

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 1301 Sector ES0012, Redfoot

[1,065 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

With help of devil merchant code's shop renovation feature, I divided the warehouse into three sections. And then I used it to create soul constructs of materials I needed to set up three pseudo-natural soul energy gathering array formations.

Pseudo-natural array formation was the reason why I made a stop at the library before coming here. With the data, I already had in array mastery, the creation of an efficient soul energy gathering array formation was not a problem but I did not want to create a normal soul energy gathering formation I wanted to create a Pseudo-natural array formation for which the data had was not enough hence I made visited the library.

Pseudo-natural array formations were totally different from standard array formations. The reason was that pseudo-natural array formations were self-sufficient, making them easy to maintain and they did not require an energy source, especially in environments rich in soul energy.

This was why I preferred to arrange the three soul energy gathering array formations as pseudo-natural array formations instead of normal array formations. With pseudo-natural array formation, I did not have to periodically visit to check on and maintain the three soul energy gathering array formations instead I could visit them when I was free just to collect the edible liquid spirit energy they have gathered.

This saves me a lot of time and manpower. Especially, considering that the time in this sector passes 24 times faster than in the card realm which meant if I choose to set up these three soul energy gathering array formations as normal array formations instead of the pseudo-natural array formations I would have to stop everything I am doing in the card world every couple hours and visit the sector NS7878 to check on the array formations and give them daily or weekly maintenance. Which would be a hassle so even if I had to use a few minutes of my library's monthly free reading hour, I did not hesitate to as in a long term I stood to gain more.

Within a few hours, I had set up each of the three pseudo-natural soul energy gathering array formations in their respective sections of the warehouse. Now all I had to do was wait for the three pseudo-natural array formations to work their magic.

However, this wait was going to be long as according to the simulation conducted by the Hive AI each array formation will require an hour to gather about 10ml of the liquid soul energy. This was just a rough estimate, it may take longer. In this soul-energy-rich environment, it took a pseudo-natural array formation so long just to gather 10ml of liquid soul energy so it was not a surprise that the liquid soul energy was scarce in the card world.

After checking on the three array formations a few times, I decided to leave and head to a sector sharing the time zone and rule powers with card world, the recommended sectors by the inter-realm network. To set up my other business over there.

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Do you want to leave sector NS7878 and move to sector ES0012?

(Yes/No)

Note: You are entering a recommended sector so standard offering practice will be followed.]

"Yes"

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Using spirit transfer array to travel from sector NS7878 to sector ES0012...

Note: Spirit transfer array takes the demon merchant's spiritual body that has entered it and transfers them to the inter-realm city.]

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Welcome to sector ES0012...

Note: Behave.]

Once again being carried out of the white tunnel by an invisible force I appeared next to a fountain. I looked around sector ES0012 from where I stood. It was no different than sector NS7878. It was also a barren land without a single property or any sign of development.

Shaking my head I walked around the fountain to look at the sector ES0012's map board but stopped in my tracks seeing a small red figure curled up on the ground next to

it and sleeping soundly. After taking a clear look at the sleeping red-skinned creature I was astonished as it was the same Red-Clad Dwarf I came across in sector DS0909. What the fuck was it doing here?

Thanks to the myriad realm race record this time I exactly knew which race and realm it belonged to. Its race was called Redfoot and it hailed from a realm called Red Alps.

Seeing how the Redfoot was here it seems that the Realm of Red Alps and Realm of Cards seem to share the same time zone and rules as the sector ES0012. I could be wrong about this as I had concluded this based on my observation as there was no mention of this Myriad realm race record.

As I suspected earlier its age was considered very young in its race, similar to 10 to 12 years old in human years, explaining its immaturity and ignorance. To become a demon merchant at such a young age was it a blessing or a curse? I don't know but why the fuck is it sleeping here on the ground? Did it transfer its entire spirit to the spirit plane just to sleep?

Putting my surprise aside I looked closely at the I saw that the energies in the surroundings were being absorbed by the spiritual body of the young Redfoot. It appears it seems to have some kind of peculiar ability that allowed it to observe energies from the surroundings and enhance its spiritual body in its sleep. There was no mention of this ability of Redfoot in the Myriad Realm Race Records.

Now that was one dope technique. What impressed me, even more, was the Redfoot did not bother to rent land in the sector and just went to sleep right next to the fountain. I know it was a bit reckless but considering that the demon merchants rarely visit the sectors of the inter-realm city that do not share the same time zone as the dark realm it was understandable.

The Redfoot suddenly opened its eyes, as if it was subconsciously alerted by my presence. Then it immediately jumped and stood on its big feet and glared at me like a wild beast. I was about to try and explain to it that I did not mean any harm but it vanished, I believe it chose to leave the inter-realm city.

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Chapter 1302 Liquid Rule Power

[1,039 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

Seeing the young Redfoot hurriedly return to his body in the physical plane I wondered if the human race looked scary to other races. However, what were the chances of me running into a fellow demon merchant from sector ES0012?

I planned to learn the Redfoot race's native language so that I am able to greet the young Redfoot demon merchant the next time we meet if I get the chance that was. Shaking my head I looked at the sector map and would you look at that its borders were also undefined and only a total of 100 acres of the area was listed as available same as the sector NS7878.

Once again I randomly rented property no.03 right next to the fountain for 48,000 low-tier soul jades per day. Now I know why the young Redfoot chose to sleep on the street instead of renting a small shack. The cost to rent an acre of land in sector ES0012 was a lot more than in sector NS7878, I have no idea why.

But I noticed that the starting rent of an acre of land in sector DS0909 was 480,000 low-tier soul jades per day which was exactly ten times the rent of an acre of land in sector ES0012 whose rent of an acre of land was exactly 24 times the rent of an acre of land in sector NS7878. Was this pattern just a coincidence or did it mean something? I had no idea.

At this cost setting up the three soul energy gathering array formations here to extract liquid soul energy was not going to be cost-effective. If I needed to make a profit then intermediate soul energy gathering array formation was not going to cut it I would require a higher-level array formation.

However, it did not matter because I wasn't here to extra liquid soul energy from this sector. I was here to extract liquid rule power using pseudo-natural rule power gathering array formations.

Considering the demand and cost of liquid rule power in the card world's market I hoped the cost of renting an acre of land here to extract liquid rule power would be cost-effective. Depending on whether the profit margin of producing and selling liquid rule power matched the profit margin of producing and selling liquid soul energy or vice versa I planned to prioritize one with a greater profit margin. This was one of the reasons why I did not largely invest in both of these business ventures.

Soul energy and Rule power were the same everywhere with the exception that some realms had fewer rules and rule meanings while some realms had more rules and rule

meanings. And I could not help but feel that this somehow was the reason behind the difference in the cost of renting a property in various sectors.

Moving on, I used the demon merchant codex to get the devil merchant code to construct a big properly ventilated warehouse. Now that I know there was another demon merchant using this sector I need my privacy. Walking into the warehouse a familiar dialogue box popped up,

[Dear Demon Merchant,

Select the nature of your property,

>Private (Exclusive entry only to Demon merchant Renting it)

>Public (Open for all Demon merchants.)

>Commercial (Exclusive entry only for the customers specified by the Demon merchant Renting it.)

Note: Each selection comes with varying options with appropriate offerings to be offered to the devil merchant code.]

"Private," setting the nature of my property I mentally ordered, 'Hive AI, get me the array blueprint for pseudo-natural rule power gathering array formations for Earth, Wind, and Fire rule power.'

After the creation of the three pseudo-natural soul energy gathering array formations using the data I gathered from the infinity library and the data I had dungeon core formation, I had the Hive AI use the data on intermediate rule power gathering array formation I collected in the infinity library to come up with arrays to gather Earth, Wind, and Fire liquid rule powers.

There was a reason why out of all the rules in the card world I was gathering Earth, Wind, and Fire liquid rule power. It was that these three rules were commonly comprehended by card apprentices with an ego gem of any synchronization rate. Among all the rules in the card world's will Earth, Wind, Fire, and Water rules were easily accessible to all card apprentices regardless of their ego gem's synchronization rate. Since I can only build three intermediate array formations within an acre of land I made an executive decision to choose Earth, Wind, and Fire.

Rule power-related natural resources was very scarce in the card world. All known Rule-power rich environments were occupied and regulated by the central government, Royal families, Nobles of the central capital, Top ten universities, Sects, and other organizations.

Rule-power-rich environments were scares but it was even more difficult to find natural resources related to rule power. Therefore whenever natural resources related to rule power were discovered it led to a struggle between these powerful organizations so that they can monopolize the resources for themselves.

Such monopolistic behavior had led to the price of rule-power-related resources skyrocketing in the card world's market. That was why I did not think twice before spending nearly 2.5kgs of phantom sword wood to rent an acre of land to produce liquid rule power. If everything goes accordingly and get similar results to the simulations conducted by Hive AI then I will be making millions of soul jades with very little investment and effort.

However, I did hear rumors calming that the way beyond had many rule-power-rich environments developed by supreme beings. Seeing how the Bloodette's dungeon seal had turned into a holy place to comprehend blood rule with her presence I felt that these rumors held merit to them.

This was one of the reasons why many powerful card apprentices volunteered to guard way beyond. They did not seem to mind risking their lives to get their hands on scares resources. I did not know how to feel when numerous people were risking their lives to get the resource I could manufacture in tons with near to no effort and a little investment.

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Chapter 1303 Printing Money

[1,036 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

It took me early 2 hours to set up a single pseudo-natural rule-power gathering array formation, this array was a lot more complicated and harder to set up than the soul energy gathering array formations. I spent more than 6 hours within sector ES0012 setting up all three of the array formations and checking up on them twice to make sure I did not miss anything.

Now I had to wait a few hours or a day to see if they were able to manufacture as much liquid rule power as estimated by Hive AI. Because only then can these rule-power gathering arrays would be capable of bringing me the same amount of profit in a single day that the soul energy gathering arrays would bring in 24 days. If not I would rather stop investing in the rule-power-gathering array and prioritize the soul-power-gathering arrays.

Since there was still time for me to conclude the results of arrays set in this sector, I decided to head back to sector NS7878 and check how much liquid soul energy each of the arrays had collected. I have spent more than 6 hours in sector ES0012 then 6 days must have passed in sector NS7878. So I was long forward to how much liquid soul energy was collected by the three arrays.

Answering all the dialogue boxes, I was carried by an invisible force through a white tunnel before arriving next to a familiar fountain. As always sector NS7878 was empty. I directly head into the warehouse and began to determine if the three soul-energy-gathering array formations were still working without any hitch and then checked how much liquid soul energy each of them had collected within them.

All three of the pseudo-natural soul-energy-gathering array were working fine with any supervision they were in the same condition as the time I set them up. I was wise to choose pseudo-natural array formations, they were self-sufficient and did not require skilled labor to supervise them.

As for the liquid soul energy collected by each of the soul-energy-gathering array formations,

Soul Energy Nectar - 1440ml

Soul Energy Milk - 1440ml

Soul Energy Wine -1440ml

Total liquid soul energy - 4320ml

The results were within the predictions of Hive AI's simulations. Each array seems to have produced 10ml of liquid soul energy per hour adding up to 240ml of liquid soul energy per day, collecting a total of 1440ml of liquid soul energy within six days.

This meant that within 24 days each array would gather 5760ml of liquid soul energy. Combined they would be producing about 17,280ml of liquid soul energy. That was about 4.5 gallons of liquid soul energy per 24 hours of card world. Now that was a lot of liquid soul energy.

The rent of an acre of land was 2000 low-tier soul jades per day which were about 48,000 low-tier soul jades for 24 days. So the manufacturing cost of 4.5 gallons of liquid soul energy added up to 48,000 low-tier soul jades.

As for the market value of 4.5 gallons of liquid soul energy, 10ml of liquid soul energy was worth 100 low-tier soul jades. So 17,280ml of liquid soul jades would cost about 172,800 low-tier soul jades. Which brings my profit margin to 124,800 low-tier soul jades.

Being able to earn 124,800 low-tier soul jades in 24 hours of card world without doing any labor. This yield was just from an acre of sector NS7878 what if I were to make use of the entire 100 acres or expand the sector to use 1000 acres? I would be able to produce nearly a hundred million low-tier soul jades worth of liquid soul energy within 24 hours of card world. Now that is what I called printing money.

After doing the calculations I was pumped and even planned to start renting all the land I can in sector NS7878 and prop as many soul-energy-gathering arrays as possible. However, I did not act on that idea. Since Hive AI's simulation results were right about the soul-energy-gathering array then it would be right about the rule-power-gathering array too and according to its results, setting up more rule-power-gathering arrays in sector ES0012 would give me more profits.

I planned to prioritize only one of the two energy-gathering array formations because I did not plan to invest a lot of money in either of them. But seeing how promising these projects were I decided to invest the profit earned from either of them within them to further develop these projects into large-scale operations. If these two projects were promising they do not need me to invest a lot in either of them. This way I did not need to choose between two projects or invest a lot in them.

Finally, I concluded not to give up on either of the projects and instead use the profits from the projects to invest back in them until they were big enough but not big enough to saturate the card world market. Both these projects were able to make such huge profits because of the scarcity of the products produced by them in the card world.

So it was important to make sure that the production doesn't outgrow the demand.

Concluding the future development of both projects I then turned my attention to collecting the 1.2 gallons of liquid soul energy gathered in 6 days of sector NS7878 and moving it from the spiritual plane to the physical plane. I used the demon merchant codex to get the devil merchant code to create soul energy constructs of three 2-gallon containers for 5,000 soul jades each.

Custom soul energy constructs were not cheap that was why I had the devil merchant create 2-gallon containers keeping future use in mind. Then storing the soul energy nectar, soul energy milk, and soul energy wine in their respective containers I used the demon merchant codex to transfer them into my calamity soul gem.

Then I decided to use the devil merchant code to create a few soul energy constructs of various weapons it was expensive but I wanted to check if they could be sold in the card world after I turn them into item cards.

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Chapter 1304 Soul Energy Constructs

[1,064 words]

Date- 5 April 2321

Time- -/-

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Inter-realm city

A soul energy construct was a construct purely made of soul energy that exists only spiritually but not physically. They do not have soul pathways like everything else in the physical plane they were just masses of energy. They exist but never feel them physically however that was not the case spiritually. This was why I had the containers containing liquid soul energy transferred to my calamity soul gem and not my physical body.

Now imagine owning a weapon that can directly attack the enemy's spirituality without the enemy detecting it. I felt that weapons made of soul energy constructs can make an incredible hidden weapon that can silence any target without leaving behind any trail. I got excited just imagining using the soul energy construct to directly attack the enemy's ego gem and taking them out before they know what hit them.

I have not heard of these kinds of weapons in the card world but so I did not know their market value. However, I bet on them being incredibly rare and expensive therefore did not hesitate to get the devil merchant to create a few weapon-type soul energy constructs despite them costing me a fortune.

Now I was really starting to understand the points made by the demon merchants from the dark realm. Seeing how the demon merchants that were not native to the dark realm could easily make a killing by using the various features of the devil merchant code and the pricing difference in the two markets.

No wonder the demon merchants native to the dark realm jointly discriminated against the other demon merchants. It hasn't been that long since I got introduced to demon merchant codex and devil merchant code but I had already figured out a few different ways to make millions of soul jades. I don't see why the demon merchants that were not native to the dark realm complained about the devil merchant code being unfair and monopolized by demon merchants native to the dark realm.

Now that was insensitive on my part. I say so because if not for my knowledge of array formations, hefty seed money, Hive AI copying data from infinity library, etc I could never have been able to come up with various projects to earn millions of soul jades taking advantage of the various features of the devil merchant code and the pricing difference in the two markets.

I was not narcissistic and did not think that I was the first one to come up with the idea to farm liquid soul energy and rule power from the inter-realm city. I bet many demon merchants from the dark realm had already thought of that and have been doing that for ages.

This led to the supply of the liquid soul energy and rule power in the dark realm's market outgrowing the demand for the liquid soul energy and rule power in the dark realm's market causing the price of the liquid soul energy and rule power to decrease to record low totally eliminating the price difference in of liquid soul energy and rule power in the devil merchant market and the dark realm market.

When they could no longer make insanely high profits or even a minimum profit many demon merchants native to the dark realm stopped farming liquid soul energy and rule power in the inter-realm city. With this the supply and demand of liquid soul energy and rule power in the dark realm's market were balanced.

So unless a demon merchant had very high-level soul energy and rule power gathering array formations that allowed them to collect an enormous volume of liquid soul energy and rule power at their disposal they could not make much profit by farming liquid soul energy and rule power in the inter-realm city and selling it in the dark realm.

I would be a fool to think that since the creation of the devil merchant code's inter-realm city, none of the demon and devil merchants ever thought of using energy-gathering array formations to harvest liquid soul energy and rule power and sell them in their native realm taking advantage of the pricing difference in the two markets.

Many should have thought of that but only a few should have been able to achieve it because gathering the initial seed money and all the knowledge required for creating efficient energy-gathering array formations was not something everyone had. Just to gather either of these two things would take anyone years of hard work and accumulation. I was able to overcome all that thanks to my Hive AI and financial conditions. Otherwise, I too, like the young Redfoot, would have no choice but to sit next

to the fountain in the sector ES0012 to train my spirituality and comprehend rules. Hoping that things would change once I got stronger.

Using the demon merchant codex to transfer the weapon-type soul energy constructs that I had the devil merchant code create to my calamity soul gem I decided to leave the inter-realm city planning to return to sector ES0012 after a day has passed in card world to check on the pseudo-natural rule-power-gathering array formations and observe how much liquid rule power all three of the array formations had collected.

It was time I returned to my physical body because my work here in the inter-realm city was done for now. Soon I found myself back in the white tunnel and then felt an invisible force carry me out of the tunnel.

When I opened my eyes I saw my grimoire hovering in front of me and that my spiritual body had returned to my physical body, I was back in the physical plane in the Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Bloodette's dungeon seal.

I checked the time only to learn that I had spent nearly 18 hours in the inter-realm city however I only felt like only spent nine to ten hours in the inter-realm city, as most of my spent was spent setting up the six energy-gathering array formations and while the time I spent in sector DS0909 was the less compared to the other two sectors apparently I spent the most time there because of the time difference. I.e the flow of time in sector DS0909 was ten times the flow of time in the card world.

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Chapter 1305 Phantom Sword Mushroom Spawns

[1,060 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 09:48

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

With my spiritual body returning to my physical body I continued to go through the demon merchant page in my grimoire to conduct an inter-realm network search. Now that the energy-gathering projects have been set up, my next step was to set up the phantom sword mushroom farming project. This one going to cost me a lot but the

benefits it brought outweighed all the work, investment, and effort required to bring this project to fruition.

As I said this project was going to require a lot of capital and manpower, which was why I was on the inter-realm network search searching to buy phantom sword spawns and an affordable space item. Neither of these two items was cheap. However, they were important for me to grow and harvest phantom sword mushrooms.

Finding phantom sword mushroom spawns in the inter-realm network search was not difficult but finding good phantom sword mushroom spawns was. In order to grow good quality phantom sword mushrooms I need good phantom sword mushroom spawns as mushroom spawns were like seeds of the plants.

Which was why it was important for me to get my hand on good quality phantom sword mushroom spawns. This was starting to seem impossible because all the posts on the inter-realm network search regarding phantom sword mushroom spawns turned out to be either a scam or rip-off.

What's the use of planting seeds that won't germinate? Similarly buying mushroom spawns that won't grow into a mushroom was a waste and if a demon merchant was trying to sell low-level phantom sword mushroom spawn despite knowing that they will not grow into a phantom sword mushroom if they weren't then what.

The reason I planned to cultivate and harvest phantom sword mushrooms was that they were one of the most in-demand products in the devil merchant code market making them one of the most expensive products in the devil merchant code market the same was true in the card world market.

With such high demand for phantom sword mushrooms in the market it was not surprising that many demon merchants would try to grow phantom sword mushrooms. This gave birth to the demon merchants who sell useless phantom sword mushroom spawns or who sell phantom sword mushrooms at a sky price.

People trying to take advantage of the lucrative products was nothing new. My problem was I could not find a single genuine post selling good-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns in the inter-realm network. I was prepared to pay the sky-high price but only for the genuine product and not low-quality goods.

Going through numerous inter-realm network post, I short-listed four posts that managed to make me think the phantom sword mushroom spawns they were selling was genuine product and of excellent quality. Interestingly all four of them quoted similar prices. Making it harder for me to choose between them.

So I reached out to all four of the sellers in their private inter-realm networks requesting them to sample one of their phantom sword mushroom spawns. Out of four two of them

immediately replied to my request and used the demon merchant codex to send free samples of their phantom sword mushroom spawns.

Holding two phantom sword mushroom spawn samples sent over by their sellers I used my soul pupils to compare them and check which one of them was the best among them. To my surprise, both of the spawns belonged to the same breed of phantom sword mushroom. This made it easier for me, I decided to order half of a dozen Phantom sword mushroom spawns from both sellers. I did not plan to place a bulk order with either of the two sellers because I still did not trust them. I planned to see if they come through with this small order first, then I would decide whether to continue doing business with them.

They might have sent me excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns as samples but who was to say that they would give me excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns when I place a bulk order with one of them? Unless I can trust either of the sellers I did not plan to choose between them or give them a bulk order. Phantom sword mushroom spawns were not cheap if I got cheated I could only blame myself.

I placed half a dozen phantom sword mushroom spawns with both sellers, it cost me a total of 24,000 low-tier soul jades. I was okay with being cheated of this small amount of money to find out if I could trust both or either one of the phantom sword mushrooms spawn sellers.

As soon as I placed the offering on the compact offering array it was replaced by five phantom sword mushroom spawns. I repeated the same for the second seller and now I had a dozen phantom sword mushroom spawns in front of me including the two samples.

Out of these dozen phantom sword mushroom spawns only 5 of them were of excellent quality while the other 7 were of good quality. However, it was worth noticing that without using my soul pupils I could not tell the excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns apart from the good quality ones. The two sellers would have gotten away with their trick if not for my soul pupils.

I contacted both sellers in their private inter-realm network regarding my discovery of the phantom sword mushroom spawns they sold me asking them for an explanation but to my surprise both of them claimed that they sent half-dozen excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns and even implied that I was lying. With this, I concluded to not continue my business with either of them. I gave them an opportunity, they could have just apologized and replaced the good-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns with the excellent-quality ones. But they did not and enunciated that I was lying.

Despite catching the two sellers in the act I did not bother to report them to the devil merchant code for malpractice using the demon merchant codex's guilty appeal function because they would easily be acquitted claiming that it was an appraising error, their

appraisal skills were not advanced enough. At worst they would get a stern warning and a small fine. Not worth me wasting my time on them.

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[1,107 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 09:54

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Though I did not want to waste my time by reporting the two phantom sword mushroom spawn sellers to demon merchant code, I still contacted them on their private inter-realm network and warned them that if they did not compensate me I would report them to the devil merchant code even if it means wasting my time and energy. This was just a bluff, to see if I can get back what I paid for. If it works well and good if not I had other plans in mind that I planned to do anyway.

In response to my bluff, the two Phantom Sword Mushroom spawn sellers banned me from their private inter-realm network. Just as I was considering reporting these two scammers to the devil merchant code out of rage, the page of my grimoire turned from a demon merchant page to the compact offering array page by itself, and soon 7 more excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns appeared on the array. Now I had a dozen excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns and 7 good quality phantom sword mushroom spawns.

Even though the two phantom sword mushroom spawn sellers were confident that they would be acquitted if I were to report them to the devil merchant code, they did not want the hassle of going through all that just like me.

Adding to that even if they were acquitted in the end by the order of the devil merchant code they would still need to replace the 7 good-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns with 7 excellent quality ones. Not to mention in case I manage to convince the devil merchant code that what they did was not an appraisal error but planned, in the best case scenario they would have to pay a hefty fine and in the worst case scenario, their private inter-realm network would be banned.

They could have gotten away with it if I had not found out their trick but now I did their best course of action would be to apologize and rectify their mistake but they did not and instead tried to act tough hoping I would go away as most newbie demon merchant

would but once I threatened them with devil merchant code they decided to cut their losses by compensating me.

Though the two phantom sword mushroom sellers had compensated me, this did not mean I had let them off the hook. I have thought of the best way to get back at them and that was to attack them where it would hurt them the most. That would be by attacking their business.

I have gone through the entire inter-realm network in search of excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns and found that there was no way I could order a bulk quantity of excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns. The sellers will try to save a buck or two by mixing lower-quality goods into my bulk order.

Even if I somehow managed to find an honest demon merchant among these crooks, I do not think they would be able to meet my requirement of phantom sword mushroom spawns. Based on Hive AI's calculation I need nearly a million phantom sword mushroom spawns to completely use the stock of phantom sword wood in my inventory.

Yes, phantom sword mushrooms grow on the Phantom sword wood, imagine my surprise when I learned about the phantom sword mushrooms and them being one of the most expensive ingredients in the devil merchant code market. I had enough stock of phantom sword wood to grow phantom sword mushrooms but I did not have the knowledge of how to grow and harvest phantom sword mushrooms necessary to mass produce phantom sword mushrooms.

Thanks to the Infinity Library that problem was taken care of. However, two new problems surfaced now that I knew the necessary knowledge to grow and harvest phantom sword mushroom spawn. They were none other than the phantom sword mushroom spawns and an ideal location to grow phantom sword mushrooms. That was why I was scouring the inter-realm network in search of an honest phantom sword mushroom spawn seller and a storage item.

Now that I had a dozen excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns I planned to use them to grow my own excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns. This way I will not only manage to get the excellent phantom sword mushroom spawns I need to grow phantom sword mushrooms but also get back at the two phantom sword mushroom spawn sellers who almost scammed me earlier.

However, that would not be possible shortly because. It will take nearly two to three weeks to cultivate excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns. This was the reason why I did not plan to grow my own phantom sword mushroom spawns and instead tried to buy them on the inter-realm network. If my calculations were correct I will need nearly half a year to grow the amount of phantom sword mushroom spawns for my personal use.

As for selling phantom sword mushroom spawns on the inter-realm network that would only be possible after I had met my requirements. Planning and lying in wait for half a year just to get back at the two phantom sword mushroom spawns sellers over 7 good quality phantom sword mushroom spawns I never thought I would be this vindictive. Well everyone needs to have a hobby, right?

Now that I had decided to cultivate my own phantom sword mushroom spawns, next I scoured the inter-realm network for good space items to grow phantom sword mushrooms in.

Why a space item instead of land? That was because I was not strong enough to guard the phantom sword mushrooms I planned to grow until they reached maturity.

I planned to start a large-scale phantom sword mushroom plantation for which I needed a lot of land with the appropriate temperature, humidity, etc to grow phantom sword mushrooms. However, both phantom sword wood and phantom sword mushrooms were scarce and expensive ingredients in the card world when word got out about there being large-scale phantom sword mushroom plantations then it will attract the attention of greedy people.

To fight against them I would have to partner with the Southern royal family or Jill. However, if I partner with them then I will have to explain where I am selling the large number of phantom sword mushrooms that we grew. Which could risk revealing my secret about being a demon merchant to them.

So to avoid all this hassle I decided to buy a space item and start a large-scale phantom sword mushroom plantation in it.

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Chapter 1307 Deep Storage Space Item

[1,042 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 10:05

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

My search on the inter-realm network turned up a lot of storage space items, but they were all extremely expensive. The price of the storage space item of the size I wanted was way beyond my budget. In light of this, I realized that I would not be able to purchase a storage space item over the inter-realm network. I may have to continue my search on the card world market better yet I could just create one myself.

The search for storage space items on the inter-realm network concluded similarly to the search for phantom sword mushroom spawns on the inter-realm network. That was, me creating the excellent quality mushroom spawns and large-scale storage space items I needed. But the inter-realm network search was not entirely fruitless. I managed to get my hands on a dozen excellent quality mushroom spawns and also many concepts for a large-size storage space item. These will help me a lot in growing my own batch of excellent quality mushroom spawns and creating my own deep storage space item.

Now that I had decided to create a deep storage space item, I extended my inter-realm search to space stones and other space-related ingredients which I could use in the creation of a deep storage space item. Fortunately, was able to find many rare-grade space-related ingredients within my budget. Now the question was which one of them I should be choosing.

That would depend on the type of deep storage space item I planned to create. Thanks to my inter-realm search on deep storage space items I had come across various concepts of deep storage space items across myriad realms. And I had taken fancy to three deep storage space items of all the items I had seen so far.

The first one was a painting of a rainforest, inside the painting was another miniature world, a world of the rainforest. One could physically enter it and live there or do as they pleased. Such as growing honey bees, wood cutting, farming the land, or creating a phantom sword mushroom plantation. All in all, it was similar to a gate dungeon with exception of monsters trying to kill whoever enters it. This was a good concept I could see using such a deep storage space item card to cultivate and harvest phantom sword mushrooms.

The second deep storage space item I liked was a mirror-type item that had an ability called mirror world, a small world in the reflection of the mirror. This small world was empty, I would have to introduce soul energy, air, soil, water, etc into it if I planned to use it to cultivate and harvest phantom sword mushrooms in it. This deep storage space item stood out for me because I had total control over the small world inside the mirror, even over minute things like the moisture and temperature in it.

The last one was the bottle-type deep storage space item. This bottle could miniaturize anything and store them within it. For example tall buildings, acres of land, mountain ranges, rivers, a small world, etc. The most attractive part about this item was that the user could enter the bottle physically to explore whatever was stored in it without any

restrictions. One would think that would not be possible for an item such as this but they made it possible.

While all three concepts of the deep storage space item were excellent, I decided not to choose any one of them. Instead, I came up with a better concept for a deep storage space item card which made use of the advantages of all three above-mentioned concepts. Why choose when you can have it all?

Having come up with my own concept of a deep storage space item card I spent about 210,500 low-grade soul jades worth of phantom sword wood on various space-related ingredients, which was about 10.5kg of phantom sword wood.

[Quartz Space Crystals - 1 kg - 75,500 soul jades.

Deep Space Worm Intestine - 5 meters - 67,000 soul jade

Deep space Worm Core - 1 - 50,000 soul jades

Space Root Tree Heart - 1 - 18,000 soul jades]

It might look like I spent a lot on a few rare-grade ingredients but had it been in the card world market, first off I would not be able to find them because of the various regulations of the authorities. Even if I somehow managed to get them they would cost me nearly ten times more than what I paid for them in the inter-realm network.

Having bought the items I wanted to get right to the creation of the deep storage space item card I had in my mind but stopped being alerted by my isolation array separating me from the rest of the dungeon.

I used my mental strength to check what was happening only to find Corey pacing back and forth right next to my isolation array. It appears she was contemplating if she should call me fearing that she might disturb my rule comprehension. She seems to have decided to wait until I come out of my isolation array. It was good to see that despite her titled demon core messing with her head was still considerate and thoughtful.

