

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 641 Inbreeding

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:32

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

This was the first time Anna had used her bloodline card since its creation, as it required her bloodline to activate. Bloodline like blood is replenishable but not as easy. And it also comes with serious side effects. Therefore, Anna had kept this card as a last resort.

If not for her considering the safety of her people in the temporary military base, the D-class silver beach gate dungeon, and sky blossom city itself, Anna would never have considered using this card as the side effects of consuming the bloodline are very strong. Even for someone as tough as Anna.

Since she had used the card anyway, Anna wanted to experience the card to the fullest, of course, apart from the skill 'Unparalleled Honor.' And she was excited to see the beautiful murals on arena walls and the full-body sculptures of her ancestors. Everything was grand and beautiful, but one thing annoyed her the most, the divine light in the eyes of the statues would flicker while making buzzing sounds without any rhythm.

Buzzz

The buzzing sound was irritating to hear. And Anna can't help but shake the feeling that the statues were judging her. But remembering the card info, she realized that the Statues might be possessed by her Ancestors consciousnesses.

Buzzz

If her assumption was correct, then were the sculptures really judging her? And the flickering light in their eyes and buzzing sounds that they made, could it be their way of communicating with her? Were they trying to convey something to her?

Buzzz

Thinking about all of this, Anna was frustrated. Even if her assumptions were accurate, it would be useless as she couldn't understand what her ancestors were trying to say. And not to mention the disgusting devil, which kept calling her food, kept attacking her

with its multiple tongues made up of lava. No matter how many tongues of the creature she destroyed, there was no end to it. But was not threatening and gave her time to explore the arena and think. This was good because if she defeats her opponent, she will be teleported right back to where she had summoned the field card.

BUZZZ

"Shut up! I can't understand you guys. All I can hear are annoying buzzing sounds. That is irritating." For some reason, suddenly, all the statues started to buzz simultaneously. Unable to handle it, irritated, Anna snapped at the sculptures asking them to shut the hell up.

While Anna's words echoed in the arena, the statues suddenly stopped buzzing. Anna almost nodded in satisfaction, but the buzzing noise returned with a higher frequency and was more unpleasant to hear.

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'Who is this bear child? How dare she yells at her ancestors?' The wild thought exploded with anger hearing Anna's response.

'What do you mean by something you don't understand? Little girl, this is important. Explain in more detail.' Another thought sounded.

'Buzzing sounds! Have the family's teachings fallen to such low standards that the generation Heir doesn't know how to use soul whisper? What have you juniors been doing with the family we worked so hard to build.' Anna was actively using the 'southern emperor' bestowal card, so the ancestors of unparalleled bloodline knew Anna was selected as the next generation leader of the Heatsend family and should also have the purest outstanding bloodline of her generation. Therefore the Ancestors were shocked to see that the next person to carry their family torch was so lacking that they blamed their juniors for not grooming her properly.

'Ancestor, that girl is still in card emperor realm. It is already outstanding that she can feel the frequency of our soul whispers.' One of the younger thoughts defended Anna, saying that considering her card emperor realm cultivation, it was already an achievement for her to hear the frequency of their soul whisper.

Anna only heard the buzzing sounds instead of her ancestors' speech because she could only feel the soul frequency they were communicating in but not tune in with it. Even though Anna had the full strength of a demigod, her soul was a mortal soul who hadn't forged a divinity yet. Therefore, despite the demigod realm's power, she lacked the perks of having a divinity.

'What the heck is that supposed to mean? I could hear and decipher soul whispers when I was in the card king realm. Yes, granted that I couldn't communicate with others

using the soul whisper. it was not just me, my father and sister could do it too.' The older thought did not agree that Anna was a genius for feeling the frequency of their soul whispers at the card emperor realm as he was able to achieve more at a lower realm.

'What did you accept? The unparalleled bloodline has been diluted ever since the founders listened to the younger generation and lifted the inbreeding rule. You idiotic younger generation and your new world ideas will be the ruins of our family.' An ancient thought suddenly sounded, blaming the younger generation for forcing the founders to lift the inbreeding rule.

Hearing the Ancient thought, all the other thoughts went silent. They did not expect the presence of one of the big bosses, an ancient card apprentice of the unparalleled bloodline. The silence of the other thoughts did not mean that they agreed with the ancient thought, but he just chose to stay silent out of respect, as bickering with the ancient thought would not change anything.

Hearing the silence, the Ancient thought was pleased and believed that others thought its opinion was valid and reasonable. So to put a nail in the coffin, it added, 'I think we should have the next-generation heir reinstate the inbreeding law. It will take time, but the unparalleled bloodline will regain its old supremacy again.'

Hearing the ancient thought, the other thoughts became active and started to slam it mercilessly. One went as far as to yell, 'You old relic, keep your deviant ideas to yourself.'

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:38

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

'I feel ashamed knowing that I am related to you.'

'How can you have such thoughts about your sisters, nieces, and grandchildren? Disgusting.'

'You sick... sick... Sicko!'

'....' Hearing the displeasure of the other thoughts and various names they referred to him with, the ancient thought became speechless. It did not think that it would face such an intense backlash for trying to revive an age-old tradition. And what about the thoughts from his generation? Why weren't they coming out in his support? It is because of their lazy elders that young people these days forget their roots. Don't they understand that due to their stubbornness, they are killing their ancestral bloodline slowly?

...

"Old dead people. Shut up! I am having a hard time trying to focus on the battle." Anna yelled in annoyance. For some odd reason, the small humanoid mountain of dried magma was getting stronger, faster, and bulkier with every punch she threw at it.

Hearing Anna yell, the unparalleled bloodline ancestors went quiet but soon started communicating using masked soul whispers. Anna could still hear hushed buzzing from the statues of her ancestors, but it was a lot more bearable than before. And this also proved her assumption that the buzzing sound was made because of her ancestors trying to communicate with her or each other. But they are an unruly bunch since they would not fulfill her demand of staying silent.

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'Ancestor, you have defeated this devil once. Can you tell me about its abnormal state? Why is it so weak for a devil?' A thought asked the wild thought who claimed that he had killed the devil Feastus on this world.

'Right now, it is indeed very weak for a devil because this is not its true form. The Devil Feastus has two forms, the first form, the slumber form, and the second form, the awake form.

At present, it is in its slumber form. Just think of this form as sleep eating. Its consciousness is asleep. The only thing it cares about is devouring everything within its sights. The more it consumes, the stronger it grows.

I don't know if this is a coincidence, but this girl is wise to have trapped Feastus in that field card. With the help of its molten lava, it can devour everything in its sights if this fight were happening in the outside world. Then by now, Feastus would have consumed enough to gather the required strength to kill a demigod with a single blow.

Here in the Arena, Feastus cannot use its magma to devour everything surrounding it continuously. So it is growing much slower than when I fought with it.' The wild thought explained.

'Right now, it is not devouring anything. So why is it growing stronger with the passing time? Unless it can also devour the physical force used by the girl to attack it!' Hearing

the explanation of the wild thought, the thought from earlier figured out why the devil Feastus was growing stronger over the period. It was devouring the force from Anna's attacks.

'Oh my, this devil is more troublesome than it looks.' One of the thoughts gasped aloud.

'Not just the physical force from the attack but all kinds of force generated during its motion. That fat ugly bastard will grow stronger just by moving.' The wild thought said menacingly, remembering his fight with the devil Feastus.

'What! Then how did you defeat it? If it can devour all kinds of forces, doesn't that make it invincible? Child, don't exaggerate.' Said an elderly thought. Seeing how it talked down to the wild child, the elderly thought was someone who had experienced life with wild thought.

'Oldman, what need do I have to exaggerate? The devil is right here. You people will witness it soon enough.' The wild thought did not mind the way elderly thought addressed him. Instead, he calmly explained that he had no reason to exaggerate since the evidence was right in front of their eyes.

'He is right. You can see that the devil gets more energetic with every step. Clearly, it feeds off the reaction forces to maintain maximum efficiency, and eating the minute product forces, it grows stronger slowly but steadily.' One of the thoughts pitched in its observations. He seemed impressed by how the devil could produce small product forces efficiently without wasting even a small amount of applied force.

'Woah! That's amazing. If I had a movement technique like that, I could walk around the world ten times and feel energetic.' An older thought said in pure amazement and appreciation.

'Child, you killed that devil, right? Were you able to use its body parts as ingredients to recreate such a card?' Many thoughts were impressed by the devil Feastus's ability. Some couldn't hold back their curiosity and asked the wild thought if he was able to recreate the devil Feastus's ability using its carcass as card ingredients.

'I tried, but I couldn't. But I created a few cards that could absorb the enemy attacks.' Replied the wild thought.

'What! You wasted such good ingredients in creating cards that could absorb the enemy attacks. And you dared to call others prodigal.' The older feminine thought, who contradicted the wild thought earlier, seeing an opportunity, jumped in, blaming him for wasting quality ingredients on trash cards.

'Shut up! If you look at it that way, we are all prodigal. Don't tell you guys never waste a few high-grade ingredients for your hobbies.' The wild thought defended himself by labeling every one of the unparalleled bloodline as prodigal.

'You—' the older feminine thought was about to refute the wild thought, but a younger feminine thought interrupted her, 'Ancestor, calm down. It's not the time for settling petty differences. We have a more pressing matter at hand. Our junior will lose to the devil if the battle progresses as it is now.'

'By now, she should have figured out something is wrong, right? Then why is she still attacking the devil? It seems we have another muscle brain in our hands. I should have guessed, seeing how she is fighting the devil with nothing but her bare fists.' A thought narrated, disapproving how Anna continued to attack the devil despite knowing that it did zero damage to it.

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[1,045 words]

Chapter 643 Weak?

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:48

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

"Fuck, is there no end to this! 900k tonnes Giga punch!" At first, when the devil was summoned, gauging its strength, Anna was surprised to see that the devil was weaker than Yin Widow. But still, no matter how weak it appeared, it was the devil, so she didn't dare to underestimate it. And soon, she was thankful for her decision not to underestimate the enemy. Otherwise, she would have paid for it dearly with the life of her soldiers, dungeon relocation apparatus, and the silver beach dungeon.

At first, Anna countered the devil's attack with a 100k tonne Giga punch. Then all of sudden the devil had grown stronger, and a 100k tonne punch was no longer enough, she had to kick it up a notch 150k tonne punch, but the devil adapted to it soon. So Anna doubled the weight behind her punch. But the devil adapted to a 300k tone punch in no time. Feeling challenged, this time around, Anna tripled the weight behind her punch to a 900k tone punch.

Boom!

The drastic increase in the weight behind Anna's punch sent the devil flying, and it crash-landed on the ground far away. But soon, it got back up on its feet unscathed.

And then rushed toward Anna shooting multiple magma whip tongues at her. Once again, Anna sent the devil flying effortlessly. After a few more head-on confrontations, she noticed that the devil had started to respond faster after taking her 900k tonne Giga punch head-on.

Clearly, the devil was showing signs of adapting to the 900k tonne Giga punch. So Anna increased the weight behind her punch to 1 million tonnes which was the limit of weight her body could handle with the help of the 'southern emperor' card. After a few more scuffles, the devil slowly adapted to the 1 million tonne punch. Putting Anna in a bind as this was the limit of her strength with the help of the area formation covering the southern region.

Desperate, Anna realized that the devil grew stronger as the fight prolonged. She did not know how or why the devil kept getting stronger, but she understood that prolonging the fight would end badly for her. So she decided to no longer hesitate and use the Unparalleled Arena skill, Unparalleled Glory. To increase her strength tenfold and one-shot the devil for good.

"Unparalleled Glory, activate

SSS-Rank Legend Grade Booster Dice card, activate

Deca-Booster, activate

One hundred million tonne Giga punch!" Upon getting a clue to the nature of the devil's power, which could grow limitlessly as the battle prolonged, Anna did not dare to hold back and went all out.

...

'Ancestor, if the devil can devour all kinds of forces to grow stronger in its slumber form, how did you defeat it?' A thought asked the wild thought, seeing Anna struggle to defeat the devil Feastus in its slumber form.

'Have you played with clay? When you apply little force to the clay, it will absorb the force and mold to a different shape, but if you use too much force at once, the clay will break. The same theory can be applied here. All the girl has to do is flatten this nail with the biggest hammer in her arsenal.' The wild thought explained patiently.

'That's it? If so, then this devil is weak as hell.' A thought said, feeling that the devil Feastus was not as troublesome as wild thought claimed it to be.

'You! You feel that way because the girl has isolated the devil Feastus from the outside world, limiting the full extent of its power. Had the devil been outside, it would have devoured most of the surroundings to reach its peak strength in no time.

Here, in the arena, the devil has nothing to devour except for the physical force the silly girl is attacking it with. Therefore it's taking so long for it to build up its strength. That is why I praised the girl at the beginning for isolating the devil from the outside world.' The wild thought explained to the others that because Anna had isolated the devil Feastus from the outside world, it could not utilize its ability to its full extent.

'Praised? I clearly remember you calling it a coincidence.' The elder thought refuted the wild thought.

'You people are missing the most important thing! With the presence of the world's will and its rules that are witnessing the battle as we speak, the devil's power is suppressed by a huge margin.

Why didn't we think of summoning the world's will to witness our fight with the devils? This way, the restrictions on the devil's power would have been increased considerably.

At first, seeing her, I was worried about the family, but it seems god takes care of fools and drunks. Now I feel a little assurance that this millennium will not be marking our family's fall.' An ancient thought pointed out that the other thoughts were forgetting about the suppression of the world's will over the devil's strength, which has increased drastically with it watching over the battle. Making the devil a lot weaker and vulnerable compared to its actual strength.

'Yes, the world's will's suppression over the devil gets stronger in its presence. That's what it was. I almost started to doubt the devil Feastus's strength.' The wild thought couldn't help but rejoice aloud, knowing that the suppression of the devil gets stronger in the presence of the world's will. Seeing the battle between his descendant and the devil, wild thoughts started to doubt his past strength. After all, the devil he defeated wasn't this weak.

'Though the idea of requesting the world's will's presence to hunt the devils is appealing and productive, it's not like we can summon the world's will on our wimp. If not for the card, the battle between a devil and a card apprentice would not be enough to summon the presence of the world's will. But I have to credit the girl's creativity for using her bloodline to create a card like this. After all, none of us thought of something like this.'

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:57

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

[Card Name: Booster Dice

Card Type: Skill Card

Card Rank: SSS-Rank, Legend Grade.

Card Rate: 14-stars

Card Durability: [99/100]

Card Effect: upon activation, the card rolls two cube dice. The number rolled will be used as a multiplier to boost the user's next attack.

Additional effects: mono-booster, di-booster, tri-booster, tetra-booster, penta-booster, hexa-booster, hepta-booster, octa-booster, nona-booster, deca-booster, hendecat-booster, dodecat-booster.

Cooldown period: 11seconds.]

"Unparalleled Glory, activate.

SSS-Rank Legend Grade Booster Dice card, activate." As soon as Anna activated the Booster dice card, the image of two dice in the card rolled and finally stopped at a four and a six, adding to ten.

[Dice being rolled!]

