

# **Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 360: Painless Death**

## **- Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 360: Painless Death**

### **Chapter 360: Painless Death**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 17:58

Location- Sky Blossom City, Damned Raining Arena.

[ 24 hostile against 1 Ally detected... ]

[ Fairness Clause Activated... ]

[ As the party in disadvantage, the ally is allowed to gain a buff or give all the hostile a debuff, please choose... ]

“What! This is unfair. Why does she get buff while we get a debuff?” Hearing the announcement, one of the hostile card emperors yelled in protest.

[ Would the hostile like to lodge an official protest... ]

“Is that speaking to me... Yes, I would like to lodge an official protest.” The Card emperor was surprised as he did not expect the voice to respond to him but soon responded.

[Protest under consideration... ]

[Hostiles, please vote to choose one method of the following ...

Group Challenge (Ally can choose between gaining buff and giving all the hostile a debuff.)

Single Challenge ( Hostiles cannot gang up on Ally, and while each hostile will fight the ally in a personal challenge. ]

“What is going on? Hey you, yes you. You seem to know about this arena. Do you know what this is?” One of the hostile card emperors asked the card emperor, who explained to others about the Damned arena.

“I don’t know. There was not a single mention of this in the southern emperor’s card files.” The Card emperor was confused as he did not read in his files that the Damned arena had an overseer.

“Don’t beat yourself up over this. This is news to me too. I did not know my field card could do this. Maybe this is one of the effects of the skill combo. Anyway, I do not need to debuff you guys or buff myself to kill you people. And single fights are no fun. So forget about it and enjoy ourselves.” Anna also did not know where the voice originated from and believed it was a part of the skill combo. For her, the buff or the debuff or the fairness provided by the damned arena only seemed to be getting into the way of her having fun.

[Please Vote before 9.. 8.. ]

“Listen up everyone, option two is the best shot we have of beating her. Even if we can not beat her in a personal fight, we can wear her down.”

[ Voting Closed, Option.1 – 6 Votes Option.2 – 18 ]

[Hostiles have chosen to challenge the ally with a personal fight... ]

[Setting up arena...] soon, a raised platform appeared between the hostile card emperors and Anna.

[Challengers, please choose your weapon and enter the ring...]

“Bumper! I was looking forward to a group fight. Old man Lorenzo always finds a way to rain on my fun.” Anna tried to ignore the voice and force the hostile into a group fight, but she was warned by the Voice and forced to stay put. With no choice, Anna entered the ring.

Cards that are impartial are not a rear sight, but with their limitation comes excellent power; therefore, some card apprentices use them, knowing it can be a double-edged sword.

...

“Okay crooked nose, I am going to ask you some questions. If you answer them truthfully, I will kill you less painfully. If not, I will make an example out of you for others to come. First, let’s start with a simple one, Who are you?” Knowing that she was not getting a group fight, Anna decided to use the personal fights as one-on-one interrogation.

“So you are the famous Southern emperor, huh? Apparently, one cannot trust rumors.

You are not beautiful as the rumors about you. Slut yes but beautiful is a big no.” The Card emperor first to challenge did not seem to be worried about pissing off Anna. And appeared to be relatively confident about his physical powers as he waved his Double handed sword.

“You think you’re being funny? You just made your death more painful, mister.” Anna dashed towards the Card emperor and slashed her heavy sword aiming at him.

\*clunk\*the card emperor tried to block Anna’s incoming heavy sword with his Double handed sword, but unfortunately for him, both his forearm bones broke, unable to bear the force from Anna’s downward heavy sword slash.

The double-handed sword fell to the ground as the hostile card emperor’s grip loosened due to the pain from the bones of his forearm breaking.

“Ahhh... you b!tch” looking at his unhealthy bent arms, the card emperor screamed in pain. Due to the rush of adrenaline, the emperor felt delayed pain.

“Hahaha, now that’s funny.” Anna laughed at the card emperors’ pain without remorse. Turning her hold on the heavy sword Anna used it as a bat to break the Card emperor’s knees.

“Ahhh....” The card emperor who had not recovered from the pain of breaking Bone’s in his forearms howled, feeling the pain from having his knees crushed. For a second, the card emperor thought that the pain from having his knees crushed masked the pain from his broken forearms.

“Hahaha, you’re so funny. Come on, stop it. You are killing me.” The Card emperor’s comment on her beauty had pissed Anna off so much that she forgot about her original purpose and the question she had asked.

“Ah... I am sorry. I will tell you everything you want to know. Please give me a painless death.” The card emperors have faced much worse, I guess, in his lifetime, but he always had his soul energy and the power of the rule healing and nurturing his body. Therefore he always had a tolerance to pain. But now, with the Soul energy that enhances his endurance and patience gone, the Card emperor could not handle the pain from having his bones broken and crushed.

“Shhh... no, you lost your shot at painless death. I have 23 more who can give me what I want to know. But you, you will pay for your insolence.” Anna was true to her words. She made the example out of the card emperor for the next in line to climb the ring by taking her time to crush every single bone in the hostile’s body.

## **Chapter 361: Surrender**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:05

Location- Sky Blossom City, Damned Raining Arena.

[Winner Ally, initiating ring cleaning process. Please be on standby...]

“You guys regret not choosing the first option, right. Who’s next? Come up, don’t be shy. As long as you behave and answer honestly to my question, I will give you guys a painless death.” Wiping the bloodstains off her face, Anna addressed the hostile card emperors. While the broken bones ridden corpse of the dead card emperor, his blood and other gore disintegrated to ash and dissipated from the ring.

[Ring cleaned. Hostiles, please choose the next challenger...]

“...” After witnessing Anna brutally crush each and every bone in her opponent’s body to powder, the hostile card emperors had turned speechless. Seeing Anna’s small build, these card emperors underestimated her physical powers, but to their surprise, despite her petite build, Anna’s body was packing herculean strength.

“You have lots of muscle on you. Go put them to good use.” Witty one among the card emperors pointed at a bulky card emperor and suggested to his colleague.

“Make me you wimp” the bulky Card emperor glared at the Witty Card emperor.

“How dare you talk to me like that” The Witty card emperor pointed his figure at the bulky card emperor and yelled at him.

“Bitch, this the damned arena here all soul powers are equally useless. Let me help you understand with an example.” The bulky Card emperor picked up the Wimpy Card emperor like a sack of potatoes,

“You mongrel, unhand me... ” being carried like a sack of potatoes, the witty card emperor felt humiliated and tried to struggle, but his physical prowess was very weak.

Outside the damned arena, both the Bulky and Wimpy Card emperors were domestic card apprentices. Still, the Wimpy one, because of his strong background, had access to many strong broken runes and precious resources, making him more potent than the Bulky one and other domestic card emperors. Therefore he is used to looking down and bullying other domestic card emperors.

“In your next life, better learn your place.” Finally getting his chance to get even the bulky card emperor carried the wimpy card emperor to the ring and threw him into the ring.

“No, I don’t want to fight that bitch.” Being thrown into the ring, the wimp tried to jump out of the ring, but he vanished and reappeared in the ring.

“What! No! Let me out... I surrender, I surrender” being greeted by smiling Anna and her heavy sword again, the wimp freaked out and yelled in surrender.

[Hostile challenger surrendered initiating ring cleaning process. Please be on standby...]

[Ring is Cleaned. Hostiles, please choose the next challenger...]. After the announcement from the voice, the wimpy Card emperor disintegrated to ash and dissipated.

\*Gasp\* Seeing a card emperor disintegrate into ash, the atmosphere in the arena became heavier, and all the card emperors gasped in shock, witnessing the strength possessed by the voice. Finally, the group of card emperors realized that they were trapped in an invincible cage with a beast.

“I don’t want to be next... let me out!” One of the scared Card emperors yelled in hysteria and ran towards the edge of the arena.

“...” Each one of them was a mighty Card Emperor. Any organization would bend over backward to welcome them to their organization. Still, here, they were nothing but ordinary mortals waiting to be tortured and slaughtered by Anna and her damned card.

All the hostile Card emperors eyed each other and distanced themselves from the crowd showing that no one was willing to be the next one to climb the ring and face the man slaughterer Anna.

[Hostiles, please choose the next challenger...]

“Guys, don’t be pussies and climb the ring. Your death is inevitable. You might as well die with honor.” Seeing none of the hostiles willing to climb the ring, Anna tried taunting them.

“Your highness, I am sorry to rain on your fun but aren’t you a little bit worried about your friends outside. And how they are faring against our other colleagues. If my estimate is correct, my friends should have killed that boy by now.” The clever card emperor from earlier who previously pointed out Anna’s card info suddenly addressed Anna and alerted her about the dangers outside the Damned arena.

“Don’t worry, I trust my friends. They are more than capable of solving any problem thrown their way. I don’t know your intentions by speaking these words, but you have managed to increase my interest in you.” Anna did indeed trust Luna and Lorenzo to protect Wyatt at all costs. As for the other two titled card emperors from the Duskborn family, Anna was not sure about them, but since they could earn a title, she believed they could be a meat shield.

“Your highness, my intentions are as clear as the milk. I am just reminding you that the longer you waste your time here, the more dangerous it’s for the boy. One of my colleagues outside has a powerful stealth ability that can fool a card demigod. No matter how much you trust your friends, there is no way they can achieve something out of

their capabilities. So, why don't you deactivate your field card and go help your friend instead of wasting your time with us lowly beings." The clever card emperor did not know about Flower Thief and his origin card.

He was bluffing because he knew there are only two ways out of the damned arena one is to kill your opponent, and the other way is to have the southern emperor cancel her field card. The second option came with dire consequences, but the clever card emperor believed if Anna cared enough about her friends and the boy, she would not hesitate to pay the price and cancel the field card.

"Hahaha, you may think you are smart, but you only managed to aggravate me. I trust my friends to handle the things outside. And as for here, I promise your death will be more painful than you can imagine." Anna did not fall for the clever card emperor's bluff not because she knew he was bluffing but because she trusted Lorenzo and Luna to handle the situation outside.

[Hostiles failed to choose the next challenger...]

[ Ally, please choose your next opponent among the hostile...]

'...' Hearing the announcement, the face of the clever card emperor paled in fright. Not just him, all the other Card emperors trembled in terror. In contrast, Anna glanced at the clever card emperor and sneered.

"I chose that smart mouth." Anna was a person of her words, and since she gave her word that she would give the most painful death to the clever card emperor, she will keep her promise.

[Challenger selected...] soon, the clever card emperor was teleported from the crowd of card emperors to the ring. The voice displayed high intelligence. It did not require a detailed answer, but it seemed to understand Anna's intent. And respond appropriately.

"Hello, You seem to have something to say to me. So I called you over as your voice was not audible enough from over there. Can you repeat yourself?" Anna lifted her heavy sword and placed it on her shoulder as she greeted her next opponent with a wild grin.

"Your highness, forgive my rudeness earlier. I am willing to cooperate with you and answer all your questions if you promise to let me live." Clever Card emperor thought he was the smartest in the room and knew that in front of absolute strength, his smartness was of no use but to help him beg for his life, which he was doing right now.

"What makes you think that you can talk terms with me? I have 21 others in the same condition as you. I bet they all will be more than willing to cooperate with my interrogation for their life." Two things were stopping Anna from listening to the Clever card emperor. First, she gave her word to give him a painful death, and she can not go

back on her words. Secondly, she was not willing to pay the price required to cancel the damned arena.

“Your highness, you seem to be mistaking quality over quantity. Those card emperors may be more in number, but the information they can give you will not be as worthwhile as mine. Please trust me, I can give you more detailed and accurate information on why I know your field card info and the person behind this assassination attempt.” Seeing that Anna did indeed have a point, why should she talk terms with him when 21 others are willing to talk for less? The clever card emperor gave a sales pitch to Anna.

“That’s a bit far-fetched. I only see risk in your pitch. And no benefit.” Anna also believed clever card emperors seemed to be more knowledgeable than other card emperors. But the price of canceling the field card midway stopped her from making any rash and reckless decision.

“I understand, your highness. Therefore I am willing to tell you everything depending on that; please decide whether to spare my life.”

### **Chapter 362: Latest Updates**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:11

Location- Sky Blossom City, Damned Raining Arena.

The clever card emperor was no saint, nor did he have a sudden change of heart. He proposed to reveal everything he knew to Anna because he knew if he were adamant on talking terms, Anna would rather kill him and get the info from the other card emperors.

Feeling trapped in a checkmate, the clever card emperor tried a new approach to gain Anna’s trust and make her feel in debt, and make her think that she had to let him go in exchange for the info he gave her. It was a long shot to approach Anna’s honest side, but it was better than forcing her to talk terms with her. It would only lead to disastrous consequences.

Though this new approach may not save his life, it could help him get revenge on the person responsible for his present self, Sansa Baylor. Yes, the clever card emperor decided to gamble. Win or lose, either way, he stood to gain something. With such stacks on the table, the clever card emperor chose to gamble with his life on the line.

“Your highness, I learned the card info of your field card thanks to my origin card ‘latest update’. It can keep me updated with the data about any card used on me. The movement I was under the influence of your field card. My origin card ‘latest updates’ updated me about your field card info. Thankfully this process is instantaneous, and it

did not get canceled because of interference of your damned arena.” The Clever Emperor did not play any tricks anymore and genuinely answered Anna’s questions.

[Card Name- Latest Updates

Card Type- Origin Card

Card Rank- Unique grade

Card Rate- --/-

Card Durability- --/-

Card Effect- The User is instantaneously updated regarding the card info of any card influencing him.

Additional Effect- Card Clues]

Card Clues- Card Clues is the ability that gives the host clues to handle the card influencing the host.

“I’m interesting origin card. It is similar to the latest news updates in the news channels. Only here you gain the enemies card info instead of the local/national/world news. No wonder you knew about my field card but not about old man Lorenzo’s Positioning rain array.” Anna finally knew why the man who knew about her filed card was stupid enough to walk into the Positioning rain array. His origin card informed him about enemy cards, not the city array.

“Yes, your highness. My origin card was made with that intention in mind and much more, but the card creationist was not up to the challenge, and I had to settle for this subpar origin card.” The clever card emperor reminisced about his past, thinking where his life went wrong. A few decades ago, he was also a teenager with bright eyes filled with hope, and today, he is one of the dirtiest scum to walk the world.

The movement these card emperors entered the damned raining arena not did they lose contact with their soul energy and power of rules, but they also lost the memory seal left in their memories by Madam web. Each and every one of them received all their memories, the ones that madam web did not want them to see and had suppressed. As for the ones that were erased, it was too late for those memories. They were lost forever.

Gaining freedom from the control of Madame Web’s memory seal, the Card emperors were not happy. Instead, they became terrified and wished to have the memory seal back on. They could tolerate remembering heinous and inhumane deeds they were forced to do under by Madam Web. These memories were so egregious that the card

emperors were traumatized and wanted to go back under the influence of the madam web's memory seal.

These memories were why the card emperors were so adamant about hiding any information regarding Madame Web. If Madame Web and her club are brought to light, their sins that they are trying so hard to forget will also be brought to light. Therefore to save themselves, the card emperors ended up protecting the one thing that tormented and traumatized them.

Madame Web's memo was the same for all of the recruits to her club. First, they are the bottom feeders of the card emperor realm community. Second, once they are under the influence of her memory ability, then she forces them to do the most heinous crimes they can think of.

This way, she traumatizes them. Suffering from the trauma, their mind will automatically try to suppress these memories, and that is what Madame web is after. Once the victim's mind is weak and is trying to forget the painful memories, it becomes easier for Madame Web's ability to take root in her victim's memories and gain access to new skills like being able to perform memory alteration and manipulation.

Card emperors are no ordinary beings and are mentally very strong. No matter how weak a card emperor is, no outside influence can ever influence their memories for a long time. That is the reason why Madame Web needs to traumatize her victims.

Being the first-hand victims of Madame Web's ability, these card emperors knew how dangerous her ability was. Yet, they still preferred to return under the influence of her ability. For a long time, Madame Web's ability had been the anchor that kept them sane and going despite their flaws. They were addicted, to be precise, the card emperors' minds were addicted to Madame web's ability as It helps them suppress, alter, and erase the painful memories. Madame Web's ability was like a pain killer for their trauma.

This firm control is how Sansa Baylor continued to maintain her club without being noticed by the world to this day. When the victims themselves did not want to come forward, how can people become aware of the predators amongst them?

But no matter how intense the addiction is in the face of death, it loses its grip. That is what is happening with the clever card emperor right now. He no longer cares about the traumatizing memories that recently surfaced nor Madame Web's ability. All his thoughts are right now focused on survival. He had to be alive to be addicted.

Seeing that Anna showed no change in her stance even after hearing him informing her truthfully about his origin card info, Clever card emepror chose to risk it and continue with his plan,

"Your Highness, the person who takes us with the assassination of the discoverer of the silver milk powder is...

## Chapter 363: Big Reveal

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:16

Location- Sky Blossom City, Damned Raining Arena.

"The one who ordered the assassination of the discoverer of the silver milk powder is Susan Baylor aka Madame Web." the clever card emperor finally revealed the mastermind behind the assassination attempt. Having been informed about Susan Baylor, aka Madame Web, the clever card emperor finally felt true freedom after decades because all the members of the Madame Web's club can never talk about club-related activities to a nonmember. Breaking one of the core rules of the club, the clever card emperor felt genuinely free from Madame Web's web.

"By Sansa Baylor, Do you mean the wife of the young Demigod Baylor?" Anna seemed to have met Sansa Baylor once she attended a ball in the central region.

"Yes, that's her. That woman is the one who gathered all of us to assassinate master Dalton Wyatt." The Clever Card emperor nodded in agreement.

"You are telling me the Baylor family is behind the assassination. First, who are you? What is your relationship with the Baylor family?" Hearing the card emperor throw a big name, Anna's expression became severe as the Baylor family was an old prestigious, and respected family in the capital city. They were part of the capital's Noble families.

Killing the entire Baylor family was no big deal to the Heatsend Royal family, but the consequences that followed would be tedious. Therefore Anna wanted to get her facts straight before coming to a decision. If she could gather enough evidence on the Baylor family and their crimes, then no force in the world could stop her from slaughtering the Baylor family.

"Sorry, your highness, for my late introduction. I am Kareem Fahad from the Eastern region. I am a member of the secret club run by Sansa Baylor. The Baylor family is not related to the assassination attempt on Master Wyatt. That family does not know the existence of the club or Sansa Baylor's activities." Kareem Fahad answered Anna's questions one by one.

"Wait, what connection does a family from the capital have with someone in the eastern region?" Anna was surprised to hear that a person from the eastern region was the running dog in the capital city.

"No, your highness. I did not work for the Baylor family, just Sansa Baylor." Kareem corrected Anna.

“If the Baylor family is not involved, then the young Demigod Baylor should be behind all this.” Anna did not believe that a weak card emperor such as Sansa Baylor would be able to run an organization made up of card emperor’s so she thought that if the Baylor family was not helping her, then her husband, young Demigod Baylor, was helping her from the shadows.

Anna addressed Demigod Baylor as a young Demigod because he was younger than her and had already achieved the Demigod realm before her. Not just her but her entire generation.

“No, your highness. Neither the Baylor family nor Demigod Baylor is backing Madame Web Sansa Baylor to run the secret club. I can understand your confusion, your highness. Mrs. Baylor may be weak in terms of combat power, but her other abilities are more than enough to help her run and manage a club full of Card emperor.” Kareem explained to Anna that though Sansa is weak, she has enough capabilities to run and manage Madame web’s club.

“Fine, But why does she want to assassinate Wyatt?” Anna had many questions about Sansa Baylor, her ability, and the club she runs, but she decided to keep them later and asked the crucial question.

“Sorry, your highness. I have no idea about this. None of us do. The club members receive the task and complete it in exchange for merits, no questions asked.” Kareem or the other Card emperors did not know why Sansa wanted to assassinate a boy in the card soldier realm.

“...” Anna went into deep contemplation, thinking what reason there could be for Sansa Baylor from a prestigious noble family from the capital to assassinate a nobody in a backward part of the Southern region.

Suddenly Anna remembered Wyatt’s mother seemed to have an arranged marriage with the young demigod Baylor. According to the files on Wyatt’s mother and her past, she appeared to be close with Sansa Baylor.

“This explains a lot. But still, this is too much for an old jealousy” Anna was confused. Why would somebody want to kill the only son of her friend? But remembering her college days and her so-called girlfriends, Anna soon understood Sansa was not Wyatt’s mother’s friend; instead, Sansa was jealous of her. Anna thought Sansa was being petty for trying to kill her kid for her old jealousy.

“Your highness?...” Kareem was confused by Anna’s mumbling and did not know what she was talking about.

“Now tell about this Bitch Sansa, her card ability, and the Madame Web’s Club.” Finally guessing Sansa’s interest in Wyatt, Anna asked Kareem about Sansa Baylor, her ability, and the club she runs.

“I thought you wouldn’t ask. Sansa Baylor is one petty and ruthless bitch....” Kareem was enjoying breaking every club rule set by Sansa. Doing so, he felt in control. “.... that is how Madame Web’s Club works.... and about Sansa Baylor’s card info, I have no memory about it, it seems every time my origin card activated and reported to me about Sansa’s card info, she would delete that part of my memory.”

Whenever an enemy uses their card on Kareem, his origin card updates him about that card’s info. Along with clues on how to overcome the abilities of that said card. Similarly, when Sansa uses her cards on Kareem, he would receive updates and hints about that card, but soon Sansa would wipe that part of his memory clean. If not for the usefulness of Kareem’s origin card, Sansa would have long gotten rid of a troublesome fellow like him.

“Fook!” Anna could not help but curse hearing Kareem’s info and explanation of Madame Web’s club. And the heinous way it was built and operates.

### **Chapter 364: Desperate**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:21

Location- Sky Blossom City, Damned Raining Arena.

Just one day and Anna’s entire worldview changed. The source of it all was the boy named Dalton Wyatt. Coming in contact with him, Two expressions came to Anna’s mind, ‘Frog at the bottom of the well’ ‘There is always a taller mountain.’ Anna never thought that she who stood at the top of the world would personally experience these two expressions.

A teenage boy made a world-changing discovery, Silver milk powder. A remedy to help mortals grow their active soul control.

That boy was able to forge an Ego Gem in a mere hour and create Ego elementals out of broken runes.

The Daughter of Bright couple forged an Ego Gem and comprehended a rule to a high level, and created a conscious high order ego elemental.

A tragic girl turned sadist killer saved the world from being enslaved to one person’s greed using the future insights she gained from sacrificing her Tao Eye.

Another tragic girl with Tao Tongue forced a supreme being to do her bidding.

And now there is a crazy bitch out there controlling the entire central region from the shadows using her secret club right under the noses of the oldest and Noblest of Demigods who took part in the founding of current civilization.

The more Anna thought, the more surreal she felt. Shaking off that feeling, Anna looked at Kareem and asked, "Anything else you want to add?"

"No, your highness... that is it." Kareem recounted every secret about the Madame Web's club he knew truthfully, excluding the crimes he was forced to or willingly took part in. Kareem was not dumb. He wanted the southern emperor to feel indebted, and narrating his crimes would not help his case.

"Good, now you can rest in peace. I will help you get your revenge." Conforming that Kareem had no more information, Anna decided to send him packing. Though she trusted Lorenzo and Luna to protect Wyatt, after learning about Madame Web's club and what it was capable of, Anna no longer was confident in the old man and his granddaughter.

"..." Hearing Anna Kareem's face paled. Seeing this, Anna shook her head and said, "be grateful your active participation has saved you from a painful death."

"Wait..." Kareem still wanted to talk his way out of the current predicament, but Anna did not give him a chance to. With a slash of her heavy sword, she cut Kareem into two.

[Winner Ally, initiating ring cleaning process. Please be on standby...]

[Ring cleaned. Hostiles, please choose the next challenger...]

Watching the remains of Kareem disintegrate and vanish, the crowd of card emperors was in terror. And the announcement was like a death sentence to them. Like the last time, the Card emperors again choose to wait for Anna to determine her challenger. But due to the terror of imminent death hanging over their heads, the Card emperors felt every passing second as eternity.

"I can't take it anymore... give me peace." A weak-minded card emperor could no longer handle all the withdrawal from Soul energy, Power of rule, and Madame Web's memory seal. And finally, choose death over a metaphorical eternity of terror. Jumping into the ring, he begged Anna to give him peace.

Though Anna got all the information she was looking for from Kareem, she wasn't planning on just blindly believing his story. She wanted to cross-reference Kareem's story with the remaining Card emperors. Coming across such a desperate card emperor, how could Anna let go of such a chance, "Not so fast, tell me what I want to know truthfully, and I will give you the peace you seek."

“Fine, I will tell you what you want... ” seeing how desperate the hostile card emperor acted, Anna did not believe she could get any valuable information from him. Who knows, just for the sake of what he wants, he could agree to whatever she says. Seeing the crowd of Card emperors below the ring, Anna was not worried about the authenticity of the information from the desperate card emperor.

[Winner Ally, initiating ring cleaning process. Please be on standby...] cross-checking Kareem’s story with the desperate card emperor Anna gave him the peace he seemed.

[Ring cleaned. Hostiles, please choose the next challenger...]

The cycle of cross-checking Kareem’s story with all the challengers continued until none of the hostile was left.

[ Victory Ally ]

[ All the Hostiles have been defeated. The condition for leaving the damned arena has been met.]

[Will you choose to Exit the Damned Raining Arena? (Yes/No)]

“Yes”

...

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, City Outskirts

“It is too calm.” Said Grey Fur looking at the peaceful Sky Blossom City, showering in light rain.

“You are overthinking it, Grey Wolf. The boy’s corpse exploded right in front of our eyes.” Sniper assured Grey Fur that the mission was complete and he was worrying for nothing.

“No, knowing the Southern emperor after learning about the boy’s death, she should be enraged and throwing a tantrum, but the city is too calm. I feel as if we missed something.” Seeing that the city was calm as if nothing had happened, Grey Fur started to feel uneasy.

“Come on, man. No matter how strong the Southern emperor is, 24vs1 is too much even for her. She must not have known about the boy’s death yet.” Sniper made a good point which sounded reasonable to Grey fur.

“You may be right. I am just overthinking it. Head out and gather at ‘Heaven on four legs.’ Please do not wait for me. I will join you guys once I give Madame Web a detailed report.” Grey fur finally let go of the matter and dispersed everyone asking to regather at ‘Heaven on four Legs.’

“See you later, team leader.” Biding their goodbye to their team leader, the four Card emperors of team 1 used their escape teleportation array and left the southern region. At the same time, Grey fur decided to report the mission’s success to Madame Web.

...

[Calling Madame Web...]

“You better be calling to tell me that the mission was a success. Otherwise, I do not mind turning you into a brain-dead idiot or a memory-less fool.” Enraged Sansa answered Grey Fur’s call warning him that his call better be regarding the success of the mission he was attempting and nothing else. She seemed to be extremely angry with the incident related to Grinch.

“Yes, Madam, this call is to inform you about the success of the mission. You can watch Flower Thief’s memory to see the desperate look on that boy’s face as Flower Thief sent the boy to his parents.” Grey Fur boasted the completion of the mission to Sansa.

“Great, finally the pest is gone, and I can rest knowing I won.” Sansa’s tone became pleasant, thinking that Ellen’s spawn was dead.

“Madame, the success of the mission came with the loss of 25 club members.” Grey fur did not try to hide the sacrifice of the 25 card emperor for the completion of the mission because Sansa would learn of it by watching their memories, so there was no point in lying to Madame Web.

“It’s a shame that to kill a card soldier, 25 card emperors were sacrificed, but that is to be expected after all your opponents were the Southern emperor and the Raining Alchemist, the heroes of the southern region.” Sansa was not worried over the loss of 25 card emperors. She was happy that she was the final victor, and she was right.

“Madame, the life/death status of the 24 of 25 card emperors that were sacrificed is not clear yet.” Grey fur finally reported the smellest blunder to Madame Web.

“Don’t worry; I know that they all have died as I lost the connection to their memory seal...” halfway through the sentence, Sansa finally saw the error in her words, “wait, how did they all die at once?”

\*gulp\* swallowing his saliva, Grey fur reported what he saw, “Madame, they were not killed all at once; rather, they were teleported to an unknown location by the Southern emperor.”

"What do you mean by they were teleported to another location? ... I will check your memory." Sansa decided to check Grey Fur's memory to understand what happened. Thinking of the worst

Sansa hurriedly accessed Grey Fur's memories to check how 24 card emperors lost connection with her memory seal simultaneously? Sansa preferred that all the card emperors were dead, as if they were still alive and not under the control of her ability, then things would not be in her favor.

"Fook! Ellen, you bitch even dead, you do not cease to cause trouble to me. How much I wish you were still alive so that I could kill you again? Fook!Fook..." Sansa's pompous little mouth uttered profanity in anger after going through Grey fur's memory and finding a possible answer to why she lost connection with all 24 card emperors at once.

## **Chapter 365: New Plans**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:27

Location- Sky Blossom City, City Outskirts

"No, this wasn't supposed to happen. Those bastards must have already revealed that I ordered the assassination of Ellen's son." Sansa was at the end of her nerves, thinking of the possibility that the Southern emperor knows about her little club.

Sansa was not worried that the Southern emperor knew about the existence of her secret club. What worried her was that the Southern emperor knew she was behind the secret club.

The secret club is like a zombie. Unless you take out its head, it will keep coming for you. Now that the zombie's head is exposed, Sansa was worried the Southern emperor would aim directly for her and uproot everything she had built over the past decades.

"Madam, it is not yet certain that those people have revealed any club-related information yet. After all, those who are missing willingly choose to be your slaves...subordinates. As far as I know, it would not be in their best interest to disclose any information to the Southern Emperor, who is known to kill first and ask questions later. So I think that it would be unwise to jump to any conclusions." Grey fur tried to calm enraged Madame Web.

"Shut up, you stupid fool. Don't act innocent; I know you knowingly used the other teams as your bait. If not for your scheme, they would not have walked right into the southern emperor's trap. This is all your fault. And don't say you didn't know it would end up this way. I read your memories. In the past, I would ignore this and didn't mind giving you some rope, but your greed has hanged me with it." Enraged, Sansa blamed it

all on Grey fur. Forgetting the fact that she sent 30 card emperors to kill a card soldier for a petty reason.

From the start, Grey fur planned to use other teams as bait. Grinch's team, which negotiated with the southern emperor, would be the first bait, and the other four teams hiding in the city would be the second bait. While the Southern emperor and her subordinates were busy dealing with the two bait, he planned to use the flower thief's origin card to assassinate the assassination target silently.

Once the mission was complete, those who could escape would escape to the rendezvous point and escape through their individual escape array. But things didn't go as Grey fur planned; instead, both the baits walked right into the southern emperor's trap leading to the current situation. Having read Grey fur's memory, Sansa knew all this; therefore, she blamed him.

"Your slave begs for forgiveness, Madame." Hearing Sansa blame him for everything, Grey fur did not dare to argue and hurriedly begged forgiveness.

"I will decide on your punishment for you later. For now, leave the city as fast as possible and don't wait for the southern emperor to return to monitor her response when she learns about the boy's death. It's pointless. Bring your new team with you. I have a new task for you guys.

Meanwhile, I will try to get more information on the Southern emperor's field card and make arrangements for the worst case, assuming those losers have revealed my information to the southern emperor." Ordering Grey fur his next objective, Sansa started to plan for the worst, thinking that the Southern emperor knew everything about her and her club.

Sansa had learned from Grey Fur's memory that he was planning to continue staying at Sky blossom city and wait for the Southern emperor's return and check on her reaction to the assassination of the boy. And that thought that was pointless and had another task for Grey fur and his new team.

"Yes, ma'am. we will be there." Grey fur did not make any excuses and hurriedly agreed to travel to the central region to accept the new task his team was assigned.

Grey Fur thought any objection was pointless as Madame web had already read his memory and should know he and his team members were planning on awarding themselves with a night at 'Heaven on four legs.' Despite knowing all this, Madame Web assigned them a new task, which meant that the mission was urgent and could wait.

This was also why Grey fur dared to use other teams as bait despite knowing that he would be reprimanded by Madame Web later. The punishment that madame Web spoke of would never come; instead would be showered with rewards as long as he keeps completing all the assigned tasks.

“Speaking of your new team, take care of Flower Thief. That one is essential for my plans.” Sansa warned Grey Fur from using Flower Thief like the other club members because his origin card made him too special to be used as expendable goods.

“Yes, Madame. That goes without saying. Without that boy, the last mission would not have been a success. Please be rest assured I will take care of that boy and Sniper.” Sniper and Flower Thief’s origin card made them assets in Madame web’s eyes and she showed more tolerance towards those who she viewed as assets.

