

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 210: Duke - Read

Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 210: Duke

Chapter 210: Duke

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:05

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium

After introducing everyone to each other, I awkwardly passed when it was Anna's turn. It's not that I did not want to introduce Anna but revealing her identity would defeat the purpose of our casual fun gathering. But this did not stop Anna from introducing herself.

"Hello, everyone I am Anna. Wyatt's Sugar mama and soon to be fiance if he survives this tournament." Anna introduced herself while walking next to me and holding my arm close to her bosom. I wanted to refuse her claims but Anna's grasp on my wrist got stronger.

"What?!" Almost everyone in the room apart from Sarah, Pablo, Karen and Elliott who knew Anna's true identity exclaimed in surprise. Seeing me not deny, Kathy my dearest aunt enquired, "Whose Sugar Mama? What do you mean by surviving this tournament?" Susan next to her also glanced at me and Anna with the same questions in her eyes.

"Miss Kathy, Anna is kidding. She meant if Wyatt won the first place." Elliott explained before Anna could cause more chaos. For which he received a death glare from Anna but he did not care, he did what any other friend would do.

Before Kathy and Susan could point out the obvious holes in Elliott's explanation. Staff walked in and with a bow, he respectfully said, "Your highness, the City Lord and the representatives of the Circle are here to extend their greetings."

"Ask them to buzz off," Anna ordered haughtily. With the intervention of the staff and her attitude, everyone grew curious about Anna and her real identity. And now I knew who were occupying VIP boxes no2 and no3.

"Yes, Your Highness. And the City Lord asked if your eminence would like to initiate the start of the tournament." The staff was very professional despite knowing Anna's identity she bullied the duties assigned to her by her idiotic bosses without breaking a sweat.

"No, ask him to continue as always. And remind him that I do not want to be distributed." Anna replied in annoyance.

“Thank you, your highness.” With that the staff excuses herself. But the atmosphere, in the room, was quite awkward now that everyone realised Anna was not simply. So I try to lighten up the mood by talking about the tournament.

“Pax, Amy, Beth are you three also participating in the tournament” I asked, trying to start a new and different conversation.

“I and Pax are partaking but Beth is too weak to participate.” Amy answered bluntly.

“Stop telling others I am weak Amy, I am not weak.” Beth defended her lack of strength.

“You are still in the Card scholar realm, you are weak. If you do not want people to call you weak, become strong.” Argued Amy

“Father said I was a special card apprentice who grows strong slowly.” Beth excused her slow and lazy way of active soul control cultivation as a special condition. The twin’s bickering finally kick-started our casual fun gathering.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium

“Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first-ever Lion Cubs High’s under 18 open for all-sky blossom resident card tournament. Participants, please gather at your arena accounting to the message sent to your grimoire.” The announcer announced the start of the tournament.

This year 420 card apprentices were participating in the tournament. Usually, the number of people participating would be more than the current number despite the tournament being only restricted to Lion Cubs high school students. It seems the liability waiver has scared off the trash who participate for the participation certificate which would look good in their resume while joining a guild or just to brag in front of their friends.

The whole stadium ground was divided into 40 small arenas. The idea was that the first round would consist of 210 card fights divided into 6 sets. Meaning 40 matches would be held at a time 6 times, covering a total of 210 card fights. Each Match will be of 12 minutes duration, if the victory is not decided within the given period then it will be considered as a draw. The tournament would be judged by a point system.

Win = 2 points

Draw = 1 point

Loss = 0 points

Soon I received my massage,

[Dalton Wyatt – Set 4, Arena 37]

It seems that I still have time before it's my turn. But Pax, Jaya and the Bright brothers had their fights in earlier rounds.

[Pax Whiteburn – set 1, Arena 3]

[Jaya Kieth – Set 2, Arena 17]

[Tom Bright – set 2, Arena 32]

[Ed Bright – set 2, Arena 38]

[Nick Bright – set 3, Arena 13]

The stadium had 40 floating hologram jumbotron which constantly monitored each arena. Giving the audience a way to keep track of all 40 card fights at the same time. And thankfully the VIP box came with a Smart Array ceiling to floor glass window which automatically focused on any of the 40 arenas based on each observer's retina movement.

Neat right, so basically what the glass window does is it zooms on the arena where a particular observer in the VIP box is watching using their retina movements. The amount of zoom can be controlled by simple actions of our retina. This does not interfere with other observers' experiences as it has different displays for each observer in the room. Now, this is some futuristic shit.

The first person to fight in our group was Pax and he was also the youngest. Standing in the arena he was greeted by his opponent, a skinny teenager named Duke.

"Hi, I am Duke." Pax's opponent introduced himself despite his name being shown on the jumbotron.

"Hi." Pax greeted back but did not say his name because he was already informed about Duke's unique origin card by his family. Yes, before attending the tournament somehow the Whiteburn family was able to get a list of all the participants of the tournament and their information.

Chapter 211: Mistake

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:36

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium

[Participant – Duke Bania

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Bronze Grade

Faction – Merchant Family, Lion Cubs High School (Scholarship Student)

Caution- Orange

Origin Card- Name hunting

Combat type- Marksman]

[Participant – Pax Whiteburn

Age- 16 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire Grade- Silver grade (suspects to have higher grade grimoire)

Faction – Whiteburn Family

Caution- Black

Origin Card- -/- (Believed to be an armour puppet that can unfold into an Iron titan puppet with projectile weapons.)

Combat type – Summoner, Marksman]

Caution ranking,

Green – Watch Out

Orange – Be Careful

Red – On Guard

Black – Unknown Ahead

The Whiteburn family wasn't the only one, even the Bright family and some of the other prominent families seemed to have gotten the list of participants and their personal info. I also received the list last night as the Bright brothers forwarded me the list that they had received from the Bright family. Was this cheating no, Yes the weak family and humble background participants were at a disadvantage but nobody ever stopped them from trying to get the list. I bet that they never thought that something like this was even available and lifted their asses to participate in the tournament hoping that the circumstance worked in their favour.

I did not have a prejudice against the small family or humble background participants but I was merely stating the fact because most of them may even be thinking it's against the rules to gather information on participants before the tournament. This is the difference between rich and poor. The poor only know to work hard and hope but the rich know to work hard and be smart.

"Isn't it a common courtesy for the participant to introduce themselves to their opponents before Card duel? What is your name?" Duke was pretty adamant about hearing Pax speak his name.

