

Card Apprentice Daily Log

- Chapter 501 - Battle Of Intents

Chapter 501 - Battle Of Intents

[1,030 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 14:53

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234.

"..." Hearing me propose what she dreaded, Diana was without words. Before she could think of the apparent advantages of the two choices I presented to her, the thought that I was coming after her life's blood, sweat, and dream, the Fine Gold itself, stopped her from processing the remaining information and understanding what's advantageous to her and what she wanted. In that blind moment, a killing intent emitted from Diana directed towards me. The person after her baby had to die.

"Diana, wake up!" Diana was a hunting dog in training by the Circle and had the appropriate killing intent, but that was nothing compared to me as I had just sacrificed 4300 Ogres in cold blood, compared to the killing intent that I had accumulated during the blood sacrifice Diana's killing intent appeared to be measly. I bombarded my killing intent with Diana's. The air in the warehouse froze for a second. And the presence of 4300 mad Ogres pressing an enraged murderer could be felt in here.

Cough *Cough* Diana started to cough up blood facing the backlash of losing the battle of intent and being suppressed by my killing intent. Whipping the blood in the corner of her mouth Diana stared at me intently. Her stare was filled with a mixture of terror and astonishment. As a hunting dog in training, Diana's killing intent was trained to be a sharp knife enough to kill a mortal with just its presence. So Diana was really astonished to see her intent lose but feeling the menacing presence of her opponent's killing intent, her astonishment turned into an understanding.

"Are you awake now? I know some of my words were harsh but to think that you would try to suppress me with your intent. And to think I believed our relationship was developing, what happened? We had just started addressing each other informally. " Diana's intent stare did not bother me. Instead, it reminded me of a frightened cat at high alert. Ready to pounce at the slightest hint of threat. A backed-up cat looking at its surrounding with a terrified expression, calling it cute, would be going overboard, I guess.

"Harsh? Wyatt, harsh doesn't justify what you just proposed to me. Do you know what the implications of the words you offered are?" Diana thought I was being shameless by summarizing what I tried to do with the word harsh. According to her, the word harsh doesn't cut it. It doesn't even come close to what I had actually proposed. Therefore she could not help but complain in resentment.

Yes, complain. As from the alteration earlier, Diana knew her prowess were of no match to the high school boy in front of her. Therefore, she had no other choice but to complain. Diana found the turn of events funny. She was a Card lord, but she had to tip toe around a Card soldier.

"Diana, clear your head of prejudice and try to think with the admirable brain of yours that I want to invest in. You will understand that compared to losing the major stakes in your company, you will be gaining a lot more. And also, do not worry. Even if I become the major shareholder, I will be a silent partner, and you will still be in charge.

And it is not like I am forcing you to choose the first option. You can always select the second option. I am not stopping you. Go ahead, with this option, you can obtain what you came for." Things were pretty damn obvious. The choices were left to Diana, and the choice she would choose would be hers and hers alone. I did not plan on forcing her because when it comes to subjugating someone, forcing them would only lead to strong pushback, which could sometimes result in the subject getting broken, which we do not want. Therefore I let the goat walk to the butcher block. This did not mean that I would not try to influence her decision.

"Well, then I chose__" Before Diana could state the complete sentence, I interrupted her. Diana was not thinking realistically. She was fueled with emotions for her company and blinded to the best choice for the company's growth. Therefore it was not the best time for her to make a choice.

"Diana, I do not think making a choice hastily without weighing the benefits of either of the options would be a wise choice. Why don't you take your time? I bet this present will help you understand what I am trying to say." Saying that I handed Diana ten A-rank rare grade Ogre Blood Totem cards. Yes, nothing better than a bribe to influence a person's decision.

Calling these ten cards as a bribe would be a poor choice of words and shortsightedness. I gave these ten cards to Diana to help her understand that when I said that I would put the Fine Gold name and her at the top in every corner of this world, I meant it. These ten cards were a sample of the things I could achieve. I bet with enough time and a glass of scotch neat, Diana would finally start seeing eye to eye with me.

"..." Diana took the ten cards and accessed the card info. Upon inspection, she found that all ten cards were identical. Apart from the card's outrageous and insane stats and skills, this was the most noticeable thing. Because one cannot buy ten perfectly identical

cards in a market, let alone ten rare A-rank identical cards. If one had those, then it could only mean that the person in question was in contact with the manufacturer of the cards. Or, in this particular case, that person was the manufacturer himself. Therefore after scrutinizing the cards, Diana could not help but ask, "You made these cards?"

"Yes, and there are more where those came from." I took out other 90 rare A-rank Ogre Blood Totem cards, spread them in the shape of a fan, and fanned myself with it.

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

Chapter 502 - Ambitious Leader

[1,010 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 15:07

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234.

"Are you for real? Keeping aside the mind-nubbing skill description of these cards, they have near-perfect durability and star rating. These stats are outrageous. And not to mention, is it even possible to create cards of this kind?" Diana asked in bafflement. The more she looked at the cards, the more disbelief she felt despite the cards being right in her hands.

"It is possible. These cards are not created using the average method. They are created using runes. They are a lot more powerful and more reliable than the normal cards." I was enjoying the dumbfounded, speechless look on Diana. So I really enjoyed bombarding her with another piece of news.

"What! Are these cards really forged using runes? Fock! No wonder their stats and skills are so overpowered. And why did you create these many cards? Are you planning on selling them? If yes, Fine Gold will buy them. Quote your price." Diana already knew about me using rule power from my fights in the tournament. But she did not realize that my mastery of rules and runes had reached the level of creating rare A-rank cards. Therefore when I disclosed that these cards were created using runes, she was caught off guard. But that did not stop her from thinking of gaining a bargain by buying the cards from me directly.

"Considering the people with gold grimoire in your organization, I think those ten cards that I gave you should be enough, right?" Rare A-rank cards were powerful, but not all could utilize their power, especially those without a golden or higher grade grimoire. Therefore, I was surprised to see Diana trying to procure more A-rank cards when ten I gifted to her should be enough for her and her subordinates.

"Don't underestimate Fine Gold. Ten of these cards are not enough for us. Also, if you realize such a large quantity of A-rank cards in the market, they cannot fetch the highest price. So I plan to buy them from you and slowly sell them one by one in different city auctions. That way, I can earn huge profits over the years despite giving a massive fortune to you to acquire these cards from you right now." Diana explained how she planned to make profits from the cards I made. Unfortunately for her, I did not plan on selling these cards as I had plans for them.

"Nope, these cards are not for sale. You are already lucky to get those ten cards. I hope these cards will help you when you make your decision." I reminded Diana of the intended purpose behind the reason why I had gifted her ten rare A-rank Ogre Blood Totem cards.

"..." Diana clearly understood what I meant with my statement. The shock from the Ogre blood totem cards had sobered her from the fact that I was asking for major shares in her company. Diana finally started to weigh what Fine Gold could bring to the table for her to retort my proposal. After deep contemplation, she realized that Fine Gold held no value for me whatsoever. What it could provide other companies could offer the same. Wealth? With the patent of the silver milk powder, I would not lack money as I would become the second richest person in the southern region after the Heatsend royal family.

Apart from the fact that she was first to realize the game Heatsend Royal family was playing and that she could help Elliott in the battle secession right away, there was nothing else Fine Gold brought to the table. She started to question herself whether it was even necessary for someone with my wealth to covet her measly company. Then it became clear to her that if it were not her who dared to ask to invest, her company would not even have entered my eyes.

"..." Seeing Diana in deep contemplation, I knew that the ten cards were doing their job perfectly. But it was clear that Diana's attachment with the company was greater if I wanted to get it than I would have to persuade her further.

Why was I after Fine Gold? Well, this was the first step to subjugating Diana. To become a world power having enough strength was not enough. I needed to have a large force under me. To build this force, I had started laying the foundation with the TSR guild, Tiger squadron and next on the list had to be somebody, so I added Fine Gold to the list valuing Diana.

Originally I planned to let Susan take over the TSR guild and other activities in sky blossom city. Since she was coming with me to the central academic city, I needed somebody more capable of handling things here in my absence. Leaving it to my Calamity daughter Core was not an option. Because no matter how strong and loyal they were, they were followers, not leaders. I wanted an ambitious leader who could grow even without my presence. And Diana fit the bill perfectly.

With her in charge, supported by my resources, she could lead Fine Gold to take over the merchant market in the southern region within a year. Despite being constantly monitored by Circle and having her workforce shortened so that the circle would not think she was building an army, Diana was able to establish Fine Gold's main branches in twelve different cities and grow to the current state. So I cannot imagine what she can achieve when she is given free rein, adequate resources, and has my support. I bet fine gold would grow at a pace even I can't predict.

"Diana, you do not have to give me an answer now. I will give you a week's worth of time. Think properly and make your choice. And during this period, keep your eye open for the news on Sun Blossom City. I bet it will help you in your decision-making."

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Chapter 503 - LSG NanoMorpher

[1,541 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 15:19

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234.

"Sun Blossom City?" Diana asked in puzzlement. She did not understand how keeping track of local news updates in Sun Blossom city would help her. But then, since I had explicitly advised her to, Diana decided to keep an eye out for it.

"Yes. If you have nothing else worth my time, leave my property." I have said everything I had to. Now the decision was up to Diana. Whatever she decides, she knows how to contact me.

"Are the Ogre Blood Totem Cards not for sale? I can give you a good deal for it." Diana once again expressed her interest in buying the ogre blood totem cards. Unfortunately, my answer for her remained the same.

"No, they are not for sale. Speaking of cards, I am mass producing C-rank NanoMorpher cards. If you are interested in buying them in bulk, contact Susan." Though I was not planning on selling the Ogre Blood Cards, I had another card in mind that I planned to sell, the NanoMorpher cards made using C-rank liquid spirit gold.

"NanoMorpher? Are you talking about the Golem used in the tournament? That card which could switch between a hoverbike and a golem, right?" It seems my advertisement of NanoMorpher in the school tournament was not a dud as Diana appears to remember the NanoMorpher from the ad.

"Right, that one. Are you interested?" Confirming Diana's doubts, I asked her if she was willing to make a mass purchase of those cards.

"Are there any A-rank NanoMorpher Cards?" Diana tried her luck. After all, it wouldn't hurt to ask.

"There aren't any. All I have are C-rank NanoMorpher cards. Are you interested or not?" I repeated myself.

"Just C-rank, the profit margin on these cards is not high. But considering how your cards are a unique of their kind and market for C-rank cards in this city is quite decent. I think they will have a good market. Since I am buying in bulk, are there any discounts?" Diana knew that the profit margin on C-rank cards was not as high as A-rank cards. Therefore, she hesitated before making a decision.

"That's Susan's department. Contact her tomorrow. The cards should be ready then." Stating that I wait for Diana to show herself out of the Warehouse.

"So, how much discount should I give her?" After Diana walked out of the door, Susan finally made her presence known.

"None. You know what stiffen the prices by 20%. Those shameless psycho sisters are wealthy. They can afford the cards." I was really pissed hearing Diana shamelessly ask for a discount.

"Good, no discount it is." Susan was not comfortable with unfair trade practices, therefore she did not approve of my idea to stiffen the prices by 20% and stuck to no discount. I decide the price tag of the cards I create so no one will know.

"Ok, prepare the card lab. I want to start creating the NanoMorphers cards right away." Now that I had a buyer in place for the NanoMorpher cards, I decided to finish creating

them today. They wouldn't require a lot of time as the liquid spirit gold body and framework of the NanaoMorphers was already created by Corey.

"Ah, about that...." Susan's words trailed off, not knowing how to explain that the Card Lab was still occupied.

"What's wrong?" I asked, seeing Susan's expression.

" The Card Lab is not free. Corey is still using it." Susan finally said.

"Don't tell me she still ain't done creating the body and framework using liquid spirit gold for the NanoMopher cards." It was almost evening, meaning Corey had an extra 8hrs, yet she could not complete her task. I was disappointed in her. I was planning on making her my assistant and letting her carry some of the heavy workloads. It seems I have to reconsider.

"Yes. I guess she is not as capable as she boasted." Susan, too, did not seem satisfied with Corey's performance.

"I will head into the Card Lab and take over." I could not wait around for Corey to complete the task given to her, as I did not know how long it would take Corey to get the job done. Since Diana will be here to buy the cards tomorrow, I did not have the time to wait around.

"Okay, I will arrange the remaining ingredients required in the creation of the NanoMorpher cards." Susan headed to the warehouse shelves, and I headed to Card Lab.

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*Knock**Knock**Knock*

After knocking, I entered the Card Lab. I knew it was not ethical or safe to enter a Card Lab when someone was in the middle of card creation, but I did not have the luxury to think about all of this right now. And the worst that could happen is the card creation would fail, meaning all I would lose is a tiny amount of liquid spirit gold.

"..." Entering the Card Lab, I saw Corey comfortably sleeping on the futon while a humanoid-shaped fire extended out of her body and was utilizing her gold grimoire to refine Liquid Spirit Gold to create NanoMorpher body and Framework. Yes, while Corey slept comfortably, her Ego Fire was helping her in the card creation process.

"Hi, Wyatt. What are you doing here?" Corey Park turned to see me enter the Card lab.

"That is what I should be asking you. What the heck is going on here." I was astonished to see what was happening in the card lab, especially the part where Corey slept like a log in the futon. What the fock?

"Corey was tired, so I stepped in. Don't worry. I am almost done. This is the last of the liquid spirit gold." Corey Park explained that Corey was mentally exhausted from refining the liquid spirit gold all night and morning. Therefore, Corey Park decided to step in and do the remaining work as Corey Bright got some sleep.

"... Okay, I will be outside. Once you are done, you know where to find me." Since Corey Park said she was refining the last batch of Liquid Spirit Gold and would be done any minute now, I had no work here, so I decided to wait outside.

"Okay," saying that Corey Park returned to refining while I walked out of the Card lab.

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"Wyatt, all done, here are the cards." Handing me a stack of cards, Corey walked past me and slumped down on the couch, saying, "I am exhausted and feeling so sleepy. Do not disturb me."

I took the stack of cards and checked them to see if they all had satisfactory rank and durability. All 30 cards were up to the standards. Therefore I left Corey alone and headed to the Card Lab, and soon Susan brought the old soul engines, soul reactors, floater components, and artificial will to create Nanomorpher.

With all the ingredients available, I did not delay any longer and began the creation of the Nanomorper cards. I placed all the body and framework cards into the grimoire along with the soul reactor, soul engines, and floater components. In order to turn the liquid spirit gold body and framework into the card, Corey had already used origin cores, so I did not require origin cores. I could just use the origin cores of these cards.

Morphing the cards into core form, I transfer the soul pathways of the soul engine and soul reactor into each of them along with the floater components. And began to precisely assemble the soul engine, soul reactor, floater components into the body and framework made using the liquid spirit gold.

After assembling the NanoMorper in each core, I took the remaining one-ton spirit gold that I had kept aside to create weapons for the NanoMorper. For the weapon system of the NanoMorper, I chose to make an energy gun and energy blade out of the remaining liquid spirit gold for each of them. Then I transfer the soul pathways of the energy gun and energy blade into each of the cores and add them under the NanoMorper Armor. I designed the energy gun and energy blade compactly so that they could hide under the NanoMorper armor and act as concealed weapons.

Now that the 30 NanoMorpher were assembled with soul engine, soul reactors, energy weapons, and floater components, I added the artificial will to each of the assembled NanoMorpher and morphed the cores back into cards.

[Card Name: LSG NanoMorpher

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: C-rank, Uncommon Grade

Card Rate: 9-Stars

Card Durability: [92/100]

Card Effect: Liquid Spirit Gold NanoMorpher is a sentient hoverbike with the unique ability to morph into a sentient golem.

Additional Effect: Transformation, Concealed Energy Blaster, Concealed Energy Blade.]

Reading the card info of the NanoMorpher, I was satisfied even though it was a lot weaker than the one I made for myself. I didn't make these 30 NanoMorpher cards as grand as mine, these NanoMorpher could only morph into one form and not strengthen themselves by consuming other metals.. But they meet all the conditions to be sold in the market as capable hoverbike/Golem cards.

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[1,125 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 21:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234.

After creating the C-rank NanoMorpher cards, I handed them to Susan. And then started to study various books on soul pathways. Though I understood the soul pathways as the air I breath and the water I drink, I need to know how the average card apprentices understood the soul pathways. This way, I could finally start imparting my findings to the rest of the world under the guise of patent and copyright.

I currently had access to the basic books distributed for rookies to get introduced to the soul pathway and its means. This knowledge was not enough for me to hand down my

findings as the stuff that I wanted to apply for patent and copyright could be considered as an advanced level of soul pathway application. But still, I decided to get thorough with the fundamental and standard interpretation of the soul pathways. So, when I gain access to more advanced stuff, I do not struggle because of my shaky fundamentals.

Using Hive AI, I could memorize all this information. Still, when I started to read the material on the soul pathway, I slowly started to get enlightened on things I was unconsciously familiar about soul pathways. It all began to make more sense to me. I began to relate to every word written in the book. The more I explored the contents of the material, I realized how profound it was. Honestly, I was astonished how an average card apprentice without cheat like soul pupils could write such detailed and deep information regarding soul pathways.

This newfound respect for the predecessors who wrote these texts made me excited and increased my anticipation towards the advanced books on soul pathways. I would be lying if I said I didn't gain anything from this introductory book on the soul pathway. I finally had a profound understanding of every little thing I would unknowingly do during card creation. It's like knowing what it is you are doing right. There is a lot of difference between knowing it and vaguely knowing it. Putting what I consciously did in words makes it more susceptible to a more extreme understanding.

As I explored the standard techniques mentioned in the basics of soul pathways to manipulate soul pathways and arrangements to create basic low-grade cards, Van, followed by Old Ben, entered the warehouse. Old Ben has never been to the Warehouse; hence he was led by Van.

"Master Wyatt, the task is complete." Old Ben reported stiffly. His military training had not left his old bones.

"That's fast. I thought it would take you guys another day." I was surprised to hear that Old Ben finished creating blood equipment cards for the TSR guild and the Tiger squadron this early.

