

Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 250: Victims - Read

Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 250: Victims

Chapter 250: Victims

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Second Round Arena 2

“Yes, you heard precisely folks. I am conducting an auction for this Wang family genius’s life. Let’s start the bid with 500 soul jades with a minimum raise limit of 100 soul jades. Here’s how the auction will work if the Wang family transfers 500 Soul Jades to my bank account before 10:26:30 then I will not kill Kimble.

But if someone bids 600 Soul Jade then I will kill Kimble Wang at 10:26:30. The highest bid will decide Kimble Wang’s life in the next 4 minutes.

Do not worry I will be announcing every bid so that you can make a sound bid.” I explained the process of bidding to the audience but actually, all I wanted to do was extract as many soul jades from the Wang family I can get.

The bidding process was flawed as except for the Wang family I could not control other bidders to pay up the bid. As I was restricted by time. Since I controlled the death of Kimble I could control the Wang family into transferring the bid soul jades to my bank account before the duel reaches its time limit. But I same was not true of other bidders.

Soon a notification sounded from my grimoire. As accepted the notification was from my bank,

[Mr Liam Wang has transferred 1000 soul jades to your Lion King National Bank account ending with XXXX]

The Wang family scanned my Qr code from the arena video which helped them get my bank account information. They not only met my expectations but also added an extra 500 soul jades surprise for me. With Kimble’s ability, he can easily defeat a few enemies above his realm without any difficulty and any family would treat him as an asset. But this also made him a target of the Wang family competitors. Who would not mind spending some soul jades to end the future troubles, soon a bunch of notifications sounded from my grimoire. But the most credible one was,

[Anonymous has transferred 1500 soul jades to your Lion King National Bank account ending with XXXX]

The Anonymous person bid three times the starting bid, but what surprised me was that this person was so eager that he directly transferred soul jades to my account, unlike the other Anonymous people who only sent me bid messages.

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>KILL HIM and I will transfer 5000 soul jades to your bank account.]

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>Hello, I am Kim Seo-Jun, mother of Kim Ha-Joon. I am not rich but I am willing to give everything I own including myself in return for that bastard's life. That bastard killed my son-in-law and sexually abused my daughter. He vanished the corpses of my daughter and Son-in-law using his mysterious ability. The cops did not do a thing as they did not have a dead body to investigate.

Please, I beg you please kill him.]

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

> I will transfer 600 soul jades to your bank account, kill that Wang family evil spawn.]

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[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>kill that bastard I will transfer 2000 soul jades to your bank account.]

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>Hello, I Janice Wheeler am one of Kimble's victims. One unfortunate day I met him at a club where he dragged me to a room and sexually abused me for two whole days. He

has my videos and uses them to blackmail and sexual abuse me. I have nothing to offer to you in return except for my body. Every time I sleep I have nightmares of him whispering in my ears, 'don't worry I will be quick' As he is about to sexually abuse me again]

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>Hi, Big brother. I am Jamie Oliver, my mother was killed by that beast. Please kill him and I will give you all my chocolates and sweets every day for the rest of my life.]

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>kill that beast I will transfer 1000 soul jades to your bank account.]

And soon on, people were spamming my grimoire message page section with unfaithful bids which they did not plan on paying. Someone even bid 10 times the starting bid through message, does he take me for an idiot.

Other than the spam messages, there were some messages from the victims of Kimble's lust. It seems this faquer ruined many lives making use of his power and background. Anyways ignoring the spam messages I showed the plea messages from Kimble's victim and their family to him and said, " Man, look at these messages, each one of them is begging me to kill you. It must be great to be born in a wealthy and powerful family, right? No matter how many crimes you commit, your family will always be there to clean up the mess after you. At such a young age you have actively done so many criminal activities. Listing what crimes you have not done is easier than listing the crimes you have done and gotten away with, thanks to your family. Reading these messages makes me want to kill you right here and right now. But I want soul Jades, what do I do? Ain't this a pickle."

Hearing my words Kimble's face paled with fright. Until now he thought his family would save him no matter the cost but now he was no longer so sure about it after hearing my monologue. Even though Kimble was bound by stone wrap he was still in touch with his family using his grimoire call services mentally. This gave Kimble enough hope to maintain the last amount of sanity he had left. Throwing unnecessary worries out of his head Kimble replayed one thought in his mind again and again as if he was trying to hypnotise himself, ' I will survive and this will soon pass. Later I will take care of all the bitches in those messages one by one'.

Seeing that Kimble still had some fight and hope left in him I restrained his grimoire, cutting his call with his family. Giving him a sneer I whispered in his ears, " I have

already decided to kill you no matter how much money your family transfers. Do not worry I will be quick.”

Hearing my words Kimble who had regained his calm started struggling once again but except for his facial tissues, eyeballs and ears, he could not move a thing. Since I have restrained his grimoire he could not even contact his family and ask them to come up with other ways to save him while informing that I was not going to hold up my end of the bargain.

Chapter 251: Grievance

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:24

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Wang Family VIP balcony

“5000 soul jades, that little turd is messing with us. Which family is willing to spend so much to get a rival junior killed, when they can hire assassins for 100 times cheaper than that price. Fuck that little bastard, you assholes, did you find any friends or relatives of that bastard or not? Let’s see if he will be laughing then.” Kimble Wang’s elder brother Eddy Wang yelled at his subordinates. Though it appeared as if he was frustrated and worried for his brother but truth was that he was very delighted with the current outcome as he was the anonymous person who sent 1500 soul jades to Wyatt’s account for Kimble’s death. After all with Kimble out of the picture, he would be next in line to become the Wang family leader.

“Are out of your mind. That little bastard’s relatives and friends are under the southern emperor’s protection. Acting against them will only lead to the destruction of our Wang family. Shut up and transfer another 4100 soul jades to his bank account fast.” Liam Wang scolded his eldest son for his stupidity.

“But father, what if that little bastard keeps the soul jades and kills little brother?” Eddy was not worried about his little brother but losing 5100 soul jades.

“Shut up, first focus on saving your brother. Other matters can be handled later. Let alone 5100 soul jades, Kimble is worth 10 times that. Money can be earned but a genius like Kimble is only born once a millennium. ” How could Eddy’s petty thoughts escape his father’s eyes, but still Liam chose to ignore it.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:24

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, second round Arena 2

Ignoring the glaring Kimble I addressed the audience and updated them on the current bids, " Dear audience, Wang family has bid 1000 soul Jades for Kimble's life but sadly an anonymous bidder has bid 5000 soul jades for Kimble's death. So Wang family, what is it going to be? 2 minutes 45 seconds before the bidding ends."

I did not lie as I did receive a bid of 5000 soul jades for Kimble's death. Though it's entirely another thing that it was a spam bid. It did not matter if I was lying or telling the truth. If the Wang family wanted Kimble to live they had to bid higher. As expected soon I received another notification from my bank,

[Mr Liam Wang has transferred 4100 soul jades your Lion King National Bank account ending with XXXX]

"Ladies and gentlemen, the Wang Family has raised their bid to 5100 soul Jades for Kimble's life. 2 minutes 10 seconds remaining till the bid closes." Reading the notification I updated the audience with the new leading bid. Soon my message page once again flooded with spam and bank statements.

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>I am willing to transfer 50,000 soul jades to your bank account, kill that bastard.]

[Kim Seo-Jun has transferred \$121k to your Lion King National Bank account ending with XXXX]

[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>that is all my savings, I could not sell my house on the spot but I will transfer another \$100k to you soon and if you are willing I will serve as your slave. Please kill him and let my daughter and her husband's souls rest in peace.

Regards

Grieving Mother

Kim Seo-Jun]

[Anonymous has transferred \$7,678 to your Lion King National Bank account ending with XXXX]

[Janice Wheeler has transferred \$43k to your Lion King National Bank account ending with XXXX]

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[Message for unsaved contact.

>Read

>I am willing to transfer 5200 soul jades to your bank account, please give that killer a gruesome death.]