"You can read right, Our name is written on the jumbotron, read it yourself." Pax knew better than falling for Duke's chivalry and nonsense BS.

"It seems you know about my Origin card. Well, it doesn't matter since I have already met half of the conditions and can make use of the additional effects." Hearing the response Duke realised that his opponent knew about his origin card.

[Card Name: Name Hunting

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rating: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The host can attack the enemy unit while avoiding their physical and magical defence if the following conditions are met,

1. The enemy unit should reveal his/her name to the host.
2. Names of the enemy units should be whispered to the origin card.
3. Races of the enemy units should be whispered to the origin card.

Additional effect: Homing, Follow to the end of the world.]

Homing: the ability to find and hit an enemy unit whose race is whispered to the origin card.

Restriction: the enemy should be within sight of the host when activating this effect.

Follow to the end of the world: To follow an enemy unit whose name and race is whispered to the origin card anywhere, including the most remote or inaccessible places.

Restriction: the enemy should be within sight of the host when activating this effect.

Note: under this effect, the enemy unit cannot use any form of teleportation.

“Do you think that will matter? You should have seen my origin card in action right, if not then feast your eyes.” Saying that Pax chanted activating his origin card,

“Iron Flesh, Third Form.” Within a matter of a second Pax turned into a 21-meter tall Mecha, and took off in the air spreading its angelic wings. Raising gasps and examination from the audience most of them had already seen this in news and broadcast of the Whiteburn family deathmatch but the real thing was more awe-inspiring to behold.

“I give up.” Seeing the greatness and majesty of the huge-ass puppet/golem in the sky Duke looked at the Light Now he was he had just summoned and shaking his head he surrendered.

If his origin card details were not revealed Duke could have KOed his opponent in under 30 seconds. Duke knew where it all went wrong. It was when he registered his origin card details in school records for a full scholarship. Turns out the school records are not as confidential as they claimed them to be. Through this card duel, Duke finally realised that having fallen prey to the greed of money he had made a huge mistake that would possibly haunt him all his card apprentice career. But he did not regret any of it as it had to be done, he could not see them suffer anymore.

Duke Bania was from a small merchant family, Though his family was merchant family both his parents were bottom level in the family and had to work 16 hours a day in the family shops to put him through a private school thankfully his hard work had paid as he reached the Card Soldier realm before reaching 18 years of age and had created a mystery/ranged origin card. Which gained him a full scholarship rebating all the money which his parents paid for his education at a prestigious private high school over the years but this required him to register his origin card and its effects in school records which in turn lead to his loss in the first round of the tournament.

Having won his match Pax unsummoned Iron flesh and returned to the VIP box. Where all hell broke loose on him,

“What the hell were you thinking going all out for a simple battle, you could have used the first tier of your origin card and the combat skills I trained you in to defeat your opponent instead you had to show off, how many times have told you not to rely on your origin card.” Eliza went full-on training master on Pax who had returned to the VIP box with a victorious smile

Chapter 212: Uniqueness

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:34

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium

“What is wrong with showing off? Thanks to his stunt he was able to end the match in under one minute. Pax good job next match your opponent would not even dare to enter the arena. We are Whiteburn’s nobody can mess with us.” Before Pax could defend himself Beth came to his rescue; she seems to not agree with her elder sister.

“You... shut up!” Eliza had a lot to say for Beth’s question. But she chooses to keep quiet as her little sister was too dumb and ignorant to realise the point she was trying to make.

“You dumb face stuffer. The more Pax showcases his origin card the more people can deduce all his origin card’s shortcomings. From this match, people might have already noticed that it takes Pax 1 second to switch into his giant golem form and also that the arena is too small for him to use his giant form on the ground. It takes 3 seconds for the golem to reach 100 meters height at the beginning and that there is a 2 – 3 delay as the golem unfold its wings and takes off to the sky. With good planning and appropriate cards, even an average card apprentice can bring him down in under 30 seconds. For example, pushing the golem out of the arena before it takes off. Then Pax’s has automatically lost the duel” Amy elaborately explained why it was a bad thing to repeatedly use one’s origin card.

The most underrated advantage of an origin card is its uniqueness. The uniqueness of the origin card develops a sense of mystery around the card. Nobody except the host knows the details of the origin card, as the saying goes the unknown is feared and the known is prepared against.

I wanted to tell, ‘ it’s mecha, not gaint golem every time Amy referred to Iron Flesh as a golem.’ But I held it in and just nodded to Amy’s explanation like the rest.

“Big sis, Amy called me Dumb and face stuffer.” As expected Beth stopped paying attention after being called names by her twin but fortunately Pax realised his mistake and apologized, “Sorry big sis, I will be careful next time.”

“Good, do not repeat the same.” Eliza was happy that Pax realised his mistake but sighed when it came to Beth, “And Amy do not call your sister names. They say twins are best pals but why do you two always fight.”

“I never fight with Amy and she is my Best friend.” Beth argued but Amy’s explanation was borderline toxic, “that’s because nobody else wants to be your friend. I do not know about other twins but mine is dumb and I hate it.”

“Amy, I get you. I killed my sister too. But in my case she was my half-sister” Said Anna making the already awkward room super uncomfortable.

“I don’t want to kill my sister!” Exclaimed Amy, and turn to Beth to explain herself but it was too late, whimpering Beth ran and cried in Eliza’s embrace.

“Don’t worry you will get there soon.” Anna added with a sadistic smile freaking Amy out.

“Amy we will talk after we reach home. And Miss Anna I would like it if you keep your opinion to yourself.” Eliza could see the problem did not lie in Beth but Amy. Beth was being Beth, pretentious and snobbish but overall she was a conformist who is loyal to her family and friends. Amy was free-spirited and too mature for her age which made her see the world for what it is. While Amy grew up too quick Beth seemed to regress. This does not mean Amy hated her sister. It only meant that that the twin’s ideologies and nature were opposite to each other. Amy being the mature and wiser one she was genuinely worried for Beth and hoped she could implement change in her sister thoughts but she did not know where to start when their ideologies were so different.

Seeing the glaring contest between Anna and Elize, I was sweating bullets. I realised that I had made a mistake, I should have just chosen to be seated at the seats arranged by the school for participants and their families. No, it was not my fault rather a certain gigolo’s fault who tricked me. Thinking of this I glared at Elliott who pretended to be seriously focusing on the tournament.

