "Do you know where all the energy I swallowed from your last two attacks go?"

"Who cares," Anna yelled, ready to roll the booster dice once again but Lois vanished, then feeling Lois presence in the mid-section of her channel connecting her to the spiritual plane and Lois's presence vanish again, Anna hurried turned back preparing to attack while shouting, "You must think I am a fool to think that same move will work on me twice."

But to Anna's dismay this time Lois did not appear behind her but in front of her, since Anna had preemptively turned thinking that Lois would appear behind her, now, her back was wide open to Lois.

Lois took the opportunity to sneak attack not bothering that she just revealed that she could arrive anywhere in the surrounding of the target. This info on her ability wasn't important but sometimes it made a difference, right now it

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## **Chapter 1177 Lois's Understanding Of Spiritual Channels**

[ 1,025 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

Absorbing energies of her enemies' attack were not actually Lois's physique's ability, but a trick she created using the existing abilities of her physique. Her physique allowed her to transfer her body or anyone else's body into the mid-section of their channel connecting them to the spiritual plane.

Lois used this ability to trap Demigod Backster and General Baylor in the mid-section of their channel connecting them to the spiritual plane. Once they realize what Lois had done to them they could figure out a way to free themselves from their spiritual channel in no time, that was by instructing their divinity to move their body out of their spiritual channel. If Baylor and Backster never realize where they were, they would not know that the key to getting out of the trap Lois put them in was right with them. And they would be stuck there until Lois chooses to free them or someone tells them the truth. Now how long it took for them to get free would depend on Baylor and Backster figuring out that they were trapped in the mid-section of their spiritual channel. Though Lois seems to think that they would figure it out within a few minutes.

Similarly, Lois precisely used her ability to just transfer the energies of the southern emperor's attack into her spiritual channel's mid-section, which existed between the spiritual and physical planes. This precision meant that Lois would have to compromise the range of this ability to be less than the minimum of her melee range. Therefore she never used it unless she had no choice. Like in the case of the fusion southern emperor.

Lois underestimated the fusion southern emperor and was caught in her clutches, making it impossible for Lois to rely on her physique's ability that allowed her to transfer

her or another's bodies into the mid-segment of their spiritual channel. This ability though useful had many conditions to it like it would be only able to transfer the target's body into their spiritual channel but not other people's spiritual channel, if the target was in contact with another being then it would not be able to transfer the target into their spiritual channel.

Because moving the target's body into their spiritual channel was like stuffing the cloud into its raindrop. It would have to compress the body mass of the target to stuff them into the mid-segment of their spiritual channel, and the target being in contact with any other being would compromise that so the ability did not work when the target was in contact with any other being.

This ability of Lois's physique was there to help her come closer to the spiritual realm such that she could comprehend the rules more easily by staying in the mid-segment of the spiritual channel without the constraints of the location factor affecting her rule comprehension.

Why the mid-section of the spiritual channel? Because one of the two ends was in the spiritual realm, if Lois's body or any physical body were to travel to the spiritual realm they would disintegrate into the basic energies forming them. As for the other end, it was in the physical realm, so as soon as Lois or any physical body were to be there they would immediately be thrown out into the physical world.

This explained why a target should not be in contact with another being. And as for the other condition, that the target can only move to their spiritual channel, it was because the spiritual channel, like all the organs and tissues of the body, had its own defense mechanism which would throw out anything foreign. This was why Lois would immediately come out of the target's spiritual channel, she would be immediately thrown out by the target's spiritual channel, helping her with her trick to create an illusion of teleportation.

But this was a different story for energies because the spiritual channel was created to communicate with the spiritual plane and help with the exchange of energies. Making use of this Lois would use her mental will to invade the target's spiritual channel and attack the harmony of energies in their ego gem or divinity.

And now Lois used her understanding of the spiritual channel and her physique to absorb the energies of the fusion southern emperor's attack. But the problem was that there was a limit to how much energy the mid-section of Lois's spiritual channel could hold, otherwise, everyone could access infinite amounts of energy from the spiritual plane. The spiritual channel was like a tunnel, similar to how the tunnel can only occupy a said amount of vehicles passing through it, the spiritual channel could only occupy the energies which were propositional to the target's realm.

So Lois could only absorb and hold energies from the fusion southern emperor's attack that could be within the limit of her strength. Therefore, she freaked out during the

fusion southern emperor's second attack which had transcended the level of regular demigods, not to mention her spiritual channel was already holding the energies from the fusion southern emperor's first attack.

So in a panic, Lois absorbed and stored energies from the fusion southern emperor's attack and once she reached the limit of her spiritual channel, she started to leak the stored energies into the spiritual plane. This way she managed to absorb the energies of the fusion southern emperor's transcendent attack without blowing up her spiritual channel.

Why not into her incomplete divinity? Because if she did that then she would disturb the harmony of her energies by introducing volatile foreign energies amidst them. But the spiritual plane did not mind it however she thought it was a waste as she planned to use these stored volatile energies for something else like enhancing them by feeding and guiding with her energies and then using the combined energies against the fusion southern emperor.

So when Lois got the opportunity to sneak attack the fusion southern emperor, she used her strongest attack combined with what's left of the energies she absorbed from the fusion southern emperor transcendent attack, to launch the strongest sneak attack.

\*Boom\*

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## Chapter 1178 Pitviper Gorgon's Venom

[ 1,128 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

Under Uri's suicide bombing, it was a miracle that Anna survived with a few limbs missing and organs destroyed, she was unable to talk because she even lost her jaw and the muscles moving it. Anna was so out of it that she was barely able to keep herself conscious, let alone summon her grimoire and heal herself. If not for the goodwill of her ancestors, things could have gotten a lot worse.

In such a miserable state Anna's body had been fused with Ann's healthy body, it was already a great stroke of luck that the fusion body was functioning with such severe wounds. Yes, it had no missing limbs, and all its organs were working fine, but that was not the state you want to participate in a fight. Still, even in its wounded state, the fusion body of Ann/Anna under the buff of the southern emperor card was higher than the level of the regular demigods, though not near the transcendent strength she got under the buff of dodecat-booster. But enough to handle someone of Lois's caliber. However, Lois's methods were tricky, so it was taking a while for the fight between them to conclude.

\*Boom\* Lois perfectly aimed her sneak attack at the fusion southern emperor's center mass, so when the attack connected the fusion southern emperor was thrown off balance and crashed to the ground at a frightening speed creating a huge impact crater at the site of her crash.

"Anna, focus, we are getting our assed kicked here," Ann yelled at Anna for falling for such a simple but effective trick of Lois's.

"You say that as if I am doing it on purpose," Anna yelled back as she commanded the fusion southern emperor's body to get up and drink a few high-grade potion's now that they had gained a little distance between them and Lois.

But Lois who was speeding towards them suddenly disappeared, then her presence could be felt in their spiritual channel, knowing what was about to happen next, Anna cussed, "Fuck, not again."

This time Lois instantly appeared on the left side of the fusion southern emperor and was about to launch another sneak attack but stopped and immediately retreated learning that the potion in the fusion southern emperor's hand turned out to be an SSS-rank poison, Pitviper Gorgon's venom, which when comes into contact with air begins to spontaneously vaporize and spread a quarter mile radius of the surrounding area within a second. The worst part of this was the effect of the poison, petrification, the infected part will get petrified and spread to the other parts of the victim, resulting in the victim being entirely petrified within 3 seconds.

Using venom to deal with Lois's troublesome trick that mimicked instant teleportation was obviously Ann's idea but kudos to Anna for perfectly executing it. Because the venom was so potent that it would petrify the grass, trees, and other beings nearby. Fortunately for Anna the crater created after their fall was a few miles in radius, the impact was so large that all weeds in the carter and its surrounding had been wiped out or had been buried.

After the fusion southern emperor had drunk the antidote for the SSS-rank Pitviper Gorgon's venom while indicating that it was a heal potion, she took out the second potion, the venom, which unscrewed when she felt the presence of Lois in her spiritual

channel, causing the venom to instantly spread into their surrounding setting a perfect venom trap for Lois.

While drinking the antidote the fusion southern emperor created an illusion of defenselessly trying to heal themselves using potions in the eyes of Lois. Being very confident of her trick Lois ended up falling for their trap but she did not stick around, instantaneously she moved out of the venom's range but she was already infected by the venom and it was spreading across her entire body fast so she moved to her body into her spiritual channel after yelling, "Venom, seriously? You southern barbarians will stoop to any level as long you get your way don't you."

"Ann, do you think we got her? That bitch keeps calling us barbarians, we need to put her in her place," Anna was pissed by Lois constantly calling them and the entire southern region barbarians. But she did not spare a second thought about using venom to win her battle.

"No, she should be fine, otherwise it would be too easy," Ann felt like venom would not be that big of a deal for someone with a Legend-Grade physique to handle. As for Lois calling them a bunch of barbarians, Ann did not even bother to spare her thoughts on such obvious attempts of provocation. And then reminded Anna of their priorities, "Anna, our only priority is to guard Wyatt. As for Lois's comments, they are nothing but her provoking you, they don't change anything unless you fall for them. Got it."

"Sure, sure, however, that monster worm wearing the dummy ring, is that Wyatt? Its soul signature doesn't match Wyatt's soul signature. Are you sure Wyatt is not up to something again?" arriving at the outskirts of the city Anna had already located the ring that she gave to her lover for his protection, a few miles away from her location. But when she checked on him she was surprised to find that the person wearing her ring was not her lover but a monster worm.

"Remember the motel, along with changing his appearance Wyatt had transformed his entire soul signature too. I think he has created a new card that not only changes his appearance along with his soul signature. Leave it to him to create the impossible," Ann chose to believe the text sent by the boy and then advised Anna to focus on the battle, "Anna, Lois has entered her spiritual channel, which means next she can only appear at two places, first being the place where she entered her spiritual channel and second being next to us, make sure that the venom is concentrated in these two places. We need to drag this out until the field marshal arrives."

"I hate the fact that we have to use this venom against a semi-demigod, not to mention when we are at our strongest," Anna expressed her dissatisfaction concerning the battle.

"First, Lois is not just a semi-demigod. Second, we are not at our strongest," Ann corrected Anna and then grimly spoke her mind, "Anna, I think we should start considering rehearsing fusing our minds. I agree I hate the idea of fusing our minds but I

would hate it more if I was not able to perform my hundred percent when my friends and family needed it the most."

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## Chapter 1179 God Slayer, Giga-Knuckle-Buster

[ 1,186 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

Inside the mid-section of her spiritual channel, Lois was busy absorbing every last bit of Pitviper Goron's venom that was spreading through her body using her physique and dumping it into the spiritual end of her spiritual channel. Inside the spiritual plane, the venom would break down to its basic energies becoming one with the energies in the spiritual plane, and no longer pose a threat to Lois.

Finally getting rid of the poison, Lois activated the item card 'God Slayer' as she shifted her compressed body out of her spiritual channel and appeared right at the spot where she entered her spiritual channel.

Arriving in the physical plane, Lois's body had dawned a black-gold radiance that protected her from the concentrated Pitviper Gorgon's venom surrounding her. This radiance covering Lois seems to be originating from the golden buckler shield which sheaths a falchion sword.

Lois unsheathed the falchion sword from the buckler shield as she glared at the fusion Southern emperor who was surrounded by the vapors of Pitviper Gorgon's poison and said, "Petty tricks won't work against me. But you did manage to make me angry."

\*Poof\*

The fusion southern emperor became alert, feeling the presence of Lois in their spiritual channel. Seeing that Lois had overcome the poison, they had no choice but to return to a defensive stance while summoning, "Giga-Knuckle-Busters."

Lois appeared on the fusion southern emperor's right side and hacked at her with her sword, before the fusion southern emperor could react, managing to cut into her flesh but to her surprise, her sword blade was stuck in the fusion southern emperor's flesh, stopping her from escaping using her vanishing trick causing her to yell, "You, barbarians are crazy."

Lois never expected the fusion southern emperor to use her flesh to grab hold of the sword and opt to fight by exchanging damage for damage. But considering that the fusion southern emperor was not trying to win but stall, it seemed a plausible option.

Using this movement, Anna(Ann) threw her first dawning Giga-knuckle-buster at Lois, but Lois defended using her buckler shield. And made use of the force from Anna(Ann)'s punch to retreat while freeing her sword from Anna(Ann)'s flesh.

Soon Lois vanished, and Anna(Ann)'s felt Lois presence in their spiritual channel. This time Lois appeared behind Anna(Ann) and hacked at her with the blunt side of the sword using all of her might, having learned from the result of their last clash.

If the sharp side of Lois's sword was able to cut then the dull side was able to create heavy blunt damage to the target. Causing Anna(Ann) to be thrown out of the crate and into the air.

Lois then vanished and appeared right behind the fusion southern emperor who was thrown to the air, and once again hacked at her with the blunt side of the sword. With the blow, the fusion southern emperor was blown in the opposite direction of her previous acceleration.