Seeing that the Wang family would win the bid, all the victims transferred all their savings to my account pleading for revenge. The grievance of Kimble's victims was boundless. Most of them were abused females and grieving relatives. They all knew that the amount they sent was nothing compared to what the Wang family promised me but they offered to be my slaves in return for Kimble's head. Seeing the lengths the victims and their relatives were going to seek revenge for themselves or their loved ones I decided to end the sham and kill Kimble then and there.

"The bidding will be closed early as an anonymous bidder has bid 50,000 soul jades for Kimble's death right away." Saying that I used stone manipulation to tighten the grip of stone wrap bounding Kimble and completely crush him. Under the pressure of the stone wrap, Kimble's upper skull popped like a bubbly's crock and his blood pumped out forming a Blood stone fountain.

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[Card Name: Parasitic Green Astral Algae

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rating: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: Parasitic Green Astral Algae is a symbiotic parasite and the rarest form of algae found in the Astral Realm. Parasitic Green Astral Algae are the favourite food of young Astral Void Whales as this Parasitic Green Astral Algae helps them awaken their Void bloodline faster. Parasitic Green Astral Algae are so important for young Astral

Void Whales that they can smell these Parasitic Green Astral Algae across realms and Void Wrap to its location under a second.

Additional Effect- Masking Hormone, Astral Eyes, Astral Blessing, Bond, Multiple.

Note: Astral Void Whales are not the only predators of Parasite Green Astral Algae. Many other astral beings can sense Parasite Green Astral Algae across realms but the Astral Void Whales are the fastest.]

Masking Hormone – Parasitic Green Astral Algae is a symbiotic parasite when growing inside a living host it secretes a Hormone that helps it and the host hide their smell and presence from the predators.

Astral Eyes: the eyes of the Parasitic Green Astral Algae's host gain the ability to see astral beings.

Bond: Parasitic Green Astral Algae can attach to any form of matter and energy.

Note: any matter or energy attach with Parasitic Green Astral Algae will gain Astral Blessing.

Astral Blessing- the Astral Blessing allows the physical body of any being or objects to enter the Astral realm.

Note: physical bodies blessed by astral blessing will also become visible to astral beings.

Multiple: Parasitic Green Astral Algae can reproduce at high speed depending upon the soul energy provided by the host.

Note: A Card Soldier can multiply the Parasitic Green Astral Algae 100 times before exhausting his soul energy.

[Card Name: Finger Gun

Card Type: Skill Card

Card Rank: B-rank Grade

Card Rating: 14-Stars

Card Durability: [98/100]

Card Effect: the card gives the user the ability to shoot projectiles from finger guns made using his/her hands.

Addition Effect: Homing(range 500 meters), Code Word Trigger

Note: The projectiles to shot should be sacrificed to the card by the user.]

Code Word Trigger: allows the host to shoot the projectiles through his finger gun using a predetermined code word.

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Kimble Wang would multiply Parasitic Green Astral Algae and sacrifice them as projectiles to his finger Gun card and shoot the green astral algae at his opponents. With the bond ability, the algae would attach to any surface. Following the smell of the algae, the astral void whale would swallow the enemy unit bond by the algae.

Chapter 252: Psychopath

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:29

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP box No.1

“2nd round, Arena 5 Winner Corey Bright”

“2nd round, Arena 7 Winner Pax Whiteburn”

“2nd round, Arena 13 Winner Ed Bright”

“2nd round, Arena 21 Winner Cortney Ress”

“2nd round, Arena 26 Loser Jaya Keith”

“2nd round, Arena 27 Loser Nick Bright”

Returning to box No.1 I checked the results of the other contestants. It seems except for Jaya and Ed everyone else won their card duels. Jaya lost because of the abnormal status – Weak inflicted on her in 1st round. And Ed lost an irregular named Mike Madison.

[External Participant – Mike Madison

Age- 17 years old

Realm- Card Soldier

Grimoire- Silver Grade

Faction – Madison Family (Homeschooled)

Caution- Black

Origin Card- Clown Coffin

Combat type- Summoner]

“2nd Round, Arena 27 Mike Madison vs Nick Bright”

One of my Calamity Daughter Core losing was a huge shock to me so I watched the recap of the 2nd round arena 27 card duel. Watching the video I understood what had transpired and the reason behind Nick's loss, Mike's origin card Clown Coffin.

“3.. 2.. 1, Fight”

“Summon Armament- Mountain Gauntlets” as the match began Nick did not hesitate and new one time use Summon Armament given to him by the referee.

“Clown Coffin- Clown Flood” with Mike's command a colourful coffin was summoned, its lid opened and numerous corpses dressed as clowns crawled out of the coffin. Those clown crops rushed towards Nick.

Nick being armed with Summon Armament- Mountain Gauntlets single punched the first few corpses, soon the smashed clown corpses started to pile up completely covering Nick's side of the arena. Seeing that he was cornered Nick wanted to execute Meteorite Jump. But unfortunately, he was one step too late. Seeing Nick up to something Mike revealed the final move, “Clown Fulmination.”

“Boom!” With the force from the exploding corpse, Nick was thrown out the arena bounds. Mike's victory against Nick was justified but one thing did not sit right with me, where did Mike get so many human corpses to make an exploding clown corpse army? In the duel against Nick alone Mike must have used about 73 corpses out with 57 of them were human corpses. Mike's origin card raised alarm in my head not because it was a threat to be but because it was too heinous and evil. If he was my opponent I would have killed him, lucky him he was not.

“2nd round, Arena 27 Winner Mile Madison.”

[Card Name: Clown Coffin

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rating: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The Host can summon a Clown Coffin which can turn any living or corpses of a being into Undead Clown Corpses.

Additional Effect: Clown Car, Clown Fulmination

Note: The Corpse to be converted into Undead Clown Corpses should be sacrificed to the card by the Host. Monsters can also be Clowns and corpses at the same time.]

Clown Car- The Host can stuff as an indefinite number of Clown Corpses in the Clown Coffin.

Clown Fulmination- The Clown Corpses will explode with the Host's command.

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5100 soul jades from the Wang family plus 1500 soul jades from an anonymous person, in total I had made 6600 soul jades in round 2 of the tournament. I did not count money transferred to me by Kimble's Victims and Relatives because I was planning on returning their money to them with an extra of \$100million as compensation from the Wang family.

It was not my place or like me to do something unrelated to my life. I think in some way the messages they sent have gotten to me as they reminded me of young Wyatt. Though what they experienced are two different things in the end they all were victims to someone else's greed and lust. Anyway, it did not cost me much as I only had to sell 9 soul jades at the black market for \$300million per soul jade to compensate 27 people who claimed to be victims or someone close to one of the victims and had transferred money to my account begging me to kill Kimble Wang.

This may be the hypocrite in me talking but these 9 soul jades were well spent as I felt good. Including the compensation for the victims, in the end, I made 6591 soul jades in total. As for the Wang family, they did demand their soul jades back but to that, I said, "No Refunds" the Wang family did not dare to threaten me as that meant they were undermining the southern emperor and her authority.

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Very soon the results of 2nd round of the tournament were announced,

4points – 27 contestants

3points – 6 contestants

2points – 27 contestants

This meant that out of 30 card duels held in the second tournament 27 card duels had clear victories while 3 card duels ended in a draw. Later it was announced that 7 winners out of 27 round two winners had forfeited the tournament as their injuries were very critical and we're not in shape to continue participating in the tournament. So it was decided that for the 3rd round of the tournament 10 duels will be held simultaneously with 20 contestants. So the 30 arenas in the stadium were replaced with 10 huge arenas. These new arenas were 4 times the size of the arenas earlier.

And it was also decided that the 3rd round of the tournament will be held at 10:35 and this round the time limit on the card duels will be removed. Pretty soon the contestants of the 3rd round of the tournament received messages informing them of their allocated arena and opponent for the 3rd round.

[3rd Round, Arena 2 Dalton Wyatt vs Mike Madison]

[3rd Round, Arena 4 Corey Bright vs Ed Bright]

[3rd Round, Arena 5 Cortney Ress vs Pax Whiteburn]

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, 3rd Round Arena 2

"3rd Round, Arena 2 Dalton Wyatt vs Mike Madison "

"3.. 2.. 1, Start"

"Clown Flood" Mike did not waste time trash-talking like my previous two opponents, maybe because he knew his exploding corpse army was not a match for my stone elemental army.