Ending the call with Madame Web Grey, fur called his new team and asked them to meet up at the central region for the new task.

...

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:31

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium.

Exciting the damned raining arena Anna appeared right where she entered it. Hovering in the sky, Anna was in deep thought but throwing everything to the back of her mind. Anna hurried towards the VIP box no.1.

“What the heck is that thing? And Where is Wyatt?” Pointing at the blood cocoon in the middle of the room, Anna inquired Lorenzo and Luna about it and my whereabouts.

“...” Lorenzo and Luna were speechless; they did not know how to explain their failure to protect me to Anna.

Yes, I was still alive, but it was because of my quick thinking. If not, I would have died under the hands of the assassin, which was the fault of Lorenzo and Luna. If they had done their job right, the killers could not have reached me. And I would not have to fake my death.

I could have formed my new body long ago before Anna arrived, but I did not because I wanted Anna to understand what happened and how dire the situation was. This way, these irresponsible card emperors would not go unpunished. Therefore I delayed the formation of my new body and waited for Anna in my blood cocoon. And also, because if the hostile card emperor’s returned, I would not have to make another decoy.

“Will somebody answer me?” Anna stressed her words, feeling the atmosphere of the room dampen.

\*cough\*

“Holy shit did that thing just cough” Anna was spooked, suddenly hearing the blood cocoon cough.

“Anna, it’s me.” Feeling Anna’s mental probe, I answered Anna.

“What the hell are you doing in the cocoon? What happened?” Anna asked in concern.

“Ahem, I will go and do a perimeter check to see if any mouse is still running around.” Lorenzo cleared his throat and excused himself.

“Not so fast, Old man. We gave the Positioning Rain array. So you do not have to do any parameter sweep.” Anna was not new to Lorenzo’s tricks, and seeing him escape, Anna knew that these guys messed up.

“Haha, I forgot. I am getting old.” Lorenzo laughed it off and blamed his age. He wanted to argue that the enemy could walk in the array without getting noticed, but he was wise enough not to drop the stone on his leg.

“Now, will someone explain to me what Wyatt is doing in the blood cocoon? Is it the rumored blood revival technique?” Anna was not new to blood rules and arts, so she guessed that the blood cocoon was related to the blood revival technique.

“Don’t hold your breath on them. None of them will answer your questions. Let me tell you what happened.” I slowly narrated what happened to Anna.

“Cousin, I did my best. Those people had a weird card. That allowed them to cloak themselves and phase through from my array. Please don’t assume that it’s my fault, cousin.” Hearing me blame them for the death of my decoy Luna tried to reason with her cousin.

“What do you mean by high-level stealth? By any chance, are they still here?” Anna finally realized old man Lorenzo’s array was not dependable as he sounded it to be.

## **Chapter 366: Empty Space**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:42

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium

“No need to be worried. The assassins already escaped after confirming my death.” I assured Anna.

“Good. Luna, I thought your array mastery was of the highest order? What happened? How can the enemy still enter and leave your area without you noticing?” Anna

questioned her cousin to understand how assassins could enter and leave her Array as they pleased.

The breach of the arrays arranged in the VIP box is a serious issue because they were of the highest order and organized by Luna, the prominent Array Grandmaster herself. If these arrays are compromised, similar arrays covering many Southern Watch military facilities and Heatsend Royal palace set up by Luna and her Grandfather were at risk of being breached.

“I don’t know. I didn’t even notice how they entered and escaped. Whatever card the enemies used, it was very good at stealth and phasing. Unfortunately, because of the limited time and resources, I simplified some of the array Mechanics. Reducing the level of the array by an order. So I do not know whether the array was weak or the enemy’s card was strong. Either way, I can not rule out any possibilities. For now, I do not have enough data to give you a specific answer.” Luna did not answer Anna hastily; being a professional researcher, she did not like to make assumptions. However, she had already had a gut feeling that the reason why the enemy was able to attack and escape without being detected had something to do with Empty Space, the gap between two dimensions.

“So you’re telling me that there is an enemy out there with an ability to enter our palace or military facilities as he wishes and leave without getting noticed?” Anna yelled at Luna.

“...” Luna chose to stay quiet as the answer to Anna’s question was frightening to think of. Just the thought that all the important sites of Heatsend Royal family and Southern Watch are defenseless from an enemy attack sends a chill down Luna’s spine.

The Array design developed by Luna is an upgraded version of arrays created by the ancestral Demigods of the Heatsend family. Luna’s upgraded array designs were way more efficient than the old arrays and proficient in detection ability.

Because the array mechanics were simplified due to the limited time and resources, Luna could not tell for sure that the enemy used empty space to attack them even though her years of experience told her so because they lacked any protective measures towards attack from Empty Space.

The shortcoming of the array towards attacks from empty space is not because it is impossible to stop an attack from Empty Space but because it is believed that there is no life in Empty space, and it cannot sustain any life.

Since nobody can live in Empty Space, there was no point in wasting time creating a countermeasure for attacks from Empty Space. Until Norman Jones, whose origin card can summon a creature that delves in the Empty Space. It’s not that Luna’s Array was ineffective, only that it was not meant to provide protection or detection against attacks from Empty space.

The array used in the VIP box is a simplified version of the original, and life is impossible in Empty space. These two were why Luna was unsure if the enemy attacked them from empty space; therefore, until she can be confident about her assumptions, Luna chooses not to make any form of a statement.

Getting no response from Luna, Anna turned to Lorenzo, “Old man, you’re the one who guaranteed your granddaughter’s array designs are ahead of their time. I trusted you and signed off to change the array covering the southern watch military facilities. If grandma hears about this, she is going to flip out.”

“The arrays are indeed ahead of time, Anna. I believe this is an isolated incident, and the problem lies in the enemy’s card. It should be an origin card with a weird ability.” Lorenz was very confident that Luna’s array designs were ahead of time and the best out there. Compared to the arrays they used earlier, Luna’s updated array designs were way better. That is why he recommended Anna change the Array designs they previously used.

“Origin card or not, there is a loophole in the current array system used by the family. I don’t know how you two have to find the loophole and fix it. I would prefer it if you both find the solution to this dilemma as fast as possible. I don’t care if you have to put the Silver milk powder project on hold.” Anna did not like the idea that family and their military were defenseless against a threat, even if it was just an isolated incident.

“Yes, I will do my best.” Luna nodded vigorously. Unlike her cousin, she was not strong. This did not bother Luna, as her specialty lay in her brains. Therefore when Anna asked her to fix the loophole in the array’s Luna would never back down and took it as a challenge.

“I do not know if this will help, but I saw the hostile card emperors be spat out and swallowed by a creature. This creature was similar to and of the size of a human face mask made up of water. The most peculiar thing about it was that I felt like it was peaking into our dimension from outside. As if it was able to exist between two dimensions and enter our dimension as it pleased. I guess it is the reason behind its high-level stealth and Phasing ability.” I narrated what I saw to Luna as she claimed that she did not have enough data to determine what went wrong with the array she set up.

“Huh... My guess was correct. The enemy attacked us from the Empty space. The ancestors have already made the array foolproof against all kinds of space attacks except for the attacks from the Empty Space because they believed the Empty Space did not allow any life to inhabit it. But to think there exists a creature that not only can live in Empty space but also pass through the dimension wall as it pleases. This creature is the most significant discovery of this century.” From my narration of what I saw, Luna seemed to have quickly deduced how the enemy could bypass her array without raising any alarms.

“Really? Aren’t you forgetting something, for example, the silver milk powder?” Anna could not help but blurt out these words after hearing her cousin’s words.

“Nope, I am not. Do you know what it means to be able to travel through Empty Space? It is an uncharted area. There is an entire world out there which no one has explored yet, where even the demigods have not stepped foot in. Do you understand the gravity of this matter?” Luna seemed to be very excited over the fact that life was possible in Empty space.

“What’s new about that? Every year there are new worlds, realms, and dimensions discovered. You do not hear anybody making a fuss over that. I still think Silver milk powder is the most significant discovery of the century.” Anna was not impressed that life existed in Empty space, and she did not hesitate to express it.

“Ugh... Forget it. I do not want to waste my words on you.” If not for Anna being right next to her, Luna would not have controlled her anger and directly called Anna an illiterate.

“Whatever, can you fix the loophole or not?” Anna knew her words enraged Luna, but she did not care about it and asked if the problem at hand could be solved.

“Yes, but it will take decades of research and experimentation to achieve that,” Luna replied positively.

“Decades? By then, the enemy would have slept in our bed and pissed in our glasses. Can’t it be achieved faster?” Anna was not satisfied with Luna’s answer.

“It can be. I can reduce the decades to mere years, but I will need some help.” Luna once again answered with positivity.

“Name it, And I will arrange for it.” Anna was enthused hearing the period for research could be shortened to years from decades.

“I need two things. One of them is that boy, and the other one is the card emperor who used the card to summon that empty space creature.” Luna answered, pointing at me.

“Wyatt? Why him?” Anna was confused as to what role I would play in the research. Not just her, even everyone was.

“Not him, just his eyes will do the trick as they were able to see the empty space creature. Where my grandpa and I were unable to sense its presence.” Luna did not hesitate to state why she needed me. She went one step ahead and boldly expressed which part of me she required.

“About that, I was able to see that creature because of my origin card ability. So plucking eyes would be a waste.” I explained to avoid my eyes from being plucked.

## Chapter 367: Overprotective

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:48

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium

Having concluded how the enemy was able to breach the array and how Luna could rectify it, Anna asked, " Oldman, I left that Grinch with you right, did you weasel some information out of him yet?"

"No, before I could do that, he went into some kind of vegetative state. I need some time to check what happened." Oldman went on to describe the event that transpired.

"Forget it." Anna did not press Lorenzo for allowing his suspect to end up vegetative. She seemed to know something but was hesitant to talk about it. Was it because of the presence of two unknown card emperors... No, I don't think so. She did not seem to mind talking about something as crucial as Array designs for the Heatsend royal family and Southern Watch military facilities in front of them. Or maybe because what she knew was more important than the military Array designs.

"Our end was a bust. What about you? Did you get any helpful information from your end?" Oldman Lorenzo asked Anna if she could get any information from the card emperors trapped in her fusion field card Damned Raining Arena. Lorenzo was a sly old fox seeing that Anna, who would be waiting to yell at him whenever the opportunity presented itself this time, chose not to despite this particular opportunity being a juicy one. So Lorenzo figured that Anna must have hit the motherload on her end and could not help but ask despite knowing Anna was hesitant to talk about it.

"Yes, I did get some information. Whether it is useful, I can only tell after checking the authenticity of the information I got from those assassins." Anna seemed to have successfully interrogated the assassins but was unsure if the information she got was accurate.

Her words made it clear that she did hit the motherboard. The information that Anna must have received must be very critical and involve some bigwigs seeing how even someone as reckless as Anna chose to do her homework before pointing fingers.

"Great. Your highness, then who was it that sent the assassins?" The unknown younger card emperor asked Anna excitedly. I don't know if this younger card emperor is acting dumb or very bold. Oldman Lorenzo's action and Anna's response proved that she was not willing to answer that question, yet he asked it with a naive enthusiasm plastered over his face.

“Didn’t you hear me earlier? I can not tell you until I have verified the authenticity of the information.” Anna spoke in a stern and cold voice. Making it clear that she did not want to talk further on this topic. But to assure us that these matters will not be left as it is, she added, “I have to verify some things before I can take definite action. But know that perpetrators will be prosecuted.”

“Great, then what next?” Being the initiator, Lorenzo took it upon himself to change the topic.

“For now, we should focus on Wyatt’s safety. The recent assassination attempt has proven that the enemy is well versed in terms of assassination and has no problem getting by unnoticed. And also, it is clear that Wyatt’s life is no longer safe in this small city. I am planning on moving him to Southern watch headquarters.” Anna started to narrate how she wanted to move me to a secure location so that something like the previous assassination would not happen.

“Yeah, I agree with your idea. And I also think that for his safety, Wyatt should be declared dead to the rest of the world.” Lorenzo agreed with Anna and proposed that they hold a grand funeral for me so that the whole world knows that the creator of the silver milk powder was assassinated by a bunch of shameless card emperors who did not mind ganging up and killing a single Card soldier.

“That should be easy as Wyatt has successfully faked his death in front of his assassins. Meanwhile, he can stay at my lab and help me with research on prevention against attacks from Empty space. And once the research is done, he can assume a fake identity and reenter the society. Finally, when he is capable of protecting himself, we can reveal the truth to the world.” Luna backed up her grandfather’s proposal to announce my death to the world.

“You guys make an interesting proposal. I like it. This way, we no longer have to be worried about assassination attacks on him.” Anna complimented the grandfather and granddaughter duo for their input.

“Your highness, this...” The older unknown card emperor, who was observing till now, finally spoke up.

“What? Do you have a problem?” Anna snapped at the older card emperor for interrupting her train of thoughts.

“No, your Highness. I just wanted to inform you that our family was planning on volunteering to become the distributor of silver milk powder in the central region with appropriate compensation, of course.” The older one suddenly spoke about something unrelated, which intrigued me.

“You are a wise man. I like to speak with wise people. But you sure your family can swallow the entire central region. Don’t you think you are being a bit greedy?” Anna

seemed to understand what the older card emperor was hinting towards. And she seemed to warn him for being too greedy.

“Your highness, with your blessing, I think my family can achieve the task splendidly.” The older card emperor did not seem to back down despite Anna’s warning.

“Give up on your dreams of becoming the sole distributor of silver milk powder in the Central region. But you can be one of the distributors in the capital city. This is already my limit. Considering the current state of your family, you guys are not qualified for this task. But generosity runs deep in my family, so you’re in luck.” Anna did not give in to the older card emperors’ demand and instead gave him a counteroffer of becoming one of the distributors of the silver milk powder in Capital city.

“Thank you for your generosity, your highness. Now that everything is settled, can I speak with the boy?” The older card emperor was indeed wise. He seemed to know when to back down while he was at it. He did not forget to ask Anna permission to speak with me.

The two unknown card emperors have not hidden their interest to talk with me from the beginning. First, I thought it had something to do with the silver milk powder, but now that they already had a deal with Anna, they still proposed to speak with me. This confused me because what do two Card emperors have to do with a small city Card soldier.

“Umm... Good, it’s decided that we will announce that the discoverer of the Silver milk powder Dalton Wyatt was killed today in an assassination. And then, he will be moved to a secure lab where he can help Luna in the research. You guys talk what you want and make it quick; we have to move him to a secure location.” Anna finally permitted the two unknown card emperors to speak with me and also hurried them under the pretense of driving me to the safe area.

“Thank you, your highness. We will try to keep it short.” The older card emperor thanked Anna and turned to me to finally speak his objective, but I interrupted him

“Wait. Did you guys have fun planning my life for me? Anna, what gives you the right to make decisions for me? Who told you that you can plan my life for me?” I was holding it in for a while now, so I could not help but yell at Anna.

Was I not worried about enraging Anna, the only soul-bound person to look after my safety? No, I was not because right now, I was enraged seeing how these people planned the rest of my life within a few minutes without even asking my opinion on it. Fook, who do they think they are? In a rage, I did not watch my words, tone and did not care whom I offended.

“No, Wyatt, this is for your safety.” Anna tried to defend her actions by blaming it all on me being weak and not capable of protecting myself.

"Anna, I thought you were different. And had started to believe that you cared about me." I acted like the time I spent with Anna did not affect me, but in some corner of my heart, I started to trust her and depend on her.

"Wyatt, you misunderstand my intentions. I do care about you. This is for your good. You have to understand where I am coming from."

### **Chapter 368: Slave**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 18:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

Getting kidnapped and being confined in a dark room to slave for my abductor was what I was scared of when I knew how this world worked. The soul pupils and my past life memories made me a gifted Card creationist. In this world where the law of the jungle trumps all the laws, I was scared to show my gift to the world.

But I should shine so bright that no darkness could swallow my light. This is why I tried so hard to build my force in this world, from running my card boutique to taking over the three allied guilds, all of this my attempt to lessen the fear in me.

When I chose to patent the silver milk powder, I thought the silver milk powder was the thing that would allow me to shine so brightly that no darkness could swallow me. But something happened, and I ended up forming a soul contract with Anna. And finally, all my fears came true today.

'Declare my death to the rest of the world.'

'Hide me in a secret lab.'

'Have me help them research a way to stop attacks and invasion from Empty space.'

What the fook? How is this different from kidnapping me and locking me up in a dark room to slave for the Heatsend royal family. These people didn't even bother to ask my opinion on this, and they dare to say that they are doing all these for my safety.

I can see where Anna was coming from. She was being overprotective. But Oldman Lorenzo and his granddaughter Luna, these two they wanted to turn me into a slave of their Heatsend royal family. I would be damned if I let them do as they pleased.

And who the fook are the two unknown card emperors? These fookers seem to know something, and their suspicious deal about their family becoming one of the distributors

of silver milk powder in the capital city. There is something afoot here, and I seem to be at the center of it.

I glared at Anna, Luna, Oldman Lorenzo, the two unknown card emperors, with raging anger. Fortune favored these guys, and I was not strong enough; otherwise, I would have taught them a lesson from trying to trick me into becoming a slave for the rest of my life.

They say once I was strong enough to protect myself, I could travel the truth to the world. In this world filled with mysterious cards and demigods, what level of strength should I have to be considered strong enough to protect myself. In this world, even demigods do not dare to roam around alone; worried hostile demigods would gang upon them. In such a world, what strength should I pose to protect myself?

These guys were indirectly telling me that they would enslave me for the rest of my life. Do they expect me to believe their lie and allow them to erase my footprints from this world and enslave me for the rest of my life? What the fool are these guys thinking?

It must be the slave contract between Anna and me, yes that's it. Because of the soul contract, people from the Heatsend Royal family cannot force me into doing anything. Therefore they use this indirect way to fool me into becoming their slave indirectly. Thinking of this, a chill went down my spine.

Fook, these guys are crafty. Is Anna in on this? Or does she not know a thing and is just being overprotective. I don't feel like Anna is acting, but this might be the hormones in my body confusing me. And clouding my judgment from seeing the truth. I cannot be certain, which is a good thing as Certainty is the mother of fools. Anyway, I have to proceed with caution. And being a little cautious towards Anna wouldn't be a bad thing for me.

The plan of Lorenzo the old fool became clear to me. He wanted to manipulate Anna's overprotective side towards me to fool Anna and me and turn me into a slave for his family.

...

"Wyatt, you misunderstand my intentions. I do care about you. This is for your good. You have to understand where I am coming from." Anna defended her actions.

"Understand you? What's there to understand? You want me to turn into a slave for your family. What's the difference between imprisoning me in a dark room and what you just proposed?" I glared at Anna and asked.

"..." Anna's eyes avoided my eyes after hearing my words.

"Wyatt, you are overreacting. All we want to do is protect you. We are just looking out for your safety. Please understand." Seeing Anna's eyes waver, Luna spoke up.

"Right, you would say that, wouldn't you? You know I was once like you. Apart from research, other things did not matter to me. Seeing you reminds me of the old obsessed me." Luna was a workaholic who would do anything for her research, kind of like the old me.

"What are you talking about? You are barely out of high school and think that you are the same as me?" Hearing me compare myself to her, Luna rebuttal to my words in disband.

"Huh, you are right. We're not the same. I discovered silver milk powder. What did you discover or invent? What do you have to show for your years of research? Please don't answer unless it is on the same level as silver milk powder." Seeing Luna disband me, another fuse went off in my head. Lina was weak compared to Anna and other card emperors in the room but was strong enough to kill me with a thought. Was I not worried that verbal abuse would turn to physical abuse. I was, but I still went ahead cause with Anna by my side, I knew none of the people in the room would dare to harm me.

"Really now? How can something you discovered by mistake be compared to my years of hard work? Boy, you are not on my level. If not for Anna, I would not even bother to care about you." Unable to win the argument, Luna chose to hide behind her realm and status.

"Yeah, right. It does not matter. Your opinion doesn't matter. If you dare to interfere with my life once again, don't blame me for being cruel?" I warned Luna from Interfering with my life and planning things for me.

"Oh, I am so scared." Luna sarcastically responded to my threat, which I chose to ignore. And turned to face her grandfather, the old fool Lorenzo.

"Old fool, don't think I don't see what you are trying to achieve. I would rather die than turn into a slave. Henceforth keep that in your conniving mind before you try to pull something like this." Looking deep into Lorenzo's eyes, I warned him. So that he understood I was being serious. I know my current prowess was not enough to take me seriously, but I made sure to help him see if I died, his precious princess would die with me.

"Boy, don't think that the soul contract will shield you from everything. If not for me considering the princess's feelings, I would have already tuned you. Thank the princess for favoring you otherwise...." Lorenzo stopped his words midway, feeling a killing intent from Anna.

"How dare you? It's one thing that you try to fool me, but for you to treat me deaf... believe it or not, I will have your tongue cut." Anna was confused at first. As she did not

understand why I was angry, all she did was try to protect me. But after hearing old fool Lorenzo's words, Anna's confusion washed away with raging anger and replaced it with the intent to kill.

"Anna... you have to understand that's the best for the boy and the family. Do you think that the card emperor would not return if he knew his assassination was a failure? This time the boy was lucky, and he could fool them by faking his death, but next time, he will not be that lucky." Lorenzo did not give up on having me be declared dead to the world and turn me into a slave for the royal family.

"Enough! I am letting this one slide as your intentions stemmed from serving the royal family, but next time you try to pull something like this, your tongue will be a few inches shorter."

### **Chapter 369: Family?**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 19:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

Having warned the old fool Lorenzo, Anna turned to me with an apologetic smile. She said, "I am sorry. I was too wrapped up thinking about how to protect you and crossed some lines. Please forgive me for planning your life for you. I was out of line, and I know now.

Let's forget about faking your death to the world or the research on empty space. But I still think Sky Blossom City is not a safe space for you. How about this, We shift you to a top-secret Southern watch facility where you will be safe and increase your strength."

"That will also work." Lorenzo seemed to have compromised and no longer tried to implant the idea of faking my death to the world in Anna's mind.

"That's good, I will shift my lab to that facility too, so if you want to, you can participate in the research." Luna shamelessly added.

"You people are at it again and will never learn. I am leaving. Today was a total bust. I won the tournament, but the sponsors ran away with my prize. I was almost assassinated. But one good thing did come out of this. Now I know I can not trust the Heatsend Royal family." Saying that, I headed out of the VIP box.

Was I not worried for the safety of my life? Yes, I was. But whoever assassinated me thinks I am dead; it will take some time, but they will soon know that their assassination was a failure and will try to assassinate me again. Therefore during this limited time,

while whoever attempted to kill me thought I was dead, I would make some arrangements for the next assassination attempt on me.

I wanted to know who was after my life but seeing the way Anna was hesitant to answer, I guessed she would not respond even if it were me who was asking. And it did not matter because someone who could afford to send 39 card emperors to kill me was not someone I could fight against. For now, the best thing would be to defend.

Yes, defend till the Heatsend Royal family takes care of the hit on my head. I did say that I could not trust Anna's family, but I trusted the soul contract between Anna and me, which forces those guys to do their best to protect me so that my death doesn't become a threat to their princess. The royal family may not care for a card soldier from a third-rate city, but they care about their princess. This one reason was enough for the royal family and its subordinates to treat the threat towards my life with seriousness and not dare to laze around.

"Wait, you can't leave. We still have to talk to you." The younger card emperor blocked my path.

"I don't care. I am done talking. Now step aside." I did not try to be polite. After all, I did not care who this guy was and how he could crush me to death with a thought because, for my safety, I sold the exclusive rights of my patent to the Heatsend royal family. I don't care if he is a card emperor as a third-rate card emperor is not worth my time.

I planned to show tolerance and act hand in hand with the Heatsend royal family. But now that the royal family has made their stance clear, I no longer intend to be polite. Fook if you want to turn me into a slave, then guys are all in for a hell of a pain.

"I said we have to talk to you. So stay put." The younger card emperor said in a stern voice. It seems he has started to show his true colors of bullying the weak and bowing to the strong. In front of Anna, Lorenzo, and Luna, this fooker did not dare to raise his voice or show his attitude, but in front of me, a meer card soldier, he started to act high and mighty.

"I said get outta my way, you dumbass." Yep, I cursed at a card emperor. It felt good. I didn't just curse at him but also taunted him with a disband-filled stare.

"You scum! How dare you curse at your elders? Let me teach you stead of your parents." feeling the disband-filled gaze of mine; the unknown card emperor lost it and let out an invisible pressure from his body pressing on me.

"Diel!" Before I could even feel the pressure from the unknown younger card emperor, Anna yelled in rage, and suddenly, the left half of the card emperor's body blocking my path was vaporized.

“Healing Silk! Last revival” The unknown older card emperor yelled and rushed for the younger card emperor’s rescue. And a silky green light enveloped the body of the younger card emperor like a mummy. Despite using a card, all the older card emperor could salvage was a live body with the left arm and chest missing. It seems Card emperor’s vitality is no joke. Having lost his left arm, lungs, and 3/4th of his heart, the card emperor was still alive, and through the hole of the silky light covering him, he stared at Anna in horror.

“Your highness Southern emperor, what are you doing? This is Duskborn family matters. You have no right to interfere. My nephew was only teaching our family junior.” No matter how wise and tolerant the unknown older card emperor was. Seeing his nephew being beaten to the brink of death, he lost his rational mind and yelled at Anna.

But the fook, does this old fellow mean by family junior? Who is his family junior? Young Wyatt? As far as I know, papa Wyatt is an orphan, and Mama Wyatt is a runaway. No way, these people can not be related to Mama Wyatt. Wait, did he say Duskborn family? These fools are indeed relatives of mama Wyatt.

Mama Wyatt never told young Wyatt about her family. She kept it hidden. She was very secretive about her past. Young Wyatt even believed that she was an orphan, just like his dad. And I never bothered to ask my newfound aunt about Mama Wyatt’s family either as I thought it should be a wealthy family in a higher-tier city, but who knew that Mama Wyatt’s family had two card emperors in her family. Are there more? Do they have a demigod in the family?

That’s not the point. These boomers tried to sell me to the Heatsend family to become one of the distributors of the silver milk powder in the capital city. They did not even try to hide the fact that they were selling me to the Heatsend royal family.

Having finally understood what was happening here, I no longer planned to leave the VIP box. Because I wanted to listen to what these two card emperors had to say to me, and also I was worried that in the absence of Anna, these two card emperors would try to kidnap me. Come to think of it, I am worth more dead to the Duskborn family than alive.

If I am dead, the patent of the silver milk powder will go to my immediate relative. That is the Duskborn family. If not for the Heatsend family’s protection, I think these people would have already killed me for the patent rights and the royalty. It seems money does bring the family together. Until yesterday I was an orphan, and now I have many relatives and a big family waiting to swallow my wealth.

“Step aside,” I said, looking at the older card emperor. I did plan to stay, but I can’t just remain after saying I will leave, hence the drama.

“Young man, listen to me. I am your grand uncle. Please don’t be hasty. Listen to what I have to say to you. Then you can decide to leave if you want to.” The Older Card

emperor addressed me politely as he had to because it didn't, then he had already witnessed the consequences.

"Seeing how you are being polite, I will give you two minutes, be quick." Yep, smoothly done. After saying that, I slowly returned to Anna's side. Because of the new news, I felt more insecure, and right now, only Anna could give me a sense of security. I didn't trust Anna. I counted on the soul contract between us.

## **Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 370: Invitation - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 370: Invitation**

### **Chapter 370: Invitation**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 19:18

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

"This is how your parents end up in the Sky blossom city." The Fire Fist emperor narrated mama and papa Wyatt's life experiences before taking refuge in Sky Blossom City.

"..." I gave the Fire Fist emperor a blank look because mama and papa Wyatt were not here to present their opinion, and there is no way to check the authenticity of the story retold by the Fire Fist emperor.

Even a fool would know that the story narrated by the Fire Fist emperor is biased. And I consider myself to be a sane person. So there is no way I would buy into the shit he just spewed.

Even if the story narrated by the Fire Fist emperor was biased, I still felt a boiling rage towards the Duskbrown family for what they put Mama and Papa Wyatt through.

Mama and Papa Wyatt were an average eloped couple before arriving at Sky blossom city. And the villain in their story was mama Wyatt's family. But according to Fire Fist emperor, the villain in the story was the Baylor family belonging to mama Wyatt's arranged fiance, which forced the Duskbrown family into persecuting the Wyatt Couple, which led to them finding refuge in the sky blossom city.

Therefore I turned to Anna for her input. With Anna's family information network, they must have dug up what transpired with the Wyatt couple and whether there are other influences involved that I have to look out for since I planned to take revenge for the Wyatt family. I should know who all the culprits were involved in the tragic end of Wyatt's family. So she should be able to tell me what

“The Baylor family and the Duskbrown family were equally responsible for the persecution of your parents. Thankfully your Grandfather, The three-eyed emperor, and your mother’s ex-fiance, young Demigod Baylor, helped your parents escape to the Sky Blossom City and settle.” Anna did not get into detail but pointed out that both the Baylor family and the Duskbrown family were equally blamed.

“Young Demigod Baylor? You are telling me my mother’s ex-fiance is a demigod.” I exclaimed in utter shock. What did mama Wyatt see in Papa Wyatt to marry him instead of a Demigod? This is not love. This is utter foolishness. I am all for love but look what fate it brought to mama Wyatt.

“Yes,” Anna answered in surprise, seeing me forget the main point and sweat on details.

“You are telling me my mother could have married a Demigod, but she chose to marry my father instead?” I asked again, unable to believe that Mama Wyatt chose Papa Wyatt over a demigod.

“Yes, she did. Isn’t she a remarkable woman? She gave up everything to choose love.” Mama Wyatt was a real-life Princess who chose a hard life in the name of love, which would seem romantic in many people’s eyes. And so does Anna.

“No way, I don’t believe it.” I couldn’t believe it. What was more unbelievable than with a card emperor for a father? Why was Mama Wyatt a mere silver grade card apprentice? There had to be a story to it. And I guess somehow the Duskbrown family was to be blamed.

“Okay, believe whatever you want to” Seeing me be unreasonable, Anna gave up.

“...” Fook! If papa Wyatt were still alive, I would have saluted him. To steal a Demigod’s fiancee, papa Wyatt must have been quite a daring lady’s man.

“So, are you guys here to beg for forgiveness?” I asked the Fire Fist emperor. Knowing that they were young Wyatt’s relatives, I thought they were here to mend the relationship between us as I gained a lot of wealth recently.

“In a way, yes. We want to invite the main family. To add your parents and your name to the ancestry records. That way, your mother and father’s grave can be shifted to the Duskbrown family graveyard.” The Fire Fist emperor explained the purpose of his visit.

“Is that all?” I asked expressionlessly, having learned that not only was Mama Wyatt thrown out of the house but her name was erased from her family ancestry book.

“...Yes,” the Fire Fist emperor was confused, not seeing me enthused about the offer he had made. Well, what did he expect? Did he want me to jump in excitement?

“Anna, how is the Silver milk powder project progressing? Have you secured the Gate Dungeon?” Having heard what the Fire Fist emperor had to say to me, I asked Anna about the security detail for the silver beach gate dungeon.

“...” Anna was confused seeing me change the topic suddenly and looked at me with question marks in her eyes.

“Dalton, you haven’t answered me yet? Will you return to the family? There you will be a lot safer and have lots of freedom. After all, it’s your home.” Seeing me intentionally ignore him, the Fire Fist emperor thickened his skin and asked for my answer.

“Yes, I will. The day I come to your family, it will be the end of the Duskborn family.” I did not waste any more words on the Fire Fist emperor or the Duskborn family because action spoke more than words.

“Dalton, don’t let the anger cloud your judgment. Take your time and answer. I know our family was wrong, but your mother is also equally at fault. We did what we did because of family law. What your mother did is equal to betraying the family. The punishment of erasing her name from the ancestry book and banishing her from the main family is already very lenient.

But now, thanks to your contribution, the family is willing to withdraw all its punishment and invite you back to the family. With this, you can bury your parents in the Duskborn ancestry graveyard. Where your mother’s final rest truly belongs.” Despite hearing me threaten to destroy the entire Duskborn family, the Fire Fist emperor continued to persuade me.

## **Chapter 371: Shameless**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 19:28

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

Seeing Fire Fist emperor shamelessly continue to persuade me to enter the Duskborn family even after giving the Duskborn an ultimatum for its destruction, I felt disdain towards the Duskborn family, “No matter what you say, my decision will not change. Please leave. We are about to discuss some sensitive issues.”