“Did you really kill your half-sister?” Asked Jaya, from the frown on her face I could tell that Anna’s words did not sit right with Jaya, Sister-Con.

“Yes, you got a problem with it? Not just my half-sister but her entire family. Correction one bastard is remaining I will send him to them soon. What are you gonna do about it.” Anna overbearingly replied as an intimidating aura oozed out of her and suddenly Jaya who was seated on a separate couch felt a huge pressure falling on her from all sides, even though her Viltronian physique helped her bear the pressure on her body the

same could not be said for the couch she was seated on as its legs gave up and collapsed under the pressure, 'Thud'

As for me, we who was seated next to Anna was drenched in her intimidating aura. A Card emperor was too much for me despite my Calamity soul core. I felt as if I had met an apex predator. My mind yelled 'run you fool' but my body wouldn't respond while my heart was beating 3 times faster. It was pumping blood so fast that my pale coloured skin turned red as if about burst anytime soon.

As for others they also had a somewhat similar experience, the weakest of all Susan was the one who was hit hardest but surprisingly Corey next to get was unaffected. But seeing Susan's condition she started to panic and let out an angry shout, "Stop it you sadistic bitch."

Corey's angry yell jolted Anna into awakening from her trance and withdrawing her intimidating aura. Looking around the room in annoyance, Anna's gaze landed on me and then she mouthed, "I am horny, let's fuq."

Chapter 213: Gainover

Date- XX XX 2X00

Time- XX:XX

Location- Southern Region, XXXXX

Waa! Waa! Waa!

"Your Highness, it's a Girl", the wet nurse held a newborn baby as she declared its gender to the new Mother.

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" Husband you have a daughter now and she has your eyes, as promised I will name her Anna Gainover. I wish you were here right now." The new Mother messaged her husband with attached files of their daughter's cute pictures through her Diamond grimoire.

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"Sweetpea, will that useless son in law of mine at least be attending his daughter's naming ceremony?" Yelled the furious father, his anger was understandable as his son-in-law did not accompany his daughter during her 9 months of pregnancy or the baby delivery giving cockamamie reasons for his absence. Being a father himself he hoped that his granddaughter could change his son-in-law's mind.

“Father, you know the answer yet why do you ask?” The new mother has already become accustomed to her husband’s absence and besides her daughter was too cute for her to stay mad at the person who did not care to show up for his daughter’s birth or naming ceremony.

“Sister, what is my niece going to be called...” asked a huge and hairy man, interestingly the baby girl in his arms was not frightened instead played with his luscious and well-trimmed beard.

“Anna, Anna Heatsend.” Replied the new Mother taking her baby from her brother’s arms. Returning to her mothers embrace the baby had a warm and satisfied smile on her face.

“*Cough* Sister isn’t this....” Before her brother could finish his sentence the new Mother looked at him and asked, “Why? You think your family name is too good for my daughter?”

“What about your husband?” The brother was astonished by his sister’s sudden decision and felt that his sister was doing so out of hate for her two-timing, unreliable husband. Yes, the family knew why their son-in-law was currently not with their daughter.

“What about him?” The brother noticed that his sister’s eyes were blank and void of any feeling whenever she spoke of his brother-in-law. If not for his niece he is worried he would have already lost his sister.

“I would have just given him the diamond grimoire if I knew he was going to react like this.” An old lady sighed regretfully seeing her cheerful granddaughter playing in the arms of her daughter.

“No mother, it’s not your fault. I failed, I failed to recognise what kind of man I fell in love with. It seems he only married me for the diamond grimoire and our family power and wealth. Today, I finally realised that love does make one blind.” Though the new Mother spoke such heavy words, her face had a charming smile as she made faces at cute daughter.

“This is a celebration, let me set an example. By the power vested in me as the 16th head of Heatsend Clan, I hereby declare that my granddaughter Anna Heatsend will become the next Southern emperor and govern over the entire Southern region upon achieving the Card Emperor realm.” The father seeing his daughter’s decision decided to showcase his support.

‘You brought it up in the first place.’ Thought Anna’s uncle but he chose to ignore his father’s shamelessness and instead focus on coming up with a better present for his niece than his father did. Taking out a diamond grimoire he handed it to his sister, “I

received it a few days ago after I slaughtered the Long Clan's old demigod, that crazy slut wanted to perform dual cultivation."

"You dumb son of mine, how dare you gift that old sluts dirty grimoire to my granddaughter. What if that cursed grimoire infects my granddaughter with that old hag's sluttiness. Throw it out of my sight now. You better not bring that grimoire near my granddaughter." Yelled the old lady hysterical without the slightest demeanour of a Card Emperor, "watch and learn from your mother, I the 14th General of Southern Watch appoint my granddaughter Anna Heatsend as the Commander of the Southern Watch
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Date- XX XX 2X10

Time- XX:XX

Location- Southern Region, XXXXX

"Uncle, who is my father?" A cute loli in pink floral printed dress questioned her uncle and mentor.

"Your fatherr... just a second I just remembered I was supposed to be somewhere else." The huge and hair man looked gangster but ran when faced with the innocent question asked by his niece.

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"Grandpa, who is my father?" Young Anna asked as she sat on the broad shoulders of her grandfather while enjoying the delicious dessert he brought her.

"Sweetpea you said you wanted a pixie dragon right? Let me get you one today." The majestic 16th head of Heatsend Clan who made hundreds of decisions involving millions of lives suddenly found himself without an answer and could only distract his innocent granddaughter.

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"What is this? I asked you to portray a Whip Sword using a dragon's backbone. Why have you portrayed a dancing man holding the sword? Don't you know visualization is the basics of card creation?" The old lady harshly educated her granddaughter as learning visualisation at a young age would be a huge advantage in card creation.

"That is my father, he is doing a sword dance for me." Replied the cute loli as she glanced at the man she portrayed with longing eyes.

“Do you want to know who your father is?” Hearing her grandmother the loli’s eyes shone seeing that, unlike her uncle and grandpa who avoided any of her questions related to her father, her grandmother took the initiative to talk about her father.

“Yes, grandma, who is my father? Where is he?” Little Anna asked eagerly

“Good, become a Card Emperor and then I will answer your question.” Little Anna did not get disappointed upon hearing her grandmother as now she found a way to know about her father.

“Pinky promise.” Little Anna was not worried that she could not become a Card emperor, she worried that her grandmother would go back on her words.

“Pinky promise.” Promised the Old Lady thinking, “At least that bastard can help you in this way.”