Again, Lois vanished and this time appeared above the fusion southern emperor and hacked her with her blunt side.

In a few seconds, the tides of the whole standstill battle between Lois and Anna(Ann) had turned in Lois's favor, who gained an advantage thanks to her instant teleportation-like trick, which helped her to use the fusion southern emperor as the ball to the blunt side of her sword.

But Lois was not satisfied with the result because the fusion southern emperor's body was very durable despite the previous severe wounds covering its body so she was not sure if she had managed to make any actual damage to the fusion southern emperor's body.

'Anna!!!' Ann yelled mentally, she and Anna, both could not catch a break to communicate because of Lois's chain of sneak attacks. They were being continuously sneak attacked before they could even get to stabilize and take a stance against the incoming attack or the next one. It was as if they were caught in a never-ending loop. Though they never took real damage, this was just too embarrassing for any card fighter.

\*Boom\*

This time Lois once again appeared above the fusion southern emperor and was about to attack her with the blunt side of her sword but before she could the fusion southern emperor exploded, causing turbulent energy to spread throughout her surroundings. Lois was caught in it too and took small damage but most importantly she was stunned for a second. Using this second to her advantage the fusion southern emperor grabbed Lois by her neck, saying, "Got you."

"Detonating a rune? First venom and now this, I didn't think you could stoop any lower but you keep surprising me," Lois muttered as the grip of the bloody fusion southern emperor around her neck grew stronger. However, Lois managed to add a few more words, "Well guess what, two can play that game."

\*Boom\*

...

Under the constant sneak attacks from Lois, Ann decided to detonate a few of the broken runes that they gathered for the boy in hopes to get them an opportunity to turn tables on Lois who kept teleporting in and out of their spiritual channel and sneak attacking them. At the cost of further antagonizing their existing wounds and adding new ones, Ann took a calculated chance to get out of the embarrassing situation and succeeded, not only were they able to catch Lois off guard but also capture her.

But Ann never considered that desperate Lois would choose to do the same. Caught in the explosion caused by Lois detonating the broken runes in her possession, the fusion southern emperor's body finally reached its limit. Their grip around Lois's neck loosened before they fell to the ground with no resistance, like a kite with a broken string.

As for Lois, having focused most of the explosion on the fusion southern emperor and under the effect of the black-gold radiance of 'God Slayer' she mostly managed to come out of the explosion unscathed.

Seeing the figure of the fusion southern emperor falling to the ground, Lois was not done, she vanished and soon appeared above her preparing to drive the sword through her heart however she paused and vanished into her spiritual channel.

Then, as soon as Lois vanished, a huge ball of energy passed through her location and vanished on the horizon. Then a figure appeared next to the free-falling fusion southern emperor and caught her in a princess carry saying, "You have done enough, leave the rest to me."

Arriving at the ground, the figure looked at Anna(Ann) dearly before carefully placing her on the ground to feed her healing potions but was stopped by Anna(Ann) uttering, "I can't heal in this form."

Yes, the reason why Anna(Ann) did not try to heal their fusion body was that as a penalty for not fusing their mind the fusion body could not heal or make use of any recovery buff.

Lois appeared out of her spiritual channel to see who sneak attacked her but could not believe what she saw, "You, you... How could it be you?"

Seeing Lois, Anna(Ann) looked at her young benefactor with an expression filled with worry, self-blame, and desperation mouthing, "Run."

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## Chapter 1180 Borrowed Power

[ 994 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"That amount of soul energy output, impossible," Lois said after her shocking discovery that the amount of soul energy being emitted by the young benefactor of the fusion southern emperor was beyond his realm. Then thinking of something she said, "You made a pact with a devil."

"Ding, Ding, Ding! Your award for the correct answer is the ass whooping of your life," said the figure holding Anna(Ann) in his arms while a body grew out of his back and separated to take his complete form. Interestingly the dummy ring could be seen on the ring figure of the new body that just grew flew toward Lois, while the old body carried Anna(Ann) in princess carry to a safe distance. Knowing that this place was not safe for someone in a serious condition as Anna(Ann).

Being carried out of the battlefield by a clone of her young lover Anna(Ann) turned to look at his original body as it flew toward Lois, brimming with unfathomable energy levels. She had heard the conversation between her lover and Lois about making a pact with the devil for his newfound prowess so she could not help but worry for him. As if the clone read her thoughts, it consoled her saying, "Everything is going to be alright, trust him."

Anna(Ann) looked at the clone's confident smile but her worry for her crush did not decrease as she knew, even if her young lover was able to defeat Lois with the borrowed power, he would be devoured by the devil that lent him the power. Unlike the oaths taken in the presence of the world's will, pacts with the devil had no higher power governing the pact, meaning the rules of the pact changed with the will of the one with the bigger fist. With this Anna finally decided to take Ann up on her offer to practice fusing their soul, even though it was too late now, it was better late than never.

Watching the target carry the fusion southern emperor to safety, Lois looked at the part that grew out of the target asking, "Which one of you two is the original body?"

"For now I am the original body," the boy said while perfectly controlling the new power he had just gained through a devil pact thanks to the soul energy manipulation ability of his calamity soul gem.

"Ugh, it seems you possess a disgusting but troublesome ability," Lois said in disgust of having watched a human grow out of the back of another, then added, "Considering that your realm has jumped from card soldier to the card demigod realm, I think you must have sacrificed something valuable? Your soul, maybe. Regardless, when you agreed to the pact with the devil, you basically signed your own death certificate. But still, it's best if I make sure you stay dead."

"Aren't you forgetting something?" the boy asked Lois, seeing her preparing to finish him off with her attack.

Even though Lois thought that the boy signed his death certificate by signing a pact with the devil, she knew the southern royal family was there to shelter him even from the falling sky, let alone the devil. She did not want to take a chance with the completion of her mission, especially not to a devil.

"What?" Lois paused in her tracks and asked the boy.

"Your reward, the ass whooping of your life," the boy scorned Lois, with his borrowed demigod prowess the boy was no longer afraid of Lois rather he somewhat looked down on Lois. She was not able to kill him when he was a card soldier and did not have the power to fight back yet she was boasting about killing him now.

"Boy, aren't you too cocky for someone living on borrowed time and power? Tell me, do you regret making a pact with the devil for your sugar mama?" Lois taunted the boy in response to his scorn-filled words. As someone who gained her current realm and power with hard work, Lois was provoked to see someone with borrowed power looking down on her.

"No, I don't. She thinks we are lovers. And I strongly believe that love should be repaid with love. Not to mention I consider myself very generous," the boy answered turning to

look at the silly girl being carried away by his clone, she jumped in front of the demigod realm suicide bomber for him without a second thought and did not complain.

The boy still did not know if love was just fooling oneself, nonetheless, he knew for that silly girl today he was willing to risk his life.

Just recalling the moment when that girl did not hesitate to sacrifice herself for him, a stupid grin showed on the boy's face. But the grin disappeared as he felt the presence of Lois within the mid-section of his spiritual channel.

In an instant, Lois appeared behind him but before she could launch her sneak attack on the boy she saw two heads grow out of the back of the boy's head with a 120-degree space between all three heads. Then the two new pairs of boy's eyes established eye contact with her with an insane reaction speed.

Glancing into the two pairs of eyes, Lois was shocked and stopped in her tracks then immediately retreated, sensing two pairs of hands growing out of the boy's shoulder blade and floating toward her as if planning to capture her. The four arms followed Lois for a while until she retreated far and vanished into her spiritual channel, then they returned to the boy and floated behind him along with the two floating heads.

Feeling the threat gone, Lois returned to the physical plane. Then she looked at the boy with three heads and six arms with great horror and asked, "What the fuck are you?"

"Your, death," the boy answered, bombarding Lois with his horrifying baleful aura, jolting her awake from her shock.

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## **- Chapter 1181 Infinite Calamity Soul Gem**

### **Chapter 1181 Infinite Calamity Soul Gem**

[ 1,005 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:05

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, St. Raymond's cemetery.

While engaging with Anna and her grandma, I was monitoring every little action of the demigods and a semi-demigod, cornering me, with the help of the Hive AI and my slave consciousnesses. Then I was suddenly alerted by a malicious intent attacking my calamity soul gem.

Soon, I learned that the malicious intent attacking my calamity soul gem was trying to break into it and that it originated from the spiritual end of my spiritual channel. Which meant the malicious intent was attacking me from within the spiritual plane. Learning that there were abilities that could attack a person from within the spiritual plane, I was never more proud of the dungeon calamity seed cover covering my calamity soul gem.

Nonetheless, the question was who was attacking my calamity soul gem? Was it one of the people from the second group that arrived with Anna's grandma? Or someone else, who had yet to show themselves.

For now, I decided to scan the malicious intent and try and match it with the three from the second group that appeared with Anna's grandma. And it did not take me long to get the result, turns out it was not the demigods but the semi-demigod chick. It was her intent that was trying to break into my calamity daughter gem.

I bet on the attacker being a demigod, thinking that the demigod's will could travel through the spiritual plane. But it seems I had underestimated the semi-demigod chick with a peculiar physique that connected her right eye to the world. Considering that the semi-demigod chick's physique was connected to the world it made sense that she could attack others through the spiritual plane, no wonder she tagged along with the demigods.

Then I looked at the semi-demigod chick from the corner of my eyes, despite the darkness blocking our slight, I felt that our eyes meet so I unconsciously sneered at her knowing that if she wanted to assassinate me through the spiritual realm she could forget it, she would never be able to break through the dungeon calamity seed cover protecting my calamity soul gem.

Yet, I ended up making her a priority to watch out for because I did not know what else her physique was capable of. And by now she should have realized that my calamity soul gem was different from other ego gems. But I was not freaked out about that because I planned to explain the calamity soul gem as a mutated ego gem and a part of my physique. It was up to them whether they believed me or not but in the end they had to take my word for it.

But within a few minutes, the demigod suicide bomber made me regret focusing too much on the semi-demigod and ignoring his suspicious activities. Fortunately, Anna

came to my rescue though it was not necessary. I may sound ungrateful but I really did not require saving as I had other preparation in place.

These preparations I speak of came in handy when the semi-demigod suddenly vanished and her compressed body appeared in the mid-section of my spiritual channel, then she instantaneously appeared right behind me with her hand sticking through my chest. If not for my prior preparations I might really have died from her sneak attack.

The prior preparation I speak of had a lot to do with the Myriad Devil body rune card that I had gained by sacrificing Mike Brown to my blood fate plunder rune. This rune card by itself had infinite possibilities, but when used in combination with my calamity soul gem it was able to achieve miraculous things that I previously could not achieve or had difficulty attaining.

The best and the most important of all was that by using the myriad devil transformation ability of the myriad devil body rune card with the calamity daughter gem of my calamity soul gem, I could create an infinite number of calamity soul gems. I could turn a calamity daughter gem into a calamity soul gem using the myriad devil transformation ability, giving me the ability to create an infinite number of calamity soul gems, which meant that if I wanted to I could create an infinite number of original bodies of myself for my mutated soul to move into.

The only weakness of my calamity soul gem was that there was only one of them, if it were to be captured by the enemy then it was game over for me. But now with the possibility of me being able to create an infinite number of calamity soul gems, I could just move my mutated soul into another calamity soul gem when my calamity soul gem gets captured or faces imminent danger. I could just use it to escape from any trap like I did when the semi-demigod chick impaled her hand into my chest.

As for my body turning into a swarm of insects, it was a trick I created using the myriad devil transformation to hide the tracks of my abandoned calamity soul gem.

Before stepping into the sky blossom city I had stashed a few newly created calamity soul gems in different places, just in case of any unforeseen circumstances. So when the semi-demigod attacked me I transferred my mutated soul to one of the newly created calamity soul gems that I stashed on the outskirts of the city while turning my abandoned body into a swarm of insects using the myriad devil transformation.

As for someone else discovering the calamity soul gems I stashed in the outskirts, I would be reminded before they detonated themselves and exploded for getting exposed.

As of now, I was partially immortal, as long as there was one calamity soul gem on this world, I would be able to escape death by moving my mutated soul into it. This was why I was really glad that I decided to take revenge on the circle's sun blossom city branch and sacrificed Mike to my blood plunder rune.

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## Chapter 1182 Devil Merchant

[ 1,005 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

I had the myriad devil body rune card to thank for my new partial immortality but it came with some restrictions. For example, in dungeons, if I am inside a dungeon all my connection to the outside world gets limited, and I cannot access the grimoire network or use Hive AI to contact calamity daughter gem outside. Meaning if I were to die in the dungeon I cannot move my mutated soul into a pseudo calamity soul gem located outside of the dungeon but it's another thing if I had pseudo calamity soul gems hidden in the dungeon.

Pseudo Calamity Soul Gem? The calamity soul gem created using calamity daughter gem and myriad devil transformation are just shells of calamity soul gem without my mutated soul within them, so I thought it would be better to call the calamity soul gems without my mutated soul within them pseudo calamity soul gem.