"Stone Viltronian, I chose you. spiked stone dome." Summoning four Stone Viltronians and enclosing all five of us in a spiked stone dome to protect ourselves from exploding clown corpses, I addressed Mike asking the one question bugging me the most, "Where did you get so many human corpses?"

"..." Mike did not bother to answer, he just summoned more clown corpses and piled them on the spiked stone dome. It seems he is trying to gather as many corpses as possible to blow up the time dome and me inside it.

"These corpses are not from the graveyard, they are rot free and too fresh to be graveyard corpses. Not only that, all of them are in perfect condition, good looking and

well presented. If not for their corpse stench one would not notice that they are zombies” I narrated everything I had speculated from the appearance of the corpses.

“You have a keen eye. Yes, they are not graveyard corpses. I personally created all these corpses. I sewed their torn bodies and put make-up on their pale skin to make them look alive and presentable. I have a dampened sense of smell so I do not smell the stench you speak of.” Mike took my speculation as me praising his handcrafts.

” All these Corpses are young and healthy, no way they died of natural causes. Mike, where did you get them?” Hearing Mike, it became clear to me that he is a psychopath. Back on earth, a study suggested that a poor sense of smell may be a marker for psychopathic traits. But in Mike’s case, his cruel origin card was evidence enough that this faqer was not human.

“I did not get them, they came to me. When they come to me they all are so noisy and disobedient but once they enter my clown coffin they become honest and disciplined. See no they all do what I ask them to.” Saying that Mike summoned a female corpse from the Clown coffin. This female corpse was dressed in a red clown bikini. The female clown stood next to Mike while he started to grope her pun scrupulously as he yelled, “See this bitch! First, when I proposed to her to become my girlfriend she slapped me and called me a creep. But after entering my clown coffin she does everything I ask her to honestly.”

Getting the answer to my question I no longer engaged in conversation with this necrophiliac psychopath. I could have just killed him earlier but what can I do? I am a slave to my curiosity.

“Stone floor!” I commanded one of the stone elementals to create a stone floor for the dome such that I can execute my final move “Spiked Spinning Top” aiming at Mike Madison directly as with him gone all these corpses will be unsummoned. So there was no point in killing them. It took me 15 seconds to break through the piles of clown corpses. It would have taken me longer to pass through the corpse wall thanks to Mike who detonated all the corpses seeing the dome trying to move towards him. But unfortunately for him during the chaos of the explosion the spiked spinning top claimed his life as a bunch of C-rank explosions couldn’t even leave starch on the A-rank Stone dome.

“3rd Round, Arena 2, Winner Dalton Wyatt”

Chapter 253: Crying Flames

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, 3rd Round Arena 4

“3rd Round, Arena 4 Corey Bright vs Ed Bright”

“3.. 2.. 1, Fight!”

“Cousin, I won’t hold back. So you better go all out. Summon- Mud Golem. Activate Field Card Hazard Mud Swamp” Eb warned Corey, though he admired Corey’s fabulous victory against Tammy he believed that her swordsmanship was not enough to handle his Mud golem army.

“Good, I won’t either. As an appreciation to your strength, I will use one of my strongest moves, Summon 7th Hell – The Eternal Agony.” Corey did recognise that Eb was strong but unfortunately for him, she was stronger. Corey knew destroying Eb’s mud golems was not a solution to win his duel as he could create infinite of them as long as he has enough mud and soul energy. Therefore instead of depending on her swordsmanship Corey used her Origin card Titled Demon Core – Eternal Flames of Agony.

After summoning the mud swamp Ed was about to create mud golems but before he could do so his Hazard mud swamp field was incinerated by dark red flames. For the flames to incinerate the mud its temperature must be unbelievably high but Ed did not know of any dark red coloured flame hot enough to incinerate mud. Was it even possible? it is the opposite of the fire heat colour code that he was taught.

The dark red flame not only incinerated his mud swamp but also his summoned mud golem. Right now Ed was defencelessly surrounded by dark red flames, interestingly they did not harm him in any way. Ed glanced at the arena covered in the dark flame which would make a desperate crying and wailing sound every time it flickered with the passing wind. Ed’s gaze finally landed on Corey, the one who summoned this Erie field of dark flames. Ed was not a fool to think that the flames which can incinerate mud could not harm him, it was Corey thanks to her mercy the flames did not harm him in the slightest.

“Surrender, I do not want my cousin’s blood on my hands” advised Corey feeling Ed’s gaze landing on her.

‘Surrender’ Ed did not have his word in mind right now. His lord has asked him to step out arena triumphant, then that’s what he planned to do even if it meant he could lose his life.

“Tainted One” Corey could see the unyielding fire in Ed’s eyes as if he wanted to prove something or to someone, more like, he didn’t want to disappoint someone. Seeing that her cousin would not surrender even if it meant dying Corey sighed and summoned the sword Tainted one.

“Vale Lord’s mercy – Vale Slash” before Ed could even react Corey made use of another one of Corey Park’s swordsmanship, Vale Lord’s Sword Arts.

Crryyy!!.. as the Vale slash passed trout the dark red flames a high pitched cry sounded as the flames flickered.

Ed who was asking Hive AI permission to use the second transformation of calamity daughter core suddenly felt an accelerating wind carry him out of the arena bounds.

“3rd Round Arena 4 winner Corey Bright”

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, 3rd Round Arena 5

“3rd Round, Arena 5 Cortney Ress vs Pax Whiteburn”

“3.. 2.. 1, Fight!”

‘Go all out at the very start of the duel despite her looks that slut is incredibly strong.’ This is what Pax was advised by his sister Amy who lost to Cortney in the 2nd round of the tournament. Pax repeated his sister’s advice, “Transform Tire 3 – Iron Flesh.”

“Aren’t you that fire elemental chick’s little brother? Looks like both of you are destined to... Wow! That is awesome. It looks cooler from up close.” Cortney was about to taunt Pax but seeing him transport into a tall iron golem, Cortney could help but exclaim in surprise and marvel. Being a hoverbike enthusiast Cortney instantly fell in love with the giant Iron Golem in front of her. She wanted one for herself.

“Iron Flesh, Takeoff.” Using giant summon was restricted in the tournament after the first round but if the summon was a flight type summon then there were some exceptions. But they had to follow certain rules,

1. Flight type summons is required to land within the arena bounds. If they or any part of the summons lands out of the arena they are disqualified.
2. The maximum height that Flight type summons can fly is 100meters. Anything more than that then they will be disqualified.

“Freaking awesome!” Cortney yelled again watching Iron Flesh spread its wings and take off into the sky. Cortney had already seen Iron Flesh in action during the first round but seeing it up close her heartbeats raced at an alarming rate, this moment was similar to the first time she saw a hoverbike up close.

“Active weapon system”

[Weapon System Online]

[Left shoulder-mounted laser cannon – Active

Right shoulder-mounted Gatling machine gun – Active

Twin upper wrist-mounted laser cannons – Active

Twin under wrist hidden laser blades – Active

Hidden fusion chest Gatling cannon – Active]

“Active Insight Forecast- Target Corey Bright”

[Insight Forecast Online, Target Corey Bright Locked]

“Fire!” With Pax’s command, the Left shoulder-mounted laser cannon fired a thick beam of laser, the Right shoulder-mounted Gatling machine gun shoot about 150 rounds of energy shells per sec, Twin upper wrist-mounted laser cannons fired a widespread beam of lasers aiming at the entire arena and Hidden fusion chest Gatling cannon fired 150 energy shells. All these weapons fired at once, aiming at Corey. The accumulated area of effect of these weapons covered the entire arena no.5. Hence leaving Cortney with two choices either face the incoming assault head-on or dodge it by going out of the arena bounds.

