

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 571 - Second Fated Ingredient

[1,020 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:02

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

"You owe me one," Corey said, cleaning herself, Susan, the floor, and the couch, using her set of cleansing cards.

"Yes, I do. And I am sorry." Susan agreed and apologized again.

"Oh, stop apologizing. You know what, I will give you a card, and you're going to equip it without uttering a deep from your mouth." Saying that Corey handed Susan the Turtle's Dream card.

"Don't look at it. Just equip it." Susan took the card from Corey and was about to read the card info but was interrupted by Corey's angry yell, urging her not to dilly-dally and equip the card already.

"What? When did you upgrade your grimoire to silver grade? You are still a card student. Upgrading grimoire in this realm is impossible." Corey fussed, seeing Susan summon a silver grimoire to equip her gifted card.

"It's possible now, thanks to Wyatt's recently discovered silver milk powder. I upgraded my grimoire using that earlier this morning." Equipping the Turtle's Dream card, Susan finally had a chance to read the card's effect. Realizing the precious nature of the card, she added, "Corey, this card is too—"

"You owe me one, and if you consider me as your little sister, you will not bring it up ever again. Also, I promised my uncle that you could keep a secret" Knowing precisely what Susan would say, Corey interrupted her and reminded her the card was confidential.

"..." Susan gazed deep into Corey's eyes. Seeing that she would not back down, Susan decided to go with it for now.

"Good, now go get ready." Said Corey reminding Susan about their adventurous plans for later.

"I am ready," Susan assured Corey that she was, in fact, ready.

"Get changed. Your office formals and heels are not fit for a dungeon raid." Corey rolled her eyes and announced that they were going to a dungeon raid, not an office meeting. Hence Susan should get changed into something appropriate for a dungeon raid from the formal attire.

"Slime armor morph, C-rank Armor 'The Amazon Princess.' " With Susan's command, with a flash of bright light, the formal attire worn by Susan morphed into black liquid and covered her entire body, then the black liquid morphed, changing into a golden female armor. Downing the golden armor, Susan turned to Corey and said, "I told you I am ready."

The office attire worn by Susan was, in fact, the morphed slime armor. Since the day I helped Susan create her origin card, she had grown a habit of collecting various armor cards. The armor cards that Susan collected mainly were considered as failed products and sold at low prices to the association guild. Failed cards, meaning cards with low card durability and high card rating. Since Susan's origin card, Slime armor eats armor cards and replACES them regardless of their durability and rating.

For Susan, the failed cards sold by card creationists to the association guild were a golden opportunity to collect good cards at a low price. No matter how low the card durability and high the card ratings of a card were, as long as it was an armor card, Susan would purchase it at a bargain regardless of their rank. Over the period, Susan has collected an arsenal of armor cards with various attributes, stats, and skills. Susan herself doesn't know that unknowingly she has grown invincible in the card student realm.

"Wow, just like the first time I saw you. " Corey was left mesmerized as she saw Susan change into the Amazon Princess armor.

"Ah~ So this is the rumored armor I have heard so much about," Diana murmured, unconsciously witnessing Susan's office dress morph into a golden armor.

"Sister, I want one." Demanded Jaya.

"If you know where you can buy one. Buy one for me too." Replied Diana.

"..." Cindy grew speechless hearing the two sisters.

"Well, as the creator of that armor, let me inform you guys that unless you have metal-type fated ingredients, you can forget about owning such armor." Seeing one of my masterpieces at work, I felt proud. And remind the girls to stop dreaming about such an armor if they do not have metal-type fate ingredients.

"Well, currently, I don't, but in the future, if I do, I hope Master Wyatt will help me create such an armor." Diana seemed to have taken an interest in the Slime armor.

"Sure, my doors are always open for my friends and subordinates." I carefully chose my word even though I did not require seeing how Diana has decided to work with me for now.

"Wyatt, speaking of fated ingredients... I have found my second fated ingredient. It's basic E-rank Black steel female knight armor. I found it dusting in the association guild storeroom among the other failed cards collected over the years." Susan reported that she had found her second fated ingredient.

"Aren't you lucky? Hadn't you just found your first fate ingredient?" I could not help but ask, considering how most of the card apprentices go a lifetime without finding a single fated ingredient, and Susan had already found both of her fated ingredients in a span of a few days.

"I know. Ever since I have met you, my luck has totally changed. After our first meeting, I contracted my grimoire and found my first fated ingredient.

After our second meeting, from an ordinary sales rep, I became the youngest auction manager.

After our third meeting, you helped me earn my first million dollars.

Since then, I have progressed a lot in my professional life, social life, and personal life." Susan reminisced about the past events and how high she had climbed in a reasonably short period.

"Yes, all this because you were foolish enough to bet your entire life savings on a high schooler you had just met. And I thank you for that." Susan was my first friend in this world and the man I am today is because of her involvement in my re-life

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

Chapter 572 - New Project

[1,016 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:11

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

"Boo! I am dying of cringe here." Feeling the moment between the two, Corey felt as if Susan and her boss were exchanging their vows. Therefore she hurriedly jumped in between the two and made snarky comments.

"..." Corey wasn't the only one who felt that cheery blossoms bloomed as Susan and their boss spoke earlier. Cindy and Diana, too, thought the same thing. They instantly knew that Susan was one of their potential lady boss candidates and made a mental note to get on her good side.

"Corey, shut up." Feeling the moment being ruined by Corey, Susan was pissed.

"Big Sis forgot about that. You found your second fated ingredient. That's great news." Having successfully saved Susan from Wyatt's demonic words, Corey tried to change the topic.

"Thank you, Corey." Susan chose to forgive Corey. After all, Susan was a pushover when it came to this kind of stuff. Susan was good at her job, but in the game of relationships, she was a rookie.

Hearing Susan's words, Corey knew Susan forgave her. So her heart grew ambitious, and she added, " Big Sis, leave your fated ingredient to me. I will help you create your second origin card. It is going to be way better than your first one."

"About that, let's discuss it later." Susan knew Corey as a person, and she wasn't a reliable one. So, she doubted that Corey would make a reliable card creationist. Therefore when Corey offered to create her second origin card, Susan didn't hesitate to find a reason to delay answering Corey.

"Come in, big sis. Don't you believe me?" Corey was not new to this game. She was not planning to leave unless she heard a yes.

"Corey, honey. Please don't take this the wrong way, but you are the moodiest person I have met. I wouldn't trust you to look after the warehouse alone, forget having you help me create my second origin card." Seeing that Corey was not backing down taking a hint from her words, Susan decided to make it clear by using another set of vocabulary, which she had saved especially for this type of situation.

"..." Hearing Susan speak, removing the training wheels, Corey felt her thick skin wasn't thick enough. And decided to leave the matter for now.

"And also, I know what kind of second origin card I want, and I doubt you can create the card that I want." Susan tried to console Corey. But to Corey, these words were sharper than Susan's words earlier.

"What? Let me know what kind of card you want, and I will be the judge whether I can create it or not." Corey felt her pride hurt hearing such words from Susan. If it was somebody else, she could have ignored it but not her previous life mother.

"Corey, you haven't seen the card. It's a new variant of one of the cards created by Wyatt. Those cards are so good that the Royal family has placed a bulk order on those cards and wants to build a new army regiment of card apprentices solely equipping those cards led by Card Emperor Luna Lorn herself. Trust me when I say Wyatt is the only one who can create that kind of cards." Susan honestly retold her thoughts, but it sounded like she was boasting about her exclusive client.

"..." Corey's pride hurt more being compared to the one person she resented for stealing her mother. She glared at him but he seemed to be lost in thoughts. Corey couldn't just let it go here, she knew if she let the relationship between Susan and boss to continue, that dreaded day when her jerk of a boss becomes her daddy was not far.

"..." Cindy, Diana, and Jaya, who heard Susan say that the Southern Royal Family and their army was one of card boutiques clients, felt their world view change. The relationship between the southern emperor and their boss was known to all, but they were amazed and a little proud that their boss had connections in the Southern Royal Army. Having admired the reach of their new boss, their mind was unable to comprehend what kind of card it would be for the Royal army to create a separate regiment with card apprentices solely equid with those cards. The more they thought about it, the more the trio felt that their new boss was a capable person, unlike their previous boss, who only knew to suppress the weak and cower in the face of the strong.

"Ah~ So, you want me to create a MegaMorpher origin card for you using your black steel armor card." Hearing Susan's plans for her second origin card, I was happy to see the humble girl I once knew had grown ambitious.

"Yes" Susan nodded.

"Ambitious, but I like it. Don't worry. You know me, I always give my best. But let's put off creating your second origin card till we move to the royal palace." I planned to create a memirconium MegaMorpher for Susan's second origin card. And also test the various rules and origin card-related theories that I have discovered.

Like how in the case of Old Ben, he was able to comprehend the boiling blood meaning of blood rule to completion and how Sarah's bloodline helped her comprehend bloodline memory meaning of blood rule. Not to mention how Bloodette's involvement mutated Cortney's ego gem and gave her blood rule affinity and an innate blood rune.

Since Susan's second origin card will be her last origin card, I decided to make it memorable and strong enough to help her climb to the top of the world. I decided to make it my up coming project. This was not only important for Sarah but for me to uncover how Origin cards effected the the user's choice in the rule bifurcation point. If I can uncover this then I could avoid comprhending rules meaning with little use to me.

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Chapter 573 - Coming Of Age Ceremony

[1,005 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:18

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

Corey soon took Susan to experience a dungeon raid and various brutal sides of being a card apprentice. With them gone, now, the warehouse was free of unrelated people, and I did not have to watch for my words. I gazed at Diana, Cindy, and said, " Did you hear the statement given by the Circle's leader?"

"Yes, I did. And I also know what you are thinking." Diana seemed to know something.

"Oh, really, so what is it that I am thinking?" I decided to hear Diana out.

"You think that because of the Circle's leader's stunt, the Circle is more divided than ever. Am I right?" Diana was spot on. I did assume that the Circle would be a mess because of the speech given by their leader pushing all the blame on the previous generation of the circle.

"Yes, am I wrong to think that?" Diana caught my interest, and she seemed to be confident what she was talking about.

"You would not be wrong to think so because any reasonable person would come to that conclusion because they do not know that all the core members of the circle have undergone a coming of age ceremony to prove their loyalty towards the circle. Only those that are loyal to the process can pass this ceremony, and for those that aren't,

what happens to them remains a mystery. The commonly accepted theory is that all of them get disposed of. And I believe this one too. What I am trying to say is no matter what, the core members of the circle will not betray their leader." Diana explained her reasoning.

"Well, that's where you are wrong. That coming of age ceremony is not only to test the loyalty of the members but also their capability. There isn't one way to clear the coming of age ceremony but two.

The first one is the members prove their unconditional loyalty to the Circle.

The second one is the members demonstrating their capability by cheating at the coming of age ceremony.

Satisfy any one of these two conditions, and you pass the coming of age ceremony.

And for those who fail the ceremony, they enter the undead squad where they are turned into a Lich by using demonic practice." I narrated what I had learned from the clown mask's memory to Diana and the other two.

"..." Diana, Cindy, and Jaya were speechless as this information they had just received was too much to digest in a breath.

"How do you know all this?" Diana finally digested my words and couldn't help but inquire about the source of my information.

"My Source is none other than your dear Master, the Clone Mask. She has surrendered and currently is in the custody of southern watch. That alone is enough to prove that those that pass the circle's coming of age ceremony do have to be loyal to the Circle." Clown Mask has also gone through a coming-of-age ceremony and passed through her capabilities. If the Circle kept killing all good seedlings just because they weren't loyal enough, their organization would be filled with weak and worthless devotees who believed that their leader would save them and cover all the responsibilities.

"But, but during my investigation, I found out that there is no way to cheat the coming of age ceremony. I spent years trying to find one." Diana could not accept my explanation because she had tried and failed to find a way to cheat in the coming of age ceremony.

"Well, isn't that obvious? Why would a cheater go around spreading how they had cheated? That be stupid." Diana thought the only way to pass the coming of age ceremony was by being loyal to the circle because that is what the Circle wanted its recruits to believe. And those that were brave and strong tried to cheat. Those that succeeded kept shut about it, in a way helping the circle maintain the coming of age ceremonies status quo.

"So, those that failed are really turned into a Lich?" Diana always thought those that failed would but hearing that those that failed had a fate worse than death waiting for them. Diana felt happy that she had jumped the ship and taken shelter under the southern emperor.

"Yes, what would I get by lying to you? The supreme leader of the circle had already prepared a Lich army. I think he plans to use it to take over the central region once he feels like it." Thanks to the Clown mask's memory, I knew why the circle was creating the Lich army and where they were stationed. I had a lot of information about the Circle's supreme leader and his plan. Which I was going to use to destroy him but let's start small with a branch of the Circle in sun blossom city.

"What? Even if it is the Lich army, it is nowhere near enough to invade the central region." The central region was filled with the best of the best card apprentices. It housed about 40% percent of humanity's strength. Therefore it was unbelievable to hear that a person planned to invade it even if he had a personal Lich army.

"Who told you that it is just the Lich army? There is a lot you don't know about the circle's Supreme leader and his various connections. Let's leave it here for today." The military strength that the Supreme leader possessed was growing steadily. It was powerful enough to go toe to toe with most of the forces from the Central region. But being the cautious leader that he is, the Circle's Supreme leader prefers to be through.

"Okay, I am sure when the time is right, you share those facts with me, master Wyatt. But for now, I guess you had a reason for bringing up the Sun Blossom Branch Circle's leader's public statement."

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Chapter 574 - Bad Blood

[1,011 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:25

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

Diana knew her new boss hated to make small talk. Therefore she had a feeling that there had to be a reason why he brought up the public statement given by the sun blossom branch Circle's leader.

"You are right. I do have an interest in this incident. And this also involves the punishment I have prepared for you. I am planning on invading sun blossom city to destroy the

Circle's branch that is housed in it. And you are going to help me with that. So, Diana, what do you think? Are you up for this? But know this once you back out today, forget about working with or for me ever again." I made my intention clear to Diana. I think she should have already guessed it considering me going on a full-on network war with the circle's false propaganda.

"I expected you would say something like that. After all, my agents did say that the adventurers of the TSR guild and soldiers of the Tiger squadron were more active as if they were preparing for war. It was more evident learning that you are the one behind the network feud with the circle." Diana explained that she had already accepted that I would be going to war with the circle.

"So, are you going to help or not? Before you answer, remember I have yet to sign the contract. Therefore you are free from any obligation. If you don't want to participate, there's the exit. You guys are free to walk away. But if you choose to stay, remember you follow my orders. I will not entertain other way." The war with Circle will not be over with the destruction of the sun blossom branch of the circle. Until I genuinely destroy the supreme leader, the battle will continue. Therefore I wanted allies willing to go all-in and not regret their decision later. I asked Diana if I could count on her to be precisely that.

"My people and I are willing to follow you to hell. Let alone the fight against the circle. Honestly, I am a little hurt that you had to ask me that. The circle had ruined many lives. Cindy, Jaya, you, and I are just a drop of it. If I can put an end to such an organization, then I am willing to participate." Diana was no saint. She had dreamed of various ways to take revenge on Circle. Now that the opportunity provided itself, Diana would not back down.

"Good to hear. I hope you will stay true to these words till the end. Now let's discuss the role you and the Fine Gold will be playing in this massacre, transportation." I explained to Diana that she would use her floater carriers to help the adventures of the TSR guild, Soldiers of Tiger squadron, and guards of Fine Gold to enter and leave the sun blossom city unnoticed.

Adventures of the TSR guild and Soldiers of Tiger squadron were more than enough numbers to fight against the Circle and its cannon fodder, but it was good to have back up, so I added guards of Fine Gold to the list of forces invading the sun blossom city.

Fine Gold does have a branch in Sun Blossom city. Therefore when the Sun Blossom city guards notice fine gold Carrier floaters, they will not get suspicious. As long as we can pass the search in the sun blossom airstrip, we will have invaded the sun blossom city with the Fine Gold taking care of the transportation problem.

The next step was how to avoid the local forces that were bribed and had submitted to the circle. These forces will not sit ideally by as I attack the circle. Handling them wasn't a problem, but I would instead not prefer fighting with them because it would turn from my act of vengeance on the circle to a feud between two cities.

After the great monster war, when the city borders were marked and recorded, there was a lot of infighting between the neighboring cities. They all wanted as many dungeons as possible to fall under their city jurisdiction. In this world, dungeons were the natural source of enormous wealth, like a gold mine. The dungeons were a stable source of monster meat, soul jades, card ingredients, and some even had natural mines and other resources. Dungeons were basically an inexhaustible source of various resources. So, the cities fought with each other to ensure that their border would enclose the most dungeons.

This fight turned into a bloodbath, and many lost their lives until the Royal families stepped in and distributed the land themselves based on the merits of the cities during the monster war. Greater the merit larger the border with better dungeons in it. With that came the immigration frenzy. People started to desert cities with smaller borders to the bigger Cities. But locals were not hospitable to the immigrants as their family members had died to gain those merits, which gave them bigger borders. They were unwilling to share what they had earned through their blood and sweat with the immigrants or the refugees. This led to another bloodbath. And once again, the royal families and the government stepped in to make the immigration law which forbade a person from immigrating from the native city to another city without a valid reason and being approved by both cities involved.

So basically, there was a lot of bad blood between the two cities. If I carelessly harmed the city authorities and families, the next day, the local news would read, outside forces attacked the elitist of the Sun Blossom city. Which would lead to people digging up the past wounds, and I would indirectly become the trigger to start the next city war. Even though I could escape the legal persecution with the help of the southern royal family, I will not be able to forgive myself.

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Chapter 575 - Bribery And Kidnapping

[1,040 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:33

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

"Diana, what do you think we can do about this?" I seek Diana's opinion regarding how to prevent the local authorities and families from meddling during our siege on the Circle.

"That... " Diana, too, was not clear on this matter.

"We bribe them to stay out of the war." Said Jaya, attracting all the gazes in the room. Having taken the spotlight, she went ahead and explained herself, "They are corrupt officials and families. Accepting bribes is their thing. So that's what you do. You bribe them enough so that they turn a blind eye towards activities in the Sun Blossom city."

"Spoken like a truly spoiled rich princess. Your sister failed to raise you properly." Cindy jeered at Jaya's idea.

"That's it. I can tolerate you bad-mouthing me but crossed the line by dragging my sister in this." Jaya pounced on Cindy only to be stopped by her sister.

"..." Diana could feel that her secretary Cindy had gotten ballsy in the presence of the new boss. Diana knew this was bound to happen, but she was not worried, nor did she plan to suppress her later. Because she knew as long as she was more capable and more intelligent than Cindy, then she had nothing to worry about. Suppression is not her style, as she controlled every one of her subordinates by being better than each one of them and everything that counts.

"Jaya, how many times have I told you to know who you are dealing with? Do you think the authorities from Sun Blossom city will be willing to watch as we cut their golden goose just because we gave them an extra golden egg? As long as the circle occupies Sun blossom city, the authorities will routinely get paid. Now, why would they give up on such a sweet deal just because you bribed them better once?

Do you understand how much capital we will require to bribe an entire city? Even if the whole Fine Gold was sold, we still could not satisfy the appetite of the Sun Blossom city authorities and families. The circle can afford it because they are an enormous

organization and have amassed an enormous amount of stolen wealth from the Sky blossom city during their tyranny here.

Even if you are willing to bribe them and they're greedy enough to take it. It is not certain that they are willing to double-cross the circle. They might turn on us after taking our money. In the end, bribing is not a solution to our problem." Diana explained the flaw in her plan to Jaya.

"I did not think of that!" Replied Jaya embarrassedly.

"That is because—" Cindy was about to mock Jaya again but was interrupted by me.

"I hope you only open your mouth when you guys have something related to the topic," I announced, eyeing Cindy. This woman has not added anything worth to the conversation. Honestly, I did not understand why Daina brought her along. I did hate Jaya, but now she is one of my subordinates and is trying to contribute. I preferred positive reinforcement rather than suppressing the voices of my staff, no matter how stupid they sounded.

"Yes, boss. And if I may," Cindy took my warning way too positively and asked permission to speak her mind.

"This is not a classroom. Just speak when you get the chance to." The Cindy I am seeing right now and the one that came to me to create Debra's origin card were two different people. The previous one barely showed any emotion, and this one was just too giddy. She was kind of getting on my nerves. I considered whether I should sow her with one of my calamity daughter gems. It would become so easy for me to monitor Diana with one of her trusted aides, a calamity daughter core.

"How about we coerce the authorities and families by kidnapping the people they cherish? I know this makes us no different than the circle, but this is better than the alternative." Cindy spoke her mind alright, but she was right. The alternative was an incident that would trigger a war between the two cities.

"That is too much work to pull off. It will get complex. Kidnapping people, monitoring their families, and watching our backs as we fight the circle... all this was too hectic, and there are chances of information leakage to the Circle." Cindy's plan involves too many steps, leaving a lot of room for risk. During this process, anything could go wrong. Not to mention the Circle would come to know who their enemy in the dark is.

"I agree with you, boss. It is indeed too hectic. But I think the circle is pretty much aware that somebody out there is out to get them." Cindy took my rejection positively again. It made me wonder if she was being serious when she gave me her idea to control the authorities and families of Sun Blossom city.

"Keep the enemy guessing. Do you understand what I am saying, Cindy?" I asked Cindy. After all, she appeared to have a good head on her shoulder. I think she understood what I was implying.

"Yes, Boss. As expected of you, you are wise." Cindy nodded and did not miss the chance to butter me.

"Explain it?" Said Jaya. She thought Cindy was nodding her head to impress their new boss despite not understanding a thing.

"What the boss is trying to say is, if the Circle doesn't know who they are facing, they won't know what to expect? If they don't know what to expect, they cannot prepare against their enemy in the dark prematurely. With no prior information on their enemy, they will have no option but to cover all their bases, spreading their workforce thin.

So basically, 'You can dodge an arrow but not an arrow with your name on it.' " Cindy flawlessly explained what I meant by the words, 'Keep your enemy guessing.' Changing my evaluation of her. A wise girl who acts stupid so that her boss doesn't feel threatened by her.

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[1,042 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:41

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

"Humph!" Jaya snorted at Cindy's explanation.