Anyway apart from my partial immortality being limited within the dungeons, it was also weak to curses. But my mutated Viltronian physique, Gigamite, seemed to have strong resistance to curses, Viltronian physique in general seems to have strong resistance to curses. But this resistance was only limited to the curses of the same realm, not curses of the higher realm that I have been facing these past few days. Making me grateful for the dummy ring given to me by Anna.

Speaking of Anna, apart from our conflicted interest regarding silver milk powder and her occasional non-consensual sexual behavior with me, she has been pretty good to me, so much so that these past few days I preferred having her around and had grown dependent on her. Which I saw as a sign of threat thinking what if someday the southern royal family were to turn on me, no, to be exact, what if someday Anna were to favor her family over me, then without her by my side I would be crippled. This was why I wanted to expand my connections as soon as possible.

Fearing for the what if, I was conflicted and acted out but seeing the silly girl throw herself at death for me, I understood that instead of preparing for the unknown future I should fight hard to protect the present I prefer so that it can grow into a future that I dreamed of having.

This was the enlightenment I got from Anna's willingness to sacrifice herself for me.

So, when I saw the semi-demigod chick's non-stop sneak attacks use Anna like a baseball, instead of running away like it was not my problem, I decided to do what I can. That girl came to my rescue every single time I needed her in one way or another, and that was why I planned to do everything in my power to assist her.

As a card soldier currently I could do nothing to help Anna, except for revealing my location to the semi-demigod to divert her attention from Anna to me, but knowing Anna, she would desperately try to stop the semi-demigod from reaching. In the end, the only thing I could think of to help Anna would instead end up being counter-productive. It's a sin to be weak. This helpless feeling never gets old.

When I was out of ideas, I remembered the card given to me by Jill, she did give me the card saying it will be helpful in my time of need.

[Card Name: Equal Exchange

Card Type: Demonic Card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare-Grade

Card Rate: 8-Stars

Card Effect: You can exchange anything you want in exchange for anything of equal value.

Note: Do not equip it.]

Like Jill said this card was indeed a demonic card that could help me but she undersold its helpfulness to me. I don't know if it was because she wasn't aware of it or she did not think it was necessary.

I say so because this card was not what it said it was. Meaning the card info shown on the card was false, if not for my soul pupils even I would not have seen through the trickery of this card. Using the Hive AI along with my soul pupils I finally decoded the real card info,

[ Card Name: Devil Merchant

Card Type: Demonic Summons Card

Card Rank: -/-

Card Rate: -/-

Card Effect: Using this card, the user can summon the Devil Merchant, Belphegor. The user can exchange or buy anything they want for a reasonable price from the devil merchant.

Additional Effect: Devil's Pact

Caution: Once the card is equipped, the user cannot unequip it without summoning the devil once.

Note: The summoned devil merchant will follow the merchant code and not intervene with the summoner's world order.]

Devil's Pact: This pact serves as the proof of deal between the devil merchant and the customer. This pact also allows the user to borrow anything from the Devil Merchant for the promise of making the payment at a later date.

Note: Devil's Pact is governed by Devil merchant code and it is advised that the parties involved sign it at their discretion.

Reading the true card info of the card given to me by Jill, I learned it was not just any demonic card but a demonic summons card that would summon a devil. It was not actually called Equal Exchange but Devil Merchant when used it would summon a devil named Belphegor, who would grant me anything in exchange for something of equal value, and if I don't plan to pay now I could pay for it later by entering a devil's pact with the devil merchant Belphegor.

One would forsake any notion of equipping this card based on the caution stated by the card but considering my situation, I did not have many options, so forgive me if I was considering equipping it.

Equipping the Devil Merchant card aside, even if I were to go through with it, what do I ask for? and exchange it for what? The answer was simple but difficult at the same time, 'How far was I willing to go to help Anna.'

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## Chapter 1183 Demon Merchant Ezra

[ 977 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

How far was I willing to go to help Anna?

Better yet, How much did Anna mean to me?

The answer was obvious, realizing this, without any hesitation and delay, I equipped the Devil Merchant card and summoned the devil merchant Belphegor.

Soon a jet-black monster worm appeared in front of me. Then it looked at itself and made a weird noise which I understood as "I don't remember giving my card to a worm."

Then the jet-black monster worm turned to look at me and asked, "You, are you really a monster worm?"

"Does it matter?" I conveyed to the jet-black monster worm using the monster worm communication method.

"Right, it doesn't matter," the Jet black monster worm agreed with me.

Then I enquired about the Jet black monster worm's identity, "You are?" Not wanting to make any assumptions because when it comes to devils, assuming something based on their actions and tricky words would prove deadly as they are known to thrive on trickery. They especially enjoy tricking their victims into an eternity of misery, sorrow, and pain.

"Isn't it obvious?" the Jet black monster worm said.

"Obvious what?" I asked, not planning to answer it.

"Demon merchant Ezra, here to grant you your desire for a fee," the Jet Black worm introduced itself.

Hearing the Jet Black worm's introduction I looked at it in suspicion, had I not read the real card info I would have believed in its fake introduction.

Why would the devil bother with a fake name? Was it to misuse the devil pact? I had a hypothesis but it was best if I did not jump to any conclusion. Because I did not know anything about Devil merchant codes and Devil Pact, it was uncharted territory for me. I had to stay calm and be smart about it.

"Are you the demon merchant Ezra? Is your name Ezra?" I asked the Jet black worm to get confirmation from it.

"Didn't you hear what I said?" The jet-black monster worm dodged answering my questions.

Hearing the Jet black monster worm, I did not bust its lie, instead patiently asked, "I heard you, that is why I am asking to confirm if you are demon merchant Ezra?"

"Are you dumb?" The Jet black monster worm continued to dodge answering my questions.

"For the sake of this discussion, let's say I am. So, are you the demon merchant Ezra?" I continued to ask the jet-black worm the same question about its name and identity.

"I said, Demon Merchant Ezra, here to grant your desire for a fee," The Jet black monster worm repeated its fake introduction. If one were to carefully scrutinize its words, you may see that it never said that it was the demon merchant Ezra. And never in our conversation did it agree that it was the demon merchant Ezra.

Despite my repeated inquiries the Jet Black monster worm stuck to its fake introduction. Had I not read the real info on the card, no matter how cautious I was I would have fallen for its fake introduction. Because I had no choice but to take its word for it.

What's the harm in that? When I enter a devil's pact with it, if it doesn't use its real name, then who am I supposed to hold responsible for the bargain we agreed on, Demon Merchant Ezra? That's a fake identity, odds were there wasn't a demon merchant named Ezra, to begin with.

Was I overthinking it? No, I wasn't.

For the sake of an example let's say I agreed to exchange something with that devil on the spot and not on a later date and entered a devil's pact as proof of the agreement between me and the devil. Then I give the devil what it had asked of me in exchange for it promising me to fulfill my pre-stated desire thinking that we had made the devil's pact. But here's the thing, the devil had used a false identity in the devil's pact, so it would not be valid under the Devil Merchant code. Meaning the devil was under no obligation to uphold the agreement between us, in the end, I would be tricked into giving the devil something precious to me in exchange for nothing.

Again, these were my hypotheses on how the devil merchant code worked and why the devil Belphegor kept trying to make me believe that it was demon merchant Ezra. The only way I can prove it was by learning the devil merchant code. And where do I learn that?

"I heard you, the first time. So are you saying that you are demon merchant Ezra?" I continued with devil's charred.

"Where did you get my card?" The Jet black monster worm asked me with a frown, it seems to have realized that I was on to its trickery.

"Does that matter?" I did not answer the Jet Black monster worm as the more it knew about me the easier it would be for it to trick me to my doom.

"No, it doesn't," Jet Black monster worm said, shaking its head.

I know that the Jet Black Monster worm would not play ball until it felt like it was tricking me. I did not have time for that. So I asked the jet-black monster worm, "Can I get the devil merchant code?"

"Devil merchant code? How do you know about that?" the Jet black monster worm asked me in surprise. Now it was sure that I knew something but what I knew was not clear to it and that bugged it.

"Does it matter?" I asked the devil, having resolved to reveal as little information about me to it as possible. Though I wasn't clear on the fact of how much the devil knew about me.

"No, it doesn't. If you want it, I can get you the devil merchant code. For an appropriate price... I can get you anything."

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## Chapter 1184 Devil Merchant Code

[ 1,054 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"No, it doesn't. If you want it, I can get you the devil merchant code... For an appropriate price... I can get you anything," the jet-black monster worm's replay was full of deceit. I cannot catch a break with this guy. Everything he said was misleading and it wasn't

technically a lie in some way it was true. He reminds me of the ad agencies back on earth.

If I were not carefully scrutinizing every word that came out of the jet-black monster worm's mouth, I would have been led to believe that I would have to pay a price of equal value to get the devil merchant code from the jet-black worm.

When what the jet-black monster worm said was entirely different.

1. If you want it, I can get you the Devil merchant code.

2. For an appropriate price...I can get you anything you want.

The jet-black worm's tricky wordplay did not surprise me after all it was a devil and that was expected of it. However, I would be surprised if it wasn't deceitful.

"Good, then get me the devil merchant code," I said immediately surprising the jet-black worm having seen through its falsehood.

"As I said, I can get you anything for a price," the Jet-black monster worm neither agreed to my request nor denied it. But from the looks of it, the jet-black monster worm was ignoring my demand.

"Stop repeating yourself like an NPC and give me the devil merchant code," I said sternly, making sure the jet-black monster would not be able to feign ignorance.

"NCP? What is that?" the jet-black worm asked me instead of giving me the devil merchant code. I blame myself for this one.

"Just give me the devil merchant code," I shouted not bothering to entertain the devil's charade anymore.

"Devil merchant code, I have that," The jet-black monster worm said.

"Give it to me," I ordered the devil.

"Fine, do you want the copy or the original one? Let me tell you the original one is precious and worth more than the copy. If you ask me, I recommend the copy," the jet-black monster worm recommended.

"Are you telling me that I will have to pay for the original copy of the devil merchant code?" I asked the jet-black worm after hearing its remarks. What was I to make of the words, 'the original is more precious and more than the copy.'

"For a price, I can get what you want, be it the original devil merchant code," the jet-black worm monster declared confidently.

"I don't want the original devil merchant code, I want the original copy of the devil merchant code," I rectified the jet-black monster worms understanding how it had twisted my words.

The original devil merchant code can also mean the very first devil merchant code, considering its history it would be priceless.

As for the original copy of the devil merchant code that I asked for, it would not be worth much. And from my conversation with the jet-black monster worm so far, I was getting a strong feeling that the original copy of the devil merchant code was something the jet-black monster worm should be giving to its customers but it chose not to unless it was pressed by them to give them the original copy of the devil merchant code.

"Here's the copy," the jet-black monster worm said as it passed me the card it just summoned.

I did not take the card from the jet-black monster worm, instead asked him, "Is it the original copy of the devil merchant code?"

"You want the copy or not," the jet-black monster worm did not respond to me, instead it insisted on giving me its copy of something. Since it did not confirm that it was giving me the original copy of the devil merchant code, I really could not confirm what it was giving me.

"I want the original copy of the devil merchant code," I yelled at the jet-black worm because it kept ignoring my demands and did whatever it felt like.

The original devil merchant code, the original copy of the devil merchant code, and the copy of the original devil merchant code, all three of them were different.

As I said earlier, the original devil merchant code was the first devil merchant code to be written, it was antique, making it priceless.

As for the original copy of the devil merchant code, it was the exact copy of the first devil merchant code.

As for the copy of the devil merchant code, it was a copy of the first devil merchant code copied by the jet-black monster worm. Considering its actions so far I don't think I can trust the copy made by the jet-black monster worm.

All this was my assumption based on my conversation with the jet-black monster worm. I know I said one should not jump to assumptions or conclusions when dealing with the devil but if I do that it will be an endless circle of 'he said, I said' between me and the jet-black monster worm.

Since I had limited time, I had to be smart about it. Yes, I could end up making mistakes but I had to risk it. Otherwise, there would be no point to this if Anna was...

"I have personally made this copy of the devil merchant code, here take it," the jet-black monster worm continued to insist on giving me its copy of the devil merchant code. At least this time it agreed that the copy it was giving me was the copy of the devil merchant code made by it.

"Give me the original copy of the devil merchant code, Belphegor," I yelled at the jet-black monster worm in the monster worm communication method.

"How do you know my name?" the jet-black monster worm asked me. The shock of me calling it by its true name was apparent in the jet-black monster worm's voice.

"Does it matter? Just give me the original copy of the devil merchant code, Belphegor," I repeated myself but it was worth it because Belphegor couldn't seem to feign ignorance to my demands anymore.

I say so because he handed me the original copy of the devil merchant code. And with this it's about time, I made this devil my bitch, like how I used the laws of the countries to make their pretend democratic governments my bitches.