[Dice one- 4, Dice two- 6, total - 10]

[Host's next attack will gain Deca-Booster]

"Deca-Booster, activate

One hundred million tonne Giga punch!" With that, the weight behind Anna's next punch increased to one hundred million tonnes.

The original weight behind Anna's punch is 10,000 tonnes. After activating the 'Southern Emperor' card, the weight behind Anna's punch increased by a hundred times, from 10k to 1 million tonnes. Later after using the unparalleled glory skill, the weight increased by another ten times, from one million to ten million tonnes. Now when Anna used the card Booster Dice, thanks to her excellent luck, the weight behind her punch gained a ten times booster and was raised from ten million to one hundred million

Boom as Anna's one hundred million tonnes Giga punch landed on the devil Feastus, it exploded in the impact. The sturdy body of the devil, which withstood so many punches from Anna, burst like a watermelon with the effect of a hundred million tonne punch.

...

'That's it? When did it become so easy to defeat a devil? Have the devils grown weaker over the years?' A thought expressed its disbelief seeing Anna defeat a devil without so much as a scratch on her.

'Fuck! I remember when it took me nine days and ten nights to defeat a single devil. And the aftermath was greater than a disaster.' Another thought expressed its awe at how Anna managed to get rid of the devil effortlessly and with zero casualties.

'This girl is growing on me. I don't know if it's pure luck or if she is cunning from the beginning. All in all, I am impressed with how she handled this devil.' A feminine thought spoke, praising Anna's achievement.

'I know, right. I guess it is to be expected. After all, she is a descendant of the unparalleled bloodline.' Another thought credited Anna's achievements to her unparalleled bloodline.

'Ahem! Aren't you guys getting ahead of yourself? The battle is not over yet, and a proper victor hasn't been decided.' The Wild thought reminded its fellow thoughts not to reach a judgment hastily as the battle isn't over yet.

'Ancestor, what do you mean? Hasn't the devil's body been blown to pieces by the girl's punch? I think the victor here, in this battle, is apparent .' A younger thought replied to the wild thought impatiently.

'You guys are forgetting something. Didn't I tell you guys that this devil has two forms? The girl has only managed to kill the first and the weakest form. Another form is yet to show itself.' The wild thought did not keep the mystery and revealed that the devil is not entirely dead, and it has another form that is more dangerous than the slumber form, the awakened form.

'Not good. That girl is defenselessly gazing at the murals, unaware that the battle hasn't reached its conclusion. Girl, snap out of it. Look behind you!.' One of the thoughts yelled, feeling protective toward Anna.

...

Buzz

'Why did they become noisy again?' Anna thought, hearing the hushed buzzing sound get louder. Thinking of something, she said aloud, " Aren't these murals beautiful? "

"How did you find me? I made sure to erase my presence." A deep, spooky voice sounded from behind Anna.

"My Ancestors warned me. Anyway, don't you think these murals are beautiful? Woah, the story they tell." Anna turned around to face the devil and asked.

Anna had indeed thought that the devil had died and indulged herself by watching the murals. But when the buzzing sounds from her Ancestors grew, she felt irritated and wanted to leave the arena. That is when Anna asked herself, why did the arena not teleport her back?

The only possible reason for it would be her battle with the devil did not end. But she saw the devil blow up to pieces and die unless it was playing possum. Realizing this, Anna immediately asked out loud if the murals were beautiful. Outwitting the devil into giving up its presence. Devil wasn't a fool, but it overestimated Anna's capabilities and fell for her lies.

"You dare to ask my opinion on the murals filled with records of my race's defeat and execution. Aren't you a brave soul human?" Unlike the devil in the slumber mode, who only knew the one-syllable word, food, the awaken mode devil was more chatty. And added, "Brave doesn't cut it. You are more suicidal. If death is what you seek, it's not far. But seeing how you could defeat my slumbering form, I would personally like to invite you to join my family."

"Family? Devils have a family. I get to learn new things every day." Anna said nonchalantly as she ignored the devil and walked towards a particular mural. Pointing at the mural, Anna said, "Is that you? Or somebody related to you? Seeing how my ancestor killed that thing in the mural, you must be somebody directly related to it. Fate works in mystical ways. Thousand years ago, my ancestor killed your ancestor, and here we are repeating what they did."

"Ah! That bastard is your ancestor. I have changed my mind. I no longer want to make you that part of my family but imprison your soul and torture it for eternity. Hahaha! Fate indeed works in mysterious ways; I can finally have my vengeance."

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[1,016 words]

Chapter 645 Trick

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:10

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

"Vengeance? Don't tell me that's you in the mural. If my ancestor killed you back then, how are you still alive?" Feeling the devil's hatred for her ancestor, Anna thought that the devil in the mural and the devil in front of her were one and the same.

"Hahaha, unlike you humans, we devils are immortals. We don't die, and you can't kill us." The devil bragged. A lie in order to psychology dominate his opponent. Who would not be depressed to fight an immortal enemy?

"Yeah, right. There must be some trick to it." Anna was no two-year-old. Growing up in a family filled with demigods, she knew better than anyone that true immortality doesn't exist.

...

'WTF! Does she know nothing about the devils? What happened to the Devil slaying manual that I left behind? It had everything you needed to know to slay the devils and survive in the dark realms.' An ancient thought yelled, seeing how Anna was clueless about devils and dark realms.

'What Devil slaying manual? Did our family have such a book?' A younger thought asked in doubt as it didn't remember a book named Devil Slaying manual in their family heirlooms.

'The book I made using the devil skin and wrote in devil blood? Do you guys know how much time I spent making that book to pass on my knowledge to the future generation? Don't tell me you fools lost that too.' The ancient thought grew impatient, knowing that his life work was not handed down to the future generations as he expected it would.

'Father, you sure you wrote such a book because I never found one. There was no mention of it in your will nor your diary.' A thought claiming to be the son of the ancient thought from earlier revealed that it did not find the Devil slaying book.

'What are you saying? I clearly remember giving it to you.... Wait a second. I remember it now. I seemed to have lost it in a gamble. So I rewrote it on a piece of paper and misplaced it. Sorry, my bad.' The ancient thought realized that he had lost the devil-slaying book he had written using devil's blood and on devil skin leather paper in a gamble.

'...' A moment of awkward silence prevailed as the other thoughts glared at the ancient thought. As the wild thought said, each one of them is a prodigal. Some more than others.

'Don't look at me like that. At least I thought of passing the knowledge while none of you did.' The ancient thought defended itself, saying it was more thoughtful than others.

...

"Trick? You, humans, need something like that. We devils don't. Anyway, there is no point in arguing with you. Let's begin the battle, shall we." The devil finally showed its intention to fight Anna.

"When did devils become polite enough to greet their opponent before a battle? I thought your kind preferred sneak attack. No matter how strong one is and what the situation is. After all, your kind thrives on chaos." Anna prepared for a sneak attack from the devil. But to her dismay, it did not come. This is surprising, considering her opponent is the devil.

"Your opinion of devils seems to be biased. I guess it comes from the folklore your kind sings about our kind. Don't you know not to take the story seriously? What do humans know about the devil's dilemma?" Saying that, the devil flicked its finger aiming at Anna, 'lava sweat flick.'

Anna never let her guard down in the presence of a high-ranking devil. So when the devil used its lava sweat as a bullet and flicked it at Anna, she countered it with her Giga punch, 'One million tonnes Giga punch.'

Boom Anna's punch easily warded off the devil's lava sweat bullet.

"Sorry, my bad, just an unhealthy habit I developed. I tend to attack when people appear vulnerable to me. Old habits die hard, I guess." The devil apologized, referring to its sneak attack as a force of habit.

"I expect nothing less from you since you fired the first shot. Don't blame me for continuing." Saying that, Anna pounced on the devil, yelling, "10 million tonne Giga punch, barrage!"

...

'Ancestor, does the girl have any chance of winning against the devil?' A thought which yelled earlier to warn Anna asked the wild thought for his opinion on the battle.

'You tell me. Nearly half of the devil's strength is being suppressed by the world's will. Not to forget, he was forced to awaken by Anna, which means he woke up before gaining his peak strength. Not to mention, the girl's field card suppresses the devil's

innate ability. Considering all these disadvantages he is penalized with, the devil's strength is nowhere near its peak strength.

And we already saw Anna's last move, the 100 million tonne punch which she used to subdue Feastus's slumber form. If that's her limit, then her chances of winning against Feastus is less than half.

For her sake, let's hope that she has a few more tricks up her sleeves.' The wild thought patiently explained the chance of Anna winning against the devil.

'Considering the wealth each of us left behind for our descendants, she should have been given more tricks by her family.' An elderly thought expressed.

'Let's hope so. Otherwise, this arena will be her burial grounds.' A thought spoke its concern.

...

"Girl, is this all you got? It seems that you defeating my first form was pure luck." Facing the barrage of Anna's Ten million tonne punch, the devil nonchalantly taunted Anna.

"Fuck you!

Booster dice!

Hepta-Booster!

Seventy million tonne Giga punch barrage."

Anna once again made use of the Booster dice card, and this time, it rolled a 2 and 5, giving Anna a total of 7 times boost in her strength. Increasing the weight behind her punch to 70 million tonnes.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:10

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

A Series of 70 million tonne punches connected with the devil's dried molten lava exterior before it could dodge as the sudden increase in the weight behind the punch caught it off guard.

Faced with Anna's Giga punch, the dried molten lava exterior of the devil cracked, and hot lava started to ooze out of them. By the time the barrage of 70 million tonne punches ended, the devil's shape was beaten into the arena floor comically.

"That hurt!" Saying that, the devil slowly picked himself up from the floor.

"..." Anna was in a dilemma seeing that even a series of 70 million tonne punches could barely crack the devil's tough exterior.

This discovery made Anna reconsider her plan. Because even if she was lucky and were to roll a 12 using the booster dice card, she did not believe that a series of 120 million tonne punches would be enough to put the devil to the ground permanently.

Until now, Anna has used the strong physique that she had gained due to her unparalleled bloodline to overpower her opponents in the battle. But the same was not possible with the devil, as its physique was outstanding and on par with her physique in terms of endurance, strength, agility, and vitality.

Finally, Anna had met her match. Like her mother used to warn her about. Thankfully she prepared her for this particular moment. Anna's mother already knew Anna's weakness. She always asked what Anna would do if she met someone physically stronger than her. Anna's mother also gave Anna the answer to that question and asked her to practice it as if her life depended on it.

"Lava pool!" The devil summoned a pool of Lava which covered the entire arena floor, reaching its waist in height. Alerted, Anna flew up.

"Lava Whirlpools!" With the devil's command, small whirlpools are stated to form in the pool of lava.

"What the!" Anna almost cussed, being caught off guard by the strong suction force generated by the whirlpools in the lava. Making it hard for flight.

"Girl, come down. Let's play in the lava." The devil was skimming between the lava whirlpools nonchalantly. It did not seem to be affected by the suction force of the whirlpools.

...

'The lava summoned by the devil seems different from regular lava. I sense a dark rule power from it.' One of the thoughts commented.

'So you noticed. That lava is a combination of two meanings of two different rules, lava and dark rule. I do not particularly know what meanings of lava and dark rule can form such sinister lava, but I know the ability of the lava.'

That Lava doesn't burn up things. Instead, it sucks their essence out of them. When the items are entirely deprived of their essence, they turn to dust, just like how items turn to ash when wholly incinerated. Therefore unless you experience the power of the law firsthand, you don't know what it actually does. And also, just because it sucks the vitality doesn't mean it doesn't burn. It burns like hell.' The wild thought explained the specialty of the devil Feastus's sinister lava.

'Whoa, so interesting what happens to the essences devoured by the lava? Does the lava use it to multiply, or does it feed the extracted essence to the devil?' An enthusiastic thought asked the wild thought interested in the sinister lava and its working.

'Both depending on the will of the devil. Because of this ability, fighting prolonged warfare with this devil is not recommended. It's like an inexhaustible killing machine.' The Wild thought answered based on its experience.

'How does the extracted essence be made use of by the devil? Other than refiling its stamina.' Asked the thought from earlier.

'Since the essence is a form of life force, it can be used for various bodily purposes like regeneration, and strengthening, both are just the two out of many ways the devil used the essence against me in our fight.' The wild thought replied patiently.

'Then, how did you defeat such an enemy? You didn't even have the advantage of location or the world's suppression, like this girl. The devil must have been more challenging than it is now.' One of the younger thoughts asked the wild thought in awe.

'Since the devil constantly feeds on its surroundings, it needs to keep moving to find a new vitality-filled place to devour. So using that, I tricked the devil into a trap array formation laid by my friends. The trap array formation would seal all the devil's abilities, leaving it with mere physical strength. And making use of the opportunity, I slew it. Thankfully I had good council back then. Otherwise, I would not have made it this far.' The wild thought narrated how it used the help of its friends to trap the devil and slay it for good.

'So, you did not slay it alone. In the end, you had help.' Asked the old famine thought. She seemed to be taking a dig at the Wild thought's inability to defeat the devil Feastus all by himself.

'So, what? I had friends that I could depend upon. They can also be counted as a part of my strength.' The Wild thought was not embarrassed, rather, he seemed to be happy remembering his dependable old pals.

'Don't tell me you believe that crap!' The old feminine thought did not seem to agree with the wild thought that friends can be considered part of a person's strength.

'Why not? If Summons and familiars can be considered as part of a person's strength, then me being able to summon a dependable friend to help me should also be regarded as part of my strength.' The wild thought argued. His reasoning made sense to a few people, but many disagreed. According to the opposition, just because its father is a demigod, the two-year-old child cannot be considered as strong as a demigod.

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:16

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

'There is something odd about the whirlpools in lava summoned by the devil.' A thought put forth its doubts.

'Yes, the devil seems to be recovering its strength. And at a faster pace too.' Another thought pointed out.

'Aha! This tricky bastard. No wonder he is not attacking the girl and is stalling for time. Because with his ability, more time stalled means more power he gains.' The thought from earlier spoke upon sudden realization of what the devil Feastus was up to this whole time. He is trying to achieve the peak of strength he can accomplish in this world despite the world's suppression so that he doesn't need to be cautious when he finally decides to go all out in his fight with Anna.

The devil's current strength is enough to fight Anna and defend against her, but from experience in the battle against humans, especially this girl's bloodline, he knew that humans have all kinds of tricks saved up in that grimoire of theirs. One may never know what surprise they have hidden in them as a last resort. Therefore, he decided not to engage the human female unless he was sure that he could counter anything she threw at him. Until then, he will keep teasing her so that she doesn't realize what he is up to.

'That foolish girl is in a daze, is she distracted? What is she thinking amidst a battle of life and death?' One of the thoughts was furious, finding that floating Anna's presence of mind was somewhere else rather than focusing on the devil and figuring out what tricks he was up to.

'Nope she is not in a daze. She is invoking a card. This card must be something for it to have such a lengthy chant to activate.' Usually, the cards' name is chanted mentally or verbally to activate the cards, but there are special cards that have lengthy incantations required to activate the card. For example, the 'Mother's Love' bestowal card presented to Anna by her mother. Which only triggered after chanting the set incantation as a password.