"Boss, I think Cindy is on to something. Coercion seems to be the only way to persuade the local authorities and families from butting in. I know that it is hectic and has a lot of risks, and may let the circle on to us, but this is the only way we can avoid confronting the elitists of the Sun Blossom city. I think you should consider it." Diana did not mind supporting Cindy's idea. This is her way of showing to Cindy that she did not consider Condor as a threat. And a good idea is a good idea no matter where or whom it came from.

"You are right, and Coercion does indeed seem to be the only feasible way for now. How about this, you make a list of all the important bureaucrats and top family leaders. We will only coerce the top of the cream and have them stop the rest of the Sun Blossom city forces from meddling in our decisive battle with Circle. Understood, any doubts?" Coercion may seem to be the only way for an average person, but. I am no average person. I am the proud slayer of dungeon calamity seed. I possess seed's keep ability to turn anybody into my mindless slave. I planned to turn the few vital essential people of the sun blossom city into my calamity daughter gem and use them to block the rest of the authorities and families from meddling with my forces as they tore the circle, Sun Blossom City branch, down brick by brick.

"Brilliant boss, why didn't I think of that?" Said Cindy.

"..." I was rendered speechless by her acting skills. She seemed to be under the wrong impression, so I made one thing clear to her by saying, "Cindy, you led me to that answer. You think. I am a fool not to see what you are doing? Cindy, you don't have to hide behind your acting skills. No matter how quick-witted and sharp you may be, you can never become a threat to me or make me feel threatened. So next time, drop the act and honestly say what's on your mind."

Cindy was the one who brought up kidnapping and coercion. She knew that to control the entire Sun Blossom city, we didn't require coercing every authority and family in the city. As long as we had the city's top dogs under our thumb, we could reign control over the entire city. Yet she took a minor loss to lead me to this conclusion. This woman was getting scarier every passing second.

"Thank you, Boss. I appreciate your heart-to-heart. But I prefer to be a guide and work in the shadows instead of taking the lead and facing the spotlight." Cindy announced that she preferred to be backstage rather than on the stage under the spotlight.

"Do as you see fit. And about the list, prepare it as soon as possible." Since Cindy preferred it, I did not push her and changed the topic to the main issue.

"We have the list right here, boss, but the issue is how do you plan to coerce them? Are you going to take Cindy's idea to kidnap the ones they cherish, or do you have something else in mind? " Diana had the list of top figures in the Sun Blossom city. After all, for Fine Gold to branch in the city, she had to know who could be a threat to her and keep tabs on them.

"About that, can you arrange a meeting with them?" As long as I could meet them in a secluded area, forget coercion, I could turn them into my bottom bitch.

"All of them?" Asked Diana

"Yes, if possible, it would be great. If not, arrange a meeting with the most influential one. With them on our side, we can have them arrange a group meeting with others."

My confidence to coerce the top dogs of Sun Blossom City puzzled Diana, Cindy, and Jaya. But I did not plan on solving their confusion. As long as they saw results, they would believe me.

"..." Diana did not know how to answer the confidence shown by her new boss. She did not understand where his confidence stemmed from. Was it the southern emperor? If yes, then the coercion plan may be successful.

"It doesn't have to be the most influential. Just arrange a meeting with any one of the top figures of Sun Blossom city. I will handle it from there." Seeing Diana not answer my request, I thought I was demanding too much and made my requests less demanding.

"No, no... I can arrange a meeting with a few of the top influential figures of Sun blossom city. When do you want me to set this meeting?" Diana hurriedly answered

"As early as possible. Since I have other pressing plans." I don't know when the dungeon relocation will be complete, but I hoped to conclude my job here before leaving for the Royal Palace.

"Yes, boss. I will inform you of the date when set. Hope everything goes according to your plan." Diana responded positively and hoped for the best.

"Play your part and give your best, and leave the rest to me. I will handle it." My victory against Circle was guaranteed. But what concerned me was the civilian casualties. Still, the causality could be minimized as long as every piece arranged by me played its parts to their best.

"Boss, Fine Gold can take care of the transportation of the troops. But, what about the security check at the airstrip. Local authorities are very strict with foreign companies. It will be hard to deceive their eyes." Diana once again brought up the part that was taken for granted. She took it upon herself to come up with a way, but the number of troops was too high; it would be almost impossible for all of them to hide from the inspection of the local city guards.

"Don't worry about that. The new friends we will be making will help us with that."

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Chapter 577 - Medical Card Association

[1,160 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 13:54

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

"Are the new documents for share transfer ready?" I asked Cindy as Diana had tasked her with it.

"Yes, boss. The documents have been prepared. Diana and Jaya have given their signature. All that remains is your signature." Cindy answered while Jaya shared the documents with my grimoire after signing it.

"Good, let's get done with it and get back to work." Asides from preparing a meeting for me with the top bosses of the Sun Blossom city, Fine Gold also had to make arrangements for the carrier floaters. This part was tricky since these carrier floaters had to hide a large number of card apprentices within their cargo. So this section required a lot of planning. I left this part for the trio to figure out. If I did all the job, then why did I hire them? But I will not forget to double-check their work at the end.

"Boss, Speaking of work. Rami Kaga, the current head of the blossom district medical card association, is in town." Diana suddenly informed.

"And who is this Rami Kaga? And what the heck is the Blossom District medical card association? Don't tell me it is an association for card apprentices with medical cards. And why am I hearing about him?" I could tell from Diana's hurried tone that the person in question was a prominent and influential figure. But couldn't figure out how he fits in our plan to destroy the Circle.

"Yes, boss, medical card association is indeed an association for card apprentices with medical cards.

Blossom District medical card association is an association for card apprentices with medical cards within the blossom district, which directly falls under the Southern region medical card association, spearheaded by the Central region medical card association.

Blossom District medical card association strongly influences all the hospitals and medical centers within the Blossom District. These guys monitor the pricing and conduct of medical cards and their card apprentices. Most of the medical-based cards are regulated by them.

So, by being the head of such an influential association, Rami Kaga is, by default, one of the most prominent and influential people in the blossom district." Diana explained what the hell a medical card association is and how influential Rami Kaga was.

According to Diana, during the period of the monster war, the royal families had made a separate decision for medical Card apprentices in their army. The royal family specifically trained these card apprentices to use medical cards with the most optimum efficiency in a short period to respond to the casualties on the frontline. This idea of the royal families was a big hit, and as an award for their merit, these Card apprentices were given the ownership of the medical cards they used during the monster war.

But that was a huge mistake. The monster war had left the world in shambles. The government had not been rejuvenated yet. Therefore there wasn't anyone looking out for ordinary people suffering from various diseases, illnesses, and injuries. At this weak moment in history, the military medics who were discharged from their duties found an opportunity, and some used their cards to help the people while others used the cards to amass wealth and satisfy their lust.

The Royal Families and the new government let them be because they had more pressing issues to tend to. Another mistake on the Royal Families and the new government's part. The medics who showed compassion were started to be targeted by the medics who followed their greed and lust. By the end, an uprising took place, and masses gathered seeking vengeance over the greedy medics who killed their last good medic and would not save the patient because they did not have enough money or a wife or daughter who were beautiful enough to join their harem. It took a riot for the Royal Families and the new government to notice cancer within the house and remove it. But by that time, the medic card association was set up. The cancer cells had swallowed all the good cells.

...

Blossom District is an area in the southern region, where all the Sky blossom city, Sun Blossom city, and other blossom cities are located. And all the medical facilities in Blossom District are monitored by the Blossom district medical card association. As the head of this association, Rami Kaga is a prominent figure in the southern region. But she was yet to get the part that explained why he mattered for our plan.

"Boss, Rami Kaga is a Sun Blossom City resident. Because of him, the Sun Blossom City is currently the top City in the Blossom district, with the most advanced cards in the medical field.

Since the Medical Card association regulates the medical cards, he chooses whom to sell the medical cards to, and most of the time, it is Sun Blossom city. I will not go further in detail as the muddy water there is too deep.

All I am trying to say is in Sun Blossom City, Rami Kaga's words are heaven's command. As long as you have him under your thumbs, we don't have to worry about any kind of opposition from Sun Blossom City as we invade it and destroy the Circle." It turns out Rami Kaga was the Godfather of the Sun Blossom City. It seems I will have to pay a visit to him.

"Great, Diana, you made my work easier. Now when do you plan to arrange a meeting with him?" I didn't plan on creating too many calamity daughter gems. Until now, I have only used calamity daughter gem to get information about papa and mama Wyatt's death or to protect myself, or because I liked their origin card.

So unless it was essential for my comfortable life, I never planned to use the calamity daughter gem. Because with every calamity daughter gem I create, I had one more extra secret to hide. In this world where literally anything could be made into a card, I did not know what could happen next. Who knows, one of my calamity daughter gems could get exposed. Nothing is set in stone.

Just take the Matron and the Paw clan, for example. I bet she would have never guessed that her shadow organization members, who have been operating in the shadows for decades, would be caught in one of Anna's weird field cards and expose almost all of her secrets about her origin card and the organization. I bet the Matron is still in doubt whether her secret has been revealed or not.

I did not want this to happen to me with regards to my calamity daughter gem. Unlike matron's secret, which was just a memory manipulation trick, my secrets are more than just a trick.. They are so big that they can start a world war.

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Chapter 578 - Rami Kaga

[1,028 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 14:05

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

"About that Boss, Rami Kaga is a very busy man. And won't meet with anyone unless it's of profit to him. Fine Gold has nothing of interest for him, so It will be tricky to get an appointment with him." Diana wasn't sure whether it was within her ability to meet with the man who reigned over the Blossom district Medical card association.

"Sister, announce that you are going to make a huge donation to the medical card association. It will catch Rami's attention and get you the meeting with him." Jaya spoke

from experience. Whenever she promised a huge donation, even the most arrogant of the bunch would bend over backward for her.

"Hahaha, boss, I really can't hold it. Please let me do it...." Cindy could not hold back her laughter hearing Jaya's words and begged me to lift the no-nonsense ban.

"*Sigh*... Well, go ahead. But have a little mercy on her, will you? After all, she is young and a little inexperienced." Considering Cindy's attitude thus far, I let her do as she pleases because she proved she was worth my investment.

"Don't worry, boss, I think this is already insulting enough for her." Said Cindy looking at Jaya, who was filled with fighting spirit, not understanding where she went wrong. Right now, she is the perfect example of ignorance is bliss. Cindy shook her and added, "Jaya, dear. What you proposed works only on people who are poorer than you. Blossom medical card association makes Fine Gold's gross profit in a week or less. What makes you think that we can flex our money to them? Aren't you being stupid to think that would work?" In the end, Cindy didn't not forget to use the opportunity to mock Jaya.

"Cindy, what the hell did I ever do to you? Why must you mock me constantly?" Jaya complained to Cindy with tears in her eyes.

"Wait, are you crying?" Cindy asked exaggeratedly.

"No..." Jaya denied in embarrassment.

"Then what are those tears in the corner of your eyes? Tears of pleasure? " Cindy asked rhetorically, seeing Jaya trying to cover the feelings she just let out.

"Yes, they are," Jaya responded in a fit of rage.

"You pervert! I am scolding you for being dumb, but you are crying in pleasure. You sicko! When did this new habit of yours develop?" Got to give it to Cindy. She knew how to humiliate someone step by step.

"...." Jaya glared at Cindy with puffed cheeks and teary red eyes. She seemed to be trying really hard not to break into tears or look for her sister for help.

"..." Diana was disgruntled seeing Cindy break her beloved sister mentally by humiliating Jaya in front of the only person who she wanted to be acknowledged by other than Diana, Dalton Wyatt.

"Alright, that's enough. Diana, there must be a way to get Rami Kaga's attention. Figure out what he likes? What is he after? Do what needs to be done. I want a meeting with him as fast as possible." I ordered Diana.

"Yes, boss. Gaining Rami Kaga's attention is will be easy as long as we have rare medical cards." Diana remembered that Rami Kaga likes to collect rare medical cards. An expensive hobby to have. After all, the medic cards were in a different league compared to the other cards. Medic cards can get thrice as expensive as the other cards of the same rank. Not to mention, medic cards are rarely seen in the open market.

"What are you getting at Diana? Speak " I don't understand what it is with Diana and Cindy. Even though they have an idea, they leave hints for me to pick up and credit it as my idea. Do they really take me for a boss who is so incompetent that I will feel threatened by my overachieving staff?

"The red Elixir that Guild master Van used to heal my arm, If I had a bunch of those cards, I bet I could gain Rami Kaga's attention in exchange for them." From Diana's answer earlier, when she said Rami Kaga liked to collect rare medic cards, I knew she was hinting at the Blood Elixir used by Van. She was being too obvious. So I forced Diana to tell the whole part herself.

"Sure, that's not a problem. The Blood elixirs were made by Guild master Van himself using his blood rule. He can make as many as he wants." As I spoke, Van took out a bunch of blood elixir cards of various ranks and handed them to Diana. The strength of the elixir varied based on the rank of the monster's blood used to make them.

"Blood rule? Congrats, guild master Van for forging your ego gem." Diana hurriedly congratulated Van for forging his ego gem.

"Congrats, guild master Van!" Cindy and Jaya congratulated Van together.

"Don't make forging an ego gem a big deal," I said, seeing the trio congratulate Van one after another.

"You would say that, after all, you are the youngest apprentice to forge an ego gem in Sky blossom city," Jaya, the ignorant calf, commented. Did she forget I am her boss? Whatever this tone of speech is more comfortable than Diana and Cindy's formal tone.

"No, that's not me. That's Corey Bright. She is the youngest card apprentice to forge an ego gem in sky blossom city." I did not know Corey's birthday, but she did forge her ego gem before me.

" what? Corey Bright? Are you sure?" Asked Jaya in surprise.

"How could you ask that, even after witnessing her use rule power in the tournament?" Asked Cindy.

"No, I know that Corey forged her ego gem. But I find it hard to believe that she forged it before our boss." Replied Jaya.

"Indirect flattery, Jaya, you have come a long way." Cindy couldn't help it. Jaya makes bullying easy.

"Well, Jaya has a weird origin card. Strange but a hell of stronger than any I have seen till now."

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Chapter 579 - Dinner Meet

[1,055 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 17:35

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

"Boss, Rami Kaga took the bait and invited us for dinner." Diana had forwarded the card info of Blood elixir to various auctions, private collectors, and brokers. Considering that blood elixir is a rune medical item card, it did not take long for the rumors about it to spread throughout the sky blossom city market. And it took three hours for the talks about blood elixir cards to reach the ear of the head of the Blossom District medical card association who is visiting the city.

"Good, but I was expecting a private meeting." I was happy that a meeting with Rami Kaga could be arranged at such short notice, but I wanted a private session to use the calamity daughter gem. So hearing that we were invited to a dinner, I couldn't help but frown because this meant there would be many witnesses.

"Sorry, boss. I tried, but it seems Rami Kaga's schedule is tightly booked. Or at least that's what his secretary said." This was the privilege of the people with authority. Rami Kaga wanted to buy our blood elixir cards, but we had to meet him at his convenience to sell our cards. Ain't this bullshit.

Not to mention that blood elixir cards are one of a kind with zero competition in the market as they are manufactured using the blood rule, meaning comprehended by Van. These cards were more than rare. They are unique. People would beg at our doors to

buy blood elixir cards, but we had to follow Rami Kaga's arrangement. This is the privilege that only comes with having authority.

"Fine, I will make do with it." I had no choice but to come up with other stealth ways to sow my calamity daughter gem in Rami Kaga. I would not get such a golden opportunity to plant a calamity daughter gem who could control the entire sun blossom city

"Boss, the Dinner meeting is at 19:30. If you tell me who will be attending the meeting with you, I can make appropriate arrangements." Diana asked.

"Just Guild master Van and you," I replied and then asked, " How are the plans for the carrier floaters coming?"

"I have assigned Cindy to that task as her origin card is a good fit for the task. She will contact you once she is done, boss." Diana responded as she made transportation arrangements for the dinner meeting in the evening.

...

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:30

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant

"Diana Keith, party of three," Diana announced to the front desk.

"This way, madam. Mr. Rami Kaga is expecting you at VIP box no.01. Please enjoy your stay here." The lady at the front desk guided us to Rami Kaga.

"Sir, Ms. Diana Keith and her plus two have arrived." The staff announced our arrival in the VIP box and let us in.

"Right on time, Ms. Diana. It seems you are as eager as me. Let's not waste on pointless chatter and get to the point of our meeting. I have another meeting in about 15 minutes." A silver-haired wrinkled Oldman in a suit greeted Diana. With his words, he made it clear that he was Rami Kaga. Surprisingly, he was alone in the spacious VIP box. As the head of the Blossom District Medical card association, I expected him to have a few bodyguards.

Thanks to the ability ' you see me, I see you ' of my calamity daughter gem, I was not deceived by what I saw. As soon as I entered the VIP box, I felt four extra pairs of eyes watching me since I could not turn into my Gigamite form to catch the voyeurs using the other half of the skill. I opened my soul pupils, and what I found made me realize that I could not go through the plan.

I found four peak Card Overlords, each hiding in the shadows of four corners of the VIP box, monitoring Diana, Van, and me. They weren't the problem. The problem was as I swept my gaze through the VIP box for anything else unexpected, I learned that Rami Kaga himself was a Card Overlord. Yes, the silver-haired crusty old bastard was a card overlord. Fock! Diana, why did you not tell me that this old Mitch is a card overlord. I can't blame her because she thought I would coerce him. How could she know that I was planning to use my calamity daughter gem?

The only limitation of the calamity daughter gem is that it cannot be used on someone in a higher realm than my grimoire grade. Currently, I had a golden grade grimoire which meant that I could only use calamity daughter gem on card apprentice in or below Card Lord realm. Which meant I could not use calamity daughter gem to control Rami Kaga, who is in the Card Overlord realm.

I guess I have no choice but to improvise now. I mean, the man loves to collect medical cards and is the head of the blossom district medical card association, so I bet a man in his position would be thrilled to have a card apprentice like Van who can create Blood Elixir on a wimp. Now that everything has come down to this, I had no choice but to use Van and his blood rule meaning, blood elixir, to negotiate with Rami Kaga.

"Sure, Mr. Rami. But let me first introduce you to the creator of the Blood elixir card, guild master Van. And the owner of the card boutique that holds the rights to Blood elixir cards, Golden grade Card creationist, Dalton Wyatt." Diana introduced Van and me to Rami Kaga.

"Hahaha, that kid is a golden grade card creationist? Ms. Diana, you are funny." Rami Kaga laughed, pointing at me. Clearly, this man was drunk on pride and arrogance that came with his authority.

"..." In response to Rami Kaga's laughter, I summoned my golden grade grimoire.

"Wait, you are not joking." Said Rami to Diana, witnessing me summon a golden grade grimoire. And later, turning to me, he added, " Aren't you too young to be a golden grade card creationist?"

"Yes, Yes I am."

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Chapter 580 - I Dare You

[1,020 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant, VIP box no.01

"Haha, kid, I like you. Which family do you belong to? Wyatt family? Never heard of it. Are you from another city?" I did not expect the power-drunk Rami to take a liking to me. But I guess he says the exact words to every young genius he meets. Considering that the Blossom district is a third-rate district in the southern region, this doesn't happen a lot.

"No, I am an orphan. Born and raised in Sky Blossom City." I answered him as I sat on the couch across from him. Meanwhile, Van and Diana stood behind me. Making it clear who is in charge of the three of us. This was necessary as, considering my young age, people tend to underestimate my role.

"Now, I like you even more. You run a card boutique. Boy, tell me, how does an orphan of your age own a card boutique which happens to be the parent of a guild and a company?" Rami asked, gazing into my eyes.

"And here I thought you were eager to complete the exchange and send us packing." I pointed out that it was Rami who asked us to spare the useless chatter.

"Hahaha, Boy, you got guts, or have you grown ignorant because of your small success. One call, and I can close your tiny card boutique." The sudden change in Rami's speech did not surprise me. Like all arrogant pricks, Rami was the type who wanted to make it clear that he was the alpha dog in the room.

"Oh, really. I dare you to do it." Hearing my provocation Diana who was standing behind me, gasped in fright. Because she knew that Rami did indeed have the connections to make his claims happen. But my words did not surprise her. After all, we are here to coerce him, not make friends.

"Hahaha, it has been quite a while since I have been challenged." Though Rami laughed, his eyes remained fierce as she said these words.

"Really? I think you are the wolf who spent too much time surrounded by sheep and forgot what it is to be in the company of a tiger." It felt good taunting a card overlord. Not to mention one who held a lot of authority in Blossom District.

"..." Rami did not respond to my taunt. He closed his eyes as if meditating. I used my soul pupils to check, and it turns out he wasn't meditating instead waiting for his bodyguard to finish the call he threatened me with.

The atmosphere in the VIP room had grown tense, especially for Diana, who did not know what was happening. As for Van, unlike Diana, he had complete trust in me, and he kept his guard up in case of something unforeseen.

After a minutes, the bodyguard who made the call stepped out of the shadow. Surprising Diana and Van. But he showed no malicious intent. Instead, he whispered the information he found in Rami's ears.

"You are the fraud who is in the news these days and have the protection of the southern emperor. No wonder you dare to be cocky in front of me." Rami spoke after hearing the information collected by his lackey.

"Cocky? Hey, you are the one who said who can shut down my small card boutique with a phone call. I am still waiting." When it comes to the background, I had a stronger one than Rami Kaga. However, it was a bit lacking in terms of actual authority.

"Humph! I think we are done here." Saying that, Rami stood up to head outside. No matter how arrogant he was, Rami knew he could not touch something protected by the southern Emperor who dared to massacre her step-sister and step-sister's entire family.

Once I knew that I could not use my calamity daughter gem on Rami, I planned to leverage Van and his blood elixir cards to the Blossom District card association in exchange for Rami's cooperation with my plans to destroy the circle in sun blossom city. But seeing how arrogant and prideful Rami was, I knew that there was no way to negotiate with this man as he was the type who snatched what he desired from the weak and gave the strong what they asked.

Rami Kaga was too drunk on his authority as the head of the Blossom District medical card association therefore, he wouldn't consider negotiating with people in a lower position than him. If I had to get him to accept my terms, I had to show him that I was not afraid of him or his job. But who knew that me being involved with the southern emperor would scare him off.

"Grandpa, I am here." A silver-haired teenage boy entered the VIP box just as Rami headed towards the exit. Seeing his grandpa heading out, he asked, "Grandpa, you are leaving already."