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## Chapter 1185 Special Mortal Soul

[ 1,030 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"I can smell somebody I know on you, who is it? Who betrayed me?" the Jet-black monster worm asked.

"Shut up, Belphegor," I ordered the devil.

Turns out that as long as I use the devil's true name it cannot choose to ignore my commands.

Commands?

At its core, the devil merchant card was a demonic summons card, like in any other summons card, the summons follow the command of the summoner without a doubt. Similarly, the devil merchant summoned using this demonic summons card has to follow the orders of its summoner. But the rules of using this card were different.

Similar to all the summons cards, how summoned summons don't harm the user, the summoned devil or demon using a demonic summons card will not harm the user but it's another thing if the user commands them to. That's where the trick rules of using these demonic summons cards come in.

If I had not gotten my hands on the original copy of the devil merchant code, I would not have understood why the devil finally chose to give me the original copy of the devil merchant code when I asked it to instead of feigning ignorance like it usually chose to.

It was because I had used its true name. If I don't address the devil using its true name, the rules of the devil merchant cards do not bind the summoned devil. No wonder this guy tried to confuse me into thinking he was Demon Merchant Ezra.

Going through the devil merchant code I realized that it was a pretty standard set of rules used by merchants in any trade. It did feel like it favored the devil merchant over their summoner but the wide range of desires they can grant their summoners made do for that.

As with any trade, the devil trade also came down to negotiation. And the devils were known for being skilled negotiators. Not to mention the devil seemed to be at the advantage as there wasn't a set price for the desires it could grant. This also meant I have no idea of the cost I would have to pay for what I needed.

For example, if I crave water, the devil can get me a glass of water. However, nobody was stopping it from asking me for my soul in exchange for the water. If I were trapped in a desert for eternity maybe I would consider exchanging my soul for a glass of water but now...

This was my dilemma, I had the user manual for the devil merchant but I did know what I could get from it for a price I was willing to part with.

While I was contemplating in my mind the jet-black monster worm was fuming, unable to speak its mind, as I had commanded it to shut up using its true name. Seeing its current dilemma, I wondered if it was a devil.

I mean, the devils were on par with the demigods or of a higher level in existence. I could not help but wonder why a being of that level would create something like a devil merchant card that will bind its powers. So much so that it would have to follow the commands of a card soldier.

Why was that? Were the devils masochists by nature? Did they get off on this? Was it for my soul, Why go through all this trouble to collect a mortal soul? How hard is it for a devil to get a mortal's soul? I don't understand, there had to be something these devils stood to gain from this otherwise they would not go through all this trouble.

"Belphegor, tell me, as a devil, why would you go through all this trouble to trick a mortal's soul?" Though I had used the devil's true name to ask him this question, I did not expect him to answer me because this question had nothing to do with trade.

"You think a mortal's soul has the power to summon a devil, funny," the devil laughed and then added, "From what I can gather you don't know anything about a devil merchant, but you somehow know about the devil merchant code and my true name and realm. Makes me wonder..."

"..." I let the devil speak. The more talkative it got. The easier it was for it to slip something that I could use while keeping in mind that I can't trust anything it says.

Dealing with the devil was like dealing with corporate lawyers. The devil's habit of carefully choosing its every word reminded me of those sneaky and manipulative jerks.

"You saw through the enchantment of my demonic summon card, didn't you? That was how you came to know about the devil merchant code, my true name, and my true realm," Belphegor monitored my soul energy signature to check if his guess was right and then laughed out loud, "I knew there had to be something special about your soul for you to summon me. I hit it big this time, a mortal soul that can see through my enhancement."

"So, are you telling me that if my soul wasn't special I would not have been able to summon you and instead would have used the equal exchange card like regular mortal souls would have?" I asked the devil.

No wonder Jill did not know that the Demonic card Equal Exchange that she gave me was actually a Devil Merchant demonic summons card.

Turns out the demonic card given to me by Jill had a condition on it. If an average mortal soul were to use it then it would act as the demonic card Equal Exchange however if the card was used by a special mortal soul then the devil Belphegor would be summoned.

The reason the devil went through the trouble of making this card was to get his hands on the special mortal souls he speaks of. Though I don't know why the devil seems to like to collect special souls, now I know for sure it wanted my soul and how rare my soul was. Knowing self-worth and what the opposite party wants was a good start in a negotiation.

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## Chapter 1186 Customer/Merchant Copy

[ 1,077 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"I want your soul and you want to save that girl, so let's make this happen," Belphegor said instead of going into detail about special mortal souls as I asked him to.

It wasn't surprising that he knew I wanted to save Anna. But still, not knowing how he knew that I summoned him to save Anna was bothering me.

Not to forget, the devil doesn't just give you what you want, they always leave their client in more misery than before they meet them. Belphegor was working an angle here, I don't see it just yet. Also, he forgot to consider that nobody wants to give up their souls.

"No, not happening," I immediately rejected Belphegor's proposal. I wasn't buying his act.

Why was he suddenly so easy to talk to?

If Belphegor knows that I summoned him to save Anna then he should know that I don't have much time on my hands to continue this negotiation. He should be taking advantage of this fact instead, he decided to just give me what I wanted, though he did ask for my soul however this was just too easy.

Was I missing something or were special mortal souls just too irresistible for devils?

"Why is that? Don't you want to save that girl? Her physique and bloodline are durable but how long do you think she can hold on against that cutie's attacks?" Belphegor tried to persuade me but instead, he pointed me in a direction I did not consider before.

What if his sudden change was not about me or my special mortal soul, it was entirely about somebody else, for example, the semi-demigod chick that Belphegor referred to as cutie? When did the devil start to call a mortal soul so endearingly?

This slimeball was not just aiming for my soul but the soul of the semi-demigod chick attacking Anna. Considering that the physique of the semi-demigod chick allowed her to connect with this card world, I bet her soul met the criteria to be a special soul in Belphegor's books.

Belphegor planned to collect two special souls at the cost of one desire, which explained the sudden change in his attitude. No wonder he went as far as to persuade me into considering his offer.

That's just... great. I could use this to my advantage, I say so because this meant I wasn't the only one pressed by time, Belphegor was too.

Let's consider the offer Belphegor put in front of me. He promised to save Anna in exchange for my soul. However, saving Anna also meant killing the semi-demigod chick attacking Anna.

Belphegor doesn't have to kill the semi-demigod chick but he will kill her to get his hands on her special soul as the souls killed by the devil would be dragged to hell by them.

Considering the semi-demigod chick's physique connected her to the world's will it would not be surprising to think that Belphegor had other plans for her soul.

This led me to believe that in some ways Belphegor wanted the semi-demigod's soul more than my soul. As I had a feeling that her soul would help Belphegor invade this world. This was just me assuming based on her physique which seemed like a doorway to this world's will.

"You are right it doesn't seem like she will be able to hold on for long," I said as if I was considering Belphegor's words.

But there was a problem, I had all the tools I needed but I did not know what it was that I could get from Belphegor. I know I did this to save Anna and all but since I am here I planned to get the most out of it. What was it that I could get from Belphegor? He was in some other realm, was his power even valid here in this world?

"Kid, just say the word," said Belphegor confidently. This guy was charismatic, his words made me feel if I agree with him all my problems will go away.

"How do you plan to save her? You are just a devil monster worm, how strong can you be in this world? As strong as a demigod. We both know a demigod is not enough to save her," I laid out the facts for Belphegor, even if he was a devil when he appears in this plane his ability will be at most of the demigod realm, and the semi-demigod chick had already shown that she had no problem dealing with a demigod.

"Let me worry about that," Belphegor dodged my question.

"Answer me Belphegor," I commanded the devil using his true name.

"Devil merchant code will save me from the suppression of this world's will as long as I am completing the task of my client," Belphegor answered me reluctantly.

"You gotta be kidding, this wasn't mentioned in the original copy of the devil merchant code you gave me. Belphegor tell me why it was not mentioned in the original copy of the devil merchant code you gave me?" I asked Belphegor in anger, feeling that I was tricked.

"Because the original copy of the devil merchant code I gave you was the customer copy," Belphegor wasn't thrilled to tell me this.

"Does that mean there is a devil merchant copy or something similar?" I yelled and then added, "Answer me Belphegor."

"Yes, there is and we called it the merchant copy," Belphegor said as if my adding devil to everything related to his profession was bothering him.

"Belphegor, give me the original merchant copy of the devil merchant code," I commanded the devil.

"I cannot," Belphegor answered resolutely.

"Why can I not get the original merchant copy of the devil merchant code, Belphegor?" I asked in frustration.

"Because the original merchant copy of the devil merchant code is only given to the devil merchants," Belphegor answered while gloating at my irritation.

"Then how can I get the original merchant copy of the devil merchant code, Belphegor?" Since the devil kept claiming that it could get me anything for a price it was about time I tested it.

"..." Belphegor stalled, not wanting to answer.

"Belphegor, answer me," I pressed the devil to answer me using its true name.

"By becoming a devil merchant or in your case a demon merchant, you can get the original merchant copy of the devil merchant code," Belphegor answered me grudgingly.

"Hold up, you are telling me, I can become a devil merchant, no, a demon merchant?" I immediately asked the devil, finding its words unbelievable.

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# Chapter 1187 Troubled Belphegor

[ 984 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:13

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"Yes, you can become a demon merchant," Belphegor responded but his voice made it sound like I was extorting information out of him. He should have known that this day would come when he choose to become a devil merchant.

"Why stop there, uh, Belphegor why? You know what I am going to ask you next, so why not just tell me how I can become a demon merchant before I ask?" I asked the devil, seeing that it continued to answer just what I asked it to and nothing more.

"Would you believe my answer if you did not ask the question using my true name?" The devil was right. I would not believe any information it voluntarily gave me but if it were to do so then I can use it to understand what it was scheming.

"You are right. Belphegor, be dear and tell me how I can become a demon merchant," As of now, I had no idea as to what were the benefits of becoming a demon merchant except for gaining the merchant copy of the devil merchant code. But there must be something that drove all these demons and devils to willingly be suppressed by the devil merchant code to become demon/devil code.

As for what I was planning to do with the original merchant copy of the devil merchant code, it was pretty obvious. I wanted to level the playing field between me and Belphegor. The merchants played by a different set of rules compared to the customers.

"For you to become a demon merchant there are three ways,

1. Be chosen by devil merchant code.
2. Get recommendations from three demon merchants.
3. Get a recommendation from one devil merchant.

For one to be chosen by the devil merchant code they need to be a demon in the dark realm. So you can forget option number one however you can try your luck with the

other two options," Belphegor briefly explained the three ways one could become a demon merchant and that only two of them worked for me.

But what intrigued me most was that in this conversation Belphegor addressed the devil merchant code as if it were a living entity. Causing my interest in devil merchant code to peak.

Why would I be interested in devil merchant code? The devil merchant code could suppress the power of strong pride-filled devils and make them willingly submit to it. It could help them suppress the suppression of the world's will of their customer's world. And now I learn that it could choose who gets to be a demon/devil merchant as if it had a mind of its own. I would not be me if I were not intrigued by such an existence.

"Belphegor, you are a devil," I said, glancing at the devil endearingly.

"..." Belphegor looked at his customer dumbfoundedly. He was without words. He was here to trick this customer of his into selling his special mortal soul not to recommend him to become a demon merchant.

"Belphegor, come on, don't act like a stranger now," I said, moving closer to the jet-black monster worm.

"You need to know that every devil/demon merchant gets one recommendation per decade," Belphegor said, realizing he was in the presence of a shameless being, and a simple no would not be sufficient to get it off his back.

"Great. Belphegor, you must have saved many recommendations in your lifetime," I had decided to become a demon merchant not just to get the merchant copy of the devil merchant code but to get close to the devil merchant code.

"..." Belphegor was astonished by the shamelessness of his customer and thought, 'That's what you gathered from what I just said.'

"Belphegor, don't be shy. You must have saved quite a lot of recommendations, lend me one," I said standing next to the jet-black monster worm.

"A demon/devil merchant cannot accumulate the recommendations they get per decade. If they don't use it in the given decade then the recommendation expires," Belphegor announced.

"That's even better. Belphegor, lend me your recommendation and when I become a demon merchant I will lend you mine," I said immediately.

"Demon/Devil merchants cannot trade their recommendations among themselves," Belphegor said and hurriedly added, "I am not going to give you my recommendation. Just forget it. Do you even plan to save that girl or not?"

"That means you have not used your recommendation for this decade yet. Great," I was enthused to hear Belphegor had not used his recommendation yet.

"Did you not just hear me say I will not give you my recommendation?" Belphegor would have left already if two special mortal souls weren't at stake.

"Belphegor, what happened to you can get me anything for a fee? I want your recommendation to become a demon merchant name your price," I know Belphegor wouldn't just give me his recommendation but there was a point to me acting shameless.