So I decided not to make her wait longer and deactivated the isolation array, revealing myself to Corey. However, she was too occupied in her thought to notice that I had deactivated the isolation array, therefore I cleared my throat to bring her mind back to the physical plane, "Ahem!"

"Wyatt," seeing me Corey blurted in surprise

"What do you want?" I asked

"Cortney said you have blood rule pills made by Bloodette that will help with comprehension of blood rule. Can I borrow some?" Corey asked shyly. This surprised

me because Corey would rather die than ask for favors from me. Was it Corey Park who put her up to this? Well, she did help me learn the dark language and since both of them were my employees, I decided to give Corey a few blood rule pills as an employee benefit, "Sure, why not."

"Huh," my response surprised Corey, I guess things went a lot smoother than she was expecting them to.

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

[1,051 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 10:05

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Disregarding Corey's surprise, I asked if she needed anything else as I handed her a storage card with 150 blood rule pills.

"No, thank you for the blood pills," she replied gratefully, taking the card and hurrying back to her corner of the cave. Without wasting any time, she popped one of the blood pills and immediately began comprehending the infinite possibilities of blood rule.

Observing Corey's eagerness to return to her study of blood rule after she had reluctantly asked me for help, I realized that she must have made significant strides in her mastery of the blood rule. It was apparent to me that she had encountered a bottleneck in her comprehension of blood rule at a crucial juncture, which prompted her to seek my assistance. I couldn't think of any other reason why Corey, who was usually fiercely against me, would have forced herself to ask for my help.

I couldn't help but wonder if Corey had achieved an advanced level of blood rule mastery and reached the bifurcation point in her studies of blood rule. I was curious about which meaning of blood rule she would ultimately end up choosing. Perhaps, she would come up with something new and useful, something that my calamity daughter gems and I had not yet comprehended. Now that would be something to look forward to.

Given the opportunity, I was keen on learning about the representation of millions of blood rule meaning at the bifurcation point. Unfortunately, it seemed unlikely that I could obtain such knowledge with my current level of strength. Perhaps if I were to become as

powerful as the devil merchant code, it would be feasible. Alternatively, I could seek the devil merchant code's assistance, but I feared that the information might be worth more than I could imagine.

Activating the isolation array I once again returned to the inter-realm network search in search of other ingredients required for the deep storage space item card I wanted to create.

I couldn't help but feel pleased that I was a demon merchant at this moment. Otherwise, I would have had to go back to the warehouse and order items from the adventure guild mall like an average mortal. It saved me a lot of trouble. In addition, I had doubts about finding the necessary ingredients I required for the creation of my deep storage space item card in the Sky Blossom City market. And even if I did manage to find them, I was uncertain whether they could fulfill my bulk order requirements.

[B-rank, Rare-grade, magnetite core - 100 pcs - 5000 soul jades.

A-rank, Rare-grade, Firmament Stones - 100 pcs - 60,000 soul jades.

C-rank, uncommon-grade, Voidstone - 10 kgs - 56,000 soul jades

B-rank, Rare-grade, Voidsteel - 10 kgs - 178,000 soul jades]

To acquire the additional ingredients necessary for creating my deep storage space item card I ended up spending 299,000 low-tier soul jades, equivalent to about 14.9 kg of phantom sword wood. The only reason the cost was significantly higher than what I anticipated was that while I searched for the ingredients I need for the creation of the card in the inter-realm network, the search results showed the ingredients I was searching for along with the superior alternatives for them.

Knowing that there were better alternatives I could not just settle for subpar ingredients for my card and thus ended up with a hefty bill. However, the end result was worth the extra expense, and I remained satisfied as long as I achieved what I had envisioned. After obtaining the necessary ingredients, I carefully went through the blueprint that I and Hive AI created for the deep storage space item card that I intended to create.

I planned to create a card version of the augmented and virtual sandbox that was used in the simulation software and games back on Earth. A real-life sandbox was the concept I had envisioned for my deep storage space item card. Within the sandbox, I would be like a god with control over everything in it. With the exception of time. Unfortunately, I couldn't find the necessary ingredients within my budget to achieve time control, but I was determined to make the best of what I had.

The best part about the sandbox card was that it would allow me to make Hive AI and my three mutant consciousnesses temporary administrators of the sandbox, giving them complete authority over the phantom sword mushroom plantation that I intended to

establish within it. With this feature, I wouldn't have to allocate any of my precious time to oversee the growth of the phantom sword mushroom, which would be incredibly convenient and time-saving.

The thought of carrying a massive phantom sword mushroom plantation in my grimoire was surreal. This was for the best, it would save me a lot of external troubles that I would be facing if I had chosen to establish this phantom sword mushroom plantation in the sky blossom city or in the southern royal palace, or in Jill's lab instead of a deep storage space item. This was why I felt the 509,500 low-tier soul jades worth of phantom sword wood spent on this card was well spent.

The sandbox card I was creating would not only come hand in farming phantom sword mushrooms but also become the base for my moving lab, just like the one Jill had. With this card, camping in the dungeon or disconnecting myself from the rest of the world for research or the creation of cards would become more fun. I was really looking forward to this card imagining its various applications.

Having bought all the required ingredients and decided on the vision for the card now it was time for me to begin the creation of the sandbox card I had envisioned, a world where I had complete control over everything.

As I began the card creation process, I meticulously followed the blueprint, ensuring that every detail was precise. It was a long and tedious process, but I was determined to make it perfect. Seconds turned into minutes, and minutes turned into hours as I worked tirelessly on the card. Each time I encountered a roadblock, I pushed through it, determined to make my vision a reality.

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1308 beginning

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 10:05

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

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- Chapter 1309 Card Creation Complete

Chapter 1309 Card Creation Complete

[1,001 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 10:14

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

I placed the common core that I had with me on the card creation page and added 100 pieces of B-rank, Rare-grade, Magnetite Core. Then, I started the card creation process by transferring the soul pathways of all the 100 magnetite cores into the common core. These Magnetite Cores belonged to the B-rank monster Magnetite golem, which had the gravity manipulation ability. With the 100 magnetite cores, I laid the groundwork for something similar to gravity for the miniature world inside the sandbox that I was going to create.

After that, I transferred the soul pathways of 100 pieces of A-rank, Rare-grade, Firmament Stones, 10 kgs of C-rank, uncommon-grade, Voidstone, and 10 kgs of B-

rank, Rare-grade, Voidsteel into the common core. These three space-related ingredients were extensively used to create various items with space-related skills. But, when I fused them together in the ratio of 10:1:1, they formed a perfect space domain big enough to house a small world within it.

Then, I transferred the soul pathways of A-rank, Rare-grade, Quartz Space Crystals into the common core. Quartz space crystals were typically utilized for constructing space barriers that were incredibly sturdy, capable of evenly distributing the energy of any attack on it across its body. Due to this, a tremendous amount of force and energy was needed to overcome the space barrier made by Quartz space crystals. I intended to utilize this ability of the Quartz space crystal to create the protective cover and the boundary of the sandbox that I was in the process of creating.

Moving on, I proceeded to move the soul pathways of the 5-meter-long B-rank, Rare-grade, Deep Space Worm Intestine, and the B-rank, Rare-grade, Deep Space Worm Core into the common core. Deep Space Worms do not have a separate stomach, their intestine serves the purpose of both the stomach and intestine. Hence, the worm's intestine extends over two-thirds of its body length. The Deep Space Worm's intestine can grind the swallowed food to break it down into usable chemicals that can be absorbed into the bloodstream. However, its most noteworthy ability was to keep the swallowed food unaffected by its body using space-based skills. I planned to utilize this ability of the Deep Space Worm to ensure the stability of the space within the sandbox card.

Lastly, I transferred the soul pathways of the A-rank, Rare-grade, Space Root Tree Heart into the common core. The space root tree heart was the seed of the space root tree that is sowed and takes root in space. Until the seed starts to sprout into a sapling, nobody can determine that a space root tree heart had taken root in that space. I intended to utilize this ability of the space root tree heart to give my sandbox card the ability to stealthily hide in space by taking root in it, just like the seed of the space root tree.

The next step in the card creation process was for me to arrange the soul pathways of all eight of these rare-grade ingredients in a way that, upon morphing the common core into a card, it would successfully become the sandbox card I had envisioned.

First, I use the soul pathways of the Quartz Space Crystals to create a space barrier around the space domain that I have created by fusing the soul pathways of the Firmament Stones, Voidstone, and Voidsteel in the 10:1:1 ratio. As I concentrate on the process, I can feel the soul energy of the crystals swirling in the soul pathways of both ingredients, forming a space domain protected by a shimmering space barrier.

Then, I focus on the soul pathways of the Magnetite Core and use them to introduce the gravitation force into the space domain. I carefully transfer the energy, making sure that the force is balanced and not too overwhelming. The formless space domain starts to take shape, as the gravitational forces took root in it.

Then I immediately continued with the next step of the card creation process as I knew that I needed to ensure the stability of the space domain after introducing gravitational forces to it. So, I decided to use the soul pathways from the deep space worm's intestines and core. Their ability to stabilize the space domain made it impervious to any internal and external space-based skills used on it. This was crucial to my goal of creating a sandbox card that could withstand any space-related skill.

Once the space domain was stable, it was time to tap into the soul pathways of the space root tree heart. Using its soul pathways, I morphed and transformed the space domain and its protective space barrier into a small space seed. This seed was a marvel to behold, resembling a tiny quartz seed, yet possessing incredible abilities.

With the help of the soul pathways of the space root tree heart, the seed had the unique ability to hide in the surrounding space by taking root in it. It was like burrowing into space, allowing the sandbox card to hide in plain sight.

And now for the final touch, I morphed the common core into a card by tugging on the transformation soul pathway in it. The common core glowed as it followed the newly created soul pathway arrangements in it and successfully morph into a card. Marking the completion of the card creation process.

Holding the freshly created card I went through the card info to see if the card was everything I envisioned it to be.

[Card Name: World Seed

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare-Grade

Card Rate: 6-Stars

Card Durability: (98/100)

Card Effect: The World Seed is an item that operates in space. It takes root in the void, granting the user access to the space domain housed within it. This space domain is akin to a sandbox, allowing the user complete command over the miniature world held within it.

Additional Effects: Pseudo-Reality manipulation, space immunity, Gravity manipulation, Celestial's touch, Space burrowing.]

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Chapter 1310 World Seed Item Card

[1,079 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 11:45

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

Pseudo-Reality manipulation: With this ability, the user wields the power to bend the fabric of reality itself, shaping the existential state of anything and everything that originates from within the world seed. This ability grants unparalleled control over the very essence of creation within the world seed, allowing for the manipulation of all that is and all that can be.

Note: The scope of this ability is limited to objects and entities that are created in the world seed. Anything introduced through external means remains outside the user's influence, as this power solely affects that which is created within the world seed item card's boundaries.

Space Immunity: This ability is a formidable skill that endows the domain within the world seed with unparalleled protection against spatial-based powers originating from external sources. Nothing that exists beyond the boundaries of the space domain can penetrate its defenses, and all that resides within it is similarly shielded. This power represents an impregnable fortress of space that cannot be breached by any external force or space arts.

Note: The potency and range of this ability are intricately linked to the grade and rank of the card in question. The strength of Space Immunity can vary greatly, from a small localized area to a vast expanse spanning the entire world seed. As the card's grade and rank increase, so too does the reach and effectiveness of the power, making it a force to be reckoned with in the hands of a skilled card apprentice.

Gravity manipulation: It is a powerful ability that allows the user to generate and control the fundamental force of gravity within the confines of the world seed's space domain. This power grants the user the ability to create gravitational fields of any magnitude and from any direction, shaping the very fabric of space to their will. With this ability, the user can alter the trajectory of objects, create devastating implosions or explosions, and even control the movement of living beings.

The user can use the power of Gravity Manipulation to extend beyond just the creation of gravitational fields within the world seed's space domain. This ability also grants the

user the power to manipulate the gravitational fields of other objects within the world seed's space domain, bending them to their will. Furthermore, the user can induce zero gravity to an extent where the user can generate black holes.

Note: The power of Gravity Manipulation grants the ability to generate black holes within the world seed's space domain, such an action should be approached with extreme caution. The immense gravitational force of a black hole can rapidly grow out of control, potentially resulting in the destruction of the space domain within the seed. As such, the users are advised to exercise restraint when using manipulating gravity to avoid creating black holes, lest they risk unleashing a cosmic disaster upon the space domain within world seed once the black hole grows larger than what a rare-grade space immunity can handle.

Celestial's touch: It is a truly awe-inspiring ability, one that brings together the powers of Pseudo-Reality Manipulation and Gravity Manipulation in a truly unique way. With this ability, the user can create an entire world within the confines of the space domain in the world seed, crafting every aspect of its reality to their liking. The gravity of this world can be manipulated at will, allowing for incredible feats of engineering and architecture that would be impossible in the outside world. The world that is created through Celestial's Touch is truly a marvel to behold, a testament to the user's mastery over the very fabric of existence itself.

Note: The world created through Celestial's Touch is not bound by the laws of physics as we know them. The user has complete control over the gravity within the space domain of the world seed, and as such, they can shape the world they create to their exact specifications. The world need not conform to the traditional spherical shape, nor does it have to be limited to the confines of a flat world or any other traditional shape. The user's will is the only limit to the shape of the world they create.

Space burrowing: this ability of the World Seed is truly incredible, it allows the world seed to anchor itself into the surrounding space by burrowing into it a few inches deep and extending roots into the fabric of the space. However, once it has taken root in a new location, it becomes a permanent fixture of the space, unshakeable and immovable like a tree taking root in the ground. This skill serves as a stealth ability to protect the world seed when the user enters its space domain. The user can uproot the world seed from the space at their will.

Note: The burrowed and anchored in the space world seed is immune to space disturbance and anomalies to extent of that a rare-grade space immunity can handle.

...

As I perused the information on the World Seed card, a sense of satisfaction washed over me. This was exactly what I had been searching for - a deep storage space item that would grant me unrivaled power and control over its storage space. Within the

World Seed card's space domain, I would be an omniscient creator and destroyer, with the ability to shape the very fabric of space within it.

The possibilities of this card were endless - I could create entire worlds from scratch, populated with whatever creatures or structures I desired. I could bend the laws of physics to my will, altering gravity, and space itself to suit my whims. And if necessary, I could also wield the power of destruction. The perfect place for me to grow and harvest my phantom sword mushrooms.

Without wasting another moment, I deftly equipped the World Seed item card into my grimoire, eager to explore the space domain of the world seed. As I activated the card's power, I felt an invisible force covering my body, a sense of weightlessness overcame me, and suddenly I was no longer in the cave. In my place was a tiny quartz seed, barely visible to the naked eye. That's the world seed, it immediately burrowed into the surrounding space without leaving any trace behind. Tunneling a few inches deep in the space, tendrils extended out of the world seed and anchored into the fabric of the space itself.

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Chapter 1311 Floating Island

[1,010 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 11:45

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, World Seed

As I ventured into the space domain of the world seed, I brimmed with excitement, eager to witness the miniature space that lay within the world seed. Yet, entering it I found myself drifting aimlessly in a void shrouded in all-encompassing darkness. It was as if I had been cast into the far reaches of space. At this moment, I empathized with the isolation astronauts must feel when they venture out into the unknown. But unlike the stars that offered guidance and comfort to astronauts, the world seed's space domain offered no such solace to me as it did not have any light source. Instead, I was alone with my thoughts, consumed by the overwhelming silence and emptiness of the dark space domain.

"Let there be light," I said, and with my command, the world seed promptly absorbed the external light and ushered it into the dark abyss of its space domain. Then through the use of pseudo-reality manipulation, I gathered all the light, coalescing it into tiny globes that floated around the space, casting a warm glow and transforming the once-dark domain into a stunning sight. It was similar to the fictional space illustrated in the Earth's science fiction movies.

The space domain lacked a proper atmosphere, it did not have an oxygen supply and was void of temperature. Soon my mutant Viltronian Gigamite physique approached its physical limits, my body systems were on the brink of being shut down. So immediately I commanded the world seed to absorb air from the cave and introduce it into the space domain. Employing the world seed's ability of pseudo-reality manipulation, I deftly contained the absorbed air to my immediate surroundings, ensuring it did not spread uncontrollably throughout the vast expanse of space.

The space domain inside the world seed was vast and felt boundless, it could easily fit two or three floating metropolitan cities in it. The combination of the rare-grade ingredients Firmament Stones, Voidstone, and Voidsteel had worked wonders. Proving that I was right to opt for the better alternative ingredients suggested by the demon merchant code during the inter-realm network search even if I had to go over my budget to make it all happen. As I gazed upon the seemingly boundless expanse of the space domain I thought to myself that the capital I had invested in its creation was a small price to pay for such a magnificent outcome, 'money well spent.'

As I soared through the vast expanse of the space domain using the gravity manipulation ability, my excitement at creating something new soon gave way to boredom. The applications of the world seed were limited by the confines of the Bloodette's dungeon seal. If the world seed were outside, I have commanded it to absorb the rich soil and sturdy stones needed to build a flat world within the space domain. With the foundation in place, I could then begin my ambitious project of cultivating a vast plantation of phantom sword mushrooms, thriving and pulsating with life in the otherwise barren expanse of space.

The thought of absorbing soil and stones from outside to create a flat world within the desolate space domain sparked a sudden inspiration within me. Without hesitation, I reached for my monster orb item card and summoned the five Stone Viltronians it housed as they were the key to bringing my vision to life. These stone elementals had mastered earth rule and its respective meanings. I instruct them to utilize their rule power to conjure up vast quantities of soil and stone. I then used gravity manipulation to help the Stone Viltronians shape the conjured soil and stones to form the foundation of the floating island I envisioned. Their mastery over the earth rule was truly astounding, once the gravity in that part of space was defined they created the floating island there with ease as I watched in awe.

As I set foot upon the floating island, expertly crafted by the skilled hands of the stone Viltronians, my mind was already racing with plans for the future. I had created this

barren expanse of the space domain as the perfect place to cultivate the finest quality phantom sword mushrooms by establishing a thriving plantation here. With a renewed sense of purpose, I decided to start laying the groundwork for my ambitious project, which was to start cultivating excellent quality phantom sword mushroom spawns.

With the determination to create excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns, I began setting up a greenhouse array formation around the floating island. I knew that I could create the perfect environment for the mushroom spawns to thrive in this space domain by utilizing the ability of pseudo-reality manipulation. However, I also understood that I couldn't be present within the world seed for the entirety of the cultivation period to attend to every variable in the spawn-production process.

Therefore, I had to rely on the teachings in the books on 'how to cultivate phantom sword mushrooms' that I read in the 'Infinity Library' and set up the greenhouse array formation accordingly. The array had meticulous attention to detail, it ensured that every variable and change in the spawn-production process was accounted for and that the mushroom spawns would receive the care and attention they needed to flourish. With this array in place, I could skip the required patience and dedication to get a bountiful harvest of excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns.

With the array in position, my attention turned to the dozen excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns that I had acquired. These spawns were of the highest quality and it was my task to use them to concoct a mushroom grain blend that would nurture a fresh batch of excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns. The blend that I concocted for the mushrooms was nothing but a combination of moist phantom sword wood bark and grains of phantom sword mushroom. In two to three weeks, it would grow in the finest batch of mushroom spawns.

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

Chapter 1312 Blood Rebrith

[1,497 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:07

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, World Seed

Neatly arranging the phantom sword mushroom spawn blend inside the greenhouse array. This mixture was nowhere near enough to produce the quantity of excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns I required to start my phantom sword mushroom plantation. However, in two or three weeks this blend would produce a few hundred dozen excellent-quality phantom sword mushroom spawns which I would then employ to form a new mushroom blend, creating tens of thousands of excellent-quality spawns.

By replicating this cycle for six months, I should acquire the quantity of superior phantom sword mushroom spawns that I need to start my phantom sword mushroom plantation and a little extra to run a side business of selling phantom sword mushroom spawn in the inter-realm network. This way I could not only seek retribution against the two deceitful vendors who attempted to exploit me but also earn a profit in the process.

Having completed that task, I turned my attention back to the boundless expanse of the space domain, pondering how I could capitalize on it. Perhaps delving into the world of farming and breeding sought-after rare ingredients and beasts, much like my upcoming phantom sword mushroom plantation, would be a lucrative endeavor. Nonetheless, establishing a farm from scratch would be a substantial financial burden. The only reason I had decided to commence a phantom sword mushroom plantation was due to my abundant supply of phantom sword wood. Therefore I was confident that with minimal investment at the onset, phantom sword mushroom plantation would amass a fortune in due time.

There are numerous in-demand rare ingredients and monsters with expensive price tags leaving me with an array of options to consider if I choose to establish a farm or a ranch. However, to avoid appearing foolish by cultivating or breeding a certain commodity only to discover that its market value would decline following the market trend, I must conduct extensive research on its market demand and cultivation process before making a decision.

Utilizing one of my mutant consciousness, I created a clone that would remain in the space domain to operate the greenhouse array formation, facilitating the cultivation of phantom sword mushroom spawns and ensuring its maintenance, if need be. With my command, the world seed burrowed out of space before I exited its space domain.

Returning to the cave, I checked on Corey only to find that Cortney was swinging a large axe at her head. Alarmed, I hurried out of the array formation yelling, "Stop!"

Regrettably, my arrival was too late, as Cortney had already decapitated Corey with a swift blow of her colossal axe. Shaking my head helplessly, I listened as Cortney attempted to explain her action, "Wyatt, it's not what it seems like."

"Please don't worry, Cortney. I am certain that you had good reasons for what you did. I do not judge you for killing Corey. In fact, in the last few days, I too had entertained

thoughts of hacking her to pieces. You simply beat me to the punch," I reassured Cortney.

With that said, I used my soul pupils to examine Corey's still-warm, severed body to determine if there was any hope of reviving her. Perhaps by reattaching her head to her body or some other means, as she did possess the title of a demon core. Who knows what wonders it was capable of?

"Wyatt, it is not like what you think. I did not want to kill her she forced me to," Cortney explained frantically.

"Cortney, you do not have to justify yourself to me. I understand that sentiment all too well," I replied in a composed manner, despite witnessing her behead Corey with an axe.

Cortney appeared unsettled by my calm demeanor, regarding me with a perplexed expression that seemed to ask, 'What is wrong with him?'

Observing Cortney's befuddled expression, I directed my attention toward Corey's lifeless head, and commented, "Stop pretending to be dead. I know that you are frail like an ant, but even an ant would not just stand still while someone attempted to decapitate them."

As soon as those words left my lips, the confusion in Cortney's eyes was replaced by clarity. Streams of blood flowed from Corey's head, connecting it back to her body. Although it was gruesome to witness, it was fascinating to discover that it would take more than a mere beheading to slay Corey. In a flash, Corey regained her footing and bellowed, "Who are you calling frail?"

"So, which meaning of the blood rule did you comprehend? I assume it must be related to regeneration or pseudo-immortality since you compelled Cortney to behead you," I inquired, observing Corey's head reattach to her body.

As Cortney swung the axe towards Corey's neck, I couldn't help but notice how strangely still Corey remained. It was as if she was inviting the blade to slice through her neck. Most people would instinctively dodge or move out of the way, but Corey didn't even flinch. It was clear that she had chosen to not evade Cortney's attack.

Given the context of our location and what Corey was doing before this, there was only one logical explanation for her behavior. It was evident that she had comprehended a blood rule related to body regeneration or partial immortality. By coercing Cortney to behead her, Corey was testing the potency of the blood rule meaning she had recently mastered. And judging from her physical reaction, she appeared to have achieved her goal. The act of beheading oneself to test one's abilities was brutal and resolute. However, I couldn't help but feel impressed by Corey's determination to take risks and push herself beyond her limits to become stronger.

"The blood rule meaning I comprehend is called Blood Rebirth. I do not know if this blood should be categorized under regeneration or partial immortality. You tell me," saying that Corey continued to add, "As long as there is blood flowing through my body I can revive myself from any kind of fatal wound. Once my master of this blood rule meaning reaches ultimate mastery I can revive myself as long as there is a single drop of my blood left. Awesome right."

Corey's revelation left me in awe. Blood Rebirth was a remarkable blood rule meaning that surpassed many regeneration or partial-immortality related rule meanings out there. The ability to revive oneself from any fatal wound was beyond impressive, and the possibilities after achieving ultimate mastery were even more intriguing.

"Well, I must say I am impressed, Corey. Blood Rebirth is an extraordinary blood rule meaning that surpasses even the most advanced forms of regeneration or partial immortality. It is truly an awesome ability," I said, acknowledging Corey's achievement. "I would categorize it under regeneration rather than partial immortality as you revive by regenerating from your blood. You should not let this skill make you careless since you can still be killed if you get incinerated. But still, it's a powerful ability. You should be proud."

Corey smiled and appeared pleased with my response. "Thank you, Wyatt. I have been working tirelessly to master this blood rule meaning, and I am glad that my hard work has paid off," she replied.

To my amazement, it only required a handful of commendatory words celebrating her accomplishment to initiate a pleasant dialogue with Corey. I guess I will keep this in mind.

"What about you Wyatt, which blood rule meaning did you comprehend?" Corey asked enthusiastically.

"No, I wasn't comprehending blood rule but was busy with something else," I vaguely replied, opting not to delve into specifics.

"I was indeed doing something else, I'd prefer not to share at the moment what I was doing, but I'm not lying," I responded, hoping to quell Corey's disbelief toward my words. However, her skepticism persisted, and she accused me of being dishonest. I decided not to argue with her and let her think what she wanted. As long as she stopped pestering me about the blood rule meaning I comprehended, correcting her wasn't worth the effort.

"I'll give you the benefit of the doubt this time," Corey's words surprised me, she was on a roll today. Hopefully, she will be this pleasant to be around in presence of Susan.

"Courtney, Bloodette is not out yet?" I inquired. Wondering if Bloodette had mastered whatever blood rule meaning she was trying to comprehend.

"No, she hasn't. She seems to be still trying to comprehend that particular blood rule meaning to ultimate mastery," Cortney replied implying that Bloodette insisted on mastering that particular blood rule meaning to ultimate mastery resulting in her long retreat. Also hinting that Bloodette would not be coming out of her retreat any time soon.

"Interesting," I mused, my curiosity piqued. With Bloodette's exceptional talent for comprehending blood rules, mastering a particular blood rule meaning to ultimate mastery would not typically require such a prolonged effort. If she was struggling to comprehend it, then it must be an extraordinary blood rule meaning indeed. I was looking forward to it.

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

Chapter 1313 Dungeon Recreation

[1,528 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:19

Location- Southern Region, Blossom district, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands, Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon

"Corey, you have my grimoire id, feel free to call me any time you want to use the cave for your blood rule mastery," Cortney graciously extended the invitation to her newfound friend.

"I surely will, no need to remind me," Corey replied with a confident smile.

Listening to Corey and Cortney's conversation, I couldn't help but wonder, 'When did these two develop such a close bond?'

...

As they emerged from the Blood Rock Cave Gate Dungeon, Corey turned to look at her boss and inquired, "What's next on the agenda, Wyatt?"

"You need to head back to your warehouse and work on those promised cards, Corey. And try to be speedy about it," I promptly instructed Corey.

Corey was taken aback, "Seriously?" she exclaimed, as she thought she was under her boss's supervision following the debacle at her warehouse.

"Before you leave, could you explain to me how you landed on the Blood Rebirth meanings for Blood Rule amidst countless other possible meanings at the bifurcation point?" I asked Corey.

"At the bifurcation point, I was inundated with the multitude of meanings for Blood Rule. However, my Origin Card suddenly began to react, which gave me a sense of certainty, and that was how I ended up choosing the Blood Rebirth meaning," Corey recounted her experience at the blood rule bifurcation point.

"I see," I nodded in response to Corey's explanation. It came as no surprise to me that her Origin Card had influenced her choice of Blood Rule meaning. In fact, I had already begun to speculate on the significant role that a card apprentice's Origin Card played in selecting Rule meanings.

"Are you suggesting that my understanding of the Blood Rebirth meaning is due to my Relife Origin Card?" Corey blurted out, addressing Corey Park, who was residing within her Title Demon Core.

My eyebrows lifted in surprise upon hearing Corey's remark, and I couldn't help but wonder how Corey Park had arrived at that conclusion. While I had my Calamity Daughter Gems and Corey as evidence to support my speculation, I wasn't sure what Corey Park's reasoning was. Could it be that she had picked up on my reaction to Corey's story about her origin card influencing her choice of Blood Rule meaning and drawn her own conclusion?

Suddenly, a fiery duplicate of Corey materialized next to her, and the doppelganger was none other than Corey Park, she addressed me, "Wyatt, are you absolutely certain that Corey doesn't require your supervision? I witnessed how the Southern Emperor, her twin, and Agatha responded to Corey succumbing to the darkness within her Title Demon Core."

"I understand your concern, but you need not worry about the Southern Emperor, her twin, or Agatha detaining or harming Corey because of her Title Demon Core. I've already had a conversation with them about the matter. Rest assured unless Corey gives into the darkness and goes on a killing spree, both you and Corey have nothing to worry about. So relax and focus on creating those cards as quickly as possible," I reassured Corey Park, letting her know that they had nothing to fear.

"Alright, if you say so," Corey Park replied, meeting my gaze briefly before retreating back into her Title Demon Core.

"After we're done creating the cards, I'll give you a call," Corey announced, before zooming off on her hoverbike.

I had a good reason for keeping Corey close to me following the incident in her warehouse, and it had nothing to do with Anna, Ann, or Agatha planning to subdue her upon detecting the demonic energy emanating from her. Rather, it was all about Corey's Title Demon Core. However, now that I had found a better alternative to what I was seeking in Corey's Title Demon Core, I no longer had a need for her to stay by my side.

My fascination with Corey's Title Demon Core stemmed from the fact that its spiritual channel was linked to the will of the card world. However, when she succumbed to the darkness, it became connected to the will of the dark realm, which intrigued me. I wanted to study it to understand how it was able to accomplish this feat. What was even more astonishing was that when connected to the will of the dark realm, Corey was not targeted by the suppression of the card world's will like other demons would have been. This was truly remarkable.

The phenomenon in Corey's Title Demon Core captivated me for a specific reason: I wanted to use the information on its ability to harness the dark realm's will at the spiritual plane end of its spiritual channel to help me create dungeons of my choosing in the card world.

My motive for requesting Anna to swipe the dungeon relocation apparatus wasn't to uncover the secrets of its invention or to utilize it for relocating dungeons. Rather, I aimed to exploit its flaw and harness it for creating a unique dungeon - the Silver Beach Gate Dungeon, to be precise.

Upon discovering that Luna had pilfered the Silver Beach Gate Dungeon, I contemplated utilizing my newfound knowledge of dungeon creation and the dungeon relocation apparatus to construct another one. However, uncertainty crept in, as there was no guarantee that the dungeon I created would be a perfect replica of the original. As a result, I abandoned this notion until I stumbled upon the captivating phenomenon within Corey's Title Demon Core.