Pax displayed the complete firepower of the Iron Flesh heeding the advice of his sister. Pax was also worried that he might even end up killing Cortney but then he soon realised it was up to Cortney. If she goes out arena bounds she lives if she stays then she must have enough confidence in her strength.

“Debt Possession – Shrimp Lord, Dark Tide” Cortney chose to face the barrage of Iron Flesh head-on. In the face of incoming energy shells and laser beams, Cortney stood firm and waved her arm towards them. A wave of dark energy poured out of Cortney’s arm and headed towards the incoming strike. Coming in contact with the strike, the darkwave did not disappear. Instead, it started to swallow the energy shells and beams. Swallowing energy ammunition the dark wave did not stop instead it fattened and turned into a dark tide and accelerated towards Iron Flesh.

Seeing the dark wave swallow all of his attacks Pax marvelled in surprise. In response to the incoming Dark Tide Pax activated the defence system, “Activate – Energy shield”

Soon the dark tide met with the energy of a shield and swallowed the energy shield and landed on Iron Flesh. Coming in contact with Iron flesh the dark tide exploded.

[Warning:...

[Caution:...

[Alert:...

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Many prompts sounded from Iron flesh in Pax's mind getting caught in the Dark tide's explosion but Pax did not even get the opportunity to read the prompt and fell unconscious under the impact of the explosion.

Under the wreck of the explosion, Iron Flesh was about to fall on the Arena no.8 but soon with Pax losing his conscience the Iron Flesh disappeared leaving unconscious Pax free falling on the arena no.8. Thankfully the referee of that arena reacted in time and stopped him from adding unnecessary turmoil to the duel in Arena no.8.

"3rd Round, Arena 5, winner Cortney Ress"

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Winning my duel against Mike Madison I returned to the VIP box and only to meet Cortney, Corey and Ed on the way. It seems I was not the only one who defeated my opponent with ease.

"You could have gone easy on Pax!" Corey yelled at Cortney knowing that Pax was sent to Medic bay. Though there were no visible injuries on Pax's body the medic was afraid that Pax might have sustained internal injuries leading to him losing consciousness.

"I wanted to but he was the one who started it I just defended." Cortney was not offended by Corey for yelling at her.

"You call that defending, your attack was of Card overlord level. With your strength, you could easily defend against card master level attacks." Corey furiously argued, she seemed to care about Pax as he was her friend Beth's half brother.

"Why should I?" Cortney was confused by Corey's flawed argument as everybody knew what they were signing up for when they signed the liability waiver.

"Don't you have any compassion?" Corey knew she was being that annoying bitch but she was in the deep end. So she argued for the sake of arguing.

"Compassion? Where was it when the four-year-old me along with other orphans were starving in the orphanage because one of the orphanage staff embezzled all the orphanage's funds and Donations? Where was it when the newborn in the orphanage

died of the common cold as we did not even have enough money to provide them with the basic medicine? Compassion, don't you dare throw that word on my face."

Chapter 254: Courting

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:47

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP section Lobby

"If you are expecting me to show compassion you better hope I am not your opponent in the semi-final because I do not know how to show compassion." After narrating her dark childhood Cortney made it clear she did not think anybody is worthy of her compassion.

"I hope we meet in the semi-finals since the world has not shown you compassion. Not only will I show you compassion but teach you how to show others compassion." Cortney's orphanage story did not phase Corey instead angered her. Corey Park was sold to and raised by demons yet she turned out okay and even after spending a century in the dark realm she still managed to keep her humanity till the end. Blaming your past and the society for your present and cruelty, only cowards did that.

Seeing Corey and Cortney argue in front of me I was perplexed not knowing what to do? Do I intervene or Do I pick a side and bully the other side or Just walk away? My relationship with both Corey and Cortney was not that good but enough to not ignore their existence. I looked at Ed asking him what to do, without hesitation, he stood on Corey's side. Due to my relationship with both of them, I did not have the luxury to just walk away or to side with one of them. Leaving me with the only choice is to step in and mediate their differences like a good friend.

But I was not their good friend if I think carefully both of them want to kill me for one or the other reason. Cortney wants to kill me because she was ordered by her mother and the Circle to do so. Corey recently has exhibited unprecedented hate towards me for some unknown reason. As for me being an adult reincarnated into a child's body, I find their behaviour cute. Do not get me wrong, if they try to harm me they have a lot of pain coming their way but spending time with each of them and trying to understand them I have grown a fondness for them making me not like the idea of either of us getting hurt or ending up dead. So I decided to do what real boys, friends with a couple of beautiful girls would do, watch how it ends. 'Girls Fight, Let's get it on.

Unfortunately, another annoying female voice just when I was about to get some popcorn and watch Cortney and Corey get it on. "Father, you are going the wrong way. The Medic bay is the other way, that way is the exit." It was Beth, it seems that Jack Whiteburn and his three daughters Eliza, Amy and Beth we're headed to the medic bay to check on Pax's condition.

“Eliza, you are in charge now, attend the tournament in my stead. I will be heading home early as some rats have infiltrated our house. It seems that the city has forgotten why the Whiteburn manor is referred to as the Wild, I go and remind them.” Receiving a distress call from the manor Jack headed home leaving his eldest daughter Eliza in charge of the tournament affairs and keeping the public appearance on his behalf. Amy and Pax, we’re not the only ones that participated in the tournament under the Whiteburn family banner, there were others too and now Eliza was in charge of them. After the final duel for 1st Rank in the young heroes list other duels would be held depending upon the points to compete for the young heroes ranking.

Hearing their father Beth, Amy and Eliza’s face became serious, it seems somebody in the city still dared to act against their family and were courageous enough to directly attack the Whiteburn manor.

“I will not disappoint you father.” Eliza respectfully took the role assigned by her father.

“And make sure no expense is spared in case Pax’s recovery requires them.” Jake’s these sentences and their order made his priority clear. For him first came his family than children, a typical honourable family Lord.

“Yes, Father. I will make sure all the needs of the family participants and Pax are met.” The young heroes list is a big deal for the big families and clans of Sky blossom city. It was a way of showing others their clan or family’s strength and prospects. And the Whiteburn family Juniors were not doing that great this year. As even a single family member was able to make it into the semifinals of the tournament. Being the top family of Sky blossom city their results were quite embarrassing.

“If even a single of them falls under top 25 of the Young heroes ranking this year. Send directly to the families outpost at the Katherine Field dungeon, including Pax and Amy.” As expected this year’s results displayed by his family juniors disappointed Jack, what was more disappointing is that two of his children participated and even then Whiteburn family could not make it to the top three of the young heroes list. On the other hand, even the Bright family’s spoiled Princess made it to the semifinals. In some ways, Jack was happy that he received the distress call from the manor, saving him the shame and embarrassment of seeing the smug face of old geezer William.

“Yes, father. If even one of the family juniors falls below the top 25 rankings of the Young Heroes List, I will accompany them to train them at the Katherine Field Dungeon.” Eliza assured her father as he summoned his gold grimoire and vanished with the wind.

The Whiteburn family’s loud discussion brought an awkward pause to Corey and Courtney’s argument. Before Jack left he shot a gaze at Cortney, the person who sent his only son to a medic. Because of Jack’s gaze, Cortney’s face paled before she snorted at Corey and left towards the VIP box area. Courtney, who is suspected of displaying Card Overlord prowess during the tournament for some reason, was

frightened by a Peak Card Lord's mere gaze. As expected of the patriarch of the city's first Frank family.

I knew having Card Lord power was not enough to challenge Jack, William or any other patriarch of the top-ranking families. If the top families hold this much power then the power of the circle rule over the city can only be imagined. The cards and ingredients these families and the circle have accumulated over the decades is not something I can reckon with. This is why I wanted to accumulate as many Named Calamity daughter cores as possible before declaring war on the circle. So what if a peak Card King is backing the circle. I have a family of Card demigods backing me. I am just waiting to gather enough power to uproot the circle completely as Anna and her family have made clear that they will not help me or be part of my mundane revenge story.

"Wyatt, Congrats on making it to the Semifinals." Beth congratulated me shyly with red cheeks.

