

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 120: Fall - Read

Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 120: Fall

Chapter 120: Fall

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:02

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, East Wing, Family Arena

Just when everyone thought Pax was sitting ducks waiting for the inevitable, suddenly a pair of mechanical angel wings popped up on the back of the golem and it took flight the next second.

The appearance of the wings was another shock to the audience especially the demigod worshipers, they all started to express their faith in different ways some knelt some bowed while some prayed, all in all, they firmly started to believe that Pax was the messenger of the demigod Micheal Angelo.

Paul, who thought that he had already won was dealt with a heavy emotional blow seeing the golem grow a pair of wings and take flight. Now he started to blame himself for relaxing his guard, seeing the golem immobile and allowing it to escape. This way the field card white dwarf sun terra was useless no... gritting his teeth he thought out loud, "I thought of saving this but now I have no choice left."

"Field card: White Dwarf sun core"

...

[Caution: Iron Flesh is experiencing an imbalance due to the unresponsive arms and legs... current flight condition can only be maintained for 3 minutes maximum..]

[Caution: Due to imbalance and unstable flight accuracy of Iron Flesh has reduced by 66%...]

Hearing this prompt Pax did not think much and activated two cards at the same time, "Skill card: Feather Weight, Skill card: Float"

[Card Name: Feather Weight

Card Type: Field Card (active)

Card Rank: C-rank, uncommon

Card Rating: 21-stars

Card Durability: [81/100]

Card Effect: when activated the target will gain the weight of a feather for 45 seconds, regardless of its mass.

Additional Effect: lesser Wind resistance.

Cooldown Time: 60 seconds]

[Card Name: Float

Card Type: Field Card (active)

Card Rank: C-rank, uncommon

Card Rating: 24-stars

Card Durability: [82/100]

Card Effect: when activated the target will float for 30 seconds regardless of its mass.

Additional Effect: Lesser Wind resistance

Cooldown Time; 85 seconds.]

There was a reason why Pax chose these two particular Cards even though they had such bad Card star rating and Card active period for a C-rank card, it was because of their additional effect lesser wind resistance and mostly because of the phrase 'Regardless of target Mass'.

There are many featherweight and float cards in the market with better Card star rating and Card active period with amazing card effect but they all were useless for something weighing 20 tonnes.

Pax was a marksman and being restricted to an open plain arena was a disadvantage for him so he had planned to make use of Iron Flesh's aerial system and gain distance from Paul by taking the battle to the boundless sky and bombard Paul with all the artillery power of Iron Flesh finishing the duel in flash.

As the two cards activated Iron Flesh became weightless making it easier for the Iron flesh aerial system to manoeuvre Iron Flesh more effectively and its flight became more stable reducing the error rate in Iron Flesh's accuracy.

“Activate Weapon system, lock primary target Paul, Priority level: Elimination.” Ordered Pax to Iron Flesh’s A.I

[Activating Weapon system...

Left shoulder-mounted laser cannon Online...

Right shoulder-mounted Gatling machine gun online...

Twin upper wrist-mounted laser cannons not responding...

Twin under wrist hidden laser blades not responding...

Hidden fusion chest Gatling cannon online...

Activating A.I base aiming system...

Calculating accuracy rate...

Accuracy rate 98% Error margin 2%...

Note: Error margin can be reduced by reducing the distance between mark.

Locking Target on Paul...

Accuracy rate 99.12% Error margin 0.88%...

Awaiting further command...]

Seeing that everything was set Pax was going to open fire on Paul but suddenly numerous prompts sounded in his head,

[Caution: Iron Flesh losing height....

Note: change in gravitational field detected...

Correction! Accuracy rate 97.12% Error margin 2.88%...

Correction! Accuracy rate 95.22% Error margin 4.78%...

.

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Correction! Accuracy rate 89.12% Error margin 12.88%...

Recommended: switch to manual aiming...]

...

“Field card: White Dwarf sun core”

[Card Name: White Dwarf sun core

Card Type: Field Card (active)

Card Rank: C-rank, uncommon

Card Rating: 49-stars

Card Durability: [82/100]

Card Effect: when activated 300 meters of land surrounding the host will exhibit the 1/3rd of White Dwarf sun gravitational field for 30 sec

Additional Effect: The host is immune to the card effect.

Restriction: can only be used along with Field card: White Dwarf sun terra.

Cooldown Time: 85 seconds.]

Once the White Dwarf sun core field card was activated the arena had completely turned into a White Dwarf sun, though the card info read it only displayed 1/3rd of the original White Dwarf sun core but once superimposed with White Dwarf sun terra this restriction was no longer valid.

The temperature in the field once again jumped to 10,800 Kelvin's also this time around there was another surprise the gravity of the arena increased by 50 fold affecting the Iron Flesh's flight and making it lose height rapidly.

It was basic science that weight was the product of the mass of an object and gravity. So the weight of a feather changes with the gravity applied to it, so the feather will fall faster on the surface of a White Dwarf sun compared to the surface of the planet. So a feather will fall a little faster on the surface of a White Dwarf sun compared to the surface of the planet, so Iron Flesh was losing height but it was comparatively slower than falling under its actual weight. As for the float skill card, it was useless and invalid as it was not made for the gravity of the White Dwarf sun.

Because of this even though the Iron Flesh was under the card effect of featherweight and float it still fell to the ground faster than before and rapidly lost height comprising its automated aiming system.

...

Once the White Dwarf sun core field card was activated the arena had turned into small white Dwarf sun and the A-rank barrier surrounding it began to show signs of a breach. So the elites of the Whiteburn family stepped up to enhance the barrier so that it can withstand the thermal energy of a White Dwarf sun.

Seeing Paul's ace and hidden card the crowd gasped in astonishment and started to whisper,

'Wasn't Paul supposed to be the black sheep of the Whiteburn's.'

'Black sheep, more like a wolf in sheepskin.'

'Exactly! though he is shameless to use the loophole in the rules of deathmatch, when it comes to life and death I will rather choose to be shameless than dead.'

'Yep, same here I would rather be a shameless person than a cold corpse."

'But I feel pity for Pax though..'

'Shut up you heretic with Demigod watching over him nothing will happen to our messenger...'

'Fuck off, you damned religious nut...'

'Yes! Who allowed this religious frantic inside... throw him out...'

'Forget about that mutt! Witness the legendary fall of a genius... not every day do you get to see a brother kill brother in an arena and the fall of a genius. This is so worth it.'

'A 16-year-old card soldier fuck! At that age, I was still picking my nose'

'Forget about 16 years old, I am 33 now and still not a card soldier...'

'To think a talent like that will fall here today, such a loss.'

'Doesn't the Whiteburn family care losing such talent and genius over a small dispute?'

'You new to the city buddy, haven't you heard the saying in the Whiteburn family... genius come and go only tough people last.'

‘Genius come and go only tough people last... Interesting but only a barbarian would say that!’

‘Whiteburn family is a barbaric family...’

‘If only such genius was born in my family... sigh! This world is so unfair...’

While the crowd buzzed excitedly watching the Iron flesh slowly crash to its demise... the Whiteburn twins were at their wit’s end. The Iron Flesh was in worse condition once it falls to the ground it may be the end. By luck even if the Iron Flesh survives... losing both of its arms and legs it was just a defenceless turtle on its back waiting to melt or be roasted to death under the temperature of the white dwarf sun.

...

While everyone thought the end was nearing, Pax who was inside the Iron flesh commanded, “switch to manual aiming system”

[Switching to manual aiming mode...

Switching to manual triggering mode...]

Being a trained marksman the current situation was not a challenge for Pax but unfortunately, he could not test the capabilities of Iron Flesh’s automated aiming system.