"Before that, Gentleman, would you prefer tea, coffee, or just water?" It was already late at night. Susan and Corey had gotten off work. So, I was all alone in the warehouse, brushing up on the basics of the soul pathway. As the Manager of the card boutique, Susan was not here to offer our guests beverages. So I decided to step up as the founder of the Card boutique also because I could see that Old Ben was visibly exhausted after raiding dungeons and creating thousands of rune cards.

"Water would be fine." Old Ben, who came here straight from the dungeon, asked for water, while Van chose nothing.

"There's the kitchen. Help yourself. Don't be shy," I said, pointing towards the warehouse kitchen.

"..." Old Ben wasn't surprised by my response, not because I was his boss, but he was emotionally paralyzed.

"While you are at it, fetch me a grape soda from the fridge." As Old Ben headed to quench his thirst, I ordered him to get me a grape soda. And turning to Van, I asked, "Where's Cortney? Why isn't she with Old Ben? "

"The Southern Watch has taken the Clown Mask and Cortney into custody. Thankfully Miss Cortney completed the contract in time." Van answered.

"You guys did pay her for the cards, right?" Since Cortney was taken into custody by the southern watch, I was worried she was not paid the agreed-upon compensation.

"We did. And Miss Cortney asked you to come to visit her when you have time." Van delivered Cortney's message for me.

"I see" I would also miss Cortney, but the question was how long was the Royal family planning to keep the mother and daughter pair in custody.

"Here you go, Master Wyatt." Handing me the soda, Old Ben sat across from me and explained, " Master Wyatt, after you left, I and Cortney split up. I headed to raid the E-rank Goblin Feast field dungeon to create low-grade blood item cards while Cortney continued to raid the Ogre Fields."

Cortney created agreed-upon high-rank Blood spirit cards in a single raid, and I developed enough low-rank blood equipment cards. Then we switch the dungeons, allowing me to make enough high-grade blood item cards in Ogre Fields gate dungeon and for Cortney to create enough low-rank blood spirit cards in the goblin feast field dungeon. This way, we both completed the required cards in just two more dungeon raids."

"Good job. Here are the Ogre Blood Totem cards I created. Distribute them between the Tiger Squadron and high-level executives of the TSR guild. As for the low-level members, if I have time, I will pay a visit to the E-Rank Woodapes field dungeon to create E-rank ape Blood Totem Cards for them." I chose the E-rank Woodapes field dungeon instead of the E-rank Goblin Feast field dungeon because the physique of the Woodape is a lot stronger than the best of the goblins and because Woodapes are more agile than goblins.

"E-rank WoodApes Field Dungeon, good choice, boss. I will reserve it for the next few days under the TSR guild name. Feel free to visit whenever you are free, boss." Van took it upon himself to make the arrangements.

"Master Wyatt, if you don't mind, I would like to create more blood equipment cards to gather funds for the Tiger squadron." It seems Old Ben planned to use his rune to gather funds and keep the tiger squadron running. Tiger Squadron has been under the

scrutiny of the city lord for a long time, and its members are surviving on minimum wages despite them being grandmaster realm card apprentices. Since all these problems stemmed because of him stepping down as captain.. Old Ben took it upon himself to rectify them and compensate his soldiers appropriately for their years of loyalty even though he was not there when they needed him the most.

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Chapter 505 - War Strategy

[1,023 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 21:59

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Go ahead. Tiger Squadron is your responsibility. Do your best to keep it afloat. If the financial troubles are urgent, I could allocate some funds for the Tiger squadron." I respected how old Ben looked after his soldiers and tried to rectify his mistakes by making up for his absence over the years by himself.

"Thank you, Master Wyatt. The situation is not that urgent. I can handle the situation." old Ben refused to ask for funds and assured me that he could take care of it himself.

"Good, but do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it." Asking old Ben not to be shy to ask for help, I advised him, " If you plan to sell the blood equipment cards, contact Susan for assistance. With her present, you don't have to worry about fair pricing and being taken advantage of."

"Yes, Master Wyatt. Now, if you may, I plan to head back to raiding dungeons to create enough cards to come up with funds." Old Ben knew no rest. He planned to get back to raiding dungeons to create more rune cards and gather the funds as soon as possible.

"Sure, but that will have to wait as I have matters to discuss with you two." Saying that, I ran my gaze over old Ben and Van, adding, " It's regarding our plan to invade the Sun Blossom City and whipping out its branch of Circle."

"..." Hearing my words, Van and old Ben became visibly serious. I had already given each of them their respective tasks for the upcoming mission. So they knew what I was talking about.

"Van, how far have you looked into the Circle Sun Blossom city branch and the authorities, families that are facilitating their activities in that city." Earlier I had tasked Van to dig in the Circle and its connections in Sun Blossom City.

"Almost everyone who is anybody in the Sun Blossom City is already in Circle's pocket. The authorities, guilds, families, even the card creationist association, everyone is at the beck and call of the inner circle of the Circle. The roots of the Circle in the Sun Blossom City are very deep." Van reported that the whole Sun Blossom City is under the Circles thumb.

"What about their new leader? Were you able to find anything about him? " The control of Circle on Sun Blossom city was stronger than I thought. So I asked Van about the leader of Sun Blossom city branch Circle.

"That, the new leader of the Circle is Mike Brown. He is a local hero. A few years ago, random three B-rank gate dungeon opened up in the Sun Blossom City. The city's rapid response team focused their activity in the high-income neighborhood of the city and left slums to fend for themselves. Then Mike Brown showed up out of nowhere, hunted all the monsters, and finally captured the gate dungeon single-handedly. Since then, he has been hailed as Savior, Hero of the poor by the citizens of Sun Blossom City. Once he was pronounced as the leader of the Circle Sun Blossom Branch, the citizens and authorities were no longer opposed to the idea of Circle opening a branch in their city." Van narrated the feats of Mike Brown, the leader of the Circle, Sun Blossom Branch.

"..." Hearing that not only did the Circle have all the authorities and families of the Sun Blossom City in their pockets, but were also well received by the citizens of the city because of the heroic leader, I was astonished. And I was surprised to see the growth of the Circle's influence in Sun Blossom City in such a short time.

"The authorities and families of the Sun Blossom City were already in pockets of the Circle Sky Blossom Branch, so it, not a surprise that Circle's influence grew to such a dangerous level in such a short time. " Van explained that the degree of Circle's control in Sun Blossom city was not surprising as authorities and families of the city were already subjugated by the Circle even before they moved into the city.

"This will make our invasion plan a lot harder than it had to be." Waging war against the Circle in an unknown land was already a massive risk. But the unknown land turned out to be the home field for the Circle, making it even riskier to declare war on them.

I had members of the TSR guild and Tiger Squadron to handle the cannon fodders of the Circle. At the same time, my Calamity daughter gems take care of the Inner Circle. And I would hunt the big fishes and the Kingfish, Mike Brown himself. This way, the

workforce on both sides would be equal, but things change if the authorities, families, and guilds provide the Circle with reinforcement.

If this were to happen, my forces and I would be facing the entire forces of the Sun Blossom City. With various forces attacking us from all sides, the Battlefield would become a cage for my troops and me. No matter how strong the members of the TSR guild and Tiger Squadron have grown with Blood equipment, Blood Spirit, Blood Totem Cards, they still cannot take on an entire city.

I could intervene with my ego elementals. After all, the average card apprentice cannot defend against the rule attacks, then the war to slaughter the Circle would turn into a city-wide massacre because that is the only way my troops and I can escape the city. And no matter how much Anna valued me, she would have to arrest me and hold me responsible for massacring an entire city. With that, I would have to say goodbye to my chill university life and plan on how to survive a prison life in the card world.

"Fock this," I cursed in frustration, realizing how hard it would be to invade the Sun Blossom city and wage war against the strongest organization of the city.

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[1,046 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 22:09

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

I had prepared to face the Circle but not the entire Sun Blossom City. By the looks of it, if I have to attack the Circle, I will have to prepare retaliation from the whole city. Facing an entire city was out of the question as it would make me the bad guy, the public enemy.

The public image of the Circle in Sun blossom city is very different from the one they had in Sky Blossom city. In Sky Blossom city, in people's eyes, the Circle was a mysterious and powerful organization that even the city lord feared. The citizens of the Sky Blossom city never knew the Circle's dirty laundry. But in Sun Blossom city, the Circle had a reputation of a righteous organization led by a heroic leader. This reputation of the Circle in Sun Blossom city was a far cry from the one in Sky Blossom city.

This new change in the way the Circle operated came with the new branch leader. It seems he had a different image for the Circle in mind compared to the old branch leader. This image is what made it easier for the Circle to move the forces of the Sun Blossom city in their time of need.

At such a period, if the TSR guild and Tiger Squadron led by me were to declare war on the Circle, we would literally become the bad guys in public eyes and the families guilds, authorities mobilizing their forces to provide the Circle with reinforcement would be justified in itself. It would look like the city came together to purge the outside enemy. That's not good for the members of the TSR guild and Tiger Squadron or me.

Considering all this, it became more challenging for me to think of a way to attack the Circle without facing the wrath of the entire Sun Blossom city. All my preparation until now was to fight the Circle, not a city. If I don't find a way around this, I might have to give up attacking the Circle in order not to become the demon lord who massacred half of a city in the eyes of the entire world.

The Narrative. What comes after every war is the Winner's narrative, but in the present age, due to social media controlling the narrative in the Winner's favor was very difficult. If it were ancient times when the grimoire network was yet to be developed, then what Victor says goes in the pages of history, be it true or false. But now, what the majority of public beloved went into the pages of history, be it true or false.

Therefore controlling the public opinion was a big deal in modern warfare to control the final narrative on the conclusion of any conflict. This is what the new leader was doing by building a righteous image for the Circle and a heroic image for himself. In the people's eyes, the Circle and he were the good guys, so automatically marking every organization or person that went against them or they themselves targeted as the bad guys.

Every story had good guys and bad guys. The Circle had already filled in the role of good guys, and anyone that went against them would automatically be labeled as the bad guys. This meant that even if I were to somehow avoid facing the city after attacking the Circle, I would still lose as the other branches of the circle would ignite the public into labeling me as the demon lord that slaughtered an entire organization, whatever the reason I had to attack the Circle sun blossom branch would it matter to the people.

I could hide the identity of my troops and me when attacking the Circle, but the blood rule cards used by my troops would be very distinctive, and unless I planned not to use these cards in the future world would sooner or later figure out that it was I who attacked the Circle. And with a push from other branches of Circle, I believe the world would know a lot sooner.

Why did I care about the public opinion of me? The answer was straightforward. It is because I am weak. When someone is labeled as the bad guy, it becomes easier for his

enemies to come after him. Just take the example of the demigod Redfall. He had an intimate relationship with so many people, and most of them became his devotees. In most cases, these people were husbands and wives of prominent figures in the world.

Yet the world could not prosecute Redfall because all the relationships he had with his various partners were consensual. His partners took all the blame upon themselves, therefore, giving no reason for the world to prosecute Demigod Redfall until the information that he grew humans as livestock to conduct blood sacrifice and blood ritual to make a breakthrough in his active soul control came to light. Using this as a reason, those that lost their partners to Redfall's lifestyle band together under the one banner that they would exterminate an evil card apprentice when, in reality, all they cared about was taking revenge on the demigod Redfall for robbing their Husbands and Wives.

This is how the world works. If I were to strike the Circle without enough preparations immaturely, then even if I won the battle, I would be labeled as the bad guy, give the rest of the Circle Branches a chance to band together and prosecute me under a justifiable cause of eliminating evil. This is why it is essential that Victor control the narrative of the events, or else even if they had momentarily won, they would lose in the pages of history by being labeled as the bad guys. No matter how strong one is, nobody can beat time. Therefore, it was rudimentary to control the narrative. In ancient times the narrative of the events was Victor's right, but in modern warfare, the one with the most favorable public opinion controlled the narrative. Making it necessary for me to come out as a good guy in the battle against the Circle.

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

[1,012 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 22:13

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Boss, we could officially challenge the Circle of Sun Blossom branch to a guild war." Seeing me in deep contemplation, Van proposed an idea to directly confront the Circle without worrying about facing the entire city's forces, a Guild War.

Guild War is a legal way of slaughtering enemies or competitors to handle disputes and grudges. But this requires the initiator of the guild wars to prove the legitimacy of the reason behind invoking the Guild War. Unless the cause is found reasonable by the

War Council or it is found that there is no room for compromise between the two parties, neither of the parties involved can engage in a war, but most of the time, private battles take place in the background, hidden from the War Council. And most of the time, the War Council turns a blind eye to this unless concrete proof is provided by the parties involved.

"A guild war through official channels will take a minimum of a month. I do not have that much time with me. And also, that is not the point here. I am not afraid of any legal actions. As long as it doesn't involve me massacring half of a city, the Heatsend Royal family will take care of it. The point here is public opinion." I wanted to deal with the Circle before leaving for the Royal Palace. Which meant I did not have much time in my hand.

"..." Van went silent, not understanding how the public opinion would affect our battle against the Circle.

"Master, I have made the specific armor cards you asked for. I think we can hide our identity using these armors so that the regular citizens do not know that it was us who attacked the Circle." Having served as a soldier, old Ben knew one or two things about the effects of public opinion. During the monster war, all the soldiers were seen as heroes, but now, after the war, as a momentary peace is achieved, the world saw them all as a nuisance and freeloaders of taxpayer's money.

I had tasked old Ben to create the armors based on a new uniform code I planned to introduce for the members TSR guild and Tiger Squadron. Uniform was elementary for any organization. With a presentable uniform, our members could leave a lasting impression on the clients. Members of the TSR guild were adventures. They would require a little time to get used to the new uniform code soon to be imposed, but the members of Tiger Squadron were veteran soldiers. I bet they would love it to be collectively represented by a uniform.

Old Ben, having witnessed firsthand how public opinion could affect after the war suggested that we hide our identities such that regular people don't know that it was the TSR guild and Tiger squadron that attacked the Circle. This would work if not for other branches of Circle, who will try their best to bring the matter to light and create an unfair public opinion against us.

"That won't work. We have to approach this issue in a different way. To tackle this, we cannot find the solution to this by thinking like an adventurer or a soldier. We need to think like a politician. That is to snatch the control of the public opinion from the Circle's hand.

Van, you understand what I am implying, right? Please find out how the Circle is controlling public opinion, how they are able to hide all their dirty laundry from the people's eyes and figure out who are the people helping the Circle to circulate this new public image of theirs." The answer to my question was obvious, since the Circle is

playing the role of good guys in the public's eyes, I just had to snatch the role of the good guy from them.

And how am I going to achieve this? Obviously, by shedding some light on the dirty laundry of the Circle, which it is hiding from the rest of the world. There are two steps to this part, the first being finding evidence of their wrongdoings and the second being figuring out the public reach.

Finding evidence of the Circle's wrongdoings is an easy task because many of the current members of the Circle in Sun Blossom city are the old members of the Circle in Sky Blossom city. Those people have learned to cover their tracks in Sun Blossom city under the direction of their new leader, but these people have left a lot of evidence of their past crimes in Sky Blossom city. So digging up dirt on the Circle was a simple task.

Public Reach refers to how I get the evidence of the Circle's shady past to reach as many people as possible before the Circle's goons scrub it all. This is why I asked Van to find out how the Circle is maintaining its new public image. If I know how the Circle is doing its false publicity and keeping its past from surfacing in the grimoire network, then I could figure out a perfect way to shed light on what the Circle is, to the general populace. And prepare for countermeasures against the goons of the Circle trying to scrap the evidence I have provided in the grimoire network for the people to see what the circle actually is.

"About that boss, they have hired a lot of unemployed mortals just to go through the grimoire network and erase any evidence of the Circle's criminal past surfacing on the grimoire network. These people are also responsible for spreading false publicity of the circle. And if anyone tries to voice out the past of the Circle, this army of mortals, using their iron grimoire, suppress any and every voice against the Circle.." Van reported what he had already found out how the Circle was keeping the grimoire network clean from its past crimes in his initial findings.

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Chapter 508 - The Search Begins

[1,011 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 22:27

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Interesting, employing mortals to monitor the grimoire network and spread false publicity. The Circle has come a long way from its old persona under the leadership of its new leader. Well, two can play that game." Hearing how the circle was able to clean its old past and falsify an entirely new past fitting the righteous image it was trying to build, I could not help but laugh, realizing that this was one of the oldest tricks used by many Pop stars, actors, politicians back on earth. Though this method was a cheap trick, it worked. Therefore it was popularly used by famous people with a past to hide.

"Boss, do you want me to start hiring people to counter the false publicity army of the Circle?" Van asked if he should form a mortal army to do our bidding in the grimoire network.

"No, that won't be necessary. I have something better in mind. Bring me 10,000 C-rank artificial wills. It's time I showed you the power of modern supercomputers." It is a proven fact that the human brain is less efficient than a supercomputer in a specified repetitive task. Who needs a mortal army when I can have an army of supercomputers working for me.

I was going to create a card that I had planned to develop a long time ago to help lessen my burden in card creation, now seems a better time to create it than any. I put off making this card till now because I planned to create a rare grade version of this card with 100,000 A-rank artificial wills with help from the Heatsend royal family. Getting one or two A-rank artificial wills in this third-rate city is already a miracle, much less 100,000 A-rank artificial wills. I planned to have the Heatsend Royal family procure me 100,000 A-rank artificial required to create this card when I move to the Royal Palace. But it seems I need this card right away. Therefore, I decided to create a temporary water-downed version of this card for my current use.

"10,000 C-rank artificial wills?.... I will get them right away." Van was dumbfounded and thought he heard it wrong, but after a pause, he nodded affirmatively and headed to make the required arrangements to execute my request.

"If needed, make use of the Southern Emperor and the Royal family's name. Those Card Creationist association snobs will not fork out such a large number of artificial wills without alarming motivation." I advised Van to his back which got smaller as he walked further away out of the warehouse.

"Yes, Boss," Van yelled back and continued to head out.

"Master, what would you like me to do?" Seeing Van was given an errand, old Ben asked one for himself.

"You... I have shared a few memories of places and names with your Calamity daughter gem's Hive AI. Follow the list and collect all the evidence. Take a few trusted tiger

soldiers with you. Let them do the talking if needed." Using the memories of Clown Mask, it was not hard for me to find dirt on the Circle and its deeds in Sky blossom city. I shared these memories with old Ben so that he could efficiently gather all this evidence.