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Date- XX XX 2X87

Time- XX:XX

Location- Southern Region, XXXXX

“Congrats Anna or should I call you Southern Emperor Anna Heatsend.” The old lady teased her granddaughter who had finally ascended to the Card Emperor realm and had officially become the Commander of the Southern Watch.

“Stop it, grandma. It’s embarrassing enough already.” Said the charming and mature Anna wearing a tight Southern Watch Commander uniform.

“Sugar Bear, do you remember what grandma proposed to you 77 years ago, do you still want to know?” The old lady proudly glanced at her granddaughter and reminded her of the old promise between them.

“No need, grandma. I already know what I need to know. I will finish what my mother let go of because of me.” Saying that Anna turned to look at her army and commanded, “Southern Watch prepare yourself we leave for a war in two hours.”

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70 years ago during Anna’s first exposure to the outside world as she left to attend MorningStar University, she was finally able to uncover who her father was as in the outside world her father was quite famous for reaching the peak of world power despite his humble background.

According to the outside world, Her mother, the Princess of the Heatsend clan, coveted her father for his talent and beauty. forcing him to marry her using her clan's power and wealth.

After marrying her father the Princess of the Heatsend clan began to surpass her father's power by not providing him Diamond grimoire knowing how talented he was, worried that after gaining power her father would break free of her mother's control and leave her for good.

Like all fairy tale endings, at last, the charming prince broke free from the clutches of the evil witch and met his Princess to live happily ever after with their cute Daughter, Anna's half-sister.

Hearing the rumours of the outside world broke all the fantasies Anna had built about her father over the years. Who should she believe? the rumours or the still heartbroken mother back home. How in the world was her mother the evil witch she wholeheartedly loved her father despite his obvious shortcomings? Why were her grandpa, grandma and uncle who welcomed her father openly into her family the villains of the story? While her father who used her mother's broken pieces of heart to climb the peak of world power was the hero of the story.

Anna knew whom to trust she did not need anybody's opinion on that, that day she decided she will not make the same mistakes her mother made and lived the life she wanted. People called her all the names in the urban dictionary but she did not care. All she cared about was her clan and raining justice over the people that wronged her mother.

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Chapter 214: Ambush Date

Date- XX XX 2X87

Time- XX:XX

Location- Southern Region, XXXXX

"Hello, Father. I am your eldest daughter, Anna. From your first wife just in case you forgot. I visited my stepmother and half-sister today, they were lovely and their family welcomed me with everything they got but sadly that was not enough. You would be happy to know that my half-sister and I are getting along fine now that I have beheaded her. During my time with her, I came to know that my half-sister misses you very much because she constantly kept calling your name while I slowly sawed through her neck. I like my Step-Mother too. She looked so beautiful covered in her blood, the colour red suits her well. And their family was a lively bunch, they screamed and yelled in agony. I had fun killing them one by one. One day I hope to meet you too, My Heroic Father. And

please do check the photos I have forwarded from my visit to my half-sister's home. I bet you would love to see your two daughters getting along happily." After getting hold of her father's number Anna called her father for the first time.

"Thank you, for getting rid of those shackles for me. Who knew you would be of help to me in this way. I got to say you are dumber than your mother. I was the one to spread the rumours in order to entice your mother into killing your stepmother and her family but it seems my betrayal had made her smarter." This is what the man that gave birth to her, who broke her mother's heart and betrayed her clan had to say to her for the first time they spoke.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:38

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium

Jolting awake from her episode, Anna's gaze landed on me and said, " I am horny, let's fuq."

I who had finally regained control of my body felt a cold sweat on the back of my neck as goosebumps raised all over my body. 'Is this how am I going to lose my V-card in this life, by getting reverse raped by someone old enough to be my great-great Grandmother.'

Reading the bold dark font on my face which read, 'you can have my body but not my heart' Anna sighed and said, " Fine, if you won't help then I will please myself. On the second thought Wyatt, what are your thoughts on your girlfriend having some girl on girl fun? Cheating or you're fine with it."

My glare directed towards Anna intensified, giving Anna her answer. Knowing that she will have to relieve herself for today on, Anna was pissed and replied annoyedly "Vibrator it is then." Having said that, Anna left the VIP box grumpily.

After Anna left I turned to Elliott, the gigolo responsible for this mess. But before I could start he looked at me as if I was the one at fault and said, " How could you be so dense? I and Anna spent a whole evening shopping for the perfect dress for your first date. Couldn't you just compliment her? You did not notice that Anna wore makeup just for you today, did you?

And since when did you become a people person to travel around with such a huge group of friends? I asked you to just bring Susan and Corey with you because I knew you wouldn't come without them."

Halfway through hearing Elliot complain I was confused, "Whose date? What date? How is it my fault! If you want me to bring 2 people along with me you should have sent me 3 passes instead of 2 dozen of them you moron. What the fuq is going on?"

"My god you are dense as they come I am tired, Karen explain to him." Having yelled to his fill Elliott tagged Karen.

"Master Wyatt, Her highness Anna reached Elliott yesterday to get his opinion on what kind of women you like and your other likes and dislikes.

Elliott, who knew nothing about master Wyatt proposed ambush data between Master Wyatt and her eminence Anna.

Being her first date her highness was considerably nervous and sought my advice on what to wear on the date along with advice on things to do and not to do on a date.

In the end, I and Elliot were to leave with Corey and Susan for master Wyatt and her eminence Anna to have a perfect ambush date but it turned out to be disastrous because of Elliott's mistake." Karen explained what was going on to me in detail. No wonder Anna looked more beautiful and acted grumpy today. It was all this gigolo's fault.

"What the... how is it my mistake?" Elliott yelled.

1. Who sets an ambush date during a tournament with one of the participants. This plan was bound to crush since the beginning.

2. Why invite extra people you don't intend to invite in the first place.

3. You haven't been on your first date yet you act like an expert and give others shitty advice which led to this mess.

Would you like me to continue listing your crime?" Karen methodically listed the stupidity of Elliott.

I was boiling with rage, who the hell permitted this gigolo to set me up on Date? That too with an Card Emperor no less. I thought he was on my side earlier but it turns out he was team Anna from the start. Wait? Does this mean Anna seriously wants to date me? Considering her record I do not think so.