"Yeah, thanks." I felt awkward as this was not the Beth I knew. The Beth I knew was rude and said the first thing that came to her mind without caring for the other person's feelings.

"Really Beth! Our brother is lying unconscious in the emergency medic ward and you are busy snagging a man for yourself. Have you no shame." Amy yelled at Beth who was busy acting cute and shy in front of me. Hearing Amy both Corey and Courtney's ears twitched in interest.

"What do you mean I was just congratulating him on his win." Getting caught red-handed by her twin Beth hurriedly explained with a mortified red face. Hearing the twins' argument I scratched the back of my head.

"You, climb down from your cloud nine. She only wants to court you because you are a talented card creationist with good strength and an orphan with no background. Which makes you an easy to control househusband and will also help her get rid of the elders who want to marry her off for family relations. Come to think this is a very smart plan on Beth's part." Seeing me laugh foolishly as I scratched the back of my head Amy explained the elaborate plan behind her twin's change. Finally understanding the reason behind the weird Beth shaking my head I followed The Whiteburn siblings and Corey to the emergency Medic ward to check on Pax.

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Results of 3rd round,

6Points – 5 contestants

5Points – 10 contestants

4Points – 13contestants

3Points – 5 contestants

2Points – 27 contestants

1Points – 300contestants

0Points – 60 contestants

[Dalton Wyatt 6 points]

[Corey Bright 6 points]

[Cortney Ress 6 points]

[Lucy Robert 6 points]

[Raymond Sanchez 6 points]

[Contest Raymond Sanchez forfeiting 4th round/semi-finals of the tournament due to injuries.]

[Semi-finals, Cortney Ress Vs Lucy Robert]

[Semi-finals, Dalton Wyatt vs Corey Bright]

During the 3rd round of the tournament out of 10 card duels, 5 ended with clear victories and 5 ended in a draw, while one of the Winners of 3rd round Raymond Sanchez had to forfeit 4th round.

Chapter 255: Disguise

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 8:15

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Medic Ward

“Here stuff the corpse in this, and use the disguise cards to disguise one of the medic staff. I will disguise as the head medic” Said the head Cleric dressed in white robes.

“Master, the number of female medic staff is larger in ratio. Do we have to disguise ourselves as a female medic?” A young crusader asked the head Cleric despite his young age the crusader was of card grandmaster realm.

splash A bright light flashed in the medic ward and blood splashed over the wall of the medic ward.

“Anybody else with silly doubts. If rescuing the lord requires you to become a eunuch you become a eunuch, let alone disguise as a woman. Add his body to the same pile of heretics’ bodies, a blasphemer like him does not deserve to join us in the holy mission to rescue and bring our lord back home.” Hearing the young crusader ask silly questions the head Cleric was enraged so much so that he beheaded the young crusader with a Holy light blade.

The rest of the Crusaders and Cleric were not alarmed by the head Cleric’s decision to kill the young crusader for something so meaningless. Instead, they seemed to agree with the head Cleric and acted as if it were normal. Their faith in their lord and his servant the head cleric seemed to have reached blind faith level.

“Head Cleric, I do trust those guys from the Circle. And do not think that they will hold up their end of the bargain.” The Senior Crusader addressed the head Cleric with his doubts.

“You are right. Even I do not trust them, I do trust their greed for what we have promised them in return for their help in our mission. So do not worry as long as we pay them enough these heretics will do anything we ask or even slay their siblings.” Unlike the senior crusader who was having a hard time trusting their outside help, the Head Cleric did not seem to be bothered with things like trust as he believed that as long as they were greedy enough they would get the work done.

“Haha, you are correct, head Cleric... *Cough* Head Medic. These heretics do anything for money.” Hearing the head Cleric finally the senior crusader laughed in assurance.

“Head Medic everything is set, the tournament will commence in 3 minutes.” One of the Cleric’s disguised as a junior medic reported to the head Cleric.

“Good. Everyone heal the injured contestants as soon as possible and send them packing do not crowd the medic ward. I want this mission to be as quiet as possible. Nobody should realise what happened at least until we teleport Lord to the empire. Remember no mistakes will be tolerated, no only will you lose your life but your whole family and anybody related to you and their families will be killed as punishment.” The Head Cleric warned the bunch of Clerics and Crusaders disguised as medic staff.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 9:08

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Stadium Field emergency Medic bay

Benjamin Johnson, a young and talented cleric healed as a genius by the empire for reaching the Card Grandmaster realm by the age of 25. Due to his talent, he was required as in the secret spy force of the empire. A few days ago Benjamin and 3 other of his friend's from the secret spy force were assigned their first spy mission.

This spy mission was big deal, it was one of those career-making career-ending type of mission. Being young Benjamin and his friends did not hesitate to go on the spy mission. But spending few days on the road to accomplish the mission Benjamin and his friends have come to know that spies are not as romantic as they are sound to make by the recruiters of the secret spy services.

On the road to the sky blossom city lost 2 of his friends to the mode swings of the head cleric who would not blink twice killing his comrades. Today Benjamin lost another of his friends for asking a valid yet meaningless question. They were supposed to disguise as the medic staff of the tournament but a problem raised as the ratio of females in the medic staff was greater than the ratio of females in his group. All the male senior Cleric's and Crusaders disguised themselves as the limited available male medic staff. Leaving the female medic staff despise benjamin and his friends.

How can their seniors expect a couple of hot-blooded males to disguise as females? they were religious fanatics who are citizens of an empire that was founded on one of the notions to ban homosexuality. Now that very same empire was asking them to disguise themselves as female magic staff when one of them raised his concerns he was beheaded mercilessly. Hopelessly Benjamin and his friends discussed as female medic staff.

If it was just disguising as a female medic then they could emulate this situation for their lord but since the tournament began, many contestants have visited the medic ward for treatment and hit on all of them disguised as female medics. Benjamin himself has been flirted with 43 times and groped 3 times. Benjamin and his friends finally knew the pain of their opposite sex. Feed up Benjamin transferred to field emergency medic duty from medical ward duty, where his nightmare began.

Medic! Medic!" A contestant seeking help called for the medical staff assigned to oversee the injured participants. Hearing the call of the contestant Benjamin headed to Arena 31.

"Arena 31, winner Nathan Buch" the referee of arena 31 announced the Winner while the loser cried out loud seeking medical help.

Upon reaching the arena Benjamin looked at the contestant who called for help but he was completely fine. puzzled Benjamin still performed the duty of medical staff and carried a completely fine fat contestant on the stretcher.

As Benjamin was checking the fat contestant's condition, the contestant asked him, "Miss when will I get my participation certificate? I can no longer continue to participate in the tournament due to my condition."

Unable to find the medical condition of the participant in front of him was seeking help for, Benjamin used his medic scan card which showed that Kindle Chou the fat contestant was completely fine but Benjamin did not think too much into it and answered Kindle Chou as taught by his seniors, "the participation certificate will be sent to your grimoire after the tournament ends and the young heroes ranking list is prepared."

After a while, to Benjamin's the fat participant Chou combed his oily hair with his bare sausage hands and putting on the most charming smile the chinless face of his could spread fatty looked at him and said, "Beauty I am ranked 420th on the Sky blossom young heroes list. Would you like to grab a coffee next week?"

"No, I just decided to cut back on my caffeine intake." hearing about 50 sloppy pick lines from morning Benjamin was no longer surprised or angry getting hit on by the fatty. Instead, he looked at Chou with scorn and rejected him as bluntly as possible but also not being too obvious. This type of reaction scared some dumbfuqs but it did not work against thick-skinned ones and the fatty seemed to be one of them.

"How about some English tea at Prestige Cafe?" Yep, a single rejection did not stop the fatty from hitting once again on Benjamin. Benjamin was frustrated with ugly pimple-faced teenage boys repeatedly hitting on him with the same filthy pickup lines. He wanted to kill, kill to lessen the frustration and the humiliation he was feeling right now. But he soon remembered the cruel warning of the head Cleric and the ruthless dead of his comrades as evidence. So Benjamin continued to maintain his calm and did not blow up his cover.

