

Card Apprentice Daily Log

#Chapter 2621: Gainover's Dilemma - Read Chapter 2621: Gainover's Dilemma

Chapter 2621: Gainover's Dilemma

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Mirror Maze Dimension

As Anna revealed the truth piece by piece, her glare at Gainover's incarnation burned with a fury fierce enough to dry the oceans.

"You say you never meant to hurt me or my mother. You keep insisting that you always had my best interests in mind. But we both know what you are thinking right now, how you can use me to get out of this situation and reclaim what you lost once my mother agreed to divorce you. You are nothing but a selfish bastard who cares only about himself and will say anything to save his own ass," Anna shouted through clenched teeth, even as she remained helplessly restrained by the replica Annas. "You know what's funny? I was expecting the man my mother once fell in love with to be exceptional, but so far you have been nothing but a huge disappointment. That settles it, then. I have better taste in men than my mother. I suppose this trip was not a total waste after all. I cannot wait to rub it in her face the next time we meet."

Even though she was captured and overpowered, Anna remained confident, as ever. Gainover believed that the source of her confidence was her young boyfriend, the Southern Hope. He would be lying if he claimed he was not afraid of the Southern Hope breaking into his dimension to rescue her. Even with Anna taken hostage, he was not foolish enough to underestimate a card apprentice who had slain nearly four dozen elite demigods trained under the masters. Especially now that he knew Anna was aware of the entire, unadulterated truth behind the incident involving him and the Southern Royal Family, she would never again fall for his slippery tongue.

Moreover, until he was far away from this godforsaken region, he did not dare to relax in the slightest. The last time he was in the Southern Region, he was lucky to leave with his life, and now he didn't dare to make the mistake he had avoided last time.

...

Listening to Anna, I could not help but lift my brows in surprise. The Southern Royal Family had done an excellent job concealing their internal turmoil. I supposed they believed their version of events was far preferable to the truth that a third party had infiltrated the royal family and nearly exploited it for their own ambition. The truth did not cast the royal family in a favorable light; it revealed an incompetence starkly at odds with the omniscient image held in the minds of their citizens.

I also could not believe that the Southern Princess I knew had once been hopelessly in love with this lady-boy. He was several centuries old, yet still lacked any manly features. I still do not understand the appeal some women feel toward men with such girlish bodies. I can imagine a few men taking an interest in them, mistaking them for tomboys until they notice their bulging Adam's apples.

Whatever the case, it was not as though I was in any position to judge the Southern Princess. Of all the problems before me, my priority was securing my three women, making sure they knew they were mine and there was no escaping me—

That sounded psychopath stalker-ish in my mind. Well, those three bring out the best and the worst in me.

...

"What are you waiting for? Finish it already," Anna shouted at Gainover's incarnation, demanding him to be done with it. But when she saw him bite his lip in hesitation, she sneered. "There is no point in waiting for Wyatt. He will not come. Before coming here, just in case, I made him agree that he would not come to my aid no matter what. Your only move now is to kill me, and then he will kill you."

"My dear daughter, it pains me to know how little you think of me, and it pains me even more to see you like this. Please understand, sweetie, Daddy does not want to do this. They left Daddy no choice. Daddy wants to resolve this without either of us getting hurt. So please, cooperate with Daddy," Gainover said, continuing his farce despite Anna having revealed the truth. It cost him nothing to maintain the act, and on the off chance that it worked, he would have hit the lottery.

Yet even as he spoke, his mind wandered, wondering what was taking the Southern Hope so long to come to Anna's rescue. He could not help but ponder whether Southern Hope would truly watch Anna die. He had been hoping the Southern Hope would break into his dimension to save her; only then could he begin negotiating his release from a position of dominance. But as more time passed, his confidence eroded, and panic slowly crept in, forcing him to second-guess himself.

Gainover truly did not want to summon the Southern Hope to initiate negotiations, but he knew time was on his side. His plan was to escape before more parties became

involved, particularly the Southern Royal Family, and especially the Southern Ruler. He was waiting for the chance to settle the score with him for meddling with both of his children.

Having waited long enough for Southern Hope and getting no response, Gainover ordered his incarnation and the replica Annas to bring Anna to the heart of his Mirror Maze dimension, where he lay hidden. This was to further secure his hostage, just in case the Southern Hope intended to take matters into his own hands and attempt a rescue.

Once the replica Annas dragged Anna to the center of the Mirror Maze, Gainover proceeded to call out the Southern Hope for negotiations, having concluded that the latter would not come seeking him, even under threat to Anna's life. Rather than pressing aggressively, he decided to begin softly. However, at that very moment, Anna, still helplessly restrained by the replica Annas, suddenly summoned forth a mysterious energy from her body and blasted all those restraining her into dust.

Chapter 2622: Battle

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Mirror Maze Dimension

"What the?" Gainover exclaimed, turning to see Anna not only break free from the replica Annas' restraint but also begin destroying them as though they were mere decorations. He immediately realized that Anna had been hiding her strength and faking it from the start.

After capturing Anna, he had considered such a possibility. That was why, when he ordered the replica Annas to bring her to him, they delivered her only to his incarnation, far from the center of the maze. It was a test, to see whether Anna was feigning weakness in order to get close enough to assassinate him. He had even gone so far as to insult her family to provoke her, knowing that if she were faking it, she would surely react to defend them as lacked the patience and endurance to pull this level of planning.

She passed all his tests, leading him to believe that she was not faking it and had truly been captured. After all, he knew Anna lacked the patience to endure or plan ahead; this was evident in how she continued to charge like a bull, blinded by rage, through an unknown dimension, even though she knew it was getting her nowhere.

Now that he thought back on it, Gainover realized she had been playing him from the moment she charged at his dimension door, despite the Southern Hope warning her

that it was a trap. She had pretended to be a short-fused, reckless girl solely to lower his guard. As he began to scrutinize Anna's actions up to this point, he realized something far more troubling: she seemed to know about his Mirror Maze dimension even before she entered it.