"Will someone explain use what hell is going on here! Who the fuq is Anna? What is her identity? That bitch almost killed Susan and that girl." Corey interpreted Karen and Elliott as she pointed at Jaya who was leaving for the arena. The first round's first set was nearing its end, so the announcer had asked the participants of the second set of the first round to assemble near their respective arenas. It wasn't just Jaya, the Bright brothers also headed to their respective arenas.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:50

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Arena 17

Jaya Keith Vs Ned Brown

Chapter 215: Illicit Experimentation

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:50

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Arena 17

Jaya Keith Vs Ned Brown

[External Participant – Ned Brown

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Silver Grade

Faction – Brown Family (Homeschooled)

Caution- red

Origin Card- Dark Water Crocodile

Combat type- Mage/ Close Combat]

[External Participant – Jaya Keith

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Gold Grade

Faction – Fine Gold (Homeschooled)

Caution- red

Origin Card- -/- (related to insane level physical enhancement.)

Combat type- Close Combat]

“I heard a lot about the beauty of the Fine Gold sisters and seeing you I realised they were wrong. You are more beautiful than the rumours. Jaya right, I am Ned and am single, you wanna mingle with me.” Ned Brown did not shy away from staring at Jaya’s voluptuous body, he acted as if he hadn’t seen a beautiful woman in his life.

“You are from the Brown Family, right? How are the illegal monster-human experiments going on? Is it yielding results? I bet it would be devastating for your family if the government were to somehow find out about it during the final moment of the projects. All the resources and time your family had poured into the experiment would be wasted without the conclusion of the experiment.” Jaya accused the Brown family despite having no evidence to back her claims.

“What nonsense are you spouting? The Brown family would not do such a thing. How dare you blatantly accuse us of such a thing? Don’t you know the consequence of spreading malicious rumours?” Ned who a second ago acted like a teenage pervert was no longer there in the break of Jaya’s baseless rumours he turned serious as he knew how much damage Jaya’s baseless accusations could do to his family and the pharmaceutical companies it owned.

” ‘spreading malicious rumours’ How dare you accuse me of such a thing? I was asking you what I had heard. How is it a rumour if I asked you face to face? Is your family involved in illicit human-experiment....” Jaya as if she had come prepared hurriedly defended herself when Ned accused her of spreading malicious rumours. But before Jaya could do anymore further damage Ned activated his origin card effect,

“Dark Water Dome”

Soon a huge dome made up of Dark Water covered the entire arena 17, swallowing Jaya and Ned alike.

“Wereform – Dark Water Crocodile”

[Card Name: Dark Water Crocodile

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The host gains all the magical skills of a Dark water Crocodile. And can also transform into a Dark Water Crocodile to gain all the physical abilities related to a Dark water Crocodile.

Additional effects: Water Manipulation, Dark Water Manipulation, Wereform – Dark Water Crocodile, Dark Water Dome.

Note: Crocodile's cannot breathe underwater.]

Water Manipulation: The host gains the ability to manipulate water.

Wereform – Dark Water Crocodile: The host can transform into a Dark Water Crocodile and use all the physical abilities of a Dark water Crocodile. The Were-form provides the user with various physical enhancements like Reinforced Lungs, Superhuman strength, speed, senses and defence, Crocodile scales.

Dark water manipulation: Dark water is a form of Heavy Water, it has 3 times the gravity of normal water raising its boiling temperature to another level. The 3 times gravity also makes it harder to use any senses such as sight, smell, touch, Vibration etc within it.

Dark Water Dome: the host can summon a large amount of water to form a dome of 350 meters radius.

Note: If a normal Crocodile is the king of Water then Dark Water Crocodile is King of Dark water.

Being Swallowed in the dark water Jaya felt the change in the gravity, according to the info provided by the participant list Jaya knew that inside the Dark Water Dome the gravity on her has increased by three times. But a sudden change in gravity did not affect Jaya because her daily training involved her doing insane level training by adding weights up to 5 times her bodyweight not to mention after activating her origin card she could do the same training carrying weights 67 times her body weight.

Inside the dark water dome, it was dark and all of Jaya's senses had been dampened. Jaya could not take a step forward or backwards because she did not know where she was and what if the dark water in the dome was manipulated by Ned into pushing her to the edge of the arena. Soon her worries came true the water started to push her, she did not know where the water was trying to lead her but she knew her current body capability was not a match to that of the dark water, therefore she finally decided to activate her Origin Card,

"Viltronian!"

Activating her origin card, enormous amounts of strength and power filled in Jaya's body as a grey suit replaced her previous battle attire. With the new strength, Jaya easily broke the force applied to her by the Dark Water currents.

The Viltronian senses were of superhuman level and with Jaya's Card Soldier realm her senses in the dark water were no longer dampened and she could see Were-transformed Ned manipulating the dark water into a swirl as he swam in circles in the dark water dome with high speed.

Seeing that the force generated by the waves of the dark water was not enough to force Jaya out of the arena Ned decided to try another move of his 'Dark Water Hurricane' which involved him swimming in circles at high speed in the Dark water dome and manipulating the Dark water to flow the water currents generated by him swing in circles at high speed. The Dark Water Crocodile is known as one of the best swimmers in the crocodile family once in the dark water no monsters of the same realm can overpower the Dark Water Crocodile.

Ned's Dark Water Crocodile origin card was formed using the core of a C-rank dark water crocodile when he was in the card student realm meaning the Were-form of Ned's Dark water Crocodile had undergone two baptisms.

A C-rank dark water crocodile is already undefeatable in dark water but adding two baptisms to it made it an irregular that could jump realms to challenge opponents of the bigger realm.

Chapter 216: Schemes

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Arena 17

Jaya was frustrated, yes she was frustrated. 'How dare that bitch embarrass me in front of everyone like that? Fuq! If only she was not Wyatt's friend.' These were Jaya's thoughts whenever she thought about Anna and the incident back in the VIP box. She would feel humiliated every time she thought back to that moment, if not for her sister asking her to make up with Wyatt, She would have fought with that bitch despite her high odds of winning. She completely forgot the part of her provoking Anna by calling her out for bragging about killing her half-sister. She just kept venting her frustration and anger on imaginative Anna in her mind, refusing to accept the true feeling she felt towards Anna, Fear.

Thankfully she had to leave the VIP box to wait for her turn near arena 17. It saved her from enduring the weird gazes from the people in the VIP box. The incident in the VIP box almost made her forget another task her elder sister has assigned to her, throwing

dirty water on Brown family name. She did not know how her sister made it happen but her first opponent was Ned Brown the Brown Family's heir. Achieving this may be impossible for others but if it's her sister anything was possible.