The need for placing lengthy incantations on cards as requirements are to decrease the rank of the card. Placing restrictions on cards to reduce their card ranking is one of the oldest tricks used by many seasoned card creationists.

What is the need to decrease the rank of a card? Obviously, it is done so that lower realm card apprentices can wield the strength of the higher realm. For example, a card apprentice with a golden grade grimoire can only equip cards up to A-rank and rare grade. But if an AA-Rank myth grade card is suppressed to A-rank and rare grade by placing a restriction, suppose a lengthy incantation. Then a card apprentice with a golden grimoire can wield the power of myth grade with a negligible price to pay. The higher the restriction placed on the card, the higher the card rank drops.

'Incantation? Isn't that brat holding a diamond-grade grimoire? She can equip all grades of cards, so why does she have a card with incantation? Don't tell me, our junior's found a card above the legend realm... when even the founder couldn't.' One of the thoughts asked with a revolutionary assumption.

'No, I think she received this card when she was younger. Back then, she must not be strong enough to equip the card, so the restriction on the card must have been placed back then. Now she must have no choice but to use the card despite the restriction.' One of the thoughts put forth its opinion killing the revolutionary assumption at its bud.

'Whoa! Then that card must be one hell of a card for her to have kept it equipped despite its restriction.' The thought was not wrong to assume that. After all, why would a person still keep a card with limitations when they have other alternatives unless that card is irreplaceable in terms of strength rather than some lousy sentimental value.

'Whatever she is up to, she better hasten it. Those whirlpools of lava are restoring the devil's strength to peak at a terrifying speed.' A younger thought reminded others.

'It is up to the girl to save herself. We cannot offer her strength as we are mere spectators and nothing more.' Sighed an ancient thought. He wanted to rush to his descendant's aid, but he had let go of worldly affairs to achieve a true one with the world. Now no amount of regrets can change the fact that he can only helplessly watch as his brave descendant fights something out of her league in terms of realm and experience.

'Ancestor, how are the lava whirlpools able to restore the devil's strength so fast? There is nothing for it to devour in this field card. How are they doing that?' One of the younger

thoughts asked in doubt, unable to figure out the fuel used by the lava whirlpools to restore the devil's strength to the peak.

'The soul energy in the air!' The Ancient thought replied solemnly.

'I see, due to the presence of the world's will and its rules, the soul energy in the air has increased drastically. Even the soul energy in the air of the SSS-rank dungeon will fall shy when compared to the soul energy in the air within this arena.

That bastard devil knows this and is using it to his advantage. He is using the suction of the lava whirlpool to suck in the air with a high concentration of soul energy, and once the air is in contact with the lava, it will devour all the soul energy in the air and pass it to the devil. Those lava whirlpools are working as air soul energy conversation engines for him. Since all this process is done using rule power, energy loss is kept to a minimum, maintaining high efficiency. This meant that the devil was getting ten times or even more energy than it spent on summoning the lava and maintaining the whirlpools within it. Hence its strength was recovering at a frightening pace. Showcasing the difference between the slumber and awaken form of the devil.

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Chapter 648 Mother's Love Again!

[1,039 words]

Chapter 648 Mother's Love Again!

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:21

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter!'

'Ding! (1/1000).'

'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter!'

'Ding! (2/1000).'

.

.

'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter!'

'Ding! (489/1000).'

'I am dumb! Mother...

Anna kept repeating the same chant within her mind. The idea was to repeat the chant 1000 times to activate the second bestowal card Anna's mother gave Anna when the morning star university called her regarding her insubordinate daughter being caught fighting other students on campus.

The treaty of no war on the central academic city seems to have an expectation, and they are the students of the universities of the central academic city. This exception is not in the treaty but is unspoken yet agreed upon by every party involved in the treaty. After all, the disputes won't disappear just because there is a treaty between them. So the treaty was only adults agreeing to keep out of children's arguments. And let them handle it themselves, in a way, a teachable aspect for the students who will soon be stepping out into society.

....

"Anna! Do you know where you were wrong?" When Anna's mother's incarnation visited Anna in front of the Dean's office, these were the her words for Anna.

"I was not strong enough to finish the fight quickly! Before the staff arrived." Anna responded, reacting to her mother's incarnation's disappointment.

"Wrong! You got caught! Take all the time you need to play with the cats and dogs but be smart enough not to get caught." The incarnation corrected Anna.

"There are too many of them. All of them are experts in different kinds of cards. I have a hard time juggling all of them simultaneously. They always ambush me fearing my field cards. Making it impossible for me to summon my field card in their trap." Anna did not understand what the incarnation was saying. She just kept giving reasons for her loss. She did not want to see her mother disappointed. To avoid being ganged upon, Anna invented arena dungeon-type field cards to isolate her enemy from the herd and take care of them one by one. But soon, her enemies adapted, and her bullies stopped assaulting her directly. Instead, they started lying in ambush and setting up traps so that Anna could not summon her field card or any other card for that matter. She had to take

on all of them with her physique and unparalleled bloodline. This is how Anna began to depend on her physique more than cards.

"Whoa! You are stupid, aren't you!" Seeing her original body's daughter not understand what she was saying, the incarnation could help but blurt out these words.

"Mother!" Anna knew her mother was an expert at hiding affection, so she rarely showed appreciation. Therefore Anna didn't mind her and would let it be. But her blatantly calling her stupid was not acceptable.

"Silly goose, who are you?" The incarnation shook her head and asked Anna.

"..." Anna did not want to participate in her mother's charades. After all, her mother will never understand her.

"Anna! Remember, you are the lone heir of the Heatsend family's main branch. Own it! Do you know how many students get scholarships from our family to study in the top 10 universities? And why do you think that your family does that? You, of all people, must know your grandfather hates charity. Silly girl, be smart. You are not alone. You were never alone. Take this. It will help when your brawns alone are not enough." Reminding Anna that she is the long heir of a royal family, the incarnation handed Anna a card.

"..." As Anna glanced curiously at the card info of the card given to her by her mother's incarnation, the incarnation turned to the clerk escorting her and said, "my work here is done. Tell that fat assed bastard if my daughter or I are summoned to or even required to enter Dean's office, I will forget about the treaty and bomb his predecessors' motherfucking statues built at University gate to dust, and his fat ass will be next."

Passing her message for the dean of morning star university to the clerk, Anna's mother's incarnation vanished in thin air before Anna's angry yell resounded throughout the campus, "this is not funny!" having read the incantation to activate the bestowal card.

...

'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter!'

'Ding! (784/1000).'

"What are you doing hovering up there? Come join this uncle in a hot lava bath." The devil once again invited Anna to enter the lava pool with him.

"..." Anna did not reply to him. She continued to chant the incantation, 'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter!'

'Ding! (904/1000).'

"Hey, are you ignoring me! What are you up to, you little rat!" The devil scooped up a handful of lava and threw it at, hovering Anna.

Woosh!

".." Anna dodged the incoming Sinister lava ball instinctively. Though she continued to chant the incantation in her head, her presence of mind was still in the arena. She was not a fool, nor was this her first battle. She restricted herself to a defensive stance. Still, she had completed the card's requirement.

"Incoming," finding the action of Anna dodging the lava balls he threw at her funny, the devil began scooping up a handful of lava and throwing them at hovering Anna. As Anna dodged his attacks silently, the devil felt entertained as if Anna was dancing while he pulled the strings

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

Whoosh!

"This is not fun anymore." Unable to land a single hit on Anna, the devil started to feel annoyed as no matter how fast he threw the lava balls, Anna would dodge them all effortlessly. Taking it on his pride, the devil got serious and started to barrage Anna with Lava balls. Soon, she could no longer avoid the lava balls effortlessly. Sometimes, Anna had to counter them with her fists.

'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter!'

'Ding! (1000/1000).'

"S-Rank Myth grade Starry Array Sky Slate Card, activate!"

....

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:28

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

[Card Name: Starry Array Sky Slate

Card Type: Bestowal Card

Card Rank: S-Rank, Mythic Grade

Card Rate: [14]Star

Card Durability: (98/100)

Card Effect: upon activation, the user can summon a starry night sky. Using the stars as array markers and the night sky as slate, the user can form various array formations up to SSS-Rank.

Additional Effect: Pre Recorded Arrays - 88 Constellations

Restrictions: Chant the Incantation password 1000 times to activate the card.

Note: the incantation password is, 'I am dumb! Mother, help your silly daughter.']

Pre-recorded Arrays- this skill allows the user to pre-record some array formation onto the starry array Sky Slate.

Note: the skill can only pre-record one SSS-rank array formation. At the same time, there is no limit on lower rank array formations.

Eighty-eight constellations- is an SSS-Rank array formation comprising a set of 88 array formations based on 88 constellations in the night sky. Each one of the constellation array formations gives the user and their allies various unique buffs and their enemies multiple debuffs.

...

"Activate, S-rank Mythic Grade Starry Array Sky Slate card." Upon repeating the incantation for the thousandth time, Anna activated the bestowal card immediately. With the end of her chant, a starry night sky covered the cloudy ceiling of the Unparalleled Arena.

"Pre-recorded Array formation!

Summon! Taurus constellation array formation, one of the 12 zodiac constellations array formations of the 88 constellation array formations.

Activate Atlas Star's punishment! Behold the weight of the heavens!"

Once the starry array sky slate was set up, Anna immediately summoned the Taurus constellation array formation, one of the 12 zodiac constellations array formations of the 88 constellation array formations on the starry array sky slate. And then activated the array to bring down the punishment of the Atlas, one of the stars of the Taurus constellations, on the devil.

"What the fuck!" Cussed the devil who was swimming in his pool of lava casually. As he suddenly felt, the suppression of the world grew on him.

"This can't be happening! I am Feastus! Devourer of all! I am never full!" The devil yelled like a maniac as he no longer felt hungry. This might be a common occurrence to others, but this never happened to him.

As the devil born from the flames of hell and the calamity of hunger, the devil Feastus was born with an impressive physique called the Devourer. He could devour anything and everything but never be full. His overpowered devouring abilities came with a curse of hunger that, no matter how much or what he eats, they may never be enough to satisfy his appetite.

This combination of blessing from the hellfire and curse from the calamity of hunger made a recipe for an overpowered skill that would help Feastus grow as a true noble devil and climb the ranks of the dark realm.

Even during his last invasion of the card world, when Anna's Ancestors' array trapped him, he wasn't deprived of his hunger. It was still with him until the end when Anna's ancestor's cold blade beheaded him.

The trap array formation used Anna's ancestor to defeat the devil only deprived him of his abilities like the blessing from the hellfire and the rules he comprehended but not the curse of the calamity of hunger, which kept him hungry all the time, allowing him to unleash the full power of the sinister flame formed using the rule meanings of rule Lava and Darkness along with Feastus's Devourer physique. Therefore Feastus was shocked to no longer feel hungry.

"You, what have you done to me?" For someone who survived constant battles while constantly being hungry for thousands of years, hunger had become a part of Feastus. Suddenly unable to feel it, Feastus felt like he had lost a limb. No more than that, therefore, Feastus was almost driven mad.

"..." Anna did not plan on telling the devil that her starry array formation had increased the world's suppression on him by a hundred percent. Which meant he was no longer a devil, an existence stronger than average demigods but was suppressed to the realm of a mere Demon emperor.

Anna did not know what trick Feastus used to escape her Ancestor's execution. He may still be alive in the demon realm even if she kills him here in this world. Therefore, she

wasn't willing to reveal too much information about her cards to him, only for him to come back stronger.

Having faced the actual power of the devil, Anna was no longer calm. She understood being proud here would cost her life. Thanks to her luck, she had confined the devil, rendering its primary ability useless. Otherwise, the southern region would have faced a disaster because of recklessness. All Anna wanted now was to get rid of the devil as fast as possible before it figured a way out of her trap.

....

'Being able to punish enemies with the world's suppression. It seems that our juniors have made tremendous development in the field of astrology. An array such as this is very lethal against foreign invaders. Clever, whoever came up with this card must be a genius. I hope that it is a younger generation from our family.' One of the old thoughts seemed to be awed by the starry array formation, especially the 88 constellations. He seems genuinely proud that the astronomy field had developed to such heights.

"What astronomy? Clearly it is an applied form of array formation. Don't take credits from other fields, kid." An ancient thought did not agree with the older thought. With his opinion, a huge debate broke among the thoughts. They even forget that Anna's battle hadn't concluded yet as the battle's winner is evident.

"You bitch! You and your ancestors are the same! Resorting to tricks rather than strength! You filthy bunch—"

"Booster Dice!

Booster factor 11!

10 million tonne punch barrage x 11

Hundred and Ten Million tonne punch barrage!"

....

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[1,054 words]

Chapter 650 Diversion

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:28

Location- Sky Blossom City, SSS-Rank Legend Grade Unparalleled Arena

"Booster Dice!

Booster factor 11!

10 million tonne punch barrage x 11

Hundred and Ten Million tonne punch barrage!"

Anna did not wait for the devil to finish throwing its tantrum and attacked it with her strongest move with the buff of the Booster Dice. Thankfully the two dice rolled a five and a 6, adding to an 11. Giving Anna's next attack an 11 times boost. Increasing the weight behind Anna's Giga punch from ten million tonnes to a hundred and ten million tonnes.

Normally faced with a punch of hundred and ten million tonne force, the devil would have easily taken it head-on, and it would barely have any scratch. But right now, the devil is not at its peak power. Its power is suppressed by the world. So much so that its realm has been decreased from a devil to a demon emperor. A demon emperor couldn't withstand a one million tonne Giga punch, let alone a hundred and ten million tonne Giga punch.

Even with the strong physique of a devil, without a devil's realm backing it, the devil could never withstand the hundred and ten million tonne punch. Its fate was sealed once Anna activated the punishment of the Atlas star of the Taurus constellation array formation as part of the zodiac installation array formation of the 88 constellation array formation

*Boom**Boom**Boom*

As Anna's fists connected with the devil's dried molten lava exterior, it punched a hole into the devil's body, and the flesh at the area of impact burst into dust. About a dozen fist-sized holes were punched into the devil's body, and soon, the rest of its body turned to dust.

As the devil died, Anna had teleported back to her original location by the unparalleled arena. Anna did not get the chance to say good to her ancestors. For Anna, it didn't matter as she did not understand the buzzing and humming sounds made by the statues of her ancestors. She felt like they were nagging her. But only the ancestors knew how many of them were fighting amongst themselves to pass on their teachings and knowledge to Anna. Alas, Anna was still far from deciphering their soul whispers.

...

"What took you so long? Did you play with your prey again?" Returning to the military base, Anna was faced with Ann, who apparently should be busy supplying her energy to the dungeon relocation but was out here bugging her.

"No! I almost felt like I would lose my life there. You guys show some appreciation. I saved all of you from a huge disaster. " Anna was irritated by the lack of appreciation shown by Ann.

"Yeah! That disaster was created by you. If you weren't dumb enough to have believed in a demon cult's fanatics oath, all of this wouldn't happen in the first place." Ann retorted.