"All my soldiers are trustworthy, master Wyatt. We will not fail the mission you have assigned to us." The reason I asked old Ben to take some of his trusted soldiers with him was not that he was not strong enough for the task, but due to his emotion paralysis, it made him unfit to do specific tasks which required social and people skills.

"Okay, but still, after Van is done here, I will ask him to join you." Soldiers are stiff and too disciplined. They lack the slick tongue of an adventurer who could find a friend in anybody. Therefore I planned for Van to accompany old Ben on this mission.

"Okay, Master Wyatt. I will not disappoint you." Seeing how I insisted on adding extra people to help assist him in his mission, old Ben felt my lack of trust in his abilities and took it as a challenge to prove himself worthy.

"Good, I know you will" I gave a few words of encouragement to old Ben.

...

"Boss, I did not fail in my mission. After using the Southern Emperor's name, the association treated me like a VIP and handed me this storage truck card. And they said that if these artificial wills are not enough, they can procure more from the associations in the neighboring cities." It seems with my permission, Van did not hesitate to use Anna's name right at the start. I don't blame him as I heard it is tough dealing with the snobbish association staff, especially if you need to purchase something as unreasonable as 10,000 artificial wills.

"Good, I have another task for you," I said, taking the storage trunk card from Van.

"Name it, boss." Van did not hesitate to show his eagerness to receive a new mission.

"I have shared a few memories of places and names with your Calamity daughter gem's Hive AI. I have tasked old Ben to follow the list and visit these places and people to collect all the don't on the Circle.

Your task is to tag along with old Ben and assign a guild member to monitor the subject after old Ben is done collecting the evidence. If any of the subjects show suspicious signs after old Ben leaves, capture them before they alert Circle about what we are doing.

I don't want the Circle to know who is targeting them." Once I begin exposing Circle for what they are, they will know that someone is targeting them. That is inevitable, but I can ensure they don't know TSR guild, Tiger Squadron, or I are the ones who are targeting them because an invisible enemy is more deadly than a visible enemy.

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Chapter 509 - Super Brain

[1,021 words]

Date- 29 Mar 2321

Time- 23:03

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

Van's adventurers are flexible with the kind of work they do. They do not mind working in the gray area, unlike old Ben's Soldiers who frown upon anything not white.

Especially the soldiers of the tiger squadron, these guys have righteousness stuck up their asses. Therefore, I tasked the soldiers with the white jobs leaving the shady gray jobs for the adventurers to complete. Right now, my little organization was missing people to handle the assignments in the dark. That's a work in progress. I hope Diana makes the right choice. By right choice, I mean the choice I wanted her to make.

"Yes, Boss. The TSR guild will not disappoint you." This can be considered the first task I have commissioned to the entire TSR guild. Van was thrilled as this was his opportunity to show me how far the TSR guild has come under his leadership.

"I know, but be careful. The circle is not allowed to know what we are up to. I want this to be a surprise." Mike Brown, I want to look at the expression he will be making when he knows that I am behind the downfall of his kingdom. Though Van did a thorough background check on the new Sun Blossom branch leader of the Circle. It was not complete, and how do I know that?

Because I had the complete history of Mike Brown with me. Where did I get this information from? From the Clown Mask's memories. Yes, Clown mask's memories had detailed information on every branch leader of the Circle. From these memories, I learned a revolutionary truth about the Circle's supreme leader and its numerous branch leaders, which would come to the light way ahead in the alternate future.

Knowing this truth about the leaders of the circle, I knew that my enemy was not just the Sky Blossom branch leader of the circle, he is not the only one to be blamed for his sins against the Wyatt family but all of them, the Circle's supreme leader and its numerous

branch leaders. This truth is one of the reasons why I planned to attack the Sun Blossom branch of the Circle. And another reason is this is the only branch of Circle which I can destroy with my current power.

"Okay, I will be careful. Boss will get to surprise the Circle as you planned. I will make sure of it." Van made a vow and headed out on his mission.

Now that I had the 10,000 C-rank artificial wills cards and a few C-rank origin cores left from earlier in the dungeon, I had all the ingredients I required to create the card I wanted to make. Therefore turning on the security lock of the warehouse, I head to the Card Lab to begin the card creation process.

Setting in lotus position on the futon, I place the 10,000 C-rank artificial will cards into the card creation page. Then morphing the cards into core form I start to add the slave program of my Hive AI to each of the artificial will cores. The slave AI programs were like sperms impregnating the artificial will cores to give birth to a perfectly functional artificial slave conscious with supercomputing capabilities rivaling the original Hive AI in my calamity soul gem.

As I planned, the slave AI programs started to integrate with the artificial wills to form a perfectly functional artificial slave conscious. Collectively now I had 10,000 sentient AI which would only follow the directions of the Hive AI. Then I started to combine these 10,000 artificial sentient slave conscious to create an architecture of the super brain with 10,000 artificial slave conscious.

Then I gave the super brain capabilities to access the grimoire functions and grimoire network. This way, I could use it to scrape the grimoire network for specific data I instruct it to. Each one of these artificial slave consciousness could best 1000 mortals in terms of computing power. And I had 10,000 of these artificial slave consciousness, meaning I had an army equal to ten million obedient mortals.

Ten million, I guess this number should be enough to turn the tide against the Circle's personal army of fake propaganda. My artificial slave consciousness do not tire or sleep. They were perfect soldiers meant to fight the good fight on the grimoire network as they could work for 24-hrs a day straight without rest as long as enough soul energy was supplied.

Now that the architecture of the super-brain was built, I moved it to a fresh new C-rank origin core and then morphed the core into a card.

[Card Name: Super Brain

Card Type: Skill Card

Card Rank: C-rank, Uncommon Grade

Card Rate: 8-stars

Card Durability: [100/100]

Card Effect: The Super Brain is a support card consisting of 10,000 artificial conscious that gives the user the computing power of 10 million human brains.

Additional effect: Parallel computing, Sentient Computing, Simulation computing, Memory Palace, Independent computing

Warning: this card is a support card and can't be used without the presence of hive AI.]

Parallel Computing: The Super Brain has 10,000 individuality, each of which has a separate and fully-functional sentient consciousness. These consciousnesses are capable of thinking separately, therefore allowing them to compute 10,000 tasks separately at the same time.

Sentient Computing: This skill gives the super brain the capability to learn from its mistakes. Meaning the super brain will not make the same mistake twice during computing.

Simulation Computing: The Superbrain can simulate the task given to it if all the parameters and variables are determined.

Memory palace: This skill gives the Super been the ability to record all of its activities, in turn facilitating other skills of Superbrain such as Sentient Computing.

Independent computing: Once the super brain is assigned a similar task, it can execute it without supervision.

Note: if the task is assigned for the first time, there are chances of errors, so Independent computing is not recommended for trying a job on the first try.

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[1,034 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 7:30

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Susan, good morning. You are early today." I greeted Susan as she entered the warehouse along with Corey. I purposefully did not greet Corey because she had her sour puss face on. I did not want to ruin my morning by arguing with her. Just in case, I chose to acknowledge her existence with a nod.

"Good morning. I came at the usual time, silly. I see you have company over. Mr. Ben, would you prefer a morning tea or coffee? And you, Mr. Van? Tea or Coffee?" As Corey snorted to my nod, Susan greeted me and offered the hot beverages to our guests.

"Thank you, Ms. Susan, but that won't be necessary." Van politely rejected Susan's offer.

"None for me too. Manager Susan, I require your assistance with the sales of these cards. Please let me know when you are free." Old Ven also did not take Susan up on her offer and instead asked for assistance with the E-rank and F-rank blood item cards that he had created.

"Give me fifteen minutes, Mr. Ben. I will be right with you." Seeing me nod in approval, Susan accepted old Ben's request. And then, asking for fifteen minutes, she excused herself from us, heading to complete her daily office routine.

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"..." Corey stood in front of me with a dead gaze.

"Corey, how can I help you?" I did not know what Corey meant by standing in front of me, so. I asked if she required my assistance.

"What work do I perform today, Boss?" Corey grumbled. I did not understand whether Corey wanted me to assign her a task or not.

"..." I stared at Corey blankly without knowing what to say. Should I assign her a job, or should I shoo her? Like how one rotten fish spoils the whole pond similarly, Corey's bad mood affected the rest, especially me.

"Don't mind her, her grandmother's back in the city. And she did not get proper sleep yesterday night." Corey's hair suddenly caught on fire and morphed into a half-humanoid form. Flaming hairs turned into the upper torso of a human female. It was none other than Corey Park who spoke in defense of Corey Bright.

"Hi, Ms. Park. I don't get it." What does Corey's grandmother returning to the city and her not getting proper sleep supposed to do with me? Is it supposed to explain why Corey is ruining my morning?

"Well, Corey's grandparents fought over who gets to retire as the head of the family and stay with their precious granddaughter. In the end, they decided they both would retire

and live with their sugar pie. Their reunion sparked... how do I put it politely... a passionate and loud hormonal exchange. The rooms of Guild Association housing are very thin. Let's just say I am scared for the rest of my life. Oh, wait! I am half immortal, meaning I will have to carry this trauma for eternity." Corey Park did not understand the intention behind my words and went into deep detail in Corey Bright's defense.

"Grandparents sex, it comes in the same league as listening in on your parents doing it. But nothing trumps walking in when your parents are in the middle of an orgy. That's what I thought until my mother's friend asked me to join them." Corey's experience rekindled Van's past traumas. And he sang like a broken rape record with no pause button.

"..." Hearing van's dreadful trauma, Corey thought of various possibilities and ways things could have gone wrong last night. These thoughts made Corey light-headed, and her knees went weak. Before she could fall to the ground, Corey park created a fire cushion to support her fall.

"Van, shut up." Seeing how Van's babble started to affect the room's atmosphere, I asked him to shut up. I knew Van's parents had an open opinion about sexual relations considering their relationship with demigod Redfall. Still, to think they would invite a child to an orgy, they were just sexual deviants.

"Corey, considering your situation, why don't you take a day off. Go home and have a good sleep." After listening to Ms. Park's explanation and seeing Corey's situation, I decided to give her a day off. I did not take pity on Corey. I just did not want her to continue raining on my morning. I had spent an entire night planning how to counter the Circle's false propaganda, and finally, all the pieces were in place just when I was about to commence with my grimoire network warfare. Corey interrupted me with her story of eavesdropping on her grandparents having sex.

"NOoo! Anything but that. I cannot return to that forsaken place. The walls of that room will continue to haunt me. Please, I will do anything but that. I am begging you. I work for free. Just let me focus on something else." Hearing me ask her to take a day off and return to how to rest, Corey yelled in hysteria and began begging for work.

"You already work for free." Ms. Park reminded Corey.

"How about I book you a premium spa Package in the guild association mall? That should help you relax and get you some sleep." Booking doesn't require money. Seeing disgruntled Corey, I helped her book a premium spa session. After all, I want Corey and her sob story out of here.

"What is a spa?... Ahh, that should be relaxing. Corey, come on, let's go. I want to experience this spa." Corey Park seems to have accessed Corey Bright's memories to learn what a spa is. Learning about it, she seemed to agree with me, mostly because she wanted to experience it for the first time.

"Okay, we will go but not to the Guild Association Mall Spa but Fine Gold Spa. They know how to treat a real VIP." In Association Mall, if you pay appropriate money, you can access all the tiers of privilege they provide. But in Fine Gold, there is a hidden privilege tier that is only accessible to the True VIPs.

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[1,015 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 7:48

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Where's Corey?" Susan asked, unable to find Corey.

"Corey went to Fine Gold Spa. She told me she had a rough night, so I gave her a day off." I half-heartedly replied to Susan as I was busy going through all the dirt old Ben had collected on the Circle.

"That girl, already slacking off. It seems I need to have a talk with her." Not knowing the whole reason behind Corey's actions, Susan decided that Corey was slacking off and needed some stern disciplining.

"Yes, you should do that," I answered without thinking.

"..." Feeling a lack of intent in my answer, Susan knew I was not paying attention to her words. So she turned to old Ben and asked, " Mr. Ben, how may I be of your service."

"I want you to sell these cards," saying that old Ben handed Susan a D-rank storage truck card.

"I am sorry, Mr. Ben. Could transfer the contents of this storage truck card to a lower grade storage trunk card. I am just a bronze-grade grimoire holder." Susan is still a card student with a bronze-grade grimoire which meant she could not equip D-rank cards. Without equipping the storage truck card, Susan could not access the cards that Old Ben wanted to sell, so she asked old Ben to change the storage card to a lower grade.

"Sorry, my bad. I will change it right away." Old Ben apologized. Though old Ben was suffering from emotion paralysis, over the years, he had learned how to act normal so

that he could blend in with the people surrounding him and not make people around him feel uncomfortable

"That won't be necessary old Ben." Just as old Ben was about to shift the cards in the storage card to a lower grade storage trunk card, I interrupted him from doing so.

Having gone through the evidence collected by old Ben, I heard his conversation with Susan. Then a thought strikes in my head. I had many silver and gold grimoire with me that I collected as the spoils of war from the fools that came looking for trouble. The thought I had was to give one of the silver grimoires to Susan and help her to upgrade.

I was already planning on giving a silver grimoire to Susan once she reached the card soldier realm as the average card apprentice meets the threshold of contracting a silver grimoire when they break through to the card soldier realm. Yes, there are exceptional cases such as myself, Corey, Amy, Pax, etc. And I did try getting Susan contracting silver grimoire when I got an extra silver grimoire, but it turns out Susan was not included in the exceptional cases. Susan tried upgrading her bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire with lots of hope but, in the end, failed.

Despite already knowing that Susan could not upgrade her bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire, why did I think of having Susan contact the silver grimoire again? Because this time it was different, I had an idea. It would be more appropriate to call it a shortcut to help Susan upgrade her bronze grimoire to a silver grimoire. And the name of this shortcut was Silver Milk Powder.

Yes, I was planning on using Silver Milk powder to help Susan upgrade her bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire. The silver milk powder helps mortals increase their active soul control by temporarily improving their connection to the soul and soul power. This is basically like increasing the aptitude of a mortal in terms of active soul control. This aptitude is what separates the average card apprentices from the exceptional cases. This means that with a better aptitude in terms of soul and soul energy, anyone can become an exceptional case.

Therefore I planned to feed Susan with the silver milk powder, temporarily increasing her connection with the soul and soul energy, in turn temporarily increasing her aptitude. Finally, allowing her to upgrade her bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire. This is all a theory that I had just thought of and did not have any proof to support my theory.

Upgrading grimoire is not a dangerous event except for some loss in soul energy. There will be no other side effects unless you consider a decrease in self-esteem as a side effect. Failing to upgrade her bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire the first time was already a massive blow to Susan's self-esteem, and going through it the second time would be devastating.

Still, considering the gains and losses for taking a chance to upgrade Susan's bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire was worth it. But in the end, it was up to Susan to decide

whether she would go through the shortcut I thought of to upgrade her bronze grimoire to the silver grimoire.

"Wyatt, why do you say that? Is something the problem?" Seeing me interpret Ben from shifting the cards in the D-rank storage card to a lower grade storage trunk card, Susan could not help but ask in surprise.

It was one thing for old Ben not to know that she was just a bronze grade grimoire holder, but I should already know that as I was the one who helped her create her origin card, I was right next to her as she failed to upgrade her bronze grade grimoire to silver grade grimoire. Therefore Susan did not understand why I would stop old Ben from transferring the cards to a lower grade storage trunk card.

"Susan, I know you have already failed to upgrade your grimoire to silver grade once but listen to me, I have a theory that could help boost your chances in upgrading your grimoire to silver grade.. Would you like to try it?" I started to explain the theory I thought of to help Susan upgrade her bronze grade grimoire to silver grade and asked Susan to decide whether she planned to go through with it.

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[1,018 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 8:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"So, you're saying that taking this silver milk powder would increase my chances of successfully upgrading my bronze grade grimoire to silver grade grimoire," Susan asked with skepticism hearing my explanation on how the silver milk powder could temporarily increase her aptitude and help her upgrade her grimoire to silver grade.

"Yes," I nodded affirmatively.

"Are you sure? I did not want to bring it up until now, but since you brought it up, when did you create silver milk powder? When did you apply for its patent? Is it a genuine product, or are the rumors about it true? I trust you, but I know nothing about this, so forgive me if I look a little skeptical." Susan was my exclusive manager, and since she maintained the online shop, she was pretty active on the grimoire network to check up on reviews, news, etc., about our card boutique and the person running it.

Silver Milk Powder has made a splash in the media these days. It is not new for some con man to come forward claiming that he has created the perfect solution for helping mortals with their active soul control. In regular times scandals such as this would not be worth reporting, but the Silver Milk Powder scandal was different as it had the involvement of the Southern Emperor and the Heatsend Royal family.

Even the trivial information regarding the Southern Emperor and the Royal family could become breaking news, much less a scandal involving the long searched solution for helping mortals with their active soul control. This story was bound to go viral. And it did. The questions are starting to spread on the grimoire network, asking the Royal family for an explanation.

The Royal has already explained that Silver milk Power was a hoax, and an investigation into it has proceeded. But this was not enough for netizens. They demanded more information, such as whether the Southern Emperor was part of the fraud or was she also the victim of the 17-year-old conman? If either of them were true, was it wise for the Royal family to let the current Southern continue to lead such an essential and influential role in the southern region despite her recent crucial shortcomings?

Yes, calls for annexation of the Southern Emperor title from Anna had become a trend. Not just Anna, I had become the talk of every house in the region. A 17-year-old old to con the patent, copyright, and trademark association into granting a false patent had become a juicy piece of news to turn even the most random boring gathering into a debate contest.

The Royal family had tried to suppress this news, dreading the consequence after seeing such a strong reaction from the netizens on the matters regarding the Silver Milk Powder and the involvement of the Southern Emperor. There were two reasons why the Royal family tried to suppress this news, the first being to avoid the suspicion of various forces, and the second was obviously for reducing public opinion.