So what if he could not kill this fatty or anyone who flirted with, there are many other ways to hurt a person thinking of this Benjamin no longer cared about pretending to be cute and innocent female medic. Instead of killing the fatty, he decided to brutally butcher the fatty, with his words. With his face cramped out of anger he rejected Chou mercilessly, "How about the slaughterhouse you pig?"

Just as Benjamin was waiting for Chou's dumb reply so that he can continue to rip on him, he heard the most unexpected response from fatty Chou which he could have never predicted, "No thanks, your taste is too heavy for me."

Seeing the fatty's genuinely troubled and concerned face after fatty indirectly mocked him, Benjamin did not know how one will rebuttal to such a response, he was completely speechless. Angered and speechless Benjamin mimicked a female medic's action he had practised and stomped his foot on the ground like a female and left towards the emergency medic ward hurriedly.

Chapter 256: Steps to ...

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:50

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium

"Corey, I never knew you were so powerful and skilled with swords. Father was right, the Bright family is not to be underestimated" Surprisingly Eliza complimented Corey, it seems the change in Corey has gathered a lot of attention on her and the Bright family. If I did not know why Corey changed so much so soon I guess I would also be impressed. She is just a cheater like me. 'An origin card that allows one to remember past life memories.' This card would never cease to surprise me.

"Corey you liar, you told me that some with our status do not need to work hard but enjoy. But you were secretly working on your skills and card creation." Beth yelled at Corey, hearing Beth's statement Amy and Eliza glared at Corey.

"Did I. Sorry, I do not remember saying that." Feeling the glares of Eliza and Amy, Corey feigned ignorance, unable to meet the Whiteburn sisters' eyes. As she clearly remembers years ago visiting Whiteburn manor to play with Beth and saying the same words and quite a few other words to young naive and innocent Beth who was genuinely practising Whiteburn family martial arts. Come to think of it, old Corey influenced naive and ignorant Beth a lot into the current Beth.

"Tsk, No wonder Beth would rebel every time after you visited her. I would train... guide her to the correct path but soon she would derail, I had my doubts but Corey you bitch it was you all along, Give me back my toy... twin sister." Amy went berserk and yelled at Corey.

"If not for me intervening and helping Beth you would have turned her into your pet or worse a toy. Now at least she has her own free will and does not fear you." If Corey was guilty of influencing Beth badly then Amy was guilty of trying to micro-manage and control every little detail of Beth's life.

"Come to think of it, Corey is right. Amy, you always lied to me to get me to do things your way. You said that if I did not practice hard, our father would stop talking to me and... and if I do not eat vegetables the monsters under my bed and inside the closet will eat me. Even the part about making Wyatt my husband candidate, it was you. Your intention said that if someone like Wyatt was my husband, our father would be happy and the family elders would be off my back." Beth angrily yelled at her twin remembering all the things she did to her.

"You were the one who told her about the Bed and closet monsters, she slept in my room for three years. Wait, wasn't that around the time you fought with our father

demanding a separate room. It was suspicious that you suddenly stopped demanding a separate room, no wonder. How could you do that to your twin?" Eliza was finally enlightened, she thought her little sister Beth was a troubled child but it turns out she was the victim of Amy and Corey's shenanigans. Jack wanted his twin daughter to deepen their bond so he had them sleep in the same room until they were 13 years old.

"Come on, you liked it. You were the one who always complained that Beth does not talk with you so I sent her to you." Being caught Amy did not feel guilt or deny her crimes. She doesn't mind sharing a room with her twin but Beth talks a lot and a lot of it is just nonsense or repetitive content.

"Hump, I was going to wish for you to get into the top10 ranks in the tournament but now I will not." Beth snorted at her twin and then turned to me, with a charming smile said "Wyatt, I know you will win the tournament. With your stone elemental army, you can easily defeat Corey and what's her name. But I will still wish for you to win the tournament. "

"Aa... Thank you, Beth." I felt awkward seeing a 17-year-old trying to court me. The young me would fall for a real-life beautiful Princess like Beth but... what the heck am I thinking.

...

Hearing the conversation between me and Beth, Amy sneered as her plan worked flawlessly. Amy knew that Beth was dumb and things were left as they are now soon the elders of the family would once again start forcing their father into selling Beth in an arranged marriage for family relations. Their father was a good Patriarch first and a good father next. So the chances are that under the pressure of elders one day their father might sacrifice their sister Beth in an arranged marriage for the prosperity of the family and its members. Big families like Whiteburn and Bright's viewed their offerings as a commodity to invest in now and reap from later. Someone like Beth with zero achievements and contribution towards family was bound to be used as goods for the family benefit.

Therefore, Amy came up with a plan that is to marry her sister off with some she deemed worthy and trust her sister with and Wyatt fit the bill. He was talented and a genius among geniuses, and far more mature and intelligent than their peers. Most important of all, his character was trustworthy, he was not like other males who act gentlemanly and turn into dogs in front of beautiful women. Not to mention after the news that they received about Wyatt today morning, the family elders readily agreed to her idea of marrying Beth to Wyatt. This is the reason why the Whiteburn family did not participate in killing Wyatt to gain the southern emperor's favour like the rest of the families, bureaucrats of the sky blossom city.

Being tasked by the family elders to act as the matchmaker between Beth and Wyatt, Amy had prepared a stepwise plan.

Step 1: To seed Beth with the idea that Wyatt is the Ideal man for her. Being Beth's twin this step was the easiest one for Amy to achieve.

Step 2: To make 'dense' Wyatt see Beth as a woman, beautiful, charming and hormone stirring woman. If it was any other man Amy would have skipped this step as she knew no 'real' man would resist her twin's charm and the wealthy, powerful family behind her.

This part was tricky as someone as dense as Wyatt would not even realise that Beth is trying to court him. Therefore she intentionally exposed Beth's thoughts to Wyatt so that he realises what Beth wants from him and start seeing Beth as a woman rather than a friend.

Step 3: let nature take its course, knowing Beth once she likes something she will not stop until she gets it.

Seeing all her steps fall in place and work effectively Amy sneered thinking she won't have to use the other steps she prepared.

Chapter 257: Squeaking Pig

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:52

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, VIP box no.2

"Good job Cortney, next similarly execute Wyatt. And bring back the two false relics to the Circle. Let the fools know that the Circle does not do losing deals." Said a skinny old man dressed in grey robe as he greedily glanced over Cortney's voluptuous body.

"Old bones, keep your eyes where they should be otherwise I will fix them for you. And you do not need to tell me I know how to do my job." Courtney would have already killed this creepy old man if he was not her mother's immediate superior. Her mother did promise her strength and power but she forgot to mention the shackles that came with them.

"Feisty, Like mother like daughter, uhh. I tamed your mother, soon I will tame you too." Saying that the Old man stretched out his long and wide tongue and licked his lips in vulgar fashion.

As the old man harassed her daughter the clown mask just stood quietly by the door keeping guard. Cortney was already numb to disappointment from her mother's actions but she can not leave her mother as she will become alone again which she did not want as she was afraid of being alone.

“Master, the package has safely been delivered to the customer, they are preparing to leave. The customer said that the payment will be paid after they leave the city.” A staff courteously reported to the skinny old man.

“That is not what they promised, the deal was we deliver the Whiteburn boy and they give us false relics. Damn those fanatics What are they up to now?” The skinny old man was infuriated on hearing the report given by the staff.

“Master, they said they cannot trust heretics and will only give the relics once they safely leave the city.” Answered the staff.

“I remember they said they were going to teleport that boy out of her, what happened?” The skinny old man clearly remembered that the deal was once to exchange the Whiteburn family boy for false relics on the spot, as they would be teleporting out of the city.

“Master, the space surrounding the whole city is locked. Those fanatics cannot use teleportation in the city. At first, they almost went on a killing spree thinking that we double-crossed them. Now they have agreed to give the relics once they are safely out of the locked space.” The staff explained patiently as a single misunderstanding could have very serious adverse effects on the relationship between the Circle and the Church running the empire.

“Who dares to lock the space of the entire city?” The Old man furiously enquired having understood the reason for the delay in their plans.