"Fuck! Whatever! Why aren't you next to the dungeon apparatus filling it with your energy?" Anna saw no point in arguing with Ann. After all, it was her fault for trusting a demon cult minion. And then Anna asked her why she wasn't helping out Luna with the dungeon relocation.

"Oh, about that! The dungeon relocation has reached its final stage. They don't need my help anymore. So I am free now." Ann reported enthusiastically.

"What? Didn't Luna say it would take a few more days?" Anna asked in astonishment as she wanted to spend a few more days here, far from the Heatsend family Palace and her family's reach.

"It's all thanks to the 'Southern Emperor' card you activated to fight the devil. When you were fighting with the devil in the unparalleled Arena, I used the demigod realm boost given by the area formation covering the southern region to help Luna complete the dungeon relocation. That's how the days of work got completed in a few hours. In a way, the demon cult ambush turned into a blessing for the dungeon relocation. Now we can return to the palace soon. I want to see everybody. I miss them so much. " Ann explained how she used the realm boost she gained when Anna activated the southern emperor card to help speed up the dungeon relocation process.

"Yeah, it is all because of the demon cult bastard," Anna said menacingly. She blamed the demon cult for ruining her vacation in the sky blossom city.

Boom! a loud explosion could be heard from the Sky Blossom city.

Turning to the direction of the city, Anna asked Ann, "Why is the city so noisy?"

"The Demon cult's minions seem to be attacking the city. Grandpa Lorn said they might be doing so to divide our forces. And mount a second ambush. So he asked us to stay put." Ann narrated that old Lorenzo ordered the forces to focus on defending the military base and the dungeon relocation. As the enemy might be planning a second ambush if they decided to divide their powers to help the civilians in the city.

"Why isn't he using the city array formation to help them remotely?" Anna was not happy with Lorenzo's orders and asked why he didn't help the civilians when he was fully capable of doing so.

'The core of the city array is in the city's card creationist guild. They are currently using the array to help the civilians and fight the demon cult minions. Don't worry. I have already contacted them. They seem to have everything under control.' Old Lorenzo explained to Anna through mental transmission.

"Old fart, you couldn't dispatch a few card kings to protect the city from the demon cult?" Anna asked furiously.

'Anna, you know the answer why. If the demon cult is waiting nearby for a second ambush, I would be sending those soldiers to their death. I am following the protocol, Anna. And as the highest authority here, you should too.' Lorenzo explained. Showing that he is more concerned about defending the millinery base than sparing a few card apprentices to protect the city and help the civilians.

"Fuck you, old geezer! I am going to clean up the demon cult pest infestation in the city. You sit tight and follow your protocol."

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 13:42

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire

The Mountain golem and Mud golems summoned by Nick and Tow were holding off the deformed creatures that were summoned through the sacrifice of the single-horned cloaked figure. Ed and chief Denise were securing the civilians to a safe location. At the same time, I was faced with the perpetrator behind all this, the signal-horned cloaked figure.

Though finding a core in it was shocking but also found that this signal-horned cloak figure was similar to the one that sacrificed itself to summon the deformed creatures earlier. Seeing this, I had a strong feeling that the cloaked figure that sacrificed itself and the cloaked figure in front of us were the same. I can't prove it as one of them dead already but if the cloaked figure used that trick once again it's a different story. For now,

I pushed all the questions to the back of my mind and walked toward the cloaked figure as capturing her would get me all the answers I needed.

splurt Suddenly, the cloaked figure melted into blood gore. Seeing that, I almost puked in my mouth. But abruptly, the blood gore started moving as if it were alive. The gore branched into small lines which formed a magic circle of some kind. Not knowing the purpose of the magic circle, I stepped back.

flash The large magic circle on the ground formed by the gore remains of the single-horned cloaked figure started to glow,

Shriek a loud shriek originating from the magic circle pierced everyone's ears. Hearing the sound, I knew this magic circle was another summoning circle activated through sacrifice. So I use Viltronian flight to gain a distance from the magic circle. I didn't know what type and rank of monsters were being summoned. I am confident about my strength but don't plan on underestimating my enemy.

Hovering in the sky, I look down at the magic circle while Hive AI scans my surroundings to caution me about any possible assassination attempt. Soon I noticed that the asphalt road on which the magic circle was drawn turned into sand, and rows of sharp pointy objects in the circular pattern surfaced with a hole in the middle, which sucked in the asphalt turned into sand. It appears to be a mouth of a creature.

Whoosh

A second later, those sharp pointy objects shot up into the sky. Revealing its entire body to me. The summoned creature was a 10 meters wide and 40 meters long earthworm-type monster. After the creature's whole body shot out of the ground into the air, it dove back into the earth. And then it kept circling the ground beneath me as I hover in the air. Seeing this, I couldn't help but compare the monster and its ability to a fish in the water because I felt like the ground was like one giant swimming pool for the earthworm-type monster. Making us land-dwellers it's pery.

While I observed the giant earthworm-type monster using my soul pupils, I noticed that no matter where I flew, the beast could triangulate my position and then swim in the ground beneath where I was hovering. This showed that this monster was also targeting me and me alone as it ignored all the other people that kept running right above it.

The earthworm-type monster was of peak card lord realm. Its realm and abilities made it a formidable opponent to get rid of. And also making it a good assassin, but unfortunately, it did not know I had soul pupils, and I could see it no matter how deep it roamed in the ground to avoid being caught by my mental exploration.

"Stone Viltronian, I chose you." I summoned one of my A-rank Stone Viltronians to deal with the earthworm-type monster. I had summoned the normal stone viltronian

instead of the boss Stone Viltronian as this stone viltronian had comprehended a rule meaning suitable for this enemy.

A while back, I found that upgrading the calamity daughter core to the calamity daughter gem in the Stone Viltronians gave them the ability to comprehend rules. For example, Boss Stone Viltronian had comprehended the Petrification meaning of the Rock rule.

As for the stone viltronian I summoned right now, it had comprehended the Earth rule and its meaning, Earth Escape. The earth escape meaning allowed the stone viltronian to burrow through the earth like swimming in water. Quite similar to the ability of the giant earthworm-type monster.

"Stone Viltronian, calamity daughter gem second transformation, Titan form activate! Hunt that big worm down!" With my command, the Stone Viltronian turned into a giant Stone Viltronian titan and burrowed into the ground pursuing the giant earthworm-type monster. Seeing the titan stone viltronian head towards it, the earthworm-type monster did not run away, but it rushed to clash with it. It underestimated stone viltronian ability inside the earth, believing its ability gave it an edge over its opponent. Unfortunately, it didn't know that its opponent, too, had a similar power.

As the giant earthworm and the titan stone viltronian clashed underneath the city ground, the whole city felt the aftershocks of the battle in the form of large tremors, leading to the people misinterpreting the shocks as an earthquake. Now that the giant earthworm was busy, I could search for the perps responsible for all this in the surrounding vicinity without worrying that the ground underneath me would try to swallow me.

I scanned the surroundings with my soul pupils, and I found a hidden soul pathway over the rooftop of the burger empire. Interestingly I could identify these sets of soul pathways and arrangements. They belonged to the single-horned cloaked figure who sacrificed herself earlier to summon the giant earthworm-type monster.

Somehow this single-horned cloaked figure has escaped death and cheated the demonic ritual twice. I don't know how she did it, but there has to be a trick to it. But it does not change the fact that, despite her low realm, she was no ordinary opponent. The cloaked figure realized that I was peeking at her. So I rushed toward her at full speed before she could escape again.

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 13:50

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

As soon as the single-horned cloaked figure realized I had spotted her location, she activated some kind of clone card and summoned sixty-six exact copies of herself. Then all sixty-seven of them sacrifice themselves once again, turning themselves into gore slime. These gore slime joined together to form one big blob of gore. Then the giant gore blob morphed into an enormous humanoid blood golem, blood lord of card lord realm.

Seeing this, I stopped my advance and backed away to a safe distance. Observing how the cloaked figure could summon 66 exact copies of herself and use them to perform a demonic summoning ritual, I realized that her clone card was out of the ordinary since clones cannot be used in ritual sacrifice, especially not for a demonic summoning ritual.

Now that I have solved half of the cloaked figures' mystery regarding how they can sacrifice themselves to a demonic ritual and still stay alive, the claimed figure seemed less threatening. Did I feel threatened by it earlier? Yes, as what it did was basically equal to cheating death. But now that I understood the trick behind how it did it, I was no longer that threatened by it now.

The giant blood golem, blood lord, made an enormous blood sword and slashed at me. It, too, like its predecessor, targeted me at the command of its master. I dodged the incoming blood sword and yelled, " Stone Viltronian! I chose you!

Calamity daughter gem, second transformation, titan form!"

I summoned another one of my stone viltronian to face the giant blood golem. This, too similar to the boss stone viltronian, had comprehended Rock rule but the Rock rule meaning it chose at the bifurcation Point is, "stone craft!"

As the name suggests, stone craft allows the user to create magical items using stones. Higher the quality of the rock, the better the item grade. This was surprising and a waste of a good meaning on a monster.

Stone viltronian is a monster. It doesn't know any other fighting style other than using its fist and stone manipulation ability. Therefore a meaning as valuable as the stone craft, which requires a host with a strong imagination, is as good as wasted on a stone viltronian. But still, I think I can train it to use stone craft meaning more efficiently using the Hive AI.

With the help of the Hive AI, stone viltronian used the stone craft to create an enormous stone sword to counter the Blood Lord and its blood sword. Still, the moments of the stone viltronian were sluggish. It hasn't gotten used to taking orders from hive AI. But it was able to hold its ground against the blood Lord. Leaving them alone, I searched for

the cloaked figure once again and found her in the middle of the civilians, secured by Ed and chief Denise.

Since the cloaked figure was hiding in a crowd, I did not dare to stare at her too long, fearing that I may alert her and trigger her to sacrifice herself with the other people surrounding her to another one of her demon summoning rituals.

Now I was in a tricky situation. I wanted to confront the cloaked figure, but she hid among the civilians. Even if I knew where she was, I could not face her worrying for the tens of innocent souls surrounding her. I thought of slowly nearing her and capturing her, but considering how cautious she is, that's not an option.

This situation indeed would render average card apprentices helpless but not me, as I had a calamity parent soul gem, which instructed my calamity daughter gem, Ed, to shift the civilians to a new place without attracting attention.

"Chief! We should shift these people over there. That place is more spacious. I think they will be safer there." Ed suggested to the police chief Denise.

"Sure, you do that and I will check if someone is left behind." After giving it a thought, Chief Denise agreed to Ed's proposal as what he proposed held merit. Considering the tumors of the earthquake are getting stronger and stronger, the narrow place they are in right now was not safe for their survival. They need to head to an open area far from all the infrastructure.

Soon the crowd of civilians followed Ed's lead to a much more spacious and safer location, away from the buildings and grounds with tunnels underneath them. As the crowd cleared the place, the cloaked figure in stealth moved to keep up with them at a languidly slow pace. Her slow pace seemed to be the side effect of her extraordinary stealth card. The cloaked figure could not keep up with the crowd, yet she slowly moved toward them.

"Found you!" As soon as Ed gave me the clear, I rushed towards the cloaked figure with my soul pupils active. Before I knew it, I grabbed the cloaked figure from behind and raised her above ground by her neck. As soon as I touched her, her stealth was deactivated. Though the stealth ability of her card was top-notch, it seem to have too many restrictions.

"How are you able to find me every time? None of the card apprentices in the lower realm has ever been able to see through my stealth so easily." Being caught by me, the cloaked figure did not struggle to free herself. Instead, she calmly asked how I could find her every time.

"I was able to find you every time thanks to my origin card Aura sight, duh! What kind of assassin are you? Don't you even know the origin card of your target? How irresponsible of you?"

Now, tell me, why is the demonic cult targeting me? I never messed with you guys. So why are you people after me?" It was public knowledge that I had gained mama Wyatt's origin card, Aura Sight, which could discern people's auras. And yet this Demon cult minion asked such a silly question—

Booom!

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:02

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

Boom the cloaked figure detonated herself to escape from me. Thanks to my viltronian physique, I was fine except for a few scratches. But I felt disgusted smelling the blood, gore, and charred flesh on me. So I could not help but curse, "Fuck! I should really get myself one of those cleaning cards."

Pissed! I activated my soul pupils to search for the perp, but to my shock, I found numerous copies of the single-horned cloaked figure circling the entire Burger empire block.

"1000!" I yelled in alarm as Hive AI was done counting the number of cloaked figures clones I spotted with my soul pupils. When I was about to make some sense of the situation, the 1000 single-horned cloaked figures clones sacrificed themselves for a massive demon summoning ritual.

Hissss! loud slithering sounds sounded throughout the city. With the sacrifice of the 1000 clones, the cloaked figure summoned one thousand 30-meters long demonic Titanoboa from the corpses of the sacrificed clones.

"Fuck!" I couldn't help but cuss, seeing that, this time, too, I was the target of the summoned demonic creatures. A city full of tender meat humans and these creatures only targeted me. But thanks to this, the civilian casualty was low, and they could move to a secure location in a safer place far from this demonic mayhem.

Thanks to the cloaked figures' strategic placing of the sacrifice, a nest of a thousand 30-meter-long demonic Titanoboa had surrounded me, and they were closing in on me at a fast pace. With my viltronian flight, I could fly away and leave this mess for the authorities to clean up while I searched for the true body of the cloaked figure to put an end to all of this, but I had no idea where to begin the search.

Therefore I decided to play the cloaked figure's game until I got the slightest hint of how they could create and control so many perfect clones that could be accepted as sacrifices by demonic rituals.

The sacrifice in demonic rituals has always been flesh, blood, and soul. Stronger the power of the sacrifice used in the demonic ritual stronger the returns. The demonic creatures are very strict about this. Therefore it was shocking to see the demon realm accept the clones as valid sacrifices. As clones were nothing but cheap copies of the originals, made using their soul energy or rule energy or both.

If that was odd, this one is suspicious. How was the cloaked figure able to control so many perfect clones without being in the nearby vicinity? Knowing that clones need to be guided and instructed to do what they are doing, I scanned the surroundings, searching for a suspicious card apprentice who may be commanding these clones, but that was a dead end. There were no suspicious card apprentices in the surroundings, with the soul pathway arrangements matching the single-horned cloaked figure's soul pathway arrangements.

This could only mean that the single-horned cloaked apprentice had the ability to control his clones from a long distance. Making it impossible for me to track the culprit behind the Burger empire mayhem. Leaving me no choice but to participate in his play, hoping that I could get some clue or hint with regard to the cloaked figure and his cloning abilities.

"Summon! Stone viltronian x 3" with no choice left, I summoned the remaining three stone viltronian's from my monster orb item card.

"Stone Vitronian's, calamity daughter core second transformation, titan form activate!" With my command, the Boss stone viltronian and the other two stone viltronian's transformed into titan stone viltronians. And then stood on guards facing three different directions with their backs towards me. Preparing to fight the incoming one thousand demonic Titanoboa.

"Titans, Stone manipulation! Spiked Spinning Top!" As the demonic Titanoboas near me, I commanded the Titan Stone Viltronians to execute the spiked spinning top move I used against Vivian and her reverse harem in the school tournament. But this one would be on a ten times larger scale than the one excited in the tournament.