Anyway utilizing insight forecast to its maximum Pax aimed at Paul as the Iron Flesh slowly fell to the ground...

Thanks to the insight forecast Pax was able to guess all the error and the escape routes of Paul from the area under fire, allowing Pax to prepare the contingency plans, hopefully, which he would not have to use...

With that Pax fired at Paul and suddenly within 0.01 seconds the Left shoulder-mounted laser cannon and Right shoulder-mounted Gatling machine gun popped out of Iron Flesh’s back... While the Iron Flesh’s cheat armour retracted showing the Hidden fusion chest Gatling cannon and started to open fire without any delay or gap....

Left shoulder-mounted laser cannon fired a continuous laser beam and the Right shoulder-mounted Gatling machine gun fired a total of 230 energy bullets per second at Paul while the Hidden fusion chest Gatling laser cannon fired 6 continuous laser beams which due to the spin of the Gatling mechanism of the Gatling laser cannon formed a laser beam drill... Together they blasted aiming at Paul and the smoke along with burnt smell filled the arena... Leaving the crowd blind and hungry for the results...

Chapter 121: Elder

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:03

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, East Wing, Family Arena

Seeing the Humongous golem slowly lose height and fall under the gravity of the White Dwarf sun core field card Paul had a satisfied grin on his face...

Paul was a 23-year-old Card soldier with an active soul control of 38% not that far from stepping into the card master realm but 2% difference may seem less only Paul knew considering his talent and without any external help, he would be lucky if he broke through to card master realm within a year or two. Being born average in a family where talents are dime a dozen Paul had a serious and twisted inferiority complex, the only way he knew to deal with it was to gain strength no matter the cost... So when opportunity knocked on his doorstep he did not hesitate, as long as he got stronger he did not give a damn even if he had to screw over the progeny of the family head.

Paul had 76-stars available at the hand of which Field card White Dwarf Sun Terra occupied 7-stars, Trap card Nine White Dwarf Sun occupied 9-stars and Field card White Dwarf Sun Core occupied 49-stars and the remaining 11-stars remained a mystery and yet to be revealed. Seeing the arrangement of Paul's cards one could tell that he had bet everything on his shameful tactics... And if everything went accordingly Paul may have already won the match, alas the reality was harsh and cruel. Considering the current situation trajectory Paul did not plan on revealing his last stars until or unless the situation demanded him to.

Just when Paul was counting seconds to his victory two limbs in the shape of cylinders popped out of the falling golem's back while its chest armour retracted as 6 masses of energy in a circular arrangement could be seen on it, his senses total him they were aiming at him. And his senses were right as he saw the two cylindrical limbs and the golem's chest shot strong energy projectiles aiming at him covering all his escape routes, it was at that moment he knew he was done for... But he remained calm and mouthed, "Skill card: Tele-Switch"

[Card Name: Tele-Switch

Card Type: Skill Card (active)

Card Rank: C-rank, uncommon

Card Rating: 11-stars

Card Durability: [84/100]

Card Effect: When activated the user can switch places with the predetermined object of equal mass within 1000 km.

Additional Effect: The host can spy on the 3-meter radius surroundings of the predetermined marked object.]

Though Paul had a serious inferiority complex it stemmed from his knowledge of how weak and incapable he was compared to his sibling, because of this Paul had a thorough understanding of his capacity which stopped him from making silly mistakes like underestimating Pax because of his age or his origin. Knowing Pax the young genius's capabilities well, Paul decided on betting everything on his shameless tactic. Paul was not arrogant enough to believe his tactic was 100% foolproof, he was confident in his plan but he still chose to have a way out if things go sideways... this contingency was not because he was over-cautious towards Pax but mostly because he believed the people who paid him would try to tie up the loose ends after the job was done and blame it on the subordinates of the family head.

Right now Paul was grateful and pleased that he had prepared a contingency plan, Pax turned out to be worthy of the title the young genius. But alas Pax had to die, why did a bastard of the Whiteburn family have to be more talented and fortunate than himself a pure Whiteburn... everyone more talented than him had to die! Yes! They all had to die.

...

“Boom!”

The energy projectile's made contact with their target burning everything in their path and destination, an acrid smell filled the arena conforming that whatever the target of the projectiles was had been burnt to ashes. But sadly there was no visual proof as the arena was covered in smoke.

Surprisingly, when the smoke clears the giant mech or Paul were nowhere to be seen... but the two field cards activated by Paul were no longer in effect indicating Paul was unable to battle. But the Pax in his Gaint golem was also nowhere to be seen...

‘What the fuck happened?’

‘Is it a draw did both of them end up killing each other.’

‘Damn you heretic shut your meat hole, Our Demigod and his messenger are undefeatable and always victorious!’

‘Shut it! you damned nutbag! Believe it or not, I will kill you right here and right now.’

‘Shut up you fools! It cannot be drawn I bet all my money on the young genius's victory ... where the fuck is he!’

'Up in the sky, look! Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Pax!'

'Pax is alive... which means he won! I am rich! I am rich!'

'Not so fast buddy, Is it Pax though? After all his golem was 21meters tall... this one is barely 3 meters tall.'

'Open your eyes heretics! The armour and the wings of the small golem are similar in design to lord Pax's homogenous golem.'

'It is similar to Pax's golem! But where is Pax.'

'No! It cannot be... he is inside it! It's not a golem! It more like a hollow Puppet!'

'That is ingenious! Who thought of it?'

'It's nothing new many Puppet card creationist use this form but this design seems more sophisticated.'

'Wait! You damn card creation loon! Pax's golem was 21 meters tall how did it become so small.'

'Maybe he just switched the cards after firing the energy projectiles..'

'What about Paul? Where are his remains? if he is dead that is.'

'Come dude he is clearly burnt to ashes in the attack earlier... wait by any chance did you bet on Paul's victory?'

'No! I just don't want to rush to a conclusion.'

When the smoke cleared the results were obvious but still those who bet on Paul's victory debated the results of the duel as they were not able to see the remains of Paul's corpses. While the card creationists in the crowd admired the sophisticated design of both the giant and small golem. Right then the crowd heard the referee announce,

"Well, folks the deathmatch reaches its conclusion as challenger Paul has fled the arena... So by default, Pax Godson is the Victor."

Hearing the announcement the crowd was in an uproar as many had bet their savings on Paul's victory...

'Wait! What?'

'This is against the rules!'

‘The rules dictate that only one person can leave the arena alive.’

‘This is a fraud! give us back our money!’

‘Yes! Paul isn’t dead this a fraud! Give us back our money!’

The crowd was rowdy and claimed fraud as Paul escaped the arena but the Whiteburn’s were not the ones to be messed with. One of the elders used his soul energy and with the amplified voice he shouted, “Silence!”

The crowd grew rowdier with the elder’s intervention,

‘What! Is the prestigious Whiteburn family trying to silence us with your might! We will not stop! We want justice! What do you say my friends!’

‘Friend? Who is your friend? You illiterate buffoon! Don’t drag me down with you...’

‘Shut up you ignorant fool! That’s the Whiteburn family 3rd elder known for his quick temper and barbaric means... I can earn money again but not my life.’

‘Yes! My life is more important!’

Finally taking care of the ignorant schmuck the crowd quietened down waiting for 3rd elder to say his piece,

“There is a Whiteburn family rule since age’s and we elders make sure to implement it throughout the family and new generation yet to come, that rule is ‘No negotiations with weak!’. Those who think they are stronger than this old man can come forward to negotiate but let me warn you I may have grown old but my blood is as hot as the day I was born... don’t expect mercy from me.”