The Brown family's main business is pharmaceuticals, they have 3-4 pharmaceutical plants across the southern region with the biggest one being located in Sky blossom city. And the transportation of ingredients and the products to and from Brown Pharmaceuticals is undertaken by Fine Gold Merchant Vessels for 2/3rd of the actual cost. Fine Gold is known for doing cut-throat business, it is unlike them to offer a discount price to any of its customers.

The reason they offered the discount to the Brown family is that the Brown pharmaceutical is not their customer but their prey. The pharmaceutical business is not an optimum business choice in this world where a medic card can get rid of any ailment. But not everyone is fortunate enough to use a medic card every time they get a cough or cold. So yes pharmaceuticals were preferred for their cheap remedies by low-income class people and low realm Card apprentices. Despite its lesser opportunities, Brown pharmaceutical made a decent gross profit every being the sole pharmaceuticals in the southern region.

Over the years Fine Gold has quietly acquired 47% shares of the Brown pharmaceuticals using different shell companies spread out in the southern region without alerting the Brown family. Within another year the Fine Gold would over through the Brown family as majority shareholder but they had to speed up the process of acquiring the majority of Brown pharmaceuticals shares within this week because of the major discovery of the Silver Milk Powder.

Most people think that Silver milk Powder is an item card considering that it helps in active soul control cultivation but only those who have gone through the original patent of the silver milk powder know that Silver milk powder has nothing to do with Cards instead, it is just dried up bacteria grown in a laboratory environment. When people know this, the only place with all the equipment to grow these bacteria in large quantities effectively would be worth 100 times its current price. And that place is none other than the only pharmaceutical company in the whole southern region, Brown Pharmaceuticals.

Diana Keith the Chairman of the Fine Gold would not miss such an obvious opportunity. But currently, she only had 47% of the Brown Pharmaceuticals which was not enough to fill her appetite. 53% of the rest of Brown Pharmaceutical was in the hands of the Brown family. But this 53% was split into small pieces between all the top members of the Brown family making it hard for Fine Gold to acquire the majority shares of Brown Pharmaceutical. Therefore Diana planned to play dirty to get what she wants before the Brown family realises the gold mine they are sitting on.

Every family had their Drunk, Gambler and prodigal family members collectively known as the black sheep of the family. Before Diana wanted to use them to gain the

remaining shares she needed to become the major share owner but now she cannot follow that plan as she did not have time to execute such a long plan. So Diana thought of another ingenious plan that is to buy all the debts of the Brown family.

It was common for Big families and companies to have big debts to gather capital by mortgaging their assets. And the Brown family was no exception, they had an alarming rate of debt as Pharmaceuticals in this world was not a lucrative business which also meant that they did not have to watch out for predators. So, the Brown family did not shy away from taking loans. This provided an opportunity for Diana to gain all the shares in the hands of the Brown family.

Having acquired all the debts of the Brown family now all Diana had to do was make the value of Brown pharmaceuticals shares lower than the total amount of loan they took on the name of the company. This way she could claim the shares of Brown pharmaceuticals in the hands of the Brown family in the name of reclaiming debt.

How did Diana plan on decreasing the value of the shares of Brown pharmaceuticals,

- 1.Create an incident that would promote people into dumping Brown pharmaceuticals shares at a small price.
- 2.Since all the 47% market shares of the Brown pharmaceuticals were already in Fine Gold's hands they would sell the shares at half the price to themselves but make it look like multiple people were dumping the shares for half price as a result of the false incident regarding Brown pharmaceuticals.

Overnight due to the domino effect the shares of Brown pharmaceuticals would be worth half of what it was yesterday. Giving Fine Gold enough reasons to cease all the shares in the hands of the Brown family to reclaim the debt they own. This way 100% shares of the Brown pharmaceutical will belong to Fine Gold.

Therefore Diana had to go out of her way to pull up some old connections to arrange a fight Between Jaya and the heir of the Brown family. Using this opportunity Jaya would slander Brown pharmaceuticals for conducting various illegal acts. Allowing the fine gold to dump Brown pharmaceuticals shares at half the price and buy them themselves without raising suspicions of the Brown family.

After acquiring the Brown pharmaceuticals Diana planned on exchanging the pharmaceuticals with the Southern emperor for a favour, she was not dumb to as for shares or something from the ruler of the south

Chapter 217: Fresh Meat

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:55

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Arena 17

Having completed the task of throwing dirty water on Brown Pharmaceuticals now all Jaya wanted to do was to relieve the frustration she had been suppressing from earlier by making the man-crocodile mongrel swimming around her, her punching bag.

“Boom!” Without holding back Jaya flew out of the swirling black water dome at full speed. The 3 times gravity of black water was a joke for someone with a Viltronian physique.

Flying out of the black water dome Jaya floated 10 meters above it. The black water dome had deformed and looked more like a water typhoon, An hurricane. Anna tried to find transformed Ned in the hurricane but the water was pitch black and the skin, scales of the black water crocodile were designed to help it camouflage and decrease its presence in the water. Therefore it was harder for Jaya to pinpoint Ned's location who was swimming along with the currents of the hurricane at an accelerating speed. Therefore Jaya decided to go back into the eye of the black water hurricane, one of the calmest and safest parts of the hurricane, to track Ned from there.

The popular belief is that the eye of a hurricane is the safest and calmest place in the hurricane. And it a true the eye of the hurricane is indeed the calmest and safest part of the hurricane but the eyewall surrounding the hurricane eye is not a safe place to be, rather it is the scariest, nastiest, gnarliest part of the hurricane. They form an unbroken line of extremely powerful downpours. The pressure and speed of the water and wind currents here are at alarming levels, enough to cut and grind a human.

No, Jaya was not dumb this was the result of her homeschooling which made her think that the eye of a Hurricane would allow her to track Ned with less hindrance from the black water. Instead, the wall of the eye of the hurricane was much darker and turbulent than the surface of the hurricane. This Hurricane was no ordinary hurricane it was a hurricane made up of black water which had 3 times gravity leading to insane and devastating levels of pressure causing a huge downpour forming an extremely strong eyewall for the hurricane. It was stupid of Jaya to think that she could spot Ned from within the eye of the black water hurricane.