Rather than worrying about Anna, who was steadily and relentlessly reducing the size of his army of replica Annas, his thoughts fixated on a single question. How did Anna know about his Mirror Maze? Even the Davis family, who had given him the diamond grimoire belonging to an unparalleled descendant, possessed only limited knowledge of it. So how did Anna know?

However, recalling his conversation with Anna, he remembered how she had revealed that she knew the Davis family had offered him a diamond grimoire that once belonged to an unparalleled bloodline predecessor who died at the hands of a devil. From this, he realized that Anna did not know about his Mirror Maze dimension itself, but rather about the mirror-scape dimension of that unparalleled bloodline predecessor, whose diamond-grade grimoire he had used to upgrade his own.

At that moment, Gainover understood that Anna had been planning this for decades. She had been steadily gathering information about him and those associated with him. A sudden fear gripped his heart as he realized that, in hoping to sow a seed that would one day grow into a tree to shelter him, he had instead planted the seed of his own death.

I noticed that Anna was relying solely on her physical strength to contend with the hundreds of thousands of replica Annas. However, it was worth noting that her physical strength had been boosted to the extreme limits of her physique and bloodline by her extreme divinity, turning each punch and kick of hers into a decisive death blow.

Death Blow: It was believed that when cornered by death, a creature that manages to overcome the fear of death can mobilize its absolute peak strength into one final strike with maximum critical rate and critical strike as a single act of defiance against death itself before they were embraced by the ever forgiving death. This attack was known as the Death Blow.

Each of Anna's strikes was a Death Blow, further augmented to the extreme by her extreme divinity.

The physical strength of an unparalleled descendant was renowned across the five regions. With the Extreme path added to the mix, the force behind each of Anna's strikes had already surpassed the limits of the Chivalry class and was bordering on the semi-noble class. It was no wonder that Gainover's replica Annas stood no chance against her. They, too, could only rely on physical strength, as Anna never displayed her cards or runes. Although they replicated her raw power, they failed to replicate the other advantages granted by an unparalleled bloodline and extreme divinity. The

maximum critical strike and critical rate effects of extreme divinity were a perfect example of this disparity.

Gainover soon snapped out of his contemplation and immediately ordered his replicas to assist the replica Annas in subduing Anna. Unlike the replica Annas, who were limited to physical strength alone, the replica Gainovers employed his cards and runes. Unfortunately for them, they could not display their full power for fear of friendly fire, which gave Anna enough leeway to continue resisting.

From where I stood, it was clear that Anna would soon have to resort to using her cards and runes before these replicas fully grasped the battlefield and started coordinating with one another.

Yes, Anna was strong, but in the end she was still a single person facing an entire army.

Gainover did not participate in the fight directly, instead continuing to issue orders to his replicas from afar, carefully ensuring they did not kill one another through friendly fire and inadvertently aid the enemy.

What surprised me was that he hadn't tried to hide elsewhere within the Mirror Maze, deliberately avoiding the center, but instead had chosen to remain nearby. It made me wonder if there was a reason a coward like him was fighting through his pawns in open rather than staying concealed.

I checked the center of the Mirror Maze dimension for array formations or hidden traps, but found none. This only deepened my doubts about the source of his confidence. And then, the replicas attacking Anna in a haphazard manner began to slowly organize themselves into a proper battle formation, especially the replica Gainovers, putting immense pressure on Anna, who fighting them all alone.

[#Chapter 2623: Unparalleled Arena's Unparalleled Glory -](#)
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Chapter 2623: Unparalleled Arena's Unparalleled Glory

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Mirror Maze Dimension

Anna fought the replicas of herself and Gainover in the mirror maze dimension with ease. Even though there were more than a hundred thousand of them, she showed no

sign of being under pressure or being overwhelmed. She weaved through their ranks effortlessly without breaking a sweat.

From where I stood, it looked like watching a first-person fighting game, with her, the player, surrounded by an army of zombies, the Replica Annas, and zombie mages, the Replica Gainovers. She cut them down with single, decisive strikes, all while fluidly evading their attacks. Faced with her death blows, the replicas never stood a chance, their overwhelming numbers rendered meaningless by absolute strength.

That was until the replicas suddenly began to form a battle formation. The Replica Annas attempted to establish one but failed miserably, while the Replica Gainovers, in contrast, succeeded on their very first try.

At that sight, I unconsciously burst into laughter. It felt as though even the Mirror Maze dimension itself was mocking Anna's lack of tactical sense. I could not think of anything more insulting than that.

Once the Replica Gainovers had successfully established the millennium soldier battle formation, the Replica Annas finally caught a breather, as the pressure on Anna increased drastically. Soon after, the Replica Annas also managed to establish the millennium soldier battle formation. Together, the two millennium soldier battle formation formed the millennia soldier battle formation. Seeing this, Gainover's pensive expression unconsciously broke into a grin.

Feeling overwhelmed, Anna no longer hesitated. She summoned her grimoire and activated the most powerful field card in her arsenal, "Unparalleled Arena!"¹

Instantly, the Mirror Maze Dimension morphed into a vast amphitheatre, with the towering mirrors that formed the maze now occupying its central arena.

The walls of the amphitheatre were adorned with vibrant murals that recorded the unparalleled lores. In the audience seats stood gigantic full-body statues of the unparalleled bloodline's predecessors, those who had chosen to become one with the world's will, their statues serving as silent spectators.

Soon, the eyes of these statues began to glow with divine light as the unparalleled bloodline ancestors descended into their respective forms to witness their descendant's battle.

"How is this possible?" Gainover exclaimed in shock upon seeing Anna use her bloodline field card within his dimension. He was not the only one taken aback. I, too, was surprised, as far as I knew, a field card could not be used within a dimension as the terrain in here was dominated by its card apprentice. One would have to first break the dimension to play a field card.

It was only after I investigated using my primordial soul pupils I uncovered the reason. Gainover's Mirror Maze Dimension had been constructed using the unparalleled bloodline's mirror-scape dimension. As a result, the bloodline field card, Unparalleled Arena, was not restricted within it. After all, it was the ultimate field card of the unparalleled bloodline.