Hearing the third elders arrogant words the crowd was speechless. They had heard Whiteburn’s were the definition of brutes and today they had finally experienced it. There were many younger generations of other prominent families in the audience but they did not utter a beep ever since 3rd elder made an entrance as they knew their family would rather abandon them than negotiate with this mad old man.

Seeing that nobody uttered a beep 3rd elder nodded in satisfaction and said, “And one more thing Paul Whiteburn is incommunicado and a bounty of 1 soul jade will be awarded by the Whiteburn family to anyone offering Paul’s head.

Good now that all misunderstandings are cleared deactivate the barrier and receive today’s brave victor.”

The crowd felt that 1 soul jade bounty for a late period card soldier was too much but soon they grew enthusiastic as who would hate rich rewards. When everyone was

looking forward to Victor ceremony as the staff deactivated the arena barrier they heard a loud alarming shout,

“Wait! Do not deactivate the barrier!....

Chapter 122: Victory

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:03

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, East Wing, Family Arena

By the time the first round of attack had been executed Iron flesh had descended to the height of 110 meters any further and it would be hard for Pax to attempt a mid-air take-off thanks to all the extra gravity due to Paul’s two superimposed field cards.

Ever since Pax had received the caution prompt regarding Iron Flesh’s imbalance and flight duration, Pax was already prepared to bail out but he had to make use of the firepower that Iron Flesh was packing... together this firepower was had crossed the limits of C-rank weapon and ascended to B-rank which would trump C-rank defence card Paul had prepared for himself.

Pax having just stepped into the Card soldier realm had 60-stars at the hand of which skill card FeatherWeight occupied 21-stars and skill card Float occupied 24-stars leaving Pax with 15-stars which after digging into Paul’s devious past Pax and his sisters assigned to a Poison related skill card knowing that Paul had a history of using poison cards in his past card fights.

Preparing a 15-star card Poison related skill card Pax at the beginning of the deathmatch thought was unnecessary seeing Paul use field and trap cards but consoled himself thinking being prepared is not bad. Pax chose such a card lineup because of his new Origin card Iron Flesh which not only provided him with supernatural strength, speed etc but also impenetrable armour and limit breaking firepower, yes! Pax’s card choice was heavily dependent on his origin card and research on Paul’s battle style.

Paul was smart and knew anybody who went through his history of card fights would know his use of Poison cards and especially someone with Pax’s resources would be prepared with a counter to his poison cards... One of the reasons why Paul switched to Field and trap card using the loopholes in the Whiteburn family duel rules.

Thankfully Pax’s card choice still had a great impact on his battle with Paul and even gave him the edge for his victory...

After the first round of attacks had been executed Pax did a quick sweep of the arena with his Iron Flesh's sensory system and then ordered, "Switch to tier2 angel form and ascend 900 meters height."

[Switch to Tier 2...

Activating Tier 2 angle form...

Mid-air flight successful... ascending to 900 meters...]

Even though the arena was filled with smoke thanks to his sensory system Pax knew that Paul's presence in the arena had vanished and both his field cards were losing their effect... While Iron Flesh had descended to the height of 100 meters... unable to find Paul's presence, Pax switched back to Tier2 exo-armour in mid-air and soared to the skies to maintain a safe distance from the arena in case Paul had any surprise in store for him.

Not until the smoke had cleared and the referee had announced his victory and explained the sudden absence of Paul's presence in the arena did Pax dare to descend the sky and land on the arena ground. Yes, Pax was being too cautious but it was deserved considering the risk and high stakes involved if he lost Pax was bound to lose everything so his caution was deserved.

Landing on the ground confirming his victory Pax deactivated his origin card, though the arena smelled funny Pax credited it to the burnt smell and began focusing on the crowd's commotion and 3rd Elders words, Just when the staff were about to deactivate the arena barrier Pax felt weak and suddenly huge information was dumped into his brain by one of his passive cards, turns out that the funny smell he neglected earlier was bad news,

'Damn you, Paul!' Cursing Paul inwardly Pax hurriedly shouted, "Wait! Do not deactivate the barrier! The arena is filled with Firefox-bane poison vapours."

Thanks to his 15-star '1000 poison physique passive' skill card Pax had avoided a huge crisis, Paul's final move Firefox-bane poison vapours. Right now Pax was really feeling very good about doing his homework on Paul's past card fights and preparing for it ahead.

[Card Name: 1000 Poison Physique

Card Type: Skill Card (passive)

Card Rank: C-rank, uncommon

Card Rating: 15-stars

Card Durability: [91/100]

Card Effect: Equipping this card user is immune to 1000 different Poisons and has enhanced Poison resistance.

Additional Effect: The host gains knowledge about all the 1000 poisons that the card gave the user immunity against.]

Turns out when Paul switched places with something of equal weight he had switched places with 160-pound Firefox-bane powder which in contact with high temperature vaporised and filled the complete arena with Firefox-bane poisonous vapours.

Firefox-bane poisonous vapours are deadly poisons and can poison a person by just breathing in and coming into contact with eyes, ears, mouth and tongue. A person exposed to these poisonous vapours is bound to die within the next 120 seconds if the victim cannot get the appropriate antidote or treatment for the poison. This was Paul's final move enough to kill the employer in case he decides to tie up loose ends or Pax if he happens to be worthy of the title 'The Whiteburn family young genius'. This way anyone who was against him was bound to die a miserable death.

...

Hearing Pax's alarmed shout the Whiteburn family staff stopped deactivating the arena barrier and turned to 3rd elder for guidance.

To verify Pax's claims 3rd elder to everyone's astonishment passed through the barrier without any resistance and entered the arena. Entering the arena the wrinkly pale white skin of 3rd elder started to turn red coming in contact with the Firefox-bane vapours, with a sigh 3rd elder ordered, "*sign* to think that one of the Whiteburn family cubs has become so contaminated and poisonous... close the arena and call for family alchemists and poison masters to clean it up.

The audience is advised to maintain discipline within the Whiteburn family premises and leave the family grounds in an orderly fashion, the award ceremony for the victor is cancelled due to the current turn of events.

Excommunicado Paul Whiteburn's bounty has been raised to 5 soul jades... caution is advised as the hunt is well versed and equipped with a large variety of poisons."

Hearing the 3rd Elder conform to Pax's claims the crowd burst out in hushed discussions, if not for the 3rd elder's presence and warning they would have raised the roof in a panic.

'Wtf! Paul is too vicious.'

'I think Paul is smart, not only did he escape imminent death but also almost killed Pax but alas reality is not in his favour.'

'Paul smart? Are you kidding me he was bound to die from the beginning... Though Pax is the family head's bastard son he still is the family head's only son and male heir. If this deathmatch was not suicidal on Paul's part then what?'

'What! The Whiteburn family head would not break the family rules which stops the loser's family from hurting or targeting the Victory.'

'Buddy this is the Whiteburn family we are talking about, their family motto is 'Strong make the rules and break the rules'... You tell me if the family head dubbed as the strongest of the Whiteburn family is willing to break some rules as revenge for his only son.'

'Whatever! But why involve us the innocent bystanders... if not for Pax's timely warning we all would be dead right now.'

'Come on! Which fantasy era are you living in! Does killing require a reason in this era!'

'But still, it is very scary knowing a wacko having a bad day could simply kill you for no reason at all on your way home or work.'

'Isn't that why we card apprentices pursue strength constantly.'

...

3rd Elder turned to Pax and said, "Not bad kid! Reaching card soldier realm at 16... even your father was not this talented!"

Pax respectfully bowed to the 3rd elder and humbly said, "Elder is doting the younger generation..."

The 3rd elder shook his head and said, "Kid! remember being too humble comes out as prideful... anyway was that giant golem your origin card which your siblings and you were running around to create."