Thankfully her opponent was also someone with very little actual combat experience, who fought against Jaya as if she was the same as the brainless dungeon monster and would wait patiently for him to complete his final move. Ned was completely focused on swirling the black water dome into a black water hurricane that he never noticed Jaya flew out of the black water dome and enter the black water hurricane eye. Once the black water dome was turned into a black water hurricane he had to bring it to a speed where it would self sustain its spin without having him swim at high speed continuously to maintain the speed of the Hurricane.

Once Hurricane was able to sustain itself Ned stopped swimming at high speed and decided to head to the eye of the black water Hurricane and attack struggling and

suffocating Jaya from there. But to his surprise, Jaya who should be on the right side of the black water hurricane somehow managed to walk into the eye of the hurricane totally unscathed.

'Impossible' yelled Ned in his mind, if not for the senses of the Blackwater Crocodile that he gained after were-transformation even he would not be able to see a thing in the Blackwater. So, how was Jaya able to move from the most dangerous part of the hurricane to the safest and calmest part of the hurricane unscathed? Unfortunately, he could not ask Jaya because he would be revealing his location to her and he would probably drown from not being able to hold his breath while talking even with his enhanced lungs of a black water crocodile.

Right now the fight between Jaya and Ned has reached a stalemate as Ned could no longer use the projectiles he planned on using to attack Jaya with as the Eyewall of the eye of the Hurricane would protect her, that is the reason why he planned to attack Jaya from the eye of the hurricane. All he had to do was to introduce the projectiles in the right currents of the hurricane and the water current would carry the projectile at high speed to Jaya. Making it impossible for Jaya to track where the projectile came from and the eyewall of the hurricane's eye would form a protective wall for him. Ned had the perfect battle plan ready to fight against Jaya who was rumoured to have insanely high reinforced physical abilities, avoiding the risk of close combat completely. Yes, Jaya's dumb decisions somehow saved her from falling prey to Ned's trap.

As for Jaya, she was helpless as she was unable to find Ned. With Jaya's Viltronian abilities there were various ways she could have defeated Ned long ago but she was not well versed with using these abilities and lacked experience fighting a human and a complete stranger, unlike her trainer. Both Ned and Jaya lack a sense of judgement when it comes to a card fight. If it were a battle these two would have been already killed by a weaker veteran card apprentice. Despite all their arrogance of being a talent and a genius in reality they both were fresh meat/amateurs in the eyes of a Veteran.

When the time limit of the card fight was nearing its end Jaya had an ingenious idea to destroy the arena with her brute force. She thought that if the stage which was the base and foundation for the black water hurricane was destroyed the black water hurricane would collapse but the fool did not stop to think if the card Soldier realm strength was enough to break the arena and started punching the floor underneath her with all her might. After 30 seconds she stopped only to see the arena floor was spotless. She wasn't able to leave a single scratch on the floor. Ned almost drowned by laughing out loud seeing Jaya's stupid actions and thought, 'is she planning to kill me by making me laugh.'

Chapter 218: Cursed Marks

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Arena 32

I wanted to see how Jaya would make use of the super type origin card I made for her and what I saw left me disappointed. There were various ways Jaya could have countered her opponent, for example, with her Viltronian superhuman speed she could have undone what Ned was trying to do by just flying in an anticlockwise direction in the black water dome. I bet that thought never crossed her mind, the lack of imagination and judgement showcased by Jaya and her opponent had thoroughly dissatisfied me. So seeing that Jaya's fight was going nowhere, I turned to see how my new Calamity daughter cores were fairing. Tom and Eb both also had their Card fight's scheduled during the second set of the first round.

Arena-32

Tom Bright vs John Chen

[Participant – Tom Bright

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Silver Grade

Faction – Bright Family, Lion Cubs High School

Caution- Red

Origin Card- Mud Golem

Combat type- Summon]

[External Participant – John Chen

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Silver Grade

Faction – Chen family

Caution- Red

Origin Card- Curse Mark

Combat type- Curse Apprentice/ Assassin]

Arena 38

Ed Bright Vs Lucy Robert

[Participant – Ed Bright

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Bronze Grade

Faction – Bright Family, Loin Cubs High School

Caution- Orange

Origin Card- Skeleton Fiend

Combat type- Summoner]

[Participant – Lucy Robert

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Silver Grade

Faction – Merchant Family, Lion Cubs High School (Scholarship Student)

Caution- Orange

Origin Card- Dessert Cannon

Combat type- Marksman]

Tom's card fight had already reached its climax, he used the same signature Hazard Mud Swamp field card and his origin card Mud Golem he used against me in this card fight. Same as before he summoned 100 mud golems by making use of mud from the hazard mud swamp to engage his enemy while he stood back protected by the Huge mud golem. This strategy would bring Tom the optimum results facing an assassin type enemy like John Chen.

[Card Name: Curse Mark

Card Type: Origin card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The host can Curse the enemy unit with different debuffs based on the number of Curse marks successfully landed on the enemy unit. Host's every ranged or melee and armed or unarmed attack will leave a curse mark on the enemy unit. Meaning every attack of the host will leave a curse mark on that very spot where he attacked the enemy unit.

1. First Curse Mark- 25% debuff to all stats of enemy units.

2. Second Curse Mark – upon receiving a total of two Curse marks +25% debuff to all stats of enemy units. The old debuff is still active.

3. Third Curse Mark- upon receiving a total of three Curse marks the enemy units will lose any one of their following sense of touch/Smell/Sight/Sound based on the desire of the host. Old Debuffs are still active.

4. Fourth Curse Mark- upon receiving a total of four Curse marks the enemy unit will lose control over any one of their limbs Right Leg/ Left Leg/ Right Arm/ Left Arm based on the desire of the host. Old Debuffs are still active.

5. Fifth Curse Mark- Upon receiving a total of five Curse marks the enemy unit will feel an increase in one of the following receptors, Pain/Fear/Sleep/Lust based on the desire of the host. Old Debuffs are still active.

6. Sixth Curse Mark- upon receiving a total of six Curse marks the enemy unit will face Absolute Death.

Note: The consecutive curse marks should be marked on the enemy unit within a minute of placing the last curse mark.

Additional effect: Double marked absolute death- Upon marking the enemy unit twice at the same spot within 30 seconds, the enemy unit will face absolute death.]

With an opponent like John Chen who could kill you with two well-timed moves, it was best to avoid close combat. Like everyone else participating in the tournament, John Chen thought that with his unique and overpowered origin card he would breeze through the first few rounds and easily make it to the top 10 if lucky he could even make it to the top 5. Unfortunately, luck wasn't on his side today as he was matched against

the worst enemy possible right at the start. Tom's Swamp golem troop was his origin card's kryptonite.