"Unparalleled Glory!" Anna activated one of the two abilities of the Unparalleled Arena, boosting all her prowess tenfold. Consequently, the power behind her death blows surged from borderline semi-noble class to peak semi-noble class, even brushing against borderline noble class strength. With a single attack, she was now erasing hundreds of replicas at once. It was not just her strength that had increased tenfold, but her agility as well, allowing her to easily break free from the entanglement of the millennia soldier array.

Seeing this development, I, who had previously believed Anna would soon be overwhelmed by Gainover's replica army, began to think otherwise. I was now starting to believe that, given enough time, Anna would reach Gainover himself, destroying his army of replicas along the way.

However, Gainover had tricks of his own. I noticed that the replicas slain by Anna were slowly reforming within their respective mirrors. Once their forms were fully restored, they rejoined the millennia soldier battle array at Gainover's command, turning the entire battle into an endless cycle. I began to wonder how the Mirror Maze Dimension was able to sustain such an enormous level of consumption. After all, considering the level of strength these replicas displayed, they were definitely not cheap to create or sustain.

Before I could even investigate further using my soul pupils, I overheard one of the wills residing within the statues. It identified itself as the card apprentice of the mirror-scape dimension that Gainover had used as the foundation for his Mirror Maze Dimension. It explained that the replicas would cease fighting and return to their respective mirrors if Anna stopped fighting.

By continuing to fight within the dimension and striking back, Anna was fulfilling the conditions required for the replicas to step out of the mirrors and reform after being destroyed. If she were to stop, the replicas would not only refrain from attacking her but would also be forced to return to their mirrors.

The Will further explained that while this Mirror Maze was different from its original mirror scape, it was built upon the same underlying principles. After all, Gainover himself did not truly comprehend it. His origin card had merely stolen it. Therefore, even he was surprised to find that Anna could use her bloodline field card 'Unparalleled Arena' in the mirror maze dimension. It also claimed that the mirror maze, though efficient, wasn't as versatile as his mirror scape.

Considering the developments so far, I knew that Anna was aware of the mirror-scape dimension. Yet she continued to fight back relentlessly, which meant she did not care about the conditions of the Mirror Maze Dimension and had chosen to force her way through it. After all, if she intended to kill Gainover within this place, there was no avoiding a direct confrontation with the replicas standing between them.

However, even with her newfound surge in power, it would be impossible for her to break through the infinitely resurrecting replicas and their battle array formation to reach Gainover.

"Booster Dice!"

- Check author's note for 'Unparalleled Arena' card info.

Chapter 2624: Booster Dice's Dodecat-Booster

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Mirror Maze Dimension, Unparalleled Arena

Gainover's emotions finally stabilized after the initial shock of Anna summoning Unparalleled Arena within his Mirror Maze Dimension. Seeing that his replica army was still able to keep her at bay, despite her sudden and explosive surge in overall strength, reassured him. He believed that, due to the nature of his dimension, Anna would eventually be exhausted, while his replica army would not, so long as she remained hostile and continued attacking him. Then, he would subdue and teach this ungrateful seed that he had planted in the Southern Royal family a lesson.

Just as he breathed a sigh of relief, he heard Anna activate another card aloud, her voice carrying a taunting challenge, as if daring him to stop her if he could.

"Booster Dice!!"¹

[Booster Dice are being rolled!]

[Dice one rolled a 6! Dice two rolled a 6!]

[Card apprentice's next attack will gain dodecat-booster.]

"Boom!"

Anna's next attack, amplified by her Booster Dice card, annihilated half of the replica army in a single strike. The impact shattered their millennia soldier battle formation and caused the Mirror Maze itself to collapse, forcing the Mirror Maze Dimension to fracture and vanish along with its remaining replicas. In the aftermath, only Anna and Gainover remained, standing within the Unparalleled Arena.

I had no clear measure of how much Anna's attack had been enhanced by the Booster Dice card, but from what I witnessed, its power bordered on peak noble class, perhaps even approaching semi-ruler class strength.

Gainover stared at Anna in shock, unable to comprehend how the tides of battle had turned so abruptly. One moment, he had been certain that the odds remained in his favor. The next, he had lost everything. The despair in his gaze spoke volumes as he asked, his voice heavy with disbelief, "If you possessed such strength, why didn't you use it from the beginning and end this sooner?"

"My mother used to say there is no fun in defeating an opponent who knows they are going to lose. Today, I finally understood the meaning behind those words. I don't know why, but it is far more satisfying this way, and even dangerously addictive," Anna replied. She activated a cleaning card, cleansing herself, then equipped a new armor card and changed into it. "Those few seconds of despair in your eyes just after you were assured that you win, when you held your sigh of relief as you realized your doom was inevitable, were worth it. But that is still not enough to make up for the grievances you caused me and my family simply by existing and breathing. Only in death can you compensate us."

"My dear daughter, do you truly believe that?" Gainover asked calmly, gathering his spiraling thoughts despite his dire situation. After witnessing the prowess Anna had displayed while fighting his army of replicas, he knew with certainty that he was no match for her. Fighting her would be foolish. He stood more chances talking and charming his way out of this one.

"No matter what I may have done, or what you believe I have done, it does not change the fact that I am still your father. Whether you accept it or not, that truth will remain unchanged. The blood flowing in your body is half mine. There is no way you, or your mother, or her family, can deny that. My dear daughter, I know you are capable of many things, but I do not believe killing your father is one of them," Gainover spoke self-righteously, feigning confidence in his own words as he began to preach Anna.

"Also, my dear daughter, no matter what you do now, you cannot change what lies in the past. I suggest you let go of it, let go of your anger, and allow me to walk away. I promise you, you will never hear from me, nor hear about me, ever again. It will be as if I were dead. My dear daughter, for you, I will live as a ghost. So, I beg you, my dearer Anna, it is time you let go of this anger and stop allowing it to dictate your life. Only by releasing it can you truly be free and begin to live on your own terms."

Anna waited patiently, watching Gainover with a gentle yet teasing smile, her gaze filled with undisguised mockery as it lingered on him. She let him speak, savoring the sight of his struggle for his miserable life as he pleaded and tried to persuade her. Then, unable to restrain herself any longer, she finally took a step forward, and then another...