“Dalton, think about your mother. Don’t you want her to be buried next to her family rather than a stranger?” The Fire Fist emperor did not plan on leaving without a positive answer. What bothered him most was I did not make any demands of the Duskborn family and directly rejected their invitation. Showing no interest in entering their family.

Why would I? Even if I chose to forget the revenge part, joining the Duskbrown family, I stood to lose more, and the family stood to gain a lot. And I never make a losing deal.

“My mother has already proved that she is happy where my father is. So, I think she is happy being buried next to my father.” I did plan on burying Mama and Papa Wyatt in the Duskbrown family ancestral graveyard. But when I do that, I want to bury the whole family, which forced them to their cruel fate.

“Dalton, blood is thicker than water. No matter what, you can only depend on family. Nothing is as safe as home. Please think twice before you make any decision.” Saying that the Fire Fist emperor activated his family bloodline to unearth the blood connection between him and me.

“Interesting way to use DNA with soul energy.” Feeling the faint connection between the Fire Fist emperor and me, I was astonished.

“Somethings wrong. I feel another blood connection other than you two?” The Fire Fist emperor felt an extra blood connection other than the Axe emperor and me. Spooked, he added, “Do you have a sibling? But according to the information I got, Ellen has only one son. No, this blood connection is from Brandon’s generation.”

“You must be detecting Kathy. She is my mother’s step-sister. And Three-eyed emperor’s illegitimate daughter. Let me warn you, she is my last family member. So don’t have any thoughts about her” I said this to clarify to the Duskbrown family that Kathy is my person and any harm to her would not be tolerated.

“I see, don’t worry. We are not here for her but for you. Dalton, you feel that connection between us. That’s a blood connection. No matter what you claim, you can never erase this connection between us. So, come home, Dalton. Let us protect you.” The Fire Fist emperor spoke big words, but he showed nothing to back his words.

Forgetting the revenge part, when they got an opportunity to protect me, these people were the most unreliable. I still remember them arguing about who gets to report to Anna about my death without seeking revenge or mourning my unfortunate departure.

Just a few minutes ago, he sold me to the Heatsend royal family for rights to become one of the distributors of silver milk powder in the capital. Despite all this evidence pointing contrary to his claim, the Fire first emperor still shamelessly continued to persuade me. His persuasion was becoming annoying. Irritated, I turned to Anna and said, “Anna, I want you to stop any cooperation between your family and the Duskbrown family right away. And I have things to discuss with you. Can you see your guests out?”

“Wyatt...” Anna wanted to say something but chose not to, and turning to Fire first emperor, she declared, “You heard him, now leave.”

“But, your highness....” The Fire Fist emperor tried to reason with Anna, but she glared at him and yelled, “I said leave.”

“Thank you, your highness. I will take my leave now.” Seeing no room for reasoning, the Fire first emperor chose to retreat. And decided to tackle this matter from another angle.

So what if he can’t persuade his grandnephew? He decided to convince his brother’s illegitimate daughter seeing how his grandnephew seemed to care about her. All he had to do was lure the hen the chick would follow. Thinking of this, the Fire Fist emperor carried his injured nephew and excited the VIP box.

“...” Seeing the Fire Fist emperor leave, I sneered. These people did not apologize for their part in the persecution of the Wyatt couple; instead, they tried to shift the blame and glorify their ancestry log and graveyard. I think they will like it when they are nothing but names in the ancestry log and get to eternally sleep 7 feet under in their ancestral graveyard.

“So, what did you want to discuss about?” After the Fire Fist emperor left, Anna asked curiously. This part I liked about Anna as she always gave importance to what I had to say.

“It’s about the security detail of the Silver Beach gate dungeon. Who is guarding it?” I asked this because I planned to have Anna build a southern watch military facility here in Sky Blossom city to protect the dungeon. While they are at it, they can guard me too. This way, I do not have to leave Sky Blossom city and not abandon my card boutique and TSR guild.

“About that, we are planning to transport the entire dungeon to a secure location. Fortunately, it is a low-rank gate dungeon. If it were a field dungeon or a high-rank dungeon, we would have to make other arrangements.” Instead of Anna, Luna explained the Heatsend Royal family’s plans for the Silver Beach Gate Dungeon.

“What? Can you do that? How is that possible? Why haven’t I heard of it?” I exclaimed, hearing that they planned to transport the gate dungeon to a more secure location. Fook, this meant all my plans of having Anna build a Southern Watch military facility in Sky Blossom city hit a dead end even before I set the plan in motion. So much for me trying to come up with ways to avoid going into hiding.

## **Chapter 372: Dungeon Relocation**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 19:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

“It is called Dungeon Relocation, and with enough preparations, it is possible.” Luna answered, after a pause, she continued saying, “This is the reason why Auntie chose me for the Silver Milk Powder project over grandfather. After all, Dungeon Relocation is my area of expertise.”

“So, mother had already made all the plans for the silver milk project. Why did she not inform me about it?” It appears even Anna was kept in the dark about the Heatsend Royal family’s plans for the Silver Beach gate dungeon.

“That’s for auntie to answer. Please do not drag me into your mother and daughter communication problems.” Luna choose her words carefully.

“Ms. Luna, about Dungeon relocation, What do you mean by ‘enough preparations’?” I was curious about Dungeon relocation, so I asked my doubts about it to the available expert.

“That’s Dr. Luna Lorn for you.” Luna corrected. I found it funny hearing Luna say that because I remembered doing the same to many people I did not like back on Earth.

“Sure, Dr. Lorn. Now, will you help me understand Dungeon Relocation?” I was not bothered by Luna’s haughtiness. Instead, I respected that because people in our field worshiped Knowledge, not strength.

“Hmph!” Luna snorted and then said, “Dungeon relocation is a new concept. It was based on the idea of relocating a captured gate dungeon to the desired location. Since this is a relatively new concept, there is not much advancement in this field. Therefore, relocation of the high-level dungeon is not possible yet. Thankfully Silver Beach gate dungeon is a low-level dungeon, so within another three months, we can uproot it from this city to the secure location.”

“3 months? If it takes that long to uproot a gate dungeon, how are you planning on guarding the dungeon?” hearing that it takes three months to uproot the gate dungeon, I was overjoyed. And set the previous plan in motion with some improvisation.

“Why would the dungeon need protection during the dungeon uprooting process? Who dares to mess with the Heatsend royal family in the southern region?” I could see Luna was purposefully acting dumb. She seemed to have already guessed where I was headed with my question.

“You dare to say that after 30 card emperors tried to assassinate me, an hour ago.

I may have discovered the Silver milk powder, and you may own its exclusive production rights, but the Silver milk powder does not belong to us but the entire humanity. And I believe it would be irresponsible to leave something that important unguarded.” I did not put my agenda forward not because Anna would reject it, but the

two card emperors in the room would definitely oppose it because me going into hiding would help their case.

“Yes, Luna. You cannot let our family pride come in between the welfare of the entire humanity. I will have an elite squadron of Southern Watch set up a temporary military base as protection detail until you uproot the gate dungeon.” Anna seemed to have guessed what was happening and responded in my support.

“You don’t have to go through the trouble; Auntie had made all the arrangements. It got delayed because of the mission, forsaken treasure.” Luna came clean and revealed that all the arrangements for the gate dungeon protection detail were made.

“Huh, this is great. Now you no longer have to go in hiding, Wyatt,” Anna exclaimed in excitement.

“You do know that it is a temporary military facility, right?” I hate to rain on Anna’s excitement but better now than later.

“No, you don’t understand, soon you will be able to attend the university.” Anna’s voice became loud in excitement.

“So...” I asked in confusion. Having attended enough university for two lifetimes, I was not thrilled about college life.

“The top 10 universities are humanities holy land of knowledge. All forces have signed a treaty that the top 10 universities are war-free zones. Nobody, I mean nobody, would dare try to assassinate you in one of the universities. Even if they tried to, they would fail and pay dearly for their actions.” Anna explained the reason behind her excitement. She seemed to be worried about my safety but knowing I would be leaving for college soon, her worry washed away.

“Great, haha! In your face. In your face. Dream on I Dalton Venera Wyatt will not become anybody’s slave. I’d instead prefer death.” I shouted, pointing at old fool Lorenzo and Luna. Especially Lorenzo, that sly old man seemed to have plans to turn me into Heatsend family slave even before he visited the Sky Blossom city; no, it may be his sole purpose for visiting the city in the first place. Thank god, Anna is more about beauty and brawn than brains, which lead to her signing a soul contract between us. Otherwise, the Heatsend family would have already turned me into a slave.

“Boy, you seem to be forgetting whose presence you are in.” Lorenzo glared at me. And he did not dare to do anything more than this to me in the presence of Anna.

..” I rolled my eyes at Lorenzo and turned to Anna, asking, ” Anna, how many broken runes did you get after killing the 24 card emperors.”

“I don’t know, I did not calculate the loot yet. Why do you ask?” Anna was in a hurry to check on me, so she did not bother to check her loot and hurried over to the VIP box.

“I sacrificed two broken runes to fake my death. I was wondering if you could lend me some more?” I know I am being shameless, but when freaking card emperors are shamelessly targeting my life I had to be thick-skinned for the sake of my survival.

“Hehe,” Anna let out a lewd laugh like a pervert and said, “ You know it is going to cost you, right?”

‘Tsk’ Hearing Anna, Luna clicked her tongue and threw a scorn-filled gaze at me.

### **Chapter 373: Job Offer**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 19:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

“Sure, name your price.” Ignoring Luna’s scorn-filled gaze, I confidently answered Anna’s sketchy offer.

“Wyatt, you dog. How can I talk about that with my family present here?” Anna acted shy, but her eyes kept throwing a flirtatious gaze at me.

“Go ahead, since when did our presence stop you from having a good time?” Old fool Lorenzo commented, seeing Anna act shy.

\*Tsk\*Luna clicked her tongue again.

“...” Anna glared at old man Lorenzo and her cousin Luna threatening them into behaving themselves.

“Anna, please don’t joke around. I am being serious; I want to borrow some broken runes. Would you please give me a price?” I planned to add the cost of broken runes to the 35000 soul jade I took from Anna as an advance on my silver milk royalty.

“You want to talk seriously, let’s talk seriously then. The market price of one broken rune is near 35,000 median soul jades. How many broken runes do you plan to borrow, and What do you plan to use as collateral?” Anna got real serious. Just like the first time I met her when she wanted me to hand over the secrets to silver milk powder production.

“Wait second, what is a Median Soul Jade?” This is the first time I heard about Median Soul Jade.

“Soul Jades are classified based on the purity of the soul Jade. The rank of the dungeon determines the purity of the soul jade produced into three types,

Low Soul Jades – F, E, D & C rank dungeons

Median Soul Jades – B, A, AA & S rank dungeons

High Soul Jades – SS & SSS rank dungeons

Lower the level of a dungeon longer it takes to produce a soul jade. Both B-rank and S-rank dungeons produce median soul jades. In the time required by the B-rank dungeon to produce one median soul, the S-rank dungeon produces four median soul jades.

The current exchange rate for Soul Jades is,

1 Low Soul Jade = 100 million dollars

1 Median Soul Jade = 10 Low Soul Jades

1 High Soul Jade = 10 Median Soul Jades

The rate may vary in the black market. Considering you are my friend, I will offer you alternative options of payment. So do you want to pay with Low Soul Jades or Dollars?” After explaining the types of Soul Jades, knowing that I did not have any median soul jades on me, Anna offered me alternative payment methods.

“About that, can you give me an advance on my royalty?” Hearing the sky-high price of a broken rune, I was already speechless, but still, I gathered my courage to ask for a loan on my royalty shamelessly.

“No, you can not, as you already claimed a 35,000 low soul jade advance on your royalty.” Anna rejected my shameless request for an advance on my royalty.

“...” I didn’t know how else to pay for the broken runes. And thinking about the two broken runes I sacrificed to fake my death, I felt light-headed, unable to handle the shock of losing 70,000 median soul jades. Due to this experience, I saw Anna in a new light as she generously gifted me six broken soul jades worth 210,000 median soul jades or 21,000 high soul jades. If I had a prodigal daughter like Anna, I would have removed her name from my will.

“Wyatt, I have a few broken runes on me. If you are willing, I can sell you one broken rune for one percent of the silver milk powder share in your hand. Considering the current market price of the broken runes and silver milk powder shares, I think I am offering you a fair price.” Old fool Lorenzo did not want to miss out on the opportunity to make some money on my desperation.

“No, thank you.” Giving the old fool a middle finger in mind, I rejected his offer. People are still skeptical about silver milk powder. Therefore, their share price is still unstable. If I had to comment on Lorenzo’s offer, then I would say he was being generous by offering one broken rune for one share.

“I have an offer for you too.” Luna proposed

“If it’s about selling the shares in my hand, then don’t bother.” I made it clear that I was not willing to sell the shares of silver milk powder in my hand.

“No, I want to employ you to help me research on empty space. I will pay you one broken rune after the completion of my research.” Luna seemed to be set on having me help her in her research.

“Nope, that’s too long and tedious for a single broken rune.” I rejected Luna’s offer cause I needed a broken rune to increase my strength to face any possible assassination attempts. And Luna’s research may take years or even decades which is a lot of time and work for a single broken rune. Yep, Anna had spoiled with her extravagant gifts as I can think of hundreds of people who would kill to have the job Luna offered me.

“I’m open for negotiations. Name your price.” Luna seemed to have expected my rejection and asked me the price for my help in her research.

“One broken rune per month with fifteen working hours per week obviously I will be taking the weekends off. And I want four months’ salary in advance.” I wanted to ask for one broken rune per week, but instead, I found the limit of my shamelessness.

“Even the lead researcher doesn’t get paid that much by my university.” Luna looked at me with utter disbelief.

“There are hundreds of capable lead researchers, so they are not worth that much. As far as I know, you have only me who can help you with your research on empty space.” Knowing the worth of what you are selling is negotiation 101.

“Huh... Grandpa, how many broken runes do you have on you?” After giving it a thought, Luna turned to her grandfather for help.

### **Chapter 374: Megamorpher**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 19:56

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

“Right now, I have one broken rune on me, Sugar Bear. Let me check how many broken runes Grinch, the vegetative assassin I caught, has.” saying that Lorenzo summoned his grimoire, which spat out vegetative Grinch.

“Old man, have gone senile? That is evidence.” Anna yelled at Lorenzo, who was about to dig out Grinch’s Ego Gem.

“Evidence of what? In his current state, he is as good as dead.” Lorenzo defended his intention to turn Grinch’s runes into broken runes.

“For you may be, but not for JJ. With JJ’s origin card, though vegetative, he will talk.” Anna is adamant about keeping the vegetative Grinch’s body alive.

“Fine, can I borrow some broken runes then?” Unable to dig out Grinch’s ego gem for broken runes, Lorenzo had no choice but to turn to Anna for help.

“Old man, let the person who needs them ask for them.” Anna denied Lorenzo’s request to borrow broken runes saying that if Luna wants the broken runes let her ask herself.

“Wyatt, let’s prepare the contract now with one broken rune upfront, and I will pay you the remaining broken runes in 3 days.” Luna did not even bother to ask Anna to lend her some broken runes. It seems there is still some friction left between the two cousins.

“Nope, that won’t work for me. Give me four broken runes now, or we don’t have a deal.” I was not interested in helping Luna in her empty space research. Yet, I chose to accept her job offer because I urgently needed broken runes to create the cards that would help me protect myself from any future assassination attempts.

“Okay, then I will contact you when I have four broken runes” Luna did not understand the difference between me getting the broken runes today and three days later, which is why she did not think of the possibility that three days after I may not be alive to take her job offer. And I did not bother to remind her of that. Because to her, even with broken runes, a card soldier can never defeat a card emperor. And I agree with her, but I could escape or trick them like I did today.

“Typical Luna,” Anna commented, seeing Luna not willing to borrow some broken runes from her.

\*Ahem\* clearing my throat, I drew Anna’s attention and asked, ” Anna, how about I pay for the broken runes by other means than Soul Jades?”

“Wyatt, darling, I thought you wanted to talk seriously?” Asked Anna, scanning me with a passionate gaze.

\*Tsk\* clicking her tongue, Luna looked at me with disdain.

“No, not that. I mean, how about I create rune cards for you in exchange for broken runes?” I did not want silver milk powder shares, so I had no choice but to offer my service in exchange for the broken runes.

\*Hahaha\* Luna, Lorenzo, and Anna, all three, burst into a loud laugh.

“Tell me you are kidding me, right?” Lorenzo asked, wiping the tears from the corners of his eyes.

“...” I stood calm and gazed back at all three of them with a serious look because I was confident in what I said.

“Oh, he is serious.” Seeing the serious look in my eyes, Lorenzo and the other two finally stopped laughing.

“Wyatt, don’t tell me you seriously think that your service as a card creation is worth a broken rune,” Luna asked with disbelief.

“I do. You saw the ego elemental I created with broken runes, right? Don’t you think they are worth a broken rune?” With Calamity daughter gem, I can create any broken rune into an ego elemental with ease.

“What? Didn’t Anna create those ego elementals for you?” Lorenzo enquired in surprise as he and everyone else believed that Anna gifted me the ego elementals.

“Nope, I created them myself. And I think they should be worth the price I ask off.” Desperate times call for desperate measures, so I no longer tried to hide that I was the one who created the ego elementals.

“No way, you just forged your ego gem. How can a novice like you refine a broken rune and cast it into an ego elemental? This is illogical.” Old man Lorenzo could not comprehend the idea that a total novice could create an ego elemental using a broken rune just minutes after he forged his ego gem.

“Anna, what do you say? I can help you create ego elementals using broken ruins in exchange for broken runes.” ignoring Lorenzo, I asked Anna.

“Ego elementals, I can create them too. Why should we pay you for their creation?” Anna asked a reasonable question

“That... my ego elements can be used by anyone. The broken runes used to create them will not resist new users. They will be as docile as any other runes of the user.” I knew this because I saw how the broken rune spirits were hostile to anyone who entered their ego gem.

"Is that it? I can do that too. Give up, Wyatt, anything you can do, a card emperor can do it better." Before Anna could answer me, Lorenzo argued.

"You guys saw Pax's mecha Iron Flesh right. What if I say I can build something five-time enormous than that using the broken runes? And anybody can use them. I bet the southern watch would love to equip your soldier with those." ginormous mecha, that was what I was planning to build for myself. Well, not exactly a giant mecha but a Megamorpher formed by combining different mechas.

"Why would our soldiers need those giant puppets? They are already equipped with capable armors and weapons." Lorenzo's prejudice against me stopped him from looking at the picture I was trying to paint.

"I like the idea. A mecha, is that what you call that thing. With the firepower it was packing, the card apprentice equipping it could take on thousands of hostile card apprentices of the same Realm. Those huge armors will work wonders at the 'Way Beyond.'

Good, but before we go any further, I would like a demonstration of the armor you create using broken runes. And if they are worth one broken rune." Anna saw the picture I painted and was impressed enough to give me a chance to prove my claims.

"Yeah, I agree. If the so-called mechas are not half bad as you promise, they can help our soldiers posted at the way beyond a lot. Maybe we can reclaim some of the lost lands." Luna seemed to understand the worth of mecha as a mass slaughtering machine.

### **Chapter 375: Rune Jewel**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 20:03

Location- Sky Blossom City, Card stadium, VIP box no.1

"Great, I will create the mecha cards for demonstration. And trust me, they will be worth your money." They say if you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life. And creating things that were just a theory or concept back on earth was what I loved, and when Anna and the rest asked me to create a mecha made out of runes for demonstration. I was pumped.

"Okay then, what are you waiting for?" Asked Lorenzo, he seemed to be bummed about Anna giving me an opportunity to earn the broken runes as he wanted to exchange the broken runes in his possession for the share of silver milk powder in my hands.

“Well, creating a mecha card requires a lot of rare ingredients and resources, which costs a lot of money. As an orphan student, I lack the funds and the broken runes to create a mecha card.” I was not ashamed to use the orphan student card to get the funds and broken runes to create the mecha card for demonstration. Heatsend royal family is loaded, and they would not sweat the small expenses.

“Seriously...” Lorenzo was about to talk snark again but was interrupted by Anna, “forward me the list of ingredients you require. I will have the stadium staff bring it.”

“There is no rush for that. How about we move the party to my card boutique? There I can use my card lab for the card creation, and Susan can make arrangements for the ingredients. Of course, you will be paying her.” Creating mecha cards using broken runes would be a massive project. I will require a lot of rare and expensive card ingredients in their creation process, which was an excellent opportunity for Susan to make a buttload of money sales commission. Therefore I advised Anna that we should move to the Association guild warehouse, aka my card boutique.

“Sure. On the way, we can buy some pizza for dinner.” Anna agreed and pitched that we should have pizza for dinner.

“But we had pizza for lunch. Not that I am complaining, I love pizza.” I commented as I used my grimoire to send a private message to Susan.

...

Wyatt: [ Susan, I hooked a big fish. So, please leave whatever you are doing and quickly head to the warehouse and make it presentable.]

Susan: [Okay. Where are you at? And what is the estimated time of your arrival?]

Wyatt: [We are leaving the card stadium right now.]

Susan: [ I am still at the stadium too.]

Wyatt: [ No worries, we will be stopping for pizza. Do you want me to bring some for you?]

Susan: [That's not enough. Stall the client as much as possible until I DM you.]

Wyatt: [Okay. What about the pizza?]

Susan: [No, I don't want a pizza. Could you bring me a kale salad?]

Wyatt: [ Really? Your choosing Kale salad over pizza]

Susan: [Yep, I had lobster for lunch. So, I want to eat something healthy for dinner.]

Wyatt: [Well, you can order it from the staff mess at Guild association mall yourself.]

...

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 21:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234

“Anna, give me three broken runes of Fire, Wind, and earth elemental rule.” I said, picking up the last pizza slice.

“Okay. I will help you refine these broken runes. Meanwhile, you get started with the card creation process” Anna offered her help in refining the broken runes, but I did not need her help as my calamity daughter gem could easily dominate the will of the broken runes and turn them into slaves.

“Thank you. I can refine them myself.” Wiping my hands and mouth on a napkin, I politely rejected Anna’s help.

“Are you sure?” Anna asked again. She knew I had turned six broken runes into ego elementals in less than 20 minutes but still, she could not help but be concerned.

“Yes, give me the broken runes. I will handle them.” For some people, Anna’s concern would come off as clingy and smothering, but I enjoyed it. I loved the attention and care she had shown me. Though it’s another thing that my trust issues are keeping me from reciprocating similar feelings for her.

“Here, What about the other ingredients?” Handing me a red spherical orb, Anna asked me about the status of the other ingredients that Susan had gone to acquire.

“They are on their way. And what is this?” I asked Anna, curiously fiddling with the red spherical orb that she handed to me.

“That’s a Rune Jewel. It is an item used to store broken runes. You can access the broken runes in them using your mental energy.” Anna answered, explaining how to access the broken rune stored within the Rune Jewel.

“Wow, then is it like an artificial ego gem?” I asked curiously while gazing at the three dots of red, green, and yellow floating around inside the Rune Jewel. Those three dots must be the broken runes of elemental runes fire, wind, and land.

“Calling a Rune Jewel an artificial ego gem would be incorrect, but the idea behind the creation of Rune Jewel was indeed to create a synthetic ego gem. It is more like a failed product as a result of trying to make a fake ego gem.

Ego gems can help store and nourish runes and broken runes, but the rune jewel can only store broken runes.” Luna did not miss the chance to correct me and explained Why? What? And How? About the Rune jewels.

“Thank you for that. I will get started on refining the broken runes. You guys make yourself at home and when Susan comes with indigents, ask her to leave them at the door of the card lab.” Thanking Luna for the useless facts that she unloaded on me, I headed towards the card lab to refine the broken runes until Susan arrived with the other ingredients.

“Will do. Ask if you need any help.” Anna reminded me that she is available to help if I need any. Despite being rejected by me repeatedly.

With the help of three-card emperors, creating the mecha card would be a lot easier and more time-saving. But my card creation method is very crude, which involves a lot of help from my soul pupils and memories, making it impossible for me to collaborate with other card creationists, especially with competent card creations like Luna and Lorenzo. They would easily spot that I have bare minimum knowledge of card creation.

### **Chapter 376: Design Issues**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 21:17

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234

Mechas are the unrequited romance I have longed for since I was a little boy and watched the first mecha anime. Getting a second chance in this card world, my love for mecha was no longer an unanswered one. I got an opportunity to create a mecha for Pax Whiteburn but never a chance to ride one, but today, I would change that by creating a mecha for myself.

Mechas were quite popular back on the earth. Their popularity led to the birth of different models of Mechas such as humanoid mecha, animal-shaped mecha, transformable mecha, fusion mecha, etc. And today, I was planning on creating three animal-shaped mechas with the three broken runes I borrowed from Anna. I had already decided on which animals I should shape my mechas after before I gave Susan the ingredient list to purchase the card ingredients.

For the Fire elemental rule broken rune, I decided to use it to create a mecha shaped after a majestic Lion.

For the Wind elemental rule broken rune, I planned to create a flight-capable mecha for this one, so I decided on the eagle for the wind broken rune.

For the Earth elemental rule broken rune, I choose tortoises. But I did not plan on making this mecha as slow as an actual one, but it would have a hard shell that the tortoises are known for.

Designing a mecha into animal form was not the problem, but its mobility and control, which lied in the AI running the mecha, the spirits of the broken runes were the problems. The broken rune spirits belong to humans, so they had no idea how an eagle or a tortoise should move. This was the challenge I was facing right now.

With the help of the calamity daughter gem, I can tame the spirits of the broken runes unconditionally. So I thought I would feed the beast will of the Lion, Eagle, and tortoise to their respective elemental broken runes. This way, instead of mimicking their late masters, the broken runes would mimic the beast wills I feed to them.

This was just a theory yet to be tested. Once Susan delivers the card ingredients, I will test this theory out. And the probability of success is very favorable. If not, I will have to develop something like a separate secondary AI for the mobility and control of the mechas. That would be time-consuming and complicate the internal design process of the mecha.

Another complication was the power source for the mecha. I planned to add two power sources to each mecha. One power source would be Soul energy based, and the other power source would be based on rule power. Soul energy based power source was not a problem as Soul energy reactor was readily available in Guild Association mall. But a power generator for a rule power based power source was not available in the Guild Association mall.

The Sky blossom city was a third-rate city, and it was already a miracle that I could get not one but three A-rank soul energy reactors and other rare A-rank card ingredients here.

Not to mention three rule power generators, even a single rule power generator, was not something Susan could buy in this city or any other nearby city.

These new mechas were broken rune based, and without a rule power reactor, I could not complete them. I could make use of the soul energy base, but this way, the whole idea behind the creation of these mechas would be lost. Therefore Susan decided to try her luck at the black market, and fortunately, an old second-hand rule power generator was available.

A single old second-hand rule power generator could not make up for three rule power generators in three separate mechas. Still, I could reverse engineer the old rule power generator to create three new generators using my soul pupils.

I asked Lorenzo and Luna to help me create or even reverse engineer three rule power generators, but they refused because it was not their field of study. I did not ask Anna

for help because she was more of a warrior than a scholar, but she still enthusiastically offered to help. I refused as taking over Anna's offer of support for my current predicament would be like giving a sword in the hands of a monkey.

The next problem for the creation of the mecha card was the artillery and range weapon system. Since I was building the mechas using broken runes, I wanted to use rule power-based weapons. But the rule-based weapons were not available in the sky blossom city market, both black and white, which meant that I had to create the arsenal for the mecha from scratch too.

The reverse engineering of the rule power generator and the creation of all three arsenal systems will be time-consuming, even with the help of three of my slave consciousness. Time was not an issue on Anna's side as she did not give one, but if I take too much time in the creation of the mechas, by then, Clown mask and Cortney will be moved to a secured location.

Since the moment Luna and Lorenzo knew about the Clown mask and Cortney's physique, they haven't left both of them out of sight as if they were their precious. And I wouldn't blame them cause the future information clown mask had was worth it. But this also meant I did not get any opportunity to sow my calamity daughter gem into the Clown mask.

Currently, Anna and the other two are keeping watch on Clown mask and Cortney. But once the temporary Southern Watch Soldier assigned to protect the silver beach gate dungeon arrives, they will take custody of the mother and daughter pair. This means I will never again get to meet the clown mask to sow the calamity daughter gem into her and get her memory. Therefore, I needed a perfect plan to complete the mecha creation before the temporary military arrived. After considering all the problems, I mapped a plan with all the contingencies I could think of, which would help me save a lot of time in card creation. And these three Mecha cards were how I was going to sow my calamity daughter gem into Cortney's mother.

## **Chapter 377: Experimentation**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 21:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234

I have two motives for creating the mecha cards. The first one is to earn some broken runes, and the second is to sow my calamity daughter gem in the Clown mask to get the information about the future she had. To achieve both objectives, I will have to create the three mecha cards at the earliest. Therefore when Susan arrived with the ingredient cards, I asked her to acquire them. I collected them and got to the card creation process without further delay.

[ Card Name: Rule Power Generator

Card Type: Ingredient card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: [ 57/100]

Card Effect: Rule Power Generator is a generator that uses broken runes as fuel to generate clean rule power. ]

Going through the stacks of Ingredients cards, I picked up the second-hand Rule Power Generator ingredient card. Its card durability was way lower than the minimum recommended durability limit. Using this generator for mecha card creation would turn them into a ticking time bomb waiting to blow up any second.

I checked if rearranging the card's soul pathways would help with increasing its durability, and I would have one less generator to make. Unfortunately, that was a dead end as the generator's parts were too worn out for any alteration or modification. So I was left with only one option to reverse engineer the generator and create three brand new Rule Power Generators for the mecha cards.

After checking on the Rule Power Generator, I took out the three beast wills ingredients cards from the stack of card ingredients. The three beast wills belonged to three different monsters of Lion, Eagle, and Tortoise kind.

[ Card Name: Volcano Lion Beast Will

Card Type: Ingredient card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: [97 /100]

Card Effect: The beast will belong to a Volcano Lion. ]

[ Card Name: Gale Eagle Beast Will

Card Type: Ingredient card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: [96/100]

Card Effect: The beast will belongs to a Gale Eagle. ]

[ Card Name: Terrain Back Tortoise Beast Will

Card Type: Ingredient card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: [98/100]

Card Effect: The beast will belonging to a Terrain Back Tortoise]

All the three beast wills belong to A-rank monsters. Acquiring these three beasts will would not have been possible without the cooperation of the City hall and Card Creationist Association. A-rank beast wills are privileged ingredients that were hidden in the treasure vault of the city hall, and card creationist association. If not for Anna's identity acquiring the cooperation of these associations would not have been possible. And thanks to that, the price of these three cards was a lot cheaper than their original price.

Now I was going to test my theory about changing the shape of the broken rune sprites to that of the beast will. For that, I took the Rune Jewel and used my mental power to withdraw the fire elemental broken rune into a calamity daughter gem. Then I placed both the Volcano Lion beast will card, and the Fire elemental broken rune calamity daughter gem into my golden grimoire and began my test.

I could have performed the test on all three broken runes simultaneously using my slave consciousness, but I did not because I was unsure about the test results. If the test failed, I would lose three beast wills simultaneously. Therefore, to be on the safe side, I decided to test with the fire elemental rune, and if I got a positive result, I could then proceed with the other two.

Without hesitating anymore, I contacted the fire elemental broken rune spirit and went through its memories to check how much intelligence it had left. Thankfully it showed an intelligence equal to that of a human pre-teen. And with the help of the hive AI, it was entirely capable and functional to operate a mecha.

Now that the rune spirit was up to the mark, for the next step, I had to destroy its current humanoid form and have it take the form of a volcano lion. This was easier said than done. Though the rune spirit was subdued due to the calamity daughter gem, it was still

nurtured and forged by its previous master. So it's not a marvel that it had taken after its master's form. That humanoid form was its individuality. Destroying it meant destroying a large part of the rune spirit.

I had to be careful here. If I damage the rune spirit more than it can handle, then there is a chance that the rune can disintegrate and dissipate into the world. That would not be good and be like taking a step back.

Therefore I carefully transformed the soul pathways of the Volcano Lion beast will into the calamity daughter gem containing the Fire elemental rune. As soon as the soul pathway of the Valcona lion beast's will entered the gem, I instructed the broken rune to swallow and digest the Volcano Lion beast's will.

Runes are different from any other form of the matter I have seen to the present. They do not have soul pathways. They are just a mass of energy. This was the reason I had my doubts about the test. I did not know how I was going to combine the Soul pathways with a mask of energy. Therefore I had the fire elemental broken rune energy devour the beast will's soul pathway and digest it. And now I was waiting for the result to see if the broken rune could digest the volcano lion will in the soul pathways and integrate the beast will with itself.