Seeing a 100 2.5 meters tall mud golem between him and his opponent John could not help but curse his fortune. The arena type card fight was already a disadvantage to an assassin class card apprentice like him, now he had to defeat 100 golems just to get to his original target. This frustrated John but he did not just give up here instead decided to give it his all.

Being well versed in assassin style combat John had a speed advantage over the 100 mud golems. Tom's mud golems were not slow, their speed is as fast as normal humans but for someone who has been trained to work at extreme speed and efficiency like John, the golems speed was really slow. Thinking of a tactic that would allow him to take advantage of the slow movement speed and attack speed of the mud golems, John activated a skill card,

“C-rank Martial Skill card – Shadow steps”

[Card Name: Shadow steps

Card type: Skill card

Card Rank: C-rank, Uncommon Grade

Card Rating: 39-stars

Card Durability: [86/100]

Card effect: Upon activation, the Card apprentice gains master level proficiency of the Martial skill Shadow steps.

Additional effects – soundless steps, Shadow blink, shadow stealth, shadow speed, Shadow Crawl]

Soundless steps – when walking in the shadows all the sounds of users footsteps will be absorbed by the shadow.

Shadow blink- The host can teleport between two shadows within the range of 10 meters once every 5 seconds.

Shadow stealth – while standing in any shadow the host's presence will become negligible.

Shadow speed – within a shadow the host's speed is 3 times the normal speed.

Shadow Crawl – the host can walk on the shadows cast on the walls and ceiling.

Caution: the host is still under the influence of gravity and will fall when the shadow on which he is standing is no longer there.

With a martial skill card like shadow steps, anyone could become an adept assassin not to mention John whose origin card was meant for assassination with its absolute death effect. Now making use of the speed of the shadow steps martial skill card and the absolute death effect of his origin card John planned to destroy all the 100 mud golems to reach Tom.

Chapter 219: No Mercy

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:56

Location- Sky Blossom City, The Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Arena 32

John had a good tactic but unfortunately, he had overestimated his abilities thinking that he could take on 100 mud golems on a bright sunny morning like today. As the number of mud golems on the arena decreased the number of shadows in the arena where John could make use of his shadow step martial skill cards effects also decreased. Therefore it became harder for him to land attacks twice on the same spot of the mud golems and escape later.

As time went on John lost sight of the objective of the card fight, Tom his opponent. Instead, John was focused on destroying all mud golems in front of him. Doing so John had already burned a lot of his stamina and also gave away the secrets of his martial skill card to Tom.

Tom Bright was very impressed by the skills displayed by his opponent but also relaxed by seeing the stupidity his opponent had demonstrated by hunting his expandable mud golems which he could produce limitlessly as long as he had enough mud.

Tom did not bother to disturb John, he patiently waited and started to deduce his opponent's fighting style and his cards. Tom knew about John's origin card from the info listed in the list of participants given to him by his family but he did not know the other active and passive cards equipped in John's grimoire. Therefore he patiently lied in wait to deduce the other cards being used by John.

Extrapolating that the skill cards used by John were shadow based skill cards, Tom decided that he would not reproduce the destroyed mud golems as he would only be providing John shadows to use his shadow teleportation techniques which he frequently uses to get into the proximity of the mud golems to use the Double marked absolute death effect of his origin card or to escape after being surrounded by the mud golems.

Tom let John continue what he was doing for a while but seeing that the time limit of the card fight was nearing, Tom decided to get serious and wrap things up. One skill card is a common and must-have for all summon class Card Apprentice, Detonate or the alternative Explosion.

[Card Name: Detonate

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: C-rank, Uncommon grade

Card Rate: 12-stars

Card Durability: [88/100]

Card effect: The host can detonate his/her predetermined summon. Detonating a summon would lead to the summon exploding with the power and the force equal to the rank that summons belonged to. Detonate and Explosion is the same cards with different names.

Additional effect: Timer]

Tom was not hasty, he waited... waited for John to use his shadow teleportation skill to get near one of the mud golems. Tom wants John's shadow teleportation skill to enter the cooldown period otherwise John could easily escape the explosion by teleporting away.

John using his skills slowly whittled down the number of mud golems from 100 to 20 under 10 minutes but to achieve that he had expanded almost 2/3rd of his stamina. Finally feeling his limit John realised what a fool he had been to voluntarily engage with expandable units rather than focusing on the actual target. Realizing this John was no longer keen on killing all 100 golems instead he planned to come within 10 meters of Tom under the guise of attacking the golems and then shadow blink next to him and give the finishing blow or rather the double finishing blow.

Both John and Tom wanted to kill their opponent to win the fight but never once did they think of going easy on their opponents. They had their calculations of which each other was not aware of. Thanks to John's foolishness in the beginning Tom never notices the change in John. As for John, he was too confident in his ability that he overconfidently failed to consider the mud golem guarding Tom.

Finding a perfect opportunity John hastily hurried to the mud golem nearest to John as if wanting to attack it but just as he was in the 10-meter range of Tom he made use of the shadow blink to teleport right next to Tom.

As for Tom, after realising that John was nearing him despite not having destroyed a golem for a while now he deduced that John wanted to near him so that he could get within the range need to make use of his teleportation skill and teleport next to him to assassinate him with his Double Marked Absolute Death.

When John teleported next to Tom, he noticed that Tom did not react but John still chose to stab twice at the same place and activate his origin cards additional effect double marked absolute death. But just when John was about to stab Tom for the second time, Tom exploded. Thankful John was able to activate a defence card on time saving himself from death but the force of the explosion had seriously injured him rendering him immobilised.

The Tom that exploded was not the real Tom it was a golem that was morphed by one of Tom's skill cards to make it a duplicate of himself. The moment Tom deduced what John was up to, Tom created a mud golem of his dimensions and morphed it to look like himself to pose as him while he hid in the belly of the large golem guarding him.

Having successfully executed his plan now Tom was in a dilemma as John was critically injured and barely conscious so he could not utter the words that he surrenders to give up the duel. And the time limit of the duel was nearing if John did not surrender then soon after the time limit the match would be declared a draw. Despite being pressed by the time Tom was quick-witted and ordered one of his golems to carry barely conscious John out of the arena where the medic staff were already gathered to provide medical care to the injured participants.

"Arena 32, winner 'Tom Bright'!"