Now I knew exactly how precious the recommendation of a devil/demon merchant was. Had I directly asked Belphegor to exchange his recommendation for a price I would be walking into a fierce negotiation blind. But now I had no problem leading the negotiation.

"Wait, what about that girl?" the jet-black monster worm asked pointing its head toward the one-sided battle between Anna and the semi-demigod chick.

"What about her?" I asked Belphegor feigning ignorance.

As for Anna, Belphegor wanted the battle between Anna and the semi-demigod chick to last longer. Because the only way Belphegor could get two special mortal souls at the price of one was if I asked him to help save Anna. Only in that way, he could descend into this world with his full prowess with the help of the devil merchant code and kill the semi-demigod chick to fulfill my desire. Ultimately allowing him to harvest her and my soul.

"Don't play dumb with me," Belphegor shouted

"Buddy, calm down. What's wrong? Tell big brother, what's troubling you,"

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## Chapter 1188 High Tension

[ 1,144 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"Big brother? Kid, are you mocking me?" The jet-black monster worm glared at me and an ominous aura covered my monster worm body.

"Was I not obvious enough?" I asked the devil with a scorn-filled gaze.

"How dare you a puny mortal look down on me," The ominous aura oozing out of the jet-black monster worm strengthened by a few folds.

"Shut the fuck up, Belphegor," I cussed Belphegor knowing that he could not hurt me since I knew his true name.

"..." the jet-black monster worm glared at me but did not dare to speak a word. But his glare spoke all he wanted to say.

"I bet you are regretting your choice to become a devil merchant right about now aren't you, Belphegor?" I taunted Belphegor.

"Regret? Kid, you still don't know what true regret is," Belphegor said grudgingly

"Woo..., I am so scared," I continued with my antics as I needed Belphegor railed up so that I could get him to do something stupid in a fit of rage.

"Fuck you, damned mortal, do you not care about that girl's life and death?" Belphegor cussed me and brought up Anna to remind me that I did not have enough time.

"I don't know, you tell me. After all, you are the devil. You must have sensed who all are in the surrounding by now, right? With so many people watching over her, she doesn't need me to save her," I bluffed. Hopefully, the devil will buy it.

My bluff wasn't without merit, I had heard the enemy demigod say that field marshal Heatsend would step in or something. Hearing the Heatsend name I knew that it was one of Anna's strong relatives. For some reason, this relative of Anna had not made a move yet but the devil did not know that. So I used this relative of Anna as a prop for my bluff. Optimistically, this prop was enough for the devil to buy my bluff.

"Kid, tell me the real reason behind why you summoned me?" Belphegor was aware of the powerful presence in his surroundings that could threaten him. But he was not worried as the devil merchant code would protect him as long as he abided by the rules.

"You tell me," I said, trying to sound mysterious. It was bugging me that I did not know how the devil knew that I summoned it to save Anna but now that I had tricked it into thinking otherwise, I felt a little better. And confirmed that the devil cannot read minds but it just made an educated guess based on clues in the surrounding. Especially the ring that my monster worm body had dawnd, if one were to carefully scrutinize it they

would realize that the ring did not belong to me but Anna. From there, it was easy speculation and assumption hoping that you got it right.

"I give up, you tell me what you want?" Belphegor gave up without even trying. It seems he was losing patience now that he was no longer in control of the conversation.

As a devil, Belphegor believes to think of himself as the smartest person anywhere he goes but now that he realized he wasn't Belphegor was losing patience.

Usually, those that summoned him would do so out of helplessness or greed but the one in front of him did not show either. Instead, this customer led him to believe that he was helpless and desperate to make a devil's pact, and used that sentiment to get him to reveal various information he would never share with a customer.

Fear, confusion, naivety, desperation, anger, revenge, helplessness, greed, lust, etc, these emotions were the elements Belphegor used to play with those that summoned him and trick them into selling their special mortal souls for nothing but today it was different, the customer that summoned him was using these elements to play with him, the devil.

Belphegor naively believed his customer was helpless and desperate to sign a devil's pact. Then was confused having learned that his customer was neither helpless nor disparate to sign a devil's pact.

The presence of two special mortal souls ignited greed in Belphegor's greedy heart. He would do anything or go to any lengths to own these two special mortal souls.

The mortal customer knew his true name along with that the presence of mortals that had neared transcendence raised fear in his dauntless mind.

This customer used his true name to treat him like an average servant and keep insulting him every chance he got, which enraged Belphegor and left him wanting to take revenge on this mortal.

For the first time, Belphegor felt regret, his pride as a devil had taken a huge hit being led by his nose by a customer.

He was embarrassed, he wanted to leave and send an army of demon worshipers to hunt this mortal down but he did not leave as his greed for two special mortal souls wouldn't let him do that.

All in all, Belphegor felt like his many victims, which only enraged and embarrassed him further. So much so that Belphegor started to fantasize about the various ways he would torture the special soul of this customer of his once he gets his hands on it.

"If you want to play like that then fine, have it your way," Seeing Belphegor show no resistance I knew he wanted to let me think I outsmarted him and reveal what I really wanted from him.

Therefore I looked straight into the beady eyes of the jet-black monster worm and said, "Let me start by telling you what you want. You want my special soul along with that semi-demigod chick's special soul. But you are not willing to pay the full price for both souls. You want to get them at the price of one or even less. That is where I come in, and why you keep bringing that girl up. You plan to use me to descend to this world and harvest both of our special souls. Feel free to correct me if I missed something."

"..." the jet-black monster worm looked away from my eyes, fearing they could read his mind.

"Belphegor, I said feel free to add anything I missed," I commanded Belphegor to answer me even though I knew that I could not use the devil's true name to force it to answer anything not related to trade because it did not matter to me as I did this as a power move.

"Kid, you seem to be forgetting who you are talking to," Belphegor thundered.

Ignoring the devil's fiery emotions I commanded it, "Belphegor, tell me the price for you to recommend me to become a demon merchant."

Earlier, I sidetracked a little to get the tensions high enough for me to get Belphegor to promise me what I wanted despite his sense of judgment telling him otherwise.

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[ 1,088 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"Alright, if you want my recommendation that badly then I will tell you the price. Two special mortal souls, not just any special mortal souls I want your and her souls, that's the price you will have to pay for my recommendation to devil merchant code for you to become a demon merchant," Belphegor answered me grudgingly, he seemed to be a little thrilled and looking forward to what I will say next.

"Belphegor, what are special mortal souls?" I asked looking at the devil with a sneer.

Now that the devil had asked special mortal souls in exchange for its recommendation it had made my questions relevant and related to trade, this way Belphegor had to answer my question to the best of his knowledge.

"..." the jet-black monster worm glared at me silently for a while and I did not rush it as I was enjoying its irritation. Afterward, it said, "Special mortal souls are mortal souls that have undergone enlightenment or mutation to gain unique abilities. When these special mortal souls enter the river of souls and step into the cycle of reincarnation, they can carry the unique abilities they had gained through enlightenment or mutation to their next life and other lives to come."

Listening to the explanation of the jet-black monster worm I understood what characterized a mortal soul as a special mortal soul. But I wondered if my soul was a special mortal soul even before I mutated it into a mutated soul with multiple consciousnesses. Since my soul had transmigrated to this world with no notable side effects I would like to believe that even if it did not meet the criteria to be a special mortal soul according to Belphegor's definition, it had something special about it.

They say we are born with nothing and die with nothing but the special mortal souls proved that saying wrong. So I felt good knowing that I will be able to carry my mutated soul to the next life if I have one.

Now I knew what a special soul was but I did not understand why these special souls were an attraction to the devil so much that it was willing to suffer such humiliation and embarrassment under a mortal's hand. I mean being able to be reborn with unique abilities was good and all but why does the devil care so much about it? What use does the devil have for these special mortal souls?

Speaking of people with special mortal physiques I knew three people who would fit this description, Corey, Clown Mask, and Cortney. I am not so sure about Clown Mask and Cortney but Corey definitely had a special mortal soul.

Wait, wasn't Corey park a demon in one of Corey's past life? Maybe I should talk to her about this. Hopefully, she will have the answers to my questions. Because as much as I would like to bicker with Belphegor and get the answers I wanted, I don't think Anna's body would be able to hold that long. So it was about time I commenced my plan.

"Belphegor, I don't feel that your recommendation is worth two special souls, especially not mine and her souls. How about a 1000 median quality soul jades? That sounds fair," I said pointing my monster worm head at the semi-demigod sneak attacking Anna non-stop.

"1000 median quality soul jades for a devil's recommendation to become a demon merchant, have you lost your mind? And you have the gals to call it fair," Belphegor

lashed out in rage, hearing the price his customer put forward he felt like the customer was shaming him.

"What about you, how is it any fair price to ask two special souls for a recommendation?" I snapped back at Belphegor.

"Fine, then, what do you think is the fair price for my recommendation to the devil merchant code to make you a demon merchant?" Belphegor let me decide the price for his recommendation.

"As if you would trade with me if I were to state the fair price," I said enunciating to the Belphegor that he only said this to check my bottom line and did not plan to make a trade with me.

This way Belphegor could deliberately state a price higher than my bottom line forcing me to take a loan with high-interest rates. In a fair trade, this practice would be called malpractice but the devil merchant code had no rules against this. This was why I said the devil merchant code favored the devil/demon merchants over the customers.

"Kid, in witness of the devil merchant code, I, Devil Belphegor, promise you that if the price you are willing to pay for my recommendation is fair, I will make this exchange right away," Belphegor said so because he felt that with the realm of his customer, he would not be able to fork out anything except his special mortal soul that would be considered as a fair exchange for his recommendation. If the customer were to exchange his special mortal soul then well and good, it aligned with his interest.

Was Belphegor not worried that his customer would be able to fork out something of value other than his special mortal soul? After all, it was wearing an SSS-rank item on its body. No, he was not because he knew this item did not belong to the customer but to his sponsor. And not to mention a devil's recommendation to the devil merchant code was worth a lot more than an SSS-rank item. Belphegor was confident that even his customer's sponsor wouldn't be able to come up with an item that would be considered a fair trade for his recommendation quota.

"Wait, what?" I was taken aback by Belphegor's sudden promise with the devil merchant code was a witness because for devil merchants this was similar and as serious as the card apprentice taking oath in witness of the world's will. Meaning if I were to come up with something fair in exchange for his recommendation, as long as I want him to, Belphegor would have to undergo the exchange.

Why would Belphegor do this to himself? Did he suddenly get cocky thinking that someone of my realm will not be able to get something of equal value in exchange for his recommendation for the devil merchant code to make me a demon merchant? If he did that then that would be a really dumb move for a devil but a lot easier for me to achieve my agenda.

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## Chapter 1190 Snobbish Devil

[ 1,147 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

I looked at the jet-black monster worm. Though I could not make out what expression it was making, it seemed like it was looking down on me. Unable to defeat me in the battle of wits and constrained by the devil merchant code from using its strength on me, the only way the devil could think of gaining the upper hand was by showing off its wealth. A little snobbish for a devil but I had left it no other option but to resort to this. Otherwise in what sane mind would the devil make a promise with the devil merchant code as a witness stating that it would conduct an exchange for its recommendation quota with me if I were to provide it something of fair value? Since when did the devil start to do fair trade?

But the devil was not wrong to think that I could not come up with a fair exchange for its devil merchant code recommendation quota. Though I had amassed a little fortune, I did not have high-level ingredients on me except for my share of phantom sword woods from Jill's plantation and a few broken runes however all of them put together were nowhere near to being considered a fair exchange for the devil's recommendation quota.

I was a card soldier, I never felt the need to have high-level ingredients. Even if I were to ever require one, I could always depend upon Anna. If you look at it this way, the devil's bet was right, except for my special mortal soul I did not have anything worth considering as a fair exchange for his recommendation.

",,, " looking at the silent monster worm, his customer, Belphegor felt as if a tiny fraction of his grievance against this customer of his was beginning to relieve but this wasn't enough, he wanted to taunt the customer but he never had to fight someone by showing off wealth because, in the dark realms, there was a wise saying,

'If you want to live long don't show off your wealth.'

Belphegor strongly believed in this saying. Just to show others that he was poor he would let his demon army starve for days and hold back their pay for months. Not to forget the unnecessary and unreasonable pay cuts, he did all this to show others that he was poor not because he was greedy. And now all of a sudden he was showing off his wealth to a monster worm, Belphegor was out of his element, he knew how to hoard wealth not how to act prodigal.

However, Belphegor was experiencing a new kind of feeling showing off his wealth, a feeling that he had not experienced while making use of his brain or brawns. He did not know how to explain this feeling but it felt good, especially since his strength and wit were of no use here.

"You must be really confident to have played this move," I said to the devil feeling its snobbish gaze look down on me. I am not going to lie, the devil's snobbish gaze bothered me. Be it this life or the past one, I always hated snobbish people. It was one of the reasons why I made sure to separate time from my research work to amass wealth.