Hearing the 3rd Elder Pax fists clenched and suppressing his rage he said, "Yes elder!"

"kid let me give it to you straight, Yes I knew some lesser elders were blocking you and your siblings from hiring a capable card creationist and Yes even though I knew all this I did not step up and turned a blind eye to it... I did the same when your Elder sister Elizabeth and your Father tried to step on their brother and sister to rise to their power. If I keep stepping in when every generation tried to gain power then all the deathmatches and our family tradition will lose meaning." Explained 3rd Elder patiently unlike his arrogance towards the audience earlier.

"Thank you Elder for your guidance... And please forgive the younger generation for his mistakes." Hearing the elder's words Pax understood that his Father's and elder sister's rise to power was not as heroic as they made it sound.

"Don't sweat it, Kid, the only reason I am wasting my time on you is that I consider you strong. Don't let your talent get to your head and remember our family saying... 'Talents and Genius come and go only tough people last' keep that in your mind." Said the 3rd elder.

Chapter 123: Challenge Letter

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:04

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, East Wing, Family Arena

"Oh my god! Ohmygod!!...We won! We won! Our Pax won!" Shouted Beth in enthusiasm hearing the referee announce Pax's victory. Her enthusiasm was so high that she almost choked her twin with her hug.

Amy had a silent smile on her face which showed that she was very satisfied with the results considering all that time and planning she had put in for this to happen. This was not achieved because of her family which was against her and her siblings or her father and elder sister who was missing the whole time... all this was her's and her sibling's achievements, it felt good to know that they were something outside the huge shadow of the family or her father and elder sister.

"Hey! you guys by chance you know where I can collect my winnings." I asked, fuck! I was rich again with a ratio of 1: 11 I made a killing this time. The rush and excitement I am feeling right now are indescribable I placed 102 soul jades on Pax's victory the underdog boy genius and now I would get 11 times of my bet that is 1,122 soul jades... the Whiteburn had thought that Pax had no chance of winning against Paul and had given such a ratio profiting me someone with the inside information in Pax's new origin card.

But this indescribable feeling died down fast hearing Pax's alarmed shout, "Wait! Do not deactivate the barrier! The arena is filled with Firefox-bane poison vapours."

Firefox-bane poison vapours!! Fuck! now that's one cruel and easy way to mass murder unsuspecting people. Realising that I could have just died miserably along with the rest of the unsuspecting audience if not for Pax discovering Paul's final punch line most of my happiness and excitement died down. But seeing 3rd Elders in action and display his strength as he directly exposed himself to the poison without a shred of worry I realised 'strong have no worries' if I was strong and confident about my strength like 3rd

elder I would not have to worry about the Firefox-bane poison vapours and ruin my happiness and excitement.

Thinking this I followed the twins to collect my winnings and then waved the IOU at Amy and said, "When will you pay me back."

"Haven't you made a lot of soul jades off our family already!" Argued Beth.

"That is what your family owed me, This is what you guys owe me." I said glaring at Beth, "Money is no object but a man has to be paid for his work. you won't understand this after all you guys never worked in your life." Forget bitch Beth... the expression on Amy's face told me that I would not be paid anytime soon.

Amy was in a bind right now because if she paid the card creationist with family money it would only mean that she could not achieve anything without the family wealth, but she did not have her hard-earned wealth to pay the card creationist... finally Amy realised that if she had to get out of the shadow of her family, or her father, even her elder sister and take care of herself and her siblings she should go independent and earn what she needs and not expect the world to just give her what she wants.

Just when Amy was about to explain her dilemma to the card creationist a rude voice intervened,

"DALTON WYATT! You have been served with a Life/Death challenge letter." A middle-aged woman in a cheap office suit declared, waving the letter on my face.

Karma! I just waved the IOU on Amy's face and now a challenge letter is being waved on my face. Infuriated, I grabbed the letter from the middle-aged woman's hand, who left as soon as I took the letter.

In the letter, there were four big words. Life/Death Challenge letter!

In this world, Card fights and deathmatches were extremely popular

In Sky blossom city, there were almost no other forms of entertainment as exciting as a deathmatch!

Card fights had become the most popular form of entertainment!

Beth asked, "will you accept?"

Card fights required the other party's consent.

If the other party did not agree, they could not forcefully attack the other party! After all, this was still a civilised era and laws still existed.

I opened the letter to see who the challenger was, as I could not guess who would want a deathmatch with me, after all, I have pissed a lot of people within just a week of my rebirth.

It was Kevin Zhang of the Zhang Mercenaries. Why the fuck would somebody of Kevin Zhang's calibre challenge a high school nobody and what happened to their plan of scamming and extorting me.

I did not understand why would Kevin Zhang issue a challenge to me out of the blue, what provoked him to challenge me... did he get the wind of all the money I am making. No! nobody from my past knows what I have been up to these days.

'Is it because of the incident with Ronnie...', I thought upon further consideration it seemed impossible, 'no way I was so thorough I did not leave behind any clue?'

'Fuck! The biggest clue is Ronnie himself with just him missing how long would it take for Kevin to connect all the dots'

'... 2 days! Yes, that's how long it took Kevin Zhang to connect all dots and serve me with a life and death challenge letter.'

'But how did he find out my relationship with Ronnie? And how can he be sure that I was behind all this? No! Those are not the important questions right now, the question I must be asking myself right now is whether I accept the challenge or not.'

With that in my mind, I check the challenge date, time and place in the latter... 30th this month, morning 10:30 at the guild association mall arena.

Seeing the date of the challenge my nerve eased up, by then I would have already gotten strong enough that a mere silver grimoire Card soldier would not worry me.

"I will accept the challenge" I replied to Beth.

"I thought all card creationists are cowards who just knew to be profiteers while run and hide at the first sight of trouble." Scorned Beth with her signature pompous smile.

"Beth! For the love of cards will you just shut up!" Shouted Amy seeing her twin show her nature again to their benefactor.

I ignored Beth's scorn, I had to accept this challenge because the MF mastermind behind young Wyatt's suicide was this muff Kevin Zhang and he had to pay for his crimes against young Wyatt with his life.

Chapter 124: Kidnapping

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:15

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, East Wing, Family Arena

“Sister!” Pax finally made his way to his sisters getting rid of all the reporters and social media influencers.

“Congrats, little bro!” Said Beth while Amy gave him a nod with a bright smile.

“Congrats Pax” Corey and Susan also congratulated Pax.

“Congrats Kid! I made a lot of money betting on you.” I also congratulate Pax, even though I was not satisfied with his narrow ‘by default win’ but considering he had no experience operating a mech or an exo-armour I did not show my disappointment.

“It’s all because of the card you created sir!” Pax humbly gave me all the credit, showing that children of big families are a lot mature and knowledgeable. Any other kid would be high on his first public card fight victory but not Pax.

While we six were busy talking a figure rush out of the crowd towards us, we were caught off guard but the figure did not hide his intentions so all the six of us were able to summon our grimoire and defended but the figure was were fast he made his way to Pax and grabbing hold of him the space surrounding the figure and Pax started to distort.

By now we all had gotten a clear look at the figure, he was a middle-aged man with an average build and the clueless face of a next-door neighbour. He looked so unsuspecting that nobody would expect him to be capable of this.

“Stop him, he is trying to teleport out of here!” Shouted Amy, now the staff and Whiteburn family members had already realised what was happening.

If not for the Poison Blaster Mounted Full Body Rainbow scaled armour I would be useless right now because of my lacking card collection.

I tried to fire a poison beam at the perp but the distorted space surrounding him blocked and rendered all attacks on the perp useless. Not just me, everyone else’s attack was blocked by the distorted space.