Following my command, the titan stone viltronians used stone manipulation to create a huge spiked stone dome, which was laid on a large circular stone foundation of the same diameter as the stone dome and with four of us inside it. By the time the spiked top was set up, the one thousand Titanoboas were about 100 feet from us.

The Titanoboas were of the card lord realm, similar to my titian stone viltronians. Though the Titanoboas were 30 meters long, they were puny in front of my 50-Meter tall stone dome created by my titan stone viltronians. Despite seeing me hide in such a

large stone dome, the one thousand Titanoboas did not stop their advance. Instead, their speed increased, ready to break through the stone dome with their large bodies. But they would soon come to regret that.

"Spin!" Just when the demonic creatures were about to crash onto the stone dome, I ordered the titan stone viltronians to use their stone manipulation to spin the spiked stone dome at the highest speed possible.

Whoosh! With my command, the titan stone viltronians spun the stone dome at an incredible speed.

Splash! clashing into the spinning spiked stone top, the demonic boas were turned into a bloody mess and died on the spot. Backed by the spin of the stone dome, the spikes on it ripped the scale armor of the demonic Titanoboa and cut through its flesh and bones.

"Hissss!" Despite seeing their friends ripped apart, the demonic Titanoboas at the back did not stop rushing towards the spiked spinning stone top. Their action seemed out of the ordinary, they appeared to be in a frenzied state. It seemed to be the side effect of the oath taken during the demonic ritual that they would not rest until they had fulfilled the summoned request. Even if demonic creatures decide to give up, their soul will be forced by the oath to fulfill the contract.

The demonic summon contract is a contract signed by the summoner and demonic creature when the summoner summons the demonic beast. The agreement forces both sides to fulfill their part of the bargain if anyone decides to blackout. Meaning if one has signed a demonic contract, they have no choice but to hold up their end of the deal. Otherwise, their soul will be enchanted by the demonic contract forcing them to hold up the terms of their agreement.

The demonic summon contract is the reason why the demonic Titanoboa entered into a frenzied state when they were frightened by the massacre of their cohort by the spiked spinning stone top and had lost the will to fight. Since the demonic Titanoboas had lost the will to fight, the demonic contract put them under a frenzy state, making it so that they would lose all sense, enter a berserk state and go on a killing spree.

Splash like the moth to the fire, the demonic Titanoboas kept rushing at the spiked spinning stone top without the care of their life and kept getting shredded to pieces. It took a while, just when I thought that I would be able to kill the demonic beasts quickly without moving a muscle. The demonic creatures proved me wrong.

Boom! The foundation of the spiked spinning top was hit by the Titanoboa from underneath. Disgusted by the gore flying all over the place I didn't notice that some of the Titanboas were not in a frenzied state and they cleverly burrowed underground to attack the spinning top's base from underneath.

Boom *Boom* *Boom*

The attack of the demonic Titanoboas from underneath the ground became stronger and more frequent. I finally understood what the demonic beasts were trying to achieve. They wanted to flip the spinning top over from underneath.

"No, you don't! Titans, stone manipulation! Move!" With my command, the titan stone viltronians began moving the spiked spinning top. Since a stationary target made an easy target, I had the stone viltronians move the spinning top around at the fastest speed possible.

I had to finish all the demonic snakes on the surface to get to the demonic snakes attacking from the underground. Instead of waiting at a single point for the frenzy demon snakes to come to their deaths, I began actively hunting for them. Avoiding the attacks from underneath.

One by one, I hunt the giant demonic snakes, more like I keep moving to avoid the attacks from underneath, and the frenzy snakes on the surface throw themselves onto the spiked spinning stone top to their deaths. After a few minutes of this, I finally saw the number of giant snakes decrease. About another hundred were left on the surface, and underneath the ground, I had yet to tally. Even with my soul pupils and Hive AI teaming up, I still could not find how many of the snakes were hiding underneath.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:37

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

The fancy infrastructure in the Burger Empire block was all crushed to bits by my spiked spinning top and was covered in gore, flesh, and bones of the giant demonic snakes, Titanoboas. It took a while, but the enormous spinning top finally killed the last frenzied Titanoboa on the surface. Just when I was about to decide how to deal with the Titanoboa's hiding underground, the problem took care of itself for me, but I wasn't lucky this time.

Booom! The Titanoboa attacking me from the underground detonated themselves and blew the entire Burger Empire block sky high. The dust and smoke rose to the sky. It took a while, but they settled down soon.

As the smoke cleared, it could be seen that a single-horned cloaked figure was grabbing a teenager by his neck and laughing," hahaha! How dumb are you to believe that you were able to massacre nearly one thousand Titanoboas in half an hour? You did kill most of them, but I ordered about 445 of them to hide underneath, and when the stage was ready, Boom! Hahaha!

I thought the explosion would take another 3 or 4 blocks with it, but it seems the city array has isolated this space from the rest. Unlucky you. You had to take the full brunt of the explosion. It is really impressive that your body is still intact! I guess I have no choice but to add you to my collection. But remembering your smug voice from earlier as you grabbed me from behind, I want to kill you.

But, look at you now. You can barely keep your eyes open. Don't worry. I forgive you and make all your pain will go away soon. Aren't I generous?"

"Origin card, Devil Skull mask!" The cloaked figure activated her origin card and summoned a skull mask with a single horn on its forehead.

"Don't struggle! Submit, and all the pain will go away!" Whispering this, the cloaked figure placed the skull mask on the barely conscious teenager. As soon as the skull mask touched the teenager's skin, it wiggled as if it had come alive and stuck to the boy's face.

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Within the last half an hour, the authorities arrived to rescue the injured civilians. The city array was activated, isolating the burger king block from the rest of the city. So that no demonic creature escapes to the city and disturbs the normal life of the average citizens.

This demon cult attack was deemed as an A-rank threat. Apparently, all the active A-rank parties under the city were in a dungeon. As for the rest, they claimed injury and refused to participate, hearing the mission target were demon cult members. As for the top families of the city, none came to help as the city hall did not ask for help.

Without the official request for help, the families did not plan on meddling with the demon cult attack as the city would confiscate the spoils of war. Therefore they wanted to reach an agreement with the city hall about dividing the spoils of wars before taking action. But the city hall was in no rush to take action since the incident area was isolated from the rest of the city, and they had all the time on their hands to wait for their A-rank parties to return from the dungeon raid and rid the city of the demon cult pests.

Due to the city politics, the incident area would have been isolated from the rest of the city without rescuing the injured and trapped, waiting for further orders. But thanks to the bravery shown by Chief Denise and Ed Bright, many injured civilians were rescued

and given proper medical care. But still, Chief Denise could not stop them from abandoning a teenager to fend for himself in the incident area isolated from the city.

...

Even though it was difficult for me to count the number of demonic Titanoboa hiding in the underground, it could be calculated by subtracting the number of demonic snakes I killed from one thousand, the original number of snakes attacking me. The answer we get would be the number of Titanoboa hiding underneath the ground. So once I realized that nearly half of the giant demonic snakes were hiding underneath the ground, I knew the cloaked figure was up to something, so I asked the three stone viltronians to strengthen our defense to the max.

As I expected, the cloaked figure was really up to something. It blew the whole block from underneath. Thankfully the injured civilians were brought to safety beforehand by Ed, Chief Denise, and authorities. As for Nick and Tom, they felt overshadowed when I summoned the 50-meter tall spinning massacre top, so they cleared the field and became spectators from outside under my permission.

I had already strengthened my defenses, knowing that the cloaked- figure was up to its tricks. Therefore I was intact despite the explosion, which took an entire block down with it. Yet I decided to pretend that I was injured so that I could get the rat hiding in the hole to come out. Therefore after the explosion, when the smoke and dust hadn't cleared yet, I ordered the three stone viltronians to blow up the spiked stone top and return to the monster orb.

As for the other two stone viltronian fighting the blood lord and giant earthworm monster, their bodies were destroyed. Thankfully, their monster cores were kept safe by the shell of calamity daughter gem. Which meant they could recreate their body once again as long as they had my permission. But for now, I let their calamity daughter gem lay on the ground peacefully so that my trap to catch the rat doesn't spook it away instead.

When the cloaked figure was giving her cliché villain speech, I wanted to stop pretending and smack her for almost boring me to death. But I wanted to see what she had in store for me, so I let her be and continue acting arrogant.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 14:58

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

[Card Name: Devil Skull Mask

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The Devil Skull Mask is created from the Skull of the Swarm Devil Broodnun. Wearing the Devil Skull Mask allows the user to use Swarm Devil Broodnun's innate ability, Swarm.

Additional Effect: Devil Skull Mask, Demon Core, Title Demon Core(Dorment), Darkness(Dorment), Devilification, Vile Sense, Devil Spawn.

Note: The holder of this card can never walk on the path of divinity, and they are destined to wake the way of Darkness.]

Swarm: This ability allows the Devil Broodnun to create limitless absolute clones of herself by laying countless eggs. The devil clones hatched from the eggs will be a perfect copy of the Devil Broodnun, creating a clone swarm.

Devil Skull Mask: This mask has the ability to duplicate itself limitlessly to create Devil Skull Mask Swarm.

When the duplicate Devil Skull Mask is used on other humans, they morph into a perfect Clone of the original holder of the Devil Skull Mask down to the soul pathway arrangements, let alone the physical resemblance.

A human host doesn't have the physique to use the innate ability Swarm of the Devil Broodnun, so instead of laying eggs to create a perfect clone swarm, the user can use the Devil Skull Mask to produce a delicate Devil Skull Mask to be used on other humans and turn them into an exact copy of oneself, a perfect clone. Forming a clone swarm.

Additional ability: Swarm Mind

Swarm Mind: The minds of all the clones wearing the duplicate Devil Skull Mask will be connected to the mind of the original wearing the original Devil Skull Mask. Allowing the clones to share the same thoughts, abilities, perspective, memory, behavior, and senses as the original.

Since the clones don't have thoughts of their own but share the original thoughts, the clone swarm will sacrifice themselves for the original. Because according to the original's thoughts, the original's life takes priority over the clone in any situation since the clones are disposable. Then the same thoughts are shared with the clones by the swarm mind, making the clones think and believe that the original's life is more important and takes priority as they are disposable. Therefore the Clones will not complain or rebel against the original orders. Making it easier for the original to control and command the clones.

Note: The Range of Swarm mind is restricted to the realm in which the original is present in. Meaning the original can connect and control any of its clones from anywhere in the same realm.

Demon Core: With the help of the Devil Skull Mask, the user can forge a Demon Core, giving the user a Demonic physique, which helps increase the durability and strength of the user's body to a monstrous level.

Title Demon Core(Dorment): Title Demon Core allows the user to connect with the world and comprehend rules and their meanings.

Note: A card apprentice who has forged a Title Demon Core cannot forge Ego Gem.

Darkness(Dorment): the Enlightenment of one's Darkness helps a Demon emperor transcend into a Devil.

Note: Card apprentice who has found their Darkness cannot find their Divinity.

Devilification: As one with the Devil's bone, the user can partially transform into a devil and access the devil's power for a limited period.

Note: The limit of the Devilification will depend on the strength and the will of the host.

Warning: using Devilification forcefully may lead to losing oneself to the Darkness.

Vile Sense: The Devil's Bone is the creation of Dark Realms. Its holder can sense the part of the Dark realm from where the Swarm Devil Broodnun belonged to.

Devil Spawn: The holder of this ability can dwell in Demonic Mystic Arts with very lax repercussions, near negligible.

...

"Such a shame that your body will lose your current appearance. The duplicate Devil's skull mask looks so good on you. Soon, you will be a part of me, so it doesn't matter. I guess." Seeing the Devil Skull Mask attached to my face effortlessly without facing any resistance, the cloaked Mask figure commented before adding, " I haven't used this

ability on a card apprentice who has forged an ego gem. You will be my first test subject. Therefore don't resist. Because I don't have much control over what is about to happen next, Duplicate Devil Skull Mask activates!"

With the command of the Cloaked figure, the duplicate devil skull mask began to release dark vapors as its intent dove into my body. The intent felt malicious, so I had the feeling that it would soon try to take over my body or plant a slave brand on my body. Knowing all this, I still chose to continue my act. I did not resist. I let it be as it pleased in my body.

I did so because once the Devil Skull Mask's intent entered my body, It formed an indirect connection between the Cloaked figure's grimoire and I. I asked my Hive AI to access the indirect link to hack the cloaked figure's grimoire and track the location of the original cloaked Mask figure. And I also asked the Hive AI to check for card info on the cards equipped in the cloaked figures grimoire. This way, I can finally solve the mystery behind the cloaked figure's cloning card and demonic summoning ritual.

While my Hive AI was busy hacking into the cloaked figure's grimoire, the Devil Skull Mask's intent did not spend time searching and scanning my body, but it directly headed for my Ego Gem. Then the malicious intent warped around my Ego gem. As the intent wrapped the Ego gem, I felt like the connection between me and the world weaken. That's when I realized that the malicious intent was trying to begin morphing me from the core, that would be my Ego gem containing my ethereal spirit in it. Despite knowing what the malicious intent was up to, I continued to let it be and did not resist.

...

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[1,041 words]

Chapter 656 Hacking

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:11

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

I let the malicious intent of the devil skull mask continue to influence my ego gem despite knowing its intentions for two reasons. The first reason is that I believe in the capabilities of my Calamity Soul Gem. I was confident that the malicious intent of the devil skull mask would not be able to breach through the shell of the dungeon calamity

seed covering my calamity soul gem. Even if it was the devil himself who attacked, he could not break through the shell of the Dungeon calamity seed. Let alone a mere malicious intent of a card apprentice with a demon core.

The second reason for doing so is that I wanted to buy enough time for the Hive AI to hack into the Cloaked figure's grimoire and get the original body's location and card info on the cards she had equipped. The indirect link between me and the Cloaked figure's grimoire is present because of the malicious intent of the devil skull mask entering my body. So, if I were to get rid of it, then the connection would be lost, and I would lose the only chance to track the location of the cloaked figure's original body.

Therefore, I patiently wait and let the malicious intent do its best while my Hive AI hacks into its master's grimoire. Once I get the original cloaked figure's location and its card info, I can put an end to this and seek retribution on it.

It took a while, but soon the Hive AI was able to hack into the Cloaked figure's clone's grimoire. First thing it did after gaining access to the enemy's grimoire was to record the card info of all the cards equipped by the enemy clone and send them to me. Then it proceeded to track the original body of the cloaked figure by triangulating its location through the frequency that the original body uses to deliver its commands to the clones. That would take a while, and meanwhile, I went through the card info of the cards equipped by the original and shared it with the clones.

Reading the card info of the cloaked figure's origin card Devil Skull Mask I finally understood the trick behind the cloaked figure's countless clones and limitless Demonic summoning ritual. Unlike the cheap imitation clones of the average card apprentice made using soul energy or rule energy, the clones of the cloaked figure were perfect clones made using a living person with flesh, blood, and soul. Three necessary things for sacrifice in a demonic ritual.