“Master, my guess is it’s the Whiteburn family. They have declared martial order as fanatics also attacked the Whiteburn manor. So the Whiteburn family’s attention is focused elsewhere as the fanatics kidnapped their offspring.” The staff elaborated the plan of the fanatics from the empire.

“Why wasn’t I aware that they planned to attack the Whiteburn manor. Damn those fanatics, where do they think they are? This is not their empire, here in the sky blossom city everything happens with the permission of the Circle, don’t they know that?” The skinny old man yelled at his subordinates in frustration as he could not do the same to the Michael Angelo Godson church fanatics.

“Master, they said you asked them to do whatever they want during their stay in the Sky Blossom city and you will cover for them.” The Staff repeated the argument of the fanatics for their behaviour.

“It seems I did say that, but I did not mean they could fuqing raid the Whiteburn manor. Fuq! Move all the servants, clean up all the mess, make sure that nothing connects back to the circle. Clown, deal with the loose ends, it doesn’t matter even if they are small ranking members of the Circle. Damn! Dealing with these religious nuts always ends up biting me in the butt. What can I do? They have the type of woman I like the

most.” Finally, the old man displayed his true self which was the complete opposite of the arrogant self he showcased earlier. But soon remembering the nun that visited his room yesterday night the old man laughed lewdly.

“Yes, Master.” The Staff and the Clown bowed to the old man and hurried left to make arrangements. The Whiteburn family’s influence on the city may be less compared to the circle but it was not something to look down on, especially their influence on the black market. With enough time, the Whiteburn family was bound to connect dots to the circle and their involvement. The circle was doing now to only delay them at most.

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Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:52

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Stadium Medic Ward

“Is this the medic ward?”

“Fool, can’t you with the red plus symbol and the bold italic characters on the door, which reads Medic ward on the door.” Amy said, hearing Beth’s question.

” I was being rhetorical. Why do you always have to belittle me? Does it make you feel good? Does hurting my feelings and fighting with me make you happy? Why can’t we be like other normal twins?” Hearing Beth, Corey, Amy, Eliza and I were surprised. This was not like Beth. Previously at such insults from Amy or Pax, Beth would be like, ‘I will tell our father! I will tell my big sister! When did she become so courageous and smart

“You dumb twin of mine...” Amy was about to retort to Beth but was interrupted by someone whom she did not expect to.

“Hey, can you stop, we are here to visit Pax aren’t we let’s head in.” WTF did I just do, Corey, Amy and Eliza were looking at me with surprised expressions. That was to be expected as they mistook my annoyance as me stepping in to defend Beth. Was it just my annoyance or was I flattered being courted by a gorgeous and charming teenager. Seeing Beth look at me with big and charming anime eyes I started to doubt my intentions.

Embarrassed, I tried to push the door of the medic ward only to find out that it was locked from inside, “Why is this locked? Are you sure Pax was sent to the medic ward?”

“Step aside, let me try” hearing me Eliza was alarmed and she hurried tried to unlock the door but it did not. So she shouted, ” Anybody in there? Hello!”

*Bang**Bang*

Eliza knocked hard on the door but nobody answered. The door was reinforced so it did not budge despite the force applied to it, "Amy go contact the stadium management. Beth, call the family elders. I go check with the medic on the stadium field."

"Help! Big sister Eliza, help." A loud voice similar to a pig squeaking sound was heard from within the medic ward halting all of us in our steps.

"Shut up, you damned fatty" *BANG* Soon the medic ward door opened and all five of us were surrounded by a dozen fierce men dressed in women.

Chapter 258: Crystal Coffin

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, Stadium Medic Ward

"If you care for your friend's well being, do not make any noise and peacefully enter the medic ward. If we find anything suspicious we will kill all of you on the spot." One of the cross-dressing men surrounding us threatened us to not resist and follow them into the medic ward.

Not knowing Pax's current status we decide to listen to these crossdressing men. As of right now, the safety of Pax and other captives was the top priority. So, the girls and I quietly follow our apprehenders into the medic ward. Entering the medic ward we see a young man cross-dressed as a woman thrashing a fat figure lying on the floor, who despite being thrashed so brutally showed no sign of defence or struggle. Except he seemed to be yelling some profanity but thanks to the gag on his mouth only loud weird sounds sounded quite similar to the squeaking of a fat pig,

Onik... ONik... ONIK

"Shut up you fat pig, I should have killed you earlier." The young crossdresser vented his anger on the fat figure lying on the ground.

"That's enough Benjamin, he might actually. We do not want the Chou family as our enemies now do we?" A skinny old man ordered Benjamin to stop as he seemed to be worried about the family of the fatty who had been beaten to a red pulp almost resembling a sunbathed pink pig.

"Yes, Head Cleric." Benjamin stopped venting on the fatty and bowed to the head cleric showing his compliance.

"You guys are from the empire. How dare you conduct such an atrocity in our city. Do you think you can get away with this? No chances." Hearing Benjamin address the

skinny old man as Head Cleric Eliza deduced the background of our apprehenders, they belonged to the empire. Realising that the people holding us hostage were from the empire Eliza finally got a clear picture of what was happening here, after the kidnap incident during the life/death duel at Whiteburn manor Eliza would be stupid not to realise that people of the empire were here to kidnap her little brother Pax.

“Ding! Ding! You are correct, we are from the empire. And here’s your prize for interrupting head Cleric and speaking before you were asked to. *Bang*.” A middle-aged man dressed in senior medic uniform confirmed Eliza’s guess and punched her in the gut for speaking before she was asked to and interrupting the Head Cleric.

*Cough**cough**vomit**Cough* taking a hard fist to her gut by a peak Card Lord, unprepared Eliza coughed violently and vomited a mouthful of blood. Seeing Eliza’s condition, Amy and Beth cried out in panic as they supported their elder sister, ” Sister!”

“Okay, listen up you little shits. No one speaks or makes any sounds unless they are spoken to. The faster you understand your present situation the better. Otherwise... hehe” The middle-aged man warned the girls and me.

“Senior Crusader, what about that fatty he seems to have broken a few ribs and his right arm, from Benjamin’s thrashing.” One of the cross-dressing men reported to the middle-aged man about the noisy fatty who was squeaking in pain with a few broken ribs and an arm.

“Let him be. those squeaks are Pleasant to hear, it reminds me of my ranch back home.” The Senior Crusader nonchalantly ordered.

“Senior Crusader, how about we treat the fatty’s broken ribs except for his broken arm. That fatty does not deserve punishment, he deserves our thanks. Because of his shenanigans, we have a VIP and our benefactor among us.” As the Head Cleric said that he turned towards the girls and me. Glancing at us, his eyes shone brightly.

“Head Cleric, What do you mean?” Asked the senior Crusader following the head Clerics line of sight.

“I am Benson Barnard the 3rd and It is an honour to meet the hand of the god, Master Wyatt.” When the Head Cleric said VIP I thought he was talking about Corey and Eliza as they both were prime heirs of their families. Both Willam and Jake would be willing to pay any amount of ransom for their beloved daughters and granddaughter. It seems the Head Cleric did not seem to care about them. Instead, he addressed me.

“What?” I was puzzled by the words of the head Cleric.

“Our Lord, demigod Michael Angelo Godson used you as his hands to create an origin card in his image for lord Pax to guide us to his last and only descendent in this world. Making you the Benefactor and the VIP of our empire.” It seems me using demigod

Michael Angelo Godson's image for Iron Flesh's appearance is being misunderstood and misinterpreted by these religious nuts and they have started to treat me as the hands of the demigod they worship. If these people are reacting so much just because Iron Flesh looks like demigod Michael Angelo Godson what would happen if they knew about the demigod bestowal skill, Insight Forecast.

"Oh, that. I did not do much. Pax's fated ingredient was a demigod Michael Angelo Godson pendant." I answered humbly to buy as much time as possible because even after scanning the whole medic ward thrice with my soul pupils I still could not find any trace of Pax. Instead, I found that there are a dozen more strong card apprentices from the empire hidden in shadows aside from the card apprentices in the medical ward.