"Kid, it is not that I am confident. But I know for a fact that only those that don't have anything else will choose to summon a devil merchant as a last resort to gain what they want in exchange for their life span, their soul, the souls of their loved ones, sacrificing innocent souls, etc," Belphegor spoke these words out of his ages of experience as a devil merchant.

"Well, fact or confidence, you will regret making a promise with the devil merchant code as a witness," I said having thought of what would be of fair value to exchange for the devil's recommendation quota.

"Hahaha, let me be the judge of that, just show what you got," Belphegor laughed out loud hearing the customer say he will make him regret his actions. If he had a soul jade for every time someone said this to him, by now he would be the wealthiest devil in the dark realms.

"How about a demigod soul that should be enough for your recommendation quota, right?" I had demigod Redfall's soul stored away in the calamity trap array that I specially created to trap his soul and had hidden him away in a heathen stone prison. I planned to exchange that for the devil's recommendation quota.

Due to my realm restrictions, I cannot use a demigod's soul but it would fetch me a lot in the black market and if I were to auction it, then it would definitely fetch me a big fortune. But there was a problem.

Redfall's soul was being tracked by Asong, and her goons so I hide it in Bloodette's dungeon to escape the tracking of the demigod Redfall's soul candle card created by his mother, Yin Widow, currently in possession of Asong.

With Asong and other related authorities tracking Redfall's soul, I could not use it for anything else. So it was in my best to sell it to the devil for his devil merchant code recommendation quota. Though I did not have it on me, I can give it to the devil at a later date.

"A demigod's soul?" Belphegor asked the monster worm in shock. Even before he could fully enjoy the joy of being a snob he was now experiencing the face-slapping of his life.

"Yes, a demigod's soul. To be accurate not just any demigod's soul but a demigod's soul that has been through the river of souls in the cycle of reincarnation. This will make it easier to refine the demigod's soul into an ingredient," I said earnestly.

Refining a demigod's soul into an ingredient was very difficult as the demigod's will in the soul would hinder the refining process but the once the soul has been through the river of souls, it would experience time erosion of the river of souls, making it easier to subdue the soul's demigod will and refine it. But fishing a soul out of a river of souls was not an easy task. No known successful attempts of having done that were noted so far. So a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls was a very rare commodity.

Interestingly, Demigod Redfall's soul wasn't in the river of souls for long enough to be affected by the time erosion of the river of souls, not to mention he had cultivated the bloodline meaning of the blood rule, so even after death his will would put up a good fight if anyone were to try and refine him but I forgot to tell these facts about Redfall's soul to the devil this details.

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## Chapter 1191 Breath Of Erosion

[ 997 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"No way you have a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls to use it for a trade," Belphegor did not believe the monster worm's words. He was not to be blamed, anybody in his place would have the same reaction. Who would believe that a low-level monster worm had a demigod's soul that had been in the river of souls?

"Yes, I do and I am willing to use my special mortal soul as collateral to bet on it," I did not hesitate to use my soul as collateral to prove to Belphegor that I was being serious. I had to because I did not have demigod Redfall's soul on me, it was locked away in Bloodette's dungeon.

"..." Belphegor looked at his monster worm customer in utter disbelief, what kind of low-level worm monster has a demigod's soul ready for a trade, let alone a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls? Belphegor was starting to doubt that this monster worm customer was not what he seemed. There may be more to him than he thought, he had seriously underestimated this monster worm.

A demigod's soul was a little shy of being called a fair trade for his recommendation but the fact that it had been to the river of souls changed that. Many think the souls that have been fished from the river of souls were rare and expensive because these souls were easier to refine. They were not wrong but that was not the complete truth.

The real reason why the souls that have been to the river of souls were considered rare and expensive was because of the breath of erosion on them. The breath of erosion could only be found in the souls that were in the river of souls. But this breath of erosion gets erased as the souls enter the cycle of reincarnation.

The souls with the breath of erosion were valued because there was a minimal chance that these souls could be refined into an item with the ability to erode everything. For example, rules, curses, the world's will, etc. Making the souls that have been fished out from the river of souls a very valuable rare commodity. But the power of this item was limited by the realm of the soul used to refine this item. However, a demigod realm soul with the breath of erosion could be used to create a mythical grade item, making its holder an unmatched existence.

To say that the demigod's soul that has been brought out of the river of souls was a fair exchange for the devil merchant code recommendation quota would be unfair because the demigod's soul that had been to the river of souls would fetch more than the devil merchant code recommendation quota.

"Do you really have a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls?" Belphegor asked the monster worm customer trying to mask his excitement. Yes, the chances of refining a soul with breath of erosion into an item with the ability of erosion were minimal but who would not want to try creating such an item? Besides, it would be worth more for Belphegor than the recommendation quota that he gets every decade.

"Yes," I nodded my monster worm head. But I was surprised to see that Belphegor showing signs to exchange his recommendation quota for the demigod's soul. This was unexpected, it seems I had underestimated the value of the demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls.

"Okay, then as promised let's trade now," Belphegor spoke nodding his jet-black monster worm head.

"Nope, you promised to trade, I didn't," I rejected Belphegor as my primary goal was not the devil merchant code recommendation quota but saving Anna.

"What? Did you not want my devil merchant code recommendation quota?" Belphegor asked the monster worm in surprise after being rejected by it.

"I do but I feel like a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls is worth more than your recommendation quota," I did not know why Belphegor seem to be enthused to get his hands on a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls but with it now I had enough leverage to get him to do my bidding.

"Kid, you are funny," Belphegor looked at me as if I was joking. Insinuating that I was a fool to think that my demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls was worth more than your recommendation quota.

"Belphegor, you can leave now," I used the devil's true name commanding it to return. The card's note said that I could not unequip the card until I had summoned the devil merchant once however it never said that I had to make any trade with the devil merchant. Usually, since the summoner doesn't know the devil's true name they cannot ask it to return after summoning it. Unfortunately for Belphegor, I knew his true name.

"Wait, fine, your demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls is worth more than your recommendation quota. Don't be like this, let's negotiate if you don't like the price," Belphegor, immediately compromised being commanded by the monster worm to return because he could not continue to act indifferent as he watched a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls and two special mortal souls slip from his grasp.

"No, I am not interested in negotiating but a bet, are you up for it?" I slowly made led the conversation to my agenda.

"A bet?" Belphegor asked me in confusion.

"Yes, a bet. If you win you get the demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls, my special mortal soul, and a chance to harvest her special mortal soul," I said pointing my worm head at the semi-demigod chick and then continued to add, "However, if you were to lose I get your devil merchant code recommendation quota."

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# Chapter 1192 Tricking The Devil

[ 1,005 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"No, I don't want to enter the bet," Belphegor rejected without a second of consideration after hearing the stakes of the bet. He was greedy, but not a fool. Just the thought of losing everything and not gaining anything scared Belphegor. Then shaking his jet-black monster worm head he said, "I made a promise to exchange for my recommendation quota if you offered a fair price so I will ask you once again, do you want to trade my devil merchant code recommendation quota for your demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls?"

"Wow, just like that, uh, you are not even going to consider that if you win the bet you will get everything you want without paying for it," I was surprised to see Belphegor not be swayed by the juicy winning stakes I offered to him and reject the bet. It seems I misread him, Belphegor was not just greedy but a hoarder. Someone like that would not take a risk of losing everything. It seems losing his wealth was what limited his greed. I seem to have not provoked him enough, now if only I could do something about that.

"Yes, no doubt. So are we doing this trade or should I just leave?" Belphegor asked the monster worm knowing if he stayed here any longer he may not be able to suppress his greed for the demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls and the two special mortal souls.

"Fine, let's trade, your devil merchant code recommendation quota for my demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls," I agreed to the trade with Belphegor having figured out just the thing that would provoke Belphegor enough to agree to my bet despite his better judgment.

"Good, I guess you do not have the demigod's soul on your person," Belphegor said knowing somebody of the monster worm's realm would prefer to stash something as valuable as the demigod's soul someplace than carry on person.

"Yes, I can get you the demigod's soul within a week until then let's sign a devil's pact with my special mortal soul as collateral. That should do right?" I did not have time to find Cortney and get the bonded storage card I stashed in Bloodette's dungeon seal therefore I planned to enter a devil's pact with Belphegor stating that I will pay him due demigod's soul that has been to the river souls within a week and if I fail to do so he can

come to collect my soul. Only this way would I be able to get my hands on Belphegor's recommendation quota right away.

"Good, will you draft the contract or shall I?" Belphegor would usually draft a crafty contract for his customers but today it was different, his customer was not only smart but also knew his true name. With devil merchant code watching there wasn't much room for Belphegor's tricks, not to forget even if he were to make the contract, the customer could always ask him to make some changes according to their concerns, making drafting a contact a troublesome chore so Belphegor decided to throw the paperwork to his customer.

"I have already drafted a contract using your true name, sign it and give me the recommendation quota," I said summoning my golden grimoire which had the contract drawn under both our true names. As for the witness, both the card world's will and devil merchant code were mentioned. And it had many other terms and agreements in line with the interest of both parties signing the trade contract. Such as no-return policies, customer and merchant safety policies, and other standard stuff. I really couldn't appreciate the Hive AI enough if not for it I could not read the original customer copy of the devil merchant codes or draft his solid contract within seconds.

"Everything seems fine," After going through the contract and finding no loopholes and flaws Belphegor was impressed by the monster worm's thoroughness as he signed it and then summoning a card he handed it to the monster worm saying "Here's your devil merchant code recommendation quota, Dalton Wyatt."

Taking the card from Belphegor, I went through its card info only to find that it was bonded to the name I used in the contract. It was a good thing that I did not use a false name otherwise, it would be a real embarrassment to be caught red-handed.

"See you in a week," Belphegor said preparing to leave but I interrupted him saying, "Belphegor, before you leave do you want to know how I got the demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls?"

Without waiting for Belphegor's answer, I began to narrate how I got my hands on demigod Redfall's soul omitting the obvious details but as soon as I said Bloodline Meaning of the Blood Rule, Belphegor immediately yelled interrupting me, "Bloodline Meaning, is that how this demigod soul was able to escape the river of souls and descend to this world?"

"Yes, is there a problem," I asked Belphegor with mockery apparent in my voice. I need to be as much as jerk I could be about this so that I can provoke Belphegor enough to go against his better judgment.

"You left this information on purpose, didn't you?" Belphegor was enraged, he was tricked by a mortal no less, he want to rip the damned monster worm apart even if he risked being penalized by the devil merchant code but the contract he signed had a very

strict customer safety policy that stopped him from doing so. As, if he were to breach it, what would await him was not a penalty from the devil merchant code but a death sentence.

"Belphegor, congrats on becoming the first devil merchant to be tricked by a mortal customer," I said looking at the jet-black monster worm whose black beady eyes had turned red out of rage and embarrassment it felt for being tricked.

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## Chapter 1193 Rage Before Reason

[ 1,097 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"Y-you, take that back," Belphegor yelled. He never in his dream thought that one day he would be outsmarted and tricked by a mortal customer.

All those that willingly summon a devil merchant because of their ambition think that they can trick the devil merchant but never succeed. But today one did. It was not that Belphegor never thought that the customer would try to outsmart him but he did and was especially on guard against this particular customer but still things somehow ended up this way.

Why he did not think there had to be a catch for someone with a low realm to have a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls? It was because before he could consider that the monster worm named Dalton Wyatt drew his thoughts toward himself using the ruse of a wager. Belphegor was too busy thinking about the agenda behind the monster worm proposing a wager and forgot to question the related details of the demigod's soul that the monster worm used to trade for his recommendation quota.

"Truth cannot be taken back or hidden, Belphegor," My voice could not be more condescending.

However, I was surprised by how angry Belphegor was getting, considering that he was a devil, it should be very difficult but not a problem for him to refine the demigod's soul

even though the bloodline meaning of the blood rule had kept its demigod will intact. I did not know what Belphegor's fuzz was about. Since it was working as per my plan I had no complaints.

"..." The Jet-black monster worm with blood-red beady eyes glared at the other monster worm in front of it wishing to rip its soul out and put it through all the torture known to the demonkind. But it did not act on its impulse and just stared at the monster worm.

The chances of creating a mythical item with the erosion ability using a demigod's soul that has been to the river of souls were already very low but to create it using a demigod's soul which had comprehended the Bloodline meaning of the Blood Rule was not possible. Because the Bloodline meaning of the blood rule suppressed the breath of erosion on the soul.

There was a reason why the powerful souls from the afterlife don't just skip reincarnation and directly come to the world of the living and possess a body they deem worthy of housing their souls. It was because of the breath of erosion tainting their soul.

Any kind of bodies the souls from the river of souls were to possess in the world of the living, these bodies would be, in time, eroded by the breath of the erosion tainting the souls. And the only way for the souls from the afterlife to relive was to go through the cycle of reincarnation, which could erase the breath of erosion tainting the souls from the river of souls.