Armed with the knowledge from Corey's Title Demon Core, and the dungeon relocation apparatus, I felt confident that the dungeon I summoned would be precisely what I desired. This conviction emboldened me to request Anna to steal the dungeon relocation apparatus, despite the potential harm it could bring to the reputation of the Southern royal family. I was willing to take the risk because the potential gains of summoning another Silver Beach Dungeon far outweighed the possible losses.

The significance of the secret within Corey's Title Demon Core, begs the question of why I allowed her to depart without uncovering it. The answer was simple, I no longer required Corey's aid to obtain the information I sought, as the Infinity Library provided me access to any knowledge I desired. Consequently, I bid farewell to Corey and sent her on her way.

As soon as Anna successfully replicated the missing components of the dungeon relocation apparatus and combined them with the stolen parts to construct a functional

device in a secure location, I would initiate my plan to summon a dungeon akin to the Silver Beach Gate Dungeon in this card world. And thus, the Silver Milk Project would swiftly resume its course. Hopefully, the Southern royal family had learned their lesson this time around.

Following Corey's departure, I hopped onto my NanoMorpher and contacted Jill's grimoire.

[Calling Jill Norley...]

"Miss me already, Wyatt?" Jill's voice chimed in with excitement.

"Not particularly," I retorted sarcastically.

"I can't help but wonder if the constant calls mean you've fallen head over heels for me. Did the long distance finally make you realize your feelings?" Jill continued to tease.

Jill's playful teasing didn't faze me, and I rolled my eyes before responding, "Yeah, sure. Now let's get down to business."

With a hint of disinterest in her voice, Jill replied, "Alright, what do you need this time?"

It was the first time I had ever heard her sound uninterested in doing business. I didn't blame her, as our previous transaction had resulted in some loss for her, with no real gains to show for it apart from my promise to appoint her with the sale of my patent and share of the Silver Milk Powder, if and when that ever happened.

Before getting to the real reason why I called her, I decided to throw Jill a bone to get her in the right mood. So I asked, "By the way, did you manage to sell your share of the Phantom Sword Woods yet?"

Jill responded, sensing that I might have a buyer in mind for her, "No, not yet. Do you have a potential buyer for me?" Little did she know, I did have a buyer - myself. I planned to purchase her stock of Phantom Sword Wood from her.

My acquisition of Jill's stock of Phantom Sword Wood had two compelling reasons behind it. Firstly, the inter-realm network priced the Phantom Sword Wood at twice the value it had in the card world market, making it an irresistible investment opportunity. Secondly, with everything ready to establish a large-scale phantom sword mushroom plantation on my end, stocking up on Phantom Sword Wood was the natural choice to ensure the success and long-term returns of the project.

"Yes, I do," I responded to Jill

"How much phantom sword wood does your buyer want?" Jill asked.

"All of it," I answered calmly, wondering if Jill would be open to the idea of me paying for her entire stock of Phantom Sword Wood in installments.

"All of it," Jill blurted in surprise listening to me say that the buyer wanted all of her stock of phantom sword wood. It was understandable, as there were very few organizations in the world that would require such a large quantity of the Phantom Sword Wood.

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

[1,586 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:19

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

"Yes, all of it," I affirmed

"Okay, so who is the buyer?" After getting confirmation from the boy Jill probed him about the buyer for further verification.

"You are speaking to him," I answered

"You? Yeah right. Wyatt, is this your idea of a prank?" Jill rolled her eyes listening to the boy.

"Jill, I am serious. I am the buyer, I want to buy all your stock of phantom sword wood," I asserted my voice to show Jill that I was not kidding.

"I don't believe you, if you had told me the buyer was someone from the Southern Royal family I may have believed you," When the boy called her saying that he had a buyer lined in for her stock of phantom sword wood Jill believed that it had to be someone from the Southern Royal family but it never crossed her mind that the buyer he was talking about was himself.

"Jill, why is it hard for you to believe that I want to buy your stock of phantom sword wood?" I asked to help Jill understand that I wasn't kidding when I said that I wanted to buy all of her stock of phantom sword wood.

"First of all, can you even afford to buy even a fraction of my entire stock of phantom sword wood?

Come on be honest with yourself, after the Freedom Fighters stole the silver beach dungeon you really aren't worth that much. Except for the small percentage of phantom sword wood you blackmailed from me, you have no other noteworthy assets.

Unless you plan to sell your patent and shares related to silver milk powder, but even so that is a big ask I don't think you can afford the entirety of my stock of phantom sword wood if you do sell them," Jill got brutally honest with the boy.

"Well Jill, let me tell you something I have a lot more going on than you think you know," I refuted Jill

"Are you referring to how Dr. Luna stole all the key parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus before she defected to the Freedom Fighters and how that same day you called me to learn how to operate the dungeon relocation apparatus?" Jill enunciated that she knew what the boy has been up to recently.

"So, you heard about it, uh?" I did not go into details fearing I would say something to incriminate myself.

"Yes, I know. The first I put others ahead of my personal gains, you took advantage of me. How could you do that?" Jill was aggrieved that the boy took advantage of her when she was being nice to him.

"Hey, I did not force you to do anything. I was more than willing to pay a decent fee but you were the one who insisted to do it for free," I did not understand what Jill was whining about, did she expect me to feel bad about not paying her a hefty tuition fee to teach me how to use the dungeon relocation apparatus? What does she take me for? A simp?

"Well played, Wyatt. I will get you back for this," Jill dropped the act knowing that it would not work on me.

Now that was the Jill I knew. Bring the conversation back to the topic I said, "Jill, will you sell me your entire stock of the phantom sword wood?"

"Wyatt, even if I was how are you going to pay me for it?"

If it was someone else Jill would have hung up the call by now however she had soft spot for the boy she continued with the call just to talk with him. After returning to the university, Jill has been craving the passion and heat she felt during the steamy session with the boy in the underground dungeon.

At first when Jill realized she had feelings for the boy she did not take it seriously thinking it was her physique playing tricks on her mind but the long distance had made it clear to her that her feelings for the boy did not stem from her mind but her heart. They were genuine and had nothing to do with her physique. Jill never imagined that a day would

come she would lovesick about a boy. Though the spring of love had blossomed late in Jill's adult life it wasn't going away anytime soon.

"Jill, the question is not about how I am going to pay you but if you are willing to sell me your entire stock of phantom wood swords," I was basically asking Jill to take a leap from the edge of mountain cliff trusting that I will be there to catch her.

"Fine, I am willing to sell you my entire stock of phantom sword wood. Now, it is your turn to tell me how you plan to pay me for them," Jill agreed to sell the entirety of her phantom sword wood stock trusting the boy that he would come through some or the other way similar to the way he did in the underground dungeon. Like how her physique was infatuated with collecting the boy's seeds she was attracted to his intellect. She has seen the boy achieve the impossible so she believed that the boy would not have contacted her about buying her entire stock of phantom sword wood if he did not have a plan.

"Thank you for trusting, Jill," I thanked Jill sincerely even though I knowingly took advantage of Jill's feelings for me. And then stated, "I plan to pay you for the phantom sword wood in monthly installments using large quantities of liquid soul energy and rule power. Before you say anything, know this you don't have to give me your whole stock of phantom sword wood right away. You only have to give me the phantom sword wood for the amount I paid as a monthly installment."

"So, in other words, you want to turn me into your personal warehouse of phantom sword wood, so that you can buy phantom sword wood at your convenience. Now, why would I do something stupid like that?" Jill immediately understood what the boy was asking of her.

The boy wanted to reserve her entire stock of phantom sword wood in his name. That he could buy it from her at his convenience while Jill cannot sell it to anyone else since she would have reached an agreement to sell her entire stock of phantom sword wood to the boy.

So if she were to agree to the boy's proposal she would be turning her stock of phantom sword wood which she could sell to anyone she wants into a stock of phantom sword wood that she can only sell to the boy. Even if she was head over heels for the boy she would not agree to something like that.

"Because I am willing to pay 5 percent more than the market value of the phantom sword wood at the time of purchase," Nowhere in the entire card world will I be able to find a huge stock of excellent quality phantom sword wood that I could get from Jill. Therefore, it was worth the 5 percent bump.

The phantom sword woods grown by Jill were all raised using the purest of soul energy, so they all grew up to be excellent quality sword wood. If Jill tries to sell them in the

market she could easily sell them for 20 percent more than the market price and it was a different story if she auctioned them.

However, for the amount of phantom sword wood Jill had at her disposal, there was no way she could auction them or introduce them all at once in the market because if she were to do so the market value of phantom sword wood would decrease.

Thus, I did not hesitate to make an offer to buy the phantom sword wood for more than 5 percent of its market value. As I knew what I offered was too alluring for Jill to reject.

"Will all your payments be done using liquid soul energy or liquid rule power?" Jill seemed to be considering my offer.

"Yes," I affirmed

"Well, make it 10 percent and we have a deal," Jill tried to negotiate the selling price of her phantom sword wood.

"Nope, 5 percent or you can find another buyer," I stuck to my initial offer. Knowing that Jill did not have any other way to sell her entire stock of phantom wood for 5 percent more than the market price.

"Fine, but tell me why are you buying so much phantom sword wood?" Jill caved as my offer was too good for her to pass on. By taking my deal, she would be saving herself a lot of trouble and headache while also making herself a buttload of profits.

"Sure, but only if you tell me about your latest research work," I knew Jill would be curious about why I needed so much phantom sword wood so I prepared a few counters beforehand.

"Moving on, so what now, do you want me to prepare a contract?" Jill asked.

"Sure, draft a contract and share it with my grimoire. I will make the first payment and collect the first batch of Phantom sword wood when I met you at the university," I was not in a hurry to get more Phantom sword wood from Jill as I need another six months to cultivate the required amount of phantom sword mushroom spawns to start a large scale phantom sword wood plantation.

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

[982 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:27

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

"Excellent! Once I finish drafting the contract, I'll be sure to share it with your grimoire," exclaimed Jill, basking in the relief of having sold her entire stock of phantom sword wood.

"Great, I look forward to receiving it," I responded awkwardly, unsure if it was appropriate to make a request of Jill at this time.

Seeing the boy linger instead of hanging up the call after having brokered the deal, Jill inquired with a playful eye-roll, "What's on your mind? Need a favor from me?"

"Now that you mention it, I'm actually in need of coordinates for other worlds. Do you happen to have any?" With the proverbial cat out of the bag, I decided to seize the moment and speak my mind.

"I do happen to know where to obtain some coordinates for other worlds. I can get them for you however, it will cost you," Jill declared, pondering what could be going on in the boy's mind. With his recent history of dungeon relocation apparatus theft and a large purchase of phantom sword wood, Jill couldn't help but wonder why the boy needed coordinates for other worlds.

"You're going to charge me for the coordinates? Come on now, I just bought your entire Phantom sword wood stock at 5 percent above the market price. You couldn't get a better deal anywhere in the market. Where's the gratitude?" I exclaimed in an exaggerated tone, hoping to sway Jill into providing the coordinates without charge.

In response, Jill remained silent for a moment before finally speaking up.

"Alright, I'll get you the coordinates for free. But first, you'll have to tell me what you plan to do with them," she demanded, her curiosity piqued by the boy's previous actions.

"What else would I need the coordinates for? I plan on using them to travel to the world they belong to," I was not exactly lying but also not revealing the whole truth.

"Well, I had no idea the Southern Royal family was working on world travel," Jill mused, her interest piqued by the news. She did not doubt the boy but believed that the Southern Royal family was secretly researching other world travel methods. And the boy was getting the other world coordinates for them to conduct test runs.

"I too don't have a clue. I held up my end now it's your turn," I replied, not lying since I did not know if the Southern Royal family was conducting research on other world

travels. Although Jill seemed to have misinterpreted my response, I didn't bother correcting her as it seemed to work in my favor.

"Don't worry, I'll have those coordinates for you by the end of the day," Jill promised.

"Great, I'll be waiting for your call," I replied before hanging up the call. Keeping an eye on the road, I went through my grimoire's notification section since it was buzzing like crazy when I was on the call with Jill.

As I checked my grimoire's notification section, I noticed that it was filled with texts from members of the Bright Lions gang. Somehow, they had managed to get a hold of my grimoire ID, and each message contained the same video file with the same old spiel about how it was an honor to be a part of their gang and so on.

Given that most of the Bright Lions gang executives were children of high-ranking city officials, it wasn't surprising that they were able to obtain my grimoire ID. However, what truly caught me off guard was their audacity to spam my grimoire with the same generic text.

Some messages congratulated me for getting early admission into Morningstar University. Where did they hear that from? And here I was trying to secure my admission through Jill's connections, all the while fearing that the Southern Royal family might do something to stop it from happening. Can't tell truth apart from rumors.

Fuming with anger, I clicked on the video file that had been attached to each of the texts. I couldn't imagine what could have prompted so many people to send me the same thing. But what I saw left me completely stunned. The video showed my four Calamity daughter gems brutally slaughtering tens of thousands of card apprentices, while the city police simply stood by and watched. I was disgusted by their actions and immediately activated my Calamity soul gem to contact Nick and hear what he had to say about it.

Learning that it was all part of a larger plan hatched by the Circle I calmed down a bit. It was surprising that the Circle had responded so quickly to my attack on their Sun Blossom City branch, but I couldn't understand what the Supreme Leader was trying to achieve with this. He should know by now that he can't harm me as long as I remain in the Southern region. So, what was his endgame?

Was he trying to manipulate public opinion against me, to force the Southern Royal family into taking action against me? Every young card apprentice who died in that tragic massacre was a child of a citizen of the southern region. This incident combined with my fraudster reputation it would be easy for the Supreme Leader to make me the public enemy in the southern region.

I have little faith in the Southern Royal family to support me in this matter, as I suspect they may seize this chance to imprison me within their borders, preventing me from

enrolling at Morningstar University. If things unfold as I imagined then the Supreme Leader would have inadvertently handed them the perfect excuse to confine me within the Southern region.

I really hope that I was overthinking and wrong about this. Because if not then I will be forced to leave a life of a fugitive on the run. I hope that it doesn't come to that.

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Chapter 1316 House Arrest

[1,005 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:35

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

As my thoughts burdened me heavily, I aimlessly rode my hoverbike on the desolate highway, until a mysterious figure unexpectedly soared in front of me. Fortunately, the Nanomorpher possessed sentience and promptly engaged the emergency brakes, bringing the hoverbike to an abrupt stop just an inch away from the figure, prompting me to yell, "What the fuck, Ann?"

Ann's voice came through flatly, as she cautioned me, "Please mind your language, Wyatt." And inquisitively continued, "Also, I wonder why you bother riding this thing when you're more than capable of flying with greater speed and endurance?"

"Simply because I enjoy it," I retorted with a firmness in my voice.

"Your questionable scheme of snatching key components from the dungeon relocation apparatus and pinning the blame on Luna has gotten Anna into trouble. Our grand-aunt has put her under house arrest for the foreseeable future. And now I am serving as the interim southern emperor," Ann calmly delivered the news.

Concerned for my life I immediately asked Ann, "Hold on a moment, where is Anna at this very moment?"

Ann responded with a frown, "What's so difficult to comprehend about her being under house arrest for an indefinite period?" With Anna out of the picture, she had hoped to grow closer to the boy, but his concern toward Anna soured her mood.

My concern mounting, I pressed Ann further, "I understand that, I am asking you whether Anna is still in Sky Blossom City or has she been taken back to the royal palace?" I knew that of all the people in the southern region, Anna was the only one I trusted to go to any lengths to ensure my safety.

"Anna was transferred to the palace this morning under the watchful eye of our grand-aunt," Ann replied, her voice tinged with regret. "She wanted to see you one final time before her departure, but it was impossible to reach you since you were inside the dungeon seal," she explained.

"Well, she can always reach me on my grimoire," I proposed. With Anna gone, I felt less safe staying in Sky Blossom City. If not for the combination of Myriad Devil Body and Calamity Daughter Gems making me partially immortal I would be worrying for my life right now.

"Unfortunately, Anna is currently under house arrest, so she won't be able to use her grimoire to contact yours until the prohibition on her is lifted," Ann replied with a hint of remorse because Anna had shouldered the entire blame for stealing the key components of the dungeon relocation apparatus when their grand-aunt had questioned them. Otherwise, Ann would have also faced house arrest just like Anna. Ann was showcasing classic symptoms of survivor's guilt.

"I don't see what the big deal is," I said not understanding why Anna's grand-aunt had to be such a stickler.

"Wyatt, our grand-aunt is someone willing to sacrifice anything to protect the honor of the royal family. And seeing the future heir of the royal family blatantly disregard its honor by participating in theft and deception, she was not one to tolerate such actions," Ann explained describing their grand-aunt as a person who valued the honor of the royal family above everything else.

"What about the key component of the dungeon relocation apparatus? Don't tell me you guys returned them to Morningstar University," I asked anxiously. If they had made such a foolish move, it could jeopardize my goal of summoning a dungeon similar to the Silver Beach Gate Dungeon in this world.

"Don't worry, Anna has enlisted our mother's subordinates to transport the stolen key components of the dungeon relocation apparatus to a secure location. Even if Grand-aunt wanted to, she would not be able to return them to Morningstar University," Ann reassured me, sensing my unease.

Ann's words immediately put me at ease, knowing that the key components of the dungeon relocation apparatus were still in the possession of the Southern Royal family.

Anna's mother did not seem to be bound by traditional family values. Thus, she prioritized the prosperity of the royal family over their honor, unlike her grand-aunt. That was precisely the kind of person I could get along with. Don't get me wrong I valued family honor but not at the cost of the family. Without the family, its honor will vanish in pages of history.

"Excellent. So how long do you think it will take for you to manufacture the remaining components and assemble the dungeon relocation apparatus?" I inquired urgently. I needed to summon a dungeon akin to the Silver Beach Gate Dungeon in this world before the central government and its allied forces took drastic measures to reclaim the original dungeon from the freedom fighters.

Delaying any further would lead to severe public backlash against the Southern Royal family. The central government and its allies would accuse them of deliberately withholding information which would open another can of worms that I would rather not get into.

"I'm not entirely sure, Wyatt. Even though common ingredients were used in the creation of the remaining components, they were still intricate and required a lot of attention to detail. Manufacturing those parts will undoubtedly take time, and I cannot give you a precise timeline," Ann replied, shaking her head to convey her helplessness concerning the matter.

"I see, maybe the files I just shared will be of help to your people in the creation of the parts," I shared all the files Jill gave me on how to operate and maintain the dungeon relocation apparatus with Ann's grimoire hoping that it will speed up the process of creation of the remaining parts required to assemble a functioning dungeon relocation apparatus.

"Amazing, where did you obtain all of this data? Having this information will undoubtedly hasten the process," Ann exclaimed, she wasn't just saying this to appease the boy but genuinely impressed. She knew that the apparatus user manual and the maintenance brochure would be invaluable in comprehending the usage of the parts and understanding the design of the various components.

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

Chapter 1317 Crazy Talk

[1,056 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:43

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

"I have my methods," I said with an air of mystique and then added, " With these files learning how to operate a dungeon relocation apparatus is a simple feat. now all we are missing is a dungeon relocation apparatus."

"I said we are working on it, besides you never explained what you planned to do with the dungeon relocation apparatus. You better have a good reason for putting the Royal family's honor in jeopardy," Ann warned but seeing her words not faze me she then continued to say, "You may not care about the Royal family's reputation but what about Anna? That fool trusted you and took a huge leap of faith, now she is under house arrest. Tell me that she was not wrong to trust you."

"Hold on a second, I get back to you in a minute," I paused my heated conversation with Ann to read the text and files that were shared with my grimoire from Corey's grimoire.

The text and shared files were actually from Corey Park, reminding me of my promise to her to create a custom mental strength card for Corey. The files she had shared explained the titled demon core, its functioning, and its influence over its host in detail. Along with all other information that she felt I should pay attention to while creating the custom mental strength card for Corey.

After instructing the Hive AI to process the files provided by Corey Park, I added the creation of a custom mental strength card for Corey to my schedule. Having taken care of that, I redirected my attention to my conversation with Ann. "I apologize for the interruption, what were you saying?"

"Are you for real?" Ann glared at the boy seeing him make so light of the Royal family's honor. Ann felt that since they risked their family's reputation to entertain the request of the boy they had the right to know what the boy was planning.

"Okay, I will tell you but remember this I am only telling you this because I trust Anna," I made a point of it to tell Ann that the only reason I was willing to share why I wanted the dungeon relocation apparatus was because of Anna.

"Fine, I get it. Now tell me for what reason did you have my family risk its honor stealing the key parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus from Morningstar University," Ann replied in a sour mood. She felt she did not need to be so blunt about his mistrust with

the southern royal family and her to her face. She didn't understand what did she do for the boy to mistrust her. Instead of wondering what did she do to gain the boy's trust.

"That is because I think I can use the dungeon relocation apparatus to recreate the conditions required to summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach dungeon in this world," saying these words out loud I heard it for the first time and realized just how crazy they sounded.

"I beg your pardon," Ann thought she heard wrong and asked the boy to repeat himself.

"I said I plan to use the dungeon relocation apparatus to summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon back in this world," I rarely repeat myself unless it was required to and this was one such occasion. Because even I felt that the claims I made were similar to crazy talk.

"You are not kidding are you," Ann really hoped that the boy was kidding because for her the only other reason the boy would make such claims was that he had gone crazy.

"No, I am not. I don't care if you believe me or not but that is the real reason I asked to steal the dungeon relocation apparatus," I stated firmly with my conviction evident in my tone. My claims were not merely outlandish ramblings, but rather backed by concrete data. I genuinely believed that I could make good on my promise because the knowledge I needed to do so could be found in the vast resources available at the Infinity Library.

"..." Ann was without words, she felt that she was better off not knowing why the boy had them steal the key parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus. Then she pondered how could the boy think that the apparatus used to relocate the dungeons would help him create dungeons. She knows the boy was smart but what he claimed was akin to him having uncovered and master the mysteries of the dungeon and card world.

"Well, since we are done here. I will be on my way," It was not my problem whether Ann believed me and that I could achieve what I claimed. It was her problem to deal with.

However, as I maneuvered my Nanaomorpher to go around Ann another figure appear blocking my path. It was none other than Anna's grandmother, "Boy, how sure are you that you will be able to achieve what you say?"

"..." I raised my brow listening to Anna's grandmother. I never expected anyone in the Southern royal family to believe I would be able to summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon on this world and wanted to prove them all wrong with my work. However, it seems I was wrong.

"Boy, answer me," With Anna being put under house arrest by her sister-in-law, Colleen took it upon herself to lead the boy to the southern royal palace where he would be safer. As for her responsibilities in the Royal Court, she hated them so at the first

chance she got she threw all of them to her sister-in-law. As a royal princess her sister-in-law was adept in the matters of the Royal Court.

The reason why she chose to believe the boy when he said he could summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon was that she was that desperate. One day ago the Southern Royal family had limitless potential but today it had become a joke in front of the other royal families, the central capital Nobels, the central government, and the powerful sects and hidden families. That wasn't all, at the bud of this joke was her beloved husband. Colleen desperately needed a win for her husband here.

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

Chapter 1318 Making It Right

[1,051 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:49

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

"Grandma, you don't know what you are asking," Ann exclaimed seeing her grandma believe the boy's claims.

As a layman, her grandma might not understand what it meant to create dungeons at one's whims. But she knew that it meant total understanding and control of the mysteries of the world. Many great minds have been trying since the dawn of this world but none have been successful in achieving. Much less a teenage boy who was yet to finish high school. Ann was not underestimating the boy, she was just being realistic.

Soon, Lorenzo too appeared at the scene. I got off the Nanomorpher and retrieved it. I did know the proper royal etiquette but even I knew that talking to the first lady of the southern region while sitting on a hoverbike would seem rude. This was not about me, the first lady of the South represented the entire Southern region she deserved my respect even if I just found out that she was eavesdropping on me. Standing straight I saluted the first lady with a standard Southern watch salute, it was appropriate as I was made an honorary member of the Southern watch by Anna the first time we met in my warehouse, "Your Highness."

"At ease, boy skip this ceremony and answer me," Colleen was surprised by the boy's action as he was not this respectful the time they met in the temporary southern watch base.

"..." Colleen wasn't the only one who was surprised by the behavior of the boy. Ann and Lorenzo too were shocked to see the boy bother with basic decorum in the royal presence.

However, a bold thought crossed their mind, what if the boy was using the basic decorum in the royal presence to remind Colleen that she was the respectful first lady of the south and should not be eavesdropping on other's conversation? Thinks of this they both felt that this was more in line with the boy they knew. He was like a unique breed that lacked the fear and respect for the Royal Family that was ingrained in the bones of every citizen.

"Your Highness, I do not make claims that I am not sure about," I answered boldly. This was not the time for me to act aloof. Though the First Lady had proper command over her elements and emotions yet her desperation could not escape my eyes. This meant that as long as I could convince her that I could deliver on what I claimed I think I will have the Southern royal family's resources and manpower at my disposal. And hopefully, get it through their thick skull that they don't want me pissed at them such that they will not block my path to Morningstar University.

"Bold, kid are you really finally thinking of adding truth to your fraudster reputation?" Lorenzo to was more desperate than Colleen, he not only failed to ingrain proper family values in his granddaughter but also was in a coma when the whole incident took place. He let down his beloved wife and his respected brother-in-law.

Most of all he had let down the people of the Southern region. The money from the Sliver milk project would have improved the living conditions of everyone in the southern region yet he was in a coma when it was stolen by his granddaughter. Only he knew how hard it was for him to wake up every morning and face the people. The only thing keeping him going right now was that he had to do everything in his power to make it all right.

So Lorenzo wanted to believe the boy would be able to deliver on his claims but the rational side of him understood the seriousness of the claims made by the boy. Therefore no matter how desperate he was unlike his sister-in-law he was not able to bring himself to trust the boy that he will be able to achieve what he claimed.

Seeing the reaction of Lorenzo and Ann, I understood unless I did not clear these two obstacles gaining unlimited access to the Southern Royal family's resources and manpower through the First Lady would be impossible. Knowing what I had to do next I spoke, "You two are not hearing what I am saying I can use the dungeon relocation apparatus to create the conditions to summon a dungeon similar to silver beach gate

dungeon. I am not saying that I will create a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon. There is a huge difference between these two."

I lied because Ann and Lorenzo were not able to handle the truth. This way I made the truth more digestible for them. And also this saves me future troubles. The method of creating dungeons would be coveted by many forces, if the word got out that I can create dungeons I will be hunted down by everyone in the world who likes to play god. So my lie was not only to help Ann and Lorenzo be more open to what I was proposing but also a cover for what I was actually capable of.

Once the dungeon gets summoned I will just expose the huge flaw in the dungeon relocation apparatus and claim that I used the flaw to create a condition to summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon. This way I would be shifting the focus of the world leaders from me to the dungeon relocation apparatus. In their eyes, I would become a lucky fellow who noticed the flaw in the dungeon relocation apparatus that others failed to notice and somehow managed to take advantage of it.

I know my story needs a little work but this was just a contingency in case the word about me summoning a dungeon gets leaked. However, that was highly unlikely because I knew the Souther Royal family would do their best to stop that from happening. After all, this involved the honor of their family.

I know they dropped the ball when it comes to the silver milk project once already but even I did not see the betrayal of Luna coming. And what were the chances of them dropping the ball again— After all, they need this more than me.

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

Chapter 1319 Sins Of Granddaughter

[1,037 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:54

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

Listening to the boy's claims a long silence loomed, Lorenzo and Ann were still trying to figure out how the boy planned to use the dungeon relocation apparatus to create the conditions to summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon.

As for Colleen, she was still trying to figure out the difference between creating a dungeon and creating suitable conditions to summon dungeons. Aren't dungeons natural like plants, one doesn't create them they create the required conditions to grow them.

"..." I looked at the three who were lost in deep thought hearing my saturated truth. I patiently waited for them to digest what they just learned.

"Lorenzo, what do you think? Is what the boy claiming possible," Colleen was the first to break the long silence.

"I don't know, I have read a lot of theoretical works on creating required conditions to summon a dungeon but none of those have shown any significant practical results during the testing. Besides, the boy not only claims to just summon any dungeon but a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon. Now that is a bold claim," Lorenzo was not lying, in the past many great minds have worked to think of different ways to create dungeons and collectively decided that dungeons were natural they cannot create them but create the required conditions to summon them. The boy's claims were bolder than theirs but somewhat similar to theirs, which was why Lorenzo could not directly discard the boy's claims.

Colleen then turned to look at her granddaughter, feeling her grandma's eyes Ann added, "I don't know if what he claims is possible but What I would like to know is how he will use the dungeon relocation apparatus to not only create the required conditions to summon a dungeon but a dungeon similar to the silver beach gate dungeon?"

Listening to Ann's question both Colleen and Lorenzo turned their heads to focus on the boy asking for an explanation.

Feeling their collective gaze land on me I was not fazed, I knew they would ask this of me soon or later so I had already prepared a sound argument, "What I would like to know— no, what the world would like is how the Morningstar university is able to achieve world travel? Now, would Morningstar University will be willing to share it with the world?"

"What are you trying to say?" Ann asked the boy who rambled on about something instead of answering what he was asked.

"Are you saying that you don't want to share how you plan to use the dungeon relocation apparatus to create conditions to summon a dungeon?" Colleen immediately understood what the boy was implying.

Collen wasn't the only one even Lorenzo too but he felt something was off here. However, he did not bother to dwell on it as his thoughts were preoccupied with trying to figure out how the boy planned to use the dungeon relocation apparatus to create the specific conditions to summon a dungeon. What was he missing that the boy had noticed? Lorenzo went through the whole process of dungeon relocation in his mind over and over again trying to find the answer. He obsessed over it feeling that if he were to somehow figure it out it would make up for his sins as Luna's grandfather. A once smart man was now reduced to this.

"Yes, your highness. Just because I have something that others don't doesn't mean I have to share it with others.

I don't want to sound rude but it is already a huge consideration on my part that I am willing to use the knowledge I have to help summon a dungeon similar to silver beach gate dungeon," I argued.

Hearing the boy's argument, Colleen was misled from asking the right questions about how the boy planned to achieve what he claimed and instead, she focused on the point that it was not right of her to ask the boy to share his important findings with them.

"Wait, how are this and that similar? Morningstar University has already achieved and demonstrated other world travel to the world but you have yet to demonstrate that you can use the dungeon relocation apparatus to create the required conditions to summon a dungeon. Heck, you haven't even used the dungeon relocation apparatus in your life. So all we are asking is for you to prove that you can deliver on your claims," Ann argued to not let the boy's argument undermine their right to know if he could do what he proposed. She did not let the boy turn the conversation from where he was on the stand to where they were on the stand.

"Ann, here's the thing, the question is not if I can deliver on my claims or not but if you guys are willing to take the chance in front of you to rectify the wrong no matter how high the risk and odds are," I had Colleen and Lorenzo under control but Ann proved to be a tough nut to crack. I had to do something about her before she manages to ruin the good thing I have going on here.