No wonder the cloaked figure could use its clones for conducting the demonic summoning ritual. Its clones are made up of living people, top-grade sacrifices for any demonic ritual. Not to mention the passive ability, Devil Spawn, which allowed the cloaked figure to undertake limitless demonic rituals without facing any severe repercussions. This ability was like the Cloaked figure's personal 'get out of trouble-free card.'

With the help of the Swarm Devil Broodnun's innate ability, Swarm, the Cloaked figure, can create as many perfect submissive clones of himself as he wants. And with the passive effect of the Devil Spawn, the cloaked figure could perform as many Demonic rituals as possible without facing any severe backlash. Making the Cloaked figure an expert demon summoner with an infinite demon army at its disposal.

Apart from that, clones seem to share the thoughts, abilities, perspective, memory, behavior, and senses with the original. Meaning that the clones made using Devil Skull

Mask can share the grimoire of the original. This ability was similar to what I created for Debra Khan and her skeleton Centaur Knight.

With the help of the 'ability share' effect of the Devil Skull Mask mixed with the Swarm mind skill, which allowed the original to control and command the clones remotely, the original Cloaked figure could rain terror on any place in the realm with her clones from the comfort of its home and never get caught.

The combination of the limitless demon army summoning and infinite range to control them made this card very overpowered. Just imagining that a person could attack a city with the waves of demons to destruction from the comfort of their home had me feeling a chill on my back. I don't know the capabilities of higher realms card apprentices, but for Lower realm card apprentices to face this situation would lead to their total annihilation. Though I was able to handle the demon tide, I was having a hard time tracking the original body. Without getting rid of the original body, it was impossible to put an end to this mayhem. If not for the cloaked figure being careless right now, I would have never been able to track the original body. Yes, the Hive AI had finally successfully tracked the location of the original body of the cloaked figure. Knowing the location of the demon cult follower, I was astonished because this is the last place a person should be expecting to be hiding a demon cultist, the Central Academic City.

The holy city of humankind's knowledge, that was where the original body of the cloaked figure was hiding. Knowing this, I was surprised as the Central academic city was the hub for this world's most innovative and most intelligent beings. How the heck did a demon worshiper manage to hide there without getting caught? A holy place like the central academic city should be the last place to spot a demon fanatic. But it seems the central academic city is not as safe as the people make it seem.

Having found the location of the cloaked figure's original body, I realized that up till now, I was fighting a meritless battle. Since I didn't care about helping the city, the only merit of fighting the cloaked figure was hunting it down. But, now that I know its original body is in the central academic city, I realized that face to face with the cloaked figure is not possible any time soon, so I decided to end the charade and leave this mess to the city to take care of.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:26

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

"Okay, That's enough." Saying that, with one hand, I grab the cloaked figure's wrist that is holding me hostage, and with the other, I try to remove the duplicate Devil Skull Mask on my face. But Devil Skull Mask seemed to have fused with my face. I wanted to use more force, but my facial skin started hurting, and I felt that if I were to pull any harder, I might rip off my face with the mask.

Therefore I decided to deal with the duplicate Devil Skull Mask stuck on my face by destroying its essence, the black malicious intent, which is currently trying to take over my Calamity Soul gem. And my hunch was correct. The duplicate Devil Skull Mask on my face crumbled to pieces when I decided to fight back the malicious intent covering and trying to breach the dungeon calamity seed shell of Ego Gem using the ability of calamity soul gem. With my order, calamity soul gem fought back and easily defeated the malicious intent of the Devil Skull Mask trying to take control over me. As the malicious intent was defeated, the duplicate Devil Skull Mask was destroyed, and its pieces fell off my face.

"What the heck?" Seeing me conscious and hearing my vitality words, the Cloaked figure was astonished. Despite the shock, she had the presence of mind to take a few steps back to escape to a safe distance, but my hand grabbing her wrist stopped her from backing away. Another tremendous shock struck her when she saw the duplicate Devil Skull Mask on my face crumble to pieces. In disbelief, she could not help but question me, "How are you able to resist the Devil Skull Mask?"

"..." I responded to her question with a scorn-filled sneer. At the same time, I took a moment to see who was actually hiding under the hood. This was the first time, after such a long battle, I was finally able to see what the cloaked figure looked like. I couldn't see her face as the Devil Skull Mask covered it.

Yes, the Cloaked figure is a she. Due to the baggy robe covering her body, it was hard to notice her physical distinctions that distinctively spoke that the cloaked figure was a woman and a voluptuous one at that. But knowing the ability of her origin card allowed her to morph any human into the original's appearance. Knowing the truth, I was disgusted with what I saw under the robe instead of appreciating it. Who knows if the clone was a man before the Cloaked figure used her duplicate Devil Skull Mask on him, morphing him into her image to make a perfect clone. And the thought that this woman tried to use such an ability on me made me angry so much that I added her to the top of my 'To Destroy' list. Sansa Baylor, Circle's Supreme Leader, and the Duskborn family were right behind.

Sansa Baylor took more priority above the Circle's Supreme leader because she was the one who orchestrated the misfortune that fell the Wyatt Family. I was sure of it because no friend would send about three dozen card emperors to assassinate their late friend's only son. Considering that Sansa Baylor was Mama Wyatt's oldest relation even before the Duskborn family excommunicated her, I had a feeling that this Bitch was behind everything that transpired with the Wyatt Couple before and two decades

after they moved to the Sky Blossom City. My gut told me that this Woman was more dangerous than the Circle's Supreme Leader.

But above all of my enemies, my greatest enemy would be the Cloaked figure and her disgusting ability. Come to think of it, the greatest enemy of mankind was the Cloaked figure with her ability to turn a man into a mindless voluptuous woman. Compared to what this woman can do to a man, any man would choose death over it. The miserable ending she could give to a man using her duplicate devil mask was worse than castration. Nope, both are worse. This bitch needs to be put to the ground. Not just for me but for the entire mankind. Now, that's something of a novel battle I would consider joining selflessly.

"Is it the ego gem? No, even though the ego gem has a natural defense against soul attacks still, when it comes to soul attacks, an average card apprentice's ego gem should not be the match of Devil Skull Mask.

There is something amiss here. That is you! Did that bitch give a card that can ward off soul attacks? Wait! That ring! Is that it? It helped you ward off the Devil Skull Mask's Soul attack, right! How much does that bitch care for you to waste one of her item card slots in her grimoire for your safety?

Fuck! It seems I underestimate your value to her. Hahaha! This is going to be for fun than I had thought. Killing you should make her feel the fraction of pain I felt back then." The Cloaked figure started to mumble to herself.

For some reason, she seemed to believe the curse eating ring given to me by Anna as protection against the curse-type attacks was the reason I was able to overcome the ability of her Devil Skull Mask. This was a misunderstanding I didn't bother to clear because if the cloaked figure didn't get an answer, she would continue digging deeper into my secrets for an answer. That's not something I want right now.

But I also could not let her conclude because the last time she got the answers to her question, she self-detonated herself to escape my grasp. Similarly, right now, if she doesn't need anything from me right now, nothing is stopping her from detonating herself again to escape my grasp. So I had to give her a reason to stay. But I wasn't foolish enough to clear her misunderstanding for that. But I had something juicier than that to stop her from exploding her clone.

"Aba Davies..."

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:37

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

"Aba Davies..."

Hearing this name, the cloaked figure's mind went blank because this was her name. Her legal name, given to her by her parents in the presence of all her family members and elders. This Name was supposed to have died decades ago along with her family. Why does a teenager from a third-rate city in the Southern region know this name? What else does he know? How much does he know?

"Aba Davis, if I am correct, that's your legal name, right!" Getting the name of the cloaked figure from her grimoire's status page was not a big deal when Hive AI hacked into her grimoire to track her real-time location back to the Central Academic City.

"Nope, you got the wrong person." Saying that the Cloaked figure was about to detonate her clone. Feeling the anomaly in her soul pathway arrangements, I wanted to stop her, but I was too late!

*Boom!" The Cloaked figure blew herself up. It seems my calculations were wrong. Instead of getting curious about how I knew her name, she got frightened and blew her clone up.

"Fuck!" I cursed as gore, and brain matter covered me for the second time. I was starting to regret not buying a cleaning card.

Letting out my anger, I gave the two calamity daughter gems of Stone viltronians lying on the ground permission to reform their body and return to the monster Orb. Having collected my pets, I stood on the ground covered with blood, minced flesh, and bone, looking at the array isolating this block from the rest of the city to ensure that the Aba Davies, the devil spawn, had left the city for good. I had no ambush or assassination attempt to worry about from her side for now.

Crack! The invisible compressed space wall separating the Burger empire block from the rest of the city cracked as a feminine figure flew in.

"Awe, look at you. I take my eye off you for one second, and you soil yourself. Did you miss this pretty sister?" Who else other than Anna. For the first time, I was grateful to see her as she had a high-grade cleaning card.

"What took you so long?" I asked. When the Aba wreaked havoc in the city, I thought the southern watch soldier would be the first to respond, but as the classic cop cliché, they too were late and arrived too late. Thankfully the people had been taken care of.

"Those demon pests ambushed the military base too. They seem to be after the dungeon relocation apparatus. It took a while for me to exterminate them. Anyway, why are you complaining? You seem to have handled the things on your end?" Hearing Anna, I knew that attacking the city was not the demon cult's plan but a personal vendetta mission of Aba Davies.

From my conversation with Aba, I knew she seemed to hate Anna with a burning passion and wanted to see her hurt more than anything else in the world. So Aba attacked the city out of her own accord to kill me, a person who Anna had taken fancy to. So that she could indirectly inflict pain on Anna, it was clear that this whole ordeal was related to Anna, not me. I was being targeted because Anna had taken a fancy to me. This was not a news to me as I always thought that I would be targeted because of Anna. But I believed it would be one of her ex-lovers or admirers but not a demon cult hoe with a grudge against Anna.

"No, she escaped. To be accurate, she was never here, to begin with. So I don't know if saying that she escaped would be accurate." I said, trying to find the right words to explain what happened.

"You are making no sense. Add more details, and don't forget the context for me to understand what you are saying." Anna's brows narrowed, unable to understand what I was saying.

"Before that, how long are you going to make me wait before you use your dirt purge card on me?" I ask Anna.

"Geez, how am I supposed to know if you don't ask? If I were your girlfriend, it would be another matter." Anna responded, but I did not see her summon her grimoire to use dirt purge on me.

"Yes. I am sorry. So please, will you use your dirt purge on me now. I cannot stand being covered in slimy human remains." Being polite and humble gets the job done when you don't want to answer specific questions like, for example, Am I your girlfriend?

"Avoid all you want, but you will be mine, sooner or later. Dirt Purge, Activate!" Hearing Anna's declaration, I felt a chill on my spine, but the experience of Dirt Purge that followed right after made my nerves loosen a little.

"Anna, by chance, do you happen to know Aba Davies? She seems to hate you with a burning passion, and her life's goal appears to be to inflict pain on you." I asked Anna. After all, Aba was her mortal enemy. If anybody needs to be cautious about her, then Anna came next, right after all the heterosexual men in the world. Yep, Abe Davies was the mortal enemy of Mankind first than Anna.

"Aba Davies! So a rat has managed to escape the massacre decades ago and come back to bite me. Which direction did she flee? Maybe I can catch up to her." Anna asked

with a serious expression. I had never seen her so serious about anything so far. Silver milk powder excluded, of course.

"I don't know. She wasn't personally here. Her clones were here wreaking havoc while she controlled them remotely. And I think that the last one of the clones just blew up on my face." I hid the fact that I knew the location of Aba from Anna because I wanted to put an end to the enemy of mankind with my own hands and obviously get the devil skull in her possession. After all, that's a demigod realm ingredient. I would be a fool not to covet it.

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

"So you're telling me that a mere clone army was responsible for this? So many innocent lives were lost, and the culprit didn't even have to leave the comfort of her house. This is absurd!" Said Anna frustrated and irritated at the fact that the culprit behind the mayhem at Burger empire block couldn't be tracked.

"Yep, that's what happened. Ada has a peculiar origin card. It allows her to create multiple perfect clones by sacrificing living humans to the devil skull mask. She used the perfect clones as a sacrifice for the demon summoning ritual. Basically, she sacrificed a clone army to summon a demon army. I also learned that the devil skull used to create her origin card belongs to Swarm Devil Broodnun." Though I hid the fact that I knew Aba Davies's location, I still chose to disclose other information I had on her. So Anna and the southern watch are prepared to face an enemy like Aba. Also, I was not worried about Anna doubting how I got all this detailed information on Aba Davies and her origin card. I did this purposefully to show that I am as good on the battlefield as in a card lab. When you want an umbrella to shelter you from a storm, you should have the strength to hold the umbrella tight so that it doesn't fly away when a strong wind blows. Anna was my umbrella. I have to keep proving my worth from time to time for her to stick around and not get bored of me.

"So that's where the Devil's skull went. I thought that that bastard took it before abandoning his second family. Fuck! This makes her more troublesome to handle than I thought." Anna mumbled in anger and then yelled in frustration.

"Come to think of it, why does that girl hate you? Don't tell me you slept with her love interest, like how you bedded Chris Chase's girl." I was curious why Aba hated Anna with burning passion enough to make inflicting pain on Anna her life's goal.

"Aba Davies is my niece. I thought I had killed her in her mother's womb along with her mother and the rest of her family, but it seems she somehow survived that and also managed to remember what happened that night. Let's say that night Davies family manor was painted red with Davies family members' blood." Anna explained nonchalantly like it was any other news to her. But hearing her narrating it, every single one of my body hair stood up in a chill.

"Anna, context!" Before labeling Anna as a monster, I decided to give her a second chance so that I could understand the situation based on the context.

"You remember how I killed my half-sister from my bastard father's second family? It seems while I killed her, she was eight months pregnant. If I remember correctly, Aba Davies should be the name my half-sister chose for her unborn daughter." Anna narrated that Aba Davies was the daughter of her half-sister, whom she killed to exact revenge on her lowlife father, who abandoned her and her mother and shamelessly started a second family.

"Please tell me that you didn't know she was pregnant when you killed her!" Who am I kidding with this question? Aba's mother was eight months pregnant back then! Even a moron would know she was pregnant with one glance at her large belly. So, Anna should have noticed that her half-sister was pregnant. Yet she killed her! What else was I expecting from her? After all, she did massacre an entire family just for her revenge.

"So what if I knew? Does it matter? I got my revenge. That's all that matters. Don't tell me your stomach can't handle this." This is the second time Anna spoke in this tone. The first time was when she tortured me to get Silver milk powder complete production, supply, and distribution rights.

That day is still fresh in my mind. Therefore, I never let myself have delusions about Anna taking fancy towards me. I am clear about the relationship between Anna and me. It is just business. I never let myself forget that. Therefore, I never indulge myself in Anna's sexual advances. This conversation with Anna was proof of that. But still, today, I seem to have found my bottom line, an unborn child, or any child for that matter, pure beings that sin has yet to contaminate them.

"Look at your face.... *sigh* Let me tell you the truth that I have never told anybody, my mother included. As the Southern Watch massacred the Davies family, I headed in, in search of my half-sister, prepared to kill her. But when I found her with a bulging belly with the presence of life in it, I froze. Then I saw something that shook me forever, my half-Sister slit her throat. Right then, I realized why my mother did not kill my lowlife father's second wife. There you have it. I did not kill my half-sister.