"Yes, an urgent work just came up. We have to head home early." Replied Rami. His tone softened as he addressed his grandson.

"But grandpa, my work here isn't done yet. The card boutique I visited was closed. It seems I will have to revisit it tomorrow. How about this, why don't you head home first? I will return once I am done here." The boy argued.

"Boy, your mother will kill me if I left you alone in this third-rate city by yourself. Don't argue, and let's head home." Rami's voice turned stern.

"No, I will stay. I will only leave after visiting the card boutique." The silver-haired teenager was adamant and did not budge to his grandpa's persuasion.

"Boy, don't make me call your mom." Rami knew how to intimidate others, but when it came to his blood, he did not know what to do. And directly reached for the big guns.

"Go ahead. That way, I can tell on you too. You promised mom that you would play with me for two days. But it hasn't been a day, and you are already bailing out."

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Chapter 581 - World Regression

[1,039 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant, VIP box no.01

"Boy, why are you standing in a daze?" In the middle of their argument, Rami's grandson stood in a trance as if he had seen the love of his life.

"..." The silver-haired boy did not respond, which alerted Rami.

"Boy, what are you looking at?" Rami followed his grandson's line of sight to check what got him riled up. Rami did not like what he saw and yelled, "You, what the heck have you done to my grandson. Stay out of his sight."

"Grandpa! Don't talk to my boss like that." The silver-haired boy woke up from his trance, hearing his grandpa yell at his idol.

"What the? Boy, did you yell at me?" Rami was very close to his daughter and her only child. Being called names or yelled at by them was not new to him, nor did he mind. It made him feel closer to them. After all, they were the only people left in the world for whom he would give up his life if needed. But he kept this side of him in the downlow outside the house, fearing his enemies would take advantage of it.

"What the.....

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant, VIP box no.01

"Haha, kid, I like you. Which family do you belong to? Wyatt family? Never heard of it. Are you from another city?"

"... Fuck?!" I yelled, seeing the grandpa and grandson duo drag me in their weird argument. But something was not right. I clearly remember Rami at the door arguing with his grandson, but right now, Rami was sitting on the couch while his grandson was nowhere to be seen and I was at the entrance of the VIP box with Van and Diana.

"Kid, did you just cuss at me?" Rami's eyes turned fierce as he spoke those words.

'What the hell is going on in here?' Right now, I am super confused. Unable to comprehend what was transpiring. It felt like... no, not Deja Vu... this is obviously time regression. I went back in time.

No, I did not go back in time. This world went back ten minutes in time. Why, though? Why did the world go back in time? And why was I spared?

'Hive AI, what is current time? What was the time two minutes ago?'

[Current time 19: 36

Time 2 minutes ago 19: 45]

[Warning! Unusual time disturbance detected....]

[Note! The Host's Physical body, Calamity soul gem shell, and broken runes have regressed by 10 minutes.]

'What about my soul?'

[Host's soul and related skills were unaffected by the time disturbance.]

"Kid, have you grown cocky because of your small success? Do you know who you are speaking to?" Rami was fuming, being cussed straight to the face by a boy wet behind his ears, who seems to have grown ignorant because he made small achievements at a young age.

"..." Diana was sweating bullets right now. Earlier, when her boss told her that he was going to coerce Rami Kage, she did not think he would directly open fire without any foreplay.

"Fock! I know exactly who you are. You are the wolf who spent too much time surrounded by sheep and forgot what it is to be in the company of a tiger." Repeating my words was not my style, but this one did manage to enrage Rami earlier.

I wanted to figure out why the world went back in time and why I was the only one unaffected? But right now, I was in a wolf's den, and unknowingly, I had pissed the wolf off. Before it came for my jugular, I had to subdue it. Therefore, I gave priority to my circumstances over my curiosity. And decided to handle Rami and then worry why the world regressed for 10 mins.

"If your little achievements have gotten to your head, let me tell you all of it can go away with a single call." Despite being strongest in the room, Rami did not suppress the ignorant calf which dared to taunt him with his realm, as he loved to crumble the world of those that dared to cross him and watch them wallow in regret as they begged him for mercy.

"Oh, really. Then, why don't we make a wager? You can achieve what you claim. I will give you 10 A-rank blood elixir cards. If you fail, then you will promise me one thing. I dare you to make it official by signing a soul contract." I don't expect Rami to agree to the wager, but it was worth a try. After all, he seemed to be very humiliated right now and the type who would not stop at anything to regain back his pride.

"10 A-rank blood elixir cards? Don't underestimate my promise. Make it a 100, and we have a deal." Rami, though angry, did not lose his sense of reasoning. But he did not want to directly refuse the boy's wager because that would be humiliating since backing out would be seen as him chickening out. Therefore, he came up with unreasonable stacks to accept the wager believing that the boy would back off, fearing the high stacks.

"Okay. Diana, prepare the soul contract as per the agreed terms." I could not help but laugh as I thought how Rami was digging his own grave. Since I have agreed to his unreasonable stacks for the wager, if he backs out now, he would look like a chicken.

"Sure, boss." Diana knew time was of the essence. She hurriedly prepared a soul contract, took my blood print, and headed towards Rami for his blood print.

"..." Rami glared at the boy in front of him. By now, if he did not understand, he had messed up, then his years of experience would be considered a waste. But still, he chose to sign the soul contract because he had decided that he would use all the favors in his pocket to destroy the boy in front of him no matter which family in the Blossom district he belonged to.

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[1,026 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:39

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant, VIP box no.01

"I am waiting!" I yelled while Rami closed his eyes and his bodyguard, hiding in the shadows, made the call.

A few minutes later, Rami's bodyguard walked out of the shadow and whispered the information he received, trying to have my Card boutique closed. Hearing the news, Rami's face paled, and his lustrous silver hair lost its glow as if it would wither any moment now.

"Your status as fraud is not for show. You managed to defraud me." Rami finally said a few words, and his tone made it sound like he was being wronged.

"Defraud? Correction, I outwitted you. Old fossil, don't make it sound like I am the villain. That's what you get for looking down on people, especially young people. Got it?" Last time I did not use this trick because I did not know where Rami's limit was, plus, I did not know how he would react. Therefore, I played it safe. But now I know that he did not have the balls to cross Anna. So, with all my worries taken care of, I went for a home run. And boy, it was so worth it and satisfying.

"Boy, don't get cocky. If not for the southern emperor behind you, this would be a different story." Rami gritted his teeth as he fiercely glared at me.

"Ha!" I snickered at Rami. Knowing he was only a tyrant to those weaker than him and a mule to those stronger than him. Having taunted him enough, I said, "Rami, be a good boy, and I will not use my winnings to make you do something you'd regret."

Give your personal grimoire QR to Diana. And pick up when she calls. So that I can cash on the promise I just won when I need to."

"Fine!" Rami summoned his gold grimoire and let Diana scan its QR code.

"I assume you are still stuck in the Card Overlord realm because of your grimoire grade," I commented, seeing Rami's golden grimoire.

"Well, aren't you a genius?" Responded Rami Sarcastically.

"See, Rami, I was planning on helping you get a platinum grimoire. But now I am not so sure." I did plan to get Rami a platinum grimoire, of course, for a price. Seeing him be a naughty boy, I decided to discuss it later after him being disciplined.

"Boy, don't kid yourself. Do you even know how hard it is to get a platinum grimoire? Even with my connections, I could not get my hands on one. And you want me to believe you can get me a platinum grimoire. Like I would fall for your fraud again." Rami did not believe that I had the ability to get him a platinum grimoire and scoffed at the very notion of that.

"What if my connection happened to be the freaking Southern Emperor, you old relic." It seems it will take me a while to help Rami understand that I hold his reins now.

The soul contracted stated that if I won the wager, Rami Kaga would promise me one thing. There were no clauses in the contract stating what I could and could not ask Rami to promise me. Enraged and muddled by his hurt pride, old Rami forgot to add these clauses. I bet he thought he would win, so he did not bother with such clauses. Well, whichever it is, right now, I could ask Rami to go naked around the world in 72 days or ask him to kill those who are beloved to him or cut off his manhood. There were numerous things I could ask him to promise me to make his life miserable. The faster he gets it, the better for him and me, as I didn't want to waste the leverage to make a point.

"..." Hearing my words, Rami pondered but then shook his head and said, " what will it cost me?"

As Rami thought about it, he felt that considering that the Southern emperor is willing to take this kid under her protection, he may be able to get her to give him a few platinum grimoires. Therefore he suppressed his pride and arrogance, kicked them out of his thoughts, and decided to wag his tail.

"Let's start with obedience. Complete and absolute obedience. Then, depending on your behavior, I will reconsider whether or not to help you upgrade your grimoire." I made this demand because I knew I had him.

"Okay, but I need confirmation that you can get a platinum grimoire from the Southern Emperor. I don't plan on falling for one of your frauds again. Fool Me Once, Shame on

You. Fool Me Twice, Shame on Me." Rami was willing to let go of his pride and arrogance but the shame of being defrauded he couldn't let that go or let that repeat again, so he asked for assurance.

"How about I get a platinum grimoire? Is that confirmation enough for you?" I did not want to ask anything from Anna, but I could ask Luna for a platinum grimoire in exchange for a few broken runes she promised me as payment for the magemorpher cards she asked me to make.

"Yes, that would be enough." Rami nodded and decided to believe me for now from the confidence he felt in my words.

"Grandpa, I am here." A Silver-haired teenager barged into the VIP box. Who dares to barge into the head of the Blossom District medical card association's VIP box, none other than his grandson.

"Boy, how many times have I warned you to knock before you enter a room? I am in a meeting now. Come back after 15 mins." Rami had learned his lesson and could not afford to be haughty anymore, so this time he did not dare to ignore our existence and get into an argument with his grandson like he did previously.

"Okay, grandpa....." Just as the silver-haired boy was about to excuse himself, he stopped and stood in a daze as if he had seen his first love.

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

Chapter 583 - Kane Kaga

[1,026 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant, VIP box no.01

"Master Dalton Wyatt, I am Kane Kaga. Your biggest fan. I have been your fan ever since I saw the viral video of your fight against the local high school gang Bright Loins. I admire the way you stood up to your bullies. Your story is an inspiration to all children around the world." Snapping out of the daze, the silver-haired boy introduced himself rather than excusing himself as instructed by his grandfather.

"Kane, have you gone crazy? Did you just ignore my words? I won't myself, get out this instant." Rami yelled at his grandson, seeing how he ignored his direct orders in front of his company. After all, he had to keep up the facade.

"Oldman, don't be so hard on your grandson. It's always good to meet a fan. Though I think I didn't do anything an average person wouldn't do." I signaled Rami to be quiet and added a few humble words for my fan. Handling fans was something that I picked up in my previous life. Good to me that it is coming in handy in this life too.

"Master Dalton Wyatt, you are being humble. You took on a gang of bullies by yourself. It's not something an average person would do. Not to mention, you called my grandfather Oldman to his face. Even his enemies don't dare to call him that to his face. This is not something a normal person can achieve." As my fan, Kane swallowed up my humble act without a shred of doubt. While his grandfather was fuming seeing him fall for it. But the kid was sharp. He noticed that he noted his grandpa's reaction when I called Rami, an old man.

"Don't be so formal. We both are of the same age. Just call me Wyatt." Why was I being good to the kid? Obviously because of Rami. He seems to care a lot about this kid. His eyes tell everything. When he saw his grandson enter the VIP box, I noticed Rami's fierce eyes soften and then turn fierce again. I noticed a grandfather being strict with his grandson because he loved him too much.

"Yes, Master Wyatt. I visited your card boutique, but it was closed. I am glad that I get to meet you here." Susan is out with Corey on a dungeon raid, and I am here at a meeting with Rami, so I had to close the warehouse early.

"Since we have met here, tell me your purpose for visiting my card boutique." I entertained Kane seeing how much it bothered Rami that his grandson idolized me but not him.

I was impressed by how Kane avoided talking about the rumors of me being a fraud and focused on my fight with Bright Lions despite my other fights in the tournament. Through this, I noted that he fixated on the bullies because he himself was being bullied and couldn't stand up to them. Therefore he idolized someone who not only stood up to his bullies but publicly exacted his vengeance.

"I visited your card boutique to meet you in person and have you create my origin card," Kane replied.

"Since you have already met me, come by the card boutique tomorrow morning. I will help you with your origin card creation. Let me tell you beforehand my services are not cheap." I never offer my expertise for free.

"Really! That would be great. Don't worry about the fee. My grandpa is loaded." Kane responded giddily as not only did he get to meet his idol but get his origin card created by his idol.

"Not happening, Kane. For your birthday present, your mother and I have already booked an appointment for your origin card creation with a platinum grade card creationist in the southern academic region. It cost me a fortune. It was supposed to be a surprise." Said Rami. He had no choice but to ruin the surprise his daughter had planned for his grandson.

With Rami's words, the room went into an awkward silence. I took it as my cue to leave, " Kane, my offer still stands. Whatever you decide on, I am fine with it. For now, I will leave you two to discuss it."

"Thank you, Master Wyatt, for understanding." Rami's way of addressing me has progressed a lot. It seems he has decided to hide his fangs for now. Let's discuss with him about the circle and sun blossom city later when I have a platinum grimoire.

"And Rami, remember to pick up Diana's call and don't make me find you." Warning Rami, I headed out with Van and Diana. While Kane was lost in his thoughts, pondering his dilemma.

Since the soul contract with Rami was hurried, there was a loophole. Before I ask Rami my promise, he could skip town on me, and I could do nothing. He could hide from me for the rest of his life because as long as I could not find or reach him, I couldn't ask him the promise I had won from him. To avoid all this trouble, I could just ask him to promise me to become my slave or follow all my orders without malice, etc.

But these kinds of conditions in a soul contract were considered serious crimes by the government and the four royal families. Rami was fully aware of this law. Therefore with his four bodyguards as witnesses, he had all reasons to be cocky earlier, even though I won the wager. But this did not stop me from using the promise to have him do something that would torment him for the rest of his life. I made that clear to him, but he was willing to force me into doing so because he believed his bodyguards would stop him in time if necessary. Seeing that Rami was not afraid of the stick, I threw him a carrot, the platinum grimoire. Which appears to have had the desired effect on his attitude towards me that only time could confirm.

Speaking of time...

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[1,005 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:48

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant

"Diana, book a private box for us. I need a quiet place to think." About the world's time regression, I had too many thoughts that I had to organize right away, and it couldn't wait till we reached the warehouse.

"Yes, boss." Replied Diana, and turning to the nearby staff, she handed her privilege membership card and asked, "lead us to the most expensive box available."

"Madam, VIP box no. 11 is available. Please follow me." The staff led us to the VIP box. And entering the box, she added, "Will you like to order now, or shall I come back a few minutes later?"

"Boss..." Diana turned to her boss only to see him occupy the main couch and lost in deep contemplation. Knowing that her boss would not like to be disturbed, she turned to the staff and said, "We will call you when we are ready to order."

After the events in VIP box no.01, Diana had gained a lot of respect for her boss. She thought he was going to use the southern emperor's name to coerce the head of the Blossom branch medical card association. But what transpired in the VIP box was out of her expectation and blew her mind. The turn of events may seem self-explanatory and straightforward, but she knew they could not be achieved without the bearing and self-confidence displayed by her boss. She doesn't know about anybody else, but she, herself, could not have achieved such an outcome so flawlessly.

"Yes, ma'am." The staff nodded and exited the VIP box. While Diana joined Van and stood in guard. Ready to be of service to her boss when he requires it.

...

[The Host's Physical body, Calamity soul gem shell, and broken runes have regressed by 10 minutes. While the host's soul and related skills were unaffected by the time disturbance.]

According to Hive AI, even I underwent time regression along with the rest of the world. But my time regression was limited to the physical aspects, and my soul and things related to it were unaffected by time regression.

No, regression is not the correct word for what the world experienced. Regression means going back in time while remembering the original timeline. But, except for me, nobody else seems to realize that the whole world has gone ten minutes back in time.

I could talk to Diana and Van about this, but I was too afraid that the being that was behind the time disturbance earlier would take notice of me if I spoke about it. It was brought to my notice that if a person speaks a demigod's original name, the demigod in question will become aware of them. Therefore demigods are given titles and addressed as such. So, if a being is powerful enough to turn the time back 10 minutes for the whole world, I guess the said being would be sentient enough to give some merit to my fear of it realizing when I speak out about the time disturbance.

Since I was too cautious about talking about it aloud, I asked Van about it through Hive AI, but he had no idea about the time disturbance. It made it clear that nobody other than me even noticed the time disturbance.

"Hive AI, show me last, 30 minutes data for all the calamity daughter gems and check for any possible time disturbance in data." Hive AI followed my commands and showed me the data I asked for. Neither Hive AI nor I could find any anomaly in the data as we did in mine. That's when I realized that save Hive AI we're not part of my soul but an arrangement of the soul pathways of the calamity parent gem that connected it to the calamity daughter gem. Making slave Hive AI's vulnerable under the effect of the time disturbance, just like the rest of the world.

'Rewind' yes, this was the word I was looking for. The world rewinded. Even my physical body rewinded with it, but my soul was spared. There has to be a reason for this. What makes my soul special? It was not from this world. I was a transmigrator. This was the only reason I could think of why my soul was unaffected. The only way to confirm if my assumption was correct is to ask about it indirectly to another soul that isn't from this world.

Who do I know has a soul that doesn't belong to this world? The list was too short as the otherworldly club only had two members, for now, Corey and I. It seems I will have to find Corey right away. So, I summoned my grimoire to call Corey and ask her to come here asap.

"Call, Identity Loon"

[The person you're calling is out of reach.]

It seems Corey is still in the dungeon with Susan. But I didn't want to wait, so I contacted Nick Bright, one of my calamity daughter gems, to find out Corey's whereabouts. Knowing Corey, she must have taken Susan to one of the Bright family dungeons, so the Bright family should know their whereabouts.

'Hive AI, connect me to Nick Bright.'

[Connecting to Nick Bright...]

[Hello Master Wyatt, how may I be of service to you.]

"Find which Bright family dungeon Corey took Susan to. I want to meet her asap."

[Right Away Boss]

I patiently waited for Nick as he dug through the Bright family records for the information I needed and noticed that Van and Daina were still standing. As my calamity daughter gem, it was normal for Van to behave like this, but I was surprised to see Diana do the same. If she is trying to earn some good points in my book, then she did it alright.

Since I was too cautious about talking about the time disturbance that transpired earlier, I decided to ask about time-related cards in general to Diana.

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Chapter 585 - Time Related Cards

[1,016 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 19:57

Location- Sky Blossom City, Privilege Restaurant

"Diana, have you ever heard of time-related cards?"

"Time-related cards? Do you mean like the set of cards used by the prophets that helps them predict the future?" Diana replied with the first thing that came to her mind hearing the Time-related cards.

"Yes, but that's not what I am looking for," I remember principal Andrea saying that the city's prophet predicted that I would be attending the school tournament.

"I guess, then the weather forecast card is also not what you are looking for. Come to think of it, I heard rumors that the leader of the circle had a card that could allow him to see a few seconds into the future. Is that what you are looking for, boss?" Diana thought hard and answered again. A card that allows the user to see a few seconds into the future, Pax Whiteburn, was also bestowed with a similar skill by his demigod ancestor.

But that was not what I was looking for. I guess Diana does not understand that when I say time-related cards, I mean cards that can manipulate time, not cards that can forecast. So I made that clear to her, "Diana, by time-related cards, I mean cards that give their users the ability to manipulate time itself."

"Oh! I see. I have never heard of such a card. Is that even possible? But I have a card that removes the cooldown period of active cards." Diana could not believe that there were cards that could manipulate time itself. But remembering her trump card, which she uses to remove the cooldown period of her origin card, she thought time manipulating cards might exist.

Diana has never left the southern region. She was hardly the person I should approach for council on various cards in this world. So, I searched for answers in Clown Mask's memory. Even in the alternate timeline, she never came across a card apprentice with time manipulation cards. But considering that Clown Mask had the physique that showed Clown Mask her entire future, time-related cards exist.

The existence of time-related cards was not a question, to begin with. But the card apprentice with time-related cards. There are too few of them, and they are well hidden. And I wanted to know who was behind the world rewind earlier and if they were an ally or a foe of mine and humanity in general.

[Master! Corey took Manager Susan to the F-rank Horned Hare Heaven's gate dungeon. I will send you the location. I will be waiting there to get you the Bright family guards' clearance to enter the dungeon.]

'Good, I will be right there.' Nick suddenly contacted me through Hive AI and shared the dungeon location where Corey took Susan for a dungeon ride.

"Diana, how far are you from forging your ego gem?" Seeing Diana's sincerity, I decided that it was time I gave her a carrot.

"I have found my ethereal spirit, but the soul energy refining is a bit lacking. Recently, I haven't found enough time to refine my soul energy managing the company." Diana replied honestly.

"Then make time. Come by to the warehouse tomorrow for silver milk powder. With that, you should be able to forge your ego gem in the next three months. For now, get back to your work. And have your people keep an eye on Rami. If he tries to skip town on me, I should know asap." Diana's progress in forging her ego gem was more than I expected. I thought, her being an upstart with no background, she would not know the procedure to forge an ego gem, but it seems she is more capable than I give her credit for.

"Yes, boss, I follow your arrangement. And rest assured, if Rami tries to skip town, you will be the first to know." Diana nodded in agreement with me.

"Good. Van, you head back to the guild and see to it that the guild members are mentally for the upcoming war. You too, Diana. Even though Fine Gold Guards are reinforcement, I want them both mentally and physically prepared for war. I will take my leave now." I exited the VIP box and walked out of the restaurant. Summoning my nanomorpher, I headed to the F-rank Horned Hare Heaven gate dungeon.

According to the map, the D-rank silver beach gate dungeon was on route to the F-rank Horned Hare Heaven gate dungeon, so I decided to make a stop there and meet up with Luna to talk about the platinum grimoire and time manipulation cards.

...

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 20:16

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"This is a restricted area. Unless you are authorized to be here, please leave the place immediately." A middle-aged soldier blocked my path as I tried to get near the route to the D-rank Silver Beach gate dungeon.

"I think I am authorized to be here, soldier. Let me pass through." I used my soul pupils on the soldier and found that he was in the Card King realm. And to my surprise, I found another ten card kings hidden in the darkness of the night, watching my every move.