Seeing this, Gainover's sense of urgency surged. He knew that nothing he said was having any effect on Anna. She was coming for him, intent on ending it all. Soon, overwhelmed by fear and panic, he began to babble, desperately trying to sway her and change her mind, yet he did not dare to fight back.

They say a person's true self is revealed in how they face death. And Gainover, even when confronted with it, still tried to con his way out through words. However, his pleas no longer held any logic, nor did they make any sense. It was clear that his mind had been overwhelmed by fear, his words and actions driven by nothing but raw instinct.

The grin on Anna's face widened into something eerie and sadistic as she watched Gainover lose his wits before her. Seeing him babble like a fool, pleading for his life, exhilarated her and filled her with an unprecedented sense of joy. She could not help but wonder who the fool was that claimed revenge brought no satisfaction and that only emptiness awaited those who pursued it.

Standing before Gainover, Anna took one final look at him before driving her hand through his chest, reaching for his divinity and heart. However, to her surprise, the moment her hand pierced through him, the despair on Gainover's face vanished, replaced by a sudden grin as he uttered, "My daughter, thank you for the gift."

- Check author's note for 'Booster Dice' card info.

Chapter 2625: Extreme Rolls

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Unparalleled Arena

"My daughter, thank you for the gift."

As Gainover uttered those words, Anna did not get the time to voice her astonishment as she immediately felt a mysterious yet powerful suction seize the arm she had driven through his chest to destroy his divinity. Her eyes widened as her gaze dropped to her embedded hand, only to find Gainover's flesh wrapping around it, drawing her deeper inside him.

Shock and revulsion surged through her, but she did not allow them to cloud or delay her response. Without hesitation, Anna resolved to sever her own arm and abandon it. However, before she could act, Gainover's body deformed, morphing into a massive blob of flesh-like dough that rapidly expanded, swallowing her whole.

"Booster Dice!!" Anna activated, straining with all her might to resist the crushing grasp of the flesh dough.

[Booster dice are being rolled!]

[Dice one rolled a 3! Dice two rolled a 2!]

[Extreme Divinity influences the Booster Dice.]

[Booster dice will keep rolling until both dice get the extreme rolls.

Note: Extreme rolls mean dice landing at the far high or low ends of the probability range, i.e. any result between one and six triggers a reroll.]

[Dice one rolled a 5! Dice two rolled a 4!]

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[Dice one rolled a 6! Dice two rolled a 6!]

[Card apprentice's next attack will gain dodecat-booster.]

Anna blasted the blob of flesh encasing her, bursting out from within like a piñata struck open, sending chunks of flesh scattering across the arena of the amphitheatre. She did not let her guard down and immediately activated a cleansing card, attempting to purge the flesh clinging to her body. However, at that moment, all the other fragments of flesh strewn across the arena dried up and died, while the flesh still attached to Anna suddenly began to replicate at a terrifying rate, slowly spreading over her body. Soon enough, her entire form would be engulfed if she failed to get rid of it.

The eyes of the statues belonging to the unparalleled bloodline predecessors in the amphitheatre's gallery began to glow, their wills straining to warn Anna of the grave danger she faced and the means to resolve it. Overwhelmed by a flood of soul whispers, Anna snapped in frustration, shouting at the statues, "I'm still not well versed in using soul whispers. So shut up and let me think."

Anna did not need the statues to warn her. She knew that Gainover was not dead. If he were, she would have been able to retrieve the unparalleled arena and leave. Since she was still within it, she knew he remained alive, and it most likely had something to do with the flesh that had taken root on her body and was slowly spreading throughout her form.

Anna immediately began activating various poison resistance and curse purification cards on herself, attempting to rid her body of the grotesque flesh from Gainover's remains that was spreading over her like a massive hairy mole, with some areas even growing teeth. The horror gnawing at her mind was evident in her eyes, yet she forced herself to remain calm and think of a solution, knowing she was neck-deep in trouble as the statues bombarded her with soul whispers.

Under the influence of the unparalleled glory of the unparalleled arena, the effects of the poison resistance and curse purification cards were amplified tenfold, yet they were still unable to help her rid herself of the flesh burrowing into and spreading across her body.

From outside, I saw Anna in her current state, and all the sexual tension between us vanished instantly. All that remained were my pure feelings for her. Without hesitation, I made use of my dual presence to mimic Agent Louis's teleportation, breaching the Unparalleled Arena's boundary and appearing beside Anna by using her spiritual channel, the one that connected her to the spiritual plane and allowed her to draw rule power from it.

"Wyatt!" Anna exclaimed when she saw me appear next to her. "What are you doing here? Didn't I ask you to stay out of—wait, how did you get in here?"

"Don't sweat the small details, I have my means. I hurried over to save your life, but seeing that you still have an attitude about it, I've changed my mind," I said, watching Anna continue to lash out at me even when her life was on the line.

"Great, but I never asked for your help to begin with," Anna retorted, unaware that her body, empowered by the tenfold amplification of the poison resistance and curse purification cards, was struggling violently against the curse of Gainover's flesh burrowing into and spreading across her form. As a result, the infected areas had become swollen and red, and as they rubbed against the tight armor she wore, blisters and lesions began to form across the afflicted flesh.

Following my gaze and overwhelmed by the uncontrollable itching spreading throughout her body, Anna finally noticed how alarmingly bloated and inflamed she had become. Seeing the grotesque and hideous state of her own body, she shouted at me in panic, "Don't look at me, I'm too ugly."

"I don't care about such things," I said, reaching for Anna as she retreated, putting distance between us, then turned away to hide her face. At that moment, concealing her

hideous form from me seemed to take precedence in her mind over ridding herself of Gainover's flesh infesting her body.

"Liar," Anna muttered, clearly not believing me. I stepped in behind her and wrapped my arms around her, whispering in her ear, "Believe what you will."

Her body trembled as I embraced her from behind, her eyes growing teary as my words reached her. Then, with disarming honesty, she said, "Please, Wyatt. I'd rather you not be here for what could be my final form. Keep your eyes averted and remember me as I was before."