The teleportation card used by the perp was a high-end card as normal teleportation cards could not distort the space surrounding the user to block all physical and energy attacks. But there seemed to be a downside to this high-end teleportation card used by the perp.

A normal teleportation card would have teleported the perp and Pax within 10 seconds but this high-end teleportation card seems to be taking longer than 10 seconds, nearly 20+ seconds.

“Not In My House!” A shout sound throughout the arena and the high-end teleportation used by the perp got cancelled midway. Not just the high-end teleportation but all the other cards used by the staff and the people to apprehend the perp got cancelled midway.

Then this huge pressure landed on the perp rendering him immobile letting Pax break free of his hold.

Breaking free from the perp, Pax glared at his immobilised attempt kidnapper and asked, “Why?”

The middle-aged perp looked at Pax with kind eyes while tears of blood flowed from his eyes and foam oozed out of his mouth as he spoke, “Forgive me Lord for I could not take you to your kingdom.” Saying that the perp died due to suicide by poisoning.

“uh! … repulsive” commented Beth.

“It’s a suicide by poisoning, it is meant to be disgusting.” Said Corey.

“Father! you are back!” Shouted Amy excitedly

The voice from earlier sounded again, “Yes! Bring your siblings and friends to my study room.”

“Yes, father!” Obeyed Amy with at most respect. And turned to us asking, “Mr Wyatt, Susan, Corey my father would like to meet you guys if possible.”

Corey and Susan turned to me to hear my opinion, the Whiteburn family head wants to meet us, that’s given considering how we helped his children when the rest of the world shunned them. He should be extremely grateful towards us and dying to show his gratitude. So I said, “of course, we will go meet the strongest Whiteburn.”

“That’s our grandfather but since he is out on an adventure, I guess our father is currently the strongest Whiteburn here.” Said Beth. And then we followed the Siblings to the study room.

...

After Pax’s kidnapping attempt incident the crowd was bursting with more gossip,

‘Wtf! Just happen... who was that?’

‘Maybe some old monster of the Whiteburn family!’

‘I thought the 3rd elder was mysterious enough but compared to this senior the 3rd elder is more like an open book.’

‘How did the senior nullify all our cards, what kind of card did the senior use? So unfathomable!’

‘No you morons, it was not some old monster, it was the current Whiteburn’s head of the family, Jack Whiteburn.’

‘Wait! Jack Whiteburn! He is this strong. No wonder they allowed a crowd of Card apprentices inside their main manor without care, we are all ant in front of that kind of power.’

‘Who was that fool trying to kidnap the family head’s child so boldly?’

‘Who else? The religious nutbag from earlier.’

‘No wonder he looked familiar, who the fuck allowed these numbnuts in the city.’

‘The city hall is trying to increase the export and trade to their kingdom so in exchange their citizens are now allowed in our city.’

‘Doesn’t the city hall not know that doing business with these nutjobs never ends well?’

‘You know that! I know that! But who will tell the City hall! They are blinded by increased numbers of wealth in form of taxes this deal brought them.’

...

The Whiteburn manor was huge and extremely luxurious, especially the main manor where the family head resided. Amy soon brought us to her father’s study room.

At the door, we saw a woman in her early twenties waiting by the door of the study room. She was gorgeous and beautiful but similar to many women I had seen in this world, she had well-toned muscles not enough to repulse men, maybe even considered attractive for some but not my type as I like soft, doughy type which I can squeeze to my heart’s content.

“Sister, you are back!” The siblings shouted simultaneously and ran towards her in excitement.

“You little munchkin’s! Elder Sister missed you guys so much!” Said Eliza giving each of her siblings a kiss on their cheeks and added, “hurry up don’t keep father waiting.”

“Father can wait! Sister, are you okay? I heard your team met difficulties this time around.” Said Beth in concern. Her eyes showed that she was genuinely worried about her sister.

“I am fine sweetpea! Awe our little Beth is finally learning to care about others.” Eliza teased Beth.

“Not others, just you!” Said Beth shyly.

Chapter 125: Dangerously Good!

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:31

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Main Courtyard, Study room

Inside the large and fancy, yet pleasing and easy to the eyes study room sat a tall and largely-muscled tan-skinned man with a bare chest showcasing a long scar that runs horizontally across the bridge of his ribcage. He has short eggplant-coloured hair with a longer strand hanging over a face which tends to come off as threatening and scary even without him intending to. The atmosphere surrounding him was very intimidating making him seem arrogant and violent. His upper arm was bulkier than a fully grown man’s thigh while his forearms were wrapped around with bandages.

This man did not seem like he belonged in here and seemed totally out of frame as if the content did not match the theme, it was as if someone left the gorilla room free in a library just for the fun of it. If not for the Whiteburn siblings enthusiastically greeting and addressing him as their father I would think that they were pranking me.

“Father! When did you arrive!” Asked Amy, while Beth surprisingly stood silently with respect. Even Pax seemed more enthusiastic than Beth.

“I arrived this morning before Pax’s deathmatch began… I wanted to stop it but seeing you three so confident I decided to go along with it. And I was right to believe in you three.

Come on now my Princess, still not speaking to your dad.” Said Jack, completely blowing away my mind… that brute acted like a cute father no wonder the three siblings were so attached to him.

Beth snorted in response to her father’s cute pleading. Seeing her act like this Jack got up from his chair and walked next to Beth, suddenly with no warning he lifted her and sat her down on his broad left shoulder. Beth gasped in fright and shouted in embarrassment, “Father let me down! My friends are watching! I beg you! This is so embarrassing…”

What is happening here? Am I watching and listening straight? Did the pompous Beth just call us her friends? Wait! Is what Jack doing morally right?

I did not have to wait long for my answer, the calm and mature Amy ran next to Jack and said, "father me too!" She did not have to ask Jake, as she neared him, he scooped her up and sat her down on his right shoulders while Amy charmingly giggled and Beth blushingly warned her bear of a father.

"Father put me down right now otherwise I will not talk to you ever again..." no matter how much Beth threatened Jack he did not budge and shamelessly said, "Okay, then I will never let you done...You will have to sit on my shoulder for the rest of your life while you eat, vomit, pee and poop there just like you did when you are a baby."

Beth tried to summon her grimoire to use cards and get out of her dad's clutches but surprisingly whenever she summoned her grimoire it would just get cancelled the next second.

This shit scared me to death! Imagine a card fight where you keep summoning your grimoire but your opponent can cancel your summon every freaking time. Fuck! This could possibly be every card apprentices nightmare. How the hell is he able to do that!

Back in the arena... he did something similar by cancelling out all the cards of the card apprentices present, I was amused but not surprised, I thought it was a high-end trick card but now seeing him cancel Beth summoning her grimoire again and again I was scared. I tried to check the trick to it through my soul pupils but I got nothing, now I was completely frightened. They say the unknown is the scariest and it is true.

Eliza, who was at the door, came to her sister's rescue saying, "Father! It's hard for Beth to make friends. Please, do not embarrass her further in front of them."

"You too Eliza! You guys don't appreciate my love...*cough* okay enough fun." Jack was about to throw a tantrum but under Eliza's threatening gaze he had to concede. Letting down the twins Jack went back to his chair and seriously said, "let's talk about the pressing matters at hand, Pax! do you know why the emissary of demigod Michael Angelo's church wanted to kidnap you."

Looking around the room then finally stopping his gaze at Corey and Susan, Pax shook not knowing how to tell his father that he is the last descendant of Demigod Michael Angelo.

Seeing Pax struggle to answer a simple yes or no question, Jack frowned and rebuked, "It's been 4years now Pax! You can't keep hiding behind the same reason time and again."