If the Royal family did not try to suppress the news on the silver milk powder scandal, then the various interested forces will start thinking that the Royal family wants the news to spread and raise suspicion towards Royal's intentions. Since the Royal family was going through all this trouble to avoid others suspecting them, they had to play their part right. Hence they acted as if they were desperately trying to sweep the dirt of their young heir under the rug. But unfortunately, the researchers of various universities and the empire were unwilling to let it slide. They wanted to make an example out of Anna because they believed she was the main culprit behind the fraud as there is no way a 17-year-old orphan from a third-rate city would con the Southern emperor.

With such a blowout on the silver milk powder scandal, there was now Susan would not have heard about the Silver Milk Powder and my involvement in it. It was already a miracle that Susan could hold it in until I brought the matter up. Her patience was

admirable. Since I gave her the opportunity, Susan did not hold herself back but unloaded all the questions she wanted to ask in a single breath.

"Wow, Susan, One question at a time," I asked Susan, not to smother me with questions and tell me to speak. I get that she is excited as she can finally ask the questions, eating her up from inside.

"Fine, are the rumors true?" Getting her chance Susan went to the jugular of the matter.

"No, they are not. Silver Milk Powder is authentic and is capable of more than it claims. This whole thing is complex. For your safety, I will spare the details. And this is also one of the main reasons why Anna wants me to move to the Royal Palace." I skipped narrating all the boring details claiming that it was for her safety, and Susan didn't suspect anything.

"I heard about the matter with the Duskbrown family. Are you alright?" This time Susan directly reached for the heart, trying to console me if I needed any.

"Ah! Those Fockers. They have a huge debt to my parents and me. I planned to return it someday." The Duskbrown family's involvement in this matter was unnecessary, yet they went out of their way and involved themselves in this matter.

"..." Feeling my hatred and resentment for the Duskbrown family, Susan did not know how to console me because she grew up in a typical family, and this kind of situation was out of her emotional understanding.

"Is that all?" I asked Susan, seeing her get silent.

"One more thing, how did you meet the Southern Emperor? As far as I know these past few days, you never left the Sky Blossom City." For some reason, I felt that Susan was more interested in hearing my answer to this question than the previous two.

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

[1,002 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 8:26

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Elliot introduced her to me to get her help with regards to silver milk powder." Answering Susan's question, I did not go deep into details, just stated the facts.

"Oh, I see. So how did you two become so close in such a short period?" Susan's eyes could not hide her anticipation for my answer to her question. I think this must be the gossip bone in Susan asking this question.

"Anna took a fancy to me. She is the classic princess type. She gets what she wants. But since throwing tantrums and throwing money won't work, she tried to seduce me. Seeing even that did not work, her fancy had turned into an obsession. Honestly, I am kind of afraid that she will force herself on me. Therefore when we are in the Royal palace, don't leave me alone in a room with her. That gal is crazy, I say, Crazy!" I honestly narrated how my relationship with Anna progressed. Also cautioned her about Anna's tendencies. And how she did not understand that no means no.

"..." Hearing me speak so casually about the Southern Emperor, Susan was baffled and hurriedly eyed Van and old Ben to see their reaction.

"Don't worry about them snitching. They are my people. They would never snitch about me." I assured Susan that Van and old Ben are trustworthy people and would keep the conversation in this room to themselves.

"If you say so." Despite me assuring her by vouching for Van and old Ben, Susan still watched her words and acted with caution. After all, speaking ill of the Southern Emperor was a minor crime.

"So, what have you decided? Are you willing to try upgrading your bronze grade grimoire to a silver grade grimoire with the assistance of silver milk powder?" Having cleared her doubts and answered her questions, I asked Susan if she was willing to try upgrading her grimoire once again.

"Is this silver milk powder really that miraculous?" Susan found it hard to believe that the silver dust in front of her would help her upgrade her grimoire. I did not blame Susan for being a little skeptical. Excluding the rumors surrounding the silver milk powder, the effects promised by the intake of silver milk powder were too miraculous and too to be true. Therefore a little skepticism is to be expected.

"Yes, it is. Why don't you try a little bit?" Since words were not enough, I thought experiencing the effects should be enough to help her decide.

"That sounds reasonable." Saying that, Susan tried to intake a pinch of silver milk powder I had given to her. But I hurriedly stopped her from doing so.

"Wait, that is highly concentrated silver milk powder; that amount should be enough to prove deadly for a card scholar, let alone a rookie Card student such as yourself." For my personal use, I had made a separate stock of highly concentrated silver milk

powder, which upon dilution amounts equal to kilos of silver milk powder. Therefore even a pinch of this concentrated silver milk powder was too much for a card student. It had to be diluted before consumption.

"Hey, it was you who suggested it," Susan complained as I was the one who suggested it and also the one who stopped her from acting on my suggestion.

"I did, but I did not ask you to consume it directly. Fetch a glass of water. Let's dilute it." I accepted Susan's complaint and ordered her to fetch some water to dilute the concentrated silver milk powder.

"Here you go" Soon, Susan brought a glass of water from the kitchen and handed it to me.

"Behold!" Taking the glass of water from Susan, I dissolved a pinch of silver milk powder, and soon the water turned into shimmering milk.

Gasp seeing the glass of water turn into a glass of milk, Susan gasped in astonishment.

"Just take a sip of it. That should be enough for you to experience the greatness of the silver milk powder." I handed the glass of silver milk to Susan and advised her just to drink a sip of it as that should be enough for her current active soul control percentage.

"Okay," following my advice, Susan took a sip of the silver milk water. As soon as the milk entered her mouth, Susan felt soothing energy on the surface of her tongue as it gently flowed through her food pipe into her stomach. As if pouring oil to the fire, Susan suddenly felt the soul energy in her rage as the silver milk water entered her stomach.

Feeling the volatile soul energy in her body, Susan hurriedly sat down in a lotus position on the couch and started to focus on tempering her active soul control percentage. And after a good five minutes, Susan opened her eyes, which were filled with great astonishment experiencing the miraculous effect of the silver milk water.

"Wow, this Silver milk powder is just marvelous. If I had such miraculous powder back in my high school years, I would have easily broken through and become a card apprentice back then. Wyatt, this really has more benefits than advertised." It did not take long for Susan to convert into a firm believer in silver milk powder.

"Good, now that you know that silver milk powder works, what have you decided? Will you give it a try?" Seeing excited Susan, I asked her if she was willing to upgrade her bronze grimoire to silver grade grimoire with the assistance of silver milk powder.

"At first, I was skeptical because of all the rumors surrounding this powder but having experienced the effects of silver milk powder first hand; I am willing to take the

chances." Susan agreed to upgrade her bronze grimoire to silver grade grimoire with the assistance of silver milk powder.

"Great!" I exclaimed, hearing Susan agree.

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Chapter 514 - These Veil Feelings

[1,552 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 8:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, Guild Association Mall, Warehouse no. 234

"Okay, would you prefer to upgrade your grimoire to silver grade in privacy, or this is fine?" I asked Susan, handing her a silver grimoire.

"I will use the card lad to upgrade my grimoire." Taking the silver grimoire, Susan eyed Van and old Ben before informing me that she would like to upgrade her grimoire in privacy.

"Sure, just remember to empty this glass of silver milk water before you attempt to upgrade the grimoire." The upgrading idea I thought of was nothing new. It was just the regular upgrading method with a Card apprentice under the influence of silver milk powder.

"What? I need to drink the entire glass of silver milk. Didn't you say that it was highly concentrated and could kill me?" Hearing me ask her to consume the entire glass of silver milk water, Susan exclaimed in horror, remembering the repercussions of taking in highly concentrated silver milk powder. Susan did not want to die ODed on silver milk powder.

"Don't worry, all the influence of the silver milk water will be consumed in the upgrading process, leaving you unharmed to reap the benefits," I assured Susan that there was nothing to worry about as the grimoire upgrading process would save her from all repercussions of consuming the entire glass of concentrated silver milk water.

"How sure are you about all this? Am I the first lab rat you are trying this half-baked theory on?" Listening to my words, Susan felt something amiss and realized that she might be the lab rat for my new hypothesis.

"Haha! Didn't I already mention I just came up with this theory? So, unfortunately, I did not get time to test it out. But I can bet on my reputation that nothing unexpected will happen." I let out a laugh to cover my embarrassment.

"Humph, What if something unexpected does happen?" Susan snorted and asked, staring deep into my eyes.

"This...what do you want me to do?" For some unknown reason, Susan's question felt like a trick question to me. Therefore for a second, my words trailed off.

"In case something unexpected were to happen to me because of your untested theory, I want you to.... Take Responsibility." Susan's sharp voice trailed, and soon it added a seductively devilish ring to it.

" I will!" I nodded thoughtfully, as a scientist I will always be responsible for my mistakes. the possibility of Susan's word carrying other meaning did cross my mind, but I did not entertain those thoughts even for a second longer as I did not want something like sexual tension between Susan and Me to ruin what we have going on here, a super efficient systematic arrangement.

"..." Seeing me respond positively without hesitation, Susan's cheeks turned red with blush, and grabbing the glass of silver milk water, she ran towards the Card Lab.

"..." I did not understand how my response could generate such a reaction from Susan. Shaking my head, I returned to my seat only to see Van give me a thumbs up with both his thumbs. Van's action annoyed me, and I almost considered reducing his calamity daughter gem privilege level to slave tier.

...

Bang

Slamming the door of the card lab shut, Susan leaned back on it. Remembering the bold words she spoke earlier, her face turned tomato red as she repeated, "Stupid! Stupid!..."

Susan did not know what had got into her to do something so bold, but ever since she saw Luna kiss her boss, she felt this strange feeling grow in her heart which has been on a trend ever since then. Now, matter how much she tried to erase or suppress or hide these veil thoughts, they did not seem to go away. It kept resurfacing, and every time it resurfaced, it would grow stronger. Because of these veil feelings, Susan's nights have been restless.

And today, she finally did it. She indirectly blurted out what was in her heart. Thankfully her boss was as dense as they came and did not realize the intentions behind her words. Nevertheless, remembering how he answered her positively without any delay or hesitation, her heartbeat raised to an alarming speed.

"Begone! Begone! Veil thoughts Begone!" Susan chanted, trying to suppress her unidentified feeling for her exclusive client whom she wanted to make her exclusive man.

"Time to upgrade," suppressing her dirty thoughts and clearing her mind, Susan focused on the matter at hand. She was here to upgrade her bronze grimoire to a silver grimoire under the influence of silver milk powder, not fantasize about her boss.

Susan sat on the futon in a lotus position and placed the silver grimoire in her bronze grimoire's card creation page, ready to upgrade the bronze grade grimoire to a silver grade. Before starting the process as suggested by her boss, she chugged down the silver milk water in one breath and hurriedly began to upgrade the bronze grimoire to silver grimoire.

Under the influence of the silver milk water, Susan felt like she had entered the enlightened state, but unfortunately, she did not. She was just high under the effect of concentrated silver milk powder. Just when Susan felt that this state would consume her heart, mind, and soul, finally the upgrading process began, and all the boost to Susan's connection with her soul and soul power suddenly vanished as if it never existed.

The silver milk water's boost disappeared from Susan's body to her grimoire. Right then, a brilliant silver light shone in the card lab, indicating that Susan's upgrade to silver grade grimoire was successful.

...

"Good job, you two. All I had asked for is here. Now, all we have to do is wait and watch." I equipped the Superbrain card and shared the photocopy of all the evidence collected on the crime committed by the circle in Sky blossom city. I patiently monitored as the sentient AI consciousnesses of superbrain did their job to make all this evidence reach as many people as possible on the grimoire network flawlessly.

"Boss, there is a minor situation." As I was admiring the proficiency of the superbrain card and watching my new toy work their magic as I expected them to, Van drew my attention with a dire voice.

"What happened?" I ask disgruntledly, being disturbed from watching my babies at work.

"All the other subordinates in the Blood Rock Cave have returned except one, Sarah," Van reported.

"So? What's the problem if she wants to continue to learn and experience blood rules more, let her." I asked in annoyance. Because I had increased the authority of Van's calamity daughter gem so that he could handle such small things, it seems I had overestimated him.

"Boss, the problem is Sarah seems to have entered a trance like state and is glowing with blood-red light. This caused others to choose to leave the blood rock cave voluntarily. Others are worried about Sarah as they have not experienced something like this before." Van narrated what he had gathered.

"Um... ok, let's head to the blood rock cave. I cannot identify the problem from here and without determining her current conditions. Before that, let's stop at D-rank silver beach dungeon to pick up Cortney and Bloodette. " I had no choice but to head to the blood rock cave to check on Sarah's condition, leaving the superbrain card running in my grimoire.

I wanted Bloodette to tag along with me because she could control the gate of the blood rock dungeon. Secondly, because I had shallow knowledge of blood rules and their various meanings, I decided to call an expert in blood rule to help me understand what is going on with Sarah.

...

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 8:53

Location- ???, ???, Yang Harvesting Cave

Inside a dark cave, an old lady sat on a stone slab in a lotus position with her eyes closed. She looked like a corpse hoisted to sit in the lotus position. Yet she emitted a strong aura and pressure. From the presence alone, one could tell she is no ordinary being.

In front of the old lady was a blood-red unlit candle, which suddenly lit up, shining light in the dark cave.

"Hahaha, Heaven's be damned," seeing the blood-red candle lit up out of thin air, the old lady started to laugh maniacally and cursed the heavens.

With her laughter, strong turbulent energy sheathed out of the old lady's body. This energy was strong enough to outmatch any veteran demigod.

"Finally! At last, my son lives again. Hahaha, heavens be damned." The old lady's manic laughter grew stronger, and her curses to the heavens grew louder. It seems she is celebrating the rebirth of her son.

Turns out the blood-red candle is no ordinary candle. It is called Soul Status Candle. It's a candle created using the placenta of an infant as its ingredient. The candle's flame displays the health of the infant's soul, whose placenta is used as ingredients in the making of the candle.

The flame of the candle was not too bright; it appeared to be struggling to stay lit.. Seeing this, the old lady exclaimed, "my baby needs me."

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Chapter 515 - Soul Status Candle

[1,016 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 8:59

Location- ???, ???, Yang Harvesting Cave

[Card Name: Soul Status Candle

Card Type: Item card (Bonded)

Card Rank: SSS-rank, Legend Grade

Card Rate: 13-Stars

Card Durability: [75/100]

Card Effect: The host can use this item to keep track of the updates on the bonded souls' health.

Additional Effect: Location tracking, Soul nourishing, Fragrance of the Murderer

Special Status: Bonded to " My Little Prince "

Warning: The extinguishing of the candle flame and the candle turning into dust represents the bonded soul being permanently destroyed.

If the candle flame is extinguished, but the candle remains intact represents that the soul has entered the river of souls to join the cycle of reincarnation.

Note: when the soul enters the Cycle of reincarnation, the candles will melt and evaporate.

If the soul entering the river of souls repeatedly will result in the decrease of card durability]

Location Tracking: The flame on the soul status candle can direct the user to the bonded soul.

Note: The bonded soul will know it's being tracked, and tracking is impossible if the Bonded soul doesn't want to be found.

Soul Nourishing: The host can use their soul to nourish the soul of the bonded soul in case it is damaged.

Restriction: The greater the distance between the user and the bounded soul, the greater the user's price to nourish the damaged soul.

Note: This soul nourishment is restricted to the damaged part of the soul. It can not go beyond that.

Fragrances of the Murderer: If the bonded soul enters the river of souls, the person responsible for sending the bonded soul to the river of the soul will get branded with a unique fragrance similar to the one emitted by the Soul status candle. The holder of the soul status candle can smell the aroma imprinted on the murderer irrespective of distances within the said world's confines.

Restrictions - If the soul is destroyed or enters the cycle of reincarnation, fragrance branded on the murderer will also dissipate.

Note: the fragrance imprint is invincible as long as the bonded soul is in the river of souls.

...

The Soul Status Candle is a miraculous item. Its flame represents the bonded soul's health, whose placenta was used in the candle's creation process. And currently, the flame of the blood-red Soul status candle in front of the old Lady was not doing so well. It had numerous cracks on it, and despite the lack of wind in the cave, its flame flickered vicariously as if it would extinguish anytime soon. Seeing this, the old Lady exclaimed in panic, " My Baby needs me!"

As she knew that her son's rebirth was not a done deal, his soul seemed to have found its way out of the river of souls to this world, but something seemed to be stopping its complete descent. Coming to this conclusion, she decided to assist her son with one of the Soul Candles Skill Soul nourishing. The current state of her son's soul fall's under the status 'damaged' therefore allowing the old lady to use her soul to assist her son's soul's descent with the skill 'soul-nourishing.'

Having decided to assist her son's soul, the old lady did not hesitate and took the blood-red soul status candle in her hand, preparing to nourish the flickering flame with her soul. Without any delay, the old lady moved her soul to start feeding the flame using the soul-nourishing skill but soon faced the restrictions that came upon using this particular skill. Her realm decreased to that of a card Student from Card Demigod while her physical body was immobilized.

'The restriction was more significant than I expected it to be. It seems my little prince is descending in a faraway place. But that's not possible. The last time I checked, the Bloodline vessel and her guardian were in a third-rate city of the southern region. That's why I created this cave near the border of the southern region, a few feet from the grand formation covering the whole southern region.

Did a variable occur again? Was it the ants that caused the incident a few days ago near the B-rank Blue Blossom Lake field dungeon or somebody else? I bet it is those ants again. I should have hunted down those fockers. If not for this grand formation covering the entire southern region limiting me, I would have done so.'

The entire southern region is covered in a grand array formation created by the ancestors of the Heatsend Royal family. They created this formation to track down the prominent figures that would enter their territory without permission. So in order to not alert the Heatsend Royal family, the old Lady chose to camp a few feet outside the array formation. While keeping track of the updates on the vessel.

But unfortunately, a few ants whom her son cuckolded found out about the bloodline vessel and tracked it down. Thankfully these ants were also restricted by the grand array formation covering the southern region. Stripping them of the opportunity of killing the last hope of their enemy with their own hands. Being limited, they contracted a local organization to kill the bloodline vessel and massacre all people surrounding her. But unfortunately for them, the bloodline vessel carried her son's bestowed card, saving her from the disaster.