Having devoured the soul pathways, the broken rune did not show any change, so I contacted the fire elemental broken rune to see if it had gained anything after digesting the soul pathway of the Volcano Lion beast will.

### **Chapter 378: Recovery**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 21:41

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234, Card Lab

'Success' I celebrated getting a positive response from the fire elemental broken rune spirit. Devouring the soul pathways of the Volcano Lion Beast Will the fire elemental broken rune not only gained the memories of the Volcano Lion but also its intelligence raised by a margin.

Conforming that the broken rune has gained the memories of Volcano Lion beast will. I order the broken rune spirit to take the form of the Volcano lion using the new memories it gained. Following my order, the broken rune spirit dissolved its humanoid shape and turned into a Volcano Lion.

'Yes' Seeing the broken rune shaped in Volcano Lion form jump around in the calamity daughter gem, I cheered. Using the memories, the broken rune gained not only the beast shape but also all the fire-type skills and wild instincts of the Volcano Lion.

With the form and the instincts of a Volcano Lion, the fire elemental broken rune no longer would have a problem with the controlling and maneuvering of the beast-shaped mecha body I would be creating for it.

The success of the experimenting on Fire Elemental broken rune proved my theory, avoiding the trouble of creating a separate secondary AI for the Control and Pilot system of the beast-shaped mecha body.

Putting aside the Volcano Lion Calamity daughter gem, I extracted the other two broken runes from the rune jewel into two separate Calamity daughter gems. And with the help from one of my slave consciousness, I simultaneously introduced the soul pathway of the beast wills of Terrain Back Tortoise and Gale Eagle to their respective broken runes.

After the broken runes digested the soul pathways of the beast wills they devoured, I ordered the earth and Wind elemental broken rune spirits to dissolve their humanoid shape and turn into their respective beast forms. Namely Terrain Back Tortoise and Gale Eagle.

Completing the three beast-shaped broken runes for the Mecha cards, my attention turned to the old rule power generator ingredient card. Thinking about reverse-engineering the old rule power generator, my head hurts. But still, I had to because I had no choice as it was either this or nothing.

\*Sigh\*, letting out a sigh, I placed the rule power generator ingredient card into the creation page of my golden grimoire. There are three primary stages to reverse engineering anything,

1. Implementation recovery
2. Design recovery
3. Analysis recovery

These three stages are the exact reverse of the stages for any engineering process. Namely, Analysis, Design, and Implementation.

Implementation recovery is nothing but figuring out the applications of the structure that you want to reverse engineer. And based on the application of the structure and its components, you determine and prepare an initial model for the structure.

In the case of the rule power generator, I did not have to research its function and application as it came with a user manual. I scanned through the user manual using the hive AI and uploaded all the related information to my mind. Thanks to the soul pupils and the user manual, I did not have a problem coming up with an initial model for the rule power generator.

The next stage was Design recovery. This stage involved undoing the mechanics of the structure. In layman terms, I had to open up the structure to its individual piece. And try to figure out which piece went Where? Why? And how it operated. This was the most time-consuming thing of all three stages, as resolving any foreign critical mechanics of the structure would be complicated and complex.

Fortunately, the user manual came with the design for the rule power generator. Labeling each component, its purpose, application, and maintenance. With this information, it did not take me long to undo the rule power generator soul pathways to get the individual components. I did not have to worry about missing anything or forgetting what went where because the hive AI recorded everything. If I forgot anything, I could refer to the recordings.

Having the user manual saved a lot of time and stress. Done with Design recovery, I moved to the next stage of Analysis recovery, which was to use all the information gathered in the last two steps and develop an error-free model for the structure.

For this part of reverse engineering, I used the simulation function of the Hive AI to come up with the original model of the rule power generator. And to make sure the reverse-engineered model is working as effectively as the original model. If not, there must be an error that had to be rectified.

After running 19 failed simulations, I finally reverse-engineered a model with an efficiency rate closer to the original model. The difference in the efficiency rate was just a narrow margin. If I had more time, I would have stuck to getting the exact efficiency rate, but I was tight on time now. And the current efficiency rate was enough for the mechas to provide a satisfactory demonstration to Anna.

\*sigh\* I sighed in relief, deciding on the final model for the three new rule power generators I was about to create for the mecha cards. If I had more time and knowledge on my hands, I could have developed a more efficient model, but alas.

[ A-rank Brootonium card x 200

A-rank Skywire card X 50 ]

[Card name: Brootonium

Card type: ingredient card

Card rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card rate: -/

Card durability: [97/100]

Card Info: One card contains 1000 tons of Brootonium ore. Brootonium is an excellent and resilient metal ore. Used to create weapons and armors. ]

[Card name: Skywire

Card type: ingredient card

Card rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card rate: -/-

Card durability: [97/100]

Card Info: One card contains 1000 tons of Skywire ore. Skywire is an excellent and resilient metal ore. Mainly used in alloy with Brootonium to create weapons and armors. ]

Brootonium and Sky wire are rare metal ores mainly used to create rare grade weaponry and armory. And right now, I had enough of them to make alloy steel to create three beast-shaped against mecha bodies.

### **Chapter 379: Smelting and Casting**

Date- 27 Mar 2321

Time- 21:58

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234, Card Lab

Brootonium and Skywire mixed in the ratio of 4:1 form an externally resilient alloy known as Synonium. Synonium is a rare grade alloy whose capabilities match that of mythic grade metals. I chose this alloy for the creation of my beast-shaped mecha mainly because of the various abilities it offers, like Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.

[Card Name: Synonium

Card Type: Ingredient card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: [100/100]

Card Effect: Synonium is a rare grade alloy formed by mixing Brootonium and Skywire in the ratio of 4:1.

Additional effect: Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.]

Extreme Temperature Adaptation: This Skill gives the alloy the ability to adapt to extreme temperatures of its surroundings with ease. Meaning be it extreme heat or extreme cold, the alloy will withstand it all.

Shock Absorption: This Skill gives the alloy the ability to absorb the shock from any physical impact or attack and distribute it equally throughout its circumference. Making it very difficult to pierce or dent the alloy.

Structural Memory Recovery: once the molten synonium is shaped into a specific structure, it will remember it for its lifetime. No matter how much damage it sustains, as long as enough energy is supplied to it, it will return to the form in its memory.

Due to the skill Extreme Temperature Adaptation, it is tough to turn the Synonium into a molten state again, meaning once shaped, the shape of the Synonium can not be changed. Therefore many card creationists avoid using this excellent alloy.

I had a total of 200 Brootonium ingredient cards containing 1000 tones of Brootonium each and 50 Skywire ingredient cards containing 1000 tones of Brootonium each. So, I have a total of 200,000 tons of Brootonium and 50,000 tons of Skywire with me right now. With this large quantity of Brootonium and Skywire, I could smelt about 150,000 tons of Synonium alloy. After creating the bodies and skeletal frame for the three mechas, I will still have more than enough left with me to make the Control, Power, Sensory, Weapon, Artillery system for the three mechas and also some spare in case there is an error.

[A-rank Black Rock Coated Furnace Item card x 2

A-rank Spirit Star Flame Skill card x 2]

Brootonuim and Skyfire are both rare-grade ores, and smelting them with normal fire and furnace is a fool's errand. Therefore I had added a rare grade Furnace and Flame for the smelting of these ores. I could have used the broken fire rune here, but the furnace could withstand its extreme temperature. So, I chose to order the Spirit Star Flame skill.

[Card Name: Black Rock Coated Furnace

Card Type: Item card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: 10 stars

Card Durability: [89/100]

Card Effect: This item is an industry-grade furnace for heavy-duty workload and high-temperature smelting.

Additional effect: Thermostat, Smokeless, Temperature resistance coating, Black flame]

Thermostat: This ability allows the user to control the temperature of the Black Flame in the furnace.

Smokeless: The inward surface of the furnace absorbs all the smoke produced during smelting. Making it so that no smoke is generated during the smelting process.

Temperature resistance coating: The entire outside surface of the furnace is covered by a thin layer of black rock coating. This layer of black rock coating traps all the thermal energy inside the furnace, ensuring that the furnace maintains maximum efficiency all the time. This coating also separates the outside temperature influencing the furnace core temperature. This way, the furnace gives the maximum output all the time.

[Card Name: Spirit Star Flame

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: 13 stars

Card Durability: [92/100]

Card Effect: Spirit Star Flame is an A-rank rare grade flame with a maximum temperature equal to thrice the core temperature of the white sun.

Additional effect: Spirit star flame manipulation]

Spirit star flame manipulation- this skill gives the host ability to control and maneuver the spirit star flame according to his will.

Due to the Synonium alloy's skills Structural memory recovery and extreme temperature adaptation, I would have to smelt and cast the alloy into the predetermined mecha models simultaneously. Leaving a tiny margin for error. One would think that skills Structural memory recovery and extreme temperature adaptation would make the alloy Synonium desirable to blacksmith card creationists. Still, they were the reason card creationist turned away from this metal as there is no way any card creationist can smelt and cast at the same time.

But this was not a problem for me as I was not alone. I had three slave memories and a capable AI. They provided enough workforce and robotic precision to simultaneously smelt and cast the alloy with near-zero error.

I had the red determined simulated designs for the three mechas, Volcano Lion Design, Gale Eagle Design, and Back Terrain Tortoise Design. There are many capable and fierce A-rank beasts out there, but I still chose these beasts for the design of the mechas based on two factors, availability of beast will and simplicity of the mecha design.

After equipping the two A-rank Item Black Rock Coated Furnace and the two A-rank Skill Spirit Star Flame, I placed both the ore ingredient cards into the creation page of my golden grimoire. And asked two of my slave consciousness to smelt the ores and mix them in the perfect ratio to get the molten alloy. Meanwhile, I and the remaining slave consciousness began casting the molten alloy into the predetermined shape by rearranging the soul pathways of the molten alloy.

We began by casting the skeletal structure of the three mechas, then the thin alloy tissue layer covering the skeletal system leaving enough space for the Control System, Power System, Sensory system, and Hidden weapons according to the simulated design. Later we continued to cast the exoskeleton and the armor of the three mechas.

## **Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 380: Array Card - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 380: Array Card**

### **Chapter 380: Array Card**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 03:44

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234, Card Lab

It took me nearly five hours to complete casting the skeletal frame, the exoskeletal shell, and the thin alloy soft tissue stuffing for all three mechas. It was almost morning, and I still had to cast the Power, Control, Sensory, Weaponry, and other systems. Thankfully, there was no error during creation. Otherwise, It would have taken longer.

Having completed the body of the three mechas now all that's left was their in yards for the synonium alloy body. Namely the synonium alloy Power, Control, Sensory, Weaponry, and other systems. This grunt work of creating the mecha systems I tasked it to my slave consciousness, and I started to design different types of appropriate weapons for the three mechas. While the slave conscious were building the systems

following the predetermined simulated design of each system. I, with the help of the Hive AI, started working on suitable weapons for all three mechas.

Using leftover Synonium alloy after creating the body of the three mechas, I decided to develop the required systems for the mecha bodies with the help of my three slave consciousnesses. Another two hours, my slave consciousnesses had successfully installed all the Control, Sensory, Soul energy reactor, Thermal, and Cooling systems into the three mecha except the Rule Power Generator, the Weapons, and the cockpit for the card apprentice pilot.

I had left space for the cockpit in the skull section of all three of the mechas. Now all I had to do was add all the control and monitoring panels and buttons to it, along with a comfy seat for the pilot. For obvious reasons, the cockpit will have a seat ejection option, and then the seat will have an air cushion and a parachute.

Done making three luxurious cockpits In the skulls of the three animal-shaped mechas. I turned my attention to the weapon system, which consisted of both cold and hot weapons, for example, Iron jaws and becks with plasma claws, laser cannons, ballistic missiles, and etcetera. One by one, I mounted the weapons to their respective mechas.

I designed each weapon exclusively for their respective mechas such that the weapons could hide under their armor or exoskeleton without compromising their defensive abilities. For example, the laser cannons are hidden in the mouths and the becks of the mechas. And the plasma claws are hidden in the paws and the feet of the mechas.

After adding the weapon system to the three mechas, next came the rule power generator. In terms of energy sources for the mechas, I have already created and added a soul energy-based power system to mechas as an auxiliary power source. The main rule power-based energy system was already in place. All it was missing was a rule power generator.

Following the simulated reverse-engineered design, I and my three slave consciousness created three rule power generator using the synonium alloy left after the creation of the mechas body and its other systems. The newly created three rule power generators were useless without a rune or a broken rune to act as fuel for them to generate rule power.

Hence, I took the three calamity daughter gems, which housed the Fire, Wind, and Earth broken runes, respectively. I was going to place each one of the calamity daughter gems into the fuel chamber of the three rule power generator and then place the rule power generator into the main rule power-based system of the three mechas. Finally completing the creation of the three mechas, but before that, I wanted to bestow an array skill known as the Earth Wind and Fire formation into all three of the calamity daughter gem.

[A-rank Earth Wind and Fire Array Trap card x3

A-rank Origin Core x 3]

[Card Name: Earth Wind and Fire Formation

Card Type: Array Card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: 10-stars

Card Durability: [89/100]

Card Effect: Earth Wind and Fire Formation is a three-person array, each representing one element, Earth or Wind or Fire. Each element enhances the Strength, Intelligence, and Vitality of the three-card apprentice using this trap card.

Additional Effect: Phantom-three minds one body ]

Phantom-three minds one body: This ability of the formation allows its users to form a large Phantom body controlled and maneuvered by the three consciousnesses of the three-card apprentice operating the Earth Wind and Fire Formation. Earth becomes the foundation and strength of the phantom body, Wind becomes the mind and intellect of the phantom body, while the Fire becomes the volatility and power of the phantom body.

After bestowing the Earth Wind and Fire formation skill to the three calamity gems, I added them to the three rule power generator. Then the three generators were hooked into the main rule-based power system of the three mechas. Next, I wanted to morph the three mechas in my golden grimoire into cards, but I still had about 60 tons of the Synonium alloy. So I decided to add two more tiers to the three giant beast-shaped mechas, just like I did with Pax's origin card.

Splitting the 60 tons of alloy equal between the three mechas, 20 tons, I created three power suits as tier one, Exoskeleton armor as tier two for each of the three mechas. Obviously, the animal-shaped giant mechas will be the third tier. The whole tier-one - Power suit, tier two -Exoskeleton, and tier 3 -Giant mecha were stored in the small origin core on top of the ring that displayed the icon of their respective beasts. Then I morphed the rings into three different mecha cards. Finally, I was successful in completing the creation of the three animal-shaped mecha cards.

When I equip the mecha cards, upon activation of the card, I get equipped with a ring which when activated again, gives me a power suit. Triggering the next tier, it summons an exoskeleton armor, and activating the third tier, I can call upon the giant 20feet tall beast-shaped mecha.

## **Chapter 381: Beast Rider Ring Card Info**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 07:41

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234, Card Lab

[Card Name: Volcano Lion Rider Ring

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 7-stars

Card Durability: [99/100]

Card Effect: The Ring acts as a medium to help the card apprentice equipping it to morph his suit into tier1- Power Suit, tier2- Mecha Exoskeleton Armor, and tier3- Volcano Lion Mecha depending on users will.

Additional effect: Broken Fire Rune Control, Megamorph: Earth Wind and Fire formation.]

Tier 1 – Power Suit: The power suit is woven out of thin fibers created from Synonium alloy, so the power suit also had the abilities like Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery. As the power suit is powered by Fire elemental broken rune, it is red in color.

Tier II – Mecha Exoskeleton Armor: Exoskeleton Armor is cast out of Synonium alloy. It provides the user with superhuman strength and defense. The Exoskeleton is 7 meters in height and equipped with a plasma claws, Force shield, and Gatling energy cannon. Being made out of Synonium alloy, the exoskeleton displays the three famous abilities of the alloy. And it is also painted red.

Tier III -Volcano Lion Mecha: Being powered by a fire broken rune, the mecha is red in color. The Synonium alloy body gives it the abilities like Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery. The Volcano lion mecha has a wide range of weapons,

1. Energy Cannon: The Energy Cannon is placed in the mouth of the Volcano lion mecha. And it can fire a devastating beam of energy that can annihilate anything in its path.

2. Plasma Claws: The Plasma Claws are very durable and sharp. They can cut through ores of the same realm like butter.

3. Back-mounted Laser cannon: A heavy-duty laser cannon is mounted on the mecha's back, which fires a 3-meter wide laser beam at its enemy, turning them to ash.
4. Shoulder mounted Machine Gun: the beach as Shoulder mounted machine gun hidden in its shoulder when activated, will reveal itself and not rest until it has taken the life of its target.
5. Sonic Blaster: The Volcano Lion has a sonic blaster hidden in its mouth along with an energy cannon. Sonic blaster is powerful enough to form cracks in the space. The sound made by the sonic blaster is similar to the roar of a volcano Lion.
6. Flame Breath: the mecha's breath can blow Flames.
7. Flame Meteorite: the mecha shots a giant ball of the flame ball into the sky, and under the influence the gravity, the Flame ball defends as Flame Meteorite.
8. Broken Fire Rune Control: The Card apprentice equipped can control the power and will of Broken Fire Rune.
9. Mega morph – Earth Wind and Fire Formation:

1. Three Minds Fire Flag: The mecha can morph and participate in the Earth Wind and Fire Formation with Wind Flag and Fire Flag.
2. One Body Limbpiece: The Fire Flags acts as the Limbpiece of the Earth Wind and Fire Formation.

[Card Name: Gale Eagle Rider Ring

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 8-stars

Card Durability: [99/100]

Card Effect: The Ring is a medium that helps the card apprentice to morph his suit into tier1- Power Suit, tier2- Mecha Exoskeleton Armor, and tier3- Gale Eagle Mecha, depending on his will.

Additional effect: Broken Wind Rune Control, Megamorph: Earth Wind and Fire formation.]

Tier 1-Power Suit: The power suit is of Green color representing the broken Wind rune. Being woven of Synonium alloy fiber, the power suit has Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.

Tier II-Mecha Exoskeleton Armor:

1. Green Color, representing the broken wind rune.
2. Synonium Abilities: Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.
3. Weapon: Energy blade, Gale Wings Force Shield, Dual Gatling Machine Blasters

Tier III-Gale Eagle Mecha:

1. Green Color, representing the broken wind rune.
2. Mecha Height: 20 meters, Mecha Energy source: broken wind rune, Mecha Form: Gale Eagle
3. Synonium Abilities: Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.
4. Weapons: Energy Beak Cannon, Gale Eagle Sonic Cry, Plasma Claws, Wing Blades, Energy Feather Shot, Gale Tornado, Gale Cyclone

Energy Beak Cannon: There is an energy cannon hidden in the beak of the Gale eagle mecha.

Gale Eagle Sonic Cry: There is a Sonic blaster hidden in the beak of the Gale eagle mecha

Energy Feather Shot: The wings of the gale eagle mecha can shoot energy feathers at their enemy.

Wing Blades: The wings of the gale eagle are very resilient and thin enough to cut through any defense.

Gale Tornado- The mecha can create a tornado with its wings.

Gale Cyclone- The mecha can create a cyclone with its flight speed

5. Broken Wind Rune Control: The Card apprentice equipped can control the power and will of Broken Wind Rune.

6. Mega Morph- Earth Wind and Fire Formation:

1. Three Minds Wind Flag: The mecha can morph and participate in the Earth Wind and Fire Formation with Earth Flag and Fire Flag.

2. One Body Headpiece: The Wind Flag acts as the Headpiece of the Earth Wind and Fire Formation.

[Card Name: Terrain Back Tortoise Rider Ring

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 7-stars

Card Durability: [100/100]

Card Effect: The Ring is a medium that helps the card apprentice to morph his suit into tier1- Power Suit, tier2- Mecha Exoskeleton Armor, and tier3- Terrain Back Tortoise Mecha, depending on his will.

Additional effect: Broken Earth Rune Control, Megamorph: Earth Wind and Fire formation.]

Tier 1-Power Suit: The power suit is of Yellow color representing the broken Earth rune. Being woven of Synonium alloy fiber, the power suit has Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.

Tier II-Mecha Exoskeleton Armor:

1. Yellow Color, representing the broken Earth rune.

2. Synonium Abilities: Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.

3. Weapon: Energy blade, Terrain shell Force Shield, Terrain back Mounted Gatling Cannon

Tier III- Terrain Back Tortoise Mecha:

1. Yellow Color, representing the broken Earth rune.

2. Mecha Height: 20 meters, Mecha Energy source: broken wind rune, Mecha Form: Terrain back Tortoise.

3. Synonium Abilities: Extreme Temperature Adaptation, Shock Absorption, and Structural Memory Recovery.

4. Weapons: Energy Jaw Cannon, Terrain back Tortoise Sonic Roar, Plasma Claws, Terrain shell shield, Terrain Tail Slam, Earth Quake Stomp, Landslide roll, Shell retreat

Energy Jaw Cannon: There is an energy cannon hidden in the mouth of the Terrain back tortoise mecha.

Terrain Back Tortoise Sonic Roar: There is a Sonic blaster hidden in the beak of the Terrain Back Tortoise mecha

Terrain shell shield: The shell of the Terrain Back Tortoise mecha can erect a large terrain shield against the enemy.

Terrain Tail Slam: The tail of the Terrain Back Tortoise is mighty, and with a slam, it can cause a large scale earthquake

Earthquake stomp: some of the mecha with the power of broken earth rune can cause calamity level earthquakes.

Landslide roll: with the roll of its shell the mecha can cause a landslide.

Shell retreat: all five limbs and the head of the mecha can retreat into its shell.

5. Broken Earth Rune Control: The Card apprentice equipped can control the power and will of Broken Earth Rune.

6. Mega Morph- Earth Wind and Fire Formation:

1. Three Minds Earth Flag: The mecha can morph and participate in the Earth Wind and Fire Formation with Fire Flag and Wind Flag.

2. One Body Chest Piece: The Earth Flags acts as the Chestpiece of the Earth Wind and Fire Formation.

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## **Chapter 382: SS-Rank Gate Dungeon**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 07:51

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild association mall, Warehouse no.234, Card Lab

Looking at the three card's info, I let out my breath in satisfaction. Pocketing the cards, I head out of the card lab. Walking out of the Card lab, I saw all three, Anna, Susan, Luna, and Lorenzo, meditating.

It seems they did not sleep and instead chose to focus on their active soul control.

As for Susan, being a professional, she could not leave VIP clients unattended, so she decided to meditate in the warehouse instead of going home.

Cortney and Clown Mask were also meditating in the opposite corner. It appears everyone has noticed my presence, and one by one, all of them got out of their meditative state.

“Good morning everybody, it looks like everyone had a productive night.” I greeted everyone and headed towards the shower next to my warehouse bedroom to refresh myself and change into new clothes.

“Where are you going? Was the card creation successful?” Luna questioned, seeing me avoid them, and headed towards another room.

“Well, the card creation was successful. I am heading in there for a change of clothes.” Having said that, I walked towards the room.

“Skill card – Purple Shine” Luna summoned her grimoire and activated a card covering the entire warehouse and everybody in it in purple light.

“This also works. Man, I gotta get myself one of those cards.” I felt a purple light bathe me, my clothes, and soon I felt my body and clothes cleansed, purified, refreshed and re-energized. Not just me, the entire warehouse and everybody inside was washed and purified by the skill card purple shine that Luna activated. The purple light bathed the dust covering the ceiling, floors, and shelves of the warehouse.

“Let me save you the trouble of buying a cleansing card. If what you promised is delivered, I will give you a purification card.” Luna seemed to be very keen about the demonstration I promised and supposedly seemed to have forgotten the chain of command. So I turned to look at Anna.

“Grandfather promised Luna to help her build her military just like the Southern Watch under me and the Way Beyond Patrol under my uncle’s command. If what you promised is possible, then your cards will be helping her build this world’s first Mecha Army.” Anna explained. No wonder Luna appeared so eager than Lorenzo, Anna and chose to stay the night at a warehouse.

Not every card apprentice has the talent to forge their Ego Gem. And it becomes even more impossible to forge an Ego Gem in higher realms. Therefore the card apprentices widely believe that the card lord realm is the only realm where an average card apprentice has the highest chance of forging an ego gem. So many chose not to progress in the realm after reaching the card lord realm until they had forged their ego gem. The best examples of this are William Bright, Jack Whitburn.

But sometimes, some who reach the end of their age limit and life span choose to break through to extend their life span and survive. These types of card apprentices who are in a higher realm without an ego gem are weaker than the card apprentices of the same realm. And are not treated with the same respect as their counterparts.

To create an Armed force of the same level as the Southern Watch and Way Beyond Patrol under the Heatsend family, one will require an enormous number of mighty card apprentices with ego gems, which can take up to decades or more to gather. So, Luna had no way to form a powerful armed force in a short time. But mechas powered by broken rune energy gave Luna a new way to build the army she wanted as fast as possible.

“Luna, you are a researcher. What do you need an army for? I know you were always jealous of me, but trying to build an Army just because I have one isn’t it a bit much?” Anna blamed Luna for she only wanted a personal army out of jealousy and nothing else.

“Narcissistic much, Anna. Think whatever you want. Before you blame me, tell me why I can not have a personal army? Or is it because only you, the princess, can have one?” Luna blamed Anna saying that Anna could not stomach that her grandfather promised Luna a personal army.

“Uh-huh, so you accept that you want a personal enemy just because I have one.” While I was inside the card lab busy with card creation, the warehouse seemed to have been eventful because of these two cousins.

“Whatever” ignoring Anna, Luna turned to me and asked, “Wyatt, can we begin the demonstration.”

“Don’t get me wrong. How does the hierarchy work in your family? One second you act docile towards Anna, and another second you are at each other’s throat? Who is my client here?” I did not answer Luna’s question right away.

Because I saw Anna was pissed off seeing Luna taking the lead regarding the mecha cards. And also, I was confused. Who was I making a deal with? Anna or Luna? Sometimes they acted close, and sometimes they acted like rivals. Forming an agreement with Anna was okay, but Luna, I could not trust her. After all, she wanted to erase my presence from this world and turn me into a Heatsend family slave.

“There is no hierarchy in the younger generation of the Heatsend family.” Lorenzo answered since Luna and Anna were busy in a glaring contest. Younger generation? Old dude, both Anna and Luna are old enough to be called grandma.

“I gave you the runes, and I paid for the card ingredients. That makes me your client. Now you can begin the demonstration, Wyatt.” Anna’s argument was sound. Anna was

the one who paid for the card ingredients and provided the three Fire, Earth, and Wind broken runes. By default, she was my client, and I had to answer her.

“Right here? Not possible. How about we go somewhere open and quiet? a dungeon would work.” Each beast mechas were about 20 meters in height. Summoning them in the warehouse would be the stupidest notion. So I recommended that we shift to a dungeon, preferably a gate dungeon, for privacy.

“Okay. Then let’s head to the dungeon.” Saying that, Anna summoned her grimoire and activated her mass teleportation card.

“Really Anna, how many times did aunty and grand aunt warn you not to use the teleportation cards unless it is urgent? We could have taken a cab to the nearest dungeon....” Luna seemed to have not finished her sentence, but soon all of us present in the warehouse were teleported.

“Where is this?” I asked, looking at my surroundings, it was a vast open grassland full of vitality, and strong wind filled the air.

“SS-rank Gate dungeon, Storm Horse Grassland. This is where I come to clear my mind.” Answered Anna. Hearing that we were in an SS-rank gate dungeon Susan, Cortney, Clown mask, and I panicked. Seeing this, Anna hurriedly added, “Don’t worry, this dungeon is captured, so you guys are safe here.”

“Anna, if you were going to use the teleportation card, you could have taken us to the royal palace training grounds.” Luna suggested. Hearing Luna, a sudden realization dawned on Anna as she slapped her forehead for impulsively using her teleportation card.

“Forget about that. Since we are already here, let’s make the best of this.” Saying that I summoned my grimoire and took out the Gale eagle Rider ring and Terrain back Tortoise rider ring cards and handed them to Cortney and Clown mask. And asked them to equip it.

“Before I demonstrate the cards I have created, let me go through the cost and the ingredients used in the creation of these cards,

[A-rank Volcano Lion Beast Will x 1 card

A-rank Terrain back turtle Beast Will x 1 card

A-rank Gale Eagle Beast Will x 1 card

A-rank Soul Energy Core x 3 cards

A-rank Rule Power Generator x 1 card

A-rank Black Rock Coated Furnace Item card x 2 cards

A-rank Spirit Star Flame Skill card x 2 cards

A-rank Brootonium card x 200 cards

A-rank Skywire card X 50 cards

A-rank Earth Wind and Fire Formation x 3 cards

A-rank Origin Core x 3 cards ]."

### **Chapter 383: Lorenzo's Job Offer**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 08:03

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"If we leave the cost of the broken runes, then the cost of just the card ingredients for each card sums up to a grand total of 25000 low Soul Jades or 2500 Median Soul Jades or 250 High soul jades. And adding the fee for my services as the card creationist, the total for the creation reaches a sky-high amount." Since I was already promised to be paid in terms of broken runes, I did not rock the boat by stating a price.

"The ingredients for a single mecha card costs about 25,000 Low Soul Jades. That means you spent 75,000 Low Soul Jades to create the three cards. That does not include the cost of the three broken runes.

Considering the cost of a broken rune is 35,000 Low Soul Jades. That brings the price of a single mecha card to 60,000 Low Soul Jades. Do you know what 60,000 Low Soul Jades can buy me? Heck, I could run a 3rd tier city for a year with the amount you spent on the creation of the three mecha cards." Lorenzo asked me, as the cost of the cards I had created was too astounding.

"Old dude, you seem to have forgotten to add the fees of my services rendered in the creation of the card." Honestly, I had lost all respect for Lorenzo long ago, even before he voiced to turn me into a slave for the Heatsend family. So I did not bother to talk respectfully to him despite the significant age and realm difference between us.

"Wyatt!" Susan was shocked seeing my rude speech and hurriedly came to explain my behalf, saying, "Emperor Lorn, please forgive Wyatt's rudeness. He is exhausted after creating 3 A-rank cards.

You are correct that the money spent on creating the cards is outrageous, but I believe that the cards Wyatt made are indeed worth the price. If I may, the cost of the card ingredients could have been decreased by a lot if we had brought the card ingredients in a higher tier city market instead of a black market in a 3rd tier city. This demonstration was planned at a moment's notice, so I could not acquire the card ingredients at a more economical price. But if this deal goes through, I promise that I will make sure that the cost of the card ingredients is more economical than what we have spent on these three cards." Susan explained what the price of the card ingredients was so sky-high.

All the ingredients were A-rank, making them scarce commodities in the Sky blossom city. Most of the ingredients could not be found on the primary market, so Susan had to reach out to the city's black market, where the cost of ingredients was three times their original price. Unlike the City hall and the card creationist association, the black market was not big on giving a discount in the name of her Majesty Southern emperor. Therefore the total cost of the card ingredients was as high as 25,000 Low Soul Jades.

"Uh.... Girl, what is your name?" asked Lorenzo despite my introduction and having heard me call her Susan in the warehouse.

"Susan Tucci" Susan answered.

"Susan Tucci, at this moment, I invite you to work as the Managing Director of sales in Lorn pharmaceutical Southern Academic City branch." Old man Lorenzo offered Susan a job. Lorenzo was so confident about the job offer that he did not even try to seem humble offering the job to Susan.

Hearing Lorenzo's Job offer for Susan, Luna and Anna stopped glaring at each other and started looking at Susan and me with great interest. I did not even bother to bat an eye seeing Lorenzo pouching my employee right in front of my eyes. After all, the title of Managing Director of an MNC like Lorn pharmaceutical Southern Academic City branch Sounded a lot better than the Manager of a card boutique run by a high school student, and I was happy for Susan.

"Sorry, I will have to reject your offer, Emperor Lorn. I am happy right where I am." Susan rejected Lorenzo's offer without the slightest hesitation. Susan was not so naive to see what was happening. Yes, Managing Director is a big title, and Lorn Pharmaceuticals is indeed a big company. Enough to make one wonder and consider giving into the subduction.

But, Susan knew the reason why Lorenzo made an abrupt job offer to her. It was because he wanted to hurt Wyatt and show him his place by teaching him a small lesson on how the world revolves. Susan saw right through this and was smart enough to understand that her worth in Lorenzo's eyes stemmed from her connection with Wyatt and not because of herself or her skills.

Suppose Lorenzo had offered her job because he valued her and her skills, Susan might have considered Lorenzo's job offer. But he made it clear that all he wanted to achieve by this was to hurt Wyatt for his rude action earlier by snatching her from Wyatt's side, which was offensive to her on many levels. Now Susan understood why Wyatt was so rude to the old fool.