Hearing his father rebuke him, Pax just put his head down helplessly... Corey and Susan were good acquaintances, he did not want to offend them by saying that he

could not speak the secret in their presence. Through Pax's body language Jake knew what was happening but he wanted to force it out of his son's mouth. If he let his son be and continue like this Pax will become socially disabled. Jake was a good father and he knew what each of his kids needed.

Finally under the pressure of his father Pax caved and said, "I... I will explain it later when we are alone." Jake knew he had to be happy with what he gets and where his son's limit lied so he did not push further for an answer and said okay we will talk later.

Done attending to his children Jake turned to Corey and said, "you must be Corey! Your parents talk a lot about you and they miss you a lot."

"Lord, you have met my parents. Where are they!" Corey enthusiastically asked, it has been 3 years since her parents left on a mission and not returned yet, no messages no call nothing it's been 2 years 9 months since she last heard from them.

"Don't call me Lord, Your parents and I are all comrades, call me uncle. Yes, I met them 2 months ago but I can not tell you where they are." Answered Jack pleasantly just like a neighbouring uncle. I was seeing sides to this brute that I never thought would exist in one single person. Who is this guy? At first glance, he is an intimidating brute, then a loving father and next second a caring uncle. Oh! He is good... dangerously good. I should have guessed his nature knowing that even though he is a bloodthirsty brute he chose to spend more time in the library than the battlefield, but I couldn't as he switches his nature like switching clothes.

"Oh! Okay.... How are they? Are they doing well?" Corey asked in concern

"Yes! They are still the envious power couple blessed by the sky." Said Jack exhibiting jealousy and longing in his eyes.

Chapter 126: Slander

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:39

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Main Courtyard, Study room

The city thinks that the Whiteburn's are just a couple of barbarians who can only use their fists but they were dead wrong but you cannot blame them because the Whiteburn's want the city to underestimate them as impulsive braindead brutes.

I mean think about it, if they only knew how to use their fists then how did they get the richest family in the whole city... unless the whole city is dumb or the Whiteburn's are smarter than they are credited with. I have met Willam Bright so I knew that the whole city was not dumb and in the meeting with Jack Whiteburn and in 8 minutes I have been

in his presence he has shown me 4 different sides to his personality, fuck I was having a hard time discerning which was his true self. The Whiteburn's were smarter than they were credited for, no wonder none of the families were ever able to cross their yearly gross profit records.

Done speaking with Corey, Jack turned to look at Susan and Me. Amy hurriedly introduced us to him, "Sorry! I forgot to introduce you guys. Susan, Wyatt this is my father Jack Whiteburn the current family head of the Whiteburn family. Father these are Susan Tucci and Dalton Wyatt, my friends who helped create Pax's first origin card."

'I was just complementing the maturity and manners of big families earlier, you had to slap it on my face and prove me wrong. Whatever! Considering how worried you guys were for your father and sister's safety I will forgive you guys this once.' I chose to be the bigger man thinking about how Jake was going to reciprocate his gratitude, greeting the family head respectfully along with susan.

"Ms Susan I heard you applied to procure 30 tonnes of our C-rank liquid gold. If my secretary is doing her job correctly you are just an associate manager at Guild association mall. I don't see any reason for you to purchase 30 tonnes of C-rank liquid gold." Jack asked, as he intently waited for a satisfying answer from Susan.

Of course, Susan applied for 30 tonnes of C-grade liquid gold for me. After the news of Pax's fight with Paul spread across the city I was bound to gain popularity and a substantial amount of traffic thanks to the dope ass Mech and Exo-armour. Before I had zero clients and had all the time in my world to sit with the customers and custom build a card for them... I do not know how much popularity I will gain but I had to be prepared, this was my idea but Susan was the one who alerted me about my upcoming traffic.

I did not know how big of traffic I will gain but I knew they all will want a golem or an armour card so I already planned what kind of material I should keep ready and settled on C-grade liquid gold, of course, this was only one of the materials but it was for my wealth deep pockets customers. I did not have to explain this to Jack, Susan can handle him herself.

"Lord, apart from my job as associate auction manager I also exclusively manage and represent Wyatt's Online Card Creation Boutique. Those 30 tonnes of C-rank liquid gold I am procuring for my client Mr Wyatt." Explained Susan.

Jack did not seem to be satisfied with Susan's explanation, his brows joined into a frown and he glared at Susan and said, "see I heard you talk a bunch of words but I did hear an answer to my question. Maybe I was not clear the first time around, let me ask you again. What intention does a small-time Card Creation boutique like yours have by procuring 30 tonnes of liquid gold from my family?"

Jack ruthlessly pressured Susan. First, it was 'can you' now he no longer gave her an option she had to answer him. I guess this is his ruthless businessman side. But he did not intimidate Susan not because she was strong in some way or something but because she was doing nothing wrong and that was enough for a good person to face any odds. Susan stared back into Jack's eyes and said, "Lord Jack we need the C-rank liquid gold to create cards."

"In what world would a small-time boutique like yours require 30 tonnes worth of liquid gold to create cards a few hundred pounds should already be enough for your boutique's capacity unless you are planning to sell our family ore in the black market and make money through difference in the price of both the markets!" Accused Jack and doubled down on his accusation by adding, "Are you guys planning to take advantage of my children's friendship to fill your pockets?"

Before Susan can claim slander, Pax hurriedly said, "Father they do need tonnes of ores to create cards... My first origin card alone required 60 tonnes of black steel alloy and 28 tonnes of black steel F16 alloy for creation. They are not using our friendship or anything.

"oh! Is it. Your origin card required 60 tonnes of black steel alloy and 28 tonnes of black steel F16 alloy for creation." Asked Jack acting dumb.

"Yes, father! They are good friends and good at their job. And also is it possible that I can also acquire 22 tonnes of C-rank liquid gold, it will help strengthen my origin card." Said Pax.

"Haha! You are one of the Whiteburn family heirs, of course, you can get 22 tonnes of C-rank Liquid gold... it is the first thing you have demanded from me for yourself, I will fulfil it." Jack laughed heartily, unlike his previous arrogant and ruthless self.

It has been four years since Pax has moved into the Whiteburn family and he has only asked two things from Jack. One, to visit his mother's grave once every year and Second, how to get stronger. The rest of the time he was the most obedient child Jack had, he would do everything he was asked of without a complaint, just like some doll or golem. Jack can see that the kid loved and respected him but had trouble communicating, so as a responsible father he decided to force Pax to speak his mind freely and make demands like his three sisters.

"Ms Susan I am sorry if I frightened you, I have heard my face can be frightening sometimes please don't worry about 30 tonnes of liquid gold as long as you pay in full you can take away the liquid gold right now. Contact my secretary, she will help you. If you do not have enough capital we have loans for promising startups you can apply for that." Having gained what he wanted Jack retired to his caring uncle angle.

Chapter 127: Patience

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:52

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Main Courtyard, Study room

I could see that talking business with Jake was intense for Susan. After all, Jake accused her of using his children's trust. As for buying and selling in the black market it is not illegal but frowned upon, after all, trade of unrestricted goods is not a crime.

C-rank Liquid Spirit Gold also known as Liquid gold or LSG. Is a very rare ingredient in the black market where everything is available. But in the regular market, you can procure tonnes and tonnes of it for the right price.

LSG is the product of doping gold with fine spirit sands found in the Whiteburn family's A-rank Gate dungeon Maya Sand Dunes. One kg of LSG costs \$30,000. LGS has a high demand and the Whiteburn family has a monopoly on LSG in Sky blossom city and its nearby city. And is still able to maintain the monopoly because they just stick to the production and supply side while hiring powerful allies for the selling part. This way everyone is happy.