The old lady wanted to hunt down the people responsible for these, but she was in the dark about the people who gave the hit on her son's bloodline vessel. Neither could she enter the southern region and catch an organization that attempted to kill the bloodline vessel to torture the information on people who put the hit. Helpless, the old lady chose to hide in her cave and send a message to the guardian of the vessel to find her. But her circumstances limited her options. Hence she created a puppet to physically contact

the guardian and deliver the message. It has been days, and there has been no response from the puppet sent to deliver the message.

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Chapter 516 - Yin Widow

[1,155 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 9:02

Location- ???, ???, Yang Harvesting Cave

"No, I can not waste time here. I guess I will have to be swift enough." Seeing the soul status flame flickering grow wilder, the old lady's heart went turbulent, and she decided to risk it and enter the southern region in search of the bloodline vessel.

The old lady planned to abduct her son's bloodline vessel before the Royals of the southern region responded. Hoping for the best, the old lady tried to access the imprint she had left on the blood vessel for directions to her location. This way, she could directly teleport and arrive next to the bloodline vessel and leave before the demigods of the Heatsend family teleport to the location with the help of the grand array formation. But for some reason, she could not detect the imprint she left on her son's bloodline vessel.

"What the heck happened in these two days? The last time I checked, the imprint was fine. Forget it, the guardian should be right next to her. I will access his imprint" a few minutes later, " Again? Why can't I detect the guardian's imprint either?"

The old lady was puzzled, unable to sense either one of the imprints she had left on the Bloodline vessel or her guardian. These past few days, she was busy operating the puppet to reach the Guardian unnoticed by grand array formation. If it were a normal time with one eye closed, she could control thousands of puppets irrespective of the distance between them, but that meant using her mental strength and divinity.

If she were to use her mental strength or divinity to control the puppet, then the point behind this would become moot and pointless as the grand array formation would

quickly discover her. Therefore, the old lady had to go stone age on operating the puppet so that there would not be unexpected leaks of her presence and she wouldn't be detected by the grand array formation. While she was busy operating the puppet similar to mortals, many changes had occurred with the Bloodline Vessel and her Guardian beyond the old lady's calculations. Seeing that her son's soul can still persist in descending meant that the Blood Vessel was not killed. So she had one less thing to worry about.

"So what if I can not sense the imprints that I left on the bloodline vessel and her guardian? I can still use the location tracking skill of the soul status candle." Since her son's soul had already formed a connection with the bloodline vessel, it meant she could use the location tracking skill of the soul status candle to locate the bloodline vessel. Since her son had already granted her permission to track his location using the soul status candle before leaving for the river of souls, she had nothing stopping her from doing so.

"What the heck! Who the F is messing with me? Why can't the Location tracking skill of the soul status candle trace the location of the bloodline vessel?" The old lady yelled furiously, seeing that even the skill of the legendary grade soul status candle card could not trace the location of her son's bloodline vessel.

Unable to grasp the situation of her son's soul and his bloodline vessel, with the vigorously flickering candle flame threatening to extinguish any minute now, the old lady yelled, "Fock it! Space hoop"

Spreading her mental strength and operating her divinity to its limits, the old lady space hooped towards the direction of the last known location of the bloodline vessel. After space hooping three times, the old lady reached her destination, the Sky Blossom City.

"Yin Widow, you got lion's balls to return to the southern region despite your past crimes." A loud feminine voice thundered as the old lady stepped into the air space of Sky Blossom city.

'What the F is this brat doing here? Is she the one behind the disappearance of my imprint on the Bloodline Vessel and her guardian? Did those ants inform the Heatsend family about my Son's bloodline vessel since their attempt to murder her was a failure? I should have hunted those fockers down no matter the consequence. Fock! Shit just got a whole lot complicated.' The Yin Widow wanted to quickly grab her son's bloodline vessel and teleport back to the imprint she left in her cave, but the unexpected presence of the Southern Emperor made things more complicated than they should be.

In order for her not to be detected by the grand array formation covering the southern region, Yin Widow used a tiny bit of her mental strength to quickly locate the imprints and get an update on the health of the hosts these imprints marked. So she did not have the luxury to use her mental strength to scan the surroundings of her imprints or even eavesdrop on them. Being limited in her options due to various circumstances,

Yin Widow did not know the Southern emperor was in close proximity to her soul's Bloodline Vessel.

Due to lack of information, the Yin Widow misunderstood that the ants that were cuckolded by her son having been unable to destroy the last hope her son had informed the Heatsend family about the bloodline vessel to get their revenge one or the other way. Hence she concluded that this was the reason behind the visit of the Southern Emperor to the third-rate city like Sky blossom city, and misunderstood that right now, her Son's Bloodline vessel was in the Southern Emperor's possession to be used as a hostage against her.

"Brat, I am not here to fight. Handover my son, and I leave this place quietly." Though being superior in terms of realm, strength, and experience, the Yin Widow disregarded the impolite words of her opponent as this was the matter of her son's rebirth, and her pride was nothing compared to that.

"Old Bitch, have you finally gone senile? Don't you know that an army of cuckold's killed your son under the banner of ridding evil from this world?" The Southern Emperor mocked and cursed Yin Widow without fearing that her opponent was a veteran demigod.

"You... brat, don't try to deny why you are here. Now stop trying to buy time for reinforcements and hand over my son's bloodline vessel. Don't make me repeat myself. Hurry up." Yin Widow misunderstood that Anna was trying to buy time for the demigods of the Heatsend family to arrive as reinforcement.

"Bloodline vessel? that demonic son of yours is cautious. Why wouldn't he be? With all the disgruntled husbands and wives aiming to cut off his worn-out meat-rod due to him cuckolding people left and right. What did he accept the consequences would be? And you! What did you do to him for him to grow up into such a deviant?"

...

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[1,005 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 08:54

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-Rank Silver Beach Gate dungeon

"Luna, how long do I have to share my mental strength," Anna asked Luna while her mental strength was pouring into a strange, mysterious device.

"Just a while longer," Luna responded to Anna's question, but her eyes stayed on the sheet of data and various parameters provided by the device.

"You have been saying that for the past 3 hours, and why the heck am I doing this? Aren't there any other personnel?" Anna has been pouring her mental strength into the mysterious device for 3hrs now and reasonably grew impatient.

"Yes, just a while longer," Luna answered without a thought, and she did not seem to pay attention to Anna's questions as her mind was accompanied by analyzing the datasheet.

"Argh!" Anna gritted her teeth and swallowed her anger. Anna wanted to stop pouring her mental strength into the strange device if not for Luna's warning that if she were to stop in the middle, then they would have to start all over again. Seeing that, except her, all the eligible personnel for this task were busy setting up the apparatus for dungeon relocation, she had no choice but to swallow her anger. Otherwise, one slip, and she would have repeated the whole process all over again.

"Annie, go pass me a cold one." Anna barked an order at her batman.

"Yes, ma'am. Here you go." Annie, the batman, was a peak card king, yet she was not offended by being assigned as a personal soldier servant to serve the Southern Emperor.

Just when Anna thought she could soon enjoy a chilled beer, her grimoire rang with alert notifications. Without much thought and hesitation, Anna threw the beer on the ground as she knew the alert notification only sounded in case of emergency and quickly summoned her grimoire to check the notification.

[Alert: A demigod invasion detected by grand array formation.

Note: for further information, access the grand array formation terminal.]

"Which fool is so eager to die." Seeing that the alert was just about a demigod entering the southern region without permission, Anna relaxed and opened the grand array formation terminal on the grimoire network to see who dared to enter her territory without permission.

[Checking records to identify the invader...]

[Target found!]

[Target Name: Yin Widow

Target Location: Coordinates of breach 82.8628 degrees South, 135.0000 degrees North. The target is using space skills to wander, unable to lock the target's location inside the grand array formation in real time]

[Fugitive Alert!

Fugitive: Yin Widow

Realm: Card Demigod

Crime: Complete massacre of the 25th regiment of the southern watch and 18th regiment of Southern State Guards.

Status: Very Dangerous]

[Bounty Alert!

Wanted: Yin Widow

Realm: Card Demigod

Bounty: 5 incomplete divinity

Employer: Heatsend Royal family]

[Bounty Alert!

Wanted: Yin Widow

Realm: Card Demigod

Bounty: 20 incomplete divinity

Employer: Yin-Yang Harmony Sect]

Whoosh

"Anna, did you read the notification! If my guess is right, that old bat is heading towards this city." Oldman Lorenzo appeared out of thin air next to Anna and predicted that Yin Widow might be headed to the Sky blossom city. Unlike Anna, Lorenzo is well versed in the geography of the southern region and the boundary of the grand array formation. Reading the coordinates of the breach, he could guess the likely target based on the location nearest to the array is close. And Sky Blossom City was first on the list.

"Why would she head here? That makes no sense, old man." Anna did not understand why a demigod would risk death to come to the Sky Blossom City.

"There are two reasons for that, either she is here to take revenge on her sister's murder by killing his precious niece, or she is here on behalf of the Yin-Yang harmony sect to steal the dungeon we are trying to relocate. The Yin-Yang harmony sect is getting creative. By using a fugitive to do their dirty work, they can deny any involvement and avoid any possible repercussions if she gets caught." As always, Lorenzo over-read into the whole situation.

"You old fool, it is taking so many of us and so much time to relocate to this dungeon. How do you expect her to steal the dungeon? Even if she is a demigod, that's impossible." Anna did not buy into Lorenzo's words as there were so many holes in his theory, not to mention the Dungeon reaction was a top-secret mission known to few people. The soldiers don't even know why they were relocating this dungeon; most of them thought this was just an experiment to check the progress of the dungeon relocation research.

"Decades ago, when Yin Widow escaped from the imprisonment of the Yin-Yang harmony sect, she raided their treasury and stole quite a few legendary cards. And one of them is the Miniature World card. With that card, it wouldn't be an effort for her to steal this D-rank dungeon." Lorenzo explained the reason behind his theory.

"Fock! These damned traitors." If it were some other time, Anna would not believe Lorenzo's explanation but contemplate the possibility of the Matron and Paw Clan's involvement. She could not take the chance.

"Do you believe me now?" Lorenzo asked smugly

"No, I am just worried if the Matron and the paw clan are involved in this matter. Old man, hurry and find Wyatt. He may be one of her targets." Anna finally became serious, thinking of the possibility that the Matron had sent a demigod this time to finish the assassination job and steal the dungeon.

"Don't worry about the boy. Prioritize the dungeon. If we lose that, then we lose a lot." In Lorenzo's mind, the dungeon was more important than the life of a high schooler. Without the silver milk produced in the dungeon, they cannot manufacture silver milk powder. Therefore he thought that Anna should set her priorities straight and choose family benefit over a crush.

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

Chapter 518 - Cause And Effect

[1,032 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09: 02

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-Rank Silver Beach Gate dungeon

"Lorenzo shut the fock up and do as I say," Anna yelled at Lorenzo, reminding him that she is in charge and he has to do what she asks of him.

"The kid is safe. He has entered the Blood supreme's sealed dungeon with Cortney." Using the array formation covering the city, Lorenzo has monitored Wyatt and kept track of Wyatt's movements ever since he ditched Luna.

"What? Cortney? Shouldn't she be in custody? How did she escape? When did she run away? Why did you not inform me of her escape?" Hearing that her young crush was safe and sound, Anna's nerves finally calmed down. But learning that the holder of Tao Tongue has escaped, Anna's blood pressure hit the peak.

"I did not inform you because I did not know that she had escaped until recently. She somehow managed to evade the surveillance of the city array formation and escape the custody. If she had continued to hide in the dungeon seal, I would not know that she was hiding in there." Lorenzo did not know how Cortney managed to avoid the surveillance of the city array formation and hide in the dungeon seal. If not for her coming out of the dungeon to invite Wyatt into the dungeon, he wouldn't have found her.

"What? Your life until now as an array master is an utter waste. Aren't you ashamed to call yourself an array master when a teenager managed to evade it? Shame on you." Anna did not spare Lorenzo and blamed him for Cortney's escape from custody.

"..." Lorenzo wanted to scream at the top of his lungs, but he balled up his fist and suppressed his anger.

"Enough bickering she is already," looking at the sky, Anna spotted the Yin Widow who has just space hooped to the Air space of the sky blossom city and yelled, " Yin Widow, you got lion's balls to return to the southern region despite your past crimes."

...

Date- XX XX 2X00

Time- XX:XX

Location- Southern Region, XXXXX

On this day, the Heatsend Royal family's young prince killed a demigod from the Long Clan. And subsequently, the cause and effect unfolded in mysterious ways.

Yin Widow and the Long Clan's demigod were students of the same master. Their relationship had long blossomed from ordinary bounds of fellow students to something more. The relationship between them was similar to that of lovers, but their master did not consider their feelings and sold both of them to two different superpowers, The Long clan and the Yin-Yang Harmony sect.

They both got married to the capable men in the respective superpowers and started a new family separately despite their hearts being with each other. Over the years, they grew stronger and achieved the boundary every card apprentice would dream of.

With the newfound strength, they both decided to rewrite their fate and shape their destinies with their own hands. Following their hearts, they both killed their husbands and made it look like accidental deaths.

They say time can change anything, and the same happened to these two tragic lovers. The demigod from the Long family had grown new hobbies such as soul plucking, which was the reason behind her meteoric rise in the realm despite her lack of talent. Yin Widow was not new to Soul plucking. She herself indulged in such immoral acts out of spite for her arranged husband and in search of strength. Therefore Yin Widow was not opposed to her lover's hobby.

Until one day, the Yin Widow's lover decided to hunt larger prey, such as the prince of the Heatsend Royal family. The one who was considered to be the strongest demigod of that generation. Yin Widow's Lover was in over her head and lost her life trying to chew more than what she could swallow.

Getting the news of her Lover's death, Yin Widow was filled with rage and decided to seek revenge on the murderer. But she knew that with her strength, she was not the match of the prince of the Southern region. Hence she decided to exact her revenge slowly by killing his subordinates, the 26th regiment of Southern Watch and the 18th regiment of Southern Guards.

Like her Lover, Yin Widow underestimated Anna's uncle. In order to find justice for his soldiers, Anna's uncle mobilized the strongest squadron of the Southern Watch and Souther Guard and directly launched a siege on the main base of the Yin-Yang Harmony sect. And within an hour, he forced the Yin-Yang Harmony sect to give up on Yin Widow.

In order to save some face and please the prince of the southern family and his forces at the doorsteps, the Yin-Yang Harmony sect used internal discipline to punish demigod Yin, Widow by sentencing her to imprisonment in heathen stone prison for 200 years. The sect punished Yin Widow to save her from the Heatsend royal family and herself. The sect knew if Yin Widow were left with no consequences, she would try to retake revenge, or the prince of the Heatsend family would try to assassinate her personally.

This punishment doesn't seem much, but for a sect to punish one of their demigods was already a miracle. Knowing that Yin Widow has gone into hiding and there isn't much he could do, Anna's uncle chose to back down for now.

Just when everyone thought everything was settled, fate had other plans; Yin Widow's son was being hunted down by his enemies under the banner of justice for the heinous crimes he had committed against humanity. Learning the news, the disgruntled Yin Widow escaped from her imprisonment and raided the Yin-Yang harmony sect treasury as she knew she alone could not help her son; she required more firepower to take on her baby's enemies.

Unfortunately, by the time she reached her Son, he had already been killed by the angry mob.. Learning the death of her only son, the Yin widow went crazy, and in a fit of rage, she blamed the prince of the Heatsend Royal family for her son's death.

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Chapter 519 - World Cutter

[1,030 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09: 04

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-Rank Silver Beach Gate dungeon

"Little brat, stop stalling for time and hand over my son's bloodline vessel." Yin Widow was being very tolerant right now. If not for her believing that her son's bloodline vessel was being held hostage by the southern emperor, she would have already killed the little harlot for talking smack.

"Old charlatan, I do not have your son's bloodline vessel. Wasn't I clear the first time?" Anna yelled at Yin Widow, not minding her words because the person in front of her could kill her with just her intent.

"Quite stalling otherwise, don't blame me for turning this small city into a wasteland." Seeing that trying to negotiate with the little floozy did not work, Yin Widow decided to get a little aggressive to get the hoochie serious.

"Who is stalling? Don't you get it? No reinforcement is coming. If they wanted to, with the help of grand array formation, they would have already. So you stop making threats and stand by your words." Anna made it clear that no reinforcements were coming to help her deal with Yin Widow, yet somehow her confidence did not seem to waiver in front of an existence that could kill her with a thought.

"Little tramp, aren't you overestimating yourself? What gives you the confidence to handle me without the help of demigods from your family? Is it because you are holding my son's bloodline Vessel hostage? Remember, brat, if my son fails to descend today, I will color the entire southern region with your family's blood." Hearing that no demigod was coming as reinforcement to deal with her, Yin Widow was astonished, making her more confident that Anna was holding her son's bloodline vessel hostage.

"How many times do I have to tell you that I do not have your son's bloodline vessel? Quit yapping and put out already." Anna was annoyed hearing Yin Widow repeatedly claiming that she was holding her son's bloodline vessel hostage and asked Yin Widow to stop moving her jaw and do what she threatened to do.

"Girl, how long are you going to deny? Do you think this is a joke or feel like I am joking? Don't force my hand. I am begging you to hand over my son's bloodline vessel, and I will swear on my soul to end any and all cause and effect between the Heatsend family and me." No matter how cruel and gruesome Yin Widow was in the end, she was a mother who was willing to do anything for her baby boy. She was ready to forget all the grudges between her and Anna's uncle if it meant saving her son.

"Seriously bitch, when is the last time you get tested? Have you really gone senile? Or don't you understand the language I am using? What am I doing wrong for you to think that I have your son's bloodline vessel? Please tell me, and I will rectify it." Anna was afraid Yin Widow had gone senile for real as nothing is scarier than a crazy demigod. Therefore she decided to clear the misunderstanding that Yin Widow was under.

"What?" Hearing Anna, Yin Widow, was baffled but still summoned the soul status candle to try and locate her son's bloodline vessel, " This is it not your doing? The last time I checked, my son's bloodline vessel was in this city, but now I can't seem to locate her. What witchcraft did you use to negate a legendary grade cards skill?"