"How dare you address our Lord's name so casually from your filthy mouth." The Senior Crusader thundered hearing me casually call Pax by his name.

Slap**Crash**Thud

"Senior Crusader, know your place. Master Wyatt is the hand of our Lord and close friend of Lord Pax. he has the right to call Lord Pax's name dearly. You on the other hand be prepared to face the consequences of threatening the hand of our Lord. Now apologies to the God hand" In response to the Senior Crusaders threat to me, Benson slapped him so hard that he crashed into a wooden closet and fell to the floor in a daze. It seems that despite his skinny and old body frame the head Cleric is packing some serious power.

"Please accept my apologies God Hand, Master Wyatt." Hearing the Head Cleric, the Senior Crusader hurriedly got up from the floor as he cleaned the blood at the corner of his mouth with the white medic coat sleeves. Performing a deep bow to me, the Senior Crusader apologised.

'Fuq, these bastards are crazy and brutal.' No matter how cruel I am, I would never belittle my trusted subordinates in the presence of a company. Escaping from these people unharmed was not a challenge for me but that would put the life of the girls and that fatty Chou in danger. As for Pax, by the amount of respect shown by these people while addressing Pax's name I knew they did not dare to harm Pax, even if they were to lose their life. For me to create an escape plan, first I will have to locate Pax. Which I failed to do till now despite my Soul Pupils.

"It's okay, Senior Crusader. you were just being protective of your faith. Head Cleric If you do not mind let me ask you where Pax is? He seemed to be injured in his previous duel." I asked, trying to seem as genuine as possible and not attract the head Cleric's suspicion. Escaping here was not a concern for me but finding Pax's whereabouts was troubling me right now.

"Do not worry God Hand, Lord Pax is alright he is resting in the crystal coffin." Said the Head Cleric as he unveiled the white cloth covering the crystal coffin. I checked the

crystal coffin half a dozen times with my soul pupil. It was empty, even now with the naked eye it appeared empty.

It seems even the empire's card apprentice also realised that the Crystal coffin was empty as they stared dumbfoundedly at the empty Crystal coffin in shock. Soon a Senior Cleric recovered from the shock and yelled furiously, " We have been duped! Those damned heretics never planned on keeping their end of the bargain, no wonder the teleportation card did not work, did we walk into their trap."

Hearing the Senior Cleric's furious shout, other fanatics came to their senses and started to panic, unable to find their Lord Pax. The more they thought the more what Senior Cleric's words made sense. Even the head Cleric started to think that the Senior Cleric's argument seemed to answer all the issues they were facing. First the issue with teleportation now their lord is missing, the current situation was starting to seem more like a trap than a deal that went bad.

Seeing that the religious fanatics did not have their brother, the Whiteburn sister's rejoiced but soon panicked considering the question that loomed over their heads, 'if they do not have Pax, then where is Pax? '

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Chapter 259: Preparation

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 10:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, Sky Blossom Card Stadium, TSR Guild VIP balcony

The moment I and the girls were surrounded by the crossdressing card grand master's I sent a distress signal to Van and Fred via the Hive AI of the Calamity Soul Core. As some kind of disturbance was stopping me from using the grimoire call, chat and email functions by cutting off my grimoire's access to the grimoire network.

[Van, Fred hurry to the stadium medic ward some fishy is going on here. Hide in the shadows until I call for your help.]

[Yes, master we will be there.] It took 30 seconds for both Van and Fred to reach the stadium medic ward in stealth at their full speed without alerting the empire's card apprentice and those hiding in the shadow. Their presence gave me the confidence that I could easily escape these empire's card grandmasters and card lords unharmed as long as I wanted to.

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After contacting Van and Fred I contacted Ed Bright and Sarah who were in the VIP Box no.1 with Elliott. After informing them of the situation I asked them to get Elliott up to speed and ask him to call Anna and seek her assistance.

According to the rumours Anna the southern emperor was out to get me, so why was I trying to get help? Would she help me, who fooled her? Was I that naive to believe that Anna liked me and would help me? The answer here was not whether I was naive or Anna was a saint but a Soul Contract between me and Anna, which forced her to protect me.

Right now I was up against people from the Empire who did not fear or respect the southern emperor of her demigod family. So the Empire would not hesitate to kill unlike the Clans, Families and Bureaucrats of the sky blossom city who had to abide by the soul contract between me and the southern emperor if they wanted to survive in the southern region that is.

I trusted in calamity daughter core Van and Named calamity daughter core Fred's ability but the protection of a Card Emperor was way more assuring than the protection of two Calamity Card Lords.

Having heard the entire situation from Sarah and Bright brothers, Elliot hurriedly tried to contact Anna but,

[Contact out of coverage area, please try again later.]

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[Contact out of coverage area, please try again later.]

For some unknown reason, Elliott was unable to reach Anna. Panicked, Elliott decided to get some outside help but the Bright brothers and Sarah stopped him from doing so following my instruction. I stopped Elliott from getting outside help because I thought somebody from inside was helping the Empire's card apprentice for them to be able to so easily blend in and disguise as the stadium medic.

This was an elaborated and preplanned incident which the empire would not be able to pull off without help from somebody inside. This somebody should have considerable power and influence within Sky Blossom city to dare to collude with the Empire and do something like this, so my obvious suspects were the City Hall and the Circle. As both the Bright family and Whiteburn Family could not be the suspects because of obvious reasons.

Narrowing down the suspects to City Hall and the Circle I contacted my spy within the City Hall, one of the private guards of the City Lord, Ted Martinez. Yep, the same Ted

Martinez who tried to assassinate Ben Francis with help of Viper yesterday night at the cemetery. Instead of killing Ted, I added him to my collection. There was nothing impressive about him except his position in City hall as the trusted aid of City Lord.

[Ted, Did the City Hall help the mad dogs of the empire to infiltrate the Card Stadium as Medic personals?] I informed Ted about the Empire and their Card apprentice trying to kidnap Pax, to confirm whether the City Hall was the one that helped the Empire card apprentices.

[No, Master. To the best of my knowledge, the city hall would not dare to plan against the Whiteburn family but I will ask around.] Ted hurriedly answered but it turns out the City Hall was not behind this incident. Leaving the Circle as the only suspects. It had to be them because in the entire Sky Blossom City only they would dare to go against the Whiteburn family and collude with the religious fanatics like the Empire.

[No need. I think the Circle should be behind the incident. You stay put, I can handle this.] I stopped Ted from investigating further into this matter as that was unnecessary right now and it may draw suspicion to his cover.

[Yes, Master] Ted responded mentally as he stood behind the City Lord in the Vip Box No.3.

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Concluding that the Circle was involved I knew that Van and Fred will not be enough, I had to involve outside help as Anna was out of reach. And the best candidate for help would be the Bright family since the Whiteburn family is right now under Martial order and fighting the enemies invading their Manor. I believe the enemies invading the Whiteburn Manor should also be Empire card apprentices, and that did that as a distraction to draw Jack and other Whiteburn family elders away from the Card Stadium when they kidnapped Pax.

Deciding to call for outside help I asked the Bright brothers to contact their patriarch, William. As of right now, I could only trust the Whiteburn family and the Bright family that they were not involved with the empire and the circle. Since the White burn family was unavailable for known reasons the Bright family was the next best option to call for help as this matter involved their princess Corey and also the chances of them being the one helping the Empire's forces were low.

The Bright brothers contacted William as I asked them to, thankfully William was a sly old fox who knew how to work in the shadows. Hearing that his precious granddaughter was in trouble he did not go berserk or mobilise the entire Whiteburn family forces, instead, he gathered a few trusted Bright family elders and stood in the shadows along with Van and Fred awaiting my signal.

All the preparations were done, though it was unfortunate that I could not get hold of Anna still with the current preparation I was confident that I could rescue the girls and the fatty Chou. As for Pax, his whereabouts were still unknown despite how many times I scanned the entire medic ward and nearby rooms with my soul pupils. But it became clear that even the empire's card apprentice did not have him so I saw no point in delaying the inevitable.

"I choose you, Stone Viltronian."