Then came the Black market which was putting a dent in the Whiteburn and its allies pockets which they took care of by owning about 11% of the black market in sky blossom city and its neighbours. And the general public thinks the Whiteburn family is a bunch of muscle heads who only understand violent and barbaric means.

Done analysing Susan and her nature, Jack turned to me and said, "Mr Wyatt you have my respect at the young age you have achieved which may take years and lots of resources for others to achieve."

I was still pissed at Jake as while talking with Susan he repeatedly trashed my online shop as a small-time shop. But still, since the man in question was loaded and a potential customer, I kept my professional smile and respectfully said, "Lord Jack I was just lucky."

"So you were gambling with my son's origin card and future." Thundered Jack glaring at me. To me, his glare felt like a hungry gorilla staring at me, funny right.

"I had already mentioned the possible risk to your son and daughters, Lord. But they still chose to trust in me and have the origin card created by me." If this guy wants to flip the script then sure be my guest flip the whole crew. I was just being humble by saying I was lucky but You blame me for risking your son's future then I will throw the ball in your son and daughters court, two can play at this game.

"I see, you mentioned all the risks to them or made use of their desperation to fill your pockets." And with that Jack threw the ball back into my court.

“Lord, If anything you children pledged your honour to make me work for free for them, you can ask your daughter.” You gorilla I am the repeat champion of this game, this your last warning.

Hearing me Jack frowned and glared at his twin daughters, Beth snorted while Amy buried her head in Eliza’s embrace.

“Why isn’t anybody answering me!” Jack thundered once again, pledging one’s honour for someone of Jack’s position and power was a big deal for him, as the saying with great power comes great responsibility. People see something associated with Jack Whiteburn’s name than they expect a certain standard that was the power of his name and honour, now his children pledge it without thinking twice.

Seeing father angry Pax who knew the culprit and his father’s anger chose to take the blame upon himself, “father it was me who pledged your name!”

Hearing Pax take the blame, Amy tried to get off Eliza’s embrace and clarify the misunderstanding but Elize did allow her to break free instead strengthened her embrace and rendered Amy immobile. Beth knew Pax was not capable of this and knew the culprit wasn’t her unless Wyatt was lying... then she looked at Amy, to her eyes it looked like Amy was hiding in Eliza’s embrace.

Right now Beth was torn between two worlds, should she stay quiet or voice out. Her pompous side told her that she should stay quiet but her caring sister side said she loved this of her brother and sister equally and cannot allow one to take advantage of the other. Usually, her pompous side would sound right to her but today her caring sister side made more sense and felt right. So, she voiced, “Father! Pax is lying. Amy pledge your name.”

“Are you trying to take the blame for your sister?” with a stern voice Jack asked Pax, who did not budge and said, “Father! big sis Beth was out shopping she doesn’t know a thing.”

“Enough shenanigans! Beth, were you out shopping or not.” Jack’s face had darkened with anger which scared Beth, who lost her resolve and admitted, “yes, I went shopping.”

“I had it, Beth! for lying to me no more pocket money for you until I see maturity in your behaviour. Pax for pledging my name casually you will have to earn 22 tonnes of LSG you wanted by completing the task I give you. Form a party of 5 and clear 30 E-rank dungeons, 15 D-rank dungeons and 5 C-rank dungeons. Do you understand me?” Jack dictated Beth and Pax their punishment.

“Yes!” Beth and Pax agreed.

Taking care of his family, Jack turned to me and Said, “Mr Wyatt I have seen the card fight between Pax and Paul, your creation is amazing and praiseworthy. I misunderstood you earlier and thought that you made use of my children’s desperation and filled your pockets, you didn’t right Mr Wyatt.”

This MF! He did not apologise for wrongly accusing me nor thanked me for helping his kids when the entire Card creationist guild turned their backs on his kids. Not to mention how he used Susan and now me to create teachable moments for his kids. This selfish prick, I risked my life by creating his son’s origin card and yet he is still shamelessly trying to mess with me. I haven’t met somebody so shameless as him in this world.

“Family head Jack, I heard Whiteburn takes pride in repaying 10 what they owe. I was wondering if the Whiteburn family had a Cerberus core, I need it.” I was done playing games with this old fool, so I reminded him to stop it and get straight to the point.

“Ah! You young ones are so impatient and ignorant.” Said Jack referring to me bringing an end to his charades and asking a high price for the gratitude I accumulated. Cerberus core is indeed very costly and I was asking too much but now my greed did not matter, what mattered right now is whether Jack thought that his son’s life and his name are worth more than a Cerberus core or not.

“Eliza! provide Mr Wyatt with what he needs. And make sure our guests feel welcomed during their stay here. Pax remain and the rest don’t disturb me.” Ordered Jack. Not surprising that Jack thought his son’s life and his name are worth more than a Cerberus core.

“Yes, Father!” Agreeing to her father, carrying immobilised Amy in one hand Eliza directed the rest of us out of the study room.

Chapter 128: Wasteful

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 9:52

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, Main Courtyard

Walking out of the Study room Eliza said, “Beth Why don’t you show your friends around the manor while I and Amy fetch the Cerberus core.”

“Okay!” Said Beth excitedly and added, “Follow me I will show you my favourite spot in the manor.” Then we followed the excited Beth’s lead.

Turning around the corner Beth said, “Aren’t you greed Wyatt to bluntly ask for a Cerberus core.”

Hearing Beth Corey and Susan's cheeks turned red in embarrassment but I was unfazed. Was I shameless and greedy for asking Cerberus core even though Amy signed an IOU to pay for my fees, Yes I am guilty of all of that! But this was the only chance I could get to get my hands on a Cerberus core this early otherwise it may take me months before I got influential enough so that Cerberus core is no longer a restricted ingredient for me. I was running on borrowed time, did not know when my enemies will knock on my door. So, I had to make use of available resources... It's not like giving me a Cerberus core could bankrupt the Whiteburn family.

"Nope! I asked what I needed. It's up to you whether you give it or not." I replied to Beth's signature scorn filled remark.

"Believe me if it were up to me I would not." Said Beth.

"I believe you. Is this the only way you know to talk?" I asked Beth, after all, she just introduced us as her friends to father and elder sister and now she is acting like this. I wasn't able to figure her out.

"What's wrong with the way I speak? Is it my pronunciation!" Asked Beth clueless.

"Nothing!" I said in frustration. Talking to her was like pouring water on a rock.

...

"Sister, why did you restrain me earlier? Pax did not pledge father's name. I did! I have to come clean about this with our father." Questioned Amy as soon as Eliza let her go.

"I know. Pax doesn't even know the meaning of pledge or how it works. Even Beth figured out that part." Eliza spoke nonchalantly.

"Then Why did you stop me?" Asked Amy in confusion.

"How did it feel when your brother and sister were being punished for your mistake?" Eliza asked Amy looking into her eyes.

"Sister! don't tell me you did this all for a teachable moment. You are acting like dad day by day." Said Amy figuring out what Eliza was up to.

"You are also growing up day by day and have a lot to learn. Now answer, how did it feel?" Eliza asked once again.

"Okay! I know the drill you won't let me go until I answer you. Seeing Pax and Beth get punished I felt incompetent as their sister. I felt disappointed about myself for not standing up and accepting my fault when our father asked, then Pax would not have to choose to take the blame for me." Amy poured out her feelings onto her sister.

“Good now imagine 10 times nay Imagine 100 times worse of this feeling, now remember that feeling that’s how you are going to feel when one of your party members or comrade dies in a mission because of your wrong judgement.” Elaborated Eliza to her sister as her eyes turned red.

“Sister, what happened at the mission? Why did father have to come to your rescue?” Amy knew her sister was not a psychopath like her father to make every moment a teachable moment unless it is necessary.