"You think? Hey buddy, let me tell you this is not a place to create trouble. Unless you want to be charged with trespassing, please take a turn and go away." The Soldier's voice turned cold fast, and he started to leak an intimidating aura.

"Anna, how long are you going to keep watching? Isn't it about time for you to come and stop your soldiers from making fools of themselves?" I said, gazing into the dark sky. When I was exploring my surroundings, I found Anna hidden in the night sky watching the show.

"Those beautiful eyes of yours, how many secrets are they hiding?" Said Anna as she flew out of hiding and landed next to me. Seeing that their commander was acquainted with me, the soldiers returned to their post.

...

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

Chapter 586 - Engagement Ring

[1,005 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 20:24

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"When did you turn into a poet? Anyway, I am here to meet Luna. To ask for an advance payment ." I made my purpose of the visit clear.

"I hope one day you will trust me enough to confide in me," Anna noted that I was trying to change the subject from the secrets hidden in my eyes to the purpose of my visit.

"Is Luna busy?" I chose to avoid Anna's words by acting as if I did not hear them.

"Yes, she is. She will continue to be for the foreseeable future. So, you should leave now." Anna was worried that if she took her crush to meet Luna, he would meet Ann, who is helping Luna set up the dungeon relocation apparatus.

"What?" I was confused. Anna never asked me to leave. She would cling to me unless I took the initiative to leave. Was she angry because I was dodging her questions?

"Luna is busy. She can't meet you now. Since you have no work here, you should leave." Anna repeated herself.

"You don't have to be rude. I need to access the silver beach dungeon to create some silver milk powder for myself." I did not plan to enter the dungeon right now. Since I am here, I decided to make an appointment for later.

"The dungeon is not open for use due to the dungeon relocation. Just leave already." Anna lied as visiting the dungeon meant exposing her crush to Ann.

"Geez, what crawled up your butt?" I don't know why Anna was acting like this today,

"I don't know, why don't you check and tell me" Anna's eyes twinkled with a naughty glint while her teeth bit in her lower lips as she added, "I love it when you talk dirty to me."

"What did you go through in your childhood to turn out so messed up?" I couldn't help but look at Anna with pity.

"Let's share a beer and talk about it on my bed." Offered Anna.

"Fine, I will leave. But can you share Luna's contact with me?" Fearing another session of molestation with Anna. I finally caved and asked for Luna's contact info.

"I lost her contact info." Said Anna, recently she had a feeling that Luna was scheming something against her. Therefore she did not want her crush to get close to her cousin.

"Whatever, I will leave now" I knew Anna was lying, but I did not call her out on her lie as I knew it would result in another meaningless argument. I guess I will revisit on my return after I have met Corey at the F-Rank Horned Hare Heaven Gate dungeon.

"Wait, wear this." Anna summoned her diamond grimoire, activating a card she handed me an expensive-looking ring.

"What is this?" I asked, looking at the ring Anna was handing to me. I did not reach for it.

"It is an engagement ring. It was passed down for generations in my family. My grandmother gave it to me to give to my soulmate." Anna explained the purpose of the ring.

"Hell no," Climbing back on my Nanomorpher, I decided to make a run for it. This crazy woman, soulmate? Who the Fock believes in that crap these days?

"What the?" No matter how much I raised the accelerator, the nanomorpher didn't move an inch. I turned to find Anna holding down the nanomorpher with one arm.

"Anna, this is not funny anymore. Let me go." I had no option but to beg Anna to let me go.

"Are you telling me my honest feelings are just a means of fun for you?" Anna asked with her deadpan eyes.

"Anna let go, I beg you." I desperately pleaded with Anna.

"Shut up. I was kidding." Yelled Anna, her eyes continued to remain blank.

"Really?" I asked, ignoring Anna's dreadfully blank eyes.

"Yes. But your response was hurtful." Replied Anna as her grip on the nanomorpher grew stronger until she crushed its tail light with her bare hands.

"About that. Don't take it personally. I am still young and have a lot to do and achieve. I am not just ready to settle just yet." I spewed all the bullshit I could remember from my breakup in my past life.

"Whatever, my mother thinks that the card emperors that tried to assassinate you will not stop and may try to kill using a curse. Therefore grandmother sent me this SSS-rank Mythical grade item card called Dummy Ring. This ring can withstand three demigod realm curses in place of its wearer and is immune to other low-rank curses. Since you are not eligible to equip this card, I have equipped it in your stead. Do you want this or not?" Anna lied. She was not kidding when she said that this ring was given to her by her grandmother to give to her soulmate. Seeing her crush's overreaction, she decided to lie and explained the use of the ring instead. After all, the intended purpose of giving this ring to him was to protect him from harmful curses.

"Do you mind if I ask to see the card info?" I trusted Anna. But not entirely, and her crazy prank earlier about the engagement ring has raised my guard against her.

"Yes, I mind. But to ease your mind, I will let you read the card info," saying that Anna handed me her diamond grimoire to read the SSS-rank mythical grade card info.

[Card Name: Dummy Ring

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: SSS-Rank, Mythical Grade

Card Rate: 12-stars

Card Durability: [98/100]

Card Effect: Dummy ring will act as a replacement to withstand three SSS-rank curses.

Additional Effect: SS-rank Curse immunity]

SS-Rank Curse immunity- The wearer of the Dummy Ring is immune to all SS-rank and below curses.

"Sorry, I doubted you.." Saying that, I handed Anna her grimoire, taking the ring from her, I wore it.

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

Chapter 587 - Tag Along

[1,018 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 20:31

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"I thought using a curse card on a person requires the personal effects of the victim. For example, hair, blood, nails, sweaty cloth, etc." I knew curse cards were a thing, but I was not worried about them because long-distance and high-level curses needed the victim's DNA to work. As for low-level and close-ranged curses, they were more of a debuff than a curse.

"If they can send 30 card emperors to kill you, then they can send somebody to go through your trash to collect whatever is required to curse you. If you think you don't require the ring, feel free to return it. I don't want one of my item card slots to be occupied for your ungrateful ass." Be it a golden grade grimoire or diamond grade grimoire, they both have six-item card slots. The fact that Anna was willing to temporarily sacrifice one of those precious slots for me meant a lot, and I was moved. Therefore, I decided to look over her rudeness earlier.

Giving me a ring was a strategic move on Anna's mother's part as she needed me alive for the Heatsend Royal family to flourish. I was the creator of silver milk powder, its patent owner, and the soul contract between Anna and me. If the patent weren't in my name but the Heatsend Royal family's name, Anna's mother herself would be the first to try and have me erased from the face of this world. If I died, the patent would belong to the Duskborn family or the government. Either way, the Heatsend Royal family would be in trouble. Seeing how the ring was given to me to protect their family's interest, I felt safe but not grateful.

"No, I will be keeping it. Thank you for the ring, and I will leave now." I appreciate that Anna went out of her way and volunteered to sacrifice her item card slot temporarily for me when she could have any other card emperor to do it. And this card emperor would be Anna's Mother's spy to keep tabs on me.

"Okay, where are we headed?". Asked Anna as she sat on the back seat of the nanomorpher.

.

"F-rank Horned Hare Heaven gate dungeon... wait! I did not know you would be tagging along." I am bewildered. One moment she asks me to leave, and now she tags along with me, 'what do you want from me, woman?' I wanted to yell this but chose not to.

"I have nothing to do here and am bored. I was planning to visit you. Since you are here, accompany me." Since all her roles were taken over by the ideal daughter, Ann, Anna had no work here and was free to do as she pleases.

"I'm sorry, but I cannot accompany you. I'm busy, and I have matters to attend to." I needed to talk to Corey about otherworldly stuff and time rewind earlier. Therefore, I thought bringing a card emperor who has a personal interest in me would be a bad idea.

"It's okay, do what you have to. I will quietly tag along." Saying that, Anna leaned on me with her massive melons pressing on my back while her arms folded around my waist. Laying her head on my shoulder, she whispered in my ears, "I don't know what's holding you back, but please give me a chance."

"... I will think about it once I settle the score with people that wronged the Wyatt family." I planned to live a chilled life. In it, I had a girl in my arms. It wasn't clear who the girl was, but I had no time to pursue her as, right now, I had a lot of scores to settle.

"I will be waiting. But you better finish it quickly. Because I don't know how long I can hold back from pouncing on you." After whispering into my ears, Anna gently chewed on my earlobe.

"Fine, you can tag along. But you will have to behave or...."

"Or what? You will punish me~." I could feel Anna's steamy breath on my neck as she said these words.

"No! I was going to say I will ditch you." I corrected Anna.

...

"Anna, does your family have a time manipulation card?" While on route to F-rank Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon, I decided to pick Anna's brains regarding the time manipulation cards and their users.

"No, we don't." As Anna replied, I felt a tingly sensation due to her breathing on my neck.

"None, really? Is there anybody in this world with Time manipulation or related cards or not?" The Heatsend Royal family has a long history with generations of demigods in their family. It was a surprise to hear that they did not have time manipulation or related cards.

"Not to my knowledge, no. I have studied my records about wars in different eras, and there has been a single mention of a card apprentice, supreme being, or monster that could manipulate time. Why do you ask?" Anna's ancestors have recorded all the wars they fought, be it with card apprentices, supreme beings, or monsters from dungeons. Hoping that their battles will be a lesson for their children.

"I was thinking about rules, how many kids are there, what they are, and if time was one of the rules." Choose not to mention the ten minutes world rewind to Anna unless I am sure it will not harm us.

"I don't know. But there is a saying that there are millions of rules with millions of meanings. Maybe time is one of them, but I have never seen or heard anybody use it. If there is someone in hiding, they sure are wise to hide because both Orthodox and unorthodox parts of the world will hunt them to get their hands on their broken runes and cards. They have no place in this world. It would be in their best interest for them to stay hidden."

....

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

[1,018 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 20:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

Along the way to the dungeon, I could help but think about what Anna said. If there is a time rule and if a card apprentice were to comprehend it, then the said card apprentice should stay hidden or one leak, and the whole world will kill him for his time rune and cards.

I didn't understand why to kill the card apprentice? Instead of locking him up and having him create time rune cards for the rest of their life. What these morons are doing is akin to killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

"Anna, wake up. We are here." Arriving at the F-rank gate dungeon, I woke up Anna, who was pretending to fall asleep on my shoulder with her arms warped around my waist.

"We are there already. Just when I thought that it was getting romantic." Anna replied sluggishly. Getting off the nanomorpher, she hugged my arm, burying it in her braless sweater cleavage.

"Isn't this a bit too much?" Feeling the two soft cushions wrapping my arms, I asked Anna.

"The night is chilly. I am seeking some warmth." Anna replied innocently, but her energetic eyes told a different story.

'You are card emperor. If you feel chilly under this night, then I should freeze to death.' I wanted to say this but instead ended up saying, "Whatever."

"I knew you would come around. Let's find an unoccupied dungeon and bang one out. What do you say?" I gave her an inch, and she took a mile.

"Get your mind out of the gutter. I am here for work." I told Anna as I headed towards the dungeon gate where Nick was waiting.

"Let them in. They are with me," said Nick hurriedly, seeing the Bright family guards guarding the dungeon gate about to block Anna and me.

"Master Wyatt, you are here. I was about to head into the dungeon to inform Corey and Manager Susan that you would be visiting soon." For an F-rank Gate Dungeon, Horned Hare Heaven is a vast dungeon. Nick wanted to track Corey and Susan before his master arrived.

"That's okay. Let's head in together." Anna and I followed Nick into the dungeon gate. Stepping out of the dungeon gate, I witnessed a vast woodland. At the entrance, I found a few scorch marks. It appears that after killing the Horned Hare, Corey burned their corpses.

During a dungeon raid monster corpse dismantling is a part of a card apprentice's job because that's where most of their profits lay for the adventurers to make money. But it seems Corey did not bother to teach this part to Susan, maybe because she, herself, did not know how to dismantle a monster corpse. Following the scorch marks, I traced Corey and Susan's path. Soon we found a campfire where Susan was barbequing monster hare meat for Corey.

"Big Sis, this BBQ is so tasty. I did not know a monster hare's meat could be so tasty." Corey praised Susan's barbeque skills as she took a huge bite off the barbequed Hare leg in her hand.

"Mind if we joined in?" I said, spooking Corey and Susan.

"Who!" Susan and Corey simultaneously turned to face us.

"Wyatt! What are you doing here?" Yelled Corey as she glared at me with her fierce eyes.

"One day off, and you already forgot who your boss is?" I asked Corey walking next to the campfire.

"This outside, you're my boss only during office hours." Corey defended herself.

"Stop it, you two. Wyatt, why are you here? Who is that girl hugging you?" Just as I was about to reply to Corey with a fitting rebuttal, Susan interrupted me. She seemed to be more furious than Corey. And under the night sky and campfire light, she couldn't recognize Anna.

"Big sis, who else could it be. That must be his girlfriend, Anna. Now, do you trust me that he is not suitable for you?" Before I could reply to Susan, Corey jumped in, slandering me.

Turning to look at Anna, who was leaning on me while hugging my arm, I said, "Are you going to let her speak about you like that?"

"She called me your girlfriend, so all is forgiven," Anna did not mind Corey's words, she was rooting for Corey to separate the Susan chick from her crush.

"Your highness Southern emperor, please forgive my rudeness." Susan hurriedly apologized, recognizing Anna.

"Big Sis Susan, you don't have to apologize to her. You did nothing wrong." Said Corey, not fearing Anna's status or realm. Excess freedom from past life in earth and demonic nature from her past life in the dark realms made the current Corey so wild and untamed that she would not hesitate to challenge Anna's authority.

"Corey, shut up... I am sorry, your highness. Corey is still young and has not experienced the outside world. She doesn't know how to behave. I will see to it that this doesn't repeat again." Susan hurriedly rebuked Corey for her attitude towards Anna and begged for forgiveness in her stead.

"Susan, you don't need to apologize for Corey. She is right. You did not do anything wrong, so stop apologizing." Anna supported Corey's words and asked Susan not to be nervous around her.

"Yes, your highness." Susan politely responded. Susan's behavior and reaction towards Anna, a royalty, were expected for this world. If not for our past lives memories, even Corey and I would be behaving like her. As for Nick as my calamity daughter gem, other than me, he doesn't accept anybody else's authority. Surrounded by us three odd people, Susan's reaction seemed odd, instead.

"I am famished. I would love some bbq. Nick, catch a few horned hares and bbq them."

"WTF, who the heck are you to order around my cousin like that? Cousin..." Before Corey could seek justice for her cousin, she saw Nick walk into the woods to catch a few hares following my command.

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

Chapter 589 - Unclear Feelings

[1,021 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 20:56

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

"Your cousin is my subordinate now, with your grandfather's blessings, of course," I announced to Corey, clearing her confusion.

"Oh! I see." Corey did not erupt with rage as she knew that if it was her grandfather's idea to send her cousin as a subordinate to her boss, he must have a hidden agenda for doing this. She did not want to come in the way of her grandfather's plan by becoming overzealous and poking her nose where it didn't belong. Instead, she should mind her business, especially when her boss is crashing her plan of spending quality mother-daughter time with Susan.

"How do you like your meat? Raw, medium rare, or well done." Anna, who was still clinging to my arm, asked me.

"Well done, of course. Wait! don't tell me you are planning to bbq for me." As I replied to Anna, I realized that she seemed to be planning to prepare bbq for me.

"Yes," Anna remembers her grandmother saying, 'If you want to capture a man's heart, conquer his stomach first.'

"Your highness, you don't have to trouble yourself. I will barbecue the meat." Susan offered help.

"I will only be barbecuing Wyatt's meat. You can BBQ for the rest when I am done." Anna, though madly in love, still had the pride of an emperor. She only planned to barbeque for her crush and herself.

"Yes, your highness." Susan politely responded while her thoughts were totally messy as they were preoccupied with how her highness's two overgrown meat bags were smothering her exclusive client's arm.

"Do you know how to bbq?" I asked in suspicion. Because Anna was a real-life princess, I did not expect her to be well versed in chores. I know better than to judge others' capabilities based on their upbringing, but I did not want to suffer from food poisoning.

"You tell me after you dine the meat I bbq for you." Anna was angry as she felt that her soulmate treated her with the same prejudices and stereotypes against the rich.

"I won't get food poisoned will I?" I asked, but feeling Anna's fierce gaze, I hurriedly added, "I am forwarded to your cooking."

Feeling the harmonious nature between her exclusive client and the southern emperor, Susan's face turned dark. Depressed, she walked into the woods, saying, "I will collect more dry wood."

"Big sis, wait up. I will help you." Corey had watched how Susan was depressed seeing her boss was so close to the southern emperor. So she followed Susan into the woods to strike the iron while it was hot and erase all romantic feelings in her mother's heart for her boss.

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"..." Susan quietly searched the woods and collected dry woods for the campfire. If possible, she did not want to return to the campfire. Even though Susan knew that was not possible, she could help but hope for it because she did not want to see the man she had unclear feelings for in another woman's arms.

"Big sis, I think we have collected enough dry wood. We should return to the campfire." Corey wanted to slander her boss and erase him from her mother's heart but seeing the depressed back of her mothers as her lonely solitude walked in the woods collecting dry twigs, Corey could not bring herself to disturb Susan and decided to accompany her quietly.

"Corey, can we stay here for a while," Susan asked, placing the bundle of dry wood on the ground and leaning against a tree, powerless. Just picturing him being with another woman pained Susan's heart and chaos-filled her mind.

"Sure, whatever you need, big sis." Feeling the sadness in her mother's voice, Corey agreed.

"..." Unable to bear the depressing silence, Corey decided to console Susan, "Big Sis, he doesn't deserve you."

"Corey, I want him!" Said Susan as tears filled her eyes while trying to erase the picture of that slut clinging to him, but it did not work as she knew that right now he was in that whore's arms.

"What? Big Sis, are you for real? He doesn't deserve you." Corey was surprised to hear Susan say that. Corey has questioned Susan many times about this, but she denied it. This was the first time for Susan to express what she actually thought openly.

"Corey, it doesn't matter if he deserves me or not. I realized that I want to be with him no matter what." The pain she felt seeing him with another woman helped Susan realize what the unclear feeling she had for him was.

"Well, Anna has him. We can not do a thing about it. She is very possessive. Anyway, just forget him. Otherwise, you will end up getting hurt." Corey knew Anna. She would settle scores with a toddler. Let allow her love rival.

When Anna attended Corey's birth celebration, she got drunk and wandered to baby Corey's cradle. Baby Corey was awake, giggling, gazing at the marble ceiling murals. Drunk Anna found it cute as she rubbed baby Corey's soft cheeks. In the middle of it all, baby Corey vomited on Anna's hand. Enraged, drunk Anna puked back on baby Corey, saying, 'Now we are even.' Fortunately, Anna's puking had sobered her enough to clean up after with her card. Leaving no evidence of her crime.

"I am not afraid. I am already hurt and in pain. Seeing him in her arms." Susan was the type that did not do things that would burden her heart. And willing to go to lengths to unburden it. Like how, after graduating high school, she quickly searched for a job, not wanting to burden her parents and help with the money. Unlike others of her age who took a few gap years and stayed home doing nothing, hoping they could contract a grimoire in the following years.

"But..." Corey, who was against Susan's feelings for her boss, was wordless as she could feel the sorrow and misery in her voice.

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[1,020 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

"Corey, is it wrong for me to feel this way?" Susan asked Corey looking for a solution to all the guilt she felt for having shameful feelings for her exclusive client.

Susan had a conservative ideology, and she was the girl who believed in intercourse after marriage and promise ring, etc. Therefore falling for a boy younger than her who happens to be her boss just felt wrong to her. Due to these reasons, she labeled the romantic feelings in her heart as shameful feelings. But this did not help her dilemma. Instead, it made it more tempting. As if something darker in her yelling, 'so what?'

Susan has always been able to overcome these dark thoughts and managed to do the right thing because she followed her heart. But this time, that was a problem because her heart was beating in the rhythm of the dark thoughts whispering in her head. Since she did not have her heart to lead her to the right choice, she turned to her mind, which was in chaos, as it was divided into two sides, romantic and rational, when it came to this matter.

The Romantic in her threatened her, asking what if he is the one? While her rational self, which is influenced mainly by conservative ideas, also threatened her by asking, do you want to become the gossip of your neighbors, friends, and family? Either way, it was becoming difficult for Susan to choose. Therefore she confided in Corey, hoping to reach a conclusion and follow it to the end.

"No! It is not wrong. Your feelings are okay and are normal. It's just that the person they are directed to is wrong for you. I think you can find somebody way better than that scheming jerk. Whenever I see him, I feel like he is scheming something in that little brain of his." Corey was very sympathetic to her mother's pain and misery, but this doesn't mean she was ready to accept that moron as her stepdaddy. Therefore, she decided to stir Susan's thoughts to a choice she favors in a way that would not feed the conservative garbage in Susan's mind. Corey knew Susan may feel heartbroken now, but that was good for her, she would be there to pick up the broken pieces and put them together. This was a double win for Corey. She would get close to Susan and finally throw her boss out of the picture.

"You are right, my feelings are okay, but the person they ache for is wrong. After all, he is way younger than me and is my current boss. As a trusted employee, I should not cultivate such feelings for him. I should smother them now. No matter how painful it is, this was not meant to be." Susan misunderstood when Corey said he was wrong for her. Corey meant her boss was not worthy of Susan, but Susan mistook it.

"No, no... that is not what I mean. It's okay to love a younger guy, office romance is also okay, but Wyatt is not okay. He is the devil incarnate, for somebody as pure as you, he will be the stain that smears your glow. Your feelings are okay, but that guy is not the one for you." Corey did not want her mother to suffer and limit herself from being bound

by conservative ideas. Therefore she felt the need to stress some points and clear the misunderstanding.

"Whatever, I have decided to stop worrying over such unimportant stuff and focus on work. Wyatt has enormous plans for the future of our card boutique. I should focus on learning about the central region's culture and market. Especially the Central academic city as for the next four years, it will be our base of operations. I have a lot of things to learn to continue to be a competent manager in the central academic city." When Susan accepted to move to the Central academic city, she not only saw an opportunity to be with the best and grow but the shortcomings she had.