Chapter 2626: Love Sickness? Not!

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Unparalleled Arena

"Aren't you giving up too soon?" I asked Anna, finally hearing her genuine feelings toward me for the first time since she returned from her recent seclusion. "Especially with me here."

"..." Anna did not respond. Her feelings toward me were clearly conflicted; she was both angry at me and cared deeply enough about our relationship to be angry even in the face of death.

"Just say the magic words, and I'll become your prince in shining armor," I assured her, using humor to ease the tension between us. "Or talk to your ancestors. They've already come up with numerous ways to deal with your situation. Honestly, though situation is dire, it's not very hard to get rid of it."

"I'd rather call on my prince than try to understand what those old fools are saying," Anna said bluntly, offending all of her ancestors with her rude words causing them to break into an uproar.

From what I could hear, they had plenty of opinions about her, with some even petitioning to disown her as an unparalleled descendant. They believed she was too foolish and stubborn, even by their standards. However, they also considered it a pity, given the purity of her bloodline.

They seemed to hold mixed feelings toward her. For a long time, they had been trying to contact her through soul whispers, yet she never truly learned to perceive them,

breaking their hopes and disappointing them each time she summoned the unparalleled arena.

Some strongly believed that Anna was a career troll, deliberately provoking them at every opportunity. Otherwise, they could not fathom why a descendant would have no eagerness to listen to or learn from her ancestors. Especially when they were eagerly taking the initiative to contact her and teach her.

Ultimately, they concluded that they missed Ann, Anna's triplet and their ideal daughter. They blamed Anna for keeping their ideal descendant away from them.

As for me, I believed these unparalleled bloodline ancestors were simply too bored in the afterlife, which drove them to behave so childishly.

"You've got to call the prince. Otherwise, he won't know where you are or that you're in trouble," I reminded Anna. Because of her stubborn refusal to seek my help, we were both locked in a game of chicken. Either she would give in and beg me to help her, or I would give in and help her, even though she never asked me to, putting aside my pride.

"If the prince is too dumb to find me or realize that I'm in trouble, how can he save me? I might as well not call him," Anna retorted, making it clear that she had no intention of asking for my help and would rather die in my embrace.

"Anna, why do you have to be so damn stubborn?" I barked in frustration, knowing I could no longer delay her treatment.

"Why?" Anna shot back. "How dare you ask me that? You failed to keep your word to me. You said you would wait for me and take me on a date. But when I returned, you were announcing your relationship with that hussy to the five regions. If not for not wanting to give my mother the satisfaction, I would have dragged your ass off and locked you in the deepest part of the prison beneath the royal palace."

"Regardless of what I did, aren't I here for you right now?" I asked in my defense. "Besides, you need to be alive for me to take you on a date."

"You have a way of making everything my fault," Anna said irritably, hating my silver-tongue that she once used to praise.

"Why does it have to be anyone's fault?" I replied. "Why can't we just move on from that?"

"You would like that, wouldn't you?" Anna remarked with a sneer.

"Yes, I would," I answered honestly. "Because I don't want to spend my time with you fighting. I think it's the same for you. And the only way for us to do that is to let the past stay in the past and move on, enjoying each other's company."

"It's hard to do that when you say that I alone am not enough for you, that you need two more, and Lord knows how many more in the future," Anna revealed her deepest desire. "I want you all to myself, as my prince consort."

"If you want me, then come and take me," I argued, not stressing that if she wanted me, she would've to learn to share with Susan and Jill. I welcomed her to challenge me if she wanted me all to herself. "Instead of suffering and making me suffer with you. Dying out of foolish stubbornness is not the solution to this."

"Fine," Anna finally nodded in agreement, then called out in a flat, deadpan voice, "My prince, come and save me."

"Fear not, for I am here, my beautiful princess," I muttered to Anna teasingly as I retracted my limitless celestial domain from outside and summoned my celestial blood fate domain within the unparalleled arena.

The moment I did so, every statue that had been speculating about my origin and debating whether I truly belonged to the card master realm erupted into chaos. They instantly fixated on my celestial blood rule domain, buzzing in agitation as they all tried to contact me at once. I pretended not to hear them. For a brief moment, they almost believed me, as only those of the unparalleled bloodline could hear them within this place. However, recalling my conversation with Anna, they realized that I could, in fact, hear them.

I instantly regretted ever telling Anna that she could listen to her ancestors to deal with Gainover's flesh infecting her body. The unparalleled bloodline ancestors began spamming me with their soul whispers, demanding to know how I was able to use a celestial rule domain without having formed my divinity.

Unlike the present card demigods, who had only ever heard of the celestial rule domain through myths, these unparalleled bloodline demigods understood the truth. Only celestials could wield a celestial rule domain, and if other beings wanted to wield it, they would have to do so by using a fragment of celestial will. And to use a fragment of celestial will, one had to possess divinity, as a mortal could not withstand the power of a celestial will fragment.

Chapter 2627: The Correct Use Of Anna's Origin Card

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Unparalleled Arena

"Wyatt, is everything alright?" Anna asked her young groom in concern within his celestial blood fate domain. She was no longer being bombarded by the soul whispers of her ancestors, yet she could sense that those whispers had now shifted toward her young groom. She didn't know if she should be relieved that her ancestors were not bothering her or be worried that they were now bothering her young groom.

Having set aside her pride and asked him for help, she resolved to trust her young groom until the very end. Honestly, she had no choice as she was trapped in the unparalleled arena and slowly dying. After all, once within the unparalleled arena, neither participant could leave unless a proper victory was declared.

Gainover was not dead. That was for certain, as his flesh stubbornly infested her body and was spreading across her body, fighting all her defense mechanisms as if it had a mind of its own. What worried her most was that she had no idea what Gainover was actually planning.

She had clearly not achieved the clear victory required to leave the unparalleled arena and seek her family's aid to deal with flesh slowly borrowing into and spreading across her body. She was trapped there with her ancestors' wills, who couldn't communicate with her in a way she could understand them.