Unlike Colleen and Lorenzo who felt guilty for the Freedom Fighter incident and were trying hard to compensate for it in any other way possible making them subjectable to the boy's tongue, Ann was more focused on the fact that the boy somehow managed to coerce her family into doing something that would stain their reputation for the end of the times.

Ann did not care about what happened in the Freedom Fighter incident what she cared about was if there was a good reason for Anna to trust the boy's words and risk their family's reputation, which allows her to see through the boy's bullshit, unlike her grandma and granduncle who wanted to give what the boy proposed a try just because they did not want the feeling that they did not try everything to rectify the past and a

mere high schooler pointing at them that they did not roll the dice on the gamble that he presented to them promising to make everything right.

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

Chapter 1320 Living The Present We Have

[986 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 12:49

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

"Like hell it is," Ann shouted and then continued to say, "Anna trusted you and risked my family's reputation to get you the dungeon relocation apparatus. So you better prove what you claim instead of making empty talks."

Ann's outburst surprised Colleen and Lorenzo snapping them out of their guilt and helping them focus on what was important. To stop wasting their present trying to fix the past instead let the past go and make do with the present they have. Because at the present a high schooler had somehow managed to put their family's spotless reputation at risk.

The Southern Royal family had stood tall in this world for millennia and they took great pride in their brilliant and spotless honor. That was something people took very seriously. But under the boy's whim, Anna had done something that would risk all the hard work and sacrifice their ancestors had taken to maintain the revered honor of their family throughout the millennia of their existence. Ann, Lorenzo, and Colleen wanted the boy to give them a good reason that it was all worth it.

"How the heck am I supposed to prove to you without revealing my important findings?" I almost managed to dodge the responsibility and consequences for my part in Anna stealing the dungeon relocation apparatus and risking the Southern royal family's reputation. However, Ann shone the spotlight on me. I could feel Lorenzo and Anna's grandma's gaze sticking to my skin.

"I don't care you were the one who asked us to act fast and that you would explain later. We have acted and now it is your turn to explain," As much as she wants to get along

with the boy her ideal daughter trait of her doesn't allow her to let down her family. So even if she did not want to she had to come down hard on the boy. Like an ideal daughter, Ann was prioritizing the interest of her family over her personal interests.

"Don't you think you are being a bit unreasonable? How am I supposed to prove to you guys that I can use the dungeon relocation apparatus to create the required conditions to summon a dungeon similar to silver beach dungeon while maintaining the secrecy of my findings," I was in a tough spot, I could not share the truth with the trio and without that, I could not give them the guarantee they were asking that what I was proposing would work? I thought I could bluff my way into getting what I wanted but Ann happened, I really miss my Anna.

"Unreasonable? Weren't you being unreasonable when you asked Anna to steal the parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus without giving us a proper explanation? Now it is your turn," Ann was on fire, and Colleen and Lorenzo nodded in agreement.

"Well the only way I can do what you are asking of me is by using the dungeon relocation apparatus to summon the dungeon. Get me the dungeon relocation apparatus and I will summon the dungeon," This was quite a dilemma, I could only prove what I said was feasible by doing what I said. And the trio was asking me to prove what I said was feasible before doing what I said.

Listening to the boy's words Lorenzo and Ann frowned. However, Colleen's eyes shone with brilliance as if she had thought of something brilliant, "Boy, remember this is what you said. You can't go back on that."

"Yes, get me the dungeon relocation apparatus and I will show you what I can use to create the required conditions to summon a dungeon," I happily agreed, thinking this would put the matter to bed but I was wrong.

"Okay, now sleep," hearing the boy agree Colleen instantly reached to grab his wrist not giving the boy a chance to react Colleen froze the boy, turning him into a popsicle.

"Grandma," Ann exclaimed seeing her grandma freezing the boy in an ice block.

"..." Lorenzo stared at his sister-in-law in shock. He thought one or another day she would lose patience with the boy and shoot at him but he did not believe that moment would come so soon.

"Oh, relax, he is fine. I just put him under a cryosleep," Colleen explained to her granddaughter and Lorenzo as if this was no big deal.

"I see, but why?" Ann asked in confusion, not understanding why her grandma put the boy under cryosleep, unless— unless she plans to kidnap him and take him to the southern capital. Coming to this conclusion Ann turned big in shock.

"Your Highness, you are a bit hasty. This will not help the situation," Lorenzo shook his head disapproving of the actions of his sister-in-law. Lorenzo is a strong supporter of the idea that they should lock up the boy in a basement and have him serve the Southern royal family for the rest of his life. But he also knew with the temper of the boy he would only end up very poor compared to the way they imagined.

"What are you guys worried about? He was the one who said that he needed the dungeon relocation apparatus to prove to us that he can create the conditions to summon a dungeon similar to the silver beach dungeon, so I am taking him to the dungeon relocation apparatus. What's the big deal," Colleen said nonchalantly.

"Grandma, he is going to be so pissed when he wakes up," Ann commented feeling that this could be the strain that would break the connection between the boy and Anna and send him straight into the arms of the floozy Susan.

"So, what?" Colleen could care less about the boy's tantrum. She was the freaking ruler of the South, she could do anything she wanted, let alone freeze one of her citizens and move him to the Southern palace for his safety.

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

[1,483 words]

Date- 6 April 2321

Time- 13:06

Location- Southern Region, Blossom District, Sky Blossom City, Dungeon Highway, Barren Lands

With the ice block encapsulating the cryo-sleeping boy in one arm, Colleen briskly issued orders before turning to leave. "Lorenzo, I need you to investigate this Jill character the boy spoke with earlier. She seems to be affiliated with Morningstar University and is the one who provided the boy with the knowledge on how to operate and upkeep the dungeon relocation device. I want to know the extent of their relationship and how a mere high schooler from a third-tier city is connected to someone at such a prestigious institution."

"Yes, your highness," Lorenzo planned to do just that without Colleen reminding him to.

Their previous assumption was that they were the sole refuge the boy could seek in times of distress, but the emergence of Jill from Morningstar University shattered that notion. Now, the boy had other avenues to explore when faced with a dire situation.

This revelation meant that the Southern Royal family could no longer retain complete control over the boy's fate. Upon realizing this, Lorenzo and Colleen felt as though they had won a billion-dollar lottery only to have to split the prize with a stranger, which was an unpleasant feeling.

...

"Did Anna's grandma just attack me? From the looks of how she only put my body in a cryosleep, she doesn't seem to mean harm. Then what does she mean by this? Fuck, does she plan on kidnapping me?" I cussed trapped inside my calamity soul gem. Being frozen into an ice block by Anna's grandma, my body was instantly frozen and was forcefully put under cryosleep but my consciousness however stayed awake as it was protected by the protective covering of his calamity soul gem.

I wanted to eavesdrop on Anna's grandma, Lorenzo, and Ann from within my calamity soul gem but whenever my consciousness tried to extend its mental strength out of the calamity soul gem to check what was happening outside, the extended mental strength would instantly get frozen by the First Lady's powers.

Since Anna's grandma's deadly rule power could freeze mental strength, I did not dare to rashly try and shift my consciousness from my current calamity soul gem to one of the pseudo calamity soul gems that I hid in the outskirts of the sky blossom city fearing that my consciousness would be instantly frozen as soon as it leaves the confines of the calamity soul gem. As a result, I was trapped in my calamity soul gem even if I had managed to keep my consciousness awake.

...

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 03:47

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Where the heck am I?" I couldn't help but exclaim as my eyes fluttered open once the power keeping my body under deep cryosleep vanished and it bore witness to an extravagantly adorned bedroom that left me in awe.

Soon a cold voice answered me, "You are inside the guest palace of the Southern Royal family."

I did not have to search hard for the source of those words because they came from my bedside. It was a lady dressed in a man's attire. Gauging her negligent three sizes I asked, "Who are you? Where's Ann?"

"I am Aria Art, your personal bodyguard. Her Highness Ann is helping her majesty, the Empress, with the affairs of the royal court," Aria answered the boy. Her cold demeanor seemed to intensify upon hearing the boy addressing her highness Ann casually.

"Aria Art?" I exclaimed hearing the girl's name because she was not just anybody but one of the most famous southern royal children with the purest royal unparalleled bloodline after Anna.

Aria was considered to be the next Anna in terms of exceptional talent but not in terms of her party tendencies. Aria was 17 years old this year and already a peak card lord. In the vision seen by Clown Mask, Aria earned herself a reputation in the war between the Southern Royal family and the Northern Royal family which was secretly being instigated by Matron and the Paw clan.

If I am not wrong, Aria was Lorenzo's other granddaughter born to his daughter who was married to a prominent family in the southern capital. Aria happens to take more after Lorenzo's wife unlike Luna who happens to take after him. Since they did not have much in common Lorenzo was not so close with Aria. Not to mention Aria did not belong to the Lorn family but belonged to the Art family.

What was Lorenzo thinking by making his granddaughter my personal bodyguard, what the fuck is he up to? I am undefeated under the card overlord realm, what use could I possibly have for a card lord realm bodyguard? Was this a honey trap set up by him? That old man couldn't possibly use his granddaughter as bait, right? Well, it was Lorenzo I am talking about here. Besides, for a seventeen-year-old, Aria's figure was underdeveloped, she could not possibly serve as a honey trap. Then was it because we were of the same age group and he hoped we could get along?

"Do you know me?" Aria asked seeing the boy's reaction.

"Yes, I do," I did not bother to lie or go into details about how I knew Aria. Instead, I asked her, "Where is Anna?"

"Her Highness Anna is being trained by the Field Marshal," Aria's expression turned frosty seeing the boy continue to be rude and casually address the southern emperor.

"Then what about Lorenzo?" I asked Aria in frustration unable to find anyone to vent the anger buried in my heart for being moved to the southern royal palace without my consent.

"Minster Lorenzo has retreated to his lab, it is unclear when he will be free in the foreseeable future," Aria addressed Lorenzo and his wife as Minster and Field Marshal, showing how distant she was from them despite being their granddaughter. Making it clear that Aria was considered to be part of the Art Family than the Lorn Family.

"Fuck!" I cussed aloud understanding that everyone involved in my abduction was avoiding me on purpose. So that they did not have to give me an explanation for why they moved me to the southern royal palace without my consent. This also meant that I would not get to vent my anger on them. So I could only shout in frustration.

"Master Wyatt, please watch your language," Aria frowned hearing the boy brazenly cuss out loud.

"Summon monster orb," Ignoring Aria I summoned the monster orb and then activated it, "Come out Stone Viltronian."

If Anna's grandma, Lorenzo, and Ann think that they can get away with what they did by avoiding me, they have another thing coming.

"..." Seeing the boy summon an A-rank monster Aria observed the boy and his monster on high alert. She tried to deduce what the boy was up to by summoning an A-rank monster and what happened next only confused her further.

"Aria, tell Ann that if she wants to meet me she can find me at my warehouse in the sky blossom city," I asked Aria to deliver Ann a message and without waiting for her reply I order Stone Viltronian, " Use Stone Rule - Stone Coffin."

The target of the attack was not Aria but myself. Soon the Stone Viltronian's body glowed with a brown hue before morphing into a huge stone coffin and enclosing me within it.

Inside the stone coffin, leaving my intact body in the coffin I transferred my mutated soul to one of my pseudo calamity soul gems that I hid on the outskirts of the Sky Blossom city. This way I could return to my body in the stone coffin at the guest palace of the southern royal palace anytime I wanted to. I planned to use my pseudo-calamity soul gems as a replacement for the lack of teleportation cards in my arsenal.

"WTF," seeing the boy enclose himself inside a stone coffin Aria freaked out unclear if the boy was trying to harm himself. But soon she felt the life force within the stone coffin vanish. She was supposed to be the boy's bodyguard, what the fuck was she supposed to do in this situation?

As Aria was freaking out, three figures appeared in the bedroom. Seeing them Aria hurriedly knelt and greeted, "Your Highness."

The boy was correct about Lorenzo, Anna's grandma, and Ann not being busy with their affairs but avoiding him. If they do not see the boy they would not have to be in the awkward situation of explaining to him why they did what they did. And once the boy calms down then they planned to meet him. But they never guessed that he would do something drastic.

"What kind of ability is this I can feel his presence inside the stone coffin but it doesn't have a life force," Lorenzo mumbled in confusion ignoring Aria as he approached the stone coffin to take a closer look.

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Chapter 1322 Aria Art

[1,031 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:06

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

Seeing Lorenzo stare at the stone coffin for 10 minutes yet reach no conclusion, Colleen's patience waned, and she declared, "Step aside, I will break open the stone coffin."

"No, your highness, if you do that you might end up killing the boy, that is if he is still in there," Lorenzo hurriedly announced before his sister-in-law did some irreversible damage to the stone coffin.

"What do you mean?" Colleen asked Lorenzo not understanding what he meant.

"I don't know how but I feel the boy's presence in the stone coffin but not his life force. It is as if the stone coffin is really carrying the boy's corpse. Another intriguing thing is that somehow the boy's body appears to be fused with the stone coffin. This means if you try to break open the stone coffin you risk harming the boy," Lorenzo patiently explained such that his sister-in-law understands what he was trying to say.

"What are you trying to say? Is the boy in there or not?" Colleen asked confused by Lorenzo's explanation.

"..." Lorenzo went silent as he did not know if the boy was in the stone coffin or not?

Lorenzo could clearly feel two presences inside the stone coffin, one belonged to the monster that turned into a stone coffin and the other presence belonged to the boy. However, he could only feel one life force in the stone coffin which belonged to the A-rank monster. As for the boy's life force, it was missing.

This could mean one of two things, Either the stone coffin was masking the boy's life force, or the boy's soul had passed away leaving behind his corpse in the stone coffin. Lorenzo could not figure out which one of the two it was.

"Why don't we ask him?" Ann suddenly spoke up. Hearing her Colleen, Lorenzo, and Aria suddenly felt dumb wondering why did they not think of such a simple thing. Then Colleen nodded at her granddaughter, signaling her to try and talk to the boy who was throwing a temper tantrum by locking himself up in the stone coffin.

"Wyatt, it's Ann, answer me if you can hear me from in there," Ann spoke awkwardly not knowing what words would be the right fit for a situation like this. Ann and the rest waited but no response came from inside the stone coffin. Then Ann proposed another idea, "I will try contacting his grimoire."

Once again, Colleen, Lorenzo, and Aria could not help but feel dumb and wonder why did they not think of something so simple. The trio awakened from their self-assessment, hearing Ann exclaim, "The call connected, but he is not answering my call."

This was a good sign, the boy's grimoire was responsive to Ann's call which meant that the boy was not dead but alive and kicking. However, they were still not clear if the boy was inside the stone coffin or not, mostly because of the message the boy left before imprisoning himself in the stone coffin.

"Before pulling his outrageous stunt the boy did say that he was if we wanted to meet him we could find him at his warehouse in sky blossom city. Do you think we should have someone check there?" Lorenzo asked Ann.

"I don't know but just to be safe I will contact the shadows assigned to protect the boy's friends and family to report instantly if they spot the boy in the sky blossom city," Ann answered not knowing if this action was necessary. It was impossible for the boy to escape their detection and use a teleportation card to leave the southern capital and move to sky blossom city.

"Wait, you guys believe he teleported back to sky blossom city? That's impossible," Colleen blurted. They were all monitoring the space surrounding the guest palace the whole time and there was no spatial fluctuation to indicate that the boy teleported back to sky blossom city.

The evidence right in front of them, it was obvious the boy did not use any form of space or teleportation card. Yet her brother-in-law and granddaughter choose to prepare against the obvious, aren't they overestimating the boy a bit? Thinking of this Colleen could not help but shake her head considering the situation they were in.

While Colleen, Ann, and Lorenzo were out of ideas, Aria who was silent so far suddenly spoke up, "Your Highness, if I may?"

"Speak," Colleen said seeing how Ann and Lorenzo were out of ideas.

"Your Highness, as Master Wyatt's bodyguard I took the liberty to collect a lock of his hair to track him using a curse card in case someone managed to kidnap him. I think we can use it to track Master Wyatt now, in real-time." When Aria learned she was assigned to be the bodyguard of a card soldier, she came prepared for every possible scenario to ensure that her first-ever assignment would not just be a success but a record-breaking achievement.

However, on the mission, she realized that she was still too tender as she never considered the possibility that the target of her mission would lock himself in a stone coffin or would be a potential risk to himself. As a result, she failed her mission as soon as it started. Nonetheless, Aria was not the one to give up, she was the proud daughter of the Art family with royal unparalleled blood coursing through her veins. So she thought of a way to salvage her mission.

"Great, Aria. Get started what are you waiting for," Ann praised Aria even though a bodyguard using a curse card to keep track of their client was unheard of. It appears her little cousin was not only talented but a smart individual.

"Thank you, your Highness, Ann. Please give me a second, I will triangulate Master Wyatt's location." Being praised by Ann, Aria enthusiastically began to use her curse card to track the target of her mission.

"Where is he?" Colleen asked impatiently. The boy was proving to be a lot more difficult than she gave him credit for.

"— I got his location coordinates. Let me compare with the map— Master Wyatt is in the Blossom district, sky blossom city."

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[1,023 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:15

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

Aria announced the results of her search in disbelief. Ann, Lorenzo, and Colleen simultaneously exclaimed, "How is this possible?"

"He has the dummy ring, it should be impossible to track him using ordinary curse cards. This could only mean he is purposefully letting us track his location. He is freaking taunting us," Colleen yelled at top of her lungs.

It was not that Ann, Lorenzo, and Colleen did not think of using curses to track the boy, they just skipped over it because he had the dummy ring which made it impossible to use standard curse cards to track him.

As for why Ann encouraged Aria to track the boy using a curse card? It was because she knew that it took a lot of courage on Aria's part to speak her mind in front of her grandma and Lorenzo out of her initiative. Therefore Ann could not bring herself to shoot the little girl down and instead complimented her for thinking out of the box for a simple bodyguard job and for showing initiative in her job. This meant that she took her job seriously.

Ann's encouragement had led to Aria being able to track the location of the boy but what if Aria had failed to track the location of the boy? That didn't matter because what mattered here was the fact that Aria took initiative and was able to see it through. Especially when Colleen, Lorenzo, and Ann did not bother to consider it thinking that it was an obvious dead end.

"I had warned that the boy has successfully faked his death twice it would not be impossible for him to do it the third time." Lorenzo immediately related the trick boy used to escape the southern capital to the trick he used to fake his death twice. And then continued to add, "Fortunately, the boy did not go into hiding otherwise this incident would become the third time he successfully managed to fake his death and not to mention without Anna's help we would not be able to trace his location. This also means that there is still room to negotiate."

"Negotiate? What the fuck is there to negotiate? We did nothing wrong here, all we are trying to do is nurture and protect a budding talent of the southern region. If anything, it is that boy who is at fault for being stubborn and unreasonable. He is an enemy of his own life. That is it, I had enough, I am going to the sky blossom city this instant and haul that boy's ass over here," Colleen raised her brows listening to Lorenzo's words.

Colleen did not seem to like the sound of the idea that the Southern Royal family would have to negotiate with a stubborn high schooler who did not know anything better. Since when did the Southern Royal family start to negotiate to do what was right for its region and its citizens?

Colleen did not think like this because of her bruised pride but because this was not the way the Southern royal family had operated since it was established. And she was not going to change how it operated now just to accommodate the stubbornness of an unreasonable teenager. Enough was enough.

"Your Highness, please don't act impulsively. First, listen to me, then you can do as you see fit," Lorenzo begged Colleen to listen to what he had to say first before acting rashly.

"Speak," Colleen said suppressing her rage. If the boy was here she would whoop his ass until their shape turned from convex to concave.

"Let me first completely analyze the boy's trick which allows him to escape mortal situations outside of his realm, because even if you manage to drag him back to the southern royal palace what is stopping him from escaping again?" Lorenzo did not try to persuade Colleen not to use force against the boy because she would not listen to it. Instead, he asked her to face the boy fully prepared.

With Colleen's strength, it would not be hard for her to kill the boy even before he can react but the same could not be said about capturing him while bringing him no harm. Especially when the boy seemed to have a miraculous ability that allowed him to escape circumstances that were impossible to escape for someone in his realm. So asking Colleen to capture the boy without harming him was like asking a mortal to capture a housefly without harming it.

"Fine, I will give you two days," saying that Colleen turned to leave. Seeing her leave Ann hurriedly asked in concern, "Grandma, where are you headed?"

"Where else do you think? To sky-blossom city, I can't trust others to protect the boy," Colleen said having learned the lesson from the Freedom Fighter incident.

"I will come too," Ann decided to tag along with her grandma and finally make some time to get quality alone time with the boy she desperately craved. However, she was immediately shot down by her grandma, "No, you stay here and take over the affairs of the royal court since sister-in-law is busy beating some discipline into Anna."

"Your Highness, if I may? Can I join you? After all, I am Master Wyatt's bodyguard," Aria immediately knelt in front of Colleen and begged.

Aria, this little girl felt like the entire sky was crashing down on her. Her first mission was proving to be much more difficult than she could have ever anticipated. How did the target manage to teleport from the Southern royal palace guest house to the sky blossom city without alerting the huge protection array covering each and every centimeter of the Southern royal palace? Inside the protection array, unauthorized teleportation was impossible even for a demigod. Even Her Highness Colleen, Minister Lorn, and the interim southern emperor Ann did not seem to have an answer to this.

Aria did not let this little setback break her instead she continued to kneel in front of Colleen and beg while shouldering all the blame for the incident, "Your Highness, please give me a chance to rectify my blunder?"

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Chapter 1324 Ann Learn's The Truth

[1,099 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:26

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

Colleen glanced at Aria who was kneeling in front of her begging for an opportunity to complete her mission, then she turned to look at Lorenzo and spiritually asked him, 'Can I trust this one?'

In light of the possibility that someone like Luna Lorn could willingly betray them, Colleen found herself unable to place her unwavering trust in the people she used to trust her back to. But this also made her realize the real reason why the Southern Royal family was vulnerable with traitors and spies infiltrating their ranks, was because of the seed of distrust among the allies. If the Ruler cannot trust her people then how can they ward off the foreign enemy? She finally understood the crux reason why the Matron was able to defeat the Southern Royal family in Clown Mask's future vision.

Realizing the mistake in her ways, before Lorenzo could respond to her, Colleen immediately corrected her mistake, 'Forget I ever said that.'

Then, she addressed Aria asking, "Child, don't you know those with the Royal Unparalleled Bloodline are pardoned from the custom of kneeling to the Royal family?"

"Your Highness, I am aware. But I kneel to show my faith in my liege not to fulfill some age-old custom," Aria answered with a strong resolve.

Listening to Aria's response and unyielding spirit Colleen was impressed, though there were many means at her disposal to verify if Aria meant every word she spoke Colleen choose to not use them but instead decided to put her faith in those that put their faith in her, "Alright, child, you can follow me to see through your mission to the end."

"It seems old man Art has done well nurturing his younger generation," Lorenzo comment hearing Aria's response, there seemed to be a hint of regret behind his voice. Even though he does not show it, Luna's betrayal was eating away at him.

The only reason Lorenzo had arranged for Aria to be the boy's bodyguard was that he knew he could trust her and the Art family behind her. Aria had the purest unparalleled bloodline after Anna in the younger generation making her highly resistant to Matron's ability. The Art family was one of the most honorable families he knew that was why he let his daughter marry into the Art family. Their loyalty to the Heatsend Royal family was undeniable. According to Clown Mask the Art family was one of the first families to be destroyed by Matron when she came into power as they would not accept her as their ruler.

As for the motive, the boy needed some to help him adjust to his new life in the palace, and Aria was the right fit. They were of the same age and prodigies among their peers, in the best case scenario they would become friends in the worst case scenario they become rivals, each other's whetstone to sharpen their blades.

Lorenzo had everything planned for the boy's stay at the palace such that he would be able to slowly adjust to his new life in the palace without feeling bored or homesick, Aria was just the start. However, the boy was too stubborn in his ways.

"Your Highness before you leave, I have the information on Jill from Morningstar University. I think it's best if you that her full name is Jill Norley," As Colleen prepared to leave with Aria, Lorenzo suddenly implored Colleen as files on Jill Norley were just shared with his grimoire by subordinates.

"Jill Norley? Don't tell me she related to that man from the capital," Colleen said learning Jill's full name.

"Yes, she is his daughter," Lorenzo affirmed with an ugly expression.

Getting confirmation from Lorenzo, Colleen's expression turned dignified. Only to hear Ann chime in, "Jill Norley, the Dr. Jill Norley? I heard all 10 of the top university had a bidding war to get her to join their university for her research work. She is one of the up-and-coming young researchers in the central academic region. If I am not wrong she was Luna's rival. I heard that she too worked on the dungeon relocation project, so that is how she was able to give Wyatt all that data on how to operate and maintain the dungeon relocation apparatus. Not to mention she is quite a looker and has all her male co-workers wrapped around her fingers."

With a grave tone, Collen inquired Lorenzo, "How did she come in contact with the boy?"

Colleen could not understand how a prominent figure in the central academic region came in contact with a high schooler from the third-rate city in the southern region, Lorenzo's following explanation only added to her confusion.

"A week ago she applied and gained the permit to explore a few E-rank field dungeons next to the Sky Blossom city. We have strong reason to believe that the boy faked his

death in Sun Blossom City, he must have run into Jill Norley on his way over to Sky Blossom City. It is suspicious how she left the southern region the very day the boy returned to the city," Lorenzo narrated the results of the investigation.

"It was her, that slut," Ann exclaimed listening to Lorenzo's investigation report. Nobody was more informed of what the boy's footprints in the last few weeks than Anna and Ann. However, there was an entire day unaccounted for when the boy faked his death and traveled from sun blossom city to sky blossom city by himself, on 4 April 2321.

When the boy returned to the city the next morning for the first time he showed his vulnerable side to Anna but just when they were getting along well things took an ugly turn when the boy revealed to Anna that he had slept with another woman the day before.

Now hearing Lorenzo's investigation report Ann immediately pieced the information together and came to the conclusion that the harlot that slept with her young lover was no other than Jill Norley.

"How could he?" Ann mumbled to herself remembering that the boy claimed that the incident was a one-time thing and meant nothing. Anna and Ann chose to believe him. Therefore Ann felt a little betrayed learning that the boy was still in contact with Jill.

"..." Colleen, Lorenzo, and Aria were taken aback by Ann's outburst. But before either of them could ask her about it Ann declared, "We have to do something about that woman. Her relationship with Wyatt is more ambiguous than you can think. I wonder if she is the reason he so desperately wants to join Morningstar University."

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Chapter 1325 Sense Of Urgency

[1,010 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:34

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

Ann's imagination ran wild learning that Jill Norley was the woman who bedded her young lover. What hurt her more was the fact that the boy looked into Anna's eyes and

claimed that the other girl did not matter to him, only to learn that he was still in contact with her. Ann was now not only brimming with jealousy and hate for Jill but felt weak and stupid. Which caused her mind to go as far as to contemplate that the boy was so stubborn about joining Morningstar University because of Jill Norley.

"Girl, what you are saying doesn't make sense, a little context would help," Colleen said with a frown. Just knowing that Jill Norley was related to that man had her worried for the boy, she did not have time for Ann's romantic drama but she choose to remain patient.

"The investigation report is accurate, Wyatt and Jill did come in to contact on that day. All I have to add to that is that they shared a physical relationship that day. However, I don't know how close they are. But considering that Jill is an attractive woman and Wyatt is still young, I can see why he is so stubborn about attending Morningstar University," Ann doubled down on the notion that the boy was so adamant about attending Morningstar University at the risk of his life all because of his physical relationship with Jill. That thought that with an A-One beauty like Anna constantly through herself at the boy, he did not need to move to another region at the risk of his life for a physical relationship.

"Ann, are you sure about this?" Colleen asked.

"Yes. Why else would Jill risk her career by giving the data on how to use and maintain the dungeon relocation apparatus and also be willing to get him coordinates of the other worlds discovered by Morningstar University? That woman does not hesitate to commit crimes for him, how else would you interpret the relationship between those two?" Ann was blowing everything out of the proposition without having the slightest clue about the relationship between the boy and Jill.

"The relationship between those two developed to that level just in one day? First Anna and now this little girl, I envy that boy's luck with women," Lorenzo complained causing Aria to frown. She did not expect to hear such words from Lorenzo's mouth. Ann and Colleen who knew Lorenzo for a long time were not surprised by his words however Aria who has been in little contact with could not help but feel a little disgust toward him as she did not expect to hear such words from an elderly figure such as Lorenzo himself.

"Do you think all this was staged?" Colleen asked in doubt. Because she did not understand what business a prominent researcher like Dr.Jill Norley had down in the southern region when she could find as many E-rank dungeons as she wanted in the central region. It may seem far-fetched but considering the whole Freedom Fighter incident it made sense.

The Freedom Fighters pitted the Southern royal family against the Government while they reaped the benefits. The Freedom Fighters had not only taken advantage of them but also the government. However, this also made it clear that the government was

aware of what the Southern royal family was up to from the start. Meaning they knew about the boy and the silver milk powder, yet they did not act and patiently lied wait for the Southern Royal family to use the dungeon relocation apparatus to turn the silver beach dungeon into a dungeon card such that they could reap the most benefit.

When the government went through so much trouble to stage a heist, to get their hands on the silver beach gate dungeon and the boy, it did not seem that far-fetched to think that Jill's accidental run-in with the boy was also staged to gain his trust using the classic honey trap. This seemed more probable because Jill was that man's daughter.

Colleen could not think of any other reasons that would explain why Jill had to come down all the way to a third-rate city in the southern region to explore a few E-rank dungeons. Reaching this conclusion, Colleen began to worry.

The boy was very important to the southern region, especially now when he claimed that he could use the dungeon relocation apparatus to summon a dungeon similar to silver beach gate dungeon.

Colleen started to feel an unknown sense of urgency, so she did not bother to further debate Jill's relationship with the boy or whether their encounter was staged. And ordered, "Our enemies seem to have been one step ahead of us all this time. So, I don't know what it takes or how you will do it, figure out how the boy's trick works. I want to know how he managed to run away from the palace to the sky-blossom city in a matter of few minutes and how to stop him from using it to run away again."

"Yes, your Highness," Lorenzo nodded in confirmation. Now he had another reason other than his curiosity to expose the boy's trick.

"Um, I don't have to remind you how important the boy is for the future of the southern region, get it done as fast as possible. So, that I can bring him to safety at the latest," Colleen once again stressed to Lorenzo should find a solution to the boy trick as soon as possible.

"Yes, your Highness, leave it to me," Lorenzo once again assured Colleen.

"..." Hearing the conversation between Colleen and Lorenzo, Aria's expression became dignified as she gathered that her mission was more important than she assessed it to be and also understood that the Card soldier to whom she was assigned as a bodyguard was not as simple as he seemed. He seemed to somehow be very important for the future of the southern region, rising the importance of her mission to the highest level.