The small market of the third-rate city could not compare to the large market of the central region. Not to mention that the central academic city market is the hub of all the major innovations in the world. The competition there is fierce. Every day in the central academic city, thousands of startups are birthed, and every day, thousands of startups die. For a start-up to thrive in the central region, a lot of effort and hard work is not enough. They need to stand out and know their stuff. According to Susan, her boss was very good at standing out and would hold that front. The other stuff. It was her job to be well versed in it and make sure nothing would try to hammer her boss as he stood out and shone the brightest.

Susan has shortened her sleep time from 6 hours to 3 hours because she required the extra hours to brush up on her knowledge about the central region market, the requirements to set up a shop in the central academic region, etc. To make money, one has to be creative and know the business. Susan had taken the burden upon herself to know the business so that her boss's creativity would grow unhindered. Behind the scenes, Susan has been shouldering a lot of burdens and preparing for more to come. Even though most of it goes unnoticed, she is happy to do it for him.

"Good, big sister. I knew you would understand." Corey was happy that her mother had finally decided to kill any and all the feelings for that bastard and focus on her growth.. But what Corey did not know was that though Susan said she would smother those feelings, her thoughts told an entirely different story as all of them were planning to make life easier for their boss, even though they hide behind the guise of work.

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Chapter 591 - Offended Anna

[1,009 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:25

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

"Susan, you are here. What took you so long?" I asked, seeing the figure of Susan and Corey return to the campfire with bundles of dry wood.

"Corey had to go to the washroom." Susan gave a reason, nearing the campfire.

"Hey!" Corey yelled in protest and looked at Susan with an expression of being wronged.

"...." Speaking of female toiletries, they were a conversation stopper for most men. Therefore I turned to Anna. She was busy skinning, gutting, and chopping up the hare carcasses to adequate size for bbq. And asked, " You seemed skilled at this. Let me guess you have a cooking occupation card?"

"No, you jerk. I learned how to grill, roast, and bbq, back when I would raid an entire dungeon alone. I would spend days, weeks, even months in the dungeon, cut off from the outside world. I would hunt, cook and sleep in the dungeon all by myself. Back then, I wasn't this strong, so things were a lot more interesting. I miss those days." Anna did not like the fact that her crush looked at her with stereotypes of the rich. She had to struggle a lot harder than others because everyone accepted the descendant of the unparalleled to be the Strongest in their generation. But only Anna knew that even the world's sharpest sword had to go through vigorous honing to achieve its sharpness.

"My bad, I am sorry, and I am looking forward to the magic in your hands." I apologized to Anna, as I was indeed a jerk. Anna was being sweet and preparing bbq for me while I enunciated stupid stereotypes without minding her feelings. Or it sounded as such, but for real, I was worried about getting food poisoned.

"Does it matter? Whether you are cooking with the help of cards or not, you are the one who is cooking. After all, it is the thought that counts." Said Corey, as she had prepared a variety of cooking occupation cards to dazzle Susan with during their dungeon raid. But she was greedy and couldn't let go of Susan's offer to cook monster hare meat bbq for her.

"Shut the fuck up!" Snapped Anna, glaring at Corey. Anna did not believe cooking with cards was the same as cooking with her own hands. All the royal cooks in the royal palace cooked with high-level cooking occupation cards. Though the food they prepared was delicious, they did not compare to her mother's hand-cooked meals. For her, who grew up surrounded by wealth and power, many people tried to express their thoughts

through wealth. Therefore, Anna had developed a bias that actions speak more than thoughts.

"What? Did my words offend you? Deal with it." Corey really did not care for the realm gap between her and Anna. She even dared to gaze back at Anna's glare.

"Continue, and your parents will not get a single leave for the next decade." Anna knew precisely when to use her realm and authority. And right now, it was time for a little show of her authority.

"I swear, when I get stronger, I will...." Before Corey could make another brazen statement, Susan hurriedly interrupted her by literally stuffing her fingers in Corey's mouth.

"Corey, shut up. Your highness, I beg you forgiveness. Corey is ignorant, and she did not mean what she said." Susan once again stepped in to apologize on Corey's behalf.

Earlier, when Anna snapped at Corey's comment. Susan did not understand why the humble Southern emperor suddenly snapped at Corey's comment. Susan grew up eating hand-cooked meals. Even if her family went to restaurants, they could not afford to go fancy once with card apprentices with cooking cards. Even as she worked at the Association guild mall, she would rarely eat at the mall's mess despite tempting employee discounts. Therefore, Susan agreed with Corey's comment earlier and did not understand why it offended the Southern emperor. This confusion delayed response, and she could not stop Corey from boldly challenging her highness's authority.

"This is her second offense against me, and this is your second time taking responsibility for her. So, which one of you should I punish, her, my offender, or you, her voucher." Announced Anna.

Gulp Susan swallowed her alive, realizing that the Southern emperor was being serious.

"Anna, stop messing with them." I did not want to come to Corey's rescue, but Susan was jammed up along with her.

"Wyatt, don't involve yourself in this. It is my policy not to forgive second-time offenders. I have already decided on punishment but not on the culprit. Since one of you offended me, I will only punish one of you. You two decide among yourself who it will be." Anna sounded very serious, scaring the heck out of Susan. Corey struggled free from her grasp, and pointing at Anna, she was about to yell but was interpreted again.

"Corey, behave. Anna, I have to involve myself. These two are my employees and friends. Just let it go this once." Once I had stuck out my neck, there was no going back but all in.

"I don't know, Wyatt. That's a big ask. For me to go against my policy? It will cost you." Anna's eyes twinkled as she negotiated with me.

"Fine, I will take you out for breakfast. Just the two of us." Now I know why Anna made such a big deal out of nothing.

"A breakfast? Where's the fun in that?" Asked Anna as she neared me.

"I don't trust you enough to go out for dinner, just the two of us." Dinner dates have been like the ritual grounds where the interested people meet and decide whether they will be mating tonight. There is something about having supper under the night sky that turns things romantic, and I really did not trust myself to withstand Anna's seduction surrounded by such circumstances. Therefore, I chose breakfast.

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Chapter 592 - Loved And Lost

[1,070 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:31

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

Anna is hot and tempting like fire. Like a moth to a flame, even though the moth knows flying too close to the fire could burn it, it still can not go against its instinct. That's how tempting the fire is to it, and Anna would be the same for any men, so I did not trust myself to go on dinner with her, just the two of us.

"That ain't fair for me," said Anna looking into my eyes, having neared me, before I knew it, her lips locked with mine. Her tongue forced into my mouth. It met little resistance in doing so. After a good 5 seconds, our lips separated as a string of saliva formed a bridge to our mouths. Anna wiped it and added, "with this, it is fair. Pick me up tomorrow morning. I will be waiting."

"Yuck!" Corey looked at us with disgust in her eyes.

"..." Susan maintained a calm expression, but she was devastated inside. She hid the pain and misery she felt in her heart. She thought she had suppressed it and had resolved to focus on work. Turns out she was fooling herself. She wanted him more than anything in her life. Coming to this realization Susan couldn't hold her facade longer, Susan turned and headed to the woods.

"Big Sis, where are you going?" Asked Corey as she followed behind speeding Susan.

"To hunt horned hare for meat." Susan did not stop to explain herself. She rushed into the woods, yelling out the first excuse that came to her mind.

"But Nick has already brought enough monster meat for all of us," Corey replied but did not stop following Susan.

"I am hungry. I need more." Susan did not even put thought into her excuse this time or try to mask the sadness in her voice.

"Okay," Corey heard the sadness in Susan's voice and stopped questioning Susan. The duo walked deeper into the woods but did not hunt a single monster despite passing them on their route. F-rank monsters couldn't keep up with the duo's speed.

Thud Having walked deep enough, Susan leaned against a tree in frustration. Trying to fight the pain and misery she was feeling. But it only got worse until finally the tears came rolling out of her eyes, and she suddenly hugged Corey, who was next to her, and whispered, "Corey, it hurts. I cannot see him with somebody else. I want him for myself."

"..." Corey was happy that she could be the shoulder for her mother to cry on, but the context behind this moment enraged her. Why does her mother have feelings for him? Why can't she just forget that guy? Why is this happening to her? Corey was so webbed up in her anger that she forgot to console Susan.

"..." Susan continued to weep on Corey's shoulder. Until her heart lightened, and she was out of tears. Turns out all she needed was a sympathetic shoulder to cry on. Still, she continued to embrace Corey.

'Bright, you know what you have to do, right?' Corey Park's mental voice sounded in Corey's head.

'Can't you see I am already doing that? And it is not working. That bastard, I don't know what magic he did on mother. I am unable to wipe her feelings for him.' Corey acted like she did not get what Corey Park was conveying.

'Corey, don't be stubborn. Can't you see how much she is hurting? Does this feel right to you? She trusts you enough to be vulnerable in front of you, and you are misusing it.'

You are making a mistake.' Corey Park, despite existing, had little authority being Corey Bright's Ego fire, so she tried to reason with her younger reincarnation.

'This pain is momentary. She will overcome it and grow stronger. And it is because she trusts me. I don't plan on letting her repeat the same mistake as she did in her past.' Corey finally revealed why she was really against Susan's feelings for her boss.

'Mistake? Is that what you think? So it was a mistake that she gave birth to you? You got to stop blaming yourself. That was not you. It was another reincarnation of us. She is the one to be blamed, not you ' Corey Bright's words disgruntled had Corey Park.

'I don't blame myself. And don't twist my words and use them against me.' Corey Park's question broke Corey Bright's entire defense.

'Okay, fine. Let me tell you, from what I saw in those memories, mother never considered her encounter with that man as a mistake, as she believed that giving birth to our reincarnation was the best thing that had happened to her. However, our reincarnation proved her wrong in the end. What I am trying to say is that our mother loved and lost in the past. And had nobody to count on. But this time, it is different. Let her live as she wants, we will be here for her. If Wyatt dares to hurt our mother, we can always kill him later.' Corey Park's voice reached absolute zero as she spoke the last few words.

'Loved and Lost, huh! If you put it that way. I feel less guilty, and it makes more sense. Still, did it have to Wyatt of all people? That guy cannot be trusted. He kissed Luna the other day, and now he is publicly and passionately making out with Anna. How can we trust our mother to be with such a two-timer? I am telling you that man is not to be trusted.' The gossip about Luna kissing her boss had spread like wildfire. After all, there were many people present when Luna let loose.

'That wasn't serious. We don't have to worry about Luna. Anna is the real trouble. She seems to be openly coveting Wyatt and showed signs that she is aware of our mother's feelings for Wyatt. As long as Wyatt has not committed to Anna, we still have a chance.' Corey Park has lived almost a century in a realm where lust and carnal desires were celebrated. Her conservative ideology of ancient Korea made it hard for her to accept them but over the years she learned to live with them.

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

Chapter 593 - Dense Boss

[1,018 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:38

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

'Now you know what to do, right?' Corey Park wanted Corey to stop opposing their mother's love interest and, if possible, aid her in her pursuit of love.

'I will not oppose it, but don't expect me to help. I will sit back and let nature take its course. When she requires a sympathetic shoulder to lean on, I will always be there.' Corey answered to her ego fire mentally. Though she was pro-love, she did not like that her boss would become her stepfather. Corey park nodded in understanding.

"Big Sis, are you alright now?" Asked Corey in concern as she gently rubbed Susan's back.

"I am fine, Corey." After answering, Susan got out of Corey's embrace and wiping her tear stains she added, "Let's head back."

"Okay. What about the monster meat?" Heading towards the campfire, Corey asked Susan.

"I lost my appetite. Let's just hurry back." Susan hurried to the campfire, knowing the heartache that awaited her, seeing her low in another's embrace.

"Okay," despite agreeing with Susan, Corey still collected a few monster corpses on their way back because she did not want Anna to see through her mother's facade.

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I looked at Anna as she grilled the meat on a make-shift BBQ grill meticulously. Basked in under the campfire's light, she looked more lovely today. 'WTF am I thinking?' This is the magic of the night sky, campfire, burning meat, and the company of a beautiful woman. As if Anna heard my thoughts, she glanced at me with a gentle smile. Looking at that smile, I yelled in my mind, 'Begone vile thoughts.'

"Big Sis, you rest. I will roast the meat for you ' Using My Cards, ' " Corey deliberately emphasized her last words as she and Susan walked out of the woods and headed to the campfire. Thankfully Anna didn't seem to care.

"Corey, you are here. I need to speak to you. Can spare a few minutes." Now that Anna was busy with bbq, I had an opening for my business with Corey.

"What is it? Speak." Corey responded, placing the corpses of the monsters she hunted on the ground.

"Not here, somewhere private. Follow me." I head into the woods, expecting Corey to follow me. And she did. Finding a spot private enough, I stopped saying, "this should be far enough."

"Wyatt, what are your intentions? Why did you bring me this far into the woods?" Corey asked sarcastically.

"Cut it. I am here to talk serious stuff, not argue with you. Summon your ego fire. Her presence is required." I had no intention to entertain Corey's sarcasm.

"She is listening, speak your ' serious stuff. ' " Corey did not summon Corey Park and asked me to continue as Corey Park shared her senses.

"Woah! Your origin card has messed your head up. One second you are reasonable, another second, you turn into a bitch. If you require any medical help, then ask. Don't be shy to ask before its too late." I got roped into an argument by Corey's words.

"Did you call me a bitch?" Corey asked with flaring eyes.

"No, I said you turn into a bitch. For example, right now." I know I shouldn't fuel her and end it right away. Still, I kept going.

"You have done it now!" As Corey was about to pounce at me, a flame came out of Corey and bound her, stopping her from attacking me. A part of the flame grew a face and spoke, "Wyatt, don't forget your purpose for calling her."

"If you had come out when I asked to, it wouldn't have come to this." I threw the blame on Corey Park.

"I am an ego fire. My master controls my will. If not for you agitating her and making an opening, I could not come out to stop her." And Corey Park threw the blame on Corey.

"Park, let go of me this instant. I will show him who is the bitch." Corey struggled against the fire binding her and yelled.

"I hate to say this to you, but he has grown stronger. We were not his match before, and we are not his match now." Corey Park had a good instinct, and right now, it told her that she was not a match for the man in front of her.

"What if he has grown stronger? We also have grown stronger. Unless we fight, we won't know who among us is stronger." Corey Bright would rather fight and lose than surrender.

"Corey, let's settle this. Man to Man, what's your problem with me? If it is regarding Susan, then get over it. She chose to work for me. Deal with it. There is nothing you can do about it. Instead of bickering all the time, why don't we all get along harmoniously? I think Susan would also appreciate it." I thought we had already settled this, but it keeps coming up again and again.

"..." Corey had decided to pretend to get along with her boss for Susan. But, witnessing her mother's devastating state earlier, she blamed it all on her boss for being too dense and causing misery to those around him. Therefore, she once again pointed her guns at her boss. Which was stupid since he did not know what the problem was. Shaking her head, Corey said, " Okay. You side you have something to discuss, speak."

'Just like that?' I was surprised to see Corey be so understanding. But I did not voice it out, fearing my words flipping her switch once again. So I did not waste my breath and decided to make use of this godsend opportunity.

"What do you guys know about time manipulation? Especially going back in time. Did either of you experience it?" I chose my words carefully to make the question a general time manipulation related question rather than a specific one that asked about the time rewind an hour ago.

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[1,050 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

"Time manipulation? Going back into time? Considering other weird stuff in the world, I guess its possible, but I know nothing about it and have never experienced it.

"Is there a specific reason for you to ask that?" Corey Park inquired in suspicion.

From the way both the Corey's reacted, I could read that Bright had no idea what I was hinting at, but Park seemed to have caught my drift. So I responded to her, saying, "An hour early I was at a dinner meeting, a funny thing happened there, I had the same dinner twice. If you catch my drift."

Even though I did not have dinner with Rami Kaga, I lied to make a point to Corey Park. By saying that I had the same dinner twice, I was hinting to her that I had my dinner and then went back in time and had it again.

"..." Corey Park became quiet and contemplated, while Corey buzzed, "You had dinner twice and still ask for bbq, aren't you a glutton."

"Corey, shut up." Corey Park asked Corey Bright to be quiet. Then she looked at me with a deadpan expression as she said, " Funny, an hour ago, I killed the same horned rabbit twice. What are the odds that we both experience the same situation?"

Corey Park got what I was implying and used the same trick as mine to indicate that she understood what I was saying and hint at her experience with the time rewind. By saying that she hunted the same horned-hare twice, she implied that she killed a horned-hare and went back in time to kill again. By using this way to convey her concern about the time rewind, I was sure that Corey Park, similar to me, was also afraid of the being behind the time disturbance.

"What about Corey? Did she kill the same horned-hare twice?" I asked Corey Park about Corey Bright whether she had experienced the time rewind same as us. Because I believed that Corey Bright was indeed foolish enough not to understand what I was hinting at.

"No, she is not as aware as us. She missed it." It seems only Corey Park noticed the time rewind. This was intriguing.

"You two, you know I am right here, right? Park, what do you mean by I am not as aware as you two? Are you calling me stupid?" Corey felt that the other two were mocking her right in front of her.

"Bright, honey, not everything's about you. Please don't interrupt us. It is considered rude." Park pacified her younger reincarnation and added, "Wyatt, Do you know why, when, and how?"

"I don't know. Therefore I came to you for an answer." However, Park's question was very vague. I knew what she was talking about, and without addressing the elephant, I told her what I had learned. So far, that is nothing.

"How am I supposed to know about it? I don't even belong to this world? But what prompted you to find us in the first place? You must have found something; otherwise, you would not come searching for us. Tell me, what did you find?" Corey Park quickly spotted that my intent to visit the dungeon was to ask them about the time rewind, which made her know that I knew something about time rewind, which made me find them to ask about it instead of others.

"You are right. I have a theory. We are more aware than others because our souls are different. You are from another world, and my soul is mutated. I thought Corey would also be the same as us. It seems my assumption was wrong, and she is normal, but her origin card isn't." I only conveyed the half-truth about my soul because one, I don't have to share everything with Park, and second, I don't want to.

"I see, anyway, stop investigating further into this matter. With our current strength, it is better if we don't search for more trouble. If you want to do as you please but keep me out of this, Bright makes enough trouble already. I don't want you adding more to my plate. Whatever you decide, remember to be careful. " Corey Park was right. Investigation in the time rewind event would do me more harm than good. Except for feeding my curiosity, I would gain nothing from exploring this venture. I have hit a dead-end anyway. It is in my best interest to give up now. So I decided to heed Corey Park's advice and back off for now.

But my visit to the dungeon wasn't a total waste. I was able to confirm my theory that the time rewind didn't affect me because my soul doesn't belong to this world. This is a great discovery. Even the world bending power like time also has an unexpected loophole. This would come in handy when facing card apprentices with time-related cards, though these cards are almost nonexistent. Still, it is good to one that I am practically immune to time-related skills in this world.

"If you two are done, I would like to head back. I promised my mother that I would cook for her. And it is getting late." Corey Bright finally spoke up. She did not understand what made Corey Park and her boss talk so seriously, but her patience had run thin, so she did not care and wanted to return to the campfire and cook a delicious meal for her mother, who is suffering from lovesickness. Right now, her mother needs her more than ever.

"Corey, I have one last question. This is for you. How sure are you that Susan is your reincarnated mother from a past life? Don't you think Susan looking like your past mother could just be a coincidence?" Am I being a skeptic? Considering that I am a transmigrator, Corey Bright is a reincarnate, and Corey Park is a summoned ghost flame from another realm, I, of all people, don't have the right to be skeptical about this matter. Still, I think Corey assuming Susan as her mother was far-fetched.

"You take that back."

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

[1,029 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:46

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

"Anna, I can't thank you enough for a wonderful dinner. It couldn't be better. The BBQ was delicious. I enjoyed it. Whoever is going to marry you is a lucky man." Anna's BBQ was surprisingly good. I was full of praise for it.

"She will get cholesterol if you keep buttering her ass like that," Corey commented.

"What's cholesterol?" Anna asked,

"Yes, Corey, what's cholesterol?" this word paly would have been appreciated back on earth, but here in the card world where people don't know cholesterol, it would just sound dumb.

"Shut up, Wyatt," Corey snapped.

"You two are close and have a lot in common with each other compared with any of us here. I wonder why you two can't get along?" Susan spoke her thoughts out loud. According to her, both Corey and her boss spoke words that nobody ever heard of except these themselves. They often made jokes only they could understand. Not to mention both of them were young talented card creationists. The similarities between the two were uncanny.

"Big sis, stop making jokes. How can you compare me with him? I am nothing like him." Corey hurriedly denied Susan's comment.

"Whatever, my work here is done. I am heading back to the warehouse. See you two tomorrow, at work." I did not want to continue the pointless banter. I still had to visit the Silver beach gate dungeon to create enough silver milk powder for everyone. By everyone, I mean my new and old subordinates. My calamity daughter gems, TSR guild, Tiger Squadron, and Fine Gold.

"What? I have planned a week's worth of dungeon experience for big sis. So don't expect us to come to the work for the next few days." Corey announced her plan to continue Susan's dungeon for another week.

"Yeah, I think I have already seen and experienced enough dungeon for one day. It has made me appreciate my job more. Thanks to this experience, I can work with more motivation and enthusiasm.

I am looking forward to work tomorrow." Susan hated the dungeon raid. For her current strength and origin card, a measly F-rank dungeon was not a challenge for her. And most repulsive part of the dungeon raid was the blood and gore. Thankfully her origin card armor could clean itself of the blood and brain matter splatter. Otherwise, she would not have lasted this long.

"Since Susan has agreed, see you two tomorrow at work." Not giving Corey the opportunity to retort my decision, I turn to Nick and, " Thank you for sticking along. Now, you can get back to your work."

"Pleasure is mine, master Wyatt. Don't forget to call me if you need my help again. Cousin, see you later." Replying politely, Nick bade his goodbye to Corey, me, and the rest of us before heading out of the dungeon.

"Susan, do you need a ride?" As I was about to head to the dungeon gate, I turned to Susan and asked if she required a ride back.

But before Susan could reply, Corey snapped back, "Wyatt, you are asking for it. First, you cancel my dungeon experience week, and now you want to snatch the few minutes of alone time I have with my Big Sis. Stop meddling. I will give big sis the ride back to the city."

"Corey is right, Wyatt. I will return to the city with her. And don't forget you already have company. Don't make her highness angry." Susan answered. But there was something about the manner she spoke. It appeared to have changed.