Back then, after she slit her throat, her corpse suddenly incinerated and turned to ash. It always puzzled me, but today, I understood why she did that. It seems she chooses to sacrifice herself to protect her daughter and give her a second life." Seeing my complexion turn pale, Anna revealed her secret that she never killed her half-sister.

"..." I remained silent as I didn't know if Anna was telling the truth or just spinning up lies to keep her image intact in my eyes. I am not a good person. In my past life, I created a targeted gene bio-weapon to kill all the people with Viltronian powers. But still, purposefully killing an unborn child made my stomach churn.

"You don't believe me, huh? At least now I know where I stand in your heart." Anna felt devastated seeing the boy for whom she laid her feelings bare naked did not trust her words.

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

Chapter 660 Park's Plans

[1,018 words]

Chapter 660 Park's Plans

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:38

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

"Park, are you sure a devil was summoned? It has been more than an hour. There is no sign of a Devil." Corey asked Park as she decided to head back to the warehouse after seeing Anna breaking the array and entering the isolated space, the Burger Empire Block.

"I am two hundred percent sure. I cannot mistake that feeling. However, it was only for a second. A devil was indeed summoned in the city's outskirts, near the Dungeon highway." Park vouched that she felt a Devil being summoned outside the city near the dungeons. Park was puzzled about what happened to the Devil. If it had descended, why wasn't it wreaking havoc as they are known for? Was it hiding? What can make a devil opt to hide?

What Park did not know is that she felt the Devil's presence only for a second because as soon as it was summoned, Anna trapped it in her bloodline field card, Unparalleled Arena. And slew the devil in there. Therefore she did not feel the presence of the devil once again.

"I believe you. So it's a good thing that I did not recklessly run towards the dungeon area, heeding your request. If we had, then we would be facing a devil right now. Not to mention our title demon core, if the devil had sensed it, we would have become the devil's first target after its descent on this plane." Corey said Casually as she walked away from the Burger Empire block.

After sensing the Dark realm connected to this world, Corey hurried to Burger Empire to check out what was going on, but on her way, she found that Corey Park could feel the Dark realm connect to this world near the dungeon fields outside the city. Since the connection to the dark realm was stronger outside the city, Park insisted on going there, but Corey Bright disagreed with her because they did not know who was behind these incidents. If it were someone dangerous and stronger, their lives would be at risk.

Therefore Corey did not want to head out of the city and instead chose a simpler way, that is, to guide toward the Burger Empire. Where the connection to the dark realm is weaker compared to the connection to the dark realm outside the city, this meant the enemies near the burger empire were weaker compared to the ones outside the city. And if anything were to go wrong, there were always city authorities for help inside the city, but outside, she would have zero assistance and would have to face the stronger enemy.

So heading towards the Burger empire to check on the connection of this world to the dark realm and to know the people behind it was the safest bet. Therefore no matter how much Park pleaded and assured her about ther stealth ability, Corey did not bulge.

"Since you insisted and came all the way here, why didn't you go help Wyatt with demons? " Corey Park asked Bright why she did not make a move to help her boss, who was being targeted by thousands of sinister demons.

"Obviously, because I wanted to make a stunning entrance when his life was in danger, but who knew that bastard's pet grew that strong in a few days. And that demon card apprentice was stupid for falling for his act. I mean, I could tell he was faking it from out here, but she couldn't when she was standing right next to him. That bitch must have been dropped on her head as a child for her to be so dumb to fall for his act." Corey planned to time her entrance so that she could rescue her boss at his desperate hour, but to her shock, her boss had grown so strong that he did not require her help. As a result, Corey was in a foul mood and blamed the demon cultist for being too weak.

"That girl, we have to find her. She has a devil's bone. Even though that devil Skull seems too old and overused, still, it belongs to a full-fledged devil, the Swarm Devil Broodnun. If you get that, then your accession to the devil realm will be easier and

faster. Not to mention our connection to the dark realm will increase. And we can Summon little Beam with little repercussions to pay. Awe, I miss that little thing." Corey Park seemed to be eyeing the Devil Skull in possession of Aba Davies.

The reasons for that couldn't be more obvious. She wanted to make use of it to reach the devil realm and return to the dark realms to exact her vengeance on her old boss. But she appeared not to know the location of Aba Davies. This meant just watching Aba Davies's battle from afar, she discovered that the cloaked figures that kept sacrificing themselves for the devil summoning ritual were mere clones being remotely controlled.

"Swarm Devil Broodnun? Do you know her?" Seeing Corey Park could tell who the devil skull belonged to just by looking at it, Corey Bright thought Park was acquainted with the Swarm Devil Broodnun personally back in the dark realms.

"I knew her, but she didn't know me. After all, she was one of the pinnacle beings of the Dark Realm, and back then, I was just a foot soldier, a nobody. When I was starting to gain popularity, she had entered the darkness for eternal slumber. Seeing how her skull is in this realm, it seems Broodnun lost her life in this world and had to enter darkness for recovery." Corey Park explained how Broodnun had been defeated and had to enter the darkness to recover by the time she managed to obtain her tittle demon core.

"Whoa! This means there are people stronger than the devil in this world, huh? Then we will have to get that devil skull from that girl no matter the cost and fast."

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

"Since there is nothing here in need of my assistance, I will leave now." Said Anna as she flew to leave.

"Ahem! Anna, little help with this isolation array." I hurriedly asked Anna to help me get out of the isolation array.

"Wait here. I am sure the authorities will shut down the isolation array once they know that threat has been neutralized." Anna replied to my plea for help with advice as she hovered in the air.

"Come on, Anna, don't be like that. Take me with you. If it's up to the authorities, it will take hours before they decide to put me in quarantine or let go of me." I flew next to hovering Anna and pleaded for her help once again.

Even though I have handled the demon cultist problem, the city hall will not remove the isolation imposed on Burger Empire block because this site has been used for extraterrestrial summoning. Opening the door to an unknown realm for summoning is very dangerous, especially when that unknown realm is the Demon realm and requires sacrifice. There have been cases where powerful unknown entities smuggled through the summoning door when someone tried sacrificial summoning.

Powerful entities aren't the only ones. Various diseases from other realms have plagued the world by using the summoned beings as their carriers. A malicious entity can be subdued with some casualties, but a plague will lead to genocide before its cure is found. Therefore, sacrificial summoning is strictly banned by the orthodox side of the world, that is, the Government, 4 Royal families, and the Noble families of the central region.

Since the Burger Empire block was used for sacrificial demonic summoning, the authorities will first put this block in an extended quarantine then sweep and sanitize the entire block to make sure it is not compromised with unknown entities and diseases which could harm humanity of this world before they remove the isolation imposed on it by the city's array formation. As a person who breathed the air of this isolated space, I, too, would be put in quarantine until it is proved that I did not have the potential to become patient zero. Therefore I needed someone of Anna's authority to get me out of here.

"Wyatt, the rules are made for a purpose. Don't break them because of a bit of inconvenience." Said Anna, but her eyes spoke a different story, 'Now you need me. No, not me but my authority. You heartless lowlife. Like everyone else, you only plan on using my background. To think I would fall for you out of all those capable men. Sigh, I still cannot bring myself to punish you. You better coax for another week, then we will be okay.'

"Oh, shit! I am so sorry, Anna. I forgot about our breakfast appointment. I am sorry. Let me make it up to you." While I was thinking of how to please Anna, I remembered I seemed to have promised to take her out for breakfast, just the two of us. No wonder she looks pissed. But why didn't she remind me? She was right there with me in the warehouse. I know better than to ask her that. Therefore I stuck to classic kiss-assery.

"Oh! Now you remember, hmph." Anna snorted with a snarky remark. As if saying I only remember her when I am in trouble. Though I have my trust issues, I have no qualms regarding using Anna for my needs. Yep, I am a lowlife jerk who uses his past life as an excuse to use the girl who claims to like him.

I did it again, 'claims.' How does a person know if the girl really likes you? I am having a hard time discerning romantic relations or any relationship for that matter. This explains why I did not think twice before adding the parent and daughter ability of the dungeon calamity core to my Calamity soul core. I am broken, fuck it! No more excuses. Time to take action. I won't let the fear of getting hurt stop me in this life.

"Anna!" Grabbing Anna by her waist, I pull her into my embrace and lock my lips on hers.

"..." Surprised, Anna shoved me away, "what the heck are you doing?"

Bang I crashed on the ground below. Caught by surprise, she did not have time to adjust her strength. Thankfully she managed to hold back subconsciously. Yet, it resulted in half of my ribs cracking.

"What the heck?! I should be the one asking that." I got up and stipped out a mouthful of blood. Then yelled while restructuring my cracked ribs to normal.

"What! You are the one who kissed me without permission. You're lucky that I didn't kill you." Anna shouted.

"Six cracked ribs, how is this considered lucky? And what permission? You kiss me without my consent all the time." I yelled back. Despite Anna harming me, the soul contract between us didn't activate as I was the aggressor. Fuck! Even the world's will is a better judge of relationships than I.

"That's different. I do it because I like you. Not because I want to use you." Anna finally spoke her mind, revealing that she knew I was using her.

"..." I was without words realizing that Anna wasn't pissed because I forgot the breakfast I promised her, but there was more. She had finally walked out of the initial blind infatuation stage and noticed that her feelings were only one way. And despite all her work, they weren't being responded to and reciprocated.

"And what were you thinking by kissing me out of nowhere? Did you think I would cave to your demands for a kiss? You lowlife asshole, you are no different than other jerks I hooked up with before." Anna screamed at me feeling betrayed.

"I wanted to ask you out on a dinner date after the kiss. You know, as you would. This is what I get for being a little active, six cracked ribs, and being labeled as a lowlife asshole. I'm done trying, take me home." I slowly flew back towards Anna, explaining that I wanted to make it up to her by taking her out on a dinner date for having forgotten about our promised breakfast.

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

[1,113 words]

Chapter 662 Confrontation

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 15:52

Location- Sky Blossom City, Burger Empire.

"You were trying? You call that trying. You creepy bastard that is not trying, that is sexual harassment." Anna yelled, not believing my excuse about asking her out on a dinner date to make up for forgetting the promised breakfast.

"Sexual harassment! You, of all people, have no right to claim sexual harassment... my mother warned me about dating an entitled princess like you." Hearing Anna speaks about sexual harassment, my blood boiled with rage. After all, I was one of her victims of sexual harassment. Funny, the culprit shoves the blame onto the victim.

"How many times do I have to tell you that what I did is different from what you did? I did it out of feelings for you, but you conniving lowlife did it to take advantage of my feelings for you.

And for your information, your mother would be happy to have a capable and independent daughter-in-law like me." Anna shouted, defending her actions while criticizing mine.

"I just explained that I was trying to apologize for forgetting the promised breakfast." At this point, I didn't even know why I was screaming, but I knew I was furious, and for some reason, I was aroused. What the hell is this woman doing to me?

"Who the heck apologizes by kissing?" Anna yelled. Clearly, she was dead set on making it my fault. Well, someone knows what they want for a change.

"I don't know. I guess people who are dating or like each other." I answered, shouting aloud. By now, it felt relaxing to shout. So I went with it.

"So by kissing, are you trying to say that you like me, and we are dating? Does that mean I am your girlfriend?" Anna's eyes shone brightly as she asked me this. I don't know how we got here and whether she planned for this, but I knew I was trapped.

"..." No shit! I was starting to regret restructuring my cracked ribs. Maybe it's not too late. I can pretend one of the ribs punctured my lungs and fall unconscious. Perhaps she will leave thinking that I am dead.

"Don't you dare go deaf dumb and blind on me, Wyatt. I won't forgive you." Anna glared at me with her piercing gaze. Meeting that gaze, I was petrified. I know that I decided to stop using my past life as an excuse and stop letting the fear of getting hurt control me from forming a healthy mature relationship. But all this, this is too soon. I feel like I am being shoved into something I am not prepared for yet.

"Anna, I am not ready. I will get there. For now, all I can say is to be patient with me." Rather than making excuses, I decided to tell the truth and hope that Anna would understand.

"..." Anna looked disappointed but then, thinking of something, she said, " But promise me when you are ready, I will be your first choice."

"Hey, if you still like me and are available, I would like the honor of being your partner." I answered with a smile, and then, thinking of something, I added, "Anna, now that things between us are clearer than before, will you... will you start..."

"Will I start hooking up with others?" Seeing me struggling to ask, Anna finished my sentence for me. And then said, "Aren't you a player for someone who claims to be new to this. Not only do you want me to wait for you, but you want me to stop having a good time?"

"No... I..." I don't know why I was thinking that. Since I can't give Anna what she wants, it's only fair that she finds it somewhere else. I don't know if it's the masculine possessiveness in me or my true feelings, but I didn't want Anna to be close with other males.

"Boy, aren't you demanding and high maintenance? But don't worry, I don't plan on regressing to my old lifestyle as now I have someone I like and want to impress." Seeing me stutter, Anna took over the conversation and spoke. Hearing her, I felt calm and assured. Why would I feel assured if Anna plans to be true to her crush?

"I see. And thank you for understanding. But if you are okay with it, are we still on for dinner tonight, just the two of us." I thanked Anna for understanding and forgiving me for what I had done to her before, stringing her feelings along, even though I had no plans to reciprocate or respond to them.

"Wooo... A romantic dinner date for just the two of us. Wyatt, don't tell me since I stopped you from kissing me. You plan on getting me drunk and taking me back to your room to have your way with me. You conniving fox, you." Anna joked about our sexual harassment argument earlier, but when she saw my sullen face, she coquettishly asked, "Too soon?"

"Yes, too soon." Women will never understand the pain of being wrongfully labeled as sexual abusers, spouse beaters, or perverts. After all, even the ice in Antarctica will melt with their tears.

"Sorry. And I am looking forward to our dinner date tonight. You better bring your A-game for this. Otherwise, I will be pissed." Only Anna knew how much pain she was in, 'Wait? Like hell, I gave this bastard my grandma's ring, passed down in my family for generations, but he is so clueless and dares to say that he is not ready. Fuck you!' Cursing the love of her life in her head, she calmed herself and maintained a standard smile on her face so that she wouldn't scare him away.

"Don't worry. I will meet all the stops to make it a wonderful dinner. Trust me on this." By I, I mean my calamity daughter gems. I didn't know shit about dating. In my past life, my money and status took care of that for me. Maybe that is why none of my relationships worked out back then.

"Okay! Now let's get out of here. This place reeks of blood and gore." Saying that Anna grabbed my shoulder with a hand and carried me out of the isolation area. Anna had changed her ways. If it were old Anna, she would embrace me in a hug and then bring me out of the isolation array. As always, a confrontation is the best medicine for all misunderstandings. I felt good about not making up excuses and confronting Anna about how I felt.