Had her young groom not arrived, she would have been lost and helpless by now, forced to ruthlessly slice away the infected flesh from her own body in the hope of stopping its spread and eradicating it. In his presence, however, she could still hope for a miracle.

As this thought crossed her mind, Anna suddenly recalled their first meeting. Memories of her young groom began to surface one after another. She was startled by her own lapse, for after forging Anne, she had felt little toward these recollections. They had been little more than information she needed to retain, not precious memories she cherished. Yet now, her heart unexpectedly fluttered and raced as those moments replayed themselves.

She was flustered, overwhelmed by the feelings she thought she had lost. Unable to resist, she tilted her head slightly and stole a glance at her young groom from the corner of her eye, tracing his figure with her intent sense. Seeing him focused intently on curing her condition with a one-track mind, she was suddenly reminded of why she had fallen in love with him in the first place. More accurately, she realized she was falling in love with him all over again.

With emotions she believed she no longer possessed bubbling up in her heart, Anna's face flushed as her heartbeat grew louder and faster. Confusion overtook her, and she momentarily forgot her surroundings.

"How is this possible?" Anna asked herself in shock. It was then that she realized something crucial. By taking the extreme path, she had not severed her feelings by

pushing them to an extreme and giving them form. Instead, the form she had given them was merely the fruit borne by her branch of feelings. In other words, she had never truly lost her emotions. They had remained there all along, waiting to grow, bloom, and blossom.

Just as she began to lose herself in the torrent of emotions surging through her, her origin card suddenly reacted under the influence of her extreme divinity. Her excess feelings toward her young groom were being channeled into her origin card, more precisely into Anne. In the next instant, she felt her extreme divinity grow stronger.

At this realization, Anna's eyes widened in shock. It was then that she realized her origin card's ideal/ dumb/ crazy daughter was not the result of her unconsciously stepping onto the extreme path, but rather a gift from her bloodline and the card world, meant to aid her in traversing the extreme path that she had happened upon.

Nearly a century after the creation of her origin card, Anna finally understood the proper way to use it. She finally understood what her grandfather meant when he said that she was best suited for the Extreme path. She finally understood why, despite everyone's misgivings about her practicing the Extreme path, he had chosen her as his heir. She finally understood why her mother had forced her to practice the Extreme path, even when everyone believed that it was this very path that caused the estrangement between the mother and daughter.

It turned out that her mother and grandfather had long since uncovered the true purpose of her origin card while attempting to study it and create a perfect clone capable of wielding their own grimoire. Anna could not help but wonder why they had never shared this truth with her. Had she known earlier, what could she truly have done about it? Nothing.

After all, when it came to emotions, even the strongest of card apprentices were as helpless as mortals. Yes, they possessed greater discipline, but that did not mean they could control their emotions. If they believed otherwise, they were only deceiving themselves.

The Southern Ruler and the Southern Princess eventually realized that attempting to manipulate Anna's emotions and feelings would only backfire, as the extreme path was inherently unpredictable. What began as good intentions could easily result in the death of their princess, or worse, lose her completely to the extreme path. Therefore, they chose to let nature take its course, refraining from meddling in her affairs, especially where her origin card was concerned.

Now that most of her manic-level feelings toward her young groom had been transferred to Anne, Anna gradually calmed down. Still, enough remained for her to feel disgusted with herself for having wanted to shackle her young groom through their marriage. She was also deeply dissatisfied with how she had handled the situation when her young

groom informed her that she, Susan, and Jill were now his and they had no choice in the matter.

Chapter 2628: Cannibalism Rune Of Devour Rule's Gluttony Meaning, Phage Rule's Undying Meaning

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Unparalleled Arena

Anna's ancestors identified the ability Gainover used to infest her body as the cannibalism rune of devour rule's gluttony meaning.

According to them, those who forged the cannibalism rune could consume the flesh of their own race for nourishment and recovery. If enough flesh from the same individual was consumed, the consumer could gradually acquire the physique and bloodline carried within that person's flesh.

However, they also believed that Gainover was not relying on the cannibalism rune alone. He was using it in conjunction with the bloodline possession meaning of the blood rule and the undying meaning of the phage rule.

Honestly, I was surprised by how much Anna's ancestors had inferred purely from experience. My primordial soul pupils confirmed that their conclusions were spot on. To be more precise, Gainover was using the cannibalism rune, aided by the bloodline possession meaning and the undying meaning, to treat Anna's body as an ingredient to upgrade his body.

The cannibalism rune allowed Gainover to devour Anna's body and divinity, enabling him to obtain her physique, bloodline, and divinity.

The bloodline possession meaning allowed Gainover's flesh to take deep root within Anna's body.

The undying meaning allowed him to continue living as long as even a fragment of him remained.

That was how he survived Anna's final death blow, which had been boosted by unparalleled glory and booster dice. The surviving fragment would infest organic or inorganic matter in its surroundings, slowly nourishing itself as it rapidly replicated, spreading and gathering energy until there was enough to reform Gainover's body once

more. However, the new body will have varying degrees of mutations based on the source of energy used to recreate the new body.

Gainover had figured out a way to use these three powers in tandem with his origin card 'Predatory Upgrade.' They complemented one another, all in service of his goal: using his daughter as a stepping stone to ascend to a higher level. If he were successful, I believed that he would achieve more than he had hoped for as the synergy between his cannibalism rune, bloodline possession meaning, undying meaning, and predatory upgrade was very high.

Neither Anna's ancestors nor I were surprised by Gainover's plans. He was not the first father we had encountered who planned such a thing. There was Demigod Redfall and Devil Muth Diya; both had been willing to devour their own children to advance further in their pursuit of transcendence.

In truth, I was somewhat impressed by Gainover's patience and planning. Everything I knew about him and his relationship with the Southern Princess suggested that he had been coveting the unparalleled bloodline of the Southern royal family from the very beginning. Perhaps Anna's birth, and even her hatred toward him, had all been part of his design. That made him a scary enemy to show mercy to. What were the Southern Royal family thinking letting him live?