"I didn't forget her. My nanomorpher has enough place for the three of us." Saying that, I turned to look at Anna, I thought she would not mind me giving Susan a ride home, but it turned out I was wrong, and Susan was right. Anna was glaring at me. As our eyes met, I scratched the back of my head and awkwardly looked away, avoiding Anna's glare.

"*Cough* Anna, let's head back." Saying that I paced to the dungeon gate. Anna caught up to me with ease and walked out of the dungeon gate after me.

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"Big Sis, if you don't mind, can I stay at your place for a few days? I will not stay long, just until my grandmother and grandfather stop using my place to express their love through intimacy." Corey was really scarred hearing the noises of her grandparents expressing their love to each other through the common wall their rooms shared. Still, she managed to find a positive in it. To raise her mother's sympathy for her living conditions and let her stay at her place. And then slowly turn from a temporary guest to a roommate. Corey felt proud, having hatched a plan to become her mother's roommate.

"Umm... How long?" Susan was not new to this social favor. She has done this for most of her friends. Therefore she knew to ask the critical question instead of accepting blindly.

"Just for a few days, grandmother will soon grow tired of grandpa's company and head back to the family." Corey had prepared herself for every basis Susan could use to deny her request. Corey's ultimate goal of this conversation was to wiggle into Susan's house as a temporary guest and never leave.

"I guess its okay. Since we will be moving to royal place away." Susan remembered that they would soon leave for the royal place, so she did not mind Corey's company for her last few days in the city.

"Great!" Cheered Corey while cussing in the head for forgetting about the move to the royal palace. Momentary gains preoccupied Corey, muddling her to forget about the move. Still, she gets to live with her mother, which was a win in Corey's book.

"Big Sis, will we be sharing the same bed?"

"I have a single bed, so you will have to adjust on the couch."

"I think the two of us can fit on a single bed."

"Take the couch or go home."

"Fine"

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

Chapter 596 - Meeting Luna

[1,002 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 21:55

Location- Sky Blossom City, F-rank Common Grade Horned Hare Heaven Gate Dungeon

"I grill the world's best bbq for you, and this is how you thank me? I deserve it for falling for a cold-hearted guy like you." Anna complained nonstop since exiting the dungeon gate. Offering Susan a ride back to the city even though Anna was tagging along with me seemed to have hurt Anna. But I had my reasons to do that. And I will not explain them to Anna because that would have an adverse effect.

Anna is the type who takes back what she gives in full. Since she has cooked for me, she will expect me to put out. I feel ashamed to say this, but it's true. Anna never does anything for free now that I have eaten her hand-cooked meal. She will expect to eat me. How is this fair? You make dinner for me, so I have to put out. Fock! Just thinking these words makes me embarrassed. Because this situation should be the opposite. Anna's straightforwardness and openness to her sexual needs remind me of my male colleagues back on earth. They, too, would take girls for fancy dinner dates and expect them to put out. Therefore to avoid this situation, I asked Susan, hoping her presence would dampen Anna's expectations.

Though Susan did not tag along, still asking her has enraged Anna, giving me the same results I hoped for. Right now, Anna is too angry with me to make any sexual advances on me. Or that's what I thought.

"Summon - Nanomorpher" I summoned the nanomorpher. Climbing it, I waited for Anna to get settled behind me. But to my surprise, after climbing back on the nanomorpher, she stopped complaining, and her hands wrapped around my chest and her bosom pressed on my back.

"Anna, what are you doing?" I asked flusteredly.

"Shut up. When I get angry, I get aroused." Saying that, Anna's hand slowly moved towards my crotch region.

"Tell me, what doesn't get you aroused?" Yelling that, I hurriedly grabbed hold of her arms, trying to stop their advance to my privates. Thankfully Anna's hand stopped as I grabbed them. With Anna's strength, I could not even resist, but she stopped, which meant that she was open for reasoning and not like my scumbag colleagues who forget no means no after a few drinks.

"I did that earlier because I knew you would get handsy on our way back. But who knew that anger would also arouse you." I finally revealed my reason for my behavior earlier. Since Anna was being good, I decided to reason with her.

"Is that so? It seems I misunderstood. But you played your part in it." It seems Anna understood the intention behind my actions without me having to defend myself further. And then she blurted out, "When I am sleeping!"

"What?" I asked in confusion.

"I don't get aroused when I am sleeping," Anna repeated herself once again. Hearing it, I felt like some context was missing.

"Huh?" I uttered while my thoughts were preoccupied trying to figure out why Anna was saying what she was saying.

"You asked when I don't get aroused, right? I don't get aroused when I am sleeping." Anna repeated herself once again, but this time she added the necessary details.

"What if you have a wet dream?" I decided to entertain Anna's line of thoughts as I started the nanomorpher and speeded towards the silver beach dungeon.

"I don't have wet dreams," Anna responded coldly.

"Everybody has wet dreams." I think it will be different for somebody with Anna's experience in this field. I don't dare to voice out this thought. This one is just for me.

"My sleep is haunted by nightmares. there is no time to have a wet dream." With Anna's words, the atmosphere once again turned awkward. But she stopped touching. I will consider this a win.

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Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 22:15

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"Why are we back here and not at your warehouse?" Asked Anna as I headed past the barricade placed by the southern watch. This time no soldier came forward to stop my advance into their temporary military base surrounding the D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon.

"I need to meet Luna to get an advance payment," I replied.

"Didn't I already make it clear to you that Luna is busy with dungeon relocation stuff? Turn back, let's head to the warehouse." Anna ordered.

"You did. But it has been almost an hour since then. She might be free now. Let's go and check on her." Yep, this time I did not plan on letting Anna have her way.

"Stop! I will call Luna here. You can discuss whatever you want with her here." Anna yelled. Hearing her yell, the soldiers hiding in the darkness of the night suddenly jumped out and surrounded the Nanomorpher, halting my advance into the military base.

Anna knew Ann was stuck powering the dungeon relocation apparatus with her mental energy, so she could not move around. Since her crush insisted on meeting her cousin, she decided to have her cousin meet them instead of them going to meet her. This way, Anna could successfully avoid her Crush meeting with Ann.

"WTF!" I couldn't help but cuss. Not understanding why Anna was acting like this. I felt like she did not want me to enter the temporary military base and was making excuses to stop me from entering the southern watch base deliberately. I don't know why but seeing Anna's strong reaction, I think it might be huge. This made me more curious about what the southern watch military base was hiding but being surrounded by soldiers I had no choice but to follow Anna's arrangement, " Well, go ahead, call her here."

"I have sent her a message, she will be here soon."

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

- Chapter 597 - Chris Chase

Chapter 597 - Chris Chase

[1,024 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 22:08

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"Chase Royal family heir wins big at the Demigod charity auction."

"Chris Chase hits the jackpot at the Demigod charity auction."

"The biggest winner of the Demigod charity auction, Chris Chase."

"Chris Chase the Luckiest Guy in the world."

"Chris Chase,"

"Demigod charity auction,"

"Jackpot,"

"Fortune favors the Bold, Chris Chase, biggest Winner of the Demigod charity auction."

"Western Region's Prince favored by the goddess of Luck and Fortune."

"Who won what, list of items won in Demigod charity auction."

"The total charity amassed at this year's Demigod charity auction breaks all the records."

"Which top 10 colleges will Prince Chris attend?"

While waiting for Luna, I summoned my grimoire to check how my Super Brain card was flaring with its fight against the Circle on the grimoire network. Since I was too angry at Anna to talk with her. But to my dismay, the local, state, and region-wide grimoire network was filled with posts about the Demigod charity auction occupying all the top 10 spots of the trending list.

All the posts read that Demigod charity is a big event held once a year. And this years winner of the charity event was from the western region, heir of Chase Royal family, Prince Chris Chase. And other words were just fillers giving no insight into what Demigod Charity Auction actually is and why Prince Chris Chase was the biggest winner of the charity auction. I don't get it. What's all the hype about, and how can a person be the biggest winner of a charity event? Do charity events have winners, aren't the beneficiaries of the charity supposed to be the biggest winners of the charity?

And what the fuck is up with these popular posts on grimoire network,

"Price Chris Chase's favorites."

"Price Chris Chase at the Havana Pool"

"Price Chris Chase's fiancée."

"Prince Chris Chase's top 10 pics."

"Prince Chris Chase nude."

"Does Prince Chris Chase have a girlfriend"

"What type of girl does prince Chris Chase like?"

"Does Prince Chris Chase prefer boys?"

"Prince Chris Chase and Silver milk powder fraud!"

"Prince Chris Chase calls out the fraudster Dalton Wyatt."

"Mother Focker!" Reading the last two posts, I cussed out loud. Turns out the western region prince, Chris Chase, was the one who started the claims that silver milk powder is fraud.

"What the hell Wyatt? Do you use your mouth to wipe your ass?" Asked Anna. It seems my cussing has offended her in some way.

"What?" I yelled in dismay, hearing Anna's words, and turned to look at her, adding, "Is that even possible?"

"I don't know. You tell me. You are the one with the dirty mouth." My hunch turned out to be correct. It was my cursing that got Anna into a sour mood.

"But you too cuss all the time." I have heard Anna cuss a lot worse many times.

"Now, that's just slander. I don't cuss at my friends." Anna defended herself.

"And like I do?" Anna slandered me first, and now she calls me a slanderer. Oh, the guts on her.

"Then what was that earlier?" Anna pointed out.

"I wasn't cursing at you. I am cursing at this, Mitch." I yelled, shoving my grimoire in front of Anna's face. Tapping at western prince Chris Chase's picture.

"Oh, This Mitch! Did he offend you too? How?" Anna seemed to have a history with western prince Chris Chase.

"You know him?" I asked. Anna is a chill person, as far as I know. She is so easy. Men hardly have to try. So it was unbelievable to hear that a man did not like her.

"Yes, this Mitch, he crashed my party. He also dared to call me a slut in front of my friends." Anna's eyes turned fierce and started to emit an intimidating aura recalling the bad past.

"And he is still alive?" I was surprised that Chris Chase was still alive after calling Anna slut to her face in front of her friends. What surprised me more was that Anna had friends. I thought by now Anna would have slept with all of their boyfriends, fiance, father, brother, etc.

"That coward used an instant teleportation card to escape before I could snap his neck into two." The intimidating aura emitting from Anna got fiercer.

"Huh, why did he do that? Did you reject him or something?" I know, right? I can't believe I am saying these words. Anna rejecting a handsome boy, like that could happen.

"No, I bedded his little sweetheart. I am not the one to blame here. She came to me. I did not see any reason not to. So nature took its course. And by the way his sweetheart moved and moaned in bed. I could tell I was not her first. Despite her claiming otherwise. Believe when I say that girl knew her stuff." Anna recalled her night with prince Chris Chase's sweetheart as she narrated it to me. The intimidating aura emitting from Anna started to suppress slowly. Proving that sex is the answer to achieving world peace.

"Too many details" I am a fan of girl-on-girl action, but that was too many intimate details about a friend. For the sake of our friendship, I decided to erase half of the stuff that Anna shared with me about her night with Chase's sweetheart.

"Awe, are you jealous? That was just casual. You have nothing to worry about. My heart is set on you. I can't say the same if you suck in the bed. So how about we do it and check our compatibility." How does she manage to bring all the conversation back to this, us doing it? Is this one of her hidden talents?

"Yes, let's do it." I decided to play a little with Anna.

"Really?" Anna asked in surprise, mixed with expectations and anticipation.

"I am kidding." I could barely hold in my laugh seeing Anna's enthusiasm crumble.

"You two sicken me. Get a room." Luna finally made her appearance.

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

Chapter 598 - New Family Laws

[1,017 words]

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 22:15

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"Speak, why did you call me here?" Luna spoke in a sore mood.

"Ask him. He is the one that insisted on meeting you despite me warning him that you are too busy for this." It seems I misjudged Anna. She sold me out in mere seconds.

"What is it, Wyatt? What couldn't wait for another day that you had me rush here? Instead of visiting me inside the camp." Luna seemed to be pissed at us for distributing her during her work. I don't blame her as a fellow researcher. I understand where she is coming from.

"Dr. Luna, I wanted an advance payment for the order you placed at my card boutique. I would prefer it if you paid in terms of platinum grimoire instead of the broken runes we agreed upon. Will that be a problem?" At first, I wanted to get a platinum grimoire to prove to Rami Kaga that I could get a platinum grimoire if I wanted to. Later I had a change of heart. I thought wouldn't it be better if I equipped all my eligible calamity daughter gems with the platinum grimoire.

"Advance payment in the form of platinum grimoire... it will not be a problem. But first, tell me, how many do you need?" Thankfully Luna was reasonable and was willing to pay an advance payment in the form of the platinum grimoire.

"How many do you have now?" I didn't just need platinum grimoire from now but also want to stock up for future purposes.

"What do you mean by now? Why would I walk around with a bunch of platinum grimoire on me? What use would I have for them? If you tell me a number, I can have my people collect the grimoires for you by tomorrow." What Luna said made sense. She, herself, uses a diamond grimoire. What use would she have for platinum grimoire?

"What? That won't do. I need one right now. Tell me you have one platinum grimoire on you right now." My read on Rami Kaga told me that tomorrow he would visit my card boutique to check if I can really get a platinum grimoire. So, I need one to show him that it would be in his best interest to follow my arrangement without resisting or smartassery.

"Sorry, I don't have one on me right now. If it helps, I can get you one by tomorrow morning." Luna offered considerately.

"By tomorrow morning? Can you be more specific?" Morning represented a wide range of time. Who knows when old Rami will pop by. I had to be prepared.

"If it is that urgent, I can use my teleportation card to fetch you the platinum grimoire." Luna is hesitant about this because of the new family rules. After the over deal with Sansa Baylor's secret organization attacking Anna's grandma and me, all the people with southern royal bloodline were ordered to be on alert. Considering the effect of Sansa's origin card being alert was not enough since it makes it difficult to know who is an ally and who is an enemy. Therefore, to avoid complications, all the juniors of the Royal bloodline were asked not to use their teleportation card carelessly. The Royal

family was being this careful because they did not know what Sansa had in store for them. What if she manages to get her hands on one of the family's juniors? There is no telling how badly it could end. So the juniors were asked to save the transportation card for emergency purposes only.

"Yes, do that. It would really help my situation." I didn't know why Luna did not suggest this earlier, but now that she did, I hope she does so.

"Oka..." Luna was about to agree with me but was interrupted by Anna.

"You don't have to do that. I know someone who has a platinum grimoire." Saying that, Anna turned to look into the darkness of the night and ordered, "Ask Connerty to come here."

"Anna, are you sure Connerty has a platinum grimoire?" Luna asked in concern. Seeing Anna and Luna, two of the top figures in the southern region, struggle to get their hands on platinum grimoire, I finally realized how hard it is to get a platinum grimoire. Or maybe Anna and Luna wouldn't have such a hard time if they were back home.

"I awarded it to him for his daughter, graduating as the top of the batch from Southern military university. Since Wyatt needs it now, we can ask him to be considerate. But you will have to give him back a platinum grimoire as soon as possible and compensate for his troubles." Anna explained. I knew she was close to soldiers of the southern watch, but I did not realize that she was so deeply involved in their families too. Bright family is one such example. At first, I thought it was only for a select few, but it doesn't seem to be the case.

"Don't worry. I will get the grimoire by tomorrow, along with the grimoires for Wyatt. Or would he prefer it if I directly sent it to his daughter?" Luna also seemed to appreciate this side of Anna.

"No, don't do that. You would be robbing him of the joy he would feel when he personally gifts the grimoire to his daughter." As Anna spoke these words, I saw an shadow of eager little girl longing for her father's love in her. Was I wrong? I thought she hated him. Enough to massacre his second family and their relatives.

"Okay. Wyatt, give me the number of platinum grimoires you need. I will get them by tomorrow." Luna asked me how many platinum grimoires I needed. This nonchalant question from Luna throws my previous conception about how scares the platinum grimoire is, down in the drains. These girls are local tyrants. I guess everything is available for them with the snap of their fingers.

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

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 22:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"A dozen platinum grimoires and four dozen golden grimoires." Since Luna was so reasonable and hospitable to my request, I decided to add an extra demand to my request, golden grimoires. I planned to use the golden grimoires to motivate my troops by awarding them to the card apprentices with the most contribution in the upcoming war against the circle.

"What the heck? Are you buying fruits or grimoires?" Commented Anna.

"12 platinum grimoires? Why do you need so many? Are you planning on selling them on the black market? If you do, that won't turn out well for you." Luna was surprised to hear I wanted a dozen platinum grimoires and misunderstood my intention.

"I plan to exchange a few of them for favors, and the rest are for my people," I answered honestly.

"Huh, I will contact you when I get them." Luna nodded in understanding.

"Speaking of my people, I need to use the silver beach gate dungeon to make more silver milk powder." I know Anna did say that I cannot enter the dungeon as the dungeon relocation apparatus is being set up, but I got to ask. Maybe there is another way.

"Nope, nobody can enter the silver beach gate dungeon right now. Otherwise, all the progress we have made to date will be wasted." Luna, too, denied me entry to the gate dungeon.

"Told you." Anna did not miss the chance to sneak in a 'told you so.'

"But, if it is silver milk powder you need, I can share some with you. Check this out," saying that Luna summoned her grimoire and took out numerous bottles filled with silver pills.

"Did you make silver milk powder into pills? Let me guess. You call them Silver milk pills." I said, holding a bottle of silver milk pills.

"Not only did I turn silver milk powder into pills but also divided them into four grades based on the concentration of silver milk powder. You can tell by the shade of the pills. The darker the pill, the higher the silver milk powder concentration level. And named the

silver milk grades accordingly, Average, Good, Best, and Excellent." Luna then went on to explain how the grading system worked.

Average Grade - Mortals

Good Grade - Card Students, Card Scholar

Best Grade - Card Soldiers, Card Masters

Excellent Grade - Card Grandmasters, Card Lords

"What about the higher realms?" I asked, seeing that the grading system was only limited to the card lord realm.

"After card lord realm, almost all card apprentices wait to form their ego gem and then break to the higher realm unless they are running out of lifespan. The effect of silver milk powder on ordinary Card Overlord realm is already very little useless the contraction of silver milk powder is increased by massive levels. Despite that, the effect becomes negligible for Card Overlords with Ego gems.

Not to mention that if we increase the concentration of silver milk powder to match the needs of higher realm card apprentices, the profit margin on affordable pricing narrows down to almost nothing. Leaving us with only one choice but to increase the product's price.

But, higher realm card apprentices have many affordable alternatives to help with their active soul control. Therefore, we decided to limit the production to the needs of the card apprentices up to the card lord realm." Luna explained how the effect of silver milk powder decreases with an increase in the realm, to maintain the effect of the silver milk powder, the concentration level has to increase. And this method is only profitable till the card lord realm, limiting the final grade to the Excellent grade silver milk pill.

"Makes sense. After all, our target customers are the mortals and low-level card apprentices. Keeping the product affordable is our best bet." The Southern royal family's marketing strategy to sell silver milk powder products was to sell large quantities at affordable prices instead of selling small quantities at high prices. This strategy was optimal for our product, considering its customer base.

"Okay, so how many do you need?" Luna asked generously.

"A dozen storage cards of each grade except for average grade pills." The average grade is for mortals. I had no use for them.

"I don't have that amount of pills. Here, take this storage card. It contains highly concentrated silver milk powder. It should meet your requirements. You divide the powder according to your use." Saying that, Luna handed me an A-rank storage card.

"This will be enough," I said, having taken a peek into the card after equipping it.

"Anything else," Luna inquired.

"No, that's all. Thank you." Seeing that Luna had work to attend to, I thanked her for her help as she was about to excuse herself.

"Anna, you could help Ann, you know. With your help, we can decrease the time required to set up the dungeon relocation apparatus by one-third of the original estimated time." Before leaving, Luna asked Anna to be of more help than loitering around.

"I could do a lot of things with my time. And right now, I am on watch for any potential enemy attack." Anna seemed to be pro at escaping responsibility.

"Humph, suit yourself. If only you were half as diligent as big sis Ann. This world would be a better place to live in." Luna snorted and hurried to her post.

"Wyatt, the night is still young. So where to?" With Luna gone, Anna prepared to state her intentions.

"For you maybe, but not for me, it is way past my bedtime. I am heading back to the warehouse." I wanted to return to the warehouse, divide the silver milk powder for my calamity daughter gems and then go to bed. I was in no mood for a party like Anna was hinting on.

"Don't be such a killjoy. Let's go to a club, relieve all this stress by getting drunk and dancing silly." Advised Anna as she massaged my shoulders.

"Nope, not happening. If it were someone else, I would have given it a little consideration. But with you, I am not going anywhere. Especially not to the locations with easy access to booze."

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

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 22:35

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"Anna, get off the nanomorpher. I am not taking you on a long drive." Seeing that I wouldn't even consider clubbing, Anna demanded I take her on a long drive, and she was very adamant about it.

"Wyatt, I didn't want to do this, but you forced me." Anna grabbed me by my waist and flew to the sky. Stopping at a certain height, she added, " Either you take me on a long drive on your hoverbike, or I will take you on a long flight holding you like this. Choose!"

"Fine, but only this once. Don't think this kind of persuasion will work on me twice." I had no choice but to cave. I started to resent myself for being too weak.

"Great!" Anna cheered, getting her way.

"Anna, since I agreed to your request, how about you tell me more about Demigod's Charity Auction?" I didn't ask Anna about the demigod charity auction because I knew if I asked Anna a favor, she would ask something unreasonable in return. I did not want to be in such a situation with Anna, so I avoided asking about the charity auction. Instead, I had my Super Brain spare a few bots to collect any and all information regarding the demigod charity auction. But now that I knew Anna could get her way with other means of persuasion, I directly asked her about the charity auction.

"Don't make it sound like a transaction. It will no longer seem romantic. And know this, never hesitate, all you have to do is ask, I will help you with my all." Anna said some cringe stuff.

"..." I wanted to yell, 'there was nothing romantic about what we were doing right now,' but I chose not to. Though Anna's words made me cringe, I felt sincerity behind them.

"Demigod Charity auction is where all the rich and powerful families, sects, cults, gather to show their wealth and assert their strength." Anna began to narrate the history of the demigod charity action as I drove the hoverbike aimlessly and went where the road took us. I had a Card Emperor in the passenger seat, so I had nothing to fear.