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Chapter 1326 Surprise Return

[1,007 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:34

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

As Colleen and Aria prepared to leave something unexpected happened, the sealed stone coffin suddenly opened and the figure of the boy waking out of it could be seen. Everyone present in the room was dumbfounded. Especially Lorenzo, whose sole purpose was to understand the trick being the boy's stunt, and Aria, who had used a curse card to track the boy's location to sky blossom city.

"Hello, everyone. Look's like you guys finally managed to make some time for me out of your busy schedule. So which one of you is going to explain to me what is going on here," I said looking at the shell-shocked Ann, Colleen, and Lorenzo. It seems they were not expecting me to return to the palace, well I don't blame them I too did not want to return to the palace, since they were avoiding me I wanted to force them to come to me in my city, but was forced to return.

Even though my consciousness had left the stone coffin and traveled to the sky blossom city, I made use of the Hive AI inside the calamity daughter gem of the Stone Viltronian which had morphed into a stone coffin to keep tabs on the hubbub in the palace after I left.

So yes, everything that happened in the immediate vicinity of the stone coffin was recorded by the Hive AI and reported to me. This was how I when to remove the dummy ring from my finger such that Aria could track my location in sky blossom city. Colleen was right I was indeed taunting them.

I don't condone eavesdropping but it was a good thing that I eavesdropped on the conversation between Ann, Lorenzo, and Colleen, because if I did not do that then I would not know about the worries of the Southern Royal family, their misunderstandings involving Jill, and lastly that Lorenzo planned to use the stone coffin I left behind to expose the trick behind my teleportation-like stunt.

Even if I were to choose to overlook the over-worrying of the Southern Royal family and their misunderstanding with regard to Jill, I could not ignore the fact that Lorenzo planned to use the stone coffin to learn how I was able to teleport from the palace to the sky blossom city.

Lorenzo was not able to distinguish the Calamity daughter gem and the pseudo calamity soul gem, inside the stone coffin because I had used myriad devil transformations on them to morph them into ego gems, of course, the pseudo calamity soul gem resembled a broken ego gem. As for my abandoned body, it had morphed into the body of a stone elemental and fused with the stone coffin. Giving Lorenzo the impression that if they were to force open the stone coffin they would hurt the person or the corpse inside.

Even with such preparations, I could not guarantee that Lorenzo would not find anything peculiar about the stone coffin and my abandoned body within it especially if he were serious about it and given time. Yes, there were limits to the reaches of a diamond rank card creationist and array master but they had other sophisticated tools at their disposal to help with situations like this, if given time Lorenzo could have uncovered the calamity daughter gem, pseudo calamity soul gem, and their secret.

When I first learned that Lorenzo planned to study the stone coffin to uncover the trick behind my teleportation-like ability, I wanted to have the pseudo calamity soul gem and the Stone Viltronian's calamity daughter gem to self-destruct but I could not bring myself to do that the Stone Viltronian.

Because over time with the help of their calamity daughter gems the five Stone Viltronian stored in my monster orb not only have begun to comprehend rules but their consciousness have developed to form individuality and grow smarter. According to the Myriad Realm Race Records, the elemental race growing individuality and growing smarter takes nearly a millennium.

The point I was trying to make here was that the Stone Viltronian was not just a pet monster anymore it had grown into a capable subordinate and I did not want to abandon it for my convenience. Stone Viltronian was different from the criminals I recruited using calamity daughter gems, I could not bring myself to dispose of it. If I were to sacrifice the Stone Viltronian I would be in the same group as the three mischiefs who would kill their subordinates in a heartbeat if it meant keeping their secrets from being exposed.

This was how I ended up returning to the royal palace, while I am here I decided to make sure that the Southern royal family doesn't do something stupid to jeopardize the relationship between us, the Southern royal family was my backing, so yes there was a lot at stake here. especially for me, since I could not afford to lose their backing. I had a list of enemies that would work to eliminate me or force me into slavery as soon as I step out of the Southern Royal family's shadow.

Therefore, it was really assuring to know that the Southern royal family wanted to protect me and was acting out in my best interest however, their actions were starting to become unreasonable by the day and were getting on my nerve. Thing was that I did not have many options when it came to this all I could do was choose to willingly step out of their shadows to avoid their expectations of me or to endure them, bide my time, and act accordingly as the situation progressed.

Since I choose to return to the palace I have decided to endure the expectations of the Southern Royal family for me, that was only till the silver milk powder project commences without a hitch and till Morningstar University's new school year commences.

Having decided on a plan, I step out of the stone coffin and return the Stone Viltronian to my monster orb.

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Chapter 1327 Shameless Explanation

[1,027 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:45

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"How did you do it, how did you deceive the curse card? Why did it show that you were in sky blossom city when you never left the stone coffin?" Not Colleen, not Ann, or Lorenzo it was Aria who had questioned me.

Aria could not wrap her head around the idea that the boy somehow managed to escape the high-level array formation covering the palace ground and use teleportation not once but twice. First, when he teleported out of the palace, and now, when he teleported into the palace. Aria did not understand how the boy was doing it, so instead she jumped to the conclusion that the boy never left the palace grounds and used a trick to fake his location. As it was easier for her to believe the latter over the former.

Why was this? Mostly because she did not believe that no matter how much of a prodigy a card soldier was there was no way he would be able to escape from the detection of the array formation covering and protecting the palace grounds for centuries and teleporting in and out of it. However, she was willing to believe that he was capable enough to trick a rare-grade curse card.

Explaining that a person interprets the reality they see based on what they can believe as what they understood and not as what it was.

"Believe what you want to," I did not bother to correct Aria nor did I add to her misunderstanding because she would not believe the explanation I gave her unless it involved the secret to the pseudo-calamity soul gem.

Feeling my gaze on them, with exception of Ann, Colleen and Lorenzo did not shy away from it instead their eyes turned serious as Colleen asked, "Boy, how long have you been in there?"

Unlike Aria, the trio of Ann, Colleen, and Lorenzo believed that the boy had indeed used teleportation to move to the sky-blossom city and returned to the palace because they were tracking the movements of his grimoire. Which according to the Southern grimoire and grimoire network division was no small feat because the boy's grimoire seemed to have a strong firewall protecting its information. All they managed to get was that the boy's grimoire was used in sky blossom city sometime before and after he walked out of the stone coffin.

This was the reason why Ann, Colleen, and Lorenzo were not clear when the boy returned to the palace in his stone coffin.

"Your Highness, it doesn't feel good to be eavesdropped on, does it?" I commented reminding Colleen that she was the first to eavesdrop on him, during his private call with Jill.

"Boy, assuming you have heard it all, what do you think? Was I wrong to forcefully bring you to the palace without your consent?" Instead of giving the boy a silly explanation as to why she brought him to the southern palace without his consent, Colleen decided to let the boy decide for himself if what she did was right or wrong.

"Nope, don't use that trick on me. The question here is not whether what you did was right or wrong but why you did it?" Colleen wanted to use the phrase 'the end justifies the means' to defend her actions and avoid giving me an explanation for them. However, I did not plan to let her off that easily. Yes, I had chosen to endure her expectations of me but that did not mean that I would docilely do everything she asks of me.

"..." Listening to the boy rudely confront Colleen, Ann, and Lorenzo, Aria's brows frowned. The rage she felt for the boy and his actions was unexplainable. She wanted to grab the boy by his hair and smash his head on the floor while asking him to atone for his sins. However, Aria controlled herself and endure the boy's rude behavior as she had gathered from the conversation between Colleen, Ann, and Lorenzo that this boy was important for the future development of the Southern region.

"Fine, I did that because you asked me to?" Seeing that acting as if she did all for the boy's good would not be enough to keep the boy from complaining about it she decided to be shameless.

"When exactly did I do that? I don't remember asking you to put me in a cryo-sleep and take me to the southern capital," I asked.

"Well, you didn't exactly use those words but were you, not the one who said that you will prove that you are capable of delivering on what you promised if you had the appropriate tools? Well, the tools you needed were of sensitive nature, you should know that better than me, so I cannot bring them to you instead I chose to bring you to them. As it happens that the tools you ask for are being produced and assembled until then the Royal family is happy to have you as our guest," Colleen explained in coded words such that she would not end up revealing a single hint of the top-secret information to Aria who was also in the room but did not have the clearance for it.

"..." listening to Colleen's smartass argument I frowned as it was not what I was expecting her to say. What was I expecting her to say? I was expecting her to apologize for her actions. An apology, that was all I was asking of her. However, what I got was far from an apology but a smart-ass counter.

Yes, I did say that if I had the dungeon relocation apparatus I would prove to her that I could create conditions to summon a dungeon similar to silver beach dungeon, this by no means meant that I gave her permission to freeze me in an ice block and abduct me. I don't care for her argument that due to the sensitive nature of the dungeon relocation apparatus, making it impossible for her to bring it to me so instead she chose to freeze me in an ice block and bring me to it. That doesn't cut it.

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Chapter 1328 It's Official

[1,543 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:54

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Wyatt, savor your stay at the Southern Palace. If you require any assistance, Aria will be at your service. Once the essential resources for your mission are ready and organized, I'll get in touch with you," Colleen conveyed as she got ready to depart.

I knew that I couldn't expect an apology from her, and had to endure her overprotection for the sake of the silver milk powder project. So, I expressed my frustration to Colleen, "What exactly do I do here till?"

With the supreme leader and Matron hunting me and silver milk powder patent and shares in my hands being eyed by the world, right now I was in such a position that I could only trust my back to the southern royal family thanks to the soul contract Anna and I entered with the world's will as the witness. This was why despite my numerous complaints about their overprotectiveness I continued to stick with them. Because the day Anna and I entered a soul contract with the world's will as a witness, thanks to the terms mentioned in it unknowingly I had chosen a side in this world's struggle. One could also say that the Southern Royal family was the family that I choose or at least that was what it looked like in the eyes of the foreign forces.

Hence, in order to ensure my survival, I must not only rely on the success of the silver milk project for financial gain but also on the support and prosperity of the Southern royal family. To accomplish both objectives, there was only one path I could pursue: creating a dungeon akin to the renowned Silver Beach Gate dungeon. Once this task was accomplished, I planned to relocate to Morningstar University.

"What do I know? Just do what typical youngsters do," Colleen retorted indifferently.

With a straight face, I asked Colleen, "You mean underage drinking, experimenting with drugs, and sexual activities?"

"..." Colleen gave the boy a long hard stare and vanished from the room after saying, "Do as you see fit, as long as you are within the palace grounds I won't care."

Aria's complexion turned into a shade of crimson in response to the boy's words. Even though they were completely uncalled for and discourteous, she couldn't deny the truth behind them. Many of her acquaintances indulged in such activities, and had it not been for her family's strict principles and her aspirations to serve her hometown, Aria may have dabbled in illicit substances and promiscuity as well. But her present standpoint was far removed from such recklessness.

Aria was left astounded upon hearing Colleen grant the boy the freedom to conduct himself as he pleased within the palace grounds - a privilege exclusive only to the members of the royal family. Aria couldn't help but wonder what made the boy so significant that he would be granted such treatment, equivalent to that of a royal family member, especially within the sanctuary of the Royal family.

Aria had heard rumors of the boy's significance in the future development of the southern region, but the specifics of his role remained a mystery to her. However, her envy for the boy had clouded her judgment, causing her to belittle his abilities and underestimate his potential impact.

Even though Aria harbored discontent towards the boy, she chose to maintain her composure and fade into the background of the room. As the boy's appointed bodyguard, she felt it was her duty to make him feel at ease, and she didn't want her presence to cause any discomfort. Aria made a conscious effort to keep her distance, as if she were not even there, while still ensuring the safety and protection of the boy remained her top priority.

"I have come to a decision regarding my stay here," I declared, turning my gaze towards Lorenzo. "As a form of compromise, I request that you grant my people clearance to leave the southern region and relocate to the central academic region." My statement held an air of authority, as I made my demands known without any hesitation. Lorenzo's response would determine the course of action, and I was prepared to stand my ground and negotiate until a mutually beneficial solution was reached.

Lorenzo's gazed at me with a hint of skepticism as if dating that I already knew the answer so why bother with this question?

"So, you still haven't abandoned the notion of enrolling in Morningstar University?" he inquired, his tone implying that my request would not even be considered. Despite his dismissive response, I refused to back down and remained firm in my stance. I was determined to pursue my aspirations, and nothing would deter me from achieving my goals.

Lorenzo's response did not sit well with me, and I could feel the frustration building within me. "That is not the question," I retorted firmly, my brows furrowing with displeasure. I refused to let him divert the conversation away from my request, and I made it clear that I would not tolerate any further attempts to dismiss my demands. Despite the tension in the air, I remained composed and resolute in my stance, ready to face any opposition that may come my way.

Lorenzo's response left me feeling more frustrated than before, as it seemed like he was deliberately avoiding the issue at hand. "The Southern watch is not my department," he declared, his tone dismissive. "Perhaps you should direct your concerns to Ann, as she is now the interim Southern Emperor. She may be better equipped to assist you with your troubles." With that, Lorenzo took his leave, leaving me, Ann, and Aria alone in the lavish bedroom. Despite the setback, I remained determined to find a solution to my problem and was ready to explore all possible avenues to achieve my goals.

I turned to Ann with a glimmer of hope in my eyes, but her response dashed any expectations I had. "Wyatt, don't look at me," she said firmly. "I cannot do anything regarding this matter. Just because we know each other does not mean I am willing to bend the rules for you." Her words were straightforward, leaving no room for negotiation or persuasion. It was clear that Ann was not going to compromise her principles, and I respected her for it. However, she did provide some reassurance, stating that if my people had not done anything wrong, they would be granted clearance to move to the

central academic region after a proper investigation had been conducted. Yet her words did give me some comfort, knowing that my people's fate was not entirely out of my control.

However, I couldn't help but feel a twinge of anger at Ann's response. "Ann, you and I both know that all my people had the necessary clearance to move to the central academic region," I retorted, my frustration evident in my tone. "This investigation is nothing but a flimsy excuse your family has conjured up to prevent my people from leaving the Southern region. So why don't you drop the act and preach to someone else?" I knew that my accusations were not unfounded, as Ann's family had a long history of preventing me from leaving the Southern region and putting my life in danger. Despite my growing irritation, I tried to keep my emotions in check and remain civil, knowing that I needed Ann's cooperation to achieve my objectives.

"..." hearing my comment Ann went quiet. Because she knew that what the boy said about her family was true. Her family had indeed made use of their authority to make sure that the boy's people doesn't leave the southern region to move to the central academic city.

Ann was quite ashamed about that but the boy has left no choice for her family, he would not listen to reason and be adamant about his course of action.

The reason I wanted my people to move to the central academic region was that they would do all the heavy lifting there in my place until I arrived at Morningstar University. Why was I in hurry about developing my force in the central academic region? It was because at the start of the year at the university, the freshmen will start pouring in and it will very difficult form to start setting up the groundwork for my business while competing with them.

Not to mention, this way I will get the silver milk project done and also set a foundation in the central academic region simultaneously, saving me time and trouble.

"I am sorry Wyatt, I can't help you with that. I may be the interim southern emperor but my grandma is the general of the southern watch, I did not have the authority to overlook her orders," Ann finally spoke explaining that she really could not do anything about the situation of my people. Now it became clear to me that without Colleen's consent, my people could never leave the southern region. Even if they somehow manage to evade the southern watch at the borders of the southern region and they will not be able to move to the central academic city until they have clearance from the southern region authorities permitting them to move to the central academic city.

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Chapter 1329 Embracing New Opportunities

[991 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 04:59

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Wyatt, why don't you take a moment to unwind and freshen up? And then, I will give you a tour of the royal palace," Ann suggested planning to be a generous and gracious host to the boy.

'Ah, yes. A tour of the royal palace is undoubtedly the most efficient way to spend my precious time.' " I responded sarcastically.

"Wyatt, I know you hate to be here. But don't tell me, you plan to be this sour the entire time you are here. Since you are here why don't you make the most of it and enjoy your stay," Ann advised feeling that if the boy continue to be a sourpuss she would never get to spend the quality time with him she was planning for.

"..." I gave Ann a blank stare. However, I felt Ann was not wrong, I should not waste my time complaining about what cannot do and instead have a more positive outlook on my current situation and embrace it to explore the opportunities that I could not have come across in Sky Blossom city. So after giving it a little thought I said, "Fine, I will take your advice but I don't need a tour of the palace instead I would like the tour of the popular card shops of the southern capital."

"Great idea, but unfortunately the card shops won't be open this early in the morning. Why don't we finish our tour of the royal palace first, and then we can swing by the card shops later?" Ann suggested, determined to check off all the activities she had planned to do with the boy before Anna returned. The tour of the palace was particularly important to her, and she wanted to make sure they had enough time to explore it thoroughly even if the boy was not particularly interested in it.

"Alright, I'll go along with that," I acquiesced, picking up on Ann's eagerness to show me around the palace. I supposed it wouldn't hurt to become more familiar with the palace's layout and the guards, especially since I'd be here for a while. Who knows, maybe I'll even learn something interesting along the way.

"Very well, I'll be back in an hour to collect you," Ann exclaimed with great excitement and enthusiasm. Her tone was filled with anticipation and zeal, conveying her eagerness to take me on the palace tour.

After Ann left, I surveyed the opulent bedroom in search of the luxurious bathroom. It had been some time since I had cleansed myself conventionally, having relied on my self-created cleansing array formation. But today, I was determined to indulge in a much-needed shower, followed by a leisurely soak in the tub. The thought of the elaborate bathroom in the guest palace filled me with anticipation and excitement.

Utilizing the power of my soul pupils, I easily navigated my way to the largest bath in the guest palace. However, my efforts proved to be unnecessary as I was immediately greeted by a distinguished elderly butler upon exiting my bedroom. "Greetings, sir. I am Colton Haynes, the head butler of the guest palace. How may I be of service to you today?" Colton introduced himself with a polite and professional demeanor, offering his assistance.

"Excuse me, but is the main bath available for use? I would like to utilize it," I asked in a courteous tone, seeking information from the butler.

"Certainly, sir. The main bath is at your disposal. I shall have the maids prepare it for you. Please follow me, and I shall escort you to the main bath," the butler promptly retrieved his grimoire and made the necessary arrangements, all while guiding me towards the guest palace main bath.

Following the butler I soon arrived at the main bath where I was awestruck by the magnificent sight that greeted me: a truly opulent bathroom unlike any I had ever seen before. In fact, it hardly seemed appropriate to refer to it simply as a "bathroom." Its splendor was akin to the luxurious bathhouses found in the most prestigious resorts in Japan.

"Is the bath prepared for the esteemed guest?" the butler asked the maids.

"Yes, sir," the maids nodded in unison, indicating all the arrangements were made as per the head butler's instructions.

"Excellent," Colton acknowledged the maids with a nod of his head. He then turned to me and said, "Sir, please enjoy your bath." With that, he exited the bathroom, leaving me to luxuriate in the opulent surroundings.

As I examined the magnificent bath, I waited for the maids to depart, but they lingered without any indication of leaving. My mind began to race to wonder if they were waiting to be tipped for their service. However, before I could reach a conclusion, one of the maids approached and spoke, "Sir, Let us assist you with your clothes?"

As the maid offered to assist me with my dress, I realized why they were lingering in the room and promptly declined their offer, saying, "Thank you for your kind offer, but I prefer to bathe alone. Please, leave me to it." The maids nodded in understanding and left the bathroom.

As I prepared to undress and enjoy the luxurious bath, I couldn't help but marvel at the stark contrast between the lifestyles of the royal family and us commoners, evident in their Card King realm butlers and maids. However, my thoughts were interrupted as my soul pupils caught sight of Aria, the bodyguard assigned to me by the Southern royal family, hiding in a corner of the bathroom. I had momentarily forgotten about her existence until I actively searched for another presence in the room.

This may be because Aria was using a unique card that granted her such exceptional stealth ability. It not only allowed her to blend in with her surroundings but also completely erased her presence. Her ability was reminiscent of the saying 'out of sight, out of mind.'

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

Chapter 1330 Stubborn Aria

[991 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 05:06

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Didn't you hear what I said to the maids, I prefer to bathe privately," I stated, glancing towards the corner where Aria was concealed.

As the boy spoke and cast his gaze in her direction, Aria pivoted to glance over her shoulder, wondering who the boy was talking to. Aria wasn't playing the fool; rather, she possessed unwavering confidence in her stealth tactics. Its ability was not discernible by a mere card soldier.

Yet, upon discovering no one but the four walls of the room behind her, Aria came to the realization that the boy was, in fact, addressing her. Overcome with surprise, she cast a stunned gaze in his direction. Aria had employed her stealth card to outwit the senses of her enemies in the card king realm. Thus, she couldn't help but ponder how the card soldier in front of her had managed to locate her.

Could he be bluffing? It wasn't until she recalled reading about the boy's Aura Sight, a vision-related origin card listed in his dossier, that the puzzle pieces fell into place.

Despite the clear indication that she was underestimating the boy, Aria chose to turn a blind eye to the obvious warning.

"Make no mistake, I know you heard me. Now get the hell out!" I bellowed, frustrated by Aria's lack of response, demanding that she vacate the premises immediately.

Despite my repeated entreaties, Aria persisted in concealing herself in the corner of the room. "I cannot comply with your request," she explained. "As your bodyguard, it's my duty to remain in close proximity to ensure your safety. Thus, I must remain in the same room as you."

"Enough already! This is the royal guest palace, for heaven's sake. Who in their right mind would dare plot an assassination of a royal guest on the royal palace grounds? If you're so concerned about your duty as my bodyguard, go stand guard outside the door," I said, managing to control my anger as I understood Aria was only doing her job and not going out of her way to make things difficult for me.

"Master Wyatt, I implore you to consider your safety by cooperating. Kindly disregard my presence," Aria graciously declined my request once more.

"Aria, I understand that you are fulfilling what your duties require of you. However, my privacy is also important to me, and I hope you can respect that. Can we find a compromise that works for both of us?" I attempted to reason with Aria. Out of frustration, I hoped that Aria was deliberately trying to make things difficult for me so that I could resort to force to remove her from the room.

"Got it. I'll face the wall. Don't worry I will not peek," Aria replied. While she seemed to understand my concerns, her proposed compromise fell short. With her presence in the room, I couldn't fully relax or be alone with my thoughts. It wasn't about my masculinity; it was simply a matter of personal space.

"Fine, have it your way," Saying that I arrange a big enough Isolation array to separate me and the rest of the bathroom from the corner of the room where Aria stood guard.

However, within the confines of the isolation array, an unsettling sensation washed over me. It was as if a pair of eyes were fixed upon me, silently watching my every move. Without a moment's hesitation, I activated my Gigamite physique, calling upon its remarkable ability - "If you see me, I see you" - to track down the source of my unease.

To my surprise, I discovered that the voyeur was none other than Aria herself. It appeared that her eyes possessed extraordinary power, as her gaze was able to penetrate the isolation array I had erected just with her naked eyes - no, upon closer inspection with my soul pupils, I realized that her bloodline was enhancing her visual abilities to see through my barriers,

The revelation that the Royal family's unparalleled bloodline could bestow upon card apprentices the power to peer through an isolation array came as a complete surprise to me. In fact, my knowledge of the royal bloodline's abilities was sorely lacking, limited to a scant few rumors and hearsay that I had gleaned from the memories of the clown mask.

Emerging from the isolation array, I turned to face Aria and inquired, "Why aren't you following our agreement to face the wall?"

Aria's response was immediate but disingenuous. "I thought it was unnecessary, given the isolation array you had erected," she replied, feigning innocence.

I saw through her deception, however, and spoke sternly, "Aria, there's no need to play games. You know your unique bloodline grants you the power to enhance your vision and see through the isolation array formation I have established. Just face the wall as we agreed." Given that I had arranged an isolation array, Aria could stay in the room without issue as long as she kept her promise to face the wall and not to peek.

"No, with the isolation array in place, I cannot use my mental strength to monitor you or your surroundings so I need my augmented vision to monitor you. If you remove the isolation array then I can consider facing the wall," Aria answered. But her answer only managed to frustrate me even further as monitoring a person with mental strength was equivalent to seeing, hearing, and feeling the person at once. Just the thought that Aria planned to monitor me with her mental strength as I bathed made me sick to my stomach. I don't understand why can't the Aria not understand that my privacy was as important as my life.

"I'm afraid that won't do, Aria," I replied firmly. "The isolation array is necessary for my peace of mind and personal privacy. I cannot allow you to monitor me with your mental strength while I am bathing, it's an invasion of my personal space."

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Chapter 1331 Aria's Limit

[1,532 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 05:25

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Master Wyatt, would you refuse medical treatment due to valuing your personal space and privacy over your life? Certainly not. A similar standard applies to bodyguards, as both professions prioritize saving their clients' lives while also respecting their personal space and privacy," Aria made a compelling case, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to her role as a bodyguard.

With a tone of sarcasm, I acknowledged, "Well, aren't you just a genius? You've uncovered my silly and irrational behavior," but Aria's agreeing nod made my attempt at humor fall flat. It was clear that her astuteness as a bodyguard left no room for such antics.

Exasperated with Aria's unwavering stance, I concluded that further reasoning would be futile. In a moment of jest, I quipped, "On the topic of safety, wouldn't it be more advantageous for you to protect me in the shower? Perhaps we should both disrobe and you can join me."

"Master Wyatt, I did consider that option, but I must admit, I am not well-versed in the art of fighting in the nude. So, for your safety, I believe it would be best if I stick to my areas of expertise," Aria's response was candid and genuine, her sincerity was so palpable that I found myself unsure if she was speaking in jest or was truly serious.

In a teasing manner, I remarked, "Have no fear, Aria. I shall instruct you in the art of fighting in the nude. Why don't you join me in the shower so we can begin our training? As my bodyguard, I trust you understand your duty to ensure my safety and security at all times." I said this with a hint of amusement, curious to see how long Aria could maintain her guise of a single-minded protector.

Aria politely declined my suggestion, "Master Wyatt, I am currently on duty and it would not be appropriate for me to engage in such activities with you at this time. Perhaps we can schedule a different time for our lesson?" Her smile was friendly enough, but the expression in her eyes was a clear indication of her thoughts, 'Pervert.'

"Fuck it," frustrated, I cursed under my breath. Why should I have to sacrifice the simple pleasure of taking an unnerving shower and bath because of Aria's stubbornness? This was the southern royal family's guest palace, after all. If an assassination attempt were to occur here, a mere bodyguard from the card lord realm would be powerless to stop it.

In an instant, three floating heads materialized behind Aria. Their sudden appearance alerted her. As she planned to react to them, three pairs of big arms emerged out of thin air aiming at her, one pair covering her eyes while the other two pairs restrained her arms and legs. Despite being bound, Aria remained composed. She was aware of the boy's strange powers, as she had read about them in his dossier. Remaining calm, she asked, "Master Wyatt, may I ask the reason for this?"

"I tried to reason with you and asked politely, but you refused to compromise. You left me no choice but to resort to force. Now, be patient and endure the vision deprivation until I finish my bath," I declared with a sense of triumph. With a smug smile on my face, I walked back into the isolation array formation that I had prepared.

Alas, my victory was short-lived as I sensed that my floating arms were struggling to keep Aria restrained. I turned to check on her, only to discover that the unique blend of unparalleled bloodline and soul energy that was surging through Aria's body was augmenting her physical strength to a point where it was rapidly approaching the level of my gigamite physique.

Having struggled for some time to break free from the spectral arms, Aria eventually ceased her attempts and spoke up, saying, "Master Wyatt, I must admit that I had seriously underestimated you. Your strength is quite impressive, especially for someone in the card soldier realm."

"Thank you, Aria," I responded with a slight smile as I deactivated my floating arms and heads, allowing her to be free from their grasp. "Although I must say, if you were to fully utilize the power of your bloodline, you would have easily been able to break free from my restraints."

I could sense through my soul pupils that Aria had only partially blended her bloodline with soul energy, causing her powers to be diminished. Had she fully merged the two completely, her physical strength would have exploded by a few folds allowing her to easily break free of my restraints. It was unclear why she had not done so, but it was ultimately my loss.

"Master Wyatt," Aria spoke with a hint of surprise in her voice. "You don't have to downplay your abilities on my account. I apologize for underestimating you. It appears that you are more than capable of defending yourself. I'll turn around and give you your privacy in the isolation array."

Aria couldn't help but question why Minister Lorenzo had assigned her as the boy's bodyguard when it seemed like the boy was just as skilled in combat as she was. She made a mental note to review her client's file more thoroughly in the future.

"I appreciate your compliment, Aria, but don't sell yourself short. If you had fully blended your bloodline with your soul energy, you could have easily broken free from my restraints," I spoke with a hint of remorse, realizing that I had to resort to force to achieve my goal.

"Master Wyatt, What do you mean? I had diligently integrated my bloodline with my soul energy, but unfortunately, the resulting physical prowess was inadequate to extricate myself from your constraints without resorting to my cards," Aria replied. She couldn't comprehend how the boy was knowledgeable about her bloodline fusion methodology and why he implied that she had not executed it flawlessly, when in fact, she had.

"Aria, give me a moment..." As I heard Aria insistently proclaiming that she had flawlessly fused her bloodline with her soul energy, despite my soul pupils bearing witness to the contrary, I couldn't help but feel baffled and suspect that something wasn't quite right. To get to the bottom of things, I instructed the Hive AI to retrieve the footage of Aria utilizing her bloodline to augment her physical prowess, ultimately unraveling the truth of the matter.

As it transpired, Aria wasn't deliberately deceiving us, but instead sharing what she genuinely believed to be the truth. She persisted in affirming that she had achieved total integration of her soul energy and bloodline, unaware that the level to which she had merged them was not the utmost degree possible.

So, why did Aria believe that she had reached the pinnacle of merging her bloodline with her soul energy? Simply put, her physical body had imposed a limitation, preventing her from achieving a higher level of fusion. To surpass this barrier and attain a greater degree of integration between her bloodline and soul energy, Aria would need to transcend the constraints of her physical form.

Exceeding the physical limitations of the body was a daunting task, particularly when one was unaware of the existence of such boundaries. This was precisely the predicament that Aria found herself in. Although her bloodline was unmatched in purity compared to even Luna Lorn's unparalleled bloodline, her body was not on par due to being influenced by external factors such as the genes she inherited from her father were not that compatible with genes she inherited from her mother. In contrast, both Anna and Ann possessed untainted unparalleled bloodlines, and their bodies were robust enough to fully manifest their innate potential.

Comprehending this, I once again experienced a surge of triumph, for I had not been defeated by Aria. It wasn't a matter of her choosing not to break free from my constraints; rather, her power simply wasn't sufficient to overcome them. Although she possessed a formidable bloodline and a physique that could rival my own, she lacked the adeptness to fully utilize them. Regardless of the cause, the bottom line was that I emerged victorious.

Nevertheless, it did not absolve me of the responsibility for resorting to the use of force. In an attempt to make amends, I resolved to inform Aria of what I had learned. "Aria, the extent to which you have merged your soul energy with your bloodline is not the maximum level of fusion achievable. When compared to the level of fusion that Anna and Ann can attain between their bloodline and soul energy, your current utilization of your bloodline and soul energy is merely a fraction of what they can do."