Seeing that Anna did not have much time left, her ancestors, who had been frantically questioning me about how I was able to wield a celestial rule domain, began outlining the various methods they had conceived for Anna to get rid of Gainover, who was using the bloodline possession meaning to root his flesh deep within her body.

Some of the more cunning among them used the urgency of the situation to probe me, pressing me to reveal all my means so they could tailor the most efficient method for me to help Anna. I did not understand what made them believe I would fall for that. Perhaps hearing my conversation with Anna, they thought I would be willing to sell my soul for her sake and decided to test the waters to satisfy their curiosity.

Before long, however, all of Anna's ancestors that were present in the unparalleled arena grew confused. They saw that I was not only ignoring their soul whispers, rejecting their help, but also doing nothing to alleviate Anna's condition. Gainover's flesh had already spread to more than ninety-five percent of Anna's body, yet I had taken no action. Soon, some of them lost their patience and began to question my motives, even wondering whether I was conspiring with Gainover.

What they did not know was that I had a different plan altogether. I did not merely intend to help Anna get rid of Gainover's flesh infesting and devouring her body. I intended for her body to devour Gainover in return, and in the process, take all of his prowess as her own. I.e. I was helping Anna use Gainover as an ingredient to ascend.

I didn't bother to seek Anna's opinion as there wasn't enough time for me to present all the facts to Anna and persuade her to go with my plan instead of any one of the numerous plans her ancestors came up with. Also, because I knew what her answer was going to be. She wanted to do nothing with Gainover, she hated the fact that the half of the blood coursing through her body was his. If possible, she would have removed it. Knowing all this, her answer was obvious.

Not to mention, Anna trusted me to do what's best in the circumstances. So, in a way, it was up to me, and I didn't have to seek Anna's opinion.

Just as I grew slightly complacent, thinking everything was proceeding according to plan and that no enemy was in sight, I suddenly felt an immense pressure descend upon me. Anna and I reacted at once, only to realize that the pressure originated from one of the statues erected in the gallery.

To our shock, one of the statues in the front moved. It leaped down from the gallery into the arena and charged toward us, its gaze locked onto me as its will roared, demanding to know why I was doing nothing to address Anna's condition.

'Fuck, I have had it with Anna's meddling ancestors.'

Chapter 2629: Reversal

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Unparalleled Arena

"How is that statue moving, and why is it hostile toward you?" Anna exclaimed in astonishment. She had never known that the statues of her ancestors could move within the unparalleled arena. Had she known, she would have asked them to fight her battles back when she was still a mortal. That way, she could have slain demigods while she was only a card master, just like her young groom could.

The statue rushing toward us slowed as it drew near, noticing that Gainover's flesh infestation, which had spread across 99.99 percent of Anna's body, had suddenly halted, unable to complete the final 0.01 percent of its expansion. Anna's other symptoms also appeared to have stabilized, neither worsening nor improving.

The statue immediately realized it had acted impulsively, understanding that I was most likely treating Anna's condition in a manner unknown to them. Otherwise, Anna would have been devoured by Gainover by now.

"I think the statue is hostile toward you because you entered the unparalleled arena illegally and are intruding in the battle," Anna speculated based on her observations, before instantly cursing at the statue. "Damn you old fools. Are your rules more important than my life?"

Being misunderstood by its descendant, the statue turned its gaze toward me and used soul whispers to explain that Anna's speculation was only half correct. It was able to move because of my intrusion into her battle, but it was not hostile toward me for breaking the rules. Rather, it had misunderstood the situation, believing that I was in cahoots with Gainover, since I was not lifting a finger to help Anna despite them informing me of how to cure her. It wanted me to convey this to Anna on its behalf and also urge her to master soul whisper as soon as possible.

Ignoring its request, I commented to Anna, "It looks like all your ancestors are a bunch of stuck-up snobs."

The statue's eyes flashed in shock, a sense of betrayal washing over it. It knew I was doing it on purpose, but it could not prove it unless it planned to force me into admitting that I could hear and understand their soul whispers.

Helpless, it turned around and left, having noticed that the symptoms of Anna's condition were finally showing signs of improvement. This meant that whatever method was being used to help her was working, though how effective the cure would be, only time would tell.

"You said it best," Anna said with indignation, eyeing the back of the retreating statue. That was when I noticed the change in her. She had cursed her ancestors and called them old fools. Only the Anna I knew and had fallen in love with would use such rude speech toward her ancestors without a care in the world.

I wanted to hug her, but she did not let me come near. Right now, she looked like a hideous abomination, with hair and teeth protruding from her skin. She had long since abandoned my embrace and was hiding her entire body behind a thin veil keeping her distance from me.

"Wyatt, I feel this sinister yet harmless energy entering my body. What should I do?" Anna asked. The drained, exhausted sensation she had felt ever since Gainover's flesh latched onto her body had vanished. In its place, a sinister energy began to fill her instead.

"Don't resist it. Just trust the process and hand over your body to it," I ordered Anna, not going into detail about what was happening to her body at that moment, as I knew we would not see eye to eye on this matter. Moreover, some might find it disgusting and revolting, whereas I considered it no different from a child resorbing its twin in the mother's womb. Only here, it was a father and daughter duo. If you asked me, it was pure, unbridled nature at work. There was nothing disgusting about it.

By now, having noticed the changes in Anna's body, her ancestors' wills had deduced the route I had taken to cure her, though they were still at a loss as to how I was accomplishing it. They realized that I was helping Anna's body devour Gainover's, the exact opposite of what Gainover had intended.

Once again, I was immediately bombarded by Anna's ancestors' soul whispers. Their reactions were mixed. Some called me a heathen, others a dark genius. Some were satisfied with the end I had chosen for Gainover, feeling it was only fitting that the bastard who tried to eat his own daughter to further his pursuit of transcendence would instead become nourished in his daughter's pursuit of love and freedom. Yet all of them agreed on one thing: they were grateful that I had protected the Unparalleled bloodline.

Because once Gainover obtained the unparalleled bloodline by devouring Anna, he would not have been content with just that. He would have used the same method to hunt down others with the unparalleled bloodline, devouring them to further increase his bloodline prowess until none were left.