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

- Chapter 663 Boss's Woman

Chapter 663 Boss's Woman

[1,031 words]

Chapter 663 Boss's Woman

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 16:09

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

Using the Hive AI, I mentally informed the Bright brothers that I had left the isolation array and that they should get back to the warehouse to deal with the mob of delinquents gathered here. As for Chief Denise, Nick will notify her that I have already

left the isolation array and headed back home. Considering that she will be busy dealing with the aftermath of the demon cult's terrorist attack, she will not bother me for a while. By then, I would have moved to the royal palace.

"Will you look at that, your very own organization? Aren't they a rowdy bunch? I heard breastfeeding them regularly should keep them quiet for a while." Anna mocked the Bright Lions calling its members babies. She wasn't done there, "Will you use them to fight the booger monster or the monster underneath your bed or the one hiding in your closet? Hahaha!"

"Are you done? All you are doing right now is proving that you are not funny." I said, looking down at the crowd of delinquents surrounding the warehouse. And just when I wanted to confront them, saying that the Bright brothers would inform them about the party venue and they should head back, I saw Corey scream at the crowd, "You mofos haven't left yet? Did I not warn you earlier, yet you people are still here? Are you people looking down on me!"

Hearing Corey, the rowdy mob of delinquents went silent. Each of them turned to look at the source of arrogant words, Corey. And one of the delinquents came forward, gazing at Corey from head to toe, he said, "Look here, little girl, considering that you are the boss's woman, we will—"

Slap**Bang Before the delinquent could finish his sentence, a slap landed on his face, and he was sent back flying, crash landing into a bunch of bystander delinquents.

"Who the fuck is your Boss's woman? It seems my cousins aren't guiding you guys properly. Let me help them guide you. Come on, who's next!" Corey yelled, glaring at the delinquents. Her piercing gaze sent a chill into the spin of the mob of delinquents. Some even unconsciously took a step back.

"Hey. Doesn't this chick resemble the chick who fought with the boss in the semifinals of the school tournament?" A delinquent spoke, breaking the graveyard silence that had taken over the mass.

"Resemble? Fuck! I think she is the real deal." A female delinquent affirmed.

"Shit! Doesn't that mean she is the sister of the three leaders?" Saying that, the delinquent hurriedly bowed perpendicularly and yelled, "Senior Sister!"

"Senior Sister!" Following the delinquent's lead, others followed behind and yelled while bowing, "Senior Sister!"

"Who the heck is your senior sister? Clear this place before I get angry." Seeing that the delinquents were still bowing and not moving their asses, Corey added, "Don't make me repeat myself!"

"You guys heard the Senior sister. Move it. Let's head back to the Billiards." The delinquents hurriedly cleared the area and left for one of their hang-out places, Billiards.

"Hmph," seeing the delinquents leave, Corey nodded in satisfaction before looking up into the sky with a smirk and heading back into the warehouse.

"That girl's senses are good. Such raw talent is wasted in this dump. But it looks like you got yourself a capable general," Anna sighed, looking at Corey, who headed back into the warehouse. Her smirking at us was a sign that she had sensed our presence.

"General? Oh, please, I wouldn't trust her with my coffee. And she is not a part of my organization." I spoke the truth, but seeing Anna praise Corey, I couldn't help but ask, "What's the deal between Corey and you? You seem to be a lot more patient with her when compared to others."

"I am doing what every godparent would do," Anna replied.

"Godparent? You are Corey's godmother! I don't freaking believe it." I said in dismay. I knew Anna was old, but her being Corey's godmother was news to me.

"That's a long story, for some other time. And don't you have a customer waiting for you? Let's go." Seeing my big bright eyes, eager to hear the story behind her becoming Corey's godmother, Anna looked away and made an excuse to change the topic.

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"Wyatt, I heard from the children outside our warehouse that you were arrested. What happened?" As soon as I entered the warehouse, I was faced with the worried Susan.

"Arrested? No. That was a prank. Police Chief Denise is a friend of my mom's. She wanted to talk. There is nothing to worry about." Technically I wasn't lying to Susan. I was telling the facts in a way that sounded less alarming to hear.

"But, when I contacted guild master Van for help. He said that he was on his way to the precinct with the TSR guild's legal team." After learning that I was in trouble, Susan contacted Van for help.

"As I said, it's all a big misunderstanding. Aren't I here and not in a prison cell? Isn't this proof enough?" I assured Susan that there was nothing to worry about.

"Okay, I will believe you. And also, you should be more cautious these days. The Burger Empire block was isolated due to a demon cult terrorist attack." Susan did not know that I was at the heart of the terrorist attack as I was the target. I did not plan on telling her that, as I didn't want her to worry unnecessarily.

"Wyatt, aren't you lucky. It looks like you got yourself a keeper." Said Anna, but clearly, her face was sullen. I understood Anna was jealous of how close I was to Susan.

"It is not like what you think. But yes, Susan is the best manager I could have asked for." I said hurriedly, trying to imply to Anna that I was telling the truth when I said I wasn't ready for a relationship yet. And if I were, she would be my first choice.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 16:15

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

"Kane, sorry for the delay. I had to tend to some urgent matters." I apologize to Kane Kaga for the delay.

"It is okay, Master Wyatt. I can understand since it is urgent. It can't be helped. you gotta do what you have to do." Kane nodded in understanding. He was not bothered by the delay without any notice.

"Thank you." Thanking Kane for understanding, I added, "I hope the delinquents that had gathered outside didn't trouble you."

"No, the delinquents were very welcoming once I said I was your customer. While waiting for you, I had a surprisingly good time with them. I never thought that I would ever be friends with delinquents. After all, every delinquent I have met before said that my face resembles that of a punching bag. So being friends with the delinquents was a refreshing experience. Some even taught me how to deal with a bully. And I finally understood why every bully I met earlier said that my face resembled that of a punching bag. I got to stand up for myself. It's that simple." Kane seemed to have had a very educating session with the delinquent from Bright Lions. Well, as long as he was entertained and enjoyed himself. All's good, I guess.

"Oh my god, his face does look like a punching bag." Said Corey, upon sudden realization.

"Corey, you—" Susan wanted to give Corry an earful for her unthoughtful remark but was interrupted by Kane.

"It's okay, Miss Susan. I can handle this. Corey, a punching bag is better than being mistaken for a two-dollar whore." The influence of the delinquents on Kane was progressive. He seems to be more aggressively confident during the confrontation and fights his battles. But there was a problem that the delinquents of Bright Lions didn't teach him about picking his opponents and battles. Somebody of Corey's caliber who could slap him to death was not in the same league as the street delinquents.

"Whoa!" The woman folk in the warehouse felt Kane took it too far with the two-dollar whore remark.

Corey rushed to Kane and lifted him by his collar, and asked, "What did you say to me?"

"Corey put him down. Don't forget who started it." I ordered Corey. Hearing that, she glared at me with a fierce gaze. As if asking, 'Who the heck are you to order me?'

"Now!" I said sternly, establishing my authority over Corey. Following my words, Corey put Kane down but yelled, "I am not apologizing to this son of bitch."

I did not plan on having Corey apologize to Kane. Having her yield to my words was a big win, " Kane, buddy. You need more sessions before taking on some of Corey's caliber. How about you join us at the Bright Lions party tonight."

"Really, I can come to the party. I thought it was only for the members of Bright Lions." Kane had heard about the party from the delinquents. He wanted to attend it, but since it was exclusively for the members of the Bright Lion gang, he couldn't and was disappointed.

"Yes. After all, half-assed knowledge will only help you get in trouble. So come to the party." I invited Kane to the party as I really believed that he would get himself killed if we didn't learn to pick his battles.

"Thank you. I will attend the party. And use it as an opportunity to show off my badass origin card soon to be made." Kane said enthusiastically. The damage done by Corey was taken care of with an invite to the party.

"Okay, now let's continue from where we left off." Saying that I turn to Susan.

"Here's the card, and I have already planted an Ironwood seed in a big earth pot. For you to conduct your experiment without any hindrance." Explained Susan as she handed me the D-rank Rare grade arborist occupation card.

[Card Name: Arborist

Card Type: Occupation card

Card Rank: D-Rank, Rare grade

Card Rate: 11-stars

Card Durability: [82/100]

Card Effect: When equipped, the user gains the knowledge of someone trained in the physical maintenance and manipulation of trees.

Additional effect: Nurture, Growth light.

Note: Not to be used on humans. Card effect limited to rare grade and below trees]

Nurture: The user can use their soul energy to help the tree's growth.

Note: Not to be used on humans.

Growth Light: The user can use this light to help trees heal deep cuts and fight parasites.

Note: Not to be used on humans.

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The experiment Susan spoke of was for me to observe the soul pathway and arrangement changes in an Ironwood seed as it grows into a matured tree. I not only had to monitor the soul pathway and arrangement changes during the Ironwood tree's growth but also how it produces flowers for pollination.

In the end, I had to record every soul pathway change in the ironwood tree to use an ironwood seed as a base to grow a variant of the elder druid seen in Vivian's origin card, the forbidden garden. Of course, all of this data collected would be recorded and stored by Hive AI for me to compare the soul pathway and arrangement chances in both the Ironwood tree and Vivian's elder druid.

Growing the Ironwood tree into a variant of elder druid was not a challenge, just tiresome. The real challenge was making use of Vivian's blood rule meaning to give the Ironwood variant elder druid the ability to morph into various forms based on the blood it devoured.

If the Blood rule meaning need here were mine, it wouldn't be a challenge. The complication was that it belonged to a third party. How do I overcome this? One way would be for me to comprehend the required Blood clone meaning of the Blood rule, but that would be hectic and time-consuming. Another way and the preferable way would be to get Vivian to join and help me during the origin card creation.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 16:26

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

It took a while, but I finally had mapped out what Kane's origin card would be and how I would go about creating it. Meanwhile, Susan had just returned after procuring the ingredients mentioned in the list of ingredients I gave her, specifying the ingredients I require to get started with origin card creation.

Apart from the list, I needed two other ingredients they were right here, Vivian's blood rule and the DNA material of the Elder druids in her forbidden garden to create a Viltroinian Ironwood variant of the elder druid.

"Wyatt, here are the ingredients you asked for." Said Susan handing me a storage trunk card. It did not take long for Susan to procure the ingredients on the list as there were only five items on the list.

[1. A-Rank Entwives core - 2 soul Jades

2. A-Rank Treant core - 3 Soul Jades

3. B-Rank Wild Fist Arts - 5 Soul Jades

4. A-Rank Mandrake roots - 2 soul Jade

5. Origin Core - Free

Total Cost - 12 Soul Jades]

Entwives are female Ent, humanoid tree monsters. They have abilities that allow them to grow and manipulate trees. Boss Ent can even raise and control an entire forest. According to Kane, he didn't want just a wooden shapeshifting blow-up doll, he wanted a combat-ready wooden shapeshifting blow-up doll that not only takes care of his carnal appetite but also helps him exact vengeance on his bullies. So the abilities of the Entwives, which allows them to control and grow trees and forest, will come in handy in Kane's origin card as strong crowd control abilities.

Treant, sentient but violent tall tree monsters. Their close combat prowess is second to none in A-Rank monsters. Their huge build and hefty weight give them a massive

advantage in close combat. Their herculean strength and elemental resistance abilities will give Kane's origin card the capabilities required to have an excellent defense as a close combatant.

Wild Fist arts, since Kane's origin card, is going to be a humanoid combat summons. It requires one or two martial techniques up its sleeves so that it can actually fight in close combat and not just take hits. I wanted to add more similar martial arts, but no high-ranking combat arts suitable for Kane's origin card were available in the city.

Mandrake's roots look bizarrely like a human body, and high-ranking mandrakes can even come in humanoid male and female forms. They are mostly known for their medicinal properties. They have high vitality and regeneration abilities. Its capabilities will make up for the support abilities in Kane's origin card. If everything goes as per the map I have for Kane's origin card, then Kane will not only be able to use his origin card for his urges and combat but also to eat its roots and heal himself. Or maybe even sell a few roots of his origin card as ingredients because of their high medical properties.

I decided to add the D-Rank Arborist occupation card to Kane's origin card since I no longer had any use for it. And also because it will enhance the effect of the tree/forest growth and manipulation abilities extracted from the A-rank Entwines core.

Now that everything was mapped out, all that remained was the card creation part. This time the card creation will be different from the usual. Unlike the previous times, this time, I will be entering a party of three along with Kane and Vivian so that Vivian can add her blood clone meaning of the blood rule to the creation process of Kane's origin card. This wasn't something new, many card creationists do this, but this was the first for me.

"Kane, do you have any combat arts cards on you?" B-rank Wild Fist Arts will not be enough for Kane's origin card to become an excellent fighter. It requires more cards. Therefore I asked if he had any high-ranking combat arts.

"I do. When my mother saw me return from school with bruises, she bought me the best martial technique cards to fight my bullies. But they are all C-rank cards." Kane was a silver-grade grimoire holder. The highest card rank he could equip was limited to C-rank.

"That won't do," I said in disappointment, if I wanted C-rank combat arts then there were tonnes of them available in the guild association mall.

"Do you need high-ranking martial arts cards? I have some with me. Here, pick the ones you like." Offered Corey passing a stake of cards to me. I hesitated before taking the cards as she was being oddly generous.

"Whoa! So many A-rank Martial Arts cards. It's good being second-generation rich." Going through the stack of cards, I was dumbfounded to see so many high-ranking martial arts cards in Corey's possession.

"For your information. I created those cards. And I am not giving them to you for free. Select the ones you like and pay for them in full." Hearing Corey claim that she had created the high-rank martial arts cards, I rolled my eyes as I knew she was lying.

"By you, you mean your Ego fire, right!" I commented. Corey had a good foundation for card creation, but she did not have the required knowledge of martial arts to turn them into cards successfully. If not, Corey, then it had to be Corey Park Corey's Ego Fire. So Corey was just a fraud trying to steal glory off of Corey Park's work.

"Shut up! She is part of me. So what she does is automatically done by me." I didn't know that Corey was such a credit hog. Or is she willing to do anything to prove that she is a better card creationist than me?

"Whatever? By the way, why do most of these cards have the word Demon in their names? What is your fascination with demons?" Going through Corey's martial arts cards, I noticed that most of them have the word demon in their name.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 16:26

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

"Do you want the cards or not? Give them back" Corey snatched the stack of cards from me after she replied to me with a question instead of answering why most of her cards had the word Demon in their names. For example, Frost Demon Palm Arts, Strom Demon Fingers Arts, Tyrant Demon Saber Arts, etc.

"Okay, I want them. Give me some martial arts related to wood elements and elemental resistance." Since Corey had snatched back the stack of martial arts cards before I could go through all of them, I had no choice but to specify to her what I wanted.

"Umm... Let me see. I have four cards satisfying your requirements. Here, Tree Demon Whip Arts, Wood Demon Sealing Arts, Demonic Wood Escape Arts, and Desolate Demon Body Arts." Corey passed me four A-rank martial arts cards. And then added, "If

you give me some more time, I can create a few more martial arts cards according to your requirements."

Taking the four cards from Anna, "No, we don't have the time." I rejected her offer because I needed to create Kane's card before his grandfather caught wind of it. And also because the four martial arts cards given by Anna were more than enough for Kane's origin card.

[Card Name: Wild Fist Arts

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: B-Rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 8-Stars

Card Durability: [89/100