Even though Yin Widow decided to consider Anna's words, she still did not seem to believe Anna was innocent of what she thought she was guilty about.

"No wonder you were willing to risk death and come out of hiding..." seeing the vigorously flickering flame on the soul status candle summoned by Yin Widow, Anna finally understood why Yin widow was willing to go as far as using the word beg earlier.

"If you don't have my son's bloodline vessel, then I will have to turn this city upside down to find her." The flame on the soul status candle had gotten visibly dimmer, and it appeared to be struggling to stay alive. Therefore Yin Widow decided to no longer waste time bickering with Anna and find her son's bloodline vessel even if it meant to turn the whole Sky Blossom City upside down as this was the place where the bloodline vessel was last seen. Yin Widow felt that if she were to find a trace of the bloodline vessel, she could track its location.

"Yeah, that's not happening." Seeing Yin Widow prepare to sacrifice the entire Sky Blossom city to trace a single person, Anna reacted.

"You? Are you going to stop me? Girl, step aside. I just want to find my son. Don't come looking for trouble." Yin Widow did not know why the demigods of the southern region did not react to her presence. But she did not believe that hurting Anna would work in her favor. Instead, it would attract the expedition of the Heatsend family. She was here to find her son's bloodline vessel and help him descend to fight with the Heatsend Royal family.

"Old slut, try me." Anna confidently stood in front of Yun Widow and taunted her.

"Fine, you are asking for it. I will not kill you but disable you." Yin Widow decided to swat the fly, disturbing her from finding her son. She believed as long as she did not kill Anna and was quick with her work, then that would be okay.

"Bring it, old hag." Anna did not deter under the presence of Yin Widow's denominating soul energy suppression but boldly stood up, ready to get her fists bloody.

"Don't blame me. You asked for it. The Headsend family should teach their calves not to be ignorant of the tiger in front of them." Having said that, she whispered, "World Cutter."

With Yin Widows' command, the wind surrounding her gathered to form a thin wind blade and headed towards Anna, aiming for her left shoulder joint.

...

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

Chapter 520 - Giga Punch

[1,024 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:10

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-Rank Silver Beach Gate dungeon

Seeing the Wind in the surrounding area gather to form a Blade and head towards her, Anna did not show fear. Instead, the corners of her mouth raised, hearing her grimoire sound with notification, and she muttered, " Finally."

[Card 'Southern Emperor' detected...

All conditions meet...

Removing the restriction on Grand Array formation...

Ruler mode activated...

Host Name- Anna Heatsend...

Verifying Host Authority...

Host Authority sufficient...

Ruler Selected...

Establishing a connection between the grand array formation and the Ruler...

Connection established...

Happy Hunting!]

"Giga Punch!" Anna yelled as she balled up her fist and punched at the incoming World Cutter. A ball of Pure and concentrated soul energy extends out of Anna's fist and speeds towards the speeding World Cutter. As the ball of soul energy and wind blade collide, a huge explosive spark is emitted while the two attacks null each other out. The shockwaves spread throughout the city below, the tall buildings swayed like trees with the spread of the shockwaves.

"You! How is it possible?" Seeing her Attack get negated by Anna's punch, Yin Widow was stunned, unable to comprehend what just happened. How could a Card emperor defend against a card demigod's attack? This was just illogical.

"That's it? Old hag, how did you survive my uncle's pursuit with such little strength?" Anna did not mean to taunt Yin Widow. She genuinely felt that Yin Widows' attack did not pack the power of a card demigod. It was no way near the energy showcased by her uncle.

Being connected to the grand array formation, Anna felt an enormous surge in her strength as massive power ran through her body. She felt that every grass, rock, tree of the southern land was part of the array formation empowering her. It was as if she had become one with the entire southern region and represented every living being in it as a single entity. This power gave Anna the confidence to taunt and go toe to toe with a demigod.

"I can't believe it. He not only passed you his title but also the legendary Heatsend family heirloom. To think that he would pass the card to you instead of his son or daughter. So the rumors are true. You are his true heir and Achilles heel." Witnessing the impossible feat pulled by Anna, Yin Widow remembered the Heatsend family heirloom that was passed down to every generation of the family patriarch.

...

"No, old friend, you didn't. The southern region is going to be turbulent again." Lorenzo knew that with all the trinkets passed to Anna by her elders, a demigod could not harm her, but that was a temporary measure, so he was apprehensive for Anna and couldn't understand where her confidence stemmed from for her to act so brazenly in front of the demigod.

But seeing Anna access the soul energy of the grand array formation covering the southern region, Lorenzo knew Anna's grandfather had passed the heatsend family heirloom to Anna, which was equal to declaring to the rest of the world that Anna was going to be the next Matriarch of the Heatsend family.

"Grandpa..." Luna knew exactly what her grandfather meant by the southern region being turbulent again. If her great-uncle had chosen either Anna's mother or Uncle as the next matriarch or patriarch, then things would not become as complicated as they were about to.

"All I know is your cousins and relatives are going to be pissed." Said old Lorenzo as he knew his friend's decision would piss many people off. But Lorenzo did not care about that. He was worried about his fate, as it looked like he would be Anna's slave for the rest of his life.

"..." While her grandfather was worried about becoming Anna's workhorse, Luna was concerned about something different that only time would reveal.

...

"No wonder you dared to be so bold." Having found Anna's source of confidence, Yin Widow was deterred. As inside the grand array formation, Anna could be considered unbeatable. Yin Widow remembers that predecessors of the heatsend family had used this card to withstand so many wars and single-handedly managed to stay on top of it all.

"Enough talk, old hag, let's rumble." With the newfound strength, Anna wanted to explore its boundaries and was in no mood for talk.

"Girl, get it together if we fight in the city air space. The city will face a disaster. If you don't want to cause the death of millions of innocent lives, you better pipe down." Yin Widow was tight on time, so she did not want to blow up the situation. Instead, she tried to compromise with Anna taking the city as collateral.

"Don't worry. I have the perfect solution for that. Field Card - Gladiator Pit." Anna activated her field card, and their surroundings shifted and morphed into a vast ancient colosseum.

"You!" Seeing Anna not willing to compromise, Yin Widow was speechless but seeing her surroundings change as Anna activated her field card, she let out a distressed yell, "NOoo!"

"Old hag, stop being dramatic and take out the cards you stole for the Yin-Yang harmony sect. Don't you dare hold back on me!" Anna asked Yin Widow to display her full strength to test the limits of the power given to her by the grand array formation. She needs a capable opponent, and Yin Widow holding back would only spoil her fun.

"..." Entering the field card, the distressed and enraged Yin widow had a sudden realization. She understood that she had misunderstood the entire situation. The reason she was not able to detect the imprint she left on her son's bloodline vessel and her guardian could be that they had entered a dungeon. Meaning that the southern emperor was not holding her son's last hope hostage. This sudden realization gave Yin Widow a lot of clarity and certainty. But this did not ease her worries as her sons' descent was still not complete.. It felt as if someone or something was blocking his path.

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

Chapter 521 - Unparalleled Demigod

[1,019 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:14

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

[Card Name: Southern Emperor

Card Type: Bestowal Card (Bonded)

Card Rank: SSS-Rank, Legendary Grade.

Card Rate: 10-stars

Card Durability: [100/100]

Card effect: This card is a bestowal card created by the Unparalleled Demigod by refining the entire southern region as his domain using the grand array formation. The Unparalleled Demigod bestowed this card on his descendants to continue the Demigod's excellent work to protect the southern region and its people.

Additional effect: Key, Ruler,

Special Status: Bonded to Unparalleled bloodline

Restriction: The user must have the Unparalleled bloodline to use this card. If the bloodline purity is not high enough, the card's effect will be decreased by 80%, and the user has to be acknowledged by the southern region's grand array formation to access the card's power.

Note: To gain the recognition of the southern region's grand array formation, the host should have the Unparalleled bloodline and be recommended by the previous Ruler of the southern region.

In case the bloodline purity is not high enough, a Card Demigod cannot use this card despite the recognition of the grad array formation.]

Key: The Southern emperor card is one of the keys to access the boundless power of the southern region's grand array formation.

Ruler: The holder of this card will be considered as the heir of the Unparalleled bloodline.

[Card Name: Gladiator's Pit

Card Type: Field Card

Card Rank: SS-Rank, Legendary Grade.

Card Rate: 14-stars

Card Durability: [90/100]

Card effect: The host can warp designated opponents and themselves into the ancient Colosseum to fight with World and its rules as the audience, witness, and referee.

Additional effect: Contract War, Champion's Mercy,

Note: Opponents can only leave the gladiator pit upon completion of the agreed terms or if permitted by the referee.]

Contract War: all the terms agreed upon between the competitors before the battle will be automatically bonded as a soul contract as the world and its rules will witness the battle.

Note: the Defeated has to fulfill the bargain or will be punished with the death penalty.

Champion's Mercy: If the Defeated fails to keep his end of the bargain, then he will be at the mercy of the Champion.

Note: In case of a life and death battle, the Champion can claim the loser's life as a trophy.

[Card Name: Giga Force

Card Type: Rune Skill Card

Card Rank: S-Rank, Mythical Grade.

Card Rate: 16-stars

Card Durability: [89/100]

Card effect: Equipping this card, the users' soul energy will gain additional attribute Giga force. Giga force is based on the Heavy meaning of the Gravity rule.

Additionally effect: Giga Combat Arts, Fattening

Note: Giga force can be used with other martial arts.]

Giga Combat Arts: A combat Arts specifically created to efficiently make use of the Heavy meaning of the Gravity rule

Fattening: the host can increase their weight by keeping the mass constant and raising the gravity applied to the body. At the same time, the agility of the host remains unexpected by the rise of gravity on the body.

Note: This skill cannot be used on others.

...

"Haha! Little thank you. Your stubbornness has given me clarity about the situation. So I will say this one last time, all I want is to find my son's bloodline vessels, and then I will be on my way. I do not seek trouble." Find Widow was not afraid of fighting Anna but feared that fitting Anna would waste her precious time, which she could have used to find her son's bloodline vessel and his soul return to this world. Therefore, the Yin Widow, who is known to be a crazed demigod, tried to reason with Anna.

"Everything in the southern region is mine, be it your son's bloodline vessel or your life, since they are in the southern region, they are mine." Declared Anna with a haughty demeanor. If Anna was proud and arrogant before, the presence of bloodless power of the grad array formation made her worse.

"I don't have time for this, Trap card - Undead graveyard." Seeing Anna was being unreasonable, Yin Widow decided to go on the offense and get it over with as soon as possible. Just when Yin Widow summoned her trap card, she felt a force stop her. When experiencing such an episode, Yin Widow was scared silly and could not help but yell, "What the Fock?"

"Oh, I forgot to mention before we started to fight, we had to wager something; otherwise, these guys will not let us fight," Anna said, pointing upwards.

"..." Yin Widow's eyes followed Anna's finger and witnessed that left her wordless. The sky of the colosseum displayed two spiritual planes filled with various rules. One spiritual plane Yin widow was similar with since this was the spiritual plane she visited whenever she entered one with the world state. And this spiritual plane had fewer rules than the second spiritual plane, which Yin Widow deduced as Anna's spiritual plane.

"Do you want to wager something or gut plain old life and death battle? Either is fine with me, so you decide." Anna did covet anything of the Yin Widow, so she did not want any wager with her. Instead, she preferred the life and death battle but being a good host. Anna decided to leave the choice up to Yin Widow.

"..." Hearing Anna's explanation, Yin Widow got the gist of the field card. And without much thought, she started what she wanted from Anna, "If I win, I want you to help me find my son's bloodline vessel and help his soul descend to this world."

"Okay, If I win, I want you to surrender and go through a trial for your crime of massacring the southern watch and southern guard." For Anna, killing Yin Widow would not bring much fun, but if her family were to hold a trial to punish a demigod for her crimes. Then it would mean a massive deal for the victim's family and the reputation of the Heatsend Royal family.

...

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Chapter 522 - Giga Body

[1,026 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:17

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

When Anna joined Morningstar university, she had many haters who hated her for various reasons and did not shy from showing this hatred physically. This hate originate from their jealousy towards her. Jealousy is common but using it to justify one's action is a sin.

Anna was not weak. She showed her talent for combat from a very young age. Not to mention the physique and traits granted to her by the Unparalleled bloodline. All in all, she was a lot stronger than her peers. Therefore when her haters got physical, she did not mind welcoming them with her fists. Unfortunately though her first are strong, they were no match for the hoard of haters. Turns out not only were her hater jealous sinners but cowards who had no honor and liked to gang up like pigs.

Facing defeat, Anna did not give in to the haters. Instead, she found a way to deal with them, field Cards. Anna used the field cards to single out her opponents and teach them a lesson they won't forget for their life. And that is how Anna came to be known for her field cards. The creation of field cards required an enormous knowledge of Array

formation. With the raining alchemist at her beck and call, Anna had no shortage of wired Field cards.

"SSS-Rank Tarp Card - Undead Graveyard" now that the wager was made, the world and its rules did not stop Yin Widow from activating her tarp card.

With Yin Widow's activation of the trap card, the mud ground of the colosseum turned into a graveyard filled with unmarked and marked graves.

[Card Name: Undead Graveyard

Card Type: Trap Card

Card Rank: SSS-Rank, Legendary Grade

Card Rate: 15-Stars

Card durability: [91/100]

Card Effect: Any enemy unit killed in this Undead Graveyard trap card will be buried in one of the unmarked graves.

Additional effect: Unmarked Grave, Marked Grave, Summon undead

Note: The souls of those that die in this trap card will not ascend to the river of souls. Instead, will be trapped in this card forever.]

Unmarked Grave: Unmarked graves can be used to bury dead card apprentices. Burying corpses in unmarked graves will trap the soul of the card apprentice, preventing it from ascending to the river of souls.

Note: Even Card demigods cannot be spared from this fate if they die within this trap card.

Marked Grave: The dead card apprentice within the marked grave can be turned into undead.

Note: The highest realm, the marked grave can turn a dead card apprentice into the undead is the card demigod realm.

Summon Undead: The host can summon the undead occupant of the marked graves to fight their battle.

"Girl, I heard songs about the legendary heirloom of the Unparalleled demigod. Let me witness it today." Yin Widow was a maniac. She is known as the crazed demigod. Now

that she saw Anna as an obstacle that blocked her from saving her son, the wildness she suppressed earlier came out.

"Hehe, this is the first time I have heard somebody take my ancestor's name so casually. I hope you can face the consequences. 'Giga-body - 1 million tonnes.' " Raised by a house full of loving relatives and a single mom, Anna was very protective about her family. And did not like others belittling it deliberately. Not to mention Unparalleled Demigod was the founder of her family. So in Anna's eyes, Yin Widow's casual words were disrespectful towards her ancestors, meaning disrespect to the family, and those that disrespect the family need to face the judgment.

As Anna activated Giga's body, her foot sank into the ground due to the fattening skill of the Giga force card, her body weight had increased and was equal to 1million tonnes, that is 907 million kgs. This combination of Anna's fattening Skill and her regular agility was a recipe for disaster. And Yin Widow did not know what she was in for.

Without the power of the grand array formation, Anna could barely hold an increase in weight up to 10,000 tonnes that is 9,070,000 kgs but thanks to the boost given by the grand array formation, now Anna could use the fattening skill with a hundred times boost.

This fattening skill was one of the reasons for Anna's abnormally strong body. For Anna to handle a greater weight, her body should be strong and sturdy enough to handle the burden brought to the body by using the fattening skill. Constantly training under fattening skill, Anna's unparalleled bloodline gave her a very sturdy physique.

"Humph, let's see if your fists are as skilled as your tongue. summon undead." Yin Widow had heard myths about the power of the unparalleled demigod. She knew that the unparalleled demigod was one of those great souls that could remain conscious and aware in the river of souls. It is said that a part of his will has unified with the world, allowing him to multitask and function normally as he connects to the spiritual plane. He could constantly be in one with the world state, be it performing daily routine or fighting life and death battles.

After his death, the unified part of Unparalleled demigod became a part of the world, meaning his unparalleled bloodline was accepted by the world and its rule. This is why Anna, Luna, and their cousins and other descendants with Unparalleled bloodlines could effortlessly achieve Card emperor and demigod realm. The best example of this were Anna's uncle and mother.

"How many of the demigods have you killed to create so many marked graves? Do each of them hold a demigod realm undead?" Seeing nearly five demigod realm undead surface from five marked graves with Yin Widow's command, Anna believed that all of the marked graves held a demigod level undead.

"Not enough." Yin Widow was not in the mood for talking, and she made it clear by her command to her undead summons, " capture her."

With Yin Widow's command, the five demigod realm undead washed towards Anna....

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Chapter 523 - Ugly Past

[1,024 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

The five undead card demigods dashed towards Anna, encircling her. Then they each summoned their respective diamond grimoire.

"..." Seeing each of the undead demigods summon diamond grimoire, Anna became speechless.

"Brat, just give up. Though your family heirloom grants you the strength to fight a demigod, I don't believe that it will be enough to fight five demigods at once." Though Yin Widow wanted to teach Anna a lesson, she had her priorities straight. And saving her son came first, and it would save a lot of time if Anna were just to give up.

"Give up?..." Anna's words trailed as she vanished from her spot and appeared above one of the undead demigods and threw a punch aiming for its head.

boom Upon the impact of Anna's punch, a loud explosive sound was heard, and dust rose, covering the other's view, preventing them from knowing the result of the collision.

shatter It turns out the undead demigod blocked Anna punch by invoking a barrier card. Though it could stop Anna's fist, it crumbled like bread upon impact.

"Old hag, this demigod is stronger than you. There is no way you could have killed him. Tell me, which family's ancestral grave you rob to create such a strong undead demigod. " The force behind Anna's Giga body punch could punch a hole through an average SSS-grade card, but this one was able to block her punch.

"I am no grave robber, and this card doesn't work like that. I can only summon people killed in this trap card as undead.

These undead demigods you are fighting are from the Way Beyond war. The Yin-Yang harmony sect ancestors had trapped and murdered them all secretly. Hoping to use this card as their trump card." The SSS-grade trap card was one of the cards she stole from the treasury of the Yin-Yang harmony sect.