“Smith and Jake died because I did not think that my enemies will use suicide assassins to ambush us while we were dealing with the boss monster.” Narrated Eliza, the more she talked the redder her eyes grew but not a drop of tear fell from them in order not to humiliate her party member’s brave sacrifice.

“Sister! you can’t blame yourself for this... Someone must have leaked your information. That traitor is to be held accountable for this.” Amy tried to console her sister.

“I know, that is why I am here and not there mourning for my comrades.” As Eliza spoke her reddened eyes shone with a red murderous glint.

...

“How is it! These are all the dresses I wore every single day since I was born.” Said Beth as she showcased her large collection of dresses.

“Wait! There are like 6300+ dresses of varying sizes here, the count should reach 6200 something even if you wore each dress for once a day. How is the hell do you have more dress?” Asked Susan in awe thinking ‘rich are so wasteful!’

“You are forgetting the partyware” reminded Beth.

sigh

With a sigh Susan turned to Corey and asked, ” you also keep all your dresses.”

“No, I do not. I stopped recently but I used to keep the dress on which got 1k likes or 0.2k comments and other dresses I burnt them off.” With every word, Corey’s cheeks grew redder and redder in embarrassment. Wondering why she enjoyed doing something so pointless.

“I knew I would find you guys here! This is Beth’s favourite room. She does not bring someone unless they are important to her.” Eliza Walked in with Amy and revealed her sister’s secret to prepare her sister’s friend to understand how much it meant for Beth to bring them here.

“My sister is just kidding around guys.” Beth hurriedly tried to cover the embarrassing secret that her elder sister revealed.

“Haha! Mr Wyatt here’s the Cerberus core you asked for. Thank you for helping out my siblings. Anything else I can help you with?” Eliza polity asked.

“Then I would like to use your card room, I want to create a card.” Hearing these words Eliza was dumbstruck, she was just being polite and did not think I would take her words literally.

“I will arrange it, please wait.” Covering her confused expression Elize left in hurry to make the arrangements.

Susan and Corey shook their heads while Amy and Beth glared at me, in response, I acted innocent. Where were your glints when your dad played with me? This is so funny, No wonder Jack liked to do this so much.

I did not ask to use the card room just for the fun of it but I was planning on creating my second origin card here. As I knew the warehouse will be crowded and noisy today, haunted by the enthusiastic reporters and social media influencers. So the warehouse was not the best choice to create my second origin card. And also wanted to avoid meeting uncle and auntie Wyatt as much as possible as I still had not figured out how to explain to them why I did not inform them of papa and mama Wyatt’s death or funeral. Young Wyatt really screwed me over on this one.

Chapter 129: A.I Update

Date 24 Mar 2321

Time 10:32

Location Sky Blossom City, Whiteburn Manor, South Wing, Card Hall.

“This is our family’s renowned card hall, many visiting golden card creationists prefer our card hall over the Guild association mall and the Card creationist guild card rooms. This is one of our manors proud sections.” Eliza proudly introduced me to the high-end Whiteburn family card hall.

“Impressive to even outshine the card creationist guild, your card hall must be ranked no.1 in the sky blossom city.” I was impressed because the card creationist guild is supposed to have the best card rooms.

“Hehe! No, the card creationist guild premium card rooms are the best in the city but they do not allow anybody other than their members to use them. So, the visiting card creationists come to our card hall.” Explained Eliza, a slight blush was visible on her cheeks no matter how hard she tried to keep her expression in check.

“No.2, still better than being ranked no.3.” I tried to ease the atmosphere.

“Right! Choose any one of the Cardrooms you like and occupy it, if you require any assistance staff and servants are placed all over the place they will even run errands for you. Then I will be taking my leave now.” Learning from her past mistake Eliza did not try to be polite.

“One moment!”

“Yes”

“Susan will be sending some ingredients in an hour, by then I will be in the middle of card creation, can you ask someone to receive them for me and give them to me later when I need them” I explained my situation.

“Sure, I will ask one of the servants to receive the ingredients and keep them at the front desk, you can receive them when you can. So, I will take my leave then. Happy creation.” Saying that Eliza turned around and walked as fast as possible without looking back. Shaking my head, I chose the nearest empty card lab and occupied it.

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Cerberus is normally a B-rank boss monster but in White burn families A-rank gate dungeon Maya dunes, there is a hidden chest room which is guarded by a C-rank Cerberus. Cerberus cores are rare mental strength related card ingredients. And have a high demand because a good card creationist can use them to create strong mental strength-enhancing cards which can passively split a card apprentice’s mental strength into three.

But the cards created with these ingredients are usually B-rank cards which are not of any use to silver or lower grade card creationist but as it happens silver or lower grade card creationists is where the market is. Enter the C-rank Cerberus which can create a C-rank card making the C-rank Cerberus core rarer and more in demand.

Sometimes in auctions low ranking high-end cards auction costlier than high ranking cards because the market pool for high-level card apprentices in sky blossom city is very less compared to the low-level card apprentices who require a low-ranking high end. Since the majority of the Sky blossom city market is made up of low-level card apprentices it is easy to dump low ranking cards in sky blossom city for a higher price.

Ever since I had found out about the mutant soul power system I have been doing my research on monsters with possible mutated souls and finding ways to procure their core. And a C-rank Cerberus was next on my list. I had done all my research on this one and this was also one of the reasons I helped the Whiteburn siblings. If I am risking my neck then I better risk it for the most benefit.

Getting C-rank Cerberus core was my second priority right next to creating my second origin card. I prioritised this because after the soul mutation my body becomes unstable but I get rid of this drawback using the baptism and right now my active soul control was near 29% and with my next breakthrough nearing I had to mutate my soul as soon as possible or else I would have wasted one baptism.

Now that I had gotten my hands on a C-rank Cerberus core I was going to mutate my soul for the second time. But this time around I did not have a torn slice of the soul to directly begin with the mutation but thankfully the white urn card lab was equipped with the latest Soul scissors model and other machines which I do not recognise.

First I take the C-rank Cerberus core and study it thoroughly and reverse engineer it and study how it got its soul developed into a mutated soul and double-check each discovery because I am playing with my soul here if anything goes wrong I am done for. After forming a plan I move to the next step, slicing a part of my mutated soul.

Reading the brochure of the new soul scissor model I learnt how to operate this model. I then slice a part of my mutated soul in the middle at the narrow section. Then I use 5 soul jades to completely develop the sliced part of the soul into a complete soul but something unaccounted for occurred the sliced part of the soul developed into a mutated soul itself, no wonder it took 5 soul jades this time around to develop the slice of the soul into a complete soul.

But thankfully Cerberus mutant soul was exactly about this, growing two souls from a part of the first soul and then mending them to form a three consciousness mutated soul. I had to make changes midway to mend the two souls with two old souls. It was complicated but I made it work by mending the new mutated soul separately with each soul of the original mutated soul. This way the two mutated souls were connected by 3 bridges.

Next, I take out more soul jades to fatten the 3 bridges connecting the two mutated souls with soul energy and overlapping common soul pathways between the two mutated souls. And as the 3 bridges connecting the two mutated souls fatten slowly the two mutated souls overlap to form a single new mutated soul with four new consciousness. I wanted to create a 3 consciousness mutated soul similar to a Cerberus but end up with a 4 consciousness mutated soul.

Next came the programming of the two new consciousness before they gained wisdom but this time around the A.I to be programmed in the two souls was a newer and better version I developed copying the skill Insight forecast. Which gave the new A.I's the ability to stimulate every possible outcome of a situation. The new program was super dope, so I updated the program of the old slave soul.