Seeing Susan choose me despite the allure of the title Managing Director of Lorn pharmaceutical Southern Academic City branch, I was glad that I did not put my trust in the wrong person.

Yes, Lorenzo made the intentions behind his actions self-explanatory, but the job offer was genuine. If Susan had responded positively, she would be the new Managing Director of sales in the Lorn pharmaceutical Southern Academic City branch. What Susan did by rejecting Lorenzo's job offer was not something many people could do. Even the brightest of us would give in for the promise of a better future over a future filled with uncertainty.

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### **Chapter 384: Rune Item**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 08:19

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"Girl, is that your final answer?" Feeling embarrassed by Susan's rejection, Lorenzo became aggressive and tried to change Susan's answer using his dominance.

"Old fool, stop it. Don't be a sore loser." I came to Susan's rescue after seeing her display of loyalty. I could not just stand by and watch Lorenzo bully her.

"Boy, you got a good employee right there. Haha." Lorenzo laughed as if nothing had happened. This was what made me cautious about Lorenzo. What do his actions mean? Is he just doing his job as the trusted aid of the Southern emperor? I guess this is it. All in all, Lorenzo is a chill old dude, but his incompetent master made it so that he had to ask questions that she did not think of or consider. Anna was the type who did not overthink about stuff, so it was Lorenzo's duty to point out the obvious even though it meant him coming off as petty and villainous.

"Haha, Old man, you must be so embarrassed right now." Anna laughed, pointing at Lorenzo.

".." Luna just shook her head, not knowing if she should pity or laugh at her grandfather for his situation. A renowned titled card emperor like her grandfather was now facing

such a comical situation. Luna decided to cut some slack for her grandfather for being unfortunate enough to become the subordinate of Anna.

"Anna, you seem to be forgetting the point here. Shall we begin with the demonstration? After all, you spent 75,000 low soul jades and three broken runes over those cards." Luna chose to put an end to the conversation as it was going to end up embarrassing her grandfather.

"You don't have to remind me of that. Wyatt, now can you begin the demonstration." Anna asked me to start the demonstration, having concluded the discussion on the cost of creating the A-rank rune-based mecha cards.

"Yes, your highness. Cortney, clown mask, you guys can begin. Start with the first tier and then slowly move to the higher tiers." I asked Cortney and the Clown mask to begin the demonstration of the Gale eagle rider ring and Terrain back Tortoise ring cards I gave them. The cards were of A-rank, and Susan's realm was not high enough to equip them while Anna, Luna, and Lorenzo were the clients, and of a higher realm, so I could not ask them, leaving me with two options to help me in the demonstration of the cards, Cortney and the Clown mask. Like I planned.

"Okay," Courtney and Clown mask nodded in unison, and summoning their grimoire, they activated the cards as green and yellow coloured gem rings appeared on each of their left Index fingers, respectively.

"Those rings you see on their fingers are the Item cards I have created. Equipping that ring, the card apprentice can switch between three tiers, Tier1 Powersuit Tier2 Mecha exoskeleton armor Tier3 Beast Mecha. Now let me demonstrate what the tier1 power suit looks like and what it is capable of. Ladies, the stage is yours," explaining the item I have created, I handed over the floor to Cortney and Clown mask.

"Activate, Gale Eagle Rider Power Suit"

"Activate, Terrain Back Tortoise Rider Power Suit"

Cortney and Clown Mask yelled together. Soon both of them shone with bright green and Yellow light, respectively. As the glow on them disappeared, the attire of the Cortney and Clown mask had changed from regular clothes to tight green and yellow power suits.

"This is the power suit you speak of? It looks like a regular thin armor; what's the difference?" Anna asked. Anna may be all about fun, but when the talk becomes about business, she becomes oddly serious.

"You could not be more wrong. If my guess is not wrong, the Synonium alloy is used as thread to woven this power suit. So it means it can display all three converted abilities of the Synonium alloy. Extreme temperature resistance, structure memory recovery, and

Shock Absorption. Just based on the fact that this power suit is made up of Synonium alloy thread and can display all three abilities of the alloy, this power suit is worth it.

Not to mention that it's powered by broken runes, so I am guessing they can also display the power of broken runes despite not having ego gem. Go ahead, you guys, show the skills of the broken runes." Luna's eyes shone as she explained what she guessed about the power suit and its capabilities.

Cortney and Clown mask started to manipulate the wind and earth elemental powers given to them by the runes powering their power suit. Seeing the capabilities of the power suit in action, Luna grew excited.

"So this what you meant by rule power-based. Haha, they are similar to the rune items that the old fogies in my university make. How the hell can a high school student do something so magical?" The more Luna thought her, the more her excitement grew, but it did not take long for her excitement to turn into disbelief and astonishment.

"I do not think that it is similar to rune items. The power suit must be using the beast's skills of the beast will he add as an ingredient. It seems as they are using rune power because the skills they used are powered by a rule power generator." Lorenzo was also as surprised as his granddaughter, unlike her, who was stunned by utter disbelief. He tried to explain why the item I created was not rune items but just regular items running on the ruling power.

"Guys, I do not know what the rune item is and do not understand why you people are making such a big deal about it. Will someone care to explain?" Afraid I might have shown my capabilities more than I should, I could not help but panic. And ask Anna for an explanation.

"Wyatt, If it's you, nothing surprises me anymore." Anna seemed to also agree with Luna's theory that the cards I have created were rune items.

"Yeah, okay. Could you stop singing my praise and skip to the explanation part?" I know I am fantastic. I do not need anybody's approval over that. What I did not realize was what a rune card is, so I asked Anna to stop being awed and explain why they are awed.

"I am telling you it's not a rune item. You guys are mistaken. They are using the skills of the beast wills, which are powered by clean rule power supplied by the rune power generator. Why don't you understand?" Lorenzo was adamant that the cards were not rune items. And his argument was reasonable. The cards allowed its host to use the beast will's skills powered by the rule power generator. But the only problem with Lorenzo's theory was that the skills added to the card from the beast will do not include wind and earth manipulation.

The beast will skills added to the Gale EagleRider Ring from the Gale Eagle Beast Will are Wind Blade, Energy Feather Shot, Gale Cyclone, and Gale Tornado.

The beast will skills added to the Terrain Back Tortoise Beast Will are Terrain shell shield, Terrain Tail slam, Earthquake stomp.

Courtney and her mother were using Wind and Earth manipulation, respectively. These two skills were derived from the broken rune powering rule power generator that powered the ring cards and their abilities. So yes, though what Lorenzo said was correct, but in this case, he was wrong. The critical thing to notice was that the skills of the Beast Wills, when used using soul energy, are less potent than when powered using rule power.

“Grandpa, I know what I felt. And we do not have to speculate and come up with or guess the analysis as the creator himself is here. If we are him, everything will become clear. Wyatt, did they use an ability derived from the Beast will or the broken runes.” Luna was not happy that her grandfather denied what was right in front of him just because of his prejudice against the creator.

“Well, the skill they used right now is called broken rune control. Meaning the host of these cards has total control of the broken runes powering their rings. They can manipulate the broken to their will.” I answered Lina, hoping once they were done with their argument, she would explain to me what a rune item is.

“Uh-huh, the item cards you created are indeed rune items.” Having proven that her guess was correct, Lina celebrated, ignoring her grandfather’s face burning red out of embarrassment.

“Ah, Wyatt, my lucky charm.” Anna hugged me out of the sheer joy of confirming that I could create rune items.

“...” Susan was surprised to see Anna openly hug me without any reservation but remembering what happened in the VIP box and the words that Anna said, ‘I am horny, let’s fook’ Susan was no longer surprised but entered deep contemplation.

‘...’ Courtney looked at how close the southern emperor and her only friend were. She hoped that her relationship with her friend was not strained but stronger than ever.

“...” I did not speak, nor did I push away Anna’s advance, just kept staring intently at Luna, waiting for her to explain rune items to me.

“\*cough\* Anna, behave yourself.” Letting out a fake cough, Luna asked her cousin to act reserved in her company. And then finally, she began explaining what a Rune Item is.

“I have already mentioned that many people have tried to create artificial Ego Gens to store and cultivate broken runes right,” Luna asked

“Yes, you also mentioned how they all failed. Instead of creating an artificial ego gem to store and cultivate broken runes, they ended up with the Rune Jewel, which can only store runes but not nurture them,” I answered what I remembered from our previous conversation.

“Good, there is more to that story about how the greatest Card creationist ever successfully found a way to nurture a broken rune and not harm the host. And they are none other than Rune items. The rune items not only do not harm the host but can also be used by card apprentices who do not have ego gems.” Luna started explaining the rune items from the period of its creator itself.

“Luna, skip all the bs about the great card creationist and his journey to finding the rune items. This is not your class, these people here are not your students, and I do not plan to be bored to sleep.” Anna asked Luna to skip all the background story and other unrelated information and jump to rune items and how they are made.

“Remember how I said the rune jewels are the failed product, then these rune items are the working product.” Heeding Anna’s advice, Luna skipped to the end directly.

“Are you telling me Rune items are artificial ego gems, but you just said that the project of creating artificial ego gems for storing and nurturing them was a failure, didn’t you?” Luna’s explanation was self-contradictory, she just said the artificial ego gem creation project was a bust, but now she says rune items are the artificial ego gems. ‘Well, which is it, women?’ I thought, running thin on my patience.

“Well, rune items are not artificial ego gems. They are more like separate living beings. With a body, spirit, and awareness. How do I explain this to you? The creation of rune items is more profound than you think. I do not know how to phrase my sentence to help a high schooler understand it.” Luna was stuck, not knowing how to explain the rune item and their creation in layman’s terms.

“Well, try me. After all, I created a working rune item without even knowing about it.”

## **Chapter 385: Rune Item II**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 08:32

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Okay, I will try, but if you don’t understand something, you can stop me and ask me.” I did not know if Luna was being deliberate or genuine. Her expression told me that she cared, but her words sounded like picking a fight.

“She is not doing it on purpose. Apart from doing research, Luna also teaches classes in the university; it’s just a bad habit. If you think this is worse, I dare you to take one of her classes on her research in dungeon relocation.” Seeing my narrowed brows, Anna explained that Luna was not deliberately trying to belittle me, but she treated me like one of her students.

“With enough strength, a card apprentice can shatter his enemies’ ego gem to pieces. Something similar happened to the founder of rune items. But in his case, only a tiny part of his ego gem broke, which was repairable. This was not deadly as having the entire ego gem shattered. If the ego gem is damaged beyond repair, the runes in the ego gem try to escape to the world. In this process, the host’s body is killed. Therefore, what I am going to tell you next, do not try it in your home.” Luna stared at me, awaiting my nod that I would not try whatever she said next.

“Say it” my nod was not enough Luna pressed me to say it aloud.

“Okay fine, I will not try whatever you are going to explain next.” It better be worth it because I felt annoyed being treated like a child.

“Once there is a crack or a tiny piece of ego gem is broken usually card apprentices heal them by two methods,

1. Welding
2. Recycling

Welding- Welding is a method where the crack or the broken piece of the ego gem is welded together over time using the purest refined soul energy. This method is mainly used for fixing the cracks on the ego gem.

Recycling – this method is not appropriate for cracks on the ego gem. Still, it is widely used to recover the broken piece of the ego gem by destroying the broken bit of the ego gem to soul energy and then using the soul energy to regrow the broken bit of ego, healing the damaged part of the ego gem.

The recycling method would have been best for the card creationist I talked about earlier, but he did not choose these two options to recover his broken gem. Instead, he came up with his third method. That is to recover the broken piece of the ego gem slowly using his refined soul energy. This method was very time-consuming; therefore, even though simpler to execute, nobody chose this idea.

But the card creationist chose the rarely chosen path to recover his ego gem. In time, not only did he recover his ego gem, but he started to nurture the leftover broken piece of ego gem to form another complete ego gem using his refined soul energy.

The second ego gem formed was rejected by the body as there was only space for one ego gem, the original ego gem. So the card creationist decided to remove the second ego gem from his body, but after being taken out of the body, the ego gem became unstable.

Seeing that his second ego gem was going to explode and shatter, he turned the ego gem into a card ingredient in hopes of preserving it, and he was successful." Luna paused

"So I can form a second ego gem? Can people do that?" I acted shocked. Because this was not news to me as I have experienced the ability of my Calamity Soul Gem, which can pump out as many as calamity daughter gems I want, and each calamity daughter gem is way better than the ego gem.

What caught my attention was that the body of the card apprentice cannot house more than one Ego Gem. But I have housed about three avatar daughter gems in my body. Is this another advantage of using dungeon calamity core to create my core? The more I thought, the more confused I got. So many unanswered questions, I could try to get the answer for them, but that meant revealing the secret about my calamity soul gem. No matter how I went about this, I was stuck here.

"In a way, yes. Using the method used by the card creationist mentioned, one can create additional Ego Gem, but this is very dangerous, time-consuming, and painful," Luna affirmed that the creation of a second ego gem is possible.

"No wonder you asked me not to try this at home. What next? Did he use the second ego gem that he turned in to card incident to create an item card to store and nurture broken runes, hence the name Rune Item" I said, acting shocked and convinced. What the card creationist that Luna spoke about did to his ego gem was something similar to what I did with my soul when Willam sliced a small piece of it. So all was not surprising to me.

" No, the card creationist found out that the secondary ego gem he created was missing something. And after brushing through the basics about ego gem, he found what his ego gem was missing, a condensed spirit.

The ego gem he created was just an empty shell without a spirit in the center. One card apprentice has only one soul; therefore, it is impossible to develop a second ego gem. Without the spirit, the ego gem was just an empty shell. But the card creationist did not give up. He decided to do further research on the ego gem shell he had created for a new breakthrough.

Further research was obviously to test the ego gem shell by placing a broken rune into it. To check if the ego gem shell had the abilities of an original ego gem. So the card creationist placed a broken rune in ego gem shell. And came upon an astounding

breakthrough. Turns out that after placing the broken rune in the ego gem shell, the broken rune was turned into the spirit of the ego gem shell.

Yes, the ego gem shell accepted the broken rune as its spirit, forming a complete ego gem." Having said that, Luna gave another pause seeing my shocked face.

"..." This time, I was shocked for real because, what Luna was explaining and how my Calamity daughter gem work started to sound similar and similar.

"So, does that mean that you can resurrect the card apprentice whom the broken rune belonged to?" Not knowing how to explain my shock, I hurriedly spilled the theory I was thinking about from the movement I turned broken runes into ego elementals using my calamity daughter gem.

"No, resurrection is not possible by placing a dead person's broken tube in the ego gem shell because the original soul had passed and the original body is destroyed. Many ambitious people who share the same thoughts as you tried and failed in the process they did many cruel acts in the name of finding immortality." Luna shook her head in condolence, remembering memories she thought she had forgotten long ago.

"Aren't you ambitious?" Comment Lorenzo on my question.

"\*cough\* Dr. Lorn, so this secondary ego gem is the rune item you speak of?" Was I ambitious to think about using calamity daughter gem and broken runes to resurrect the dead? I don't know.

"No, it is not. And also, the secondary Ego gem, though completed, was not working because it did not have a continuous supply of soul energy.

Once again, hitting the roadblock, the card creationist decided to do further research to create a continuous supply of soul energy for the ego gem. He used the soul energy reactor to supply soul energy for the ego gem creating the first rune item. Later conducting a few more tests, he discovered that the rune item card he made could also be used by the card apprentices who had not forged their ego gem yet.

That's when the card creationist realized how big of a breakthrough he had come upon and shared his discovery with the world.

With such a revolutionary breakthrough about ego gem, many talented and influential card creationists joined research in that field. After centuries of research, the field of Rune items has seen a rocketing development." Luna enthusiastically narrated how the unknown card creationist created the rune items, which allowed even average card apprentices with no ego gem to use runes and rule power.

## **Chapter 386: Soul Energy Manipulation Card**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 08: 47

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“According to you, the Rune item cards are cards that allow an average card apprentice to use the runes and rule power.

And the process of creating a rune item has three steps,

1. Ego Gem Shell: In this step, the card apprentice cuts a tiny piece of their original ego gem and grows it into an ego gem shell by nurturing the small portion of the actual ego gem with refined soul energy.

2. Ego Gem Spirit: In this step, A broken rune is added to the ego gem shell. Thereby, the ego gem shell will accept the broken rune as its condensed spirit. Turning the broken rune spirit into the Ego Gem Spirit. At this step, the Ego Gem is completed and has the ability to connect with the world. But it has no power to maintain its existence, so it enters a dormant state when turned into a card ingredient. This card is called Rune Gem Card

3. Ego Gem Host: In the case of the primary ego gem, its host is the card apprentice. Through the card apprentice, the primary ego gem gains a constant supply of soul power to maintain its existence.

But in the case of the secondary ego gem that we have created using the broken rune and ego gem shell, there is no host to provide it with a constant supply of soul power to maintain its existence. Therefore the secondary ego gem is used as a core ingredient to create an item card. Here the item card acts as the body for the secondary ego gem. Forming a Rune Item Card. When the Rune item card is placed in the card slots of a card apprentice grimoire, the soul energy from the grimoire powers the item card, in turn powering the rune gem at the core of the rune item card.” I narrated everything I understood from Luna’s lecture on the basics of Rune Gem and its history.

“Correct. Do you have any other questions? About the Rune items, of course.” Luna enthusiastically cheered, seeing her teaching method of involving the students in her lecture work wonderfully.

“Yeah, I do. Where to begin, there are too many loopholes in your story about the unknown card creationist and his journey to create the first rune item.” Luna’s story to explain the rune items and their creation process had too many holes, which confused me.

“Don’t focus on the story and the unknown card creationist. They are just props to gain students’ interest and keep them concentrated on the lecture, making it easier for them

to remember the concept and definition of rune items for a long time." Luna had come upon a study that proved that a story is more interesting to listen to and remember than a theory full of info dump. This study went on to shape Luna's lectures and resulted in positive responses and promising results from her students.

"What? So there is no story about an unknown card creationist who created the first rune item?" Anna exclaimed. It seems she believed the story to be a true story. And hearing Luna say that the story that she narrated about the unknown card creationist was a prop to make her lectures simpler and intriguing to her student, Anna could not help but be disappointed.

"..." Luna rolled her eyes at her cousin's reaction and ascertained, "yes, there is no such story. That is why the card creationist is unknown. If it is any consolation, somebody must have created the first rune item, and many researchers believe that the story is how some great card creationist had created the first rune item."

"Leaving the flaws of the story, I still have many doubts about the rune items and it's creation. So can we get back to it?" The creation rune item gave me an idea of how my Calamity Soul Gem creates Calamity Daughter Gems. But there were still some variables that I was confused about.

"Shoot, what is it that confuses you?" Luna seemed to be okay with helping me with my doubts.

"The part about healing the ego gem without using the welding or recycling process. You said that regrowing the broken piece of the ego gem by nurturing it with refined soul energy is time-consuming. Why is that?" I asked this because my calamity soul gem with enough soul energy could create a calamity daughter gem in a matter of seconds, and that too in large quantities. This was relevant because I thought the production secondary ego gem and my calamity daughter gem were the same.

"You are asking such a question because your Soul energy manipulation card has spoiled you. Unlike you, an average card apprentice requires a lot of time to refine their soul energy, even for the first refining cycle. And as the cycle of soul energy refinement increases, it becomes hard to refine the soul energy, and the time required for purifying the soul energy increases vastly. That is when they are in lower realms and have a small amount of soul energy to refine. But in the higher realm, the amount of soul energy is large, so automatically, it becomes even more challenging to refine the soul energy. Therefore people chose welding and recycling methods to their ego gem over the third option." Before Luna could answer me, Anna blamed me for being spoiled by my Soul energy manipulation card and not understanding the pain of refining the soul energy.

".." I remembered revealing to Anna that my soul energy is in the 4th cycle of refinement because of the Soul energy manipulation card. This is not a lie but not the complete truth either; my origin card did have a soul energy manipulation skill which did help me

use the basic circulation method. But in reality, my mutated soul with four consciousness is the reason why any soul energy I breathe in automatically gets refined four times.

In the VIP box no1 when Anna was teaching me the basic circulation method for the soul energy refinement and how astonished she was finding out that my soul energy was already refined to the 4th cycle. I had to tell her about my physique to convince her that I had not used the basic circulation method before that day. I could not help but be proud remembering how jealous Anna was of my Soul energy manipulation card.

### **Chapter 387: Rune Items, Calamity Daughter Gem**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 08:58

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Yes, if you have a high-tier soul energy manipulation card, then the creation of the Rune item cards will become as easy as creating any other card.” Hearing Anna say that I have a soul energy manipulation card, Luna started to weigh the application of soul energy manipulation in creating Rune Item cards. And was surprised to think how much time one can save while creating a rune item card with the help of a soul energy manipulation skill.

“Brat, Aren’t you a lucky fellow to get your hands on a soul energy manipulation card? Do you have any thoughts about selling it? I can give you a reasonable price.” Lorenzo did not hide his intention of buying my soul energy manipulation card.

“Old man, unfortunately, I cannot sell it to you. I don’t have a soul energy manipulation card, but the soul energy manipulation skill is a part of my origin card.

“...” Anna looked at me with questioning eyes as she clearly remembered me telling her that I had a soul energy manipulation card. Later remembering what had transpired in the VIP box, Anna apologized through her eye gestures. For revealing my info without my permission when I had already made it clear that except for her, I did not trust anybody in the Heatsend family.

“It’s a part of your origin card. No wonder... I almost thought you had successfully extracted the soul energy manipulation skill from the creature soulpole.” Luna sighed in relief, knowing that I did not have a soul energy manipulation card. Instead, it was a part of my origin card. Researchers have been trying for centuries to successfully extract the soul energy manipulation skill from the creature known as soulpole but have failed devastatingly and given up on this project.

“More about the Ego Gem Shell, has anyone ever tried implanting it in another card apprentice. To check whether we can artificially help a card apprentice forge an ego gem.” I asked this because my Calamity Daughter gem gave its host the abilities of a demon core and an ego gem, even if they had not forged either of them.

“Many people have considered what you have, but the result was a failure with devastating and inhumane consequences. There are two main reasons why implementing an ego shell in a card apprentice failed,

1. Ethereal Spirit is missing – The first reason is apparent, and that is the condensed Ethereal spirit of a card apprentice. If a person has not formed their ethereal spirit, implanting an ego gem shell in them will result in their soul being sealed in the ego gem shell, and the body enters a state of coma.
2. Soul energy impurity – the ego gem is formed out of the original card apprentice’s refined soul energy which will be considered impure when implanted in the body of another card apprentice. This has dire consequences on the ethereal spirit of the card apprentice accepting the ego gem shell.” Luna explained the implications of taking a shortcut to forge an Ego Gem.

“...” Hearing Luna’s explanation, I was shocked and lost in thoughts thinking, how does my calamity daughter gem give its host ability of demon core and Ego gem without any side effects? Wait, there is a considerable side effect to implanting a calamity daughter core in a card apprentice, which will turn the soul of the said card apprentice into a slave since this side effect did not affect me in any way. I always thought of it as a capable and valuable skill.

I think that the ability of the calamity daughter gem to turn its host into the slave of the calamity soul gem’s host somehow explains the reason how the calamity daughter gem is able to give its host the ability of the demon core and ego gem without other deadly side-effects similar to that of implanting an ego gem shell in another card apprentice.

The reason why the ego gem shell implantation process is a failure is because of the ethereal spirit and soul energy purity. But my calamity daughter gem doesn’t face any problems with the rebellion of ethereal spirit and soul energy purity because it forcefully enslaves the host.

The working and the creation of a rune item card had helped me come up with a theory as to how my calamity daughter gem works. Though just an idea, it gave me a lot of understanding of the dungeon calamity core. The more I understood about the calamity daughter gem, the more I felt that it was nothing magical. It is a clever and advanced application of the theory behind the rune items. Well, getting another dungeon calamity core can help explore all the theories I had just come up with. And this brings me to the question of what a false relic is?

“Dr. Lorn, What is a false relic?” I asked the question that just came to my mind. I was curious about this because both my dungeon calamity soul and my soul pupils seemed to be false relics. I need to know what does it take for one to create such powerful weapons that could turn an ordinary high school student into a existence with infinity potential.

“False relic... ” Luna was in a good mood finding a diligent and talented student like myself and was not hesitant to answer any question I asked her. But unfortunately, before Luna could explain the false relics, Anna interrupted her.

“You two do not forget why we are. Luna, we are not here to hear you give a lecture, and Wyatt, you can get the answers to all your questions in the top 10 universities’ libraries or with the faculty. Now let’s get back to the demonstration of your cards.” Anna knew the concept of Rune items and False relics being an alumna of the Morning Star university. And she did not want to spend her morning learning about rune items and false relics once again. Hence seeing Luna about to lecture on false relics, Anna’s patience exploded.

### **Chapter 388: Sky Up and Above**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 09:07

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Wyatt, I appreciate your thirst for knowledge, but Anna is right. We should get back to the demonstration of your cards. Then we can discuss how you created rune cards without knowing what they are.” Luna seemed to agree with Anna and asked me to continue the demonstration.

“Sure, let’s get back to the demonstration. Girls activate tier two mecha exoskeleton armor.” I had no choice but to continue with the demonstration since I could not press Luna to talk about false relics when my client Anna herself was the one who ordered us to stop talking and get back to work.

“Activate tier 2, Gale Eagle Rider Mecha Exoskeleton Armor.”

“Activate tier 2, Terrain Back Tortoise Mecha Exoskeleton Armor.”

Cortney and her mother simultaneously activated the second tier of their beast rider ring cards. With that blinding Green and Yellow light burst out from Cortney and her mother’s power suit. The next second, as the light vanished, Cortney and her mother were dawning Green and Yellow color 7-meter tall exoskeleton armor, respectively.

Cortney and her mother's mecha exoskeleton armor were not only in different colors, but they also were created with different fighting styles in mind. Cortney's exoskeleton had wings and was built to provide support and artillery. In contrast, her mother's exoskeleton was covered in a bulk armory and was constructed to withstand massive damage and act as a tank. But all in all, both exoskeletons increased the physical and close combat abilities of their host by a considerable margin. Not to mention the hot weaponry mounted on both the exoskeleton. They had enough firepower to take on tens of card apprentices of the same realm.

"Ladies, will you be kind enough to demonstrate what these so-called exoskeleton armors are capable of?" I asked Cortney and her mother not to hold back and display the destruction the second tier of the Beast mech card can create.

"With pleasure"

"With pleasure"

"Activate Gale Wing force shield."

"Activate Terrain Shell force shield."

"Activate Dual Gatling machine Blasters."

"Activate Terrain back Mounted Gatling Cannon."

The Clown Mask and her daughter happily agreed to my request. They both activated their defensive force shields and fired at each other with their heavy-duty Gatling blasters and cannon. Thankfully the force fields of both of the exoskeleton were strong enough to handle the point-blank damage. Hence nobody was harmed.

"Activate energy blade."

"Activate energy blade."

Once, the dual mounted Gatling blasters and Gatling cannon were on standby for a reload of ammunition. Courtney and her mother decided to fight in close combat as they activated the energy blades of their exoskeleton.

"Okay, that's enough. Let's quit while nobody is hurt." Seeing that the Clown mask and her daughter were going to clash with each other, equipping their energy blades, I ordered them to stop it and be on stand-by for further orders.

"Aw, it was so much fun. Why did you stop us? I promise we will be careful." Cortney complained as she retracted the energy blade of her exoskeleton.

“No can do. I am not worried about you. I am concerned about the exoskeleton. Any massive damage to the armor can reduce the card’s durability. And once the card durability is below 70, the card will automatically deactivate and enter a dormant state until the structural memory recovery ability of the synonium alloy heals the damaged armor. With that, the card’s durability will return to the original durability. And you can once again activate the card.

There is an override function to stop the card from deactivating itself once the card durability reaches below 70. Doing this means if the exoskeleton or the beast mecha are destroyed in action. The original card durability will be penalized by -3 card durability permanently.” I explained the consequence of the exoskeleton and the beast mecha taking heavy damage.

“Why do this?” Luna did not understand why I would add such a complicated function to the card and could not help but ask me curiously.

“These exoskeleton and beast mechas are not your typical golem or puppets. Each of the mechas has an energy reactor within them, and these reactors are the heart of the mechas. If the reactor takes any considerable damage, it will explode, detonating the exoskeleton or the beast mecha. Once the exoskeleton or mecha explodes, you can imagine what will happen to the card apprentice riding them. If lucky, his card will be penalized with permanent -3 durability stats. If not, he can lose his life.

Not to mention broken runes power these mechas, so the fireworks from them exploding will be deadly. Don’t worry, on the battlefield, if the situations were to take such a turn, then the explosion will not only claim the lives of the allies but the enemies too without any discrimination. All I am trying to say is to look at the bright side.” Pax’s Iron Flesh was an origin card, and it did not have durability, not rating making it impossible for his mecha’s reactors to turn into a ticking bomb, so I did not bother to add this function to his mecha.

“Holy shit, self-detonation. Could this armor become any more awesome?” Cortney yelled in excitement. This one was looking past the bright side and was thinking of using the reactor explosion as a suicide bombing.

“I knew you would love it. Hey, why don’t you try the Gale Fight system of your exoskeleton? I bet you will love more.” I knew Cortney, who loved hoverbikes, would fall in love with this card in an instant.

“Get out of here. can it do that?” Cortney looked at me with doubt because the flight system for the second tier of gale eagle was not mentioned in the card info.

“Those wings are not for show, you know? Try the command activate Gale flight mode” I affirmed that the Gale eagle exoskeleton could fly.

“Gale Eagle exoskeleton armor, activate Gale flight mode.” Following my advice, Cortney asked her armor to switch to flight mode and flew to the sky up and above.

...

## Chapter 389: Beast Mecha

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 09:16

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“So, did the tier2 exoskeleton armor meet your expectations? Remember, you can use the power of the broken rune while in the second tier too. That is how the Gale Eagle can fly so swiftly despite its weight.” I asked Anna and Luna while pointing at Cortney, who was exploring the skies of the SS-rank dungeon in her Gale Eagle exoskeleton armor.

“Before I answer that, can you tell me how much physical enhancement an exoskeleton can provide its host?” Luna asked. Her question is justified because Cortney and her mother only displayed firepower and defense of the exoskeleton as I stopped them from engaging in close combat.

“The exoskeleton will enhance the physical prowess of its host by 27 times the original physical power. And you can stake it with different kinds of passive and active enhancement cards.” I calculated the data on the spot using Hive AI and answered Luna.

“I am impressed. The exoskeleton has exceeded my exception in both ranged and close combat capabilities. I can not wait to see what the beast mechas you promised about have in store for us.” Luna finally nodded acknowledging the capabilities and prowess of the exoskeleton armor.

“Anna, what about you?” Anna has been quiet for a while now. I could not help but ask for her opinion.

“Uh... The exoskeleton is excellent, and you were right. The exoskeleton is a perfect weapon for mass slaughter.

I just imagined my southern watch soldiers equipped in one of those exoskeletons of yours. Even if we faced an Army 100 times the size of our southern watch, we would still come out victorious. That’s how deadly those cards of yours are.

The critical point of this card is that it is an Item card. An item card that meets all the needs of the card apprentice. This single item card has weaponry, armory, and physical reinforcement. Equipping this item card is equal to equipping 3 or 4 item cards.

With this card, I do not need a weapon item card, armor item card, Boots item card, or enhancement potion item card. Equip this one-item card, and you are good to go for combat with three or more empty item slots in your grimoire.

The craziest thing is all this firepower the exoskeleton carries, if you arrange the active and passive skill card slots to enhance the exoskeleton then this card's power will increase by several folds. Just imagining it, I feel my goosebumps rising." Anna was right; if one were to arrange their skill cards to enhance the capabilities of the mecha card, then the mecha card's power would explode by several folds.

\*gasp\* hearing Anna's thought of equipping each and every member of the southern watch with an exoskeleton; everyone present gasped in dread.

"Haha, you haven't seen the half of it. Let's continue to the third tier, shall we?" I signaled Clown mask and Cortney to activate the third-tier Beast mecha.

"Gale Eagle Rider Ring Activate Tier3, Gale Eagle Beast Mecha"

"Terrain Back Tortoise Rider Ring Activate Tier3, Terrain back Tortoise Beast Mecha."

Taking a distance from us, Cortney and her mother activated the third-tier of the Beast ring simultaneously. Under a brilliant, blinding light, Cortney and her mother vanished and were replaced by 20-meters tall giant Green eagle and Yellow Tortoise mechas.

"Roar"

The giant Gale Eagle and Terrain Back Tortoise Mechas roared, announcing their presence.