"These demigods are from that era. No wonder that thing was able to withstand my punch." Anna finally understood why these demigods were strong enough to withstand the strength of the grand array formation. They were the demigods from the ancient period. During that period, monsters and supreme beings ran rampant. Despite the long lifespan of card apprentices, living past 40 years old was considered lucky. And those who could reach the demigod realm in such a turbulent era could be regarded as the strongest and the brightest.

"Now that you understand that, How about you give up?" Yin Widow still did not give up persuading Anna to surrender.

"I always wondered what kind of cards you stole from the Yin-Yang harmony sect for them to put a bounty of 20 divinity on your head. Seeing this card in action. I got to say this card is indeed worth 20 divinity or even more. Not to mention the ugly past of the Yin-Yang harmony sect that is buried in this card. If the world knew what the Yin Yang harmony sect did during that era, this world would not have a place for them. " 20 divinity equals 20 demigods, which is massive wealth even for a secret sect such as the Yin-Yang harmony sect. But compared to the ugly past of the sect, it was nothing. And also, they never planned to pay the bounty. They were just trying their luck and making things difficult for Yin Widow.

"It seems you do not plan on giving up. You made your bed, do not blame me; I did give you a choice. Commence six-pointed star array formation." Seeing Anna had no notion of giving up, Yin Widow decided to go full out and capture Anna into submission. Yin Widow had finally found a clue that her Son's bloodline Vessel was in a dungeon. Since she was last spotted in the Sky Blossom city, it was very likely that her son's bloodline vessel was in one of the dungeons within the vicinity of the Sky Blossom city.

Yin Widow was a fugitive on the run with a total of 25 divinity bounty on her head. She was wanted by the Heatsend Royal family and Yin-Yang Harmony sect. Therefore, she could not stay in one place for an extended period. Now that the grand array formation of the southern region had found her whereabouts, it wouldn't be long before the hunting dogs from the Yin-Yang Harmony sect would soon catch up to her. Therefore she planned to recruit Anna's help, the emperor of the southern region. Anna would find her some and help him reborn while she was on the run once again. This was why Yin Widow asked for Anna's help as a wager.

With an overpowered card like the SSS-rank legendary grade trap card Undead Graveyard at her disposal, Yin Widow was not afraid of being ambushed by a group of demigods. Still, she knew in this mysterious world nothing was overpowered. Everything had its bane. For example, the Ultimate tier Silence Rune card passed within the disciplinary hall of the Yin- Yang harmony sect.

'Six Pointed Star array formation' with Yin Window's command, the five undead and Yin Widow herself once again positioned to encircle Anna and simultaneously began to activate the SS-Rank Legend grade 'Six Pointed Star area formation.'

"No, you don't." Anna finally sobered from invincible feeling and overconfidence brought to her by the sudden influx of vast energy from her connection with the grand array formation. Being outnumbered had dug up her old memories.

If not for her requiring to gain support from her connection with grand array formation, Anna would have used the damned Arena field card as usual. Because in the damned arena, she could defeat any number of opponents with the advantage of her physique given to her by unparalleled bloodline. But this time, the opponent was of a Card demigod realm, and those that form divinity usually refine their body and physique. No matter how remarkable her Unparalleled bloodline was, it could not bridge the physical strength gap between the card Emperor and a Card demigod.

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Chapter 524 - Mother's Love

[1,020 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:27

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

Having sobered up from the false sense of invincibility, Anna no longer acted arrogantly and decided to finish the fight as soon as possible. Considering the number of marked graves and believing that all of them housed an undead demigod, Anna realized that prolonged battle would not work in her favor as nobody can compare to undead in stamina.

"Flicker," Anna teleported out of the encirclement of the five undead and the Yin widow.

"Tsk," clicking her tongue in annoyance, Yin Widow yelled, " follow her, don't let her rest."

Group ranged combat within an open and limited space like a colosseum had an obvious disadvantage, friendly fire. Considering that all six of them were demigods, their fire was pretty devastating, meaning if they went full out on Anna, then they had to assess the risk of hurting themselves in the line of action.

Therefore despite having the advantage of numbers and firepower, Yin Widow could only watch helplessly as Anna ran around in the stadium like a rat. Seeing Anna shamelessly flicker around the stadium despite talking a big game, Yin Widow was enraged as every second wasted her meant endangering her son's soul.

Thanks to the wager Anna made with Yin widow earlier, neither of them could leave the stadium unless they defeated the other. Anna planned to capture Yin Widow and bring her to justice using the wager, but the whole thing just backfired on her. Yin Widow was not just a senile demigod. She carried an army with her. Thanks to the field card she summoned now, she could not even get help from her family. Right now, she regretted cockily denying the reinforcements from the Family.

Unable to hold back, Yin Widow yelled, " Is this the power of your Unparalleled bloodline? Running around like a rat? Why don't you change the name of your unparalleled bloodline to rat bloodline?"

What Yin Widow was trying to achieve by taunting unparalleled bloodline was obvious. She wanted to enrage Anna and use her anger against her. As long as Anna gives in to her rage and stops running, she can finally put an end to this charade and go find her son's bloodline vessel and help his soul descend into it.

"That's your opinion." Having dealt with her share of bullies, Anna knew how to tolerate and act when ready. Anna's rage was boiling hearing Yin Widow's insult to her family bloodline, but she knew losing her life would not do any good to the family. Instead, it would prove Yin Widows' words. Therefore no matter how angry she was, Anna suppressed it and focused on cracking Yin Widow's trap card because that is how she could get out of this mess she had gotten herself into.

"What?" Yin Widow's taunt didn't seem to work as she accepted it too. She was baffled hearing Anna's reply and even thought that Anna was trolling her. Just a few minutes ago, she wanted to punish her for speaking her Ancestors name casually, and now she acts as if it's not her business. Yin Widow finally stopped seeing Anna as a little girl but a scheming devil waiting for an opportunity to strike.

Yin Widow could easily win this battle by prolonging this battle until Anna is exhausted and then capturing her. Unfortunately, she had a time limit of her own, the Soul Status

Candle, whose struggling flame constantly reminded her that her son's soul is on balance and she should nearly up.

"World's Greatest Mother, your dumb daughter needs your assistance. Please help me, mother!" Yelled Anna, her ruby checks told that she was embarrassed beyond redemption. But soon, her eyes glowed with intelligence.

"You!..." Hearing Anna's yell, Yin Widow decided that Anna was trolling her.

"I got it," saying that, Anna flickered to one of the open marked graves which belonged to one of the five undead demigods chasing her. Arriving next to the grave, Anna threw a punch aiming at the tombstone of the open marked grave, yelling, "Giga Punch."

"No!" Seeing what Anna was up to, Yin Widow yelled in distress.

Boom with a loud sound, the tombstone crumbled with the impact of Anna's Giga punch. As the tombstone of the marked grave crumbled to dust and one of the five undead demigods chasing Anna turned to ashes, its diamond grimoire fell to the ground.

"You bitch! How did you figure it out?" Yin Widow yelled in distress, seeing one of the precious undead demigods from the ancient era die trying to capture a Card emperor realm brat.

"How? It's because I am smart and you are dumb. Get it. I am too smart for you." Anna started to boast shamelessly, fully knowing that the credit of finding the weakness to the undead graveyard card belonged to the SS-rank legend grade bestowal card 'Mother's Love' created by mother.

Anna's mother's exact words when bestowing this card to little Anna were, 'Anna. You are dumb. Believe it. Otherwise, you will have a hard life in society. Blame your father's neanderthal genes. Anyway, you are my daughter, I have to look past your flaws and help you overcome them, but your dumbness is innate, something you are born with. So the only way I can think of making up for your flaw is with this card. Always equip it.'

"Give it a rest. It has something to do with the shameful chant you yelled earlier." Yin Widow knew Anna activated a card which helped her decipher the weakness of her trap card.

"What shameful chant? I don't remember yelling." Anna denied Yin Widow's claims and said, " You couldn't be more obvious trying to hide the weakness of your trap card. Your mistakes are what led to me deciphering that the tombstones of the marked grave held the souls of the undead demigods."

"Impossible. I have used the same technique to kill numerous demigods.. Most of them were infamous for their intellect. How can an airhead bimbo like you overcome what they couldn't?"

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Chapter 525 - Spirit Clone

[1,095 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:27

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

[Card Name: Flicker

Card Type: Rune Skill card

Card Rank: SS-Rank, Legend Grade

Card Rate: 13-Stars

Card Durability: [96/100]

Card Effect: This rune card is created using the plus ultra rune of flicker meaning of the fire rule.

The user can instantly flicker and escape to a distance within reach of their mental strength.

Additional Effect: Flame dance, Flicker Steps, Evasion +50.

Requirement: Mastery of flicker meaning of the fire rule is required to use this card.

Note: can be used in combination with wind rule.]

Flame Dance: using the technique increases the chances of the card apprentice to evade all ranged and close attacks.

Note: can be used in combination with wind rule.

Flicker Steps: This light movement technique allows the user to move from one location to another in the shortest time possible with the shortest energy consumption.

Note: This card can be used in combination with the swift meaning of the wind rule.

[Card Name: Mother's Love

Card Type: Bestowed card (Bonded)

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 8-Stars

Card Durability: [94/100]

Card Effect: Mother's Love is a bestowal card created by a demigod who is who is too embarrassed to add her name to the card because she is ashamed of creating such a card for her dumb daughter.

The card Mother's Love contains a spirit clone of the Dumb daughter's mother, which will aid the dumb daughter in decision making.

Additional skill: Password Protected, Sharing senses

Special Status: Bonded to My Dumb Daughter

Note: The mother's clone is a spirit body and does not have any physical body or realm; her sole purpose is to judge her daughter's life choices.]

Password Protected: The Bonded card apprentice can only use this card when they shout the following password set by the card's creator out loud,

Password - World's Greatest mother, your dumb daughter needs your assistance.
Please help me, mother!

Note - The password should be yelled out loud and clear for the card to activate.

Sharing Senses- this skill allows the user to share their senses with the spirit clone in the card. Being a spirit body, the clone has no physical senses therefore, this skill allows it to borrow the host's physical senses.

[TL;DR - This card was gifted to Anna by her mother when she was going to attend Morning Star university. At that time, Anna was of the Card Master realm and only had a

golden grimoire. Therefore the card Mother's Love is of A-rank, the maximum limit of card rank a golden grimoire can hold.]

...

"Who are you calling an airhead bimbo, you old hag. Believe it or not, I will smash a fist-sized hole in your mouth with my Giga punch." Anna yelled in rage, hearing Yin Widow call her an airhead bimbo.

"How could a dumb bitch like you decipher the trap card responsible for the deaths of dozens of Ancient and modern demigods? You aren't an actual demigod, to begin with.

You yelled that embarrassing chant to activate a card, didn't you? I bet that card helped you decipher the trap. Considering the family full of demigods guardians backing you, this is not surprising. I guess I cannot take you in without some sacrifice." Yin Widow had underestimated Anna and believed that she was nothing but a spoiled brat with a rich and powerful family. But seeing how Anna could decipher her trap with outside help or not, Yin Widow realized not to underestimate the love and tolerance of the rich and powerful for their spoiled children. She, herself, was the best example of such parents. She would do anything for her son.

"Nooo... You couldn't be so wrong. I deciphered this trap by myself. All I had to do was ask myself, why are you only summoning five undead demigods when you have dozens of demigods?

Even if the narrow space of the stadium were constraining you, if I were you, I would still summon as many undead as possible. So the limited space cannot be why you did not raise the remaining undead.

Is it friendly fire? All your summons as undead. They neither fear pain nor losing a limb because they can put themselves back together as long as their core is intact. So the friendly fire also cannot be why you did not raise the remaining undead.

Eliminating the two apparent reasons, I was also puzzled by your choice of only summoning five undead demigods. Unable to understand the reason to be home, your reasoning behind the actions, I had no choice but to continue to escape.

While escaping, I noticed an interesting pattern in the five undead that kept chasing me. They would only use skills to attack me when I was near an unmarked, marked grave, but when I was near one of the five open marked graves, they would chase me. I found it odd at first but seeing how the pattern repeated itself. I knew there was something here you did not want to be caught in friendly fire.

At first, I could put my finger on it, but remember that high-ranking undead can hide their cores in a secure vessel. I knew why the five undead did not attack me when I neared

one of the five open marked graves. I realized that the two obvious reasons I thought of earlier were indeed why you did not summon the rest of your undead army.

The reason why you did not make any big moves or summon other undead is that you were afraid that their graves would be caught in the crossfire. Constrained by the limited space of the stadium, the more undead you summoned, the more open marked graves you must watch out for.

But still, I was not sure about it as I did not understand why only avoid open marked graves and not the other marked graves? Maybe because the marked graves with the undead in them are invulnerable to damage, unlike the open marked graves. The conclusion I reached was far-fetched, so I decided to find an answer through action. And that's how I deciphered your trap." Anna, word by word, narrated what her mother's spirit clone explained to her. She did not seem to mind taking all the credit for finding the weakness of the Undead Graveyard trap card.. But still, Anna using the field card did limit Yin Widows trap card, so Anna did deserve some of the credit.

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Chapter 526 - Yin Harmony Curse

[1,013 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:31

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

"..." Hearing Anna's detailed explanation of how she deciphered one of the most dreaded trap cards, Yin Widow was speechless as what Anna pointed out were indeed the key reasons that led to her downfall.

If not for being constrained by the limited space in Anna's field card, Yin Widow would have summoned all her undead demigods without having to worry about the open graves of the trap card being caught in the crossfire.

Since the undead demigod's souls were sealed in the tombstones of their grave, they did not have two worry about their core being damaged like the average undead. Therefore these undead demigods were more ferocious and powerful than their alive selves. Facing such a fearless army, the previous victims of the trap card never stood a

chance, as the battle would not even last longer than a few minutes which was not enough for these infamous demigods to decipher the weakness of the trap card. Hence, in the end, their corpse would be added to the collection of the undead in the card.

Anna's luck was undeniable, and it was working very hard for her if not for her using the Gladiator's pit field card; she would already become the part of the undead family in the trap card with a cooled and eerie grave for her to sleep in.

"Sigh, grandpa was right. Being too strong is very lonely." Anna narcissistically ran her hands through her hair, boasting about her borrowed strength.

"Young slut, don't get cocky. This trap card was just an auxiliary means. Let me show you the real power of Yin-Yang Harmony." Despite her haughty words, Yin Widow was highly cautious right now. Being the vessels that hide the core of the undead demigods, the tombstones of the marked graves had a very high defense nearing an invulnerable state. Even the open marked grave tombstones had a very high defense enough to withstand the attack of the average demigods. But Anna's single Giga Punch had blown the tombstone into dust, proving that her strength was not something she could take lightly.

"Whatever old hag, bring it...." Anna's words trailed as she flickered next to Yin Window and threw a punch, yelling, "Giga Punch!"

"Naive, such obvious sneak attacks will not work on me. Try harder." Yin Widow's body shattered into pieces like a broken mirror. And her voice sounded from behind as Anna felt a prick on the back of her fist.

"Mirror Image?" Anna had already learned that not everyone was like her who liked to fight head on with brute force. They had various means and most used trickery rather than fighting head-on. But, seeing an opponent pull out a card which carried an army of undead demigods was her first. Therefore, she knew she had to end her fight with Yin Widow as soon as possible. Otherwise, this card fight may end up becoming her last.

"Ahh! What the heck? How did you do that? Was this mirror image another trap?" Rubbing the area pricked on the back of her palm, Anna yelled at Yin Widow. Turns out the mirror Image had a counter skill, which took effect and hurt Anna fist as she destroyed it.

"Yin Harmony Curse!" The prick that Anna felt on the back of her palm was more than just the result of the Yin Widow's mirror image's counter skill. It was used to fulfill the condition of activating the Yin Harmony Curse.

"What the heck?" With the pricked area in the center, a golden lotus tattoo formed on the back of Anna's palm.

"Young Bitch, you are under my Yin harmony Curse. It would be wise if you just give up." Yin Widow preached, having successfully used the Yin Harmony curse on Anna.

"Shut up, old hag. Eat my Giga Punch" With a yell, Anna once again flickered next to Yin Widow and struck her with her Giga punch.

"It seems you will not believe me until you will experience it yourself." Facing Anna's incoming Giga punch, Yin Widow did not try to defend or dodge. She stood still as if prepared to face the Giga punch head-on. Seeing her actions, Anna thought that Yin Widow was overestimating herself and struck her with her punch without hesitation.

Boom a found explosion sound sounded as Yin Widow's body flew backward in the air and dug into the wall of the colosseum. Then the mangled and bloodied body slowly slid down the wall and fell on the ground.

"Stupid bit.. __" "Aaahhh..." before Anna could complete her words, she felt a massive pain rush through her body at once, and in response, she screamed at the top of her lungs. As a prideful warrior, Anna would hold in her scream, but the pain was too sudden and caught her off guard.

Just as Anna screamed in pain, a bright golden white light covered the mangled and bloodied Yin Widow. As the light vanished, the severely injured body of Yin Widow was healed and perfectly fine with no wounds.

Yin Widow got up from the ground and looked at Anna, who had finally regained her calm but was covered in various wounds, and said, " I told you so."

cough Anna coughed blood. She barely maintained her balance and struggled to stabilize herself from falling to the ground.

"Girl, right now, you have no choice but to give up. No matter what you do, under the influence of the Yin Harmony curse, you cannot harm me. By attacking me, you will only be damaging yourself." With a victory smile on her face, Yin Widow instructed her undead demigods to capture the barely standing Anna.

"It's not over yet." Seeing the undead demigods close in on her, Anna used the flicker skill card to move to the opposite corner instantaneously. And then, she made use of her connection with the grand array formation covering the southern region to use its energy to heal her wounds.

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Chapter 527 - Anna's Origin Card

[1,032 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

[Card Name: Mirror Image

Card Type: Skill Card

Card Rank: S-rank, Myth Grade

Card Rate: 12-Stars

Card Grade: [98/100]

Card Effect: Upon activation, this card instantly conjures one Mirror copy of the card apprentice that activated it. This Mirror copy can duplicate the user's stats and skills.

Additional skill: Blood Swab

Note: The mirror Copy can last till it gets continued soul energy.]