As the boy spoke, Aria's brows furrowed in confusion. She found it perplexing that a mere card soldier from a third-rate city had such a deep understanding of the royal unparalleled bloodline, when even she, the descendant of the same bloodline, did not possess such knowledge. Nevertheless, she could not deny the truth in the boy's words,

as she, herself, was aware of the vast discrepancy between her utilization of her bloodline and that of the Southern Emperor or any other member of the royal family.

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Chapter 1332 A Miracle

[987 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 05:33

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

Throughout her upbringing, Aria was constantly told that her bloodline was second only to Anna's in terms of purity and distinction. Yet, upon observing her cousins and peers with similarly distinguished bloodlines, she couldn't help but feel that the enhancements they gained from their lineage were not all that different from her own. It begged the question: if her bloodline was truly the purest of them all, shouldn't it grant her greater abilities and advantages than her relatives?

The question of whether her bloodline fell short in some way wasn't Aria's greatest worry, as she was already at the forefront of her generation with the abilities she possessed. Her success wasn't solely attributed to her pure bloodline, but rather because of her tireless work ethic and tenacious disposition.

Despite being born into the prestigious Art family with the Royal Bloodline, Aria learned from a young age that she wasn't inherently exceptional and had to earn her place through hard work and perseverance.

Regardless of her achievements, Aria felt a constant weight on her shoulders to uphold the reputation of the Art Family and their Royal Bloodline.

Society had unrealistic expectations of those born with the Royal Bloodline, assuming they would excel in all areas just as their renowned ancestors did anything short they would be considered to be tarnishing the Royal Bloodline's legacy.

Falling short of perfection was simply not an option and any perceived failure reflected not only on the individual but the entire family. So, If Aria failed to live up to society's

expectations of her then the Art Family would be blamed for degrading the Royal Bloodline with their blood.

Given the unattainable expectations set by society, Aria had no option but to be relentlessly diligent and hardworking to meet their ludicrous standards. While her pure bloodline was undoubtedly a factor in her success, it was her tireless efforts that propelled her forward. Without her unwavering determination and hard work, her pure bloodline alone would not have been sufficient to satisfy society's insatiable demands.

Aria's life was incredibly hectic, as she achieved the rank of Card Lord at the remarkably young age of seventeen. She was so busy that she never had the opportunity to ponder whether her pure bloodline was lacking in any way. It wasn't until her clients, whom she was tasked with protecting, pointed out the potential deficiencies in her bloodline that Aria began to question its completeness.

"Master Wyatt, what are you trying to say?" Aria asked the boy with caution as she did not want to jump to any rash assumptions as she was aware that her Royal Bloodline, whether she wished it or not, was a more significant part of her identity than even the esteemed Art family she was born and raised in. So, if there was any problem with the Royal Bloodline within her then figures will be pointed at the Art family, blaming them for degrading the Royal Bloodline.

The Art family was one of the oldest allies of the Southern Royal family, they took pride in her loyalty to the Southern Royal family and for them to be blamed for degrading the Royal Bloodline would be their worst nightmare.

'Sir, young miss's body is not strong enough to display the full potential of the Royal bloodline regardless of its purity.'

'This news stays between us.'

'Sir, the world will know one day.'

'No, that day will never come. My daughter will make sure of it by making up for what her physique lacks by working a hundred times harder than others. Right, Aria?'

'Yes, Father.'

In a sudden epiphany, Aria recollected that she and her family had always been aware of the fact that her physical constitution was not robust enough to showcase the complete potential of the Royal Bloodline. As a result, they had opted to keep it under wraps, apprehensive of societal repercussions. Now, Aria couldn't help but ponder why she felt inferior and the urge to keep pace with her peers when it was evident that she had surpassed them. It wasn't a matter of surpassing them in terms of realm or strength but in terms of the bloodline itself.

"Before I get to that, I need you to answer a few personal questions," I asked deciding first to verify my judgment before I made any claims.

"Sure, go ahead," Aria agreed because she felt the boy knew something she did not. Considering his performance so far Aria was willing to believe him.

"Feel free to stop me when you feel uncomfortable answering my questions," I declared before asking, "Aria, you have any siblings?"

"No, I am the only one," Aria answered

"Did your parents ever try to have another baby after you?" I asked but then seeing the reluctance on Aria's face I added, "I assure you it is related to what I am going to say about your bloodline."

Aria replied, "Yes, they did. Unfortunately, luck was not on their side." However, she didn't disclose the entire truth that she was privy to - that her mother had suffered a total of six miscarriages, five before Aria's birth and one after. It was after the last one that Aria's parents decided to put an end to their attempts as they couldn't bear the agony of going through another miscarriage.

"I understand," I murmured, my fingers nimbly using my mental strength to conduct a thorough search on Aria's mother on the Grimoire Network, with a particular focus on her pregnancies.

Being the offspring of Minister Lorn and Field Marshal Heatsend, Aria's mother was a prominent figure in the southern province, and it didn't take much effort for me to track down her personal details, which Aria had not divulged. Further, I delved into the network to do some research about the Art family, and then armed with that knowledge, I had a complete understanding of Aria's predicament before I apprised her of it.

"Miss Aria, you are a living miracle."

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[1,029 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 05:37

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Master Wyatt, I'm not comprehending your intention," Aria expressed her bewilderment, puzzled by the young boy's remark about her as a living miracle. Deep inside, she couldn't help but wonder if the boy was attempting to flirt with her.

"Aria, I am aware of the circumstances surrounding your mother's pregnancy, and I presume that your parents have reiterated to you time and again that your birth is nothing short of a miracle," I spoke gently, knowing the delicate nature of the subject. "During your birth, there were several complications, but you surpassed all the odds and came into this world as a healthy baby."

Aria's forehead creased with a frown, and she gazed at the boy in silence, pondering how he knew so much about her and her family, despite being raised thousands of miles away from her. The moment he awakened from cryosleep, he had recognized her, despite it being their first encounter. However, he never disclosed how or why. Now, he seemed to be an expert on her bloodline and family history, raising Aria's suspicions that all of this was planned by the boy. However, she swiftly realized the notion was absurd, yet the thought left her feeling wary of him.

"Aria, please understand that what I am about to say is in no way meant to disrespect your family. I must also emphasize that soul pathway compatibility does not reflect how much people love each other," I spoke carefully, treading lightly. I was aware that my next statement could potentially offend Aria, given that she had devoted her entire life to ensuring that nobody blamed the Art family blood for her physical limitations.

"I understand, Master Wyatt. Please go ahead and say what you have to say," Aria replied impatiently. She had already anticipated what the boy was about to tell her, and it wasn't anything new that she didn't already know. What Aria was looking for was if he had anything constructive to add to the situation.

"Good," I nodded as Aria agreed with my words. "Aria, there is a reason behind your mother's miscarriages, and it has to do with the compatibility of your parents' soul pathways," I explained.

In simpler terms, Aria's parents had an incompatibility in their genes that resulted in multiple miscarriages. Despite her father being able to impregnate her mother, the embryos could not survive beyond seven or eight months due to the genetic mismatch. This would lead to complications during fetal development.

Aria's brows furrowed as she heard the term "soul pathway compatibility" for the second time today but had no idea what it meant. She couldn't help but feel a bit lost, not knowing how it related to her parent's situation. "I'm sorry, Master Wyatt, but I'm not familiar with that term. Could you please explain it to me?" she asked, hoping for some clarification.

"To put it simply, the Art family's innate physique doesn't match well with the Royal bloodline," I replied straightforwardly, fully aware that my words might cause offense,

but I couldn't think of a gentler way to explain the concept of soul pathway compatibility to Aria.

"Master Wyatt, What are you trying to imply here?" Aria's furrowed brows and tense expression made it clear that she wasn't going to let me off the hook without a proper explanation.

"Aria, let me explain. If I am not wrong then the Art family has a unique innate physique that enables them to purify their soul energy at a faster rate than others. This ability allows members of your family to forge their ego gem faster than others of their generation," I said, in hopes to clarify my earlier statement. I knew that the Art family was renowned for their abilities and that Aria was very proud of her family's heritage.

"Although I hear you, I'm struggling to see the connection between what you're saying now and your earlier statement," Aria voiced her confusion.

"Allow me to finish, I'm almost there," I requested Aria to exercise patience and lend an ear to my explanation. "In the meantime, if my memory serves me right, the Unparalleled Bloodline possesses the power to enhance the user's physical form by harnessing their soul energy," I elaborated.

As Aria nodded in agreement I paused, savoring the dramatic effect before continuing. "Picture this - a body with the physique that's inherently Art family along with the unparalleled bloodline of the Southern Royal family," I proposed hoping to capture Aria's imagination such that she understood what I was getting at but her confused expression made me realize I was overestimating her.

"What I'm trying to convey is that if such a body were to exist, it would be a miracle granted by the nature. However, in your case, you're the flawed iteration of that miracle," I clarified, hoping Aria could comprehend my words. "The innate physique of your Art family has hindered the fusion of the unparalleled bloodline in your body with your soul energy, thus limiting your physical form," I expounded, wondering if Aria could connect with my analysis.

"Master Wyatt, forgive me for saying this, but shouldn't it be the other way around? Wouldn't the Art family's inherent physique complement the royal family bloodline by purifying the soul energy?" Aria interjected, highlighting what I had previously stated, possibly because she was unsure of my rationale.

"Exactly. That's why a body possessing both the Art family's physique and the Unparalleled Bloodline would be a natural marvel," I stressed to Aria, hoping to emphasize my point. "Can you imagine the potency an apprentice with such power would wield?" I added, urging Aria to envision the possibilities.

The Art family physique increases the purity of the soul energy

The unparalleled bloodline uses soul energy to enhance the physical body.

If they both were in one body it would turn into an endless loop of empowerment which was just too ridiculous to even imagine.

The Art family physique => Pure Soul energy => Unparalleled bloodline + Pure soul energy => Enhanced physical body => enhanced Art family physique => Purer Soul energy => Unparalleled bloodline + Purer soul energy => greater Enhanced physical body => greater enhanced Art family physique and so on.

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Chapter 1334 A Miracle And A Failure

[1,055 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 05:44

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Master Wyatt, what are you trying to say? On the one hand, you say that my parent's soul pathways are not compatible but on the other hand you say that the innate abilities of both my parents together are an unstoppable force and a miracle. I understood the latter but I don't understand the former why are my parent's soul pathways not compatible?" Aria patiently listened to what the boy had to offer and thinking them through she felt a part of what the boy said made sense and the other part she did not quite get it. So, she did not hesitate to voice her doubts to the boy.

"Here's the thing the bloodline of the Heatsend family and the innate physique of your Art family are totally opposite to each other.

The Heatsend family bloodline uses soul energy to augment the card apprentice's body. Whereas, the Art family's innate physique uses the body to augment the soul energy. Making both these abilities opposite to each other.

Yes, as a whole abilities, the Heatsend family bloodline, and the Art family physique should complement each other but as soul pathways that result in these abilities, they do not go hand in hand.

If both abilities used the soul energy to enhance the physique or used the physique to enhance the soul energy, then soul pathways that resulted in these abilities would be compatible. Heck, they could even mutate into a new ability never seen before.

During the fetal stage of the baby, the soul pathways of the unborn child are beginning to form and align to give it the bloodline of the Heatsend Family and the innate physique of the Art family. However, because of the compatibility issue of the soul pathways of these two abilities, the soul pathway arrangement of the unborn baby starts to fall apart resulting in miscarriage.

However, in your case, your body was able to accommodate the soul pathways of both the Heatsend family bloodline and the Art family's innate physique. And that was only possible because of a mutation in your body that became the limitation of both the unparalleled bloodline and the Art physique that you possess. Making you the jack of both abilities but the master of none.

"This was why I called your existence a miracle and a failure," I patiently explained to Aria how her parent's soul pathways were not compatible despite their abilities complimenting each other and how her birth was a miracle and a failure at the same time.

No matter how pure Aria's unparalleled bloodline was because of the limitation in her body it could not merge with her soul energy completely thus Aria could use the unparalleled bloodline to its maximum potential. The same was true for the innate Art physique she inherited from her father's family.

Aria could try to remove this limitation on her body such that she will be freely able to use the unparalleled bloodline and the innate Art physique, maybe even use them together to achieve a power never seen before but without the limitation on her body her soul pathways would start to collapse and she would die.

"Master Wyatt, is there a way for me to overcome the limitation of my body?" Aria asked the boy after understanding the crux of the boy's detailed explanation of her body and her innate abilities.

"I am sorry Aria, the limitation of your body is not something that you can overcome. Honestly, that limitation is what keeps you alive. Without it, your soul pathways would collapse and you would die a horrible death. That limitation is the reason why you were born as a healthy child but your siblings died in your mother's womb," my words to Aria were grim because I wanted to stress the gravity of the natural limiter in her body to Aria. I did not want her to do something stupid in pursuit of power which would inevitably lead her to a horrible death.

"I see that natural limiter on my body is what keeps me alive while also making me inadequate despite inheriting two of the most powerful abilities in the southern region, the unparalleled bloodline and the innate Art physique. I guess I should be happy to be

alive," Aria said this but a tinge of regret could be heard in her voice as she could not come to terms with her situation so she soon declared, "I don't want to be mediocre when I could be the best there is."

"Girl, did you not hear what I just say? You only have two choices keep the natural limiter or die a horrible death," I stressed feeling that Aria did not understand how gruesome and grave death by soul pathways collapsing was.

"Master Wyatt, since you can clearly understand my situation then you should have some way to rectify it, right?" Aria was not reconciled with her situation. And she was right if I could not rectify her problem why even bother to bring it up in the first place?

"Aria, I hope you come to terms with your situation but if you insist I can think of something however it will not be easy," I advised Aria not to try and change something that was keeping her alive but come to terms with it and move on because I did not want to solve a problem that actually did not need solving. However, thinking of numerous possibilities of Aria's bloodline and physique I could not help but get excited.

"So, there is a way," Aria asked in anticipation. She did not even consider coming to terms with her situation and moving on. Clearly, Aria like other royal children would not hesitate to risk her life for power. As they knew their life's value was directly proportional to their strength. That was what they have been taught since their birth.

"Aria, take your time, I am not going anywhere," I did not agree with Aria and instead asked her to take her time weighing her options because just with her current development Aria was able to create huge waves in the future vision of the clown mask so I did not think it was wise for her to risk all at over a possibility that she could overcome the natural limiter on her body.

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[1,030 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 05:52

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Master Wyatt, no need I have already decided. So, please guide me," Aria said decisively and it appeared she was not going to change her mind no matter what the boy said.

"First of let me take shower in peace, then we can talk about your situation, it is not something your or I can address on a whim," I said walking back in my isolation array formation. Then seeing Aria face the wall I undressed and proceeded to enjoy the shower followed by a soak in the tub.

I had already thought of various way's around the natural limiter placed on Aria's body which would allow her to use both her bloodline and physique to their maximum potential however all of them were temporary measures. The different ways I came up with all used the same principle of suppressing Aria's natural limiter for a certain duration for which her body will continue to be stable without the presence of the limiter.

Now to find out how long and how much I can suppress the natural limiter placed on Aria's body without affecting the stability of her body I would have to conduct numerous trial-and-error experiments but there was only one Aria. Fortunately, I had Hive AI which could conduct accurate simulations when provided with the necessary data and real-time parameters.

However, before going through the course of action I came up with I thought it would be best if I visited 'The Infinity Library' to brush up on similar cases. As that thought crossed my mind, I could not help but wonder if Aria was worth the trouble of me wasting my precious free reading time in the Infinity library.

Well, I like to use everything at my disposal to help provide the best solution I can to my client only if they were willing to pay the appropriate price. So having enjoyed a long soak in the luxurious bathtub I dressed up and lifted the isolation array. Feeling the isolation array being lifted Aria turned to look at me with anticipation. Glancing into her eyes I said, "It seems you did not change your mind."

"No, I did not. If anything I am more certain about it than before," Aria's eyes shone with a firm resolve as she spoke these words.

"Good, that you are certain about this because my services are not cheap, my help to you will depend on what you are willing to offer me," I said as I walked out of the main bath only to find that the head butler Colton and the maids waiting for me outside.

"Master Wyatt, Miss Aba Windsor, and her friends are waiting for you in the hall," Colton reported as I walked out of the main bath and paused in front of him.

"Aba is here too?" I blurted in surprise. Considering that the demigod Windsor had left Aba in Anna's custody it would only make sense that Aba would follow Anna back to the royal palace. And what was this about Aba's friends, I thought she had no friends other than the ones she made in sky blossom city.

"Yes, Master Wyatt. It has been 7 minutes since their arrival. Miss Aba in particular seems to be enthusiastic about meeting you. Will you be greeting them with your presence or should I send them away?" the head butler asked

"No, take me to the hall they are waiting in," I said deciding to meet the future hero of this world. In any case, a strong friendship may come in handy someday.

"This way, Master Wyatt," I followed the butler while trying to find Aria, she seemed to have once again faded into the background her presence was not noticeable if not for my soul pupils. Clearly, she did not want to discuss her personal problem with her client while she was on the job. I really liked Aria's strong work ethic.

No wonder she was able to rack in so many merits at a young age in Clown Mask's future vision. Aria was 17 years old now and during the war between the South and North region seen in Clown Mask's future vision, she would be in her mid-twenties which was very young for card apprentices who could live a very long time compared to the mortals.

...

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 06:35

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

Following the head butler, I arrived at the main hall of the guest palace to find Aba. As for her friends, they were none other than Agatha and the girl with the sword slave physique Laura Hill. I should have guessed.

"Wyatt, you are finally here," Aba said seeing me walk into the hall.

"Master Wyatt," Laura and Agatha greeted with a nod so did I.

"So, what brings you guys here?" I wondered why had these three come to me.

"I heard you were finally awake from your Cryosleep so I came to check on you on big sis Susan's behalf," Aba said with a mischievous smile. As a teenager, her mind was riddled with romance and other nonsense when she should be trying her best to cultivate her active soul energy.

Honestly, for a daughter of a renowned demigod, Aba's strength was a joke but somehow she becomes the hero of this world according to Clown Mask's future vision. I really did not understand how that worked.

"Why did you not bring her to the palace with you?" I asked

"Wait, I could do that? Why did I not think of that? Is it too late to bring big sis Susan to the southern capital now?" Aba said turning to Agatha hoping that she would go back to the sky-blossom city and bring Susan to the southern capital.

"Princess, I cannot do that," As someone who raised Aba Agatha knew what Aba was thinking and immediately rejected her. They were in the southern capital, though the relations between the southern royal family and her master were good, the same could not be said about the spies of the other forces stationed in the southern capital. So she could not be casual about her duties like she did back in sky blossom city.

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[1,034 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 06:38

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace, Guest Palace

"Wyatt, if you want to we can arrange for people to bring your manager and Corey to the southern capital. However, Anna would be jealous that arranging to bring your manager to the palace was your first business in order after you woke up from the cryosleep," Ann said walking into the guest palace hall and catching the boy and his friends by surprise.

"Ann, your family love to eavesdrop doesn't it," I said sarcastically

"No, it is just the burden we have to bear as a result of our high realms," Ann retorted implying that her family member's realm was so high that they hear voices from afar causing others to mistake their ability as eavesdropping.

"Sure, blame others when you guys are too dumb to control your abilities," Right now I was not a big fan of anyone in the Heatsend family except for Anna who was accepting punishment for doing something I asked her to do.

"Burn!" Aba yelled as she had a score to settle with Ann for those embarrassing pictures Anna took of her. She could care less that Ann and Anna were two different people. Honestly, In the guest palace apart from the boy she was the only one who could get away with taunting the royal family.

Even so, Agatha desperately nudged Aba her elbow hoping her princess would not enjoy this too much. After all, they were in the heart of the Southern Royal family so it would not be wise to cut the branch they were sitting on.

Listening to the boy call the royal family members dumb to the face of Ann Aria's mood kept fluctuating affecting her stealth. However, she desperately tried to control her rage

knowing that the Soldier Queen held the boy in high regard and would probably overlook his rudeness again. As for Laura, she was the only one enjoying the refreshments prepared by the head butler for the guests, *Crunch* *Crunch*

Attracting the attention of everyone in the hall. Feeling the gaze of everyone Laura paused and defended, "Sorry, these cookies are just too good."

"The royal baker will be happy that you like the cookies, Miss Hill, would you prefer a glass of milk or a cup of tea with them?" the head butler said trying to erase the awkwardness in the room.

Colton knew the boy was a very important guest regardless of his realm because the guest palace no.1 was only allocated to those the Southern Royal family held dear or those they wanted to impress. And from the looks of it, it appears the Souther Royal family held the boy dear and also wanted to impress him. Therefore, he did not hesitate to step in to smooth the conversation between Princess Ann and the boy.

"A cup of milk without sugar, please," Laura replied enthusiastically ignoring the gaze of everyone in the room.

"What about you, Sir and Madams?" Colton politely asked others if they wanted any beverages.

"None for me,"

"Nope"

"No"

The rest of us rejected Colton's offer only to hear Laura say, "If you guys don't want them, can I have all these cookies?"

All of us nodded our heads in shock looking at Laura stuff her face with a dozen or so cookies. Soon Agatha came to Laura's defense saying, "Laura, looks like you have grown quite an appetite practicing your sword dance the whole night."

"Yes, but how do these cookies taste so good despite being sugar-free," Laura said while stuffing her face with another cookie and then continued to ask, "You guys sure you don't want to taste them?"

"*Ahem* Miss Hill, those cookies are not sugar-free," Colton pointed out to Laura wondering why she would assume that the cookies were sugar-free.

"They are not sugar-free?" Laura asked Colton in shock. Because of her ugly past with weight and food, in Sun blossom city's Hill family the servants prepared all of Laura's food following a specific diet, so she unwitting assumed the same in the guest palace.

"They are not," Colton awkwardly nodded his head

Barf Laura suddenly began to vomit uncontrollably spilling saliva and digestive juices mixed with chewed-up cookies. Thankfully Colton was quick to act he used his cleaning card to clean the floor and make it spotless and shiny again during the small interval between Laura's uncontrollable vomiting.

"What the fuck?" Aba cussed, only to hear Agatha and Ann yell simultaneously, "Language Princess/Aba."

"Don't mind her, she was called cubby during her childhood causing her to become overcautious about her weight," I explained in Laura's stead. Letting others know that Laura's condition was psychological and there was no we could do about it.

"Kids are mean," Aba instantly felt for Laura because kids called her shorty her entire childhood and they still do.

Understanding that Aba misinterpreted my words I said, "It is not like what you think."

"Believe me, I know what she has been through," Aba argued as she finally found a common point to bond with Laura. Shaking my head, I decided not to bother correcting Aba because it was too much of a hassle.

"Wyatt, how about we start our palace tour now?" Ann asked the boy ignoring that a few seconds ago the boy called her dumb.

"Sure, lead the way," A palace tour sounded a lot better than watching Laura vomit everything she eat after her last bowel movement while the head butler used his cleaning card to clean the vomit again and again.

"Where are you going?" Ann asked Aba seeing her follow her.

"Palace tour, didn't you just offer to take us on a palace tour?" Aba respond.

"No, the palace tour is just for Wyatt and me," Ann corrected Aba, there was no way she was letting this shorty and her bodyguard become the third wheel to her alone time she had managed to get with the boy.

"Why not?" Aba protested and demanded why she could not go on the palace tour with the boy

"Yes, why not?" listening to the boy question her too, Ann had no choice but to cave, "Sure, why not?"

Before following Ann and me on a palace tour Aba yelled at vomiting Laura, "Chubby, Ann is taking us on the royal palace tour, join us when you are done barfing."

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

Chapter 1337 In Love With Me

[982 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 09:43

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace

"How may I be of service to the Soldier Queen?" a female voice answered from the other side of the grimoire call made by Colleen, causing her to frown and scold, "Girl, first learn how to respectfully address your mother."

"Mother, I was just kidding," the female voice was none other than Colleen's daughter and Anna's mother.

"With a mother like you, Anna is not to be blamed for her actions," Colleen did let her daughter off the hook so easily.

"How am I to be blamed for her actions? You, father, and big brother raised her once she stopped breastfeeding. The first word out of her mouth was grandma. If anyone is to be blamed for her actions then it's you guys, not me. I was mostly absent for her childhood," Anna's mother argued.

"How can you say that proudly?" Colleen was dissatisfied that her daughter felt no guilt about missing out on most of her daughter's childhood.

"I can say that proudly because I have the best family to depend upon," Anna's mother said acting coy with her mother knowing Colleen would not shut up about it unless she said something cringy to feed her ego. As Colleen's daughter Anna's mother knew her better than Colleen herself.

"Flattering will not get you out of trouble this time young lady," Colleen thundered but her eyes told a different story. The flattery worked, Anna's mother was right about her. However, Colleen continued to say, "Girl, how can you help her steal the important parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus? Do you know how it will affect our family's reputation if the word gets out?"

"Mother, Anna said she had a plan so as her mother I supported her," Anna's mother responded. According to her a good mother would always have faith in her daughter and have her back, even if she was the dumb daughter.

Listening to her daughter's words blacklines formed on Colleen's forehead, knowing that her daughter was lying to her and hiding something from her. Nonetheless, Colleen choose to overlook it and said, "Your aunt is very mad at you, for your safety and to keep our dignity don't return to the southern capital until she leaves for the way beyond again."

"Don't worry Mom, recently I have made some progress in my strength and am itching to test the power of the top ten strongest in the world," Anna's mother said confidently.

"Congrats on your progress. But don't underestimate your aunt. You know her better than me, she will not hesitate to whoop your ass in public if she catches you," Colleen warned her daughter not to underestimate their aunt.

"I will keep that in mind. Anyhow, enough about me, tell me how is my son-in-law? I heard you kidnapped him and brought him to the southern capital and are holding him in the guest palace," Anna's mother seemed to have already decided that the boy who discovered the sliver milk powder was her son-in-law.

"He is capable, not the like the men you see Anna usually hang out with. However, I think that boy has fallen for me," Colleen said in shame. She was embarrassed that her granddaughter's lover her life was entranced by her beauty.

"Pftttt haha, haha," hearing her mother's words Anna's mother burst out in loud laughter.

"Girl, this is no joke. This is a serious issue. Whenever he is in my presence I can hear his vulgar thoughts about me and let me tell you they are not pleasant," Colleen was angry that her daughter would laugh at such a serious matter.

"Haha, haha," Anna's mother continued to laugh louder hearing Colleen's explanation.

"Will you stop laughing? What's wrong with you, mother and daughter pair? Anna did not care when the boy flirted with me with her right next to him and you are laughing when I tell you your daughter's husband has vulgar thoughts about me," Colleen complained. She did not understand what was so funny about this situation.

"Mother, relax, it is not like what you think. I think the boy is thinking vulgar thoughts about you to stop you from listening to his original thoughts. He is smart if not anything, it was not quite clear if Anna's mother was complimenting the boy or complaining about him. However, her words brought Colleen a sudden sense of clarity about the boy and his intense steamy vulgar thoughts about her. Yet, still, she asked her daughter in doubt, "Are you sure that is all to it and there is nothing more to it?"

"I don't know, Mother. You can never be sure about things like this. After all, you are a beautiful woman and he is an impressionable teenager," Anna's mother's words could not be more misleading. Hearing them Colleen's brows tied in a knot as she contemplated if her granddaughter's love interest was interested in her or not. If yes, did she somehow lead him on?

"Mother, I am kidding. I am sure the boy was just trying to mask his true thoughts. Though it is worth noting that he knowingly used such a tactic to keep you from reading his true thoughts. He was either really interested in you or hiding an even bigger secret. It seems I will have to pay a personal visit to my mysterious son-in-law," Anna's mother was intrigued wondering what secret could be more important than his life for the boy to go that far to cover it.

"Speaking of your son-in-law, I think you would like to know that he is in contact with Jill Norley," Colleen reported.

"How did that happen? How did that man's daughter get in contact with the boy?" Anna's mother finally became serious in her conversation with her mother.

Soon Colleen went on to report everything she knew about the boy's relationship with Jill to her daughter. Along with the various speculation she, Ann, and Lorenzo came up with.

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Chapter 1338 Reciprocating Faith

[1,500 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 09:48

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace

"Mother, I don't think your speculations hold any truth to them," Anna's mother did not agree with Colleen's speculation that the boy was so adamant about joining Morningstar University because he wanted to be with Jill Norley.

Colleen's daughter felt that the boy's reason for wanting to attend Morningstar University was not as simple as Colleen put it. She believe someone who had the

smarts to discover silver milk powder and trick the southern royal family into doing his dirty work would not make his decisions solely based on irrational variables like infatuation, romance, and forbidden affairs. Otherwise, he would already be leashed by her daughters Anna and Ann.

As for the boy's association with Jill Norley, She felt that the boy was using Jill to show them that they were not the only people he could depend on, he had other choices too. The boy was just making sure his value would not decrease as he continues to depend on the Southern royal family.

The thought that the boy may be trying to separate himself from the Southern royal family did cross Anna's mother's mind but she did not continue to entertain that thought further because she knew the boy was smart enough to know that he could not trust other forces like he trusted the Southern royal family. Anna's mother was so confident about this because of the soul contract her daughter entered with the boy in the presence of the world's will.

The soul contract put the royal family at a little disadvantage but with that, they gained the trust of the boy. Yes, Anna's mother thought that her daughter could have negotiated better terms but that was a matter of the past and she hated to waste time reliving the past the most.

Currently, the Southern royal family's relationship with the boy seemed to strain but it was only because they had differences of opinion and it in no way meant that they did not trust each other. This only meant that the boy too had started to accept the Southern Royal family like how it had accepted him. If everything works out this little incident may even deepen their relationship.

So ultimately Colleen's daughter had concluded that the boy did not plan to join Jill Norley or the faction her father represented, he was only using them to make the Southern royal family jealous. To be more accurate he was only seeking the attention of the Southern royal family. In a way, Colleen did give the boy attention by bringing him to the southern royal palace. However, it was obvious that this was not the type of attention the boy sought. So Colleen's action might have only made the boy more rebellious towards the Southern royal family.

What kind of attention did the boy was searching for? He wanted his opinion to matter, he wanted to be treated equally. Since he trusted them to have his back, he wanted them to trust him. Anna's mother clearly remembers that the boy started acting out the first time when the Southern royal family started to meddle with his life and made plans for him without seeking his opinion. Since then the boy started to take action to separate himself from the Southern royal family.

The boy might think he was shrewd by owning the majority shares of Fine Gold and using it as the spearhead to rise his influence in the blossom district in his first step to establish his own force and secretly starting his little side project on pleasure cards, but

Anna's mother was aware of his little every action. Yes, his relationship with Jill Norley caught her by surprise but other than that she would like to think that she had a firm grasp of what the boy was up to.

Despite knowing what the boy has been up to recently Anna's mother let him be because she felt that shoving their demands and decisions onto the boy will only not work and end up making matter worse. However, in the end, her mother did what she choose not to. Projecting her fears and worries onto the boy.