"Impressive craftsmanship, these metal giants appear similar to their original self. If I had not seen the Gale Eagle and Terrain Back Tortoise before, I would not be able to tell the difference. Except for their height, obviously." Anna praised the attention to detail on the appearance of the beast mechas.

"Thank you. I like to be thorough." I did not act humble and accepted Anna's praise.

"This is fooking awesome." Cortney's excited yell reverberated in the dungeon. She seems to have found the volume and voice option of the beast mecha.

"Energy cannon" without waiting for my command Cortney fired an energy beam in the sky from the beak of her Gale eagle as it hovered in the air.

“Holy shit,” looking at the fat beam of energy fired by the giant Gale Eagle mecha, Anna could not help but curse.

“I have to say, Wyatt, your attainments in the golem and puppetry have exceeded the graduate syllabus of all the 10 top universities. I have never seen such giant puppets with that much power and move with extreme agility and swiftness.” Luna could not hide her awe as she watched the 20-meter full-metal body gale Eagle soar in the sky just like an average bird. The mechanics behind the build of the puppet impressed Luna more than she would like to. As a researcher, theories and discoveries were more of Luna’s fort, and invention and construction never impressed her until today.

“Correction, that is not a puppet. It is a mecha, M-E-C-H-A.” Hearing Luna call my majestic mecha a giant metal puppet, I was annoyed and corrected her before it became a habit.

“Not a giant metal puppet, but a Mecha. Got it .” Following my reminder, Luna corrected herself, but her gaze never left the hovering Gale Eagle.

“Giant metal puppet or Giant metal golem or mecha, What’s the difference?” Lorenzo did not give up on the opportunity to pull my leg.

“Stubborn old fossil, seeing how you are one step in the coffin, I will forgive you.” I did not bother to bicker with Lorenzo. Turning to Anna, I asked, ” Is this enough for a demonstration for the third tier, or do you want them to go all out?”

“Wait, are there more tiers left?” Anna asked in surprise.

“Yes, one more tier is left, and that is the best of all the tiers. So should we continue or switch to the next tier?” Anna was my client, and keeping her satisfied was my job. So I left the decision-making to her.

“This is an SS-rank captured dungeon. There is no point in holding back. Ask them to do their best.” Anna seemed to want to see more capabilities of the beast mechas. So I asked the mother and daughter pair to put on a show, even if it meant emptying their Arsenal.

## **Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 390: Volcano Lion Beast Mecha - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 390: Volcano Lion Beast Mecha**

**Chapter 390: Volcano Lion Beast Mecha**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 09:29

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

The green-colored grassed land was replaced by charred black ground filled with massive craters. And debris of the bombarded land was spread across the dungeon. Ashes of burnt grass and dust had filled the air covering the clear sky above. “I hope this should be evidence enough for the prowess of the beast mecha. What do you say, shall we switch to the next tier?” Looking at the devastation caused by Gale Eagle Beast mecha and Terrain Back Tortoise, I asked whether the havoc caused by the beast mecha satisfied her appetite.

“Yeah, that is more than enough. I got to say the capabilities of the beast mecha cards have exceeded more than anything I could ever imagine.” Anna was impressed by the destruction displayed by the mecha beasts.

“I thought that the beast mechas large body would make them a walking target, but the synonium alloy body is proving to be a sturdy and dependable defense.

Not to mention the movement and reflexes of the mechas are as agile and swift as the original beasts used to design the beast mechas.

Taking all this into account, the vast amount of soul jades spent in the creation of these cards is starting to seem worth it.” Luna did not hold back praise and expressed her admiration for the beast mechas.

“No matter how good golem and puppet cards are when trapped in an array of a capable card apprentice, they will lose.” Seeing his beloved granddaughter sing praises of another man’s creation, Lorenzo, as a certified granddaughter-con, could not hide his jealousy and displayed his hostility towards me by comparing his array mastery with my mecha mastery.

“Old man, stop comparing your diddly array cards with these Monsters of metal. Each one of these things is like a war god. Arrays are helpful, but they are not as badass as these metal giants here.” Anna respected both the Array and Mecha fields, but there was no denying that Mecha’s were more awesome and super cool. Just looking at them in action made her blood boil. It has been a long time since she has been this enthusiastic about something. And she did not want Lorenzo’s whining to spoil her fun.

“Yes, grandpa comparing arrays with mecha is not fair for either of the fields as they both have their areas of expertise. And If I have to choose between an array or a mecha card for combat, I would prefer a mecha card as it increases individual prowess by a massive margin. If it’s group combat, then an array card would be a better choice.” Luna found the idea of comparing two different types of cards ridiculous because each card has its area of excellence. It depends on the card apprentice to judge the situation and deploy the cards appropriately.

“Speaking of array cards, let’s continue to the last part of the demonstration, the Earth Wind and Fire Formation.” announcing that I summoned my grimoire and activated the Volcano Lion Rider Ring card,

“Activate Tier1, Volcano Lion Power Suit”

The beast mecha ring emitted bright red light covering my entire body. As the red glow diminished, my usual attire had changed into a Red Power Suit. Feeling the skin-tight power suit covering my body clenched my fists excitedly as I felt the power of fire broken rune enhancing the power suit.

“Activate Tier2, Volcano Lion Exoskeleton Armor.”

Done admiring the red power suit, I activated the second-tier of the card, Volcano Lion Exoskeleton Armor. Soon the red power suit started to glow with brilliant red light, and the next second, as the right light receded, I found myself in 7-meter tall Volcano Lion Exoskeleton armor. Next, I felt an unknown energy course through my body, enhancing my body’s physical capabilities by several folds. After getting used to the new physical reinforcement, I started to use my mental strength to check if all the weapons of the exoskeleton were responding. Plasma Claws, Force Shield, Gatling Energy Cannon are all loaded and ready to rumble. After inspecting the weaponry, I began to the Motory functions and controls of the exoskeleton. So far, all good, finding no issue with the exoskeleton, I decided to activate the third tier.

“Activate Tier3, Volcano Lion Beast Mecha”

“Bang”

Upon activation of the third tier of the card, a brilliant, blinding red flash burst out of the exoskeleton, and I found myself sitting in a luxurious cabin I had built for the beast mechas in their skull region.

“Roar”

The Volcano Lion let out a roar announcing its presence. After admiring the view from here, I began inspecting the beast mecha and its various systems. Both the axillary and primary power sources showed positive responses. Motory and weaponry functions and controls of the mecha were working off the charts. Then I contacted with broken rune spirit, which acted as the central AI of the beast mecha. With its presence, the movements of the mecha became smoother and looked more natural. After all, be it Cortney or the clown mask or me, this was our first time riding a beast mecha; if not for the Broken rune’s spirits acting as the mecha AI, we would not have been able to control the exoskeleton or the beast mecha so effortlessly and smoothly.

Finding no fault after inspecting the volcano lion beast mecha turned on the Earth Wind and Fire Formation, I contacted the mother and daughter pair riding the Gale Eagle beast mecha and Terrain Back Tortoise Mecha, " Girls, can you hear me?"

"Gale Eagle Beast Mecha Rider, Reporting" Cortney reported

"Terrain Back Tortoise Beast Mecha Rider, Reporting" Clown Mask followed the lead of her daughter and reported.

"Good to know you girls have gotten comfortable with all the controls of your beast mechas. Now let's switch to Earth Wind and Fire Formation."

"Activate Earth Wind and Fire Formation, Volcano Lion Limb Piece."

"Activate Earth Wind and Fire Formation, Terrain Back Tortoise Chest Piece."

"Activate Earth Wind and Fire Formation, Gale Eagle Head Piece."

### **Chapter 391: Giant Winged Mecha**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 09:56

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

[Earth Flag- Terrain Back Tortoise Beast Mecha Chest piece detected!

Wind Flag- Gale Eagle Beast Mecha Head piece detected!

Fire Flag- Volcano Lion Beast Mecha Limb piece detected!

Activating Earth Wind and Fire Formation...]

Terrain Back Tortoise, Gale Eagle, and Volcano Lion Beast Mechas glowed with Yellow, green, and Red light. Soon under the cover of the three lights, all three of the beast mecha began to morph.

As the transformation of the beast mechas began, the Back-mounted laser cannon and Shoulder mounted machine gun mounted on the Volcano lion detached themselves from the beast mecha. Similarly, the Tail and Terrain Back shell of the Tortoise split up from the main body.

With the Terrain Back Shell covering the surface of the original shell gone, the head and the limbs of the tortoise retracted into the shell. Then the humongous tortoise's body transformed into a massive mechanical humanoid chest with five attachments for the

head and the limb pieces. Two of the five attachments represented the shoulder joint, the other two represented the hip joint, and the last represented the neck joint.

The Head of the Volcano lion beast detached itself from its body and then fitted itself at the center of the massive chest formed from the transformation of Tortoise's main body.

The remaining body of the Volcano Lion split into four symmetrical parts. Out of the four parts, the two forearms of the volcano lion transformed into massive mechanical humanoid arms and then attached themselves to the shoulder joints of the tortoise transformed humanoid chest. Then Hind legs of the Volcano Lion transformed into massive humanoid Legs and attached themselves to the two hip joints of the enormous tortoise turned humanoid chest. Forming a gigantic headless mechanical humanoid body.

The wings of the Gale Eagle detached and then were fitted to the spine of the gigantic headless mechanical humanoid body giving it wings. Then the remaining part of the Gale Eagle transformed into a massive Golem head with two eyes and attached itself to the neck joint of the gigantic winged headless mechanical humanoid body resembling a giant winged mechanical humanoid Golem or a Giant Winged Mecha.

Then the Terrain back shell morphed into a gigantic round shield and was equipped by the Giant Winged Mecha's left arm, while the tail of the Terrain Back Tortoise morphed into a giant needle and was held in the right arm of the mecha. Then the Lazer cannon and the machine guns of the Volcano Lion mounted to the left and right shoulders of the Giant Winged Mecha.

With the transformation complete, the glow on the mecha body vanished. Revealing the newly combined mecha formed by Terrain Back Tortoise, Gale Eagle, and Volcano Lion Beast Mechas in the Earth Wind and Fire formation.

"Wow" Anna, Luna, Susan, and Lorenzo looked at the 70-meter tall metal wonder standing in front of them and breathed in absolute astonishment. The 70-meter tall metal wonder in front of them looked like a gigantic battle angel with its fancy mechanical wings, Lion head crest, needle sword, and round shield. The sight was breathtaking.

"Roar," The Lion's Head at the center of the mecha's chest Let out a huge roar and then fired a beam of laser into the sky, announcing that it was ready for battle.

"..." Susan, who was of Card student realm, almost faint hearing the roar of the giant mecha. If not for Anna, who came to her support, she would have fallen on her butt.

"Amazing, isn't it?" Anna whispered as she supported Susan.

"Yes" under the astonishment of the mecha, Susan forgot who she was talking to and replied casually. Not that Anna cared about this stuff, but under something so wonderful, all the other things seemed meaningless.

"Amazing indeed" Luna, standing next to them, also agreed with Anna, but her sight never left the giant metal humanoid erect in front of her.

"..." Lorenzo was speechless. He was also mesmerized in awe of the giant winged mecha standing in front of him. So much so that he forgot all his petty grievances with the card soldier realm boy whom he tolerated just because he had entered a soul agreement with the princess he was meant to protect.

While the people outside were mesmerized, admiring the majesty of the mecha, I was busy with my other motives of giving the mother and daughter pair the other two beast mecha cards. Yes, I am talking about the elaborate plan that I thought of to sow my calamity daughter gem into the Clown mask and gain all her memories of the alternative future.

Since the moment I knew about Clown Mask's secret about her missing Third eye and the memories of the alternative future, I have been on the lookout waiting to find some alone time with the Clown mask. But unfortunately, like how I gave importance to the clown mask, the Heatsend royal family also seems to be adhering to the mother and daughter with high priority.

So much so that the mother and daughter pair were always under constant observation of one of the members of the Heatsend royal family. They continuously monitored the mother-daughter duo and never left them out of sight, even during dinner, and at night they had them mediated in the same room. The security around the clown mask was pretty tight; therefore, I haven't gotten a chance to sow my calamity Daughter gem into her.

I knew in the presence of Anna, Luna, and Lorenzo I could never get an opportunity to make the Clown mask mine, so I decided to create an opportunity for myself. And I had to be quick because once the temporary southern watch forces arrive, the Heatsend royal family will erase any presence of the mother and daughter pair from this world. And their names will become coded numbers in a top-secret file. Thereby I will lose any chance of converting the clown mask into a firm believer of yours truly.

But thanks to the demonstration of the mecha cards, I have created an opportunity for myself. Right now, in the winged mecha, the clown mask was all alone...

## **Chapter 392: Takeover**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:07

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

After the three beast mechas transformed and combined into the MegaMorpher, Cortney, and I were transported from our mecha pilot cabin to the Clown Mask's cabin located in the center of the MegaMorpher's chest. The clown mask's cabin also had new adjustments added to it so that the cabin has enough space for three pilots and for it to act as the primary pilot cabin for the MegaMorpher.

Being transported from my cabin, I arrived at the primary cabin of the MegaMorpher and met the Clown mask, who was already present in the cabin. The atmosphere in the cabin became awkward because of the bad blood between us. Me sparing Cortney's life despite her being the only child of the murderer of young Wyatt's parents. You know the same old.

"Hive AI, Activate takeover protocol." Without wasting time, I ordered Hive AI to commence the takeover of the MegaMorpher.

MegaMorpher is formed by combining the three beast Mecha using a three-person array formation. Meaning that MegaMorpher is controlled by all three of us, Cortney, her mother, and I equally. But for my plan to implant the calamity daughter gem in Clown Mask to work, I need complete control of the MegaMorpher.

[Activating Takeover protocol...]

[Connecting to MegaMorph...]

[Connection with MegaMorph established...]

[Connecting to Gale Eagle AI...]

[Connection with Gale Eagle AI established... ]

[Contacting Wind Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem...]

[ Wind Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem responding... ]

[Activate, Wind Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem...]

[Wind Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem on standby awaiting orders...]

[Connecting to Terrain Back Tortoise AI...]

[Connection with Terrain Back Tortoise AI established... ]

[Contacting Earth Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem...]

[ Earth Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem responding and awaiting orders...]

[Activate, Earth Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem...]

[Earth Broken Rune Calamity daughter gem on standby awaiting orders...]

[Fire Flag in host's control...]

[Earth Flag in host's control...]

[Wind Flag in host's control...]

[Takeover Earth Wind and Fire formation complete...]

[MegaMorpher Takeover complete...]

Taking over the other two beast mecha cards was not a challenge as they were formed using my calamity daughter gem. All I needed to do was have the Hive AI establish contact with the calamity daughter gem, and then the whole MegaMorpger would be under my control. Accomplishing that I could continue with my plan.

“Good, MegaMorpher paralyze Terrain Back Turtle Mecha Beast Rider.” Upon my command, an electric shock coursed through Clown Mask’s seat, rendering her in a state of paralysis.

Walking to the Paralysed Clown mask, I removed her mask and, avoiding her hollowed third. I pried open her mouth and shoved my Calamity Daughter Gem. And in a matter of seconds, the calamity daughter gem worked its magic.

“Hive AI, make a copy of Calamity Daughter gem Clown Mask’s memory and save it in the local files.” Clown Mask is my first calamity daughter gem. My other subordinates like the Kane trio Mama and Papa Wyatt’s party members; they only have Calamity Daughter core, yet to be updated to the calamity daughter gem.

So technically, Clown Mask is the first subordinate formed with the Calamity Daughter gem. I wanted to check out the new additional skills that were added to the Calamity Daughter gem. After all, it is way different from the Calamity Daughter Core and formed by combining an Ego Gem. But I could not as a lot of time has passed, and Cortney could get suspicious.

To get some alone time with the Clown mask, I rigged the three beast mecha cards so that when the Earth Wind and Fire formation was activated, I would be the first one to arrive at the Clown Masks cabin. Giving me an opportunity to take over the MegaMorpher controls, paralyze the Clown mask and turn her into one of my subordinates by implanting a calamity daughter gem into her.

“Get up and continue to act as usual. I will contact you when I need you. Make no mistakes. Cortney will be here soon.” Giving Clown Mask her orders. I returned the controls to MegaMorpher to normal, and soon, Cortney was transported to the primary cabin.

“Wyatt, you are here.” Cortney did not expect to meet me face to face this early. Yes, she apologized, but that was not enough to change after what transpired between all three of us, her mother killing my parents, her trying to kill me, and me sparing her life.

“Hi Cortney,” I greeted Cortney with a calm smile because right now, I was in a good mood since I had achieved both of my goals behind creating these three cards.

“...” Cortney was happy to see that I still greeted with a polite smile, indicating that I had forgiven her. But she had not forgiven herself for trying to kill me. Therefore she did not know how to face me. Maybe If I blamed and cursed her for trying to kill me, it would have reduced her guilt but seeing that I forgave her as if nothing ever happened, Cortney’s guilt grew by several folds.

“Cortney, you can speak freely with. It’s just us here. All is forgiven. After all, we are friends, right?” Having implanted a calamity daughter gem in Cortney’s mother, I felt a little guilty, so I decided to make up with her. Courtney was a trustworthy person, especially her physique, ensuring she kept her word. Someone like her is worthy of my friendship with or without her unique physique.

“Wu Wu... yes, we are friends. Wyatt, I am sorry I tried to kill you.” Tears rolled from Cortney’s eyes as she heard me as if we were friends. Confirming our friend status, Cortney apologized for trying to kill me.

“That’s okay. I am still alive, aren’t I?” Hearing Cortney’s heartfelt apology, my heart moved. Yeah, it’s not some great apology like in the anime, but her words and her actions, I felt the sincerity behind them. Yep, despite her unruly appearance, this girl is a simpleton who does not mind getting hurt but hurting those close to her.

## **Chapter 393: Friends**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:12

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Cortney. What about Bloodette? Who is she? She was strong. I barely managed to service her attacks?” After Cortney calmed down, I asked about the blood slime I fought with at the tournament’s finals.

As for Anna, Luna, and Lorenzo, they were flying around the Megamorpher, scanning every inch of its humongous body. Apparently, witnessing the height of the MegaMorpher, the Heatsend Royal trio had sudden enlightenment, and they intended to use it for something of immense importance and were unwilling to share it with me.

I tried to offer my help forcefully, but Anna adamantly refused my offer, saying that I did not have enough privilege level required to know the information they had. So I was kept out of the loop. And we were asked to stay on standby as they performed their tests on the MegaMorpher. Whatever these people were keeping from me, it had to be huge.

“Bloodette is my friend. According to her, she is a Supreme being sealed in the dungeon by ancient card apprentices who walked this world before us.” Cortney narrated what she knew about Bloodette. It was too little, but to be someone’s friend, that was all it took, in Cortney’s case.

‘Supreme Beings’ ‘Dungeon Seal’ ‘Ancient Card Apprentice’, another new wave of questions, were added to the list of questions whose answers I had to find. I think I will find answers to this list of questions in the libraries of the top ten universities or with their faculty members. I also had Clown Mask’s memories of the alternative future. Maybe I could find an answer there. But for now, I decide to answer Cortney, the source of the question herself.

“What are Supreme beings?”

“...”

“What is a Dungeon Seal?”

“...”

“What is an Ancient Card apprentice?”

“...”

“If she is sealed in a dungeon by an Ancient Card apprentice, how did you summon her?” Throwing all the questions that Cortney could not answer to the back of my head, I decided to ask her the simplest one hoping she knew the answer for that.

“That I can answer. Using the Soul pact card given to me by Bloodette.” Finally being asked something she knew about, Cortney hurriedly answered.

“Soul pact card? What is that? This is the first time I am hearing about it.” I have heard of origin cards, Item cards, Skill cards, but Soul pact cards I have never heard or read of them.

“Apparently, you have to form a soul contract with intelligent beasts and monsters to get these soul pact cards. Both the parties should be willing participants of the contract and should be signed with the World and its rules as a witness.” Cortney recollected what Bloodette told her about the soul pact and narrated it to me.

“Can you summon her now? I would like to talk to her.” Since I could not get answers from Cortney, I decided to ask Bloodette herself. If she is as old as she claims to be, I could find all the answers to the list of questions I have.

“About that, after what happened yesterday. I have tried summoning Bloodette to apologize to her, but she is not responding to my summons. I think she is still mad at me for forcing her to go against her will and kill you.” After the tournament, Cortney had a lot of free time, especially during the night, so she tried running Bloodette to apologize, but all her summons were unanswered. Courtney could forcefully summon Bloodette, making use of her unique physique and origin card. But it could be counterproductive, seeing how that was the reason why Bloodette was angry with her.

“Are you sure she did not want to kill me? I am pretty sure she came very close to killing me.” According to Cortney, Bloodette did not want to kill me for reasons unknown. And I had a hard time believing that because I fought with and knew how close I was to death.

“That was the World forcing her body to kill you. If Bloodette’s will did not oppose the World’s Control, She would have killed you.” It seems due to the opposition of Bloodette. The world could not display her full power allowing me to survive and win the tournament’s finals.

“And why did she not want to kill me?” I was curious why Bloodette would go so far as to oppose the world for me.

“Oh, she did not oppose because she did not want to kill you. She opposed it because she wanted more blood pudding for the services she provides.” Cortney cleared the misunderstanding I had.

“Just because of a few blood puddings? As simple as that. Haha, She seems interesting. I would like to meet her someday.” Knowing more about Bloodette, my interest in her peaked, and I wanted to meet the being that went against the world and its rules for a few blood puddings. Someone so crazy I had to meet her. Resisting the influence of the world and its rules is not easy. When I first came in contact with the World, I was paralyzed in its presence and Spent time floating around in the world’s pool of rules. And for Bloodette to oppose the World with her will was no ordinary feat. She did lose control of her body to the World, but still, her will did not give in to the influence of the World.

...

"What do you think, old man? Is this thing sturdy enough to cross the river?" Anna asked Lorenzo who was using his grimoire to scan the structure and mechanics of the MegaMorpher.

"Nope, the waters of the river will rupture and tear this Synonium Alloy body in a matter of seconds. The moment this thing goes into the river, it will be wrecked by the intense pressure and flow exerted by the water." Lorenzo continued scrutinizing the Megamorpher as he answered Anna.

"I think it can work if we change the ores and broken runes used to create this Mecha." Luna expressed her opinion.

### **Chapter 394: Memirconium**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:22

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"I don't think that there are any A-rank ores that can withstand the burden of the river." Hearing his granddaughter contradict his statement, Lorenzo pointed out the reason why he stated that the metamorphosed could not help in crossing the river. Luna thinks switching the Synonium alloy used to create the MegaMorpher with something more sturdy. They could use the MegaMorpher to cross the river. Lorenzo seemed to have already thought of that and found no A-rank ore or alloy in his knowledge that could withstand the wrath of the river. Hence he declared that MegaMorpher could not be used to cross the river.

"Hahaha, yes! Finally, working as a researcher at Morningstar university paid off. I know something you do not. Grandpa, it seems you have become outdated. Maybe if you had not skipped your homework after coming out of our lab, you would have known that there is an A-rank ore that we could use for our current situation." Finally, being able to best her Grandpa after facing decades of suppression by him in the Field of Study Luna let you a victorious laugh. She knew some her grandpa did not know about. Only she knows the feelings she is feeling right now.

The World thinks of Luna Lorn as a top scholar and top researcher in her field and among her peers, but they did not know Luna's standards were higher than her peers. Her target was to suppress her grandfather, the Raining Alchemist.

Lorenzo has been at the top of his field for a few centuries. And he has amassed a lot of knowledge and experience during this period. How could a girl who is not even a century-old compete with him? He is a lot even for his peers, in front of him and his achievements Luna and Her achievements made no difference. Luna's achievements

are significant but comparing them to Lorenzo's would be foolish, but this was not enough to stop Luna.

For Luan, her grandfather was the reason she chose the path of Scholar rather than a warrior like the great of her cousins. Luna admired her grandfather, and for her, he was her role model and the target she had to surpass. Luna's goal is to become the best like her grandfather, and only by surpassing him could she prove that she had become the best as one could be the best after besting the best.

A monster like Lorenzo cannot be defeated in a day or two, so Luna does not hesitate to celebrate the first small victory she won against her grandfather. This victory may not be significant, but at least now Luna knew her grandfather was not unbeatable. And her hard work was showing results.

Aiming at Lorenzo, who is considered colossal among his peers despite being a Junior, took a lot of confidence. But as time passed, the confidence alone was not enough as her target became an unshakeable boulder suppressing her spirit. This is the reason why despite being the heiress to a massive empire of the Lorn Family, Luna chose to work as a researcher at one of the top 10 universities.

“...” Seeing his beloved granddaughter laugh at his mistake Lorenzo was not angry or ashamed. He was happy that she was finally proud of her achievements the same way he was proud of her. At first, Lorenzo enjoyed his granddaughter's admiration but soon realizing that he became the trauma of his granddaughter Lorenzo did know what to do, but to let her win out of pity would be doing more harm than good. So he let nature take its course. And it was worth it. Today he knew his granddaughter's achievements would be more outstanding than his. And he hopes he will be alive to see that day.

Before coming to Sky Blossom City, Lorenzo was busy researching when his nephew Anna's uncle brought him the discovery of the century, the Silver milk powder. In a rush to meet its creator Lorenzo forgot to update himself about the latest news and breakthroughs in the field of card ingredients research, which gave Luna an edge over him.

“Are you done? Would you care to share what it is that you know, but this old fool, despite his century's worth of knowledge, doesn't know?” Anna knew what Luna was feeling. He felt the same way her grandmother made her the commander of Southern watch. Anna was very open about her feelings, but when it came to Luna, she would turn into a tsundere. Maybe it's because of the jealousy present between sisters.

“It's not Grandpa's fault. This ore has been just recently discovered... Umm, artificially created should be the right word.” Luna paused, savoring the moment.

“Well, what is it?” Lorenzo was happy for his granddaughter but being an excellent researcher, a part of him cursed himself for not trying to update himself yesterday night when he had the time instead of ideally meditating.

“Do you remember the theory about an ore that could take the property of rule power feed to it?” Luna did not answer her grandfather; instead pointed him in the direction of the answer.

“Memirconium! I thought a researcher from the empire proved that something miraculous as Memironium could not exist naturally.” Lorenzo exclaimed. He had indeed heard about the Memirconium, but it was proved to be not possible.

“Yes, Memirconium. It was artificially created not long ago” Luna nodded in agreement.

“Guys, I know you both are excited, but you are leaving me out of it. And I am starting to feel like a fool here. So one of you better explain what you guys are talking about before I get mad.” Anna did not understand what Luna and Lorenzo were talking about and felt left out. Then seeing the two get all excited about their geek stuff, Anna felt like a fool, which did not make Anna feel any better.

## **Chapter 395: Recognition**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:22

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Memirconium is an artificially created ore that can amplify and dedicate the rule power feed to it.” Luna explained the newly created ore to Anna.

“If it is artificially created, why is it called an ore? Shouldn’t it be called an alloy or something?” Anna was not good with books, but she knew the definition of ore.

“You are right. Naturally occurring minerals are mainly termed as ore. If you knew the manufacturing process of Memirconium, you would agree why they termed it as an ore instead of an alloy. Please do not ask me about the manufacturing process of the Memicronium ore.” Luna was surprised to see Anna point out the definition of ore.

“Why? Do you not know the manufacturing process of the Memicronium ore?” Hearing Luna, who loves to lecture on facts and things people do not give a damn about, says not to ask her about the manufacturing process of the Memicronium ore. Anna found a way to get even with Luna for making her feel like a fool earlier.

“I said not to ask because the theory behind it is too complicated for your small brain to understand.” Seeing Anna not let it go, Luna decided to crank it up a notch.

“...” Seeing the fuming Anna, Luna remembered why she had stopped taunting and hurriedly hid behind her grandfather and yelled, “Now don’t blame me. You were the one who was being petty, Anna.”

“Old man, move out of the way if you do not want to feel my wrath.” Anna respected her elders. If it were someone else, that would be the case. But since it was the scumbag Lorenzo, who conspired against her to annul his beloved granddaughter’s arranged marriage, Anna did not mind breaking a few bones of this so-called elder.

“You are on your own.” Anna was powerful and vindictive. Ever since that incident, she has been finding reasons to trash him. And without the support from a prepared array trap, Lorenzo was not a match for Anna. Therefore Lorenzo did not hesitate to throw his granddaughter under the bus. After all, in the case of Luna, Anna will only embrace her a little, but if it is him, he can foresee a trip to the hospital.

“Grandpa...” Luna exclaimed, feeling betrayed.

“Hehe” Anna neared Luna with a menacing laugh.

...

“Guys, how much longer will it take? If you could just tell me what it is you want, I can answer and provide a solution if needed....” Running out of topics to talk about with Cortney, the atmosphere in the primary cabin was starting to feel awkward. So I ejected from the Mecha to ask the Heatsend Trio what was taking so long.

Standing on the Lion’s head, I could clearly see Anna bending over Luna and whooping her butt. While Lorenzo stood facing the Megamorpher, seemingly busy analyzing whatever it was they were looking for.

“...” My sudden appearance caught the cousins in surprise. Luna took the opportunity to free herself and hurriedly distanced herself from Anna. Then she yelled, “I will get you back for this”

“I will be waiting,” Anna sneered because she thought with the level of Luna’s prowess, she had nothing to worry about.

“Boy, you make one heck of a golem... I am sorry, Mecha. You seemed to have used a lot of mortal alchemy behind its design. Here’s the problem with mortal Alchemy: it’s too basic.” Having said that, Lorenzo extended his hand and struck his palm on the MegaMorpher.

\*Bang\* With the impact of Lorenzo’s palm, the whole MegaMorpher reverberate with vibrations covering its entire body with the point of impact as the point of origin of the oscillations. Soon the MegaMorpher jolted and turned into light and split into three mecha beasts, and the mecha beasts turned into specks of light and returned to their respective grimoire. Cortney, her mother, and I began to fall to the ground under the influence of gravity, with the vanishment of the Mecha carrying us. Thankfully the culprit, Lorenzo, was kind enough to use his ability to catch us mid-air and land us safely on the ground.

“Old man, what was that for?” Landing on the ground and feeling safe, I yelled at Lorenzo and asked him to explain himself. What prompted him to attack the MegaMorpher. Despite its humongous height, MegaMorpher is an A-rank Item, and thanks to the Earth Wind and Fire Formation, it could display the strength of card overlord at best. So attacking it with the power of a card emperor was a bit of overkill.

“I was just pointing out the flaw of your item card,” Lorenzo replied nonchalantly.

“You mean you attacked the mecha to show-off?” Hearing a carefree response from Lorenzo, I was enraged.

“For you, it may look like a show-off, but for someone of my age, all I see is a generous elder pointing out mistakes to his arrogant junior. Your card creation ability is creative. I have never seen a card creationist who used Mortal alchemy to create cards when you have better and excellent alternative card ingredients available.

Your Mecha could be a lot stronger if you relied less on mortal alchemy and deepened your knowledge about array cards. Combining the three beast mecha to form the giant Mecha using a formation carry is a good idea, but your understanding of the formation is too shallow. Therefore there are too many flaws in giant Mecha, and I did not even need to utilize my soul energy to defeat it.

If you use this mecha against any skilled array master, they can also see the flaw I saw. And do exactly what I did just now.” From the Power suit to Exoskeleton to Beast Mech to the MegaMorpher. Each one of them has succeeded in impressing and being acknowledged by Lorenzo. Which meant he recognized me as a capable card creationist worthy of this advice.

## **Chapter 396: Intentions**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:29

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

‘Mortal alchemy’ Is that what these people call engineering in this card universe? And what do you mean by there are flaws in the way I used the Earth Wind and Fire formation to combine the three beast mecha? I agree my knowledge about formation arrays is near to none, but I used my soul pupils to arrange the soul pathways of the formation in all three cards. So there can be no flaws. If there are any flaws, they must have been in the three Earth Wind and Fire formation cards I used as card ingredients to create the beast mech cards.

“Old man, what are you getting at?” If a sly old fox like Lorenzo is praising my work, then he has to be working an angle.

"All I am trying to tell you is that in the card creationist society, you are an unpolished diamond. With proper guidance and teachings, you may someday become a real rare diamond." Old Lorenzo was indeed working an angle to accept the rude boy in front of as his disciple.

Lorenzo did not have a habit of picking up talents and nurturing them. This was a special case where Lorenzo was willing to make an exception considering the circumstance and future gains. After all, the boy in question was an exceptional card creation talent born once a millennium. And whether the boy accepts it or not, by forming a lifelong soul contract with the princess of the Heatsend Royal Family, he has become a part of the Royal family. Though currently, he is the cancerous part mooching off the Royal family's generosity with proper guidance and discipline in time, he can be turned into a pillar that carries the future generation of the Heatsend Royal Family.