So despite the breath of erosion tainting them how were the souls with bloodline meaning of the blood rule able to possess the body of their progeny? It was because the bloodline meaning would suppress the breath of erosion tainting the souls. This was why the souls with bloodline meaning possessed their progeny with the strongest bloodline, as stronger the bloodline easier it was for the soul to use it to suppress the breath of erosion tainting them.

This was also the reason why the souls that left the river of souls using the bloodline meaning prefer to possess their descendants and not anyone else. And also when possessing other bodies without their bloodline, the influence of the soul's bloodline would grow weaker and slowly the influence of the breath of erosion would grow stronger, in time, the new body of the soul will start to erode slowly until it turned into dust.

If one were to try and create a mythical item with the erosion ability using a demigod soul that has gotten out of the river of souls using the bloodline meaning of the blood rule then they would have to refine the soul and completely get rid of the bloodline meaning of blood rule within it and then they could use it to create the mythical item with erosion ability following the usual routine. But still, the chances of successfully creating the mythical item with erosion ability would be a lot lesser than then usual as the damage done by the bloodline meaning would not just vanish with it gone.

This was the reason why Belphegor was pissed at the monster worm named Dalton Wyatt. What was even worse about this situation was that Belphegor could not even claim that he was conned as the demigod's soul that had come out of the river of souls using the bloodline bridge of bloodline meaning of blood rule was still considered a fair trade for his devil merchant code recommendation quota.

"How long do you plan to keep staring, just leave already?" I said knowing that Belphegor would not leave willingly having eaten a loss. And I felt a little satisfied watching rage-filled Belphegor helplessly glare at me. However, right now all I cared about was that he was provoked enough to not listen to reason and act on his impulse.

"Are you still up for a wager?" Belphegor withdrew his glare and then suppressing his rage he brought up the wager that he rejected earlier. As he could not leave with the shame of being tricked by a mortal hanging on his head.

"No," I rejected Belphegor without a thought. I wanted him to beg me, knowing that he would not leave willingly having eaten a loss.

"Don't play hard to get, or else I will leave and make it my priority to think of ways to pay you back for today," Belphegor threatened me to accept his wager or become his enemy for eternity.

"Fine, since you are deciding the stakes of the wager I get to decide what we wager on. Otherwise, I don't mind adding a devil to my list of enemies," I demand.

"Okay. I, Devil Merchant Belphegor, promise you in the presence of devil merchant code," Belphegor agreed to my demand immediately without even thinking twice as if he was worried I would back out of the wager.

"..." I looked at Belphegor not knowing how his promise in the presence of devil merchant code would stop me from backing out of the wager. Forcing me to conclude that Belphegor had lost it, he was no longer acting on reason but rage.

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## Chapter 1194 Out For Blood

[ 1,197 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

Belphegor promised in the presence of the devil merchant code that I would get to decide on what we wager on but that did not mean that I had full control to decide on a wager that hugely favored me. It only meant that I had the final say on what the wager would be. That was, I and Belpher would come up with ideas for a wager and the deciding vote would be cast by me.

Belphegor could always call off the wager and I would only get to decide on what to wager if there was a wager, so for there to be a wager I had to be fair on what to wager on such that Belphegor doesn't call off the wager feeling that I did not plan to play fair from the start. If Belphegor cancels the wager because I was making the wager unfair, I will not only be able to achieve my agenda but also increase Belphegor's hatred towards me. Therefore I had to make the wager we decide on look fair.

Interesting how things turned out, a devil negotiating for a fair wager. However, I had no idea what Belphegor planned to get out of this. Though I can see that he had lost his sense of reason and was acting out of pure rage and pride, I did not underestimate him. After all, he was a devil. Therefore, I carefully considered my words deciding to keep them short and straight to the point. But first, "Belphegor, why don't you tell me what the stakes are going to be?"

"The stakes for the wager are obvious, don't you think so?" Belphegor argued.

"Belphegor, why don't you repeat them for me," I stressed.

"The demigod soul you are supposed to give me for the recommendation quota I gave you along with your soul and her soul," Belphegor said pointing his jet-black worm head at the semi-demigod chick.

"About that, I have no use for the demigod's soul," Redfall's soul was being tracked by related authorities and for my current realm I had zero use for it. On the other hand, the devil merchant code recommendation quota had a lot of prospects for me. These stakes made no sense.

"Dalton Wyatt, don't push it," Belphegor warned with a deep voice.

"You are pushing it. Leave if you want to, many powerful people are conspiring against me, and another devil will not make a difference," The stakes were truly unfair, no way I could agree to them unless I stood to gain something.

"These are the stakes and you have to agree to them. Did I not agree to you deciding what we wager on?" Belphegor threatened as his blood-red beady eyes almost bulged out of their sockets by staring too hard at me.

For Belphegor, the demigod's soul he got in exchange for his recommendation quota was the symbol of his shame. The shame of having been outsmarted and tricked by a mortal. He wanted to wash this shame of his away by making use of the wager, for that to happen the stakes of the wager had to be the demigod soul he received for his recommendation quota along with two special mortal souls. For Belphegor, this wager was the only shot at redeeming his pride as a devil merchant, he wanted its stake to be as he stated real bad. If the stakes of the wager were to be any different then it would not be worth it for him to enter the wager so he went as far as to make empty threats to get the stakes of the wager to be as he stated.

"You did agree to let me decide on what we wager on but the stakes are unfair, I would a fool to agree to them," I was trying to enunciate that if Belphegor gets to decide unfair stakes for the wager then I should get to decide on a wager that favored me. Seeing how badly Belphegor wanted this I thought I could get him to give me some handicap when we agree on what to wager on.

"..." Belphegor went silent hearing the monster worm named Dalton Wyatt. Belphegor knew the stakes were unfair and the monster worm did not have any reason to agree to them but this did not mean he would agree to wager on something with unfavorable odds staked against him. Then there would be no point to this wager, he entered this wager to wash his shame not to add to his shame. Therefore after thinking it through for a while he spoke, "You summoned me to act as the knight in shining armor for that damsel in distress, right? what if we wager on that?"

Listening to the devil I was surprised, his deduction was not off, it seems I was right not to underestimate Belphegor, he seems to be in full control of his element now. To wash away the stain of shame on his pride, he has put a lot of thought into his words and action. Despite his deduction being on spot I decided to act ignorant, "I don't kn...."

Without even waiting for me to finish my sentence Belphegor interrupted me saying, "Dalton Wyatt before you lie that there are other people here to protect her, let me tell you, at first I did not see it but now seeing how nobody has come to her rescue so far it is clear as day that another conspiracy is afoot here causing her guardian unable to help her. So it is in your best interest that you listen to what I have to offer, then it is your choice whether you continue to feign ignorance."

My beady black monster worm eyes widened hearing Belphegor, yep, he was out for blood. So I decided to pause my play and listen to what he had to offer for now, "I am listening."

"I will lend you seventy percent of my power for five minutes, which would be enough to rise your realm to that of a regular demigod in your world. Using that strength if you can rescue your damsel and kill her assaulter within five minutes time limit, you win the wager if not, then it is my win.

Of course, it is given that you cannot use external help, if you do then I will win the wager by default. And if I were to win, I will descend in your body harvest that the assaulter's soul, the recommendation quota in your possession, then give you a day to fetch the demigod soul you owe me and generously give you a little time to say goodbye to your girl. 24hrs later, I will come to collect my remaining winnings. What do you say?" Belphegor put forward his offer and before I could answer he added, "Dalton Wyatt before you answer me, you should know that I won't be this generous the second time. If you reject me now, you will have to live knowing that you had the chance to save your girl but you did not."

"..."

"Dalton Wyatt, What will it be? You are running out of time."

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## Chapter 1195 Belphegor's Trap

[ 1,086 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

I was surprised to learn that it only took seventy percent of Belphegor's original power to temporarily boost my realm to that of a regular demigod of this world. I guess the devils were more powerful than the Demigods of this world.

What surprised me, even more, was that Belphegor had stated everything I wanted to ask of him to wager on except for the time limit and killing the semi-demigod chick. It was as if he had read my mind and crafted the perfect wager that I could not deny. Not to mention the ticking time, Anna seems to be in bad shape. This had to be concluded now.

But there were two problems, the five minutes time limit and killing the semi-demigod chick. Even if I were to agree to the time limit, killing the semi-demigod chick was not an option. Because I had a feeling that if I killed the semi-demigod chick borrowing the devil's power her special mortal soul would be dragged to hell by the devil. Considering that the semi-demigod's ability was like a doorway to this world's will, if I were to let the

devil have her soul I would be the greatest sinner of this world if the devil were to use her soul to invade this world. This condition of the devil I could not agree with no matter what.

Other than that it was really interesting how Belphegor was not only forcing his stakes for the wager on me but also what we should wager about. I was right to be cautious about not revealing my intentions to Belphegor right away. Not that it was of any help, Belphegor still deduced the real reason I summoned him and was now using it and slipping time to put me on the spot and force me to accept the wager and its stakes he decided on. Proving that he was a devil merchant.

"Belphegor, I can agree to the wager you proposed but you will have to remove the time limit and change the condition of killing the assaulter to defeating the assaulter. You and I both know why I will not kill her using the powers borrowed from you," I said using a deep voice implying that I was dead serious about these changes to the wager Belphegor proposed.

"Fine, you don't have to kill the girl with the special mortal soul just defeating her will do. But the time limit stays, it helps avoid possible loopholes that either of us can use to our advantage. However, are you sure about not killing her? After all, she did assault your girl," Belphegor accepted one of my suggested changes while provoking me into sabotaging the change I suggested.

"There are many things worse than death, she will pay for her crimes," I argued and then asked, "Shall I draft the contract for the wager?"

"No, I have already drafted it, sign it at your convenience," Belphegor said summoning two monster skin parchments.

"..." Taking the monster skin parchment from Belphegor I went through the contract he drafted trying to find any possible land mines and suggest a few terms and conditions.

I was not surprised that Belphegor did not agree to remove the time limit, as he said the time limit helped eliminate the many possible loopholes either of us could misuse but I still stated it to him so that I had more leverage to force him to change the condition of killing the semi-demigod chick to defeating her.

Seeing the monster worm go through the contract and suggest terms and conditions be added Belphegor was not annoyed because he knew he was going to win the wager and wash the shame the mortal had brought upon him. Was Belphegor being overconfident? Nah. At the first glance, the wager seems fair or even favoring the other party by giving him the strength of a demigod to fight a semi-demigod but in reality, it was not fair. It was set up such that the monster worm would lose.

Why did Belphegor feel that the monster worm would lose against a semi-demigod despite having the strength of a demigod? That was because in this world having the

higher realm did not guarantee a win, especially if you do not have the realm-appropriate cards to fight your battle.

Though Belphegor was lending his powers to the monster worm to boost its realm to that of a demigod. The monster worm did not have demigod realm cards or abilities to help with its battle when its opponent not only had a strong physique that allowed her to fight and defeat the enemies of the higher realm but she had a complete set of high-tier cards tailored for her realm and her fighting style. Just relying on her legendary physique the girl was able to kill demigods with her semi-demigod realm, together with her legendary physique and legendary card set, she will be easily able to defeat the monster worm whose realm was boosted to the demigod realm.

Yes, Belphegor had not forgotten to consider that the monster worm was not what it seemed. It was able to summon a golden grimoire meaning it was a card apprentice in disguise. It must have a powerful physique considering that it was a special mortal soul, and maybe the realm boost was all it needed to defeat the semi-demigod. Therefore, as a contingency, he had placed a five-minute time limit for the monster worm to defeat the semi-demigod. After a lot of calculations, Belphegor had concluded that no matter how strong the monster worm's physique was, the semi-demigod with her legendary physique and legendary card set would be able to last more than five minutes under the monster worm's attacks.

Above all, just because the monster worm's realm was boosted to the demigod realm, did not mean that it would have full control over its strength not to mention it would not have divinity the real source of strength of a demigod. The chances of the monster worm winning were very low. Belphegor had put a lot of thought into this wager to make sure of it. As this wager was about his pride as a devil merchant, no mistakes were allowed this time.

"There, I signed it," I said while keeping my copy of the contract and handing Belphegor his copy. Soon I felt an unknown energy filling my body and temporarily rising my active soul control percentage to the demigod realm.

"Your five minutes begin now."

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## Chapter 1196 So It Begins

[ 1,010 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

"So, who are you?" I asked the semi-demigod chick, tired of addressing her as the semi-demigod chick.

"Agent Lois Forger, Secret Police, the last name you will hear in this world," Lois said trying to sound cool, after hearing the boy call himself her death, she thought she too should give a cool introduction.

"Sure, Agent Lois Forger from the secret police," I acknowledged the opponent and then asked, "Before we begin I have to ask, Do you admit defeat?"

"No," Lois gave me a look as if asking me if I was for real.