Anna's mother knew the only reason Colleen did what she did was that recent events had her feeling that what they were not doing was not enough, they could do better—she could do better. The boy would be safer in the royal palace than in the sky-blossom city. In a moment of weakness, Colleen let her fears and worries get the best of her. Therefore Anna's mother did not bother throwing around the blame instead began to think about how to make up for the damages.

'If only Anna was available,' Anna's mother thought of using Anna to console the boy and consolidate his faith in the Southern royal family knowing that her daughter would be the only person the trusted and cared for right now in the entire Southern royal family. Why would the boy not trust Anna? After all, he knew that she was hopelessly in love with him. And he took advantage of it every turn he got. However, with Field Marshal Heatsend disciplining Anna, she would not be available anytime soon. She had to think of something else.

The thought of using Ann never crossed her mind because Anna's mother knew that, unlike Anna who dared to choose the boy over the family, Ann would never be able to put the boy ahead of the family's needs so she could never gain his trust let alone help the family smooth things over with the boy.

"Then what other reason there could be for the boy to be so adamant about joining Morningstar University at risk of his life? I don't understand. I was rash and ignorant when I was young but I would never do something so stupid," Colleen tried to make sense of why the boy wanted to attend Morningstar University with his life handing on the balance so that she could persuade him otherwise or find a reason to support him on his decision.

"Mother, don't try to make sense of it, it is pointless and will only confuse you. You are not him to see the situation the way he sees it. Since you have already forcibly brought him to the palace, think of a way to keep him," Anna's mother like Colleen too could not understand the reason for the boy to be so adamant about enrolling into the morning star university. However, she did not try to understand it because she decided to reciprocate the faith the boy had in them. As for what just suggested to Colleen, she did so to keep Colleen busy so that she would forget about her fear and worries and once again start thinking straight.

"How do I go about that? I offered to support him with every resource and manpower at the royal family's disposal but he refused, what else can I offer to him? I am at my wit's end," Colleen was not exaggerating, she had offered her granddaughter to the boy yet he refused her plans for him.

"Mother, that boy is a man of intellect, why don't you try to keep him busy by giving him work that would test the boundaries of his intellect? Introduce some new for him to learn. Make it so that he doesn't have time to waste. I heard Anna say that he loves to create origin cards you can start there," Anna's mother suggested believing that maybe this way the boy would stop focusing on Colleen brought him to the palace against his will, and with time his opinion about Colleen and the Southern royal family would subside. Meanwhile, closely monitoring the boy and witnessing what he was capable of first hand Colleen would find the strength within her to have faith in the boy as he wanted her to.

Anna's mother hoped that this would help resolve the strained relationships and misunderstandings between the boy and her family before he leaves to enroll in Morningstar University. She agreed with her mother that the boy should be risking his life by attending university in a central academic city but she also knew that if she and her family could not put their faith in the boy and trust he knows what he was doing they could potentially lose him for good.

Anna's mother felt this way because she was pretty confident that the boy would other ways to attend Morningstar University without the help of the Southern royal family. His association with Jill Norley was the perfect example of that.

However, Anna's mother did not plan to share all this with Colleen because telling a person riddled with worries not to worry would not do any good. Therefore, she could only give it time hoping nature will take its course in their favor.

"Sounds good, I will do as such. Maybe I could reinitiate the MegaMorpher project. That should keep him busy for a while."

"No, that won't work."

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Chapter 1339 Fallen Reputation

[1,021 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 09:58

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace

"Why is that?" Colleen asked hearing her daughter reject her idea to reinitiate the MegaMorpher project.

With Luna gone, the MegaMorpher project was put on hold indefinitely. But considering that they need MagaMorpher to explore their inheritance land, Colleen felt it would be a good idea to revive this project after all the required funds and plans were already in place with the exception that this project was no longer for the creation of Luna's regiment. Allowing Colleen to achieve two goals with one kick. The goals were keeping the boy busy and getting the cards they need to venture into their inheritance land respectively.

"Mother, Luna was supposed to get the recipe for the ingredient required to create MegaMorphers card. Now with her betrayal, I don't think that will happen anytime soon," Anna's mother explained to Colleen the real reason why they had put the MegaMorpher project on hold indefinitely.

"Why do you need the recipe to create the ingredient can't we just buy them?" Colleen said feeling that her daughter was making things unnecessarily complicated.

"Mother, we don't need that particular ingredient, we need a modified version of it. Which the boy and Luna were supposed to research together," Anna's mother patiently explained to Colleen knowing her mother was more of brawns and beauty than brains.

"I see," Colleen nodded in understanding and then she came to a sudden realization and voiced it to her daughter in anger, "We cannot use Luna's old connections to get our hands on the recipe for the ingredient required for the creation of the MegaMorpher because you guys stole the important parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus we rented from the Morningstar University. Even though you guys tried to hide your tracks by blaming it all on freedom fighters, you have dragged the name and reputation of the Southern Royal family through the mud so that in the foreseeable future people will think twice before making use deals with us."

"..." Anna's mother suddenly went silent knowing that she was in the wrong here. Yes, after stealing important parts of the dungeon relocation apparatus she and her daughter cleaned their tracks by putting the blame on Freedom Fighters. But that did not change the fact that the Southern Royal family was responsible for the protection of the dungeon relocation apparatus. So, its theft reflected badly on the Southern Royal family, who was supposed to safeguard it.

The more Colleen thought about it the more angry she grew and she did not hesitate to articulate her anger to her daughter, "Sister-in-law is right no amount of punishment and discipline will change the damage you and your daughter did to our family. Girl, tell me where are you, my hands suddenly feel itchy."

"So, now Anna is not my daughter? Weren't you the one who paraded her around calling her the world's best granddaughter when she gave you the core of the devil slayed? You take the praise and I get the blame," Anna's mother snorted hearing Colleen blame her for her daughter's string of bad decisions.

"*Amen* whatever, forget about it," Colleen said in embarrassment as what her daughter pointed out was not false and then tried to divert the topic to the boy saying, "Tell me how do I keep the boy busy?"

"Did I not already point out that he likes to create origin cards?" Anna's mother repeated her original advice.

"Sure, but where do I find enough card apprentices in need of origin card creation that would jam-pack the boy's schedule for the next three months?" Colleen pointed out.

"Why don't you ask the card creation association to send all the clients with origin card creation cases toward the boy?" Anna's mother suggested.

"How dare you ask me to misuse my authority, you really haven't learned your lesson have you?" Colleen thundered at her daughter.

"Alright, I will think of something else," Anna's mother stopped kidding around and then remembering a video that she saw recently she uttered, "Old Lorenzo said that the boy has equipped his close confidants with some kind of giant transformation cards which can be used in fusion with Summon-type cards and Summon Possession skill cards, he even shared a video file where the four of them slaughter an entire army of 100,000 card apprentices. I think equipping our soldiers with that card would not be a bad idea."

"Now that's an idea I can get behind, and just to be on the safer side, I will fund the boy with enough resources so he can research new a replacement ingredient for the creation MegaMorpher card such that he can continue with MegaMorpher Project with agreed upon specs," Colleen thought if she tasked the boy to achieve the impossible then he will be stuck in the confines of the royal palace indefinitely where he could grow in a safe environment like she wanted.

"Now that's a great idea," Anna's mother immediately agreed with Colleen's plan because she thought that if the boy could achieve what Colleen felt was impossible, then Colleen will not just see the raw potential of the boy but also see what he was already capable of. Pulling Colleen out of her fears and worries, so that she can put her faith in the boy so that he could take care of himself.

"I know, but enough about that, tell me how far the relocation of the silver milk powder manufacturing plant has come. And what are the losses?" Colleen inquired.

Luna was an integral part of the silver milk powder manufacturing plant, from its secret location to how it operated, she knew every detail about it. Now that she had betrayed the Southern royal family and joined Freedom Fighters, as a precaution Anna's mother had to relocate the entire silver milk powder manufacturing plant to a new secure location. Now that was no simple task.

"I have managed to hire trustworthy space rule users, they relocated the plant to a new secure location with ease, and no damage was incurred."

"So, where are these so-called trustworthy space rule users of yours now?"

"Mother, don't ask questions that you already know answers for."

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Chapter 1340 Aba The Fly

[1,019 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 10:15

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace

"So, all these are the trophies your ancestors collected from the demons?" Aba asked Ann, watching the neatly displayed various artifacts that apparently Ann's ancestors collected after defeating demons.

"Impressive," as I looked at the Southern Royal family's collection of devil-rank ingredients. To think that they would waste such excellent-grade ingredients as trophies to display the splendor of their ancestor's power and achievements instead of using them to create powerful cards.

"Well, recently we have discovered that most of these artifacts were collected by our ancestors when they invaded the demon realm, or the dark realm as the demons call it," Ann suddenly made a huge revelation surprising the boy and Agatha as for the others they did not understand or care the implication of invading the dark realm meant.

"Wait, you are telling me that your ancestors had traveled to the dark realm," I asked Ann in surprise because I clearly remember Ann claiming that the Southern Royal family did not possess any technique that would allow them to travel to other worlds.

Understanding what the boy was getting at Ann hurriedly explained, "Yes, our ancestors did know how to travel to the dark realm. According to Anna, they created that technique because the only way to truly kill a devil was to kill them in the dark realm. However, with time and other circumstances, our family has lost that technique. Recently, Anna had a chance to learn that technique but you know Anna, she is not that good when it comes to using her brain so that fool forgot the precious technique to travel to the dark realm."

"Are you telling me that at some point in your family history, your ancestor knew how to travel to other worlds but you guys lost it?" I asked unable to fathom how could someone lose such an important technique. Shouldn't they be guarding it with their life?

"No, my ancestor's technique did not allow them to travel to other worlds but just the Dark realm. According to what Anna remembers they created this technique using the devil/demon-summoning technique that the demons had spread across the card world. As far as I know, only the top ten universities are trying to create methods to travel to other worlds and Morningstar University is leading that race," Ann corrected the boy's misunderstanding.

"I see," the boy said as disappointment flashed in his eyes, and then he bargained, "Are you sure Anna doesn't remember anything? Did you guys try to use the memory array to help her remember the technique?"

"We did but it was useless, there are many variables to this apart from Anna's stupidity," Ann answered the boy. And she was not lying when she said that they tried every method to help jog Anna's memory as a technique to invade the dark realms would have proven a necessary addition to their arsenal to kill a devil permanently. Ann even tried to read Anna's memories but for some reason, she could not access the part of Anna's memory where she communicated with their ancestors this was one of the many variables that Ann spoke of, stopping the royal family from extracting the technique from Anna's memories.

"Sigh," I shook my head in disappointment because I felt that I could finally get my hands on the coordinate of the Dark realm but it seems it was not meant to be. Maybe I should ask Corey Park for the Dark Realm's coordinates but then I would risk her deducing that I was a demon merchant based on all my previous inquiries to her about the dark realm, dark languages, and the devil merchants.

Stuck in the royal palace I did not have much to do so I got excited at the thought that I could get the coordinates of the dark realm to explore it. Therefore, I could not help but feel disappointed over it.

Seeing the disappointment on the boy's face, Ann frowned because the palace tour was not going as she planned it to. Well her plan was doomed to fail the moment Aba and the rest tagged along but Ann did not give up because the opportunity to spend time with the boy without Anna's intrusion was rare for her so she decided to improvise her plan with the circumstances but the entire palace tour the boy has been expressing boredom and now disappointment.

The boredom was part of Ann's plan, she thought that using the moment the boy was bored she could use the opportunity to make out with the boy in the corners of the palace. However, the presence of Aba and the rest had put a dent in that plan. Not to mention, every time she tried to physically get close to the boy, Aba would come between them out of nowhere. It happened so many times that Ann no longer thought that it was a mere coincidence but Aba was doing it on purpose.

Therefore, she timed again and glanced at Aba asking her to back off but Aba would act ignorant in response to her requests, pleas, and finally warnings. This shorty was getting on Ann's nerves. She thought of various reasons to ditch Aba and the rest but none seem to work. Aba was stuck to the boy like a fly to the honey. No matter what Ann did Aba would come hovering back.

"I have seen enough old artifacts, paintings, and walls for one day, if we leave now we can make it to the card association auction house, I heard the auction house is auctioning quite a collection of rare cards today," Seeing the power for Corey and the boy first hand Aba realized that she was very weak. Therefore she planned to make for it by staking up strong rare cards. Therefore she wanted to attend the auction held by the southern capital's card association's auction house however she could not leave knowing that Ann was trying to seduce the boy. As Susan's good friend, she had to protect Susan's man.

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- Chapter 1341 Social Norm

Chapter 1341 Social Norm

[1,202 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 10:22

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Royal Palace

"Card Auction?" I asked Aba while eyeing the trophies collected by the Southern Royal family wondering how much they will fetch me in the Devil Merchant Code. This was just a tiny part of the wealth accumulated over millennia by the Southern royal family, I bet the good stuff must be stored away safely in some big vault.

"Yes, Card Auction. If we leave now we can make it in time," Aba said eagerly. She wanted to attend the card auction but out of her loyalty to Susan, she did not want to leave the boy alone with Ann so as a compromise she decided to bring the boy to the Auction with her.

"Let's go to the card auction, it is better than staring at fancy wall murals and paintings," I agreed with Aba's proposal feeling that visiting the card auction would help me understand the card market and also see if something catches my attention.

"Well, I will arrange for the royal chariot to take us to the auction house," offered Ann hearing the boy agree with Aba's proposal to visit the auction house.

"Royal Chariot? Won't that attract too much attention?" Aba asked

"No, that's better. It will keep unnecessary trouble away," Since I was a royal guest I planned to make use of that status to the most.

I was not new to this kind of treatment, back on earth when I visited the Gulf countries to help them upgrade their mining technology the royal families and dictators of those countries treat me with the highest possible treatment. One of the dictators even went as far as to send a dozen of beautiful virgins to my guest house. The wasn't a one-time thing, and every night there would fresh set of virgins, each more beautiful than the other. They even went as far as to gift me islands and Mansions with all the required amenities and regular upkeep for free in hopes that I would visit their countries regularly. That was the power of the technological innovations I held in my hands.

I don't speak of this part of my past life much because I am ashamed of what I had to do to get the funding for my new projects and keep my existing wealth and innovations. It might sound like me making excuses for what I did but it gets really hard to stay upright when the country you call motherland tries to swallow you and everything you built.

It gets easier when you learn that there were no good and bad in the world but just interest but then you can no longer enjoy life as you start to quantify everything calculating the risk and returns, now that wasn't a life. However, it's the eternal truth that as long as you live there exists interest that only grows with the passage of time. Look at me now, I was lucky enough to get a second lease on life but I am back to building my empire for my interest to live a chill life.

...

As the royal family's chariot descends in front of the auction house crowd gathered around to see the royal family, however, they were in for a disappointment. Dropping us in front of the auction house, the majestic chariot flew away, and soon attendants of the auction house rushed to receive us with proper etiquette while managing the crowd that got rowdy seeing the Southern Emperor and her friends.

Yes, the crowd had mistaken Ann for Anna. Ann's existence was not known to many so it was not a surprise that she was mistaken for Anna. No matter Anna's lifestyle, the citizens of the Southern region loved her. She had a large fanbase, especially in the southern capital regardless of her reputation and rumors about her.

"See, this was what I was talking about," Aba complained as be made it through the crowd into the auction house under the lead of the auction house staff.

"..." I rolled my eyes at Aba's complaint because I did not have the habit of being belittled by some rando for no reason.

Aba keeps saying that she was bullied in her school, considering the reputation of Demigod Windsor, I really find it hard to believe that some rando would have the guts to bully his only daughter. I have a feeling that Aba might have kept her background on the down low which might have led to her getting bullied than her reputation that she was a pushover. Once you get the reputation of a pushover then every rando will make you the target of their insecurities and project them onto you. Except for prowess, Aba showcased every characteristic of the protagonist.

"Your Highness, Ann. I am sorry for the trouble at the gate," the auction house's director came to receive Ann. It seems they knew each other. Anybody who knew Ann's existence was capable in some or the other way. Therefore, I took a second look at the director.

"No problem, it is not your fault I should have informed you of my arrival," Ann replied politely and then asked, "I'm here to attend the auction, has it started already?"

"No, your highness," the director hurriedly answered.

"Great, which hall is the auction being held in?" Ann asked planning to lead us to the VIP box reserved especially for the royal family.

"Your Highness, the auction has been delayed" The director answered with great difficulty because as a citizen of the southern region, he hated to be put in the position where he had to say no to the royal family.

It was a popular view that the citizens cannot say no to the royal family but that's not the truth. The citizens were more than happy and willing to make any sacrifice for the royal family, as they believed the only thing protecting their current lifestyle and the predators across the borders was the royal family.

So according to them if the royal family were to ask for a hand or a foot from them, they will not hesitate to sacrifice it, let alone assist them to attend an auction. This practice had turned into a social norm ingrained into the current society. And if one were to fail to do so they feel like they had brought shame upon their family and ancestors.

This sentiment was shared by every citizen. Despite the current peace the havoc of monster war, demon worshippers, the lunatics of the empire, supreme beings at the way beyond, the governments, cults, sects, etc were still fresh in the minds of citizens so they were very grateful for the royal family who were responsible for the current peace.

Such sentiments did not exist among the citizens for no reason, the Southern Royal family's work in the Southern Region was warranted it. They had turned a barren monster infest land into a stable foundation for a civilization to grow on. The only reason Northern and Southern regions were at the bottom of the region ranking was that they did not have rich resources at their disposal like the other regions did.

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Chapter 1342 Auction Delayed

[1,022 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 11:20

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

"What, the auction is delayed? When will the auction start?" Aba blurted as she was looking forward to this auction. The sense of being weaker than her peers was eating away at her so she wanted to fill that hole with her expensive cards as fast as possible.

"Sorry, Miss Aba, due to some variables I am unable to answer that," the auction house director answered Aba awkwardly. He was genuinely ashamed that he could not assist Ann entertain her friends.

Instead of the auction, I was getting more interested in the auction house director, he not only knew Ann but Aba too, however, Aba did not seem to know the director. The surprise on Aba's face, as the director called her by her name, made it clear. There was

something about this director, I shook my head not bothering to pursue my doubts any further, as it was not surprising for a director of the auction house in the southern capital to know a few key figures such as Aba. As the only daughter of Demigod Windsor, Aba was a pretty big deal even if she doesn't show it.

"What seems to be the problem?" Ann asked as she found the atmosphere in the auction house not quite festive as it usually used to be. Ann planned to help the auction house to the full of her prowess and authority.

The auctions held by the Southern Capital's card association attracted a lot of traffic from all over the southern region and the other regions. It was an event as important as an extravaganza to the economy of the city and delay in such an event did not reflect well on the Southern Capital's card association and indirectly on the Southern capital itself. Because of this small incident, this event can get a bad reputation and in the future, the traffic attracted by this event would decrease affecting the economy of the southern capital directly affecting the southern region's tax revenue. So, Ann decided to help the auction house in any way possible.

"Your Highness, this morning a card creationist traveled from the western region and challenged our card association. This challenge attracted a lot of attention from guests from other regions who wanted to attend the auction. So we had to find a big venue for everyone to witness the challenge. As a result, the main hall of the auction house which planned to hold the auction was chosen as it was only the venue that the card association could come up with in a short time which was big and luxurious enough to entertain all the honorable guests from other regions."

"Isn't that dumb? If you are planning to hold the auction in the main hall then why would you use it as the venue for the challenge, you could have used other halls," Aba uttered looking at the auction house director.

"Miss Aba, we thought the challenge will be done by now but unfortunately the card creationists of our card association have fallen short compared to the card creationist from the western region," the director sighed because he never excepted that a single individual would embarrass their card association to this level.

"A card creationist from the western region using my southern region as a stepping stone to make a name for himself? Now that doesn't surprise me, however, I am more shocked that my people are not able to defeat a Westerner. Explain to me why is that?" Ann's brows frowned hearing the card association was having a hard time handling a challenge from an individual, that to a Westerner no less. Not to mention, due to the auction, many influential people from other regions witnessed the challenge. Somehow all this did not seem a coincidence but a conspiracy to embarrass the southern region.

"..." listening to Ann's question the director went silent because he could not think of any good reason for the card association being embarrassed by a single person from the western region.

"Was Minister Lorn notified about this?" Ann asked the director as Lorenzo was the head of both the southern array master association and card association.

"Your Highness, the challenger is a young golden-grade card creationist of the card grandmaster realm," the meaning of the director's words was clear since the challenger of the lower realm it did not warrant alerting the association head.

"A grandmaster realm golden-grade card creationist? Tell me how a challenge from the lower realm was able to attract so much attention?" Ann asked in suspicion. A challenge from the grandmaster realm card creationist might cause a commotion in a third-tier city like Sky Blossom City but not in the Southern Capital.

Anything short of Card Emperor did not attract much attention at the heart of the southern region. Yet a challenge from a card grandmaster to the card association was able to attract huge attention, now Ann was certain there was a conspiracy afoot here.

"Your Highness..." the director's eyes wandered not knowing how to explain the events that lead to the current situation to Ann.

"Out with it," Ann ordered the director.

"Well, your highness, the challenger tried to enter the Card association dressed like a beggar and smelling like filth. So, when the customers complained about the smell our staff had no choice but to confront the challenger and deny him entry to the card association.

The staff in question was very respectful and polite to the challenger, they only denied him entry to the card association after he reject the staff's offer to use a cleansing card on him to remove the filthy smell that bothered other customers.

However, the challenger grew angry and used that incident to challenge our card association by displaying his card creationist badge certified by the Western card association.

Then the onlookers blew the story out of proposition leading to the current situation," the director explained awkwardly as he knew no matter how he narrated the incident it did not show the southern card association in good light.

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Chapter 1343 The Challenge

[1,013 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 11:27

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

"Ann, look they have uploaded the video of the incident on the grimoire network," listening to the director's story Aba immediately went on the grimoire network knowing that such an incident would definitely be uploaded there otherwise it would be impossible for the incident to gain such traction in a single morning.

"Your Highness, the challenge is also being live-streamed on the network by multiple influencers," Laura Hill reported.

Ann did not bother to watch the video or live stream knowing that the video would be an edited version putting the southern card creationist association in a bad light. As for live-stream, they would just follow the trend. Nor did she bother whether the staff of the southern card creationist association was condescending to their customer, Ann believed the card creationist will conduct an internal investigation for that.

Therefore she chooses to focus on a more pressing issue, the challenge. The longer it continues the more damage to the reputation of the southern card creationist association. Which was bad for business. Not to mention the card auction was being delayed. The guest would not appreciate the delay nor the fact that a single Western card creationist was dominating the entire Southern card creationist in the challenge.

"Who is representing the South right now and what are the chances of their victory?" Ann asked the director.

"A young card creationist who recently gained some fame in the capital but the chances of him winning are not high," the director answered ashamed of the situation. Every year the Royal family allocates a high budget to both the card creationist association and the array master association. Apart from that they a lot of donations were made to both the associations for their research work. Taking all that money, but not being able to defend the honor of the South when it was their turn, the director could not light his head in front of Ann.

"Who are you planning to send next?" Ann asked the director.

"I had nobody in mind yet but since Master Wyatt is here, I hope he will help the southern card association as its member," the director immediately proposed.

"You know me?" I asked the director in surprise.

"I would not be doing my work properly if I did not know you, Master Wyatt," the director answered and then added, "The Sky Blossom city card creationist association has submitted your NanoMorpher card to the annual innovative card creationist competition. I am happy to inform you that your card has made it to the semi-finals. I had the opportunity to use your card and I have a feeling that your card has a good chance of entering the finals and winning the competition."

"Wait, I never participated in such a competition. Heck, I didn't even know that such a competition existed till now," I respond in puzzlement wondering how did my card enter the competition without me knowing, then one name came to my mind, Susan.

"Master Wyatt, I don't know about that but congrats for making it to the semi-finals. And I hope that as a member of the southern card creationist association, you will help us with the challenge," the auction house director spoke eloquently. I don't think anyone can be as humble as the auction house director was currently being. I mean, he was a platinum-grade Card Emperor realm card creationist. Now someone of his status did not need to address me with the title, Master.

While I scrutinized the auction house director as he looked at me with a humble smile, I felt the collective gaze of Ann, Aba, Agatha, Luara, and Aria fall on me. This was the first time Aria made her presence known after we started the palace tour, this girl was really duty-bound.

"So, what have you decided Wyatt?" Ann asked if I was willing to participate in the challenge representing the southern card creationist association. The director was not wrong I was indeed a member of the card creationist association, Lorenzo had helped me jump through the formalities and get certified.

"Not yet, let us go see the ongoing challenge, who knows the current representative of the southern card creationist association might be able to defeat the challenger from the West," I said while signaling the director to lead us to the main auction hall where the challenge was being held.

"Have you determined the identity of the challenger yet?" I asked as the director led us to the VIP box reserved exclusively for the southern royal family.

"Just his name, Chris Ainsworth. We could not find any Ainsworth family in the Western region so we tried to reach out to our contacts in the western card creationist association for more information but they haven't responded back yet," the director answered.

"So, you know nothing about the challenger. And what measures did you take to stop the misinformation spreading through the grimoire network?" I asked trying to discern that the southern royal family had the ability to censor the grimoire network.

"No, Master Wyatt. But how do we go about that?" the director acted innocent but I did catch him and Ann shared a quick look clearly they did not want to disclose how much authority they had on the grimoire network.

"You not only want me to defend your honor but also whip your butt by doing the damage control? Figure something out before a bad precedent about the southern card association's reputation sets in," I did not bother to play the directors game. Instead of entering the VIP box, I stood by the balcony and viewed the challenge.

The arrival of guests in the royal family's exclusive box instantly attracted the attention of the crowd in the auction hall. And many influencers began to use it to ignite the viewers watching their live stream of the Western beggar's challenge to the southern card creationist association.

Ignoring the reaction of the crowd I focused my gaze on the challenger, "Interesting."

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Chapter 1344 Chris Ainsworth

[1,025 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 11:39

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

Chris Ainsworth leisurely conducted the card creation process not bothered by the crowd's gazes despite his beggar attire and his body smelling like filth, while the card creationist representing the southern card creationist association was sweating bullets.

Poor guy was shouldering the weight of the southern region's honor so it was understandable. Whereas, Chris Ainsworth did not even seem to be that interested in the challenge or more like he was bored facing subpar competitors.

In a way, it felt like Chris was putting up a show and the crowd was chewing up the content of his show with a hoot. The idea of a common man challenging a big organization like the Southern Card Creationist Association was proven entertainment gold.

Showing the citizen's dissatisfaction with the big organizations monopolizing the card market. Unlike the Royal family that stepped up to protect the citizens during the monster war, the big organizations profited from the war by selling their services for a steep price.

If not for the southern royal family needing these organizations to develop the southern region and help it keep up with changing times, these organizations would have been punished severely for profiting off the monster war. It was another thing that a month later the monster war the royal family raided all the big organizations and confiscated their gains to stabilize the southern region's economy.

But that was not enough to erase the citizen's anger towards the big organizations. Because of their anger, many Southerners failed to notice that the beggar from the West was not just embarrassing the Southern card creationist association with his challenge but the entire Southern region.

Ignoring the crowd's reaction, I focused my gaze on the challenger, "Interesting."

"What is it, did you notice something?" Ann immediately asked me wondering if I caught the challenger cheating or something.

"Yes, I did notice something. This Chris Ainsworth has morphed his appearance with an ultimate tier rune. But, I cannot tell what rule his rune belongs to. Maybe if I get closer my ego gem can pick up on the rule of his rune," I explained to Ann.

"He has morphed his appearance. Master Wyatt, are you sure?" the director asked in doubt.

Many card emperors and card semi-demigods were monitoring this challenge, especially the challenger, none of them found anything wrong with the challenger's appearance but the boy took a look at the challenger's and declared that the challenger had morphed its appearance. So, the director was finding it hard to believe the boy's words.

"Well, he is handsome for a beggar," Agatha commented. Then feeling the gaze of everyone in the VIP box on her, she defended, "I just said what every girl present here was thinking."

"I wasn't," Laura suddenly pointed out that she only had room for the way of the sword in her mind.

"Agatha, so this is your type," Aba chimed in.

"I think I have seen that face somewhere," I said ignoring the nonsense of the girls while I asked the Hive AI to use facial recognition on the real face of Chris Ainsworth that Hive AI generated using his soul pathways arrangement.

"Wyatt, you know him?" Ann asked.

"No, not the fake appearance he has taken but his real appearance," I replied. As Hive AI continued to match Chris's real appearance that it generated using his soul pathways arrangement with every 17-year-old boy I came across in this world.

"A grandmaster with ultimate tier rune and exceptional card creation mastery, there is no way this Chris Ainsworth is some random card creationist from the West. Since he has chosen to hide his appearance then he is trying to hide something," Ann then turned to the director and ordered, "Try contacting your contacts at the western card creationist association, I want every little information about this Chris Ainsworth."

'So, we are just going to go with the boy's words then?' the director wondered seeing Ann go along with the boy's judgment without any evidence to suggest it.

"Chris Ainsworth might not be the name he goes with so get me a list of every 17-year-old card creationist registered at the western card creationist association with the name Chris. I want his picture," I instructed the auction house director.

"..." the director paused not knowing if he should follow through with what the boy just instructed him. Only to get moving to hear Ann yell, "Do as he says, fast."

"Yes, your highness," the director immediately agreed but then added, "So, Master Wyatt will you be representing the southern card creationist association in the next round?"

It was not that the auction house director was underestimating the current card creationist representing the South in the challenge but Chris had already created his card while the South's representative was still struggling to create his card. It was already clear to whom the victory belonged.

"Yes, I will," I already planned to help the Southern card creationist association as a gratitude to the Southern Royal family for their hospitality. As for learning what rule Chris was using, it was a bonus.

An ultimate tier rune that allowed a card grandmaster to hide his appearance from the card emperors and card semi-demigods, I need to know which rule was capable of something like that. It would make a good addition to my arsenal.

This rule was not for me but my calamity daughter gems as I already had Mike Brown's Myriad Devil Body card for disguise. Yes, I could use Myriad Devil Hex to morph the calamity daughter gems into any appearance I want but I think they will be more comfortable using a rune than being cursed.

"Now, this is going to be fun to watch," Agatha commented.

"I know right," Aba agreed while Laura also nodded in agreement. Though she was not aware of the boy's capabilities Luara knew that the boy had created her incredible origin card, which was a testament to what he was capable of and enough for her to believe that he will wipe the floor with Chris Ainsworth.

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

[1,009 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 11:48

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

"Winner, challenger Chris Ainsworth," the referee overlooking the challenge announced the result causing the crowd burst out in cheers and shower Chris with applause while the representative of the south dejectedly stepped down the stage.

"Wyatt, you are up," Ann reminded the boy.

"Wait, give the beggar a moment to enjoy his victory," I said eyeing Chris Ainsworth. This fellow had noticed our arrival in the royal family's exclusive VIP box when he was half-heartedly competing in the challenge. He was monitoring Ann from the corner of his eyes. I guess her arrival was his queue to bring this challenge to climax or so I thought.