In doing so, the unparalleled bloodline, long regarded as the strongest bloodline across all five regions, would have been reduced to prey within its own territory. To them, nothing could have been more shameful than that.

Anna's ancestors' recognition and complaints meant nothing to me. I was not doing this for them, but for myself, to save my lover. Some of the things those assholes said about what I was doing to Anna were deeply offensive, not just to me, but to Anna as well. If not for my desire to keep them unaware that I could hear their soul whispers, I would have argued with them long ago. As it stood, I could only overlook their words, considering they were fossils bound by eroded norms.

"Wyatt, I'm feeling bloated. There's too much energy," Anna suddenly blurted out in panic, fearing she might explode from ingesting so much energy.

"Just share the excess with Anne and Ann through your origin card," I advised, knowing that Anna lacked the devour rule's gluttony aspect that Gainover had used to forge the Cannibalism rune. However, there were three of her, and all of them practiced extreme paths. Overeating would not be a problem for them.

Chapter 2630: Child Support

Date: Unspecified

Time: Unspecified

Location: Myriad Realms, Card World, Southern Region, Southern Capital, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse No. 234, Limitless Celestial Domain, Gainover Manor, Unparalleled Arena

"Wyatt, what is happening to me?" Anna asked as she noticed that Gainover's flesh, which had infested and spread across her entire body, was slowly being absorbed into her. At the same time, eerie soul energy flooded her and her triplets to the brim, making them feel unbearably bloated. If not for their extreme divinity reacting in time, they might have actually exploded from the sheer excess of energy. Because of this, she was forced to temporarily lift her punishment on Ann and have her use the energy being ingested into them to forge her extreme divinity and ascend to the card demigod realm, just like the other two.

"You are harvesting the fruits of Gainover's labours. Don't ask, just focus," I answered, not daring to tell Anna the full truth. I knew it would be too jarring for anyone to handle, let alone her. After all, that man was her father. She had planned to kill him, not consume him.

Anna squinted at me but continued to trust me. Soon, all of Gainover's flesh infecting her was absorbed by her body. She was brimming with energy, and so was her extreme divinity. The same held true for her triplets. They all felt invigorated, unable to have been in better condition.

Just then, Anna's diamond grimoire materialized, hovering before her. It began to emit a brilliant light before opening to reveal her updated status page. There, in the second origin card slot that should have been empty, was now 'Predatory Upgrade.'

Anna was shocked to see Gainover's origin card equipped in her grimoire. Before she could react, the unparalleled arena spat us out, returning to its card in her grimoire.

Upon arriving back at the main hall in Gainover's manor, Anna noticed alien runes floating in her extreme divinity. She did not remember forging or ingesting them, yet to her dismay, they responded to her will and showed no signs of rule contamination. Moreover, her divinity felt far sturdier than before. Under normal circumstances, it would have taken nearly a century to refine her divinity to this level.

Seeing these changes, Anna almost guessed what had happened. She rushed to the side and began vomiting violently, retching as though she might spill her insides. Even without her saying a word, I knew she was sick to her stomach by what I did to her.

Gainover was using his Cannibalism rune, undying meaning, and bloodline possession meaning in tandem with the origin card 'Predatory Upgrade.' They complemented one another perfectly, their synergy was so precise that they formed a dangerous combo. However, due to the restrictions of each of these prowess, there were no beings in the entire myriad realm on whom he could use this combination except his daughter, Anna Heatsend, and his granddaughter, Ada Davis.

The Cannibalism rune restricted his target to humans, while the bloodline possession meaning further limited him to human targets who carried his bloodline. Across the entire myriad realms, only Anna and Ada met these conditions. Ada was not only

missing, but her physique and prowess held no appeal for Gainover, who coveted the strongest bloodline in the five regions, the Unparalleled bloodline.

Using my soul pupils, it wasn't difficult to discern how Gainover was combining his Cannibalism rune, undying meaning, bloodline possession meaning, and the 'Predatory Upgrade' origin card to form a deadly combo. Once I grasped the underlying principle of his combo, a glaring loophole became apparent. It wasn't that Gainover had been careless; rather, the flaw I noticed could only be exploited by someone who comprehended the blood fate plunder meaning of the blood rule or similar rule meanings.

Therefore, I retrieved my limitless celestial array and deployed the celestial blood fate domain within the unparalleled arena, fully aware that doing so would cause Gainover's manor to manifest in real space, destroying Warehouse No. 234, which the city authorities had planned to preserve as a historic building.

The glaring loophole lay in the bloodline possession meaning of the blood rule. One had to understand that bloodline possession did not apply solely to possessing one's descendants, but also to one's predecessors. As long as the target carried the same bloodline and had not comprehended the bloodline possession meaning of the blood rule, it functioned in both directions. If both parties had comprehended the bloodline possession meaning, then the one with the stronger will and deeper comprehension would emerge victorious and claim all the spoils.

Anna had not comprehended the bloodline possession meaning of the blood rule, so she could not actively contend with it. She could only rely on her will to resist Gainover's bloodline possession. Even with her extreme will, Anna found it difficult to halt Gainover's possession because of his deadly combo. After all, his entire setup was standing on the bloodline possession meaning. However, the situation changed when I introduced the celestial blood fate domain into the equation.

Using the celestial blood fate domain, I reversed the bloodline possession. Was that even possible? Yes. Within the celestial blood fate domain in the card world, my control over the blood rule was omnipotent, unless I were to face the card celestial or its blood rule stream spirit.

As a result, the effect of Gainover's carefully crafted combo was reversed. Instead of him assimilating Anna and upgrading himself, he was assimilated into Anna, upgrading her instead. In the process, he relinquished all his prowess to her, including his divinity, runes, and origin card. This was possible because Anna's extreme divinity had influenced Gainover's combo, as it was now acting in her favor.

"Wyatt, what the heck!" Anna shouted, wiping her mouth with the back of her left wrist as she glared at me with unbridled rage. For a moment, her anger toward me eclipsed her love for me.

"What?" I replied. "Consider him paying off his child support with interest."