Since the Heatsend Royal family is basically babysitting him by providing him protection and earning him wealth, they might as well nurture him into something that they could reap profits off. Lorenzo had this plan in mind long since he proposed to pronounce the boy dead to the world and hide for the rest of his life as he slaves off for the royal family. But the boy saw through his plan from miles away. He is too bright and sharp. Treating him like any other teenager with raging hormones would not be a mistake. Therefore this time, Lorenzo decided to handle the matter smoothly and not come out as too strong.

"Isn't that the reason why I am planning to attend the top 10 universities?" Could see Lorenzo had something planned in his mind, and he was slowly building to it. I decided to act ignorant and string him along. Let's see where it heads. If his proposal is profitable to me, I would not mind hearing him out. But considering it was Lorenzo, I did not count on it.

"Top 10 universities? That place is filled with talents. And the competition there is very high. Someone like you with a shallow background would not be able to handle the pressure and stress. Not to mention other influences. You will not know what hit you and be disposed of in a day." Yep, old Lorenzo was up to something. He doesn't seem to be the type who would waste so many words and saliva caring for others.

"Whatever, man. You don't know me. Who are you to judge me?" Yep, let's reel the old fool in deeper. Old Lorenzo, I thought by now you would have learned that you cannot underestimate me because of my physical age.

"Boy, I know you. At that age, I was you. I was an orphan and grew up in a slum. My talent was too big for my humble background to handle. If not for his majesty(Anna's grandfather) helping me, I could never achieve what I have achieved or become the man I am today." Lorenzo reduced me and started to share his story. I did not know if what Lorenzo shared with me was true or not. But I knew he was trying to establish something common and relatable to me. This way, I would open up to him and give a serious thought to whatever he was planning to say next.

“What does it have with me? Old man, get to the point. Or else I will be taking my leave.” Seeing Lorenzo get serious, I no longer planned to play with him. Because if his intentions were genuine and authentic, then me playing with them could train the relationship between the two of us.

“All I am trying to say is that you have great potential and more extraordinary talent. All you need is somebody to teach you the ropes of card creation, and you can become like me or even better.” Seeing me impatient, Lorenzo becomes more evident about his intentions, but he would not come right out. Without adequately justifying that what he is proposing to me is for my good.

“I already told you I am planning to attend one of the top 10 universities. And I bet I will become way better than you. That’s a fact.” This sly fox wanted me to do his job for him. This way, he could shake his shoulders, saying it was my Idea. There is no way in hell I am doing that. If he wants to be my teacher, he must say it himself. If he has any fantasies about me begging him to be my teacher, he can forget about it. Not happening, period.

“Boy, don’t you get it. Keeping the political drama in the top 10 universities, hundreds and thousands of talents attend the universities. And each University has limited faculty and resources. With so many skilled and talented students to focus on, the University can not be partial and will not be able to give you the attention you deserve for your talent. Although it is totally a different thing if you have a deep background.” Seeing me revolve around the same point, again and again, Lorenzo frustratedly pointed out to me that the top 10 universities may not be the best choice for somebody with so much potential and talent as me.

### **Chapter 397: Mentor**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:38

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Old man, as far as I know, the top 10 universities are the places where the best and brightest of the world gather because those universities are the hub of all the knowledge humanity has gathered to present. They are the holy land of card creation. Not to mention the various opportunities and options that will become available to me just by attending one of the top 10 universities.

The top 10 universities are not just about gaining knowledge and experiencing opportunities but expanding my horizon. My encounter with you people these past few days has taught me that the world is more extensive than what I can see from here in the sky blossom city.

It's okay if the competition in the university is formidable and the political waters are deep there because I do not plan on participating in any form of competition or political agenda. So what if I cannot get proper guidance? As long as the knowledge I require is readily available there, that arrangement works for me. I do not need a professor to spoon-feed it to me. I will learn whatever I want and get help whenever required. That is the way I like, and that is how I come this far." These words were not for Lorenzo but for me. Till today I was not resolute if I wanted to attend the university as it seemed like a lot of trouble just to get a few answers which I could get from Anna with a bit of steamy compromise.

"What? You will learn the hundred thousand years of card knowledge by yourself. Boy, don't kid yourself. Just because you learned and created some of the basic card recipes by yourself doesn't mean that you could learn Card theory without someone guiding you. Those card theory dates back to a hundred thousand years over the period many have tried to summarize them all, but none came close, and you think you can learn it without any guidance. I thought you had a wise head, but it seems I judged you hastily." Trying to reason with the boy Lorenzo started to treat him as an adult, but he realized no matter how smart or talented the boy may be, he was still a teenager.

"Old man, drop it. I am young and have a lot of life in front of me, so I can afford to learn by making one or two mistakes." Having someone as strong and knowledgeable as Lorenzo as my mentor would be good. I could learn and gain a lot from him. But our end goals were different. By acting as my mentor, Lorenzo wanted to train me into a Heatsend Royal family soldier, similar to him, which did not sit right with me. Being from the earth, taking orders was not my thing. I was more free-spirited and believed in individual freedom.

"\*sigh\* Since I have spoken so much already. I might as well go ahead and ask. Wyatt, are you willing to accept me as your mentor? Before you answer me, know this, I will spare no effort to teach you everything I know. And do everything in my power to see you succeed." My answer made it clear that I knew what Lorenzo was trying to propose, and it also made it clear that I was not interested in his proposal. Knowing all this, old Lorenzo still chose to ask whether I was willing to accept him as my mentor.

"..." By hinting to Lorenzo that I knew what he was trying to propose and that I was not interested in his proposal, I was not trying to save him from embarrassment. Instead, I was trying to keep myself from the current awkward dilemma.

I thought, knowing the truth, Lorenzo would choose to avoid getting embarrassed. And would not put forward his proposal to me. But Lorenzo did just the opposite. Putting me in a pickle.

Lorenzo is at the top of his field and is the best of the best at what he does. Having him as my mentor means I would gain his first-hand knowledge passed to me directly by him. This would do good for me on the side of the Heatsend Royal family too. As the disciple of their in-law, I would be considered family, and they would overlook the fact

that I was mooching off them in the silver milk powder project. And would be keener on giving me protection. Choosing Lorenzo would do me a lot of good. But doing so would tie me to the Heatsend Royal family ship. Since I was already labeled as a member of the Heatsend royal family faction, In a way, it did not matter.

But nothing is free in this world. As the disciple of Lorenzo and part of the Heatsend royal family, I would have many obligations for which I would be held responsible for, which went against the chronic disease that makes the back of my brain itchy whenever I am being ordered around. There are too many pros and a single con from accepting Lorenzo as my mentor. Too bad that this one con was the deal-breaker for me.

“Thank you for your consideration, but no, I think the top 10 universities are the best place for me.” I rejected Lorenzo without caring for how it would henceforth affect my relationship with the Heatsend Royal family. I believe that as long as they needed me and the soul contract between Anna and I existed, I did not have to worry about them acting out.

“Well, I tried warning you. The waters in the university are too deep for a kid from a humble background like you. Don’t come running to me when you cannot handle the University. Later, even if you beg me. I will not be your mentor.” I did not accept this kind of 8th grader response from Lorenzo, but well, it is not surprising since he did get rejected by a high schooler.

## **Chapter 398: Suitors**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:46

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Don’t listen to him, Wyatt. Nobody in the top 10 universities would dare to touch the man of the Southern Emperor.” Hearing Lorenzo’s ominous remarks, Anna tried comforting me, saying that nobody would dare to harm her man.

“But, I am not your man.” Anna’s words would have sounded comforting if I were her man. But now, all I can hear is her trying to coerce me into becoming her man.

“I don’t think so. You guys may be wrong about this one. The competition and the political waters in the top 10 universities are very vigorous, but that might not be the case for Wyatt. Once the Silver milk powder starts selling, you will become the renowned discoverer of Silver milk powder and the heart of the She Gladiator. Your status changes from nobody to that of a golden snitch. Many powers would be interested in you and try to make you their possession one way or another.” Luna seemed to have a different opinion from her grandfather.

"Would that mean that I am already part of the political struggle in the top 10 universities? How is that any different from what Lorenzo just said" I did not hear any difference comparing what Luna and her grandfather said. They sounded pretty much the same to me. However, Luna's remarks were more ominous than her grandfather's remarks.

"My grandfather's version does not involve the most influential and powerful people of the world trying to capture and nurture you into a gold-laying slave. Just like my grandfather was trying to a few seconds ago.

Disappointing, here I thought you would be more interested in knowing about the heart of the She Gladiator." According to Luna, as a nobody, I can graduate from the top 10 universities by keeping my head down. But as the renowned discoverer of silver milk powder, the trouble would come finding me. This meant my dreams of a peaceful life were shattered the moment I patented Silver milk powder under my name.

"By 'She Gladiator,' are you referring to the embarrassing nickname given to Anna during her time in the university." This was quite obvious. These girls were several decades old yet partook in such childish wordplay. Calling me the heart of She Gladiator. What are we seventeen? Yes, physically, I am seventeen, but mentally, I am a middle-aged man.

"Whatever, despite her fooling around and her insane man strength. Anna has many suitors who are willing to pursue her despite her loose sleeping around and giving it to anybody above an eight. If I were you, I would watch out for them then the other influences." Luna seemed to enjoy talking about Anna and her love life.

"Since they are willing to overlook all of Anna's past lovers, why would they target me?" If Anna's suitors can accept Anna's parade of ex-lovers, I think they can overlook one more. Not to mention I do not have such a relationship with Anna yet.

"Wyatt, I thought you were smarter than that unless you are like one of those men that my mother told me about. The kind of man who becomes dense when it involves the romantic interest in his life.

The soul contract between you and Anna? What is it again? Something about my Cousin protecting you, your family, and your friends... Something... Something. If I didn't know better, I would say that the terms of the soul contract sounded more like a marriage vow.

Having heard what transpired, I know better, but the fact remains that my cousin's fate is tied to you for the rest of her life unless you are willing to cancel the sole contract between the two of you. Or be responsible for her.

This soul contract is an eyesore not just to the Heatsend Royal family but to Anna's frantic suitors. You see, unlike the suitors of most of the wealthy ladies, Anna's suitors

are not after her wealth or beauty or power. Instead, they genuinely are infatuated with Anna. And the soul contract between you and Anna should have driven many of them to the point of instantly by now.

Yes, many intelligent ones will not read between the lines and see the soul contract for what it is baggage holding back, Anna. And these are the people you truly need to be worried about. These Suitors are highly competent with a lot of patience. When you let your guard down, who knows anything can happen. One second you are enjoying a magazine inside the toilet, next second, you are a dead man inside a men's room with the magazine in one hand and Another one on your crotch.

Oh boy, you thought the soul contract would protect you from the trouble that the Silver milk powder would bring. But now, it is the magnet attracting the real trouble your way." The one thing that made Luna jealous about Anna's life was the ex-lovers who were willing to sacrifice themselves for her and could not bear to see any harm done to her. Most of Anna's lovers are incredible men who make any woman a happy wife, but Anna rejected them all because of her commitment issues which stemmed from her divorced parents. Anna's father, despite his absence in her life he messed her up.

"What are you trying to say? Do you want me to cancel the soul contract between Anna and me? If not for that, I would have already become a slave of your royal family. If your point is for me to cancel the contract between Anna and me, then you can give it a rest as that is not happening." I don't know what Luna was trying to achieve from her speech earlier, but all I heard was a warning that I should lift the soul contract between Anna and me before one of her frantic suitors tries to get rid of me to free Anna from the soul contract.

### **Chapter 399: Back Off**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 10:54

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"Quite the opposite, actually. I was hoping you could take responsibility and make the contract official by marrying my Cousin.

The Soul contract of yours already makes Anna your full-time Nanny. I don't know what she was thinking when she signed the contract. That topic is for another day.

You don't actually believe you can have the heiress of the Heatsend royal family work as your bodyguard for the rest of your life. Right?

If not for Anna speaking up for you and you being needed for the Silver milk powder project. My Aunt would have already disposed of you." First, Luna's thoughts aligned

with her grandpa's desire to enslave Wyatt. But now, after seeing the mecha cards, Luna realized the potential and talent in Wyatt. And seeing her grandfather trying to recruit Wyatt as his disciple Luna was sure that any amount of investment done on Wyatt now, several times of that, could be reaped in the future.

And for some unknown reason, her Cousin seemed to be fascinated with the Boy. Is it love, just a fling? It was hard to tell. After all, it was Anna who would change men like changing clothes. But for some reason, her gut told her that Anna was serious about this boy.

Anna had slept with her arranged fiance and made her the joke in the eyes of her friends and colleagues alike. But the fact remained that because of Anna, her arranged marriage was annulled. Knowing or unknowing Anna helped her escape a disastrous future. So she owned Anna one. Therefore as a way to pay back Anna, Luna decided to become the matchmaker between Anna and her crush.

“...” I was not dense enough to not realize that Luna was trying to intimidate me into committing to something I did not want, a relationship. No, she is reaching for something more than a committed relationship, a marriage. It would have been better if Luna had threatened me to cancel the contract between Anna and me instead.

‘Duck with an F’ why are the grandfather and granddaughter pair acting weirdly today. The grandfather wants to be my mentor, and the granddaughter wants to be my sister-in-law. What are they scheming now? Just yesterday, they were trying to convince me that they were protecting me when they actually were trying to get a free and willing slave for their family by declaring me dead to the world and erasing my presence from the face of the world.

I wasn't afraid of their conspires but how they deployed their conspiracy. It was becoming harder for me to tell whether they were genuine or hatching something. This made it harder for me to decide how to respond to them.

One thing I have noticed, no matter the way they used, both the grandfather and granddaughter pair were trying to hitch me to the Heatsend Royal train. Making it clear to me that they are thinking that if they could not make me a slave of the royal family, they wanted to make me a loyal subordinate of the royal family. One thing was clear the conspiracies of the two seem to be revolving around the interest of the Heatsend Royal family.

I did not have to answer Luna or Lorenzo but Anna, as she was the one who was being affected here, so I looked her in the eyes and asked, ” Do you feel the same way? Do you think I should be held responsible too?”

“No, I like you, and I will make you mine in my way. You, marrying me just because that is the best option for your problems is not what I want. I want you to marry me because I am the right one for you.

Because you feel the same way I feel about you.

Because you want to spend the rest of your life with me.

Because you are madly in love with me, and the thought of living separated from me kills you.

As far as the soul contract goes, I signed the contract fully aware of what I was signing up for. So you do not have to worry about my mother or my family. Nobody would do anything that would hurt me.” Anna’s answer could not be more precise. Having explained where she stood, Anna turned to her Cousin and said, “Luna, I know what you are trying to do, and it is good to know that you have forgiven me for real. But bitch, stay out of my love life. Do not pressure him. What if you scare him away?”

“Got it, loud and clear. You could say it civilly, you know?” Getting an answer from Anna herself, Luna decided to mind her own business.

“Civil, look who is talking about being civil. I have seen how you researchers can get during the year-end university funds distributing. I have seen my share of nasty, but that shit in there. I do not have words to describe it.” Anna loved her cousin, but she found her high-class, upscale act a bit annoying. Why do you have to act superior? Is it just because you are a scholar? Why can’t you be yourself?

“University funding distribution is different. It is a battlefield. What if they give all the money to the mortal alchemy and medicine department. We have no choice but to fight. You can’t judge a person on that.” Lorenzo came to defend his granddaughter, and he was proud that she could fight for her department’s funding. That is how he raised her.

“You would say that. You both are stitched from the same cloth. It’s like a thief alibing a thief.” Anna sarcastically responded.

“...” Lorenz gave up because whatever he said would only make it worse.

“Old man, you too back off of Wyatt. If he wants to join the Heatsend royal family, he will enter it. That’s his choice, but if you scare him off, I will be your worst nightmare.” Anna warmed Lorenzo to stop with his conspiracy as she believed his stubborn pursuit of making Wyatt join the family would end up driving him away instead.

## **Card Apprentice Daily Log #Chapter 400: Difficult Client - Read Card Apprentice Daily Log Chapter 400: Difficult Client**

### **Chapter 400: Difficult Client**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 11:08

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“So, you guys, how was the demonstration? Did you like the Beast mecha cards?” Since Anna took care of the granddaughter and grandfather duo, I asked them the question of the hour.

“The Beast mecha cards were everything you promised, and the MegaMorpher was unbelievable.” Anna enthusiastically praised the Beast mecha cards and the MegaMorpher. Her sparkling eyes told that she was genuinely impressed by the cards and their capability.

“The cards were fantastic, and they performed exceptionally even beyond what I was expecting. Not to mention they are rune item cards. Now all that remains is the production details. How many of these cards can you make in a day?” Without exception, Luna also officially became a fan of the beast mecha cards. It would not be wrong to say that she has become a fan of mechas in general.

Not only had she become a fan, but she planned to create a private army of card apprentices equipped with mecha cards powered by broken runes in general Rune Mecha Cards.

“Good...” hearing Luna’s question, I knew the big fish had bitten the bait. And I was enthusiastically going to reel in the fish by answering Luna’s questions until she was satisfied but was interrupted by Lorenzo.

“Wait before we go into details or make any promises. We should address the issue regarding the MegaMorpher.” I guess I was wishful, thinking that Lorenzo would heed Anna’s warning and stop causing trouble for me.

“What about MegaMorpher?” Since Lorenzo is my client, I saw it as my duty to solve Lorenzo’s problems regarding my products.

“The same old, I reminded you earlier that there are flaws in your formation array used to combine the beast mecha to form MegaMorpher. Right? How are you going to fix it?” From Lorenzo’s question, I knew for sure he asked the question to create difficulties for me. It seems he took my rejection of him becoming my mentor to heart.

“That error in the formation array used to combine the beast mecha to form MegaMorpher is not because of me but because of the formation array cards I used. If you can provide me with better formation carry cards, I will use them to create the Mechas. That way, there will be no apparent flaws when they combine to form MegaMorpher.” Lorenzo and everybody present here knew that I had very shallow knowledge of the formation array cards, and that is why I made use of ready-made

formation array cards as ingredients to create the Mecha cards. Yet Lorenzo still chose to ask me about the flaws in the formation array cards I used.

How am I supposed to answer the flaws of formation array cards created by another card creationist? I know this looks like pushing the blame, yes this guy is purposefully making trouble, and he is my client. So I politely answered that if he is willing to supply me with better formation array cards, I will use them as an ingredient to create the mecha cards.

“Grandpa, are you satisfied? Now can we move on to other details?” Luna was pissed seeing her grandfather act petty when she was about to talk business.

“Yes, that’s it for now. You can proceed with the production details and other stuff.” Lorenzo did not want to piss off his granddaughter. She may look like a cuddly little doll, but when she gets angry, she turns into a raging beast out for blood.

“Wyatt, since you have spoken already, we will supply you with all the card ingredients required for the mecha cards. And how...” having dealt with her grandfather Luna started taking business with me but was interrupted by me.

“Wait. I meant that if you can supply the formation array cards since the ones in the market are not up to your taste. But the rest of the ingredients would still be procured by our card boutique.” If Luna supplies all the card ingredients, then Susan would miss out on a considerable fortune that she could have amassed on the commission would be lost. Susan is my exclusive manager, meaning I am her source of income. I could not just let my client bring the ingredients. That would mean I would be running over Susan, which would not be professional.

“Wyatt? You are kidding. Right? How is your card boutique going to procure such massive amounts of rare card ingredients when it could hardly gather enough ingredients for the three beast mecha cards.” Luna looked at me with disbelief. But she did make valid points. It’s not that I did not think of this problem. I did and decided to discuss it with Susan later. But impressed by the mecha cards, Luna enthusiastically wanted to please the order on the spot.

“About that...” I wanted to excuse myself and have a discussion with Susan to check what she thought about the dilemma. I know she cannot amass such a massive amount of the rare ingredients, but I want her to supply the other card ingredients that she can procure in Sky blossom city. But before I could do that, Susan herself stepped in.

“Wyatt, Emperor Luna is right. By the looks of it, her highness is planning to place a large order. I can not procure such a large amount of rare ingredients. And not to mention, I do not think that the rare ingredients I procure would be as good as the ones provided by Emperor Luna.” Susan came clean that the assignment was way beyond her capabilities, and it would be better if Luna provided the ingredients.

What Susan said did bump me out. Except for the last part. What does she mean by 'the rare ingredients I procure would be as good as the ones provided by Emperor Luna.' This part enraged me since I understood Susan blamed herself for the flaws in the formation array pointed out by Lorenzo.

## Chapter 401: Blame

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 11:18

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"\*sigh\* Dr.Luna, please excuse me. I will have a short chat with my employee and get back to you. Susan, let's go over there and talk." Before following Susan, I glared at Lorenzo and said, "Old man, you and me, we're not done yet."

"Fook, what did I do?" My glare and remark dumbfounded Lorenzo. And soon he turned to Anna and said, "Look, because of you even a brat in card soldier realm dares to threaten me?"

"I don't blame him. You deserve it all!" Anna enjoyed the aggrieved look on Lorenzo's face.

"..." Luna did not care about her grandfather and his grievance. Her brain was now calculating how many mecha cards she should order and if there were different designs of Mechas or just these three.

"Hey, Luna. Just don't think about yourself? What happened to the plan about replacing the Synonium alloy with the Mimeronium ore for the body of the mecha. And To use the new MegaMorpher to cross the river?" Anna asked Luna, who seemed to have forgotten the original plan and was busy with the plans of building her private army.

"Oh, about that, I was going to ask him about it next. Believe me, I was. I will ask him first thing when he comes back from his staff meeting." Luna had forgotten about the Mimerconium and other stuff consumed by the ecstasy of having a personal Army of card apprentices equipped with Rune Mecha cards.

"Whatever." Anna knew Luna's telltale sign, and right now Luna was lying her ass off.

...

"Susan, what were you trying to achieve by yelling out that we cannot amass such a large amount of rare card ingredients in front of the clients without discussing it with me first?" Susan was a professional. I do not believe what she did was by mistake. No, I think she did this on purpose. But why sabotage herself and the fortunes she would

earn on commission? The reason was apparent: she blamed herself for providing low-quality Formation array cards, which led to me being questioned by the client.

"I am sorry, Wyatt. Because of my oversight, you got blamed for the flaws in the mecha cards." Yep, my guess was correct. She blamed herself for the low-quality Formation array cards.

"That is not the answer to my question. Why did you answer the client without discussing it with me first?" I was not looking for an apology from Susan. Susan was not just an employee to me. She was my first friend in this world. These formalities were not necessary between the two of us.

"I did that because if the customer insisted too much on them providing the card ingredients, you would give up the entire project or demand compensation for me. I know you. You would not care who the client is and follow your principles. Maybe Emperor Luna would go along with your demands. You and I both know that is not good for business, and we will not be able to gather a loyal customer base that way. The Royal family is a huge client. I don't want you missing out on them because of me.

I don't know what kind of relationship you have with the southern emperor but misusing it too much is not wise. Would you please leave this here? Let the Royal family provide the card ingredients. I have already made a massive fortune on the commission for the card ingredients of the three beast mecha cards. And also, the quality of the ingredients supplied by the Royal family will be excellent compared to what I can get you in the sky blossom city." Susan recited all the valid and undeniable points she could think of to defend her action.

Yes, a big client like the Royal family is a career-making client, and I should not miss out on them just because of minor issues. But screwing over my employees is not a minor issue.

Yes, I planned to have Luna fork out a massive compensation for Susan. That is why I argued with her when she said that her side would provide the card ingredients. Even though I knew that collecting all the rare card ingredients for the vast order Luna was placing was impossible in the sky blossom city. I am not the type to throw my employee under the bus just because I get to sign a huge client. Not to mention Susan is my friend.

Yes, the way I am doing the business is not an excellent way to amass a troop of loyal customers. But I am not the type to do business by kissing the customer's ass. I do business by keeping my customers satisfied.

Yes, Susan has become a wealthy woman after gaining the commission for the card ingredients of Beast mecha cards. But that doesn't mean she had to give up on making more money.

Yes, the quality of the ingredients supplied by the Royal family will be excellent compared to what I can get in the sky blossom city. True, but please don't assume that this is Susan's fault. I had to let her know that none of it was her fault.

"Susan, listen to me. The formation array card was not an oversight on your part. You did an excellent job arranging the rare card ingredients in a limited amount of time. You bought the card that the association sold you. If the association thought those cards were filled with flaws, then they would not have sold them to you. Lorenzo is a Card emperor and a high-ranking formation array master. Any other average card apprentice could not point out the flaws that he pointed out in the array. That asshole is just making things difficult for me. All this is not your fault." Yeah, if it were an average Card Lord of the same realm as the mecha cards, they could not point out the flaws in the formation array, as Lorenzo did.

"But our customers are not average customers are they?" It seems Susan did not share the same thought as me.

## **Chapter 402: Traitor**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 11:24

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"So, what did you decide in your staff meeting?" Luna asked, seeing Susan and I return after our little discussion.

Having a heart to heart talk with Susan, we meaning Susan concluded that the Royal family should be the one to provide the ingredients for the cards, and Susan will not be taking any kind of compensation from the client for the sake of maintaining a healthy Business to Customer relationship with Heatsend royal family.

Since Susan is sacrificing her commission for the development of the Card Boutique customer relationship, I decided to award her loyalty towards the Boutique with a promise that if Susan were to find her second-fate ingredients, I would spare no expense to assist her in acquiring it. And help her create her second origin cards. Of all the expanse would be borne by the Card Boutique.

Being one of the original founding members of the Card Boutique, Susan had as much as right I had to decide what was best for the development of Card Boutique. Since Susan was doing such an excellent job as an employee of the only boutique, I had all the reasons to award her for her contribution.

The only problem was Susan herself. She was not willing to accept any expensive awards. So I had to settle for bearing all expenses for her second origin card. According

to status, since Susan has already found her first fate ingredient, the probability of her finding her second fat ingredient was very low. This was what left me disappointed about the compromise Susan and I had arrived at.

“Well, After a lot of thinking and considering the contribution of the Heatsend royal family to the southern region, we have decided that the royal family can provide the card ingredients,” I responded to Luna but chose not to go into detail about the compromise between Susan and me.

“Boy, you make it sound like you are doing the royal family a favor. In actuality, you do not have the ability to procure the large amount of the rare top-shelf ingredients required to create the cards.” Lorenzo acts up hearing my remark about considering the contribution of the Heatsend family to the Southern region.

“Sorry, Emperor Lorn. Wyatt did not mean disrespect of any form from that statement.” Susan hurriedly bowed to Lorenzo and apologized, seeing Lorenzo enraged.

“Then what did he mean by that statement?” It seems Lorenzo will continue pursuing the matter further and did not show any signs of putting it down to rest.

“All he meant was that the Heatsend Royal family has set itself as an exemplary example defending the southern region for generations, and as the younger generation of the South region, we should follow the example of the Heatsend Royal family to do our part for our community and should not be greedy.” Saying the last part, Susan glared at me. Asking me to hide my dissatisfaction and act professionally.

“Well said, Little girl. Since you want to follow the example of the Royal family, why not do the job for free. Compared to the selfless sacrifice of the Heatsend family and its members, this should be nothing.” Lorenzo was impressed by Susan’s way with words, but he was centuries ahead of her in this game.

“...” Susan stared blankly at Lorenzo who’s eyes sparkled, feeling triumphant.

“Old man, shut your trap. Having lived for centuries, you are sitting on a mountain of wealth, and you still dare have thoughts about plundering the chump change in our hands. Could anyone be more shameless than you?” When dealing with people like Lorenzo, polite and humble words are useless. You have to be more shameless than them.

“Boy, what do you mean by those words? Are you trying to slander the Royal family of extortion?” Lorenzo dramatically yelled as if the slander of the Royal family was the greatest sin in his eyes.

“Your words, not mine. But yes, I am blaming you for trying to extort the younger generation of the southern region in the name of MotherLand and Self-sacrifice. Exploiting the youth of the motherland is equal to exploiting the nation’s future. With this

in view, your crimes are beyond extortion. You are a traitor who betrayed the trust of his people and country." Two can play at that game yelled louder than Lorenzo with more grimacing and stern expression.

"..." Susan, Luna, Anna, Cortney, and Clown Mask stood in the sudden turn of events. Weren't we discussing business when it turned into slander or extraction or betrayal?

"Boy, what did you call me?" Being called a traitor, Lorenzo lost it.

"Enough, Lorenzo, stand down." Anna stepped in, seeing things get out of hand.

"..." I sneered, looking at Lorenzo, who was mad as hell but could do nothing because of Anna.

"Well played, boy." Lorenzo gracefully accepted his defeat with a grudge.

"Wyatt, I am willing to pay 0.5% of the total cost of the card ingredients that will be used for the creation of the Cards as compensation for Ms. Susan's service. I hope this satisfies you." By now, Luna knew where my dissatisfaction stemmed from if she didn't earlier. And proposed to compensate Susan with 0.5% of the total cost of the ingredients used. This percentage is significantly less than the percentage offered to Susan by the Guild association, but it was better than nothing. Since Susan would be getting compensated without doing any work, I think this was a justifiable amount of compensation.

\*Thank you for your consideration, Emperor Luna. Considering that the Royal family brought us such massive business, we have decided to reciprocate the goodwill you have shown to us by rebating the compensation you just promised. Let this be the fountain of a stable relationship between our Card boutique and the royal family. We are happy to have you as our customer." Since Luna had already promised compensation, Susan could not reject her compensation. That would not be polite. Instead, she used the opportunity to get on good terms with Luna.

## **Chapter 403: Rebate**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 11:31

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"Wait? What do you mean by 'they brought a massive business to our small boutique?' You do know that I am the only one who can create these mecha cards." I asked Susan. These people had nowhere to go if they wanted to create an army equipped with rune mecha cards they had to come to me.

Yes, Lorenzo and Luna could try to decipher and reverse engineer the cards I created for them. But that would take years of the work and not to mention even if they are successful. They cannot possibly pump out as many Rune Item Cards as I can. Thanks to my Calamity daughter core, I could create rune Item cards as I pleased, but it is not the same for the other card apprentices. They require a lot of time and resources to develop an Ego Gem shell.

This is why I acted arrogantly. If they wanted to develop enough rune mecha cards for an army in the shortest possible time, then they had to come to me. They had no choice.

“...” Susan stared at me with dead eyes. As if saying, dude feel the room; you see what I am trying to do here, right?

“What? You are my manager. You do not have to stand in a ceremony here. I don’t think Dr.Luna would mind.” I glanced at Luna and then Anna and Lorenzo.

“...” Lorenzo wanted to curse out loud. But feeling the intimidating presence of Anna next to him, he chose to swear in his mind, ‘Who the fock does he think he is?’

“Susan, all of Wyatt’s friends are my friends. So you do not need to get nervous and walk on eggshells around us.” Anna acted like a wife who met her husband’s friends for the first time. It did raise alarms in me, but as long as Susan feels welcomed, that is okay.

“Ms. Susan, Wyatt is correct. You do not have to watch your words in front of us. I insist that you keep the compensation and not rebate it.” Luna asked Susan not to stand on ceremony in her presence and speak her mind.

“Emperor Luna, please accept the rebate. As I said, It represents the foundation of the new relationship between us.” Susan insisted that Luna accept the rebate. She thought that mutually benefiting from each other would create a long-lasting business-to-customer relationship. Unlike me, she believed in building a business on trust.

Whereas I wanted to build the card boutique on my capability as a card creationist. Rather than relationship and trust. Because I have seen the businesses built on trust and relationships end up betrayed. Sometimes relationships and trust can help the business climb the economic ladder faster, but they have to have the Capabilities that match their pace; otherwise, soon, they will fall quicker than they climbed.

I believe in my card creation ability. So much so that I could arrogantly discard relationships and trust. Thanks to my ability, there was no need for me to be polite to Anna or Luna because I knew they needed me. Was I not worried that I would offend them? No, as that was not in my control. Because if they wanted to be offended by me no matter what I do, how much I kiss their butthole, their opinion about me would not change. So why worry about something I cannot control. Instead, I chose to focus on

my capabilities as a card creationist. Because as long as I am at the top, nobody would dare to mess with me knowingly.

That is how I planned to grow my business, and that is how I plan to climb to the top. If not for my capability, I would not be targeted by many people from the shadows, and Anna would not bother to protect me. All that I have now is because of my capabilities and ability. As long as I had them, I did not have to worry about relationships and trust betraying me. That is what I was trying to point out to Susan.

But she was more stubborn than me and would rather quit than do things other than her way. She insisted on working based on relationships and trust. Hence we decided to compromise. I would handle the Capability part, while Susan would manage the relationship part. After all, two heads are better than one. But this did not mean I would stop trying to persuade Susan to come to the dark side.