The first demigod charity auction was held to gather funds for the fight on the way beyond. As the war progressed, the demigod charity auction started to be held more frequently until it became a thing, and it would be held once in a while. And after the war, the charity auction was held to gather funds to help rebuild everything destroyed during the war and make living more comfortable for the people. Soon holding a demigod charity auction to address the problems in the society became a tradition, and since then, the demigod charity auction has been held once every year.

Demigod charity auction is where card apprentices compete in a bidding war over the card eggs. Card eggs are artificial eggs created by demigods using an SSS-Rank Null Wood card ingredient to create the external shell of the Card egg, which encloses a card.

SSS-RANK Null Wood is a demigod realm wood with absolute anti-spy ability. The Null Wood anti-spy ability is unmatched. Not even a demigod can peek into the null wood cover to spy on whatever it is hiding. Therefore this Null Wood is used to create the eggshell of the Card eggs used in the charity auction.

The idea behind having Card eggs auctioned instead of actual cards is to add the addiction of gambling to the auction. After all, the demigod charity auction was created to gather as many donations as possible.

To make the auction more fun, the card eggs are divided into four tiers, Silver, golden, platinum, and diamond.

Silver Card egg - AA-rank to SSS- rank cards

SSS-Rank Card - 1% Chance

SS-Rank Card - 3% Chance

S-Rank Card - 6% Chance

AA-Rank Card - 90% Chance

Golden Card egg - AA-rank to SSS- rank cards

SSS-Rank Card - 3% Chance

SS-Rank Card - 6% Chance

S-Rank Card - 90% Chance

AA-Rank Card - 1% Chance

Platinum Card egg - AA-rank to SSS- rank cards

SSS-Rank Card - 6% Chance

SS-Rank Card - 90% Chance

S-Rank Card - 3% Chance

AA-Rank Card - 1% Chance

Diamond Card egg - AA-rank to SSS- rank cards

SSS-Rank Card - 90% Chance

SS-Rank Card - 6% Chance

S-Rank Card - 3% Chance

AA-Rank Card - 1% Chance

The cards hidden in the card eggs can be anything, a card ingredient or a card recipe or a skill card or an item card or a one-time use card. There is no telling which type or rank of card one might get.

Each tier of the Card egg had a different range of base prices. So that families with varying wealth can also participate in the fun while doing some good for the society. Bidding wars are already fun by themselves. Mixing gambling's addiction with it is another level of hype and adding in the vanity of doing good for society, when in reality, all you are doing is gambling is some next-level shit. Whoever came up with this plan to loot the rich is a genius.

Thinking of all this, I couldn't help but wonder if my soul pupils could peer through the Null Wood. If yes, the following year's demigod charity auction will be a blast.

"There is another tire of eggs. This one has the highest base price of all the card eggs in the auction, Relic Card eggs." Anna saved the best for the last.

Relic Card egg - Relic or False Relic card

Relic Card - 1% Chance

False Relic Card - 9% Chance

Better luck next time - 90% chance

Hearing about the Relic cards, my head spun as my Soul pupils were a false relic. If a false relic can be this power, then the power of a relic would be worth starting a war. And this card egg tier was unique where one had a 90% chance of winning nothing, yet, it was set at the highest base price. This shows how much a relic is coveted and sought after.

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

Date- 30 Mar 2321

Time- 22:43

Location- Sky Blossom City, D-rank Uncommon Grade Silver Beach Gate Dungeon

"Have you ever participated in the demigod charity auction?" I asked Anna.

"No, my family is too poor to indulge in those things," Anna said calmly.

"Your family has five demigods that I know of. How can you be so shameless?" Anna's shamelessness stumped me. The Heatsend Royal Family rules the entire southern region. Just the yearly tax alone should overflow their treasury.

"Wyatt, you don't get it. The Southern region is underdeveloped and the poorest of all the five regions. Most of the tax we collect goes into maintaining the state. Some of it goes to the government in the central region, and what we have left is saved as emergency funds.

The southern region's circumstances are dire, but that's good for you. If not for that, my family would never go all out for the silver milk powder. Even with our background, we can't afford an all-out war with the world. But silver milk powder is the only hope to help the southern region catch up with other regions and even surpass them." Anna explained the southern region was one step away from bankruptcy. Making silver milk powder their only hope for revival.

"Still, if not you, someone in your family must have participated, just to keep the appearance," I asked

"Yes, my cousin did and bid for two diamond card eggs. Utter waste, for the cost of two SSS-rank cards, he won one SS-rank card and one S-rank card. Had I known he was that unlucky, I would have taken Ann. She seems to be blessed by luck." Anna got pissed how her cousin lost money in the auction.

"Well, look on the bright side and think about how many people the Charity will help." I tried to console Anna.

"What if it were your money?" It took one simple question for Anna to shut my mouth.

"..." I choose to stay silent, thinking, 'If it were my money, I would not send my cousin to gamble in my place. This way, at least, I would get to experience the joy of squandering money.'

"The worst thing is, that asshole Chris Chase won three SSS-rank cards in a row. All three of the card eggs he bid for were golden tiers.

Can you believe it? He bid for three golden card eggs in a row, and each one of them turned out to be an SSS-rank card. The crowd was baffled by his fortune. They called it the Ten Minutes Golden Luck.

Because he won three SSS-Rank cards from three golden card eggs within ten minutes, a fortunate stroke of luck." Anna whined about how her family made a loss in the charity auction, and her enemy prospered.

'Ten minutes?' For some reason, this stood out to me. So I hurriedly asked, "Anna, when did Chris Chase win the three golden card eggs? Time of his bid to be specific. Please be as accurate as possible. This is important."

"Huh, Give me a second. I will ask." Saying that Anna summoned her grimoire and massaged her people to inquire the exact time of Chris Chase's bids. Soon she received a reply which she narrated to me, "17:36, 17:39, 17: 42"

"Fock yeah!" I yelled in cheer. The time rewind started at 17:45, three minutes after the last bid, and went back in time for 10 minutes, precisely 17: 35, one minute before the first bid.

It seems that somebody couldn't let go of their greed to win three SSS-Rank cards at the cost of three S-rank cards. It is like buying gold for the price of copper. With such a haul, it is easy to get the media hopped up about it. No wonder he was listed in the top 10 searches of the grimoire network.

"Anna, did he bid for any other card eggs?" I asked, trying to gain more legitimacy for my theory.

"No, he bid just for those three card eggs and seemed to be pretty adamant about buying those three card eggs. And did not bid again. When asked why? He said he was lucky and did not want to test the patience of his luck further. WTF does it even mean? Such a pretentious stooge." Anna seemed bummed out as her enemy gained attention.

'Got him' hearing what Anna said, I was 90 percent sure that Chris Chase was the one behind or somehow related to the time rewind incident. Stupid idiot, he was too cheap to cover his track. Now it is going to cost him.

Earlier I wanted to meet him to punish him for the silver milk fraud case fiasco, but now I want to ask about his stroke of luck in the demigod clarity auction. Since the golden goose decided to mess with me, I don't mind making him obedient. By obedience, I mean hahaha...

"Wyatt, why are you giggling to yourself like a fool?" Anna asked in annoyance.

"Anna, you are my lucky star. Your information now saves me a lot of trouble. Let's hope it pans out." I yelled enthusiastically. I know there is a possibility that Chris Chase

is not related to the time rewind event, but the chance of him being the one behind the time rewind and me getting my hands on his secret made me giddy. Chris Chase seems to be a lucky bastard no matter what he is hiding, I will make it mine.

"Oh, really? Then how are you going to reward me?" Anna's voice turned sluttish as her hands hugging my waist got tighter, and her bosom squeezed harder on my back.

"I thought you did not want our relationship to be transactional, and you would do your best to help me." I remind Anna of the cringe stuff she spoke about earlier.

"There is nothing transactional about this. I am happy that I could help you, and now you are happy and want to reward me as a show of appreciation."

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 7:09

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

I woke up feeling a warm and squeezy embrace. I turned to check, to my dismay, I found naked Anna cuddling me in her sleep. I panicked and hurriedly checked if I was fully clothed. I was in the same clothes I wore yesterday. But knowing Anna, I was not assured. I asked Hive AI to recall what had happened yesterday night.

Since I refused to party or go clubbing, Anna asked to buy a beer keg. I decided to allow it as appreciation for her help with information on Chris Chase. Late at night, Anna and I returned to the warehouse with a beer keg. We drank ourselves silly to the point where we couldn't speak without stammering. Then we climbed on my bed and went to sleep. At that moment, both of us were clothed. Hive AI didn't report any foul play. So, why is Anna naked?

"It is morning already. What time is it?" Anna seemed to have woken up due to my movement.

"7:12," I answered, still trying to figure out why Anna was naked when she went to sleep in her clothes.

"What is wrong with you? Why did you wake me up so early in the morning?... Oh! You want me to take care of your morning wood?" Anna spoke sheepishly. Yet she did not forget her adult humor.

"Shut up. Why the heck are you naked?" I yelled.

"Don't you remember?" Anna answered with a question.

"I do, I remember every little detail, but I don't remember you getting undressed." Despite Hive AI's help, I don't seem to recall Anna getting undressed, which is why it bugged me.

"Well, I undress in my sleep. It usually happens when I am sleeping in my bed at home. But this is the first time I have undressed in my sleep outside my bedroom. It seems subconsciously I felt safe next to you, as safe as I feel in the royal palace." Anna once again started with her cringe bullshit.

"Are you done? Now get dressed before Susan comes." Susan usually comes after 7:30. I don't want her to see naked Anna in my bed and misinterpret the situation.

"Why? What will happen if she sees us like this?" Anna's questions stumped me and forced me to think about the worst-case scenario of Susan seeing Anna rolling naked in my bed.

"Shut up and get dressed already. This warehouse is my place of work. I don't want Susan to think that I am using it for purposes other than work." Yes, I did not want Susan to misunderstand what was happening here.

"Why do Susan's thoughts matter to you?" Anna did not budge from the bed. Instead, continued to question me why I do what I do.

"Susan is my friend and colleague. Her opinion matters. Anna, I beg you, please get dressed." I don't know why, but every time I think about Susan seeing naked Anna in my bed, for some reason, I feel guilty.

"Nope, not happening. I am sleepy. I will continue to sleep. Do not disturb me." Anna threw the blanket covering her to the ground and slept on her side, leaving me facing her bare naked ass.

"Fine, you win. Can you use your Dirt Purge card on me?" I gave up trying to change Anna's mind and let her be.

"Aqua Wash, Dirt Purge " Having helped me clean up dentally, physically, and even my clothes, Anna continued her sleep butt naked.

"Thank you. Make yourself at home. I will excuse myself to the card lab. I still have to divide the silver milk powder into various construction levels." Now that I think about it, I have nothing to worry about. I can tell Susan that Anna used my bedroom for a night while I slept on the couch. She will believe me, right? Not waiting for Anna's reply, I head out of the bedroom and go to the card lab.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 8:34

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

Following Luna's example, I divided silver milk powder into four grades depending on their concentration level and made pills out of them as per the medication for single use. Since the quantity of the silver milk powder was large with a high concentration, I took more time creating the pills than I expected.

Walking out of the Card Lab, I ran into Susan and greeted her, "Good morning Susan."

"Good Morning, An old gentleman named Rami Kaga and his grandson Kane Kaga are awaiting presence." After greeting me, Susan reported that customers were waiting for me.

"Oh, they are here already? They are earlier than I expected them to be." It seems that old Rami could not wait to check if I could get a platinum grimoire from the southern emperor.

"And I was afraid the guest in your bedroom would catch a cold, so I covered her with a blanket. I hope I did not disturb her sleep." Susan spoke menacingly.

"Oh, Anna isn't up yet? Yesterday we had too much to drink, so I let her sleep on my bed while I slept outside. Sorry, we trashed the warehouse and forgot to clean up after." I lied without batting an eye. But my heartbeats raced due to the guilt I felt. Lying was not new to me, but the guilt was new. It seems I care about Susan and her opinion of me.

"Huh, that was it?" Susan asked in surprise.

"Yes. Once again, sorry for the mess." I apologized for the mess drunk Anna and I created.

"Oh, don't worry. Corey cleaned it up with her card." It seems Susan bought my lie.

"Corey is here. Where is she now?" I decided to change the topic when I had the chance.

"She is trying to poach your clients. Since she works for you, I thought, what the heck? And let her be. After all, whatever she earns will come to us anyway." Replied Susan.

"If she is doing what you are saying. Then she is barking up the wrong tree. She will achieve nothing but scorn. But I like enthusiastic employees."

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

Chapter 603 Elliott's Call

[1,044 words]

Chapter 603 Elliott's Call

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 8:43

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

As I was headed to greet the grandson and grandpa duo, I received a call from Elliott.

[Elliott Calling... Answer /Reject/Reply]

[Answer]

"Hi, Elliott. How are you doing, buddy?" I answered the call with a casual greeting.

"Wyatt, I heard you recruited Fine Gold to help me. Have you gone insane? I thought we agreed on not trusting them, and you were smarter than this." Elliott replied, guns blazing.

"Well, let me explain...." Before I could even get to the part about Fine Gold being mine Elliott interrupted me.

"By the way, I didn't call you to make sure not to let you know about my family circumstances. How did you know about it? Did your people tell you? I ordered them not to inform you about it. Well, at least they are more loyal than my backstabbing brothers." Elliott misunderstood that the Kane trio had informed me about Elliott's family drama. They couldn't have because I ordered them to follow Elliott's arrangement. I basically handed their remote control to Elliott. They could not ignore Elliott's direct order.

"You got it wrong. It wasn't the Kane trio. You can trust them. They follow mercenary codes. Since you are paying them big bucks, they will follow your words like commands." I wanted Kane trio to follow Elliott because he lacked people he could trust. If Elliott's misunderstanding about the Kane trio continued, he would lose trust in them, then the point of me lending him control over the Kane trio would become meaningless.

"If it wasn't them, then who?" Elliott was skeptical about my words.

"It was Diana Keith. She came to me personally to inform me of your situation and negotiate a cooperative deal," I told the truth.

"She did what? Fock! Those sisters are right when their prey are weakest and right when to strike. Let me hear it, what kind of soul-selling deal have you made with them?" Elliott said in frustration.

"Well, I bought them." Technically they sold themselves to me, but it's all the same.

"What? You bought them. What do you mean by you bought them?" Elliott found my words hard to understand and couldn't help but repeat them.

"Yeah, you are talking to the highest shareholder of Fine Gold." I proudly announced.

"How did you achieve that? That company isn't in the market yet. Fine Gold's shares are split between the sisters." Elliott found it hard to believe my words.

"They sold me the shares on a promise that I would be the silent partner and give them the supply and distribution rights of Silver milk powder for the blossom district." This is what actually happened despite me bragging to Elliott earlier.

"No wonder, despite losing their company. Those two made a killing. Anyway, how are you dealing with all the rumors about you being a fraud spreading in the grimoire network? Why hasn't Anna come to defend you? And why are they launching an investigation into silver milk powder? Are they trying to cut you off after getting the complete recipe for silver milk powder?" This is a true friend. He cared about me despite me not living up to the promise, not a promise but an unspoken understanding.

When Elliott helped get the patent for silver milk powder in a day by introducing me to Anna, we had an unspoken understanding that I would give Elliott's family company the

supply and distribution rights of Silver milk powder in Blossom District as a show of my appreciation for his help. But I ended up giving it to Fune Gold to swallow it.

"It's not like that. Things will become clear soon. I got it all under control. So don't worry." I decided not to go over the details and asked Elliott not to worry.

"If you say so. Anyway, thanks for the help. I was hesitant about using Fine Gold's help, but now that I know it is my buddy's company, I will no longer hold back. It is good to hear you are doing well, buddy. I have a lot of faces to slap and revenge to take. So I will be hanging up now. See you later." Elliott sounded like he has been through a lot these days and is eager to give back with interest.

"Sure, and don't worry about the Silver milk powder supply and distribution rights. In all the cities where your family company has its branches, I will order Diana to hand over the rights to your company." Seeing how Elliott did not complain about the silver milk rights, I decided to make my stance about it clear.

"You don't have to do that. You have already done a lot for me." I don't know if Elliott was being polite or he actually felt that way. Either way, Elliott helped me a lot by giving me the Dungeon Calamity seed and introducing me to Anna. This is just my token of appreciation.

"Come on. There is no need for us to keep scores. We are friends, remember. You would have done the same for me." I said politely and meant every word of it.

"Ok, then. I will not t~thank you then." Elliott choked as he said those words. Spending his youth in a wheelchair with delicate care, Elliott always thought he missed out on making friends for life. But hearing his friend's words, he realized he was wrong. It wasn't too late. He could make friends now and already had one. Therefore he couldn't help but get teary and choke while masking his emotions.

"Did you just choke? Don't tell me you are crying. This is getting too cringy for me. I am hanging up." Hearing Elliott cry over the call, I had a smile on my face because right then, I knew that Elliott appreciated my friendship as much as I did his.

"I love you, buddy!!!" In the final second of our call, before I hung up, Elliott yelled out these words. Audible enough to be heard by Susan, who was passing by.

"It is not like what it sounds, I can explain.... I fucking hate you, Elliott."

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

Chapter 604 Anna's Shenanigan

[1,022 words]

Chapter 604 Anna's Shenanigan

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 8:51

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

"Good morning, Mr. Rami, Kane. I hope I did not keep you guys waiting too long." I greeted the grandfather and grandson duo as I made myself comfortable on the couch opposite theirs.

"Good morning, Master Wyatt. You came just in time. Your employee here was keeping us entertained." Rami politely returned the greetings.

"Good morning, Master Wyatt. I have something to tell you. I hope I am not crossing the line." Said Kane Kaga while glaring fiercely at Corey.

"You're my fan, Kane. Please speak your mind without hesitation." I had a pretty good hunch about what Kane was going to say.

"Thank you, Master Wyatt. I will have to ask you to fire this employee of yours. She was bad-mouthing you behind your back." Yep, my hunch came through. Kane, you really are my fan.

"He is lying! I did not bad mouth you. Wyatt, you got to trust me." Corey yelled in her defense.

"Miss, are you calling my grandson a liar?" Rami asked Corey with a ferocious gaze. If not for my presence, he would have bombarded Corey with his killing intent. With Corey's power, I guess she would have withstood it.

"Shut up, old geezer. Wyatt, who are you going to trust? Your trusted employee or these two strangers." Corey did not back down and stuck to her act.

"Them," I said calmly.

"What?" Corey's current reaction reminded me of the popular card hamster meme back on earth.

Hearing my answer, Rami nodded in satisfaction, and Kane's admiration for me grew to a level of worship. As he said, "Master Wyatt, thank you for believing in me. But rest assured, I recorded my conversation with her as evidence."

"You did what? You recorded that without my consent. That is not admissible." Corey tried to wiggle free of the accusation but ended up proving her guilt.

'You Idiot' Corey Park's words sounded in Corey's mind.

"What the heck is going on here? Why are you guys being so noisy so early in the morning?" Anna walked out of the bedroom, wrapping the White sheets around her naked body.

"Big Sis Anna, these guys are bullying me." Corey shamelessly seemed a refuge under Anna.

"Your highness Southern Emperor." Rami immediately recognized Anna and hurriedly knelt staging his grandson along with him since they were in the presence of royalty.

"Who are you? Don't you know I don't like old customs? Get up before I make it so that you never get up." Anna was free-minded and did not like the social division such as Commoner and royalty. Yes, she is proud of her family and its royal heritage, but she felt that the majesty of her family was not something to be used as a tool of fear and tyranny rather respect and admiration. Also, this exception of her's only applied to her people, that is, citizens of the Southern region. As for others, they better fear her and submit to her supremacy.

"Forgive my rudeness, your Highness. I am Rami Kaga, head of Blossom district medical card association, and this is my grandson Kane Kaga.

Your Highness, please forgive my insolence earlier. With old age, I keep forgetting things. Please be generous with this loyal subject of yours." Rami hurriedly stood up with his grandson and begged for forgiveness. It felt weird to hear Rami address Anna so politely and respectfully. I felt like I was watching some medieval drama.

"You are forgiven. Make sure it won't happen again" Anna ditched her usual careless attitude, which she has around me, and responded elegantly.

"Thank you for your generosity, your highness." Rami hurriedly thanked Anna for forgiving him. But I couldn't tolerate this medieval carp any longer.

"Anna, why are you out here? Warped in my sheets, no less." I inquired Anna with a frown.

"Wyatt, don't act like you don't know. After all, we slept together last night." Anna replied with a hint of shyness.

"..." Old Rami looked at me as if looking at a great god. As did his grandson. Worship in Kane's eyes for me had grown to absolute faith.

"You two-timing asshole. I knew it. You finally showed your true colors and betrayed big sis Susan. Two dumb focks, see what I told earlier was the truth. This, right here, is my proof." Corey did not require an invitation to blow the whole thing out of proportion.

"Shut up, Corey. Anna, don't talk misleadingly. We did not sleep together. We drank together, and we passed out together. Speak clearly." I yelled and hurriedly explained before people misinterpreted the whole thing through their imagination. But it was too little too late.

"Yes, that. That's what I meant to say. Wasn't I clear enough? Anyway, I am going to freshen up." After detonating a bomb, Anna went on her merry way.

"Big sis, did you see. Did you hear what she said?" Corey wouldn't be Corey if she backed away with a warning.

"Shut up, Corey. This is not a game. Watch where you are pointing. That's the Southern Emperor, our protector. Sullyng her is equal to sullyng all of us, our ancestors, and I won't tolerate it." Susan gave Corey an earful.

"Little girl, I don't know what your relationship with her highness is. But be respectful. I believe your parents will also want that." Rami did not like how Corey addressed Anna and voiced his dissatisfaction.

"Mr. Rami, thank you for your advice, but I think I can educate my sister." Though Susan was angry with Corey, she did not think it was an outsider's turn to discipline her sister.

"Sorry, Manager Susan. I was a bit emotional and spoke a little out of line." Rami accepted his mistake.

"I can understand. Since your heart was in the right place." Susan did not hold it against Rami and forgave him. After all, it was Corey's fault, and if it were some other southerner in Rami's place, they would have reacted the same or harsher.

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 9:11

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

"What was that for? Are you happy now?" I enquired Anna.

"Head of the Blossom Branch Medical Association, is the platinum grimoire for him?" Anna did not mind my words, instead answered with a question.