Chris directly took the stoplight from the announcer to start his second act, looking at the balcony of the Royal family's VIP box he loudly addressed the crowd, "Good people, thank you for supporting this humble, my victories so far would not be possible without your cheers and well wishes. I promise you I will not climb down this state until justice is served."

Following Chris's gaze, the spectators stripped their gaze from the stage by turning their heads toward the Royal family's VIP box to find the Southern Emperor and her friends on the balcony. Then Chris continued to say, "I am honored to be in the presence of Her Highness Southern Emperor. I hope Her Highness will help me seek justice for the shame I suffered by the snobbish card creationist association."

Chris was good, he had purposefully not associated the card creationist association with the southern region because he knew if did so he will instantly lose the popular support of the southern citizens he had managed to gather so far as the Southern Emperor represented the Southern region.

If Chris were to declare to his Southern audience that he was just facing the Southern card creationist association but not the card creationist association as a whole then the stage he had created on their support for his theatrics would crumble. No matter how angry the Southern crowd was with the Southern card creationist association, against a foreign enemy they would bury the hatchet and come together to face the foreign enemy. Therefore, Chris was very careful when he crafted his narrative of the events so that the crowd would favor him.

The smart audience had already noticed that before the arrival of the Southern Emperor, Chris had no qualms about focusing his lens on the Southern card creationist association. And in the Southern emperor's presence, his lens zoomed out and focused on the entire card creationist association. Causing them to wake up from the spell of Chris's showmanship.

Chris had no problem changing his narrative to target the whole card creationist association instead of just the southern branch because he had already spread his desired title for the challenge across the network of the other regions,

'A poor beggar from the west faces the elitists from the south'

'A young card creationist from the west takes on the pretentious southern card creationist association.'

'West teaches South to be humble.'

Being put in the spotlight by Chris, Ann had no choice but to come forward and clarify, "Had you followed the proper channels the concerned authorities would have followed the evidence to uncover and punish the true culprit. But since you have taken the matter into your hands by initiating a challenge, the Southern Royal family will respect your decision and freedom. However, the people of the South are entitled to the truth, so a thorough investigation will be launched with regard to this matter and the truth will be uncovered for everyone to see as soon as possible. Those at fault will be dealt with accordingly."

Listening to the diplomatic response from Ann Chris frowned but quickly replaced it with a wide smile and expressed his gratitude, "Thank you, your Highness Southern Emperor."

The reason Chris frowned was that Ann's response was totally out of his calculation. He had perceived that with little provocation Ann would say something rash which would put the Southern Royal family in a bad light instead she did not fall for his provocation and gave a diplomatic response.

Despite all conspiracies and calculations, Chris did not know that the person who he thought to be the Southern Emperor was actually someone entirely different. He could never guess that his calculations failed because he mistook Ann for Anna just like the

audience and the millions of people watching the live stream of the challenge from the comfort of their homes or workplace did.

Feeling that the second act of his plan was not going as he hoped, Chris decided to turn up the heat by shifting his lens back to the Southern card creationist association from the Southern Emperor yelling, "Next."

The content of Chris's plan was simple, he took to the onlookers and the network after being denied entry to the card creationist association and demand an apology from them for denying him entry into their facilities.

However, the card creationist association would not apologize to him because after a quick investigation, it was found that their staff was not at fault but Chris was being unreasonable and purposefully creating trouble for them.

Not getting the apology that he demanded for the shame and embarrassment he had suffered Chris challenged the southern card creationist association to a card creation duel by making use of the public's popular support, planning to defeat all their representative to a point where they would be forced to apologize to him.

At least this was the story Chris sold to the public to gain their popular support. But Chris knew that the southern card creationist association would never apologize to him because that would mean accepting guilt and admitting that they were not as capable as the western card creationist association. Bringing shame to the entire southern region.

Chris had managed to use public support and his card creation mastery to put the southern card creationist association into check.

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Chapter 1346 Chris Ainsworth Is...

[1,025 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 11:59

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

"Next!" Chris's voice reverberated throughout the auction house's main hall. By now the unsuspecting people of the south had understood that they were not helping Chris stick it to the big organizations but to embarrass the southern region as a whole. As for the guests and viewers from other regions, they were having fun at the expense of the Southern region.

The audience's gaze returned to the stage, as they tried to find the next representative of the South. Unable to find the next representative of the South on the stage, the crowd followed the gaze of Chris to find a teenage boy flying out of the balcony of the royal family's exclusive VIP box and slowly hovering towards the stage.

Scurtанизing the young representative of the South, the crowd became active finding that the teenager was of the card soldier realm. They were surprised to see the Southern card creationist association send out a card soldier realm card creationist to represent them against a talented card grandmaster realm card creationist. The crowd wondered if the South had lost its mind.

"It's the Silver Milk fraudster," an influencer in the crowd immediately pointed out.

After the incident involving the Freedom Fighter, world leaders were aware that Sliver Milk Powder was not fake but the unsuspecting general public was still under the impression that it was a fraud created by the teenage fraudster, Dalton Wyatt aka Sliver Milk Fraudster.

"So the rumors were true, the Southern emperor has taken fancy to the fraudster," Seeing the boy fly out of the balcony of the Royal family's exclusive VIP box the crowd began to speculate widely.

"What her highness, thinking by sending the fraud to compete against that Western bastard," One of the southern citizens who was no longer smitten by Chris's showmanship and lies complained.

Unfaced by the crowd's gossip, the teenage boy slowly landed on the stage. Seeing the teenager, Chris smirked and said, "So you are the famous Dalton Wyatt, the Sliver Milk Fraudster."

"Yes, I am the famous Dalton Wyatt. However, tell me which name you prefer to be called by Chris Ainsworth or Chris..."

"Your Highness, not good," the auction house director rushed into the Royal family's exclusive VIP box.

"What is it?" Ann asked with a frown, seeing the commotion caused by the auction house director.

"We finally managed to find the real identity of the challenger Chris Ainsworth," the director reported.

"Well, are you waiting for my invitation? Out with it already," Ann stated sternly

"Your Highness, Chris Ainsworth is none other than the prince of the western region, Chris..."

"...Chris Chase"

Listening to the boy speak his true name Chris's expression turned stern. Then he glared at the boy with a malicious gaze then slowly asked, "You do know that slandering royalty is punishable by death?"

"So you do remember that you are royalty, I thought you forget since you are dressed like a beggar and smell like sewers," I retorted to Chris's quick-witted response though he threatened me using the Chase Royal family but also did not disclose that he was who I claimed him to be.

When Chirs said I was slandering the Royalty he meant, I was slandering Chris Chase by comparing him to him. A decent defense but how did he know that when I said Chris Chase, I was referring to the Western Region Prince Chris Chase? Not bothering to nitpick his argument, I said, "As royalty aren't you ashamed to use such despicable and lowly means to gain two minutes of fame."

"Are you here for the Card Creation duel or talk?" Chris chose not to address the boy's accusations because any word he said right now could be used against him in case he fails to escape this predicament.

"Don't bother delaying time to use your long-distance teleportation card, the space isolation array of the auction house has been turned on," I warned Chris, knowing that once his real identity was exposed he would try to expose to not get caught in the act. If he was not caught, then there was no way for the Southern Card creationist association to clear their name.

As for how I knew that Chris had a long-distance teleportation card, it was thanks to Anna, she was the one who had told me that Chris had escaped her wrath after calling a slut by using a long-distance teleportation card to run away with his tail between his legs.

Listening to the conversation between the Silver Milk Fraudster and Chris Ainsworth, the crowd once again actively became loud discussing if there was any truth to the boy's claims.

"Why would I try to escape? Since you cannot defeat me honestly in a card creation duel are you trying to accuse me of false crimes and silence me?" Chris yelled aloud.

Causing the discussion between the audience and the viewers to get heated. Considering the situation even the Southern citizens were finding it hard to defend the Silver Milk Fraudster.

Who can blame them? The audience was filled with card emperors and card semi-demigods, if Chris was using a disguise as the Fraudster claimed then they would have noticed something considering that Chris was in the Card Grandmaster realm but they did not. Therefore, it was not surprising that the crowd was finding it hard to believe the accusations of a renowned fraudster.

"I will give you a last chance to come clean," I offered Chris the opportunity to take the honorable way.

But considering that he could be willing to plan such a lowly conspiracy to get back at Anna, I believe he was not the one to choose the honorable option. And that was also what I wanted him to do because the harder he struggled the more fun it will be to bring him down.

I had not forgotten that I had a score to settle with Chris Chase, as this bastard was the one who reported my Silver Milk Powder patent as a fraud to the authorities and the rest followed was history.

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

Chapter 1347 A-Rank Gate Dungeon With Two Gates

[1,014 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 12:07

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

Chris Chase was finding it hard to believe that someone saw through his disguise, despite his disbelief the truth was in front of him, the Southern Card Creation Association had seen through his disguise— No, it must be the Southern Emperor. Until her arrival, everything was going according to his plan. She must be the one who ruined his plan like she ruined his ex-lover that wretched night. This woman, she was like the bane of his existence. She had even activated the space isolation array formation of the

auction house before exposing his true identity. When did she get so cunning? The last time he was her, she was all boobs no brains.

'I cannot get caught,' thought Chris Chase, knowing that if he were to be caught and then expose his real identity the Southern emperor will blame him and the Western region for conspiring against the Southern region, and this incident will be blown out of proportion by his siblings to end his claim to the Western Throne. Therefore, under no circumstance can he be caught.

Feeling cornered, Chris could not help but wonder, 'All I wanted to do was raid an A-rank gate dungeon but how did it all come to this?'

This morning in the Western Capital City, Chris Chase entered an A-rank gate dungeon using his false identity Chris Ainsworth, planning to solo it but while exploring the dungeon he came across another gate within the dungeon. Seeing the second gate within the dungeon Chris Chase immediately got excited believing that he had come across the rare Dungeon Tomb but when he entered it he exited the dungeon. Confused, Chris used his grimoire to triangulate his location, only to learn that he was in the Southern Region.

'A Gate-Dungeon with two gates, one in the Western region and the other in the Southern region,' making this discovery Chris Chase was ecstatic. He believed this could be a huge opportunity for him to earn a lot of money as long as it stays his little secret. To make sure that it remains his little secret, Chris Chase decided to visit the nearest city and reserve all the raids for that A-rank gate dungeon under his name for the foreseeable future.

To his surprise, the nearest city was the Southern Capital. Learning this Chris became more giddy because as long as he manages to monopolize this dungeon in both regions he will get his personal trade route between the two regions using which he can reap huge profits by opening a merchant company. Chris had thought of many ways to exploit the dungeon with two gates but for now, he planned to become filthy rich.

Chris might be the prince of the Western Region but he was not rich, the resources and subsidies provided to him by the royal palace were not small but not a lot either. Unlike the Southern emperor who was the sole heir of the Crown and had all the resources of the Southern royal family at her fingertips, Chris had siblings to share the resources of the Western Royal family with.

The Royal family provides abundant resources and support only to the royal children that showed potential making the fate of the Western royal children a constant struggle until one of them takes the throne and banishes or kills the rest.

Compared to Chris Anna was a lot lucky in this field as she was the lone true heir of the Southern region unless it turns out that her uncle has given birth to a bastard somewhere outside or plans to start a family.

Most of Chris's siblings had support from their maternal side but his mother however came from a eradicated secret family, the Ainsworth Family. So he did not have any forces to back him, once his mother was killed in a conspiracy when she was attending a tea party outside the royal palace he was all alone in the big royal palace and had to fend for himself.

Three months after his mother's suspicious death Chris was almost assassinated when he left the royal palace to visit his lover, however, he was saved by the Ainsworth Family treasure that his mother left for him. Since then he wised up and ventured out of the palace under the disguise, giving birth to the talented Card Creationist and Array Master Chris Ainsworth.

Arriving at the Southern capital, Chris realized that he did not have enough money to reserve the A-rank gate dungeon for the foreseeable future. Therefore, he planned to visit the Southern Card Creationist Association to sell his services as a card creationist to gather the required money.

In the enthusiasm of having found a secret route between the Southern and Western regions, Chris forgot that having fought the monsters of the dungeon his clothes were not in a presentable condition and he smelled awful. Right now there was only one thought in his mind, and that was to earn enough money to reserve the A-rank gate dungeon in both regions. And the fasted way to earn money that he knew was to create custom cards.

Without any suspense, as soon as Chris entered the Southern Card Creationist Association he was approached by a staff who pointed out his tattered attire and foul smell.

Just then an idea flashed in Chris's mind, which would help him gather the money he needed faster. That was to gain fame in the Western region by embarrassing the Southern Card Creationist Association by manipulating popular public opinion. With high fame, he would easily get approached by card apprentices to help them create custom cards for higher service charges.

Fortunately, all the elements favored Chris's plan and he managed to get his stage to show off his skills while embarrassing the Southern Card creationist association. Everything was going according to his plan but it seems he was out of luck because his disguise was seen through by the Southern Emperor, putting him in a desperate situation.

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

[1,018 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 12:08

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

"Decide quickly, I have other places to be," I sneered at Chris watching his eye wander around trying to think of a way out of his current predicament. When caught Chris would be directly charged with the Charge of conspiring against Southern Region.

A Western Prince conspiring against the Southern Region, not that was the recipe for a huge scandal. Regardless of the final outcome, Chris Chase will lose all credibility. But to get the maximum out of this situation I needed to do one more thing. Hopefully, Chris would play along. Well, he had no choice but to dance to my strings.

The crowd grew noisy not knowing what was happening but the lack of information did not stop them from speculating wildly. Especially the influencers who were streaming Chris's challenge to Southern Card Creationist Association live. Most of the speculations and narratives they came up with favored Chris. They did so not out of malice towards the Southern Region or anything but because it would increase their stream stats and that narrative was what most of their viewers favored.

While most of the high-ranking Card apprentices in the audience were getting jumpy because they found that the Auction house had not only turned on its space isolation array but also turned on its trap array making them feel like frogs trapped in a jar. However, they calmed themselves down as the array of formations seemed to only be targeting the young card creationist Chris.

"Sir, are you sure, Chris Ainsworth is Chris Chase?" Aria asked the director. As for Ann, after listening to the boy also claim that Chris Ainsworth was Chris Chase she was certain that the young card creationist dressed as a beggar was none other than Chris Chase.

Coming to this conclusion, she finally understood why the young card creationist let out a malicious intent seeing her on the balcony of the Royal family's exclusive VIP box. Chris Chase's hatred for Anna was not news to her. With this, Ann was more certain that the card creationist dressed as a beggar was none other than the Western Region's proud Prince, Chris Chase.

"Rewind," Desperate and with nowhere to retreat, Chris decided to use his last resort, the Ainsworth family treasure. Rewind was one of many miraculous abilities Chris had gained from the Ainsworth family treasure, it allowed him to turn back time.

However, because his Realm was low, Chris could barely use it. With Card Grandmaster realm Chris could turn back time for 20 minutes. Thankfully, that was

enough for him to use the teleportation ability of the Ainsworth family treasure to leave the auction house before the Southern Emperor activates the Space isolation array formation of the auction house.

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 11:48

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

'This proves it, this bastard was the one who turned back time back then,' Suddenly arriving back on the balcony of the Royal family's exclusive VIP box I was a little surprised but quickly adjusted to the shift in time. I did not have the time to have the auction house director activate the array formation of the auction house so turning to Agatha and ordered, "Agatha, disturb the surrounding space, Immediately."

Following my instruction, without even giving it a thought Agatha immediately used her power to disturb the space surrounding the auction house. Gathering the attention of all the high-ranking Card Apprentices on her.

"Wyatt, what's wrong?" Ann enquired.

"He plans to escape using long-distance teleportation, now that I have seen through his disguise," I explained as I flew up from the balcony and headed towards the stage where Chris was coughing blood.

As I descended on the stage my eyes met with Chris's and I uttered, "What's hurry? The challenge isn't over yet."

"You—" Chris Chase looked at the Silver Milk Fraudster in disbelief as after rewinding the time it was not repeating itself, instead, it had totally changed.

Other than the limit to his Rewind ability there was another reason why Chris Chase chose to rewind time to this point. Because he knew at this point of the auction house had yet to activate their array formations and not to forget he had just defeated the representative of the Southern card creationist association so even if he vanished in the middle of the challenge the fame and reputation he had built will not be totally lost. Might even explode because of the mystery behind his sudden vanishing.

Because of all these reasons, Chris Chase did not hesitate to use the rewind ability of the Ainsworth family treasure. Arriving back in time Chris Chase immediately tried to use the teleportation ability of his Ainsworth Family treasure, which because of his low realm takes a moment to charge, to escape from the southern capital but somehow the space surrounding the auction house was suddenly disturbed, canceling his teleportation ability, which resulted in him facing a severe backlash.

Wiping the blood from the corner of his mouth, Chris looked at the boy and said, "You, what is the meaning of this?"

"I should be the one asking you this. Why are you using long-distance teleportation in the middle of a challenge?" I questioned Chris while acting as if there was nothing out of the ordinary because I did not plan on letting Chris know that his time ability did not affect me.

"..." Chris's frown deepened, he did not know how to respond to the boy. His thoughts were occupied by the fact that his circumstance was suddenly worse than before he used the rewind ability. Since it will be a while before he can use the Rewind ability again Chris felt like wasted his ability over nothing.

The thought that the timeline might have changed because another person also knew the timeline as he did, did not cross Chris's mind because he was that confident about the abilities of the Ainsworth Family Treasure.

"Don't tell me you are trying to escape because your disguise has been exposed."

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

Chapter 1349 Random Mortal Grade Ingredients

[1,017 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 12:13

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creation Association, Auction House

The card emperors and semi-demigods in the audience finally understood why Agatha had blatantly used her power to disturb the space surrounding the auction house, it was to stop Chris Ainsworth from leaving. Leaving them wondering why Chris would try to escape. However, listening to the Silver Milk Fraudster's words they felt something much juicier and entertaining was afoot here.

"Well, let us continue with the challenge, I'm your next opponent. Do you need a few minutes to recover to your peak condition?" I said not bothering to reveal Chris's real identity yet. It would not be too late to do that once I have defeated him. And this was

the one last thing I had to do to put Chris in his place and make sure Chris doesn't get off this scout free.

If I were to capture Chris when the challenge was going on without defeating him, he would remain undefeated, and people's speculation that the Southern Card Creationist Association was accusing him of false crime because they cannot defeat him the honest way will start to sound a lot pausable. So to make this kill clean I had to defeat Chris in his challenge before arresting him for conspiring against the Southern Region.

"You are my next opponent, I don't need to be at my peak to defeat you. Let us get right to it," Chris answered wondering why the boy was not acting the same as before he turned back time. He felt that this change must be brought about by his abrupt use of long-distance teleportation.

"I appreciate your confidence but after winning the challenge I don't want to hear you whine that you only lost because you were not at your peak. So, go take a moment to adjust your physical and mental state," I ordered Chris to heal his body and recharge his mental strength. Because I did not want to leave a way out for Chris after I defeat him.

"You, a card soldier hope to defeat me, in your dreams. Do you even have a golden grimoire?" Chris jeered staring at the boy and then turning to the audience he yelled, "Does the southern card creationist association not have any capable card creationist that you have to resort to sending in a card creationist of card soldier?"

Having calmed down, Chris realized that in a sense he had done nothing wrong. So what if he was the Prince of the Western Region in disguise, there were no rules that forbid a Western Prince from challenging the Southern card creationist association. As for his siblings, as long as he remains undefeated and doesn't humiliate the Western region he would still have a step to stand on. Chris was clear that as long as he remains undefeated he still had the chance to get out of this mess scout free.

"Chirs, I give you that you have some talent when it comes to card creation, enough for the southern card creationist association to finally take you seriously and send me. So, why don't you quit wagging your tongue and get prepared for the challenge," The more Chris talked big the more devastating his defeat would be so I did not mind provoking him.

However, Chris did not fall for my provocation, instead, he calmly responded, "Fine, I hope your mastery of card creation is half as good as your mastery over your tongue."

Chris did not hold much regard for the silver milk fraudster, but seeing him purposefully trying to provoke him Chris understood, the boy was up to something or at least the hand behind him was. Therefore, he chose to take adjust his breath and recharge to his peak condition, for what was coming next.

In front of everyone, Chris took out expensive potions from his storage card and began to use them to regain his strength, recharge his mind, and heal any damage from the backlash which was the direct result of his teleportation ability being forcefully canceled mid-way.

After 15 minutes or so, Chris's energy rose sharply and then stabilized. Then glanced at the boy who was waiting for him patiently and said, "I am ready, let us get this over with."

"Good," I nodded and soon the staff of the card association brought two sets of random ingredients, one for me and the other for Chris.

As per the challenge we both need to use these random ingredients to create the best cards we can think of. Our cards will be graded based on rank, rating, durability, skills, time-taken for card creation, and lastly innovation. Of course, the card with the better grade wins.

The referee verified both sets of the random ingredients provided to Chris and Me to make sure no foul play was involved while the announcer announced the random ingredients provided for this round of the challenge, "Folks, the random ingredients provided are,

Bloody Veins - G-rank, Mortal Grade

Nyon Rope - G-rank, Mortal Grade

Common Core - G-rank, Mortal Grade."

Learning all the random ingredients provided were of the mortal grade, the crowd that had just gotten silent, suddenly burst into heated discussion. The influencers started to accuse the Southern Card Creationist Association of being partial towards the Silver Milk Fraudster.

The public already held a prejudice against the boy for his reputation of being a fraud and they all looked down on him for his Card Soldeir realm. They felt that the reason why the Southern Card Creationist Association provided Mortal Grade ingredients for the challenge was that the boy would not be able to use Rare-Grade ingredients because of his lacking realm.

Listening to the audience's speculation, the announcer soon jumped into action to earn his keep, "Folks, these random ingredients of Mortal-Grade favor the card creationist with higher realm because the higher the mental strength greater the command of card creationist on the ingredients. Considering the difference in the grade of the ingredients to the card creationist's realm, Master Chris has more advantage than Master Wyatt."

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[1,001 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 12:40

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creationist Association, Auction House

Listening to the explanation given by the announcer the unwitting audience that was raging at the Southern Card Creationist Association after hearing the baseless speculation of the influencers, felt that what the announcer said made sense. A solid mental strength was the greatest strength of a card creationist, which separated them from regular card creationists.

Considering that, Chris, who was in the card grandmaster realm and two realms higher than the card soldier realm Silver Milk Fraudster had an obvious advantage when it came to mental strength which meant that Chris had more command over the mortal grade ingredients of the two.

This realization however caused the Southern part of the audience and viewers to frown. They no longer had an idea of what was going on. With the Southern Emperor's involvement the Southern Citizens woke up from Chris's showmanship and began to realize what it meant for the Southern Card Creationist Association to lose the challenge against a Western card creationist. Understanding the seriousness of the matter, they wonder why would the Southern Card Creationist Association send a Card Soldier and fraud as its representative, has it given up on the challenge?

...

"You have nothing speculations to claim that Chris Ainsworth is Chris Chase?" Ann thundered at the auction house director.

After the time rewind the boy had not pointed out that Chris Ainsworth was Chris Chase, so Ann did not blindly believe the auction house Director when he reported to her that Chris Ainsworth was Chris Chase. Since that report, Ann has been going through everything the Southern Card Creationist Association had found on Chris Ainsworth. And surprisingly there were no records of Chris Ainsworth entering the Southern Region. Causing her to wonder how a citizen of the western region was able to enter the southern region without registering his entry to the southern region at the southern border patrol. Either the Southern border patrol was not doing its job properly or Chris Ainsworth had other means to enter the southern region.

The more Ann dug into the files collected by the Southern Card Creationist Association on Chris Ainsworth, the more suspicious she got about the character named Chris Ainsworth because it seems to have come out of thin air a few years ago. What was remarkable about him was that his disguise was almost perfect, even Card Emperors and Card Semi-demigods could not tell that he was using a disguise. What Chris was capable of did not match his attire, from the near-perfect disguise to high-level mastery of Card creation to long-distance transportation he was full of surprises.

"Ainsworth surname belonged to Prince Chris Chase's mother's family, is that all evidence you have to back your claims," Ann questioned the director sternly. Because speculations were not enough for her to accuse the Prince of the Western region of conspiring against the Southern region, if she were to do so and it turns out that Chris Ainsworth was not Chris Chase, then it would be a huge scandal.

As the ideal daughter of the Heatsend Royal family, Ann did not want another scandal on her family's plate with everything that was going on with the Southern Region, especially Luna defecting to Freedom Fighters. Therefore she did not want to rush to a quick judgment.

"Your Highness, not just the family name, their age and talent in card creation and Array formation also hint at Chris Chase moonlighting as Chris Ainsworth. Following Master Wyatt's instruction I found that except for Chris Chase, there is no other Chris in the Western region that matches the age and talent of Chris Ainsworth," the director patiently put forward his argument and reasoning for determining that Chris Ainsworth was Chris Chase and making this discovery he suddenly felt good because his southern card creationists being defeated by the Prince of the Western region was much better than being defeated by a random western card creationist.

"This is not enough," Ann frowned knowing that without concrete evidence they could not accuse Chris Ainsworth of being Chris Chase in disguise.

"Your Highness, you do not have to reach a decision yet. I believe Wyatt is up to something. Let us wait and watch his play," Agatha suddenly advised Ann not to rush to a decision and put her trust in the boy.

"Yes, your Highness. With Master Wyatt taking action Chris doesn't have a chance of winning even if he were the Prince of the western region. I have already activated the Array formation of the auction house, he cannot escape. So, it will not be too late to come to a judgment until Master Wyatt is done with him," the Director knew that slandering the royal family punishable by death, so even if he was sure that Chris Ainsworth was Chris Chase he did not dare to be adamant about it because in case he was wrong, it would be a career-ending scandal for him.

"..." Ann nodded trusting that the boy would put an end to Chris Ainsworth's undefeated streak and then they could take their time to uncover Chris's real identity.

In the corner of the room, Aria frowned seeing that everyone was putting so much faith in the boy. Learning from her encounter with the boy so far, Aria knew that the boy's eyes were unique having witnessed him use them first hand but she did not believe that his mastery of card creation was up to standards for the task at hand. However, she did not voice her concern because she felt it was not her place to question the judgment made by Her Highness Ann.

It was not that Aria was underestimating the boy but she was being realistic, considering the undefeated streak of Chris and the realm difference between the two, not to forget that the random ingredients favored Chris, she felt that it was a safe bet to say that Chris would win the challenge.

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Chapter 1351 Ready, Start!

[998 words]

Date- 7 April 2321

Time- 12:47

Location- Southern Region, Southern Capital, Southern Card Creationist Association, Auction House

After verifying the two sets of random ingredients prepared for the challengers by the Southern Card Creationist Association, the referee found no signs of malpractice and then nodded toward the announcer stating his findings.

"Folks, the referee has concluded that both the sets of random ingredients have no problem. Now, I would like a volunteer from the audience to come up to the stage and validate it," saying that the announcer chose a random card emperor from the audience and asked him to introduce himself to the audience.

"Hi, I am Mark Johnson, a merchant from the Northern region," Mark Johnson introduced himself to the crowd before checking the two sets of random ingredients provided to the challengers. And then report, "The ingredients are not tempered with."

As the host of the challenge, the auction house made sure to leave no room for doubts when it came to the fairness of the challenge. As this challenge was not just about the reputation of the Southern Card creationist Association but the entire Southern Region

so no mistakes or doubts could be tolerated. They had the responsibility to make ensure the fairness of the challenge to the audience and the viewers. There they did not mind adding a few tedious procedures.

"Folks, now that the ingredients provided to both the challengers have been verified let us begin with the challenge. Challengers, get to your card creation stations," the announcer signaled the contenders to take their position then asked, "Ready?"

In response both, the contenders nodded signaling their preparedness to the announcer who then commenced the challenge, "Start!"

Chris immediately summoned his golden grimoire and opening the card creation page he threw in the three random ingredients provided to him for the challenge. Then from the corner of his eyes, he looked at the Silver Milk Fraudster to find that he had spaced out while seriously staring at the ingredients. Seeing the stupid look on the fraudster, a unconscious sneer formed on his face as he wondered, 'Did I overestimate him?'

Shaking his head Chris decided to focus on his card creation process and go all in because he had a feeling that the Southern emperor, wouldn't send the fraudster to accept his challenge just to make a mockery of him, herself, and the Southern region. The same thoughts were running through the minds of the audience.

By now many of the audience and viewers have done their own quick network search on the representative of the South accepting the challenge of Chris Ainsworth the Western card creationist talent. Apart from all the news about his scam of the year, they all came across his online card boutique store where they got glimpses into the various cards created by the boy and the reviews of his customers. They were all impressed by the young card creationist's accomplishments. They finally began to understand that the boy was not just all talk but had the silks to back them.

This was especially true for the influencers who were investigating the boy in the name of quality content. People started to see why the Silver Milk Fraudster was sent in as the representative of the South for the challenge. And the Southern citizens finally found a little faith that the boy could win the challenge.

Bloody Veins, Nyon Rope, and Common Core were the random mortal-grade ingredients provided for the challenge by the southern card creationist association. Creating a good card with these ingredients was not a problem however creating a card using these ingredients that could beat whatever card Chris Chase creates was.

The mortal ingredients did not leave much room for innovation. There were only finite possible ways a regular card creationist could use these cards. And my ego did not allow me to create a generic card with these mortal-grade ingredients, especially with a large audience.

I wanted to win the challenge by a landslide, anything short of that would not satisfy me because I did not want the audience to leave here with even a shred of doubt about my win in their hearts. However, considering the limited pool of traits and skills of the two mortal-grade ingredients Bloody Veins and Nyon Rope there was only a limited number of combinations one could use these traits and skills to create a card.

Thankfully, I was not some regular card creationist. The moment the set of random ingredients was made known, I had already used Hive AI to learn all the Traits and Skills of the Bloody Veins and Nyon Rope mortal-grade ingredients. That I cross-checked using my soul pupils to read their soul pathways and arrangements, to find some interesting discrepancies.

Interestingly not all traits of the Bloody Veins and Nyon Rope were recorded in the database of the card creationist association or the array formation association. Not because they could not find all the traits of these ingredients but because they felt that these traits were insignificant and also because they could explain why these traits existed in these ingredients.

Nyon Rope was a man-made rope created using the dried fibers from the bark of a monster tree species. This was known to regular card creationists but they forgot to consider that the fibers from the bark of any monster tree species can be used to create a Nyon Rope.

Based on the grade of the monster tree whose bark's fiber has been used to create the Nyon Rope the grade of the Nyon rope will vary. And the Nyon Rope provided the challenge was created using a common-grade tree monster, however, it seems to have been created by a rookie who did not know what he was doing so its grade had fallen to mortal grade despite being created using the dried fibers from the bark of a common-grade monster tree.

Considering that Chris was no ordinary Card Creationist I he too should have noticed this by now.

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