“Really? Thank you.” Luna jumped in joy hearing Susan insist that Luna should take the rebate. With the rebate money, Luna could order extra Rune Mecha Cards.

Her Granduncle did promise her a private Army, but there is a limit to how many resources can be allotted for a private army that couldn’t be used in the front lines. Luna was worried that, with the high cost of each rune mecha card, her army would be a small one. Therefore she was happy even if she could save a little on the rebate.

“...” Seeing such a reaction from solemn Luna, I was caught off guard. It seems I have underestimated the marketing gimmicks like rebates and discounts.

“...” Susan nodded in satisfaction seeing Luna’s joyous expression. It seems her seven years of experience as a sales representative were not just for show.

“...” Anna shook her head in dissatisfaction as the conversation was heading nowhere near where she wanted it to be focused on, the Memirconium ore and MegaMorpher. Crossing the river took more priority than the creation of Luna’s private army. Therefore she cleared her throat, hoping Luna would come to her senses, \*Ahem\*.

“I am getting right to it,” feeling Anna’s stare and symbolic throat clearing. Luna decided to stop with her part and get to the part where she discusses with Wyatt about them using the MegaMorpher to cross the river.

“Wyatt, about the MegaMorpher. Is it possible to make it taller? If yes, How tall can it get?”

## **Chapter 404: Petty**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 11:45

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

"Yes, The MegaMorpher can get taller. I have designs for mechas that are 230 meters tall. Why do you ask? This particular MegaMorpher is 70 meters tall. Is it not enough?" Rune Mecha cards were my newfound passion. And I was not planning on stopping experimenting on them with just the Beast Mechas and MegaMorphers. I had other designs planned. And once the deal with the royal family was set, I was planning to introduce various models of mechas to Luna for her army. Since she brought it up, I did not mind sharing the designs earlier than planned.

"Remember how we scrutinized the MechaMorpher earlier for some classified case file which we could not share with you? We have decided that we want to use the MechaMorpher for that case. But here's the thing for that particular case, we require a taller and stronger MechaMorpher." Luna's explanation was vague as the sensitive nature of the secret limited the information that she could reveal.

"You have to be more specific than that. How tall do you want the mechas to be? Because Synonium alloy is strong but using it at maximum, I can only build a 75-meters tall mecha. And what do you mean by stronger mecha? Do you mean the power of the mecha is not enough, or do you have an issue with the structural strength of the Mecha? Which is it? If the problem is with the structural stability of the mecha, then I need to know what kind of terrain you will use these mechas on.

These Mecha cards right here are made for land and Aerial combat. They will do fine in shallow waters too. But I cannot make any guarantees about underwater warfare. Since these cards were just for the demonstration, I did not waste my time adding extra features." When creating the beast mecha cards, I was worried that the temporary forces of the southern watch would arrive and secure the Clown Mask.

So in order to save time, I skipped many features of the beast mechas, which would not be necessary in times of Land and Aerial Warfare. Since these cards were meant just for the demonstration purpose, I focussed more on how much combat power they can showcase rather than how they can strive in harsh terrains. I did not regret my decision as my plan to turn Clown mask into a subordinate was successful.

And also, I was pretty curious about the classified information that even the southern emperor Anna did not have the right to reveal. Therefore I listed a number of reasons why to show Luna that without the necessary information, I could not be of much help to them in modifying the MegaMorpher for whatever secret mission they planned to use it on. My plan was pretty simple: list as many excuses and reasons until the cousins are forced into revealing the classified info to me.

"Well, you do not need to worry about the terrain conditions. We already have an ore in mind, which you can use to build the modified mecha according to our needs. If I provide you with the ore, how long will it take for you to determine what the maximum

height of the mecha built with the said ore will be?" Luna, however, seemed to be adamant about not revealing even a word about the top-secret case.

"Well, a few minutes. If you have the ore on you right now, I can tell you the answer right away. Do you have the ore on you right now?" I did not want to seem like I was prying on the secret information I was asked not to put my nose in.

"No, I don't" Luna replied dejectedly.

"Luna, you said you knew how to prepare the Memirconium ore, right. Why don't you whip a batch right now?" When it came to the talk about the Classified secret, Anna chose to let Luna and Lorenzo do all the talking because she read somewhere keeping secrets at the start of a new relationship is bad for the relationship in the long run. She did not want to jeopardize the bidding relationship between Wyatt and her, so she chose to stand back during the discussion of the classified information.

"... Right now! But I don't have the required ingredients or the equipment for producing the ore. I would have to go back to my lab at the university for that. It would be a lot easier if we just bought the ore." standing in the SS-rank gate dungeon, Luna did not expect her cousin to make such a brazen demand to whip up a batch of artificial ore.

"Not here cousin, we can go back to Sky blossom city and buy all the ingredients and equipment you require. Then you can create a batch of fresh artificial Memirconium ore." Hearing Luna's response, Anna's face had a devilish smile on it as she once again proposed that Luna should prepare the artificial ore herself.

"That's just crazy. Instead of buying the resources and equipment and wasting hours to create the ore, why not just buy the ore?" Luna made a valid point.

"Wouldn't it be better if you made the ore? That way, we can be sure about the quality of the material we get. Lorenzo, use your teleportation card and take us back to the Sky blossom city." Anna started to sound deliberate. Obviously, she had ulterior motives for asking Luna to create the ore in the lab instead of just buying it.

"Are you high? Don't you understand what I am saying?" Luna grew impatient

"Ah-ha, I knew it. You do not know how to create the ore artificially. Now, who has a brain which cannot understand the procedure to create the ore." Anna seems to have not forgotten or forgiven Luna for belittling her intellect earlier.

"How can you be so petty? Yes, I do not know the procedure to create the ore artificially. I was going through the material on developing the artificial Memirconium ore, but I was interrupted by grandfather's call informing me that somebody had successfully discovered an item to help mortals cultivate their Active soul control. So I left everything then and headed here." Luna explained why she did not know the

procedure to create the ore artificially. But it did not seem to matter to Anna as she continued to laugh, feeling triumphant.

“Hehehe” Anna knew telltale signs of her cousin Luna. So the moment Luna rejected the idea of creating the ore themselves, Anna knew Luna was hiding something.

## **Chapter 405: Crossroad**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 11:53

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Lorenzo, take us back to the Sky Blossom city.” After one-upping her little cousin Anna enthusiastically ordered Lorenzo to teleport us all back to the Sky blossom city.

“I don’t think we’ll find Memirconium ore in a small city like Sky Blossom. How about we head to the royal palace instead. With the resources and workforce over there, things will become easier.” Lorenzo thought that heading back to Sky blossom city was a bad idea. As a small city, it had limited resources, so he thought it would be better if we headed to the Heatsend Royal palace, where access to rare resources and an excellent workforce was readily available.

“No, hell no. I have a business to run. So I need to be in the Sky Blossom city.” I glared at Lorenzo. I see what he was trying to do. I thought he had given up on trying to enslave or imprison me. But I was wrong. This old dude wanted to leave me stranded in the Heatsend Royal family palace.

“Really? With the order of mecha cards that Luna will place at your small card boutique, we will be your only clients for the next two or three months. That’s why I think that you should move to the Royal Palace. By the time you are done with the cards, the top 10 Universities should be starting the new semester, and you can directly enroll in your choice of University.” Lorenzo was right. If Luna does place an order of several rune mecha cards, I would be occupied for the next few months and not be able to take on other customers.

“And how is that any better than hiding me in a basement and slaving me to make cards for you? Dude, what is up with you trying to enslave me every time you get the chance.” Whatever Lorenzo said would somehow end up with me imprisoned and used as a slave.

“Boy, how is it slavery when we are paying you a hefty amount for the cards you make? And also this is for your good. You will be safe in the royal palace, and then you can be directly admitted to one of the top 10 universities. Just be happy you were invited to the

royal palace for an extended stay. Brat for the money we are paying you. I expect that you show some respect and some good customer service." Lorenzo made valid points.

I stood to gain a lot by going to the royal palace rather than staying at Sky Blossom City. My previous prejudice against Lorenzo stopped me from seeing the tremendous opportunity in front of me. I think I have gained everything I can from Sky Blossom City. Stubbornly staying there would only hold back my growth. But I had laid some roots in the Sky blossom city. For which I had to make arrangements. So that when I am gone, these roots do not dry. Yes, I was talking about the TSR guild and my other calamity daughter cores.

Speaking of the TSR guild. I almost forgot about a crucial thing, revenge. Revenge on Kevin Zhang and his gang. I had asked Van to pick runaway Kevin and his subordinates and lock them up in a dungeon. How can I forget such an important event? Even if I decided to stay at the Royal palace helping Luna create the mecha cards, I had to return to Sky Blossom city for my revenge and one last goodbye.

"Wyatt, I know you consider this as an invasion of your privacy, but I think what the old man just proposed is valid. Don't you think so?" Anna supported Lorenzo's words, but she did not press on the matter as she did not want to come out too strong.

"Anna, give me a few minutes. I will give you an answer. Susan, let's talk over there for a movement." Separating from the group, I spoke my mind with Susan.

"Susan, I am going to tell you something, but please don't freak out." For what I was going to say next needed Susan to be prepared.

"What is it? Just say it already. Does it have something to do with Emperor Lorenzo speaking about your safety." Having heard the conversation between Lorenzo and me, Susan quickly caught on that something was going on that she did not know.

"Yes, a few days ago, I discovered a powder called Silver milk powder which can help mortals cultivate their active soul control... that is how I met Anna... I got the patent and sold the production and supply rights to Anna... The school tournament was held to kill me... 30 card emperors tried to kill me...." Susan did not know about Silver milk powder or the assassination attempt. I purposefully kept her in the dark about these incidents because I did not want her to worry. With her strength knowing all this would be of no help to her or me.

Now I came clean about all this because right now, I was at a crossroads and wanted to know if Susan would follow me on the path I chose, or this marks the end of our journey together. To make this decision, Susan needed to know everything. Mainly because she should know what she would involve herself in by following me on my journey.

“All this happened? No wonder you do not trust them. Did they say that when they thought that the assassin killed you? Fouking psychos.” This is the first time I heard Susan curse.

“You know they can hear you, right?” I admired Susan’s gut for calling a bunch of Card emperors psycho.

“Let them” I was starting to like this new side of Susan.

“Are you not mad at me for keeping you in the dark?” I asked Susan. For some reason, I felt a little nervous when waiting for her answer.

“Yes, but I can understand why you did that. But is that all or are you hiding something else too?” I was grateful to Susan for being so understanding.

“Oh, Apparently I have a big family in the capital city of the central region. It’s a long story. I will tell you about it later.”

## **Chapter 406: Future plans**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 12:07

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Fine, but your newfound big family, can you trust them or not?” Susan did not prey into the matter but asked if we could trust the estranged family that found me after gaining a lot of wealth.

“Once the royalty of the silver milk powder comes rolling in, I can buy their entire family. So you tell me if I could trust them or not? Not to mention, they disowned my mother when she eloped with my father.” Once the Heatsend royal family started paying me the royalty of the silver milk powder, I planned to do precisely that. I will make sure that the Duskborn family will face the same misery and pain that my mother experienced being disowned by these so-called relatives of mine.

“Sorry” Susan apologized, feeling the rage in my words and understanding that talking about my estranged family made me moody.

“Why are you apologizing? They are the ones who are going to be sorry. Enough about them; let’s talk about the future of our card boutique.” I finally decided to talk about what I was avoiding till now.

“Is it about you attending the top universities? I heard, attending any one of the top 10 universities is a great opportunity. You cannot miss out on this. We can talk about the

card boutique once you graduate.” Having heard the conversation between Lorenzo and me, Susan seemed to have already guessed that I would be attending the top 10 universities.

“Then what will you do until I graduate?” I could sense Susan had already made plans for herself. I guess she had no choice after hearing that I would soon attend University indirectly from my conversation with Lorenzo.

She must have felt betrayed hearing that I was planning to attend a university indirectly like this. It would have hurt a lot, especially after rejecting Lorenzo’s job offer as the Managing Director of sale of the Lorn pharmaceutical of the southern academic city branch for me. I cannot imagine her pain after all; she had done nothing wrong but be a loyal friend and employee for all that I awarded her with a betrayal. I guess it would have hurt less if she got to know that I would be leaving soon, directly from me. I owed her that much.

“Don’t worry, thanks to you. I am a rich woman now. I plan to quit my job and attend the prestigious colleges at Southern Academic City.” Susan laid out her plan.

“Aren’t you too... experienced to attend college?” Age is a sensitive issue to a woman, so I chose my words carefully.

“Good Save.

Who says that I can not attend college? I am a rich woman now; I can do whatever I want.

Attending a card apprentice college has always been my dream. Now that I have money and the time, I plan to live this childhood dream of mine.” The commission from the ingredients for the three mecha cards did make Susan filthy rich for a Card Student. And she was right; money talks.

“Too bad, knowing that you want to attend college, I will have to find a new manager now.” Hearing my words, Susan’s eyes narrow and sternly, she asked, “what do you mean? I thought I was your exclusive expression.”

” I don’t plan on closing the card boutique; instead, I plan on shifting it to the central academic city where the top 10 universities are located. Now that you are attending a card apprentice college at Southern Academic City. I will have to find a new manager.” I spoke those words, barely able to hold my laugh inside.

“WTF? I only said that because you said that you are going to leave to attend a university.” Startled, Susan swore before she began to explain herself. Her startled expression reminded me of the viral startled hamster meme back on earth

I love it when Susan curses. I know she does an excellent job concealing the bad girl inside her with her professional front, but I have already seen that side of her and will do my best to bring it to the surface. I guess there is a little sadism in me. It's unsettling to know that Susan brings that out in me. As long as it is limited to this, I guess it is okay.

"I never said that. You jumped to a conclusion hearing the conversion between Lorenzo and me. So, I'm afraid I have to disagree that it's my fault. And when should I be expecting your resignation letter?" At this point, it was getting hard for me to keep my face straight without letting out a laugh.

"You..." Susan's face turned red from rage, embarrassment, and then relief that her gut to follow this boy was not wrong. In a fit of mixed feelings, Susan started punching me with her small balled-up fists.

"Hahaha..." ignoring Susan's soft blows, I burst into laughter.

"Go ahead, Laugh. Laugh at foolish Susan." Susan finally started to express her dissatisfaction over how I handled the talk.

"Okay, I am sorry. But seriously though, you know what you will be getting yourself into if you tag along with me, right?" I asked Susan. If she understood the gravity of her decision. Susan did not outright say that she would follow me, but her actions clarified it.

"Why do you ask? Do you think I will become your weakness?" Answering a question with a question, this is the professional Susan I knew. If I had thought Susan would become my weakness, I would have never considered taking her with me to the central academic city.

"You know I don't think that. I want you to decide what's best for you after understanding the gravity of the situation. The silver milk powder has not been released in the market yet, and 30 card emperor assassins have already tried to assassinate me. There is no telling what I will have to deal with then." I had to make sure that Susan made her choice, knowing how dire the situation would turn once the silver milk powder hits the market.

"Good, do not underestimate me. I dared to trust the creation of my origin card to a high schooler I had just met. And look where it got. I know what I am doing." Come to think of it, Susan does act rigid and formal, but when she believes in something, she doesn't hesitate to go all out. I was the living example of that.

## **Chapter 407: Missing**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 12:16

Location- Southern Capitol region, SS-rank Gate dungeon Storm Horse Grassland

“Cousin, your man seems to have a better relationship with his manager than you. If I were you, I would be worried.” Seeing Susan and Wyatt so close to each other, Luna took a dig at her Cousin.

“Good thing that I am not you. I am confident about my charm and femininity. If you have any doubts, ask your ex-fiance.” Anna’s mood was already unstable seeing Susan and her love so close. Especially when Susan flirtatiously punched Wyatt. Anna was bummed out and, when Luna tried to pull her leg, she defensively lashed out.

“...” Luna gave Anna a death glare and decided to ignore her for another few years.

“Too soon... I am sorry.” Anna apologized, but it did not seem genuine.

“No, that was funny. I hope you find it funny when that happens to you.” Seeing that Anna had no remorse, Luna decided to change her tactic from ignoring Anna to getting revenge on her.

“What do you mean?” Anna asked Luna, squinting her eyes at Luna.

“Nothing. I said pranks are only funny when it happens to others.” Anna’s brute strength frightens Luna, so she chooses not to taunt her dimwit cousin further; otherwise, Anna would force her into embarrassing and compromising poses.

“I know, right!” Anna considered Luna harmless. So she did not dwell too much on Luna’s words.

...

“So, Wyatt, have you decided?” Anna asked me as she noticed Susan and I headed towards the group.

“Anna, I have decided to take you up on your offer. But I still have things to take care of in Sky blossom city.

I have decided that until Dr.Luna places the official order for mecha cards, I will stay in the city and take care of things at my end. And then I can head to the Royal Palace, and also Susan will be tagging along.” I narrated what Susan and I had decided to Anna.

“Susan too, huh! No problem. After all, she is your exclusive manager.” Anna suppressed her discomfort and agreed to the request with a warm smile.

“...” Luna’s mood finally turned up seeing her elder cousin go out of her comfort zone to accommodate her Love and his requests.

"So, now we are heading to the Sky Blossom city next?" Lorenzo asked Anna.

"Are you deaf? Didn't you hear him say he has some things to attend to there? Take us to the Sky Blossom city." Lorenzo became the target of all the rage Anna was holding in. She did not even hesitate to dump it all on him.

"Next stop, Sky Blossom City" Lorenzo was used to Anna's foul mood and did not let it disturb him.

...

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 12:10

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association mall, Warehouse no.234

"Fock! Where are they? Where did he take my ma? How dare he kidnap my mother. I would gut him if something were to happen here." Corey yelled, standing in front of the Warehouse no.234. Corey has been standing in front of the warehouse for almost 3 hours. Her patience had already run out. Her thoughts had become so violent and loud that she unknowingly yelled her thoughts out loud.

'Corey, control yourself. Just return to your card studio and practice the meditation art I taught you. I am sure they will be back before you know.' Corey Park advised Corey mentally from within the titled demon core.

"How can you ask me to be calm when our mother is missing? I did not trust that bastard from day one." Corey Park's advice fell on deaf ears.

"You do know that we share the same memories. Right?" Corey Park asked Corey Bright.

"Yes, I know." Corey Bright answered

"You do know what it means...." Corey Park asked again, seeing her host being so clueless.

"What's your point?" Corey Bright asked in annoyance.

"In your memories, I remember seeing that you admired Wyatt for his talent and guts to start a card boutique at such a young age with no outside help. You idolized him for standing on his two feet despite his difficult life." Corey Park recanted what she remembered seeing in Corey Bright's memories.

“That was old Corey. I am different now.” Being caught red-handed by her EgoFire, Corey Bright came up with a quick defense.

“...” Corey Park, as the other self of Corey Bright, knew her situation. When Corey meant that the old Corey and current Corey are different, she understood what Corey meant by that more than anybody could.

\*Ring\* \*Ring\* \*Ring\*

“Clerk John, You better have found them,” Corey answered the grimoire call she received.

“Young miss... spare this old man. I am sorry, but I have nothing but bad news for you. I had your uncle’s people search every corner of the city, but they could not find them anywhere. I am afraid they are not in this city. If they were in the city, our people would have found them by now.” Corey had her uncle Oliver’s office clerk John search for Susan and Wyatt in the entire city when she did not find Wyatt or Susan in the Warehouse or their homes.

Having lost the bet to Wyatt, Corey was conflicted about facing him. Having spent a sleepless night agonizing over her loss, Corey arrived late at Warehouse to fulfill her wager, but to her surprise, the warehouse was closed, and there was no sign of Susan or her Ex/new Boss. She tried calling their grimoire, but it did not connect. Finding no clue, she decided to recruit clerk John’s help.

“Did you check the dungeons?” The possibility of Susan entering a dungeon with Wyatt was slim, but with all other doors closed, this option seemed more likely.

“Yes, young miss. We checked. But unfortunately, no one fitting the description of Ms. Susan or Master Wyatt entered a dungeon in Sky blossom city today.”

“Where was big sis Susan last seen and with whom?”

“Miss Susan was last seen heading into Warehouse No.234 after making a mass purchase of rare ingredients. And never came out of the warehouse. It’s as if they vanished into thin air.”

## **Chapter 408: Return**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 12:22

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association mall, Warehouse no.234

“I am starving” I said, rubbing my belly, looking at the familiar surroundings, having been teleported inside of the warehouse by Lorenzo.

“Well, we did skip Breakfast. Since it’s lunchtime, shall I order some food?” Susan started to speak more freely in the presence of the three card emperors after our conversation in the dungeon.

“I want pizza. What about you, Wyatt?” Anna answered what she wanted for lunch.

“Pizza again? …” before I could report what I wanted for lunch, a loud shout interrupted me.

“Wyatt, you mother stealing bastard!!”

“…” The loud outcry from the outside dumbfounded every one of us in the warehouse. Especially me, because that cry called me out.

“Mother stealing bastard? Hahaha! why would you steal another’s mother?” Laughed the girl whose mother already worshiped me as her master.

“Whose mother did you steal, Wyatt? I thought you were a quiet boy, but it seems one cannot judge a book by its cover.” Lorenzo did not miss the chance to mock me.

“.. That must be Corey. I will go get her.” Susan’s face was red out of embarrassment as she knew the only person who would call Wyatt a mother stealing bastard and why. Who else could it be other than Corey Bright?

“By Corey, does she mean the Bright Couples daughter?” Luna asked, trying to grasp the situation.

“Yes” Lorenzo replied

“Isn’t her mother serving at the Way Beyond. Does she have a second mother we don’t know off?” Unable to understand the situation, Luna questioned Anna. After all, she was more close to the Bright couple than her.

“Corey’s father is kept on a short leash by her mother. He wouldn’t dare to step out on his marital bed. Wyatt, what is that little girl talking about?” Anna knew the Bright couple. Both of them were honest people, so Anna ruled out any possibility of an affair in their marriage.

“She is here. Why don’t you ask her? Corey, answer them.” Susan opened the Warehouse and laid Corey inside.

“…” Being put on the spot, Corey was rendered speechless.

‘I told you to control yourself, but you wouldn’t listen.’ Corey Park rubbed the ‘I told you so’ salt on Corey’s wounds.

‘Shut up. How many times have I asked you not to speak to me when I am in public?’ Corey Bright mentally argued with her EgoFire.

‘I lost count, but are you sure that you should be arguing with me right now. When other people are trying to converse with you?’ Corey Park reminded Corey Bright that she was being watched.

“Hello, Corey!... what’s wrong with her? Is she shy?” Seeing Corey stunned, Luna thought she was an introvert.

“No, believe me, she is not. She is wilder than her parents.” Anna, who had met Corey first hand, knew Corey’s temperament. Back in the VIP box, when her intimidating pressure suppressed everyone, Corey was the only one unaffected and dared to curse at her.

“Sorry, I did not have a proper sleep last night, so I blacked out just now. So what was it that you were asking about?” Pulling herself together, Corey addressed Luna.

“Girl, your mother is at the Way Beyond. You do know that, right?” Luna asked, hoping to solve the mystery finally.

“About earlier, I was venting. Having lost a wager to that loon over there.” Corey answered with a straight face. And then went on to explain the wager between her and the loon she lost to.

“That’s it? Girl, you have to learn how to curse better. Hearing your cry earlier, I honestly started doubting that your father is a two-timing cheat. Thankfully he is not. With that temperamental mother of yours, he might have lost his third leg if he was two-timing her.” Luna has worked with Corey’s mother and knows how unpredictable and dangerous she could be.

“...” Corey chose to quietly listen for now as she thought these people were her parent’s colleagues and seemed very close with them. Seeing how they spoke about her parents.

“So, you came to pay your wager.” Busy with Mecha cards and Clown Mask. I forgot about Corey and the between us.

“Yes, now what do you need my help with?” Corey chose to honor her words rather than chicken out.

“How honorable of you. But fortunately for you. I do not need you. You can leave now.” Since I would leave Sky Blossom city soon, I decided to free Corey from our wager.

“What?... I can leave now. But I just got here.” Corey was puzzled. Yesterday all night, she was agonizing over the fact that she would once again work under Wyatt, but she did not expect that bastard to set her free. The only thing comforting about the bet was she could work with Susan again and spend the whole day with her. But now this bastard is asking her to leave just like that.

“Yes, leave Shoo! Shoo!” I was starving and had no patience for Corey or her questions, so I hurriedly shooed her.

“Wyatt, are you looking down on me?” Corey was enraged by the way Wyatt treated her. Who the hell is he to call off the wager. Does he think he is better than her?

“Wait! What?... You are making no sense.” I thought Corey would be relieved knowing that she was free from the obligation of the bet she lost, but things were heading in the wrong direction.

“I am making no sense... Wyatt, are you calling me stupid.” Corey raged for no apparent reason while I tried to be reasonable.

“Susan, little help over here.” No matter what I said, it seemed to anger Corey further, so I asked for help from the only person present in the room who could calm Corey down.

“Don’t you order my Big Sis!” Corey was being unreasonable. When did she hear me order Susan? I was asking for help, you psycho.

‘Corey, calm yourself. Start using the breathing technique, I thought you. Do not let the titled demon core influence you.’ Corey Park yelled, seeing Corey Bright’s mood influenced by the demon core. Yesterday’s fight was quite taxing, and not to mention Corey did not sleep the whole night. Corey’s mental strength had not recovered yet. Therefore, she was being influenced by the titled demon more easily.

“Corey, honey. What’s wrong? You look tired. Did you not rest yesterday night properly.” Susan neared Corey and hugged her. Laying Corey’s head on her bosom, she gently brushed her hair.

“No... I couldn’t sleep yesterday night, losing to that bastard. Now he says it doesn’t matter. But it mattered to me. I fought for you, but I failed. I’m sorry, ma. I hoped we would work together.” Being embraced by Susan, Corey finally found her anchor and slowly started to circulate the breathing technique taught to her by Corey park.

“It’s okay, honey. You will win next time. Sometimes you win. Sometimes you lose. Don’t let the losses get to you. Keep trying. You understand what you should do next, right?” Susan continued to console Corey.

“...” Hearing Susan, Corey lifted her head from Susan’s bosom and looked into her eyes with astonishment. These words that Susan just spoke were precisely the words the mother of earth’s Corey said to her daughter. Until now, Corey assumed Susan was her mother from a past life because of her gut feeling, and both of them looked alike. But now, these words that Susan just spoke made Corey’s conviction stronger.

“I am sorry! I am sorry for everything! I finally found you. I will never let you go.” Corey wailed like a baby in Susan’s embrace, apologizing for God knows what.

“...” Susan was flabbergast from Corey’s sudden outbreak.

‘Corey, stop crying. You look stupid. Everybody is watching you and will think you are weird.’ Corey Park tried consoling emotional Corey.

‘You stop crying first.’ Corey Bright wasn’t the only one crying; Corey Park also cried in the demon core.

‘Nobody is watching me, and nobody will think I am weird.’ Corey Park was raised by her father and never knew what a mother’s love was like. But thanks to the memories of Earth Corey and Corey Bright, she had an idea, but her other two selves were rotten to the core and did not cherish their mother when they were present.

‘Let them watch. I found my mother.’ Corey cared whoop about how she looked right now, let alone what the people in the room thought about her. She found her mother, and this time, she will not make the same mistake as her past self.

“Corey, honey. What do you mean? I don’t understand you.” Susan was getting worried about Corey as she did not understand why Corey was crying so desperately. And the only person who had some idea why Corey was crying did not bother to speak for her. He was busy ordering lunch through his grimoire.

## **Chapter 409: Military Welfare**

Date- 28 Mar 2321

Time- 12:34

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association mall, Warehouse no.234

“Cousin, I think you should give the Bright couple a leave. That girl is pitiful.” Luna advised Anna, see Corey have an emotional breakdown in front of them.

“I always believed soldiers don’t rest till the enemy is dead but never considered the impact of their absence on their loved ones. It seems I should reconsider some of the rules I sanctioned for the soldiers stationed at Way beyond.” Way beyond is an active war zone, and nobody knows what will transpire next. The soldiers stationed there do

not get extended leave to visit their loved ones. Nor are they allowed to contact their immediate family. The situation at the Way beyond is highly privileged information. And who is stationed where at the Way Beyond is highly confidential information. To avoid any leaks about the outpost location, the soldiers are refrained from contacting their families.

Recently due to the frequent war with the supreme beings, the rules on the soldiers stationed at the way beyond has gotten stricter. And some of the recent regulations were sanctioned by Anna herself. So she felt terrible seeing the emotional breakdown of Corey. To call someone else her mother, clearly, this girl has gone through a lot.

"Princess, people will face much worse if the supreme beings cross the way beyond. So, please do not think emotionally." Unlike his granddaughter, who just had experience in labs, Lorenzo had walked the front lines and knew what was in store for humanity if they lost the war at the Way beyond. Therefore he reminded Anna of the authority she holds by addressing her as 'princess' and reminding her to think practically and not let a movement of weakness destroy centuries of sacrifice.

"..." Hearing Lorenzo, Anna remembered why she sanctioned such harsh regulation over her soldiers. Because her grandmother and family said that was an excellent discussion.

"You could use the rotation visitation method. You will have to make many adjustments, but it will boost morale. If the soldiers are happy, I think it's worth a try." Having ordered Burgers and fries for everybody and piazza for Anna. I weighed in with my opinion on the topic.

I did not get much information on Way Beyond. Still, I learned that due to security issues, the soldiers stationed at way beyond are not allowed to contact their families or get enough leaves to visit their families in person. There are only three ways the soldiers at Way beyond can come home, in a body bag, handicapped, or after completing their term. The second and last option rarely happens as the casualty at Way beyond is very high. And the soldiers chose to stay till the end of their tour by continuing to fight using prosthetic limbs and organ cards. It is not that the soldiers at way beyond are more patriotic than other soldiers. Instead, after what they have witnessed at Way beyond, the soldiers understand that their sacrifice is necessary.

"Boy, you don't even know what we are talking about. So don't talk out of your butthole." Lorenzo shot down my idea without even listening to it.

"Rotation Visitation method, what is it?" What Lorenzo thought did not matter. Anna was the shot caller here.

"Princess..." Lorenzo wanted Anna to not fall for that charlatan's words once again, but having tasted the nectar once, it was hard for Anna to reclude the second time.

"Quiet, Old Man. Wyatt, you proceed. But remember, your privilege level is not high enough, so I cannot talk about personal stuff about Way beyond with you." Anna was willing to hear what I had to say but was not ready to disclose any confidential information without following the proper protocol.

"No, need of that. Just think of this as a debate on Military Welfare." What I was going to talk about did not require any extra information on Way Beyond from Anna, so I asked her to rest assured as I would not be asking her to break any protocol.

"Good, they go ahead. The floor is all yours." Anna replied that she was all ears.

"Let's say you have ten confidential temporary outposts that change their location every month. And each outpost has a hundred soldiers.

Every month ten soldiers out of 100 soldiers get a week off in each of the ten outposts. Adding the ten soldiers on leave in the ten outposts, we get 100 soldiers at rest.

Now using these 100 soldiers in rest, you created an 11th temporary outpost in the safe zone where the families can visit the soldiers. If visitation is too much to ask, they can do monitored video and phone calls to their family from the 11th outpost.

I don't think the soldiers will mind doing extra duty during one of their leaves once a year if they get to talk to their families. As I said, the plan would require a lot of adjustments and resources. " This wasn't my Idea. Back on earth, the federal government used this system to let the VVIP states' witnesses speak to their loved ones. This example I used makes the rotation visitation process sound more manageable, but in an actual army with millions of soldiers, this was very difficult to arrange.

"Great, that could work. But, why only once a year? can't we do this rotation visitation once a month?" Luna, who had the slightest knowledge about the Military and its protocols, was quickly hooked on my idea.

"No, during this visitation, all the outposts will be a few soldiers short." Seeing the question mark on Luna's face, I knew she did understand what I was trying to say. So, I celebrated, "According to military protocol under enemy attack, all personnel present in the outpost on duty or leave should respond to the commanding officer's call. So every month, those that are on rest leave for visitation. Then the outpost will be ten soldiers short the whole year. Therefore the visitation can only be allowed once a year for every soldier."

"Can't they allot extra soldiers to each outpost to fill in the soldiers that left for visitation?" Luna came up with an obvious way to solve the problem, more soldiers.

If they had enough soldiers in the first place, the military would have given their soldiers extended leaves to visit their families in person. This simple thought did not cross the

mind of the great researcher, Dr. Luna. I guess her expertise is only limited to the field of research. Anyway, what she thought did not matter. Once again, Anna was the shot caller here and what she thinks goes.