"Yes, I was going to use it as bait to string him long enough to get what I want, but now I don't need it. After seeing you, I bet he will willingly try to be on my good side. Was that your intention from the start?" Anna's method was crude, but it was effective. A man of authority and position like Rami knows how important and valuable it is to have the right connections. Thanks to her entrance earlier, my value in Rami's eyes has increased by a hundredfold. Now he will go out of his way to maintain a good relationship with me.

"Since the law forbids me from using my influence to directly participating in private affairs, I decided to help you indirectly. I feel sorry that I cannot do more for you." Anna seemed to mean the last part genuinely.

"I had him. Your help was unnecessary. But I appreciate the thoughtfulness behind your action." I couldn't bring myself to blame Anna for interfering, considering that she was being thoughtful.

"I know you are capable. But why not use all the hands available? Won't that be faster and save you some trouble? Anyways, I wanted to do something for you. Blame me if you have to. I don't mind." Seeing Anna be submissive, I lost my original purpose for confronting her. Instead, I felt a little guilty for not being appreciative enough. I guess that is what Anna is trying to achieve by acting submissive.

"Huh, cut the crap. If you want me to fall for you, you will have to try harder." Anna is a vixen with a lot of tricks up her sleeves. Seeing that I could resist her birthday suit charm, she decided to go with the debt trap.

Debt trap, reyou peatedly doing favors for a person until they feel obligated to do something for you. And then using that, you have them do what you want them to do that they wouldn't agree to do in normal circumstances. A classic and effective method, but this takes a lot of time, resources, and attention. But for someone as invested and stubborn as Anna, this method was a good option.

"All I was trying to do was help the person I like. Suppose you see it another way. I can't do anything since it is not my problem but yours. You have to be more trusting." Anna pushed all the blame on me. Trying to make me feel like I have a problem. Saying that I find faults with her because I don't trust people.

"I know I have trust issues. But this isn't that. Now that I know what you are doing. Stop doing it." I asked Anna to stop with her mind games.

"How can I stop doing it? When I am not doing anything." Responded Anna.

"I am telling you Anna, break it off." Anna's response had a vein pop on my neck.

"And I am telling you I am not doing anything. Now go away. I have to go through all these propositions sent by the military council to make the life of our soldiers easier on the way beyond." Saying that Anna continued to go through her grimoire.

"This is my room!"

"This is my City!"

"Whatever." Knowing there was no point in arguing with Anna, I headed out of the bedroom in frustration.

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"Wyatt, you lied to me!" Said Susan as I walked out of the bedroom.

"Susan, nothing happened. I can explain." I could see the disappointment in Susan's eyes.

"You don't have to explain yourself to me. The clients are waiting for you. Hurry back." Saying that, Susan turned to leave.

Grabbing on Susan's left wrist I pulled her into my embrace and said, "But I want to. Please trust me. Nothing happened."

"Wyatt, let go of me. This is inappropriate." Susan struggled free of my hold and pushed me away.

"I am sorry." I apologized, realizing how inappropriate I was being.

Susan turned to leave, taking two steps, she paused, without turning back to face me, she said, "I trust you." And then hurried away like a frightened little mouse.

"Ain't that romantic." Anna's words sounded from behind.

"Fock!" I yelled, being startled. And turning to face Anna, I added, "You were eavesdropping?"

"Hey, I was passing by. That is different from eavesdropping." Anna defended herself and continued saying, "Enough about me. I see you have a thing for your employee. Should I be worried?"

"We are just friends," I responded, defending the sanctity of the employee and employer relationship between Susan and me.

"Wyatt, sometimes I forget you are still a virgin. But thank you for reminding me. Let me give you a advice, a boy and a girl can never be friends. Everybody knows that." Anna commented.

"Yea, I guess what you are saying is right. After all, you are the expert here." I snapped back at Anna.

"I will give you one second to take it back," Anna warned

"Yeah, I said it. I don't care if you are a card emperor or you can kill me with a sneeze. I am not taking it back" I held my ground against Anna.

"Boy, your ass is lucky that I like you. Otherwise, your mouth would be practically kissing your ass right now." Saying that Anna headed towards the bedroom and ordered, "prepare bubble bath. I want to soak."

"Don't you have your cards for that?" Hearing Anna wanted to take a bath. I was surprised. Why use mortal ways when she had handy cards like Aqua wash and Dirt purge?

"You have too many questions." I could feel the chill in Anna's voice as she spoke these words. So I decided to take my win. And yelled, "Yes, Madam. Right away."

Finding Susan, I asked her, " Susan Anna wants a bubble bath to soak in. Please buy what you need but make it happen. It is for the southern emperor, so everything has to be top of the line. Don't hesitate to use all the funds. If you need help, contact Diana."

"You messed it up, huh?"

"You have no idea."

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

[1,034 words]

Chapter 606 Corrupt

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 9:19

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

"Mr. Rami, sorry I had to attend to the other guest. And ended up neglecting you." I said politely.

"I understand. Please don't feel burdened. If I remember correctly, you visited me yesterday with a request. If you don't mind, could you tell me how I can be of help to you?" Rami asked humbly.

"Since you asked, I will not beat around the bush. I heard you from Sun Blossom city."

"Yes, born and raised," Rami responded proudly.

"Then what is your opinion about the Circle opening a branch in your city." For someone in Rami's position, it should be clear that the Circle is bad news. But why does he allow it to infest his city?

"Master Wyatt, regarding that. Since you know that the circle here is just a branch, then you should know how powerful are the people backing them. Not to mention they have half-sovereignty granted to them. My hands are tied in this matter." Half-sovereignty means the Royal family and its related forces cannot obstruct or meddle with their business.

"Okay, I will be more specific. Are you for them or against them?" Seeing Rami hesitate to state his position on the Circle matter, I decided to be more direct.

"Master Wyatt, that is too specific and unfair. This is not as simple as labeling good or bad. The interest of a lot of people is involved in this matter. What I am trying to say is that the Circle is well connected, and if you were to shake it, then a lot of people would be unhappy." What Rami was trying to say is that the southern region is corrupt, and the Circle is their passive and steady income. And they will not hesitate to do anything to keep the cash flowing in.

"Do the people you talk about involve Anna or people close to her?" Rami was being rigid about this. He wanted to be on my good side without doing the work for it. From where I come from, people like that are the first to abandon the ship at first sight of trouble. What I am trying to say is Rami is proving that he is not worth making a friend.

"Not that I know of," Rami answered reluctantly.

"Then are you one of them?" I asked if Rami was one of the people whose interest is tied with the Circle's ship.

"No way in hell." Rami cried out, defending himself. The same enthusiasm was missing when defending Anna and those close to her. Proving that this focker is knee-deep in corruption, has dipped his toes in Circle's bribes, and his loyalty to the southern royal family was for sale.

"Good, I will invade Sun blossom city tonight to wipe out the circle. And I require you to help my troops invade and leave the city unnoticed and stop the local families and authorities from coming to aid the circle." Knowing that a willing corporation cannot be achieved with Rami, I decided to force him to a corporation. I did not use the soul contract from the wager; I was saving it for later.

"What?" Rami cried out in astonishment.

"You heard me right. Do what I ask you, and you will be spared. Or tomorrow's top search in the grimoire network would be regarding corruption in the medical card association." Now that I know Rami is dirty and he knows that I know he is corrupt, and I have the southern emperor on my speed dial, he will cave to my wishes without me having to use the promise I won against him last night.

"Master Wyatt, you don't have to go that far. We can all discuss it." Rami was really angry at the teenage card soldier in front of him, but he could do nothing despite being a card overlord as a card emperor was present next door. Therefore he had no choice but to talk reason into the boy and stop him from killing his golden goose, the circle.

"Mr. Rami, I am still respectful to you because your grandson is my biggest fan. Don't make me repeat myself. My people will contact you, corporate with a smile. Rami, you have a good life ahead of you. Don't disappoint me." Knowing what kind of man Rami was, I handled him the only way he would understand. I was not afraid that Rami would alert the circle because he knew what he has today is because of his head post in the Blossom district medical card association. Therefore he would not do anything that could jeopardize his job and follow my command to dot. Anna's entrance had made things a whole lot easier.

"Thank you, master Wyatt. I you won't br disappointed." Rami replied submissively. He no longer cared about his pride and other bullshit. All he wanted was to save his job.

"If nothing else, you guys can take your leave now." Now that I had Rami's leashes in my hands, I excused the grandfather and grandchild.

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[Calling Diana...]

"Hello, Boss. How can I help you?" Diana responded to the call.

"Prepare the troops. We are going to invade Sun Blossom city tonight." I announced. Having already announced the same to Van and Old Ben through Hive AI.

"Yes, boss," Diana affirmed without hesitation.

"Contact Rami. He will help our troops to bypass the city gates and keep the local families and authorities at bay while we destroy the circle to its last brick. Don't hesitate to order him around. Make full use of that corrupt bastard."

"No worries, boss. I won't disappoint you." Diana did not need me to tell her that. She knew full well how to utilize people to their full potential.

"Good to know you are enthused." Having thrown all the work to Daina. I freed my schedule till tonight.

Then I noticed Kane Kage run back into the warehouse. Hanging up on Diana, I asked, "Kane, why did you return? Did you forget something?"

Kane answered, "Master Wyatt, please help me create my origin card."

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[1,015 words]

Chapter 607 Truth

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 9:27

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

"Master Wyatt, please help me create my origin card."

"Kane, I thought your family had hired a platinum grade card creationist for help." I had already offered Kane to help him with his origin card creation, but he chose to follow his grandfather's arrangement. I don't know what has changed now.

"I don't care. That's my family's decision, not mine. I want your help, Master Wyatt." Kane responded.

"Kane, knowing your family has other plans for your origin card, as a professional, I can't interfere without their consent. Speak with your family, and if they agree, I will help you with your origin card creation." I don't fancy myself as a just person, but I take pride in my work. As a card creationist, I do not want to be irresponsible towards my clients. Kane is young. Without his family's consent, it would be professionally wrong of me to go ahead with his wish and help him create his origin card.

"I am an adult. I am 16 years old and will soon turn 17 in a few weeks. Legally I turned adult on my 16th birthday. So, I don't require my family's advice in my decisions. I can make my own. And I will bear the responsibility for my choices as an adult." Kane announced.

"So, you are an adult, huh? Tell me, what made you choose me over a platinum grade card creationist?" Kane looks young for his age. I thought he was 15 years old or something.

"I want my origin card to be genuinely unique like manager Susan's slime armor or Pax Whiteburns's Iron Flesh, or Debra Khan's Skeleton Centaur Knight, or JK Elliott's origin card, which cured his mortal illness.

I am sorry my people could not find any information on JK Elliott's origin card.

What I am trying to say is, Master Wyatt, all the origin cards you have created are truly unique and revolutionary. They do not have other cards like them.

If I go to the platinum grade card creationist that my mother wants me to go to, he will only create an origin card he is familiar with using my fated ingredients. He will not risk it by challenging himself and pushing himself to create something new, fresh, inspiring, and worthy of the title unique. Because he knows if he tries to do something different than his routine, he will fail to create the origin card.

But you, Master Wyatt, you are different. I know that if it is you, you will do your best to meet my needs and create a masterpiece. I have been following you for days, but it's as if I have known you for ages. Please, master Wyatt, will you do me the honor of being one of your masterpieces." Kane sang my praises passionately.

"Huh, thank you, but tell me the real reason." Kane's flattery was well present, but I knew that alone wasn't the reason for him to seek help from me. This kid was hiding something not just from me but from his family members.

"I am telling the truth!" Kane stuck with his answer.

"Come on. We are alone here. What are you afraid of?" Despite his ordinary demeanor, Kane had a haunted look. As if something was eating him from inside, he wanted to cry for help but did not, fearing something or someone.

"Come on, that boy is obviously showing signs of being bullied and clinical dispersion. If I am not wrong, if we pull down his turtleneck, you can see signs of strangulation." Corey's voice sounded from behind.

"I thought you had scurried back to your rathole. What brings you back?" I knew Kane's situation. I wanted him to say it aloud. Healing begins with acceptance.

"Did you just compare me to a rat?" Corey snapped

"Corey, don't start again. You are an employee here. Act like one. Don't make me repeat myself." I said in a stern voice.

"Sorry, boss." Apologizing, Corey sat on the couch. Watching this, I frowned and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Learning by watching you at work. Earlier, during my conversation with Kane and his grandfather, I realized that I am lacking in the field of customer relations. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get them interested in what I was selling. Since Mama Susan prefers a card creationist, I decided to become the best card creationist and customer relation is part of it." Corey elongated her gibberish reasons for her annoying actions.

"Fine, but don't weigh in unless you are asked to. Got it?" Since I was in the presence of my client, I decided to prioritize Kane first and address this tumor named Corey later.

"Loud and Clear." Corey nodded in agreement.

"So, Kane. That should have been enough time to organize your thoughts. Now, do you want to tell me what is going on?" Pushing Kane to confess would not help. Therefore I decided to give him time to weigh in the pros and cons.

"The platinum grade card creationist that my mother hired is the grandfather of my bully." Kane finally confessed.

"So you already knew about the surprise your mother had planned for you?" Kane's words made it clear that he was already aware of the gift his mother had prepared for him.

"Yes. My Bully, he informed me about it." Kane replied in frustration.

"I guess that's not all he informed you about." Knowing that the person who informed Kane about the surprise his mother planned for him was his bully, I knew he was not doing Kane any favors. There had to be a catch.

"Yes, he said he will ask his grandfather to fail my origin card creation on purpose." My hunch was spot on. The bully wanted to torment Kane mentally.

"Oh, and you believed him," I asked

"I know what you are thinking, Master Wyatt. But I have seen his grandfather do worse for his grandson and family."

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[1,011 words]

Chapter 608 Avenger

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 9:36

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

"My origin card is my only choice to make a comeback and take revenge on those who wronged me. Even if the platinum grade card creationist disagrees with his grandson's wishes, I can not go through with it." Kane's answer surprised me. I did not think this timid guy's thought process would take into consideration what my reaction would be when he narrated the reason why he believed his bully. There seems to be much more going in his head than I thought.

"Why not tell your grandfather and mother?" Corey asked but feeling my glare, she added, "Sorry boss, I was too engrossed in the kid's story."

"I cannot because it will do more harm than good. Though I have no proof of what my bully said, my mother will believe me. She will go as far as to get justice for me, no matter the cost.

My bully's family is very prominent. For them, wiping out my mother and grandfather out of existence is as easy as smashing a bug. You know my grandfather's corrupt behavior. They will have no difficulty dealing with him.

That's the worst-case scenario. Best case, my mother will hold a grudge and withdraw the appointment she made with the platinum grade grimoire card creationist. Knowing him, he would not let my mother do that and ask why. Then that can lead to various variables such as questioning the integrity of the platinum grade card creationist, etc.

No matter how you see it, my family would be the one that ends up hanging by the end of the stick.

The only way out of this predicament is if I take the blame for all this. Knowing my mother and grandfather, they would rather die than let me do that. Therefore, I have kept them in the dark about all this." It seems Kane had weighed in all his options before coming to his current decision.

"Whoa! That's brave of you, but why shoulder this alone if you tell your entire plan to your family members? I bet they will help you. And how do you plan to take the blame and walk out of this?" Corey once again butted in and, turning to meet my glare, she promised, "Boss, this is the last time I promise."

"The only way out of my predicament is if I don't have a fate ingredient. That's where Master Wyatt comes in. If he helps me create the origin card, I will no longer have the use for my appointment with the platinum grade card creationist.

This way, my mother and grandfather are clean while I do not have to worry about the bully ruining my one shot at vengeance. Granted, my mother and grandfather will yell at me for being brazen and creating my origin card without consulting them, but this is better than the alternative." Behind his timid appearance, Kane hid a patient and cunning avenger. His wits and patience made up for his lacking strength.

"Good, it seems you have prepared everything in advance. That includes my service fees. I take it?" I asked.

"Yes, through my research on you. I have been informed that. When it comes to your service fee, it would be in my best interest not to hold back and go all in. Here are the things I have prepared as compensation for your expertise." Saying that, Kane shared a few documents with my grimoire.

"Waoh! That's a lot. Are you sure you want to give this to me? If your grandfather knows this, he may die of shock." The documents that Kane shared with my grimoire were the deeds to various dungeons. 3 A-rank dungeons, 8 B-rank dungeons, 22 C-rank dungeons, 17 D-rank dungeons located all across the blossom district and managed by multiple local adventure guilds. If converted to soul jades, the valuation of these dungeons will easily cross a million soul jades.

"That's all the property my grandfather has purchased in my name through his ill-gotten gains. Master Wyatt, please give me the strength I need for my vengeance." Kane yelled, getting down on one knee and bowing his head to me.

"You need strength? You have come to the right place. Get up. We have lots of things to do. But let's begin with the introduction of your fate ingredient." My hands were itching, with the amount of assets Kane had provided as funds sky was the limit. I was

looking forward to his fate ingredient, in what ways it will prove challenging to me or will it just be plain and rigid with a tiny place for improvement.

"Aaa... My fate ingredient is an ironwood seed." Kane dragged his words before introducing his fate ingredient. It appears he is shy, no, ashamed about it.

"Kane, are you ashamed of your fate ingredient?" I questioned Kane looking into his eyes.

"No, I am not...." Kane said one thing, but his body language told another.

"Clearly, you are ashamed of your fate ingredient." Corey butted in.

"Why is that Kane?" I asked, giving him a chance to understand if he was really ashamed of his fate ingredient.

"No, I am not. It is just that my classmates make fun of me because of it, saying I am a waste wood and my fate ingredient is waste wood." Ironwood is commonly known as waste wood in this world. Because it has zero use in this world, it can not even be used as fodder for the fire or for woodwork. Due to the high iron content in the wood, it is not a good fuel for the fire or woodwork compared to alternatives available. Hence it was labeled as waste wood.

"Good, remember that. You got to have your opinion. Don't let others force their opinion on you. Especially your bullies." Kane was not ashamed of his fate ingredient he only felt ashamed because his friends made fun of him because of it.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 9:44

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

"An Ironwood Seed fate ingredient, this is not so challenging. I have so many ideas for this one...." I mumbled aloud, kind of disappointed in Kane's fate ingredient. And looking at Kane's frowned brows, I add, "I didn't mean it as a mockery of you fate ingredient. I was hoping for a challenge, but Ironwood Seed is a plain fate ingredient with too many directions of possibility. Creating a strong origin card using it will not be a challenge like I was hoping for."

"I don't mind. It's good to know Master Wyatt feels that way. But I have a way to make this card creation more challenging for you." Kane did not read too much in my words and accepted my explanation.

"What is it?" I decided to hear out what Kane was going to propose.

"What if I add a few more conditions other than strength to the type of origin card I want you to create?" When Kane asked me to help him create his origin card, his only condition was that the card should give him enough strength to get his revenge. But now, to make the card creation more challenging for me, he wanted to add a few more specific conditions to the type of origin card I should create for him. This way, the origin card creation becomes challenging for me, and he gets the origin card he desired.

"That is not how we usually do things around here but considering that it will spice up the origin card creation, it's your lucky day, Kane, fire away. What features do you hope for in your origin card, including strength." In my previous case, usually, I decided on what kind of origin card I should create to meet the user's requirement. But this time, everything was up to Kane. All I had to do was make it happen.

"Thank you. Here, this is what I want for my origin card. Is it possible or too much?" Saying that, Kane forwarded a file to my grimoire.

"Ok, let me check." I checked the content of the file sent to my grimoire. It turned out to be a picture book.

"That's my favorite book I have read it a thousand times. Every time I read it, I feel hope." Said Kane as I read the picture book.

The picture book told a story about a puppeteer who set out to create the world's most beautiful puppet in the image of his dream woman and was successful. The puppet was so beautiful that it even impressed the gods. To show their appreciation for the puppeteer's achievement, the gods bring the puppet to life. So this attracts trouble for the puppeteer, but the living puppet takes care of the puppeteer's troubles using its abnormal strength. The puppeteer falls in love with the living puppet. Then they marry, start a family and live happily ever after. The end.

"So, master Wyatt, what do you think?" Kane asked eagerly. I could see big expectations in his eyes. I understood why Kane, who was bullied for most of his high school days, was fond of this particular picture book. This book contained three things he lacked and sought the most, miracle, dependence, and lust.

Though Kane was a sensible kid, when the gods gave life to a puppet, it was like the miracle he prayed for in his life. Something which could turn him from the class loser to the class alpha.

When the living puppet helps the puppeteer solve troubles using her abnormal strength, it reminds Kane of the times of him being bullied. He always hoped for someone dependable to help him out of the situation. Like the living puppet did in the puppeteer's case.

As a teenage boy in his prime with a swarm of hormones forming a cocktail in his body, it is not surprising to see that Kane has a very keen interest in the opposite gender and their body. Kane is timid and bottom feeder in his school, so his experience with girls is self-explanatory. Therefore he hoped, like the puppeteer, he could get a loving puppet who would only listen to him, follow him, care for him, and let him do naughty stuff to its body.

"I think, My dear customer, Kane, you are a man of culture." Kane seems to understand what a man of culture is. It is surprising how slang and cussing are the same back on earth and in this world.

I called Kane a man of culture because this dude was straight up asking me to create a living blow-up doll as his origin card. To think my first perverted deviant customer would be a 16-year-old, I shouldn't be surprised, I guess.

"I will take that as a compliment, Master Wyatt. Just so there is no misunderstanding, let me state it, I want you to create the living puppet in the story, if possible a lot more powerful and a lot more beautiful." One fate ingredient can only be used once. Therefore Kane was being thorough rather than having a tiny misunderstanding ruining his origin card. Kane did not shy away and narrated precisely what he wanted.

"You want me to create a beauty / girlfriend / bodyguard / maid / wife for you using your fate ingredient ironwood tree seed, right?" Reading the picture book, I had already gauged why this particular book was Kane's favorite.

"What kind of vulgarity are you two spouting?" Yelled Corey. It was astonishing to see that she was able to hold back till now.

"Vulgarity, miss Corey, please refrain from labeling things you don't understand yet." Kane was offended by Corey's words. He was right to be. For someone who has been through Kane's experience, he has lost faith and trust in humanity. This lost faith and trust he finds in the characters of the picture book. For someone to call something so important to him vulgarity, Kane wouldn't take it sitting down.

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