"Cool, but remember, during any point of our fight you can admit defeat and surrender," I was being serious when I asked Lois if she admitted defeat. My wager with the devil had two conditions that weren't definitive so I had to add terms and conditions to the contract to make them definitive.

The two conditions I speak of were,

- Defeating Agent Lois Forger.

What constituted defeating Agent Lois could vary depending from person to person, therefore I set a few ground rules to define defeating Agent Lois, and Lois admitting defeat was one of them, the other was her being rendered unable to fight and the last one was trapping her. I wanted to add her fleeing as her defeat too but Belphegor did not agree to it, saying that being able to flee would be considered her capability. So defeating Lois was either rendering her unable to fight or her surrendering or trapping her.

- Use of external help to defeat Lois would lead to Belphegor winning by default.

What constituted external help? This one was tricky. It was given that involvement of a third party would be considered external help but what about using soul jades, broken runes, other energy sources, or borrowed items like the dummy ring, was it considered external help? Fortunately, Belphegor and I came to an understanding that the use of everything I had on me while signing the contract would not be considered external help. Making it so that Anna's ring which was on me the whole time would not be considered external help.

Now that I had informed Lois that she had the option of surrendering, I then wondered if I could trap her but her legendary physique's teleportation-like technique made it near impossible to trap her. Leaving me with the only option, beating Lois senseless within what remains of the five minutes.

"Sure, but you too remember, surrender is not an option for you. My orders are clear, to kill you," Lois felt that the boy was taunting her so she too practiced it.

"Cold, but cool, I don't blame you. You, salary slaves, have to do whatever your masters ask of you," This time I meant to taunt Lois but my taunt was weak.

However, it achieved its purpose, as, soon Lois vanished from my field of vision and I felt her presence in my spiritual channel. Then suddenly she appeared in front of me to stab her sword in my heart but before she could do that my two heads and pairs of arms floating behind me instantly appeared behind Lois preparing to restrain her but before that could happen, Lois, vanished once again.

'If you see me, I see you.' this was one of the abilities of my Gigamite physique which allowed me to instantly pinpoint people spying on me. The way this worked was if the target was watching me then my floating heads and arms would teleport behind them, restraining them for me. But the use of this ability was not limited to catching peeping Toms but also helped me avoid any possible sneak attacks on me. As long as the assassin sees me they were doomed to fail. Making it a bane of Lois's mysterious teleportation-like trick.

Though this ability of Gigamite saved me from Lois's sneak attacks, they were not able to teleport to where ever Lois vanished. It seems when Lois vanished she would go into a different space, my money was in the middle section of Lois's spiritual channel. Since she could appear in the middle section of my spiritual channel then she could also travel to the middle section of her spiritual channel.

I was so sure of this because when Lois vanishes, to normal eyes Lois was completely gone but to my soul pupils I could see the end of her spiritual channel that was in the physical plane. And also because the midsection was in between the physical plane and the spiritual plane, a separate space where my floating heads and arms could not follow her.

Right now my top priority was not defeating Lois but figuring out how I can stop Lois from vanishing and escaping into the mid-section of her spiritual channel. Because as long as Lois kept vanishing into the mid-section of her spiritual channel, I will never be able to defeat her within the time limit. I had to figure out a solution for this if I planned to defeat Lois.

But for me to do just that, I needed more data, therefore I provoked Lois into using her teleportation-like trick. As long as I figured out how her physique allowed her to move into her spiritual channel, I could always think of a way to stop her from doing so.

So I made use of my soul pupils and Hive AI to record every little change in Lois's soul pathways and arrangements. Not just Lois but the soul pathways surrounding her too just to be thorough as I had no idea how Lois was able to move in and out of the spiritual channel.

As much as I hate to admit this, for now like Anna I too was limited to defending against Lois's sneak attack but I faired a lot better than Anna against Lois's sneak attacks as Lois did not manage to land a single blow on me so far, my floating heads and arms made sure of it. But I did manage to get tonnes of data on Lois's mysterious ability.

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## Chapter 1197 Prediction Type Ability

[ 1,072 words ]

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Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

While my Hive AI was busy collecting data and my slave consciousnesses were busy fending off Lois's sneak attack. I was busy trying to figure out how to attack Lois's spiritual channel's end in the physical plane. So far I have concluded that it was intangible to physical and soul energy attacks. Now all that was left were mental strength and rule power. Since my arsenal of mental strength attacks was near to none, I decided to use the blood rule power, especially the blood fate plunderer meaning.

But there was a problem, since my floating heads and arms were able to ward off her sneak attacks Lois had increased the intensity of her sneak attacks. So much so that there was barely any interval between her next sneak attack. My floating heads and hands were able to keep up with her but the problem was that I could barely manage to spot the physical plane end of her spiritual channel. Thank's to the ability 'If you see me I can see you' my slave conscious had caught up with Lois's random teleportation but I did not have that luxury.

Fortunately, I had demigod Micheal Angelo Godsend's insight forecast skill which helped me predict where Lois would vanish and appear, allowing me to pinpoint the

location of the physical plane end of her spiritual channel. Though now I was able to pinpoint the locations, the time window for the physical plane end of Lois's spiritual channel to be present in one spot was very short.

But thanks to my newfound powers the reaction speed of my Gigamite physique had raised to a never imagined level and along with insight forecast, I began to bombard the spots where the physical plane end of Lois's spiritual channel appeared like playing the game whack-a-mole. Soon I came to realize that physical attacks combined with rule power were also not able to hurt the physical plane end of Lois's spiritual channel.

Now I was left with mental strength alone, but I had never used my mental strength as an offense. So I decided to use my mental strength to try and invade the physical plane end of her spiritual channel, just like Lois tried to invade mine. The only difference was that Lois tried to invade my spiritual channel through the spiritual plane but I was going to invade her spiritual channel through the physical plane.

Preparing my mental strength, I immediately used it to invade the physical plane end of Lois's spiritual channel as soon as it appeared but something amazing happened when my mental strength invaded Lois's spiritual channel's end in the physical plane, my consciousness too was dragged into Lois's spiritual channel's end in the physical plane.

...

"... Slave..." Lois saw the boy try and taunt her but all she heard was the word slave. Considering her upbringing this word was taboo for her.

Everyone in the organization thought that the Masters favored Lois and she was the organization's unspoken princess but only she knew that all the masters saw in her was a tool, a slave, that would come in handy in continuing their regime over the five regions. So the word Slave was Lois's taboo, and despite the boy's weak taunt she instantly got provoked having heard it, and started to unleash her barrage of sneak attacks on the boy.

However, to no avail, none of her attacks managed to reach their target, they all were interrupted in middle by the target's weird defense's counterattacks. For some reason, despite the randomness of her attack, the boy's defense was able to keep up with all her sneak attacks and counterattack her. This was just chilling, the boy's defense didn't just defend against a sneak attack but also counter-attacked a sneak attack. Lois did not think anybody under transcendence could actually do that to her. And also the boy was proving to be a more troublesome enemy than the fusion southern emperor in terms of defense.

Having failed numerous times, Lois was nowhere near giving up on sneak attacking the boy. She was just getting started. After the first round of her attacks, Lois decided to increase the speed and randomness of her sneak attacks. She did not believe that the boy's mysterious defense would be able to keep up with her speed and counterattack

her. All she needed was to land one attack on the opponent with her god-slayer sword, and it would mark the end of the boy, as she believed the sword of hers which could pierce through the defense of the transcended beings would not have trouble piercing the defense of someone who was fighting her using borrow power.

Though the boy's realm had grown to the demigod realm, Lois did not take him seriously, not even as seriously as regular demigods because a regular demigod had divinity that could hurt her but this boy had not formed his divinity yet. He was like a battery that had the energy of the demigod realm but no equipment to use it with i.e cards to use his newfound energy. If not for his troublesome physique with the mysterious ability she would have already killed him and be on her way home.

However, to Lois's surprise, her second round of sneak attacks was also countered by the boy's mysterious physique. Yes, the boy's defense was able to keep up with the speed of her sneak attacks regardless of the randomness behind her attacks what was more shocking was that they were still able to counter-attack her sneak attack at an unimaginable speed.

Lois was without words she could understand the boy's defense being able to outdo the speed of her sneak attacks but how were they able to keep up with the randomness of her sneak attacks? It was as if they could predict where her next attack could come from. The first time, it was luck, the second time, it was a coincidence, what about the third time and the numerous other times? The boy definitely had an ability related to prediction. Lois could only come to this conclusion as the result of the boy successfully warding off her second round of sneak attacks.

Now that Lois had concluded that the boy had prediction-type ability she wanted to give up on sneak attacking the boy but she suddenly felt a presence at the physical plane end of her spiritual channel.

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## Chapter 1198 Mental Strength

[ 1,005 words ]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- 04:15

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Outskirts

Lois who was about to put an end to her second round of sneak attacks on the boy suddenly felt a presence in her spiritual channel's end that ended in the physical plane, this presence was no stranger to Lois, she instantly knew who had invaded her spiritual channel, it was her target of assassination. Lois's mental strength immediately made its way from the mid-section of her spiritual channel to its end in the physical plane to expel the boy's mental strength from her spiritual channel while wondering how the boy was able to enter her spiritual channel from the physical plane.

Lois was able to see other people's spiritual channel's within her range thanks to her physique but even she would have difficulties invading others' spiritual channels using her mental strength through the physical plane. That was because usually, the physical plane end of the spiritual channel of a card apprentice was protected by their ego gem and their flesh and blood. Even if Lois had her body compressed and moved into the midsection of her spiritual channel and left its end in the physical plane unguarded, it should be impossible for anyone to see the end of the spiritual channel in the physical plane using naked eye, be it a card demigod. But the boy was somehow not only able to spot her spiritual channel but also invade it using his mental strength.

During her contemplation, Lois remembered the boy's origin card mentioned in his files, Aura Sight. Was the boy able to spot her spiritual channel in the physical plane because of his origin card? Lois wondered if it was possible but that was unheard of, however, considering that the boy's realm was boosted it was possible the boy's origin card must be showing its true potential.

"Lois, you did not have to come all this way to receive me, I was headed your way," I said feeling Lois's mental strength approach me from deep within her spiritual channel.

"Get the fuck out," the mental strength with Lois's energy signature took the shape of Lois's physical body forming a specter of Lois, and then yelled.

Learning from Lois's use of her mental strength, I morphed my mental strength to take the shape of my physical body, forming a mental strength specter of myself. Buy my specter was not as well defined as Lois's specter. Fortunately, I had an AI to make up for some of the areas where I lacked. And my specter looked like an exact replica of my physical body shape. Then I used my specter body to float toward Lois's mental strength specter saying, "Lois, that is not how you should greet your guest, did your parents not teach you any better?"

"I am going to make you regret being born," Lois's specter yelled.

Being kidnapped from her mother by the empire and then being raised as a tool by the organization behind the current government, Lois was very sensitive about her parents. So hearing the boy say her parents did not teach her any manners, Lois was pissed off and vowed to only rest after killing the boy.

So she encased her specter into a huge cone, which began spinning. Lois had formed a makeshift drill machine out of her mental strength and launched it at me guided by her specter.

Seeing the incoming huge spinning drill made of mental strength, following Lois's example and a little help from my AI I encased myself into a diamond formed from my mental strength.

If it were the regular world a regular drill would never be able to dig into a diamond but it wasn't, neither were the drill and the diamond regular, they were made out of mental strength. When the two mental strengths clashed it all came down to the difference between their power. Lois being a semi-demigod and me being a temporary demigod, the difference in our mental strength was not much, so the result of the clash was not obvious. Apart from the difference in the power of the two clashing mental strengths the technique of how two mental strengths were used and applied mattered the most, mostly when the difference between the two mental strengths clashing was too little to be a deciding factor.

The difference in the power behind Lois and my mental strengths being very little despite the obvious difference in our realms was because of various reasons and two of them were Lois's legendary physique and that my powers were borrowed. Still, my mental strength was four times stronger than any regular mental strength thanks to my mutated soul, therefore under Lois's tyrannical mental strength my mental strength was able to hold its ground with its temporary boost. Adding to that morphing my mental strength into a diamond down to the covalent structure of its atoms, helped.

When Lois's mental strength drill clashed with my diamond-shaped mental strength, we came to stand still until Lois's drill broke down and her mental strength scattered.

From this ordeal, I came to learn a new application of mental strength, though it was not polished, all I needed was more practice however with the assistance of my AI I think I have an incredible advantage in fights using mental strength.

During the clash of my mental strength with Lois's mental strength, I learned despite gaining the Devil's power and the four times boost of the mutated soul my mental strength fell short against the strength of Lois's mental strength. But thankfully the little shortcoming was made up by our technique of using and applying our mental strength.

The diamond I had formed using my mental strength resembled a diamond down to its atomic structure but Lois's drill was just her mental strength coming together to take the form of a cone that could spin, though Lois's mental strength was concentrated at the tip of the drill, it still was just an origami of a drill made using mental strength but not an actual drill made using mental strength.

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