Blood Swab: When destroyed, the Mirror clone will break into mirror shards and prick the attacker to collect the blood sample of the perp. The Blood small will be stored on the card. The user can collect the blood sample from the card.

[Card Name: Yin Harmony Curse

Card Type: Rune Skill Card

Card Rank: SSS-rank, Legend Grade

Card Rate: 13-Stars

Card Grade: [93/100]

Card Effect: The Yin Harmony Curse is an Ultimate rune card created with Ultimate tier Curse meaning of Yin Rule.

Yin Harmony Curse is a skill that returns all the damage taken by the card apprentice due to the Mark to the Mark.

Additional effect: Mark

Requirements: The person's body fluid is required to turn him into the mark.

Note: The user needs to have a basic mastery of the Yin rule and its Curse meaning to activate this card.]

Mark: Using the fresh body fluids of the side person, the user can turn them into a mark. All damage done to the user by Mark will be healed and returned to Mark.

Note: The body fluids used to mark a person need to be very fresh.

Time Limit - The body fluid should be used within 2 minutes of being collected.

....

"Hahaha!" Seeing Anna lean on the wall and barely keeping herself conscious while borrowing more power from grand array formation to heal her wounds, Yin Widow laughed.

"..." Struggling to keep her drooping eyes open, Anna looked at the smug Yin Widow and incoming undead demigods.

"Fuck!" Anna cussed as she thought, 'To think I would be using her again.' Anna shook her and activated her origin card, 'Ideal Daughter.'

[Card Name: Ideal Daughter

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: This card is created using the alter ego of the host, Heatsend. Upon activating this card, the host can summon her alter ego in the flesh. The alter ego summoned will be of the same realm, physique, and traits as the host.

Additional: 'Alter Ego Possession,' 'Look at me Mother,' 'Meat Shield.'

Requirements: The alter ego will require a separate grimoire to use. And one of the two origin card slots will be occupied by the 'dumb daughter' origin card.

Note: the Alter Ego was created due to the Host's desperation to please her mother. Hence the Alter Ego is the perfect daughter for her mother. And has a high tendency to be dependent on her mother for approval.]

Alter Ego Possession: The host's secondary or alternative personality can possess the user's body based on previously agreed-upon conditions. During possession, all bodily functions, skills, abilities, and stats of the host are increased by ten times, and the energy consumption is doubled.

Additional effect- Dual grimoire: During Alter Ego Possession, the host can use both the grimoires simultaneously.

Note: Alter Ego will automatically return to the card once the agreed-upon duration of possession passes.

Look At Me Mother: In the presence of the host's mother, the boost gained by the card will be doubled.

With the cheering of the host's mother, the boost gained by the card will be tripled.

If the host's Mother cheers by yelling, 'I am proud of My daughter,' the boost gained by the card will be quadrupled.

If the host's Mother cheers by yelling, 'I Love You My daughter,' the boost gained by the card will be quintupled.

Note: The skill 'Look At Me Mother' only takes effect when the host's mother is present within the limits of the host's mental strength range. This skill is not available during alter ego possession.

Meat Shield: The host can transfer all her physical injuries to her Alter ego's flesh body.

Note: Soul injuries are nontransferable. And the recreation of the Alter ego's flesh body will take 1 hour.

[Card Name: Dumb Daughter

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: This card is the alter card of the 'Ideal Daughter' origin card.

Additional Effects: Alter Ego Possession, My dumb self

Requirement: The ideal daughter needs to be summoned by the dumb daughter.

Note: Dumb daughter is the user's alter ego's origin card.]

My Dumb self - A skill that boosts the original user's overall stats, physique, traits, and skills at the expense of decreasing the user's intelligence and wisdom stats.

Note: The intelligence and wisdom stats of a person can go below Zero and become a negative integer.

Warning: once the intelligence and wisdom stats of a person goes below zero, there are chances of permanent damage to these stats.

...

"You finally remembered Me, or did you just want my help to get out of some trouble?" As Anna activated her origin card, her alter ego did not appear as she expected it to. Instead, a cold voice sounded in her mind.

"Quick, help me solve this old hag and her undead dildos." Anna mentally responded to her alter ego.

"No, I don't wanna." The alter ego protested.

"Ann, this is not the time to throw a tantrum. If you delay anymore, I will be done for." Anna yelled in panic.

"You can't fool me again. I saw everything from within the grimoire. That elderly lady will not kill you. At best, she will capture you and ask you to help her find her son's bloodline vessel and help descend her son's soul into his bloodline Vessel.

You deserve it for getting arrogant and getting into a wager with the world and its rule as a witness without proper information or preparation. I am not helping you." Ann saw right through Anna's act of trying to trick her into helping her with nothing in return.

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Chapter 528 - Ideal Daughter

[1,009 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:39

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

"Do you want mom to know that we lost to an old hag even with help from the grand array formation? Mom will be unhappy. Ann, do you want to make mom unhappy?" Anna knew Ann better than anybody as she was the alter ego born from her trauma.

"Why are you saying we? You are the one who is losing to this elderly lady, not me." Ann corrected Anna sternly, reminding Anna that this fight had nothing to do with her.

Ann was very cautious towards her original self as she knew Anna was no good, every time she summoned her, she would some or the other way cheat her into helping her without any compensation. This time she was not buying into Anna's trickery. No matter what kind of trouble Anna was in.

"You know that I know that, but mom doesn't. So mom will believe what I tell her." Seeing that the ideal daughter was still not bending to her will through soft methods, Anna decided to turn her manipulation to the next level, blackmail.

"No, you wouldn't dare... you would be lying to our mother. Are you willing to go that far?" As an Ideal daughter, the concept of lying to her mother was evil and wrong in Ann's dictionary.

"Yes, I am. It's a pleasure to lie to our mother. I will enjoy it a lot. FYI, I indulge in this pleasure quite often." Every word of Anna's was meant to agitate Ann into submission.

"You... you, I am telling mom." Enraged, Ann did not know how to deal with Anna, so she decided to tattle about Anna to their mother.

"How? You are stuck in my grimoire, and I have blocked all your privileged access to my grimoire functions." Anna was well versed in handling her alter ego and had beforehand blocked her Alter ego's privileged access to her grimoire.

"Anna, I will help you, but in exchange, you are not allowed to lie to our mother anymore." Having been threatened by Anna's words, Ann decided to negotiate.

"No can do. How about I let you out for 12 hours instead?" Anna being rebellious-natured, hated Ann's girl scout attitude therefore mostly kept Ann locked in her card.

"No, how about you stop lying to our mother for the next 12 years? Promise me that, and I will help you." Ann, as a girl scout, took it upon herself to correct the ways of her original sinful self.

"Nope, not happening. I would die if I were not able to lie to our mother. Instead, I will let you out for 30 minutes for the next six days. How does that sound?" Anna believed if she were entirely truthful to her mother for a day, she would be killed by her mother in anger.

"No! How about you stop lying to our mother for six years?" Ann did not choose to compromise with Anna's proposal as it was not an enticing offer.

Slap "little slut, wake up and admit defeat. Please don't make me kill you. Because I will, as you have already wasted a lot of my precious time." Yin Widow slapped barely conscious Anna, captured and dragged to her by her undead demigods. Yin Widow did not know the criteria for admitting defeat.

As Anna and Ann negotiated mentally, Anna's physical body was captured by the four undead Demigods and dragged into Yin Widow. Being slapped by Yin Widow, Anna knew she had no choice but to give favorable conditions to Ann, or she would lose her life in Yin Widow's hand.

"Fine, you win. I will let you live outside for three months. That too in the royal palace. Think about it, will you be able to meet with our mother in the royal palace for three months?" Anna seeing her end near, decided to stop trying to take advantage of her Alter ego and try to survive for now.

"Um..." Ann purposefully decided to delay negotiation till now despite the tense situation outside because she knew her original self, though mischievous, she fried for her life like everyone else.

"Take it, or let's meet in hell." Seeing Ann still not consider her genuine offer, Anna decided to make her stand firm to help Ann decide as she was not willing to give more than state terms. That was her bottom line. Anyway, she would need her to help cross the river and to explore the vestige.

"Fine, 'Slow x10,000' " Ann agreed to Anna's final proposal and activated her card.

As soon as Ann activated her card, the world outside appeared to have paused or more like slowed down, Anna included.

"Why did you use this useless card? Just appear in the flesh and blast this old hag to blood rain." Anna knew the skill used by Ann was just a trick which increased the thought process of the user and allies.

"If I were to follow your plan, then we both would end up dead. I used this card to strategize." Ann explained her actions to her dumb ego, Anna.

"Who needs to strategize? Let's activate the possession skill and blast her out of this world." Anna was impatient, wanting to return the slap back to Yin Widow.

"Will you stay quiet for a second? Listen to me. There are only two ways we can harm her. Once she realizes what we are up to, she will put her guard up. If that were to happen, then we are done for. So shut up and do as I say." Ann was annoyed by Anna's brazenness despite having experienced a setback due to it.

"Oh, come on, what's there to discuss? As long as we kill her in one shot, she cannot return the damage to me." Anna had already noticed one of the loopholes to Yin Widow's Yin Harmony Curse without the help from her mother's bestowal card, or her alter ego.

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Chapter 529 - Banned Cards

[1,029 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:39

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

[Card Name: Slow

Card Type: Skill Card

Card Rank: SS-rank

Card Rate: 12-Stars

Card Durability: [97/100]

Card effect: This card helps the card apprentice manipulate the thought process of the user, the allies, and enemy units by tampering with the bioelectricity of the target using the poison extract from the Dream Eater parasite.

Additional effect: Fast, Slow

Note: This card cannot be used on a person of the same or higher realm without gaining acknowledgment from their will.

Warning: Please use this card in moderation as the chances of getting addicted to his card are very high.]

Fast: The user can decrease the speed of the victim's thought process, making the victim feel the world is moving very fast.

Note: This skill cannot be used on a person of the same or higher realm without gaining consent.

Warning: the poison extract from the Dream eater parasite is very addictive, and the chances of death in case of relapse are very high.

Slow: The user can increase the speed of the victim's thought process, making the victim feel the world is moving at a slow pace.

Note: This skill cannot be used on a person of the same or higher realm without gaining consent.

Warning: The real-time use of this skill on the subject can lead to permanent addiction. Subjects may prefer to live in the Dream eater poison-induced state for the rest of their life.

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"I can not believe that you noticed that. How did you figure it out with that dumb brain of yours?" Ann was astonished that Anna had already grasped one of the loopholes in Yin Widow's Yun Harmony Curse.

"I dare you to call me dumb again. I won't care if you are my origin card and shred your card to pieces." This is the reason Anna never used her origin card. Ann was a judgemental prude who constantly nagged her about her life choices. Anna already had her mother for that. Since she can't avoid her mother, she chooses to avoid using her origin card.

"Anna, it's okay to be dumb. Everybody is not made the same way. Your freakishly strong body makes up for your tiny brain, so relax." Ann tried to console Anna for being dumb.

"That's it. Release me from the effect of your Slow card. I am going to shred you into as many tiny pieces as possible." Under the effect of Ann's card, Anna's thought process was 10,000 times faster than the average speed, which means 1 second outside was 2 hours inside in her head. If Anna tries to shred her origin card, she would have spent a few hours mentally before her body actually tore her origin card.

"Enough, don't act like baby Anna. Do you think the Yin Widow is stupid? After you have deciphered her trap card, she will definitely not underestimate your smartness. I believe that the elderly Lady is up to something. Otherwise, she would not ask her undead to drag you right in front of her.

Also, if you kill her here, how are you going to drag her to the southern watch military court to punish her for her crimes?" Ann found Yin Widow's action fishy, and that is why she was against Anna's idea of entering possession mode and blasting the elderly lady into blood rain.

"I see. But do you really think she is up to something? I feel that she is too confident about her Yin harmony curse and throws all her caution out of the wind." Anna felt that confident about her curse card Yin Widow had grown reckless enough to allow her within such proximity to her.

"No, experienced the strength behind your Giga punch there is no way she would let you punch her defenseless unless... she no longer plans to keep you alive.

That's it! She wants to kill you using your own strength so that our family cannot track her. It seems she has grown impatient but not enough to get her hands dirty." Ann finally found the reasoning behind Yin Widow's reckless actions. It seems she no longer plans to use Anna's help with her son's revival.

"What? Don't tell me mom used my placenta to create a Soul Status candle card. That is just gross." The notion of her mother using her placenta as a card ingredient disgusted Anna.

"I don't think so, but there are better alternatives for a Soul Status candle card. I bet mom must have created one to keep track of your sorry ass. If mom did not, grandma and grandpa must have. Yin Harmony curse seems to be the best way to bypass those tracking cards." Ann explained.

"Wait? If we were to one-shot her, we don't have to worry about the curse returning the damage. Right?" Anna was right in the state of alter ego possession; her strength would increase by ten times that should be enough to one-shot the Yin Widow.

"What if she has a resurrection card? The user has to withstand the damage first before the Yin Harmony Curse activates, which means if we kill her in a single punch, the Yin Harmony Curse will be nullified.

But if she had equipped a resurrection card in her grimoire, then you will face imminent death through the feedback of the Yin Harmony Curse after she resurrects." Ann pointed out to Anna that there are cards that could revive a person meaning that death is not the end.

"No way, that veil card has been banned since ancient times? The chances of her possessing such a card are near zero." The resurrection card that Ann spoke of fell under the demonic practice. Therefore, its card recipe was destroyed, and the card was banned from production.

"Now, who is the naive one? Seeing how the Yin-Yang harmony sect had the Undead Graveyard trap card hidden in their treasury, it wouldn't be a surprise if they had the resurrection card. Other banned cards, therefore we have to be cautious and plan our move to deal with this elderly lady."

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Chapter 530 - Indirect Damage

[1,017 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 09:39

Location- Sky Blossom City, SS-rank Field Card - Gladiator's Pit.

"Stop calling that old hag elderly lady. She is trying to kill us. For god's sake, can you stop being so polite and miss goody two shoes? It's getting on my nerves." Every second with Ann reminds Anna how much she struggled to get her mother's approval. Ever since her grandpa chose her as the next heir of the HeatSend Royal household, her mother no longer treated her as she used to. She started to have very high unrealistic expectations of her. Her mother had an image for the next-generation leader of the Heatsend Royal family, and Anna never came close to that image.

"You are just jealous that mom loves me and not you." Ann was an alter ego, which Anna formed in the Image her mom had for the next leader of the Heatsend royal family.

"Shut up! No matter what, I am her real daughter, and you aren't." Anna yelled furiously.

"Correction, I am part of you. If you are her daughter, then I, too, am her daughter. Hearing you say such words, I understand why mom is worried for you." Ann did not cower to Anna's rage.

"That's it. Come out. I am going to fight you. I regret the day I had the idea of using you as a card ingredient for my origin card creation." Anna was unable to take being looked down on by her alter ego no less.

"Okay, okay... I am sorry I will not taunt you anymore. Let's discuss the matter at hand." Ann apologizes to Anna as this was the only way Anna would calm down and would be open to her suggestions.

"Fine, what is the other loophole to the yin harmony curse you talked about? Explain that. Let's see if we can use it to our advantage." Knowing that killing Yin Widow in a single punch could come back to bite her, Anna decided to hear the second loophole discovered by Ann.

"While you landed your Giga punch on Yin Widow, I noticed two things.

The Yin Harmony Curse did not activate immediately. First, it healed Yin Widow's wounds, and then it returned the exact amount of damage to you. This showed the first loophole you pointed out. That is, If we kill Yin Widow in One-Shot, then we do not have to worry about the Yin harmony curse as it will get dispelled with the death of Yin Widow.

Another thing that I noticed is that earlier, Yin Harmony Curse did not heal all the damage taken by Yin Widow. It only healed the damage you did, not the other damages sustained due to other variables or indirectly. For example, the damage taken when the Yin Widow slammed into the stadium wall. The impact of her collision with the wall has broken a few of her ribs which did not heal with wounds directly created by your attack." Ann explained her observation from Anna's confrontation with Yin Widow.

"Are you telling me that the Yin Harmony Curse only transfers the damage directly caused by me but not the indirect damage?" Anna grasped the crux of Ann's explanation.

"Yes. We can try to get rid of her with indirect attacks. I know it sounds far-fetched, but It is a lot safer than trying to one-shot Yin Widow." Ann was surprised by Anna understanding what she was trying to explain and wanted to compliment Anna, but she stopped herself from doing so because she knew her compliment might sound like a taunt to Anna.

"How is that safer? That old hag is a demigod. She has already healed up her broken ribs. Forget about indirect attacks. They can barely land a scratch on her even if they did; she will heal them right away." Anna was against Ann's proposal as she knew that demigods were very resilient, and shallow wounds caused by their indirect attacks would not pose any threat to her.

"You are right, but it's either that or gambling it all in one shot," Ann said they had to choose between the two.

"I have another better idea? I think this will work. How about it, Ann? Are you willing to give it a try?" Anna asked Ann enthusiastically, finding an alternative solution to the Yin Harmony curse.

"Explain it to me first, then I will decide if we should put your idea in motion." Ann was skeptical of Anna's idea and decided to hear it out before deciding.

"My plan is still the same. We one-shot that old hag's ass using physical attacks. If she dies and stays dead, then well and good, but if she were to revive using a resurrection card, then we can use the Meat Shield skill to deal with damage given by Yin Harmony Curse. And then we can once again kill her in a single punch again putting down the bitch once and for all ." Anna was smart enough, but this wasn't enough to match her mother's expectations and, therefore, always ends up being called a dumbass by her mother.

"No way! I am not using the meat shield skill to save your sorry ass. It hurts like hell. No, I am not participating in this." Ann had already thought of using the Meat shield skill to counter the Yin Harmony Curse. But she did not tell Anna because she did not want to go through the pain of being killed once again.

"What? Come on, do not tell me you will chicken out at the last second. Don't you remember the agreement we had earlier? You will help me, and I will give you three months of freedom. Don't tell me you are going to go back on your promise? Mom will be so disappointed in you when she hears that her ideal daughter went back on her word. Mom will be so unhappy.." Anna knew that as long as she dragged her mother's name and her happiness, she could make Ann do anything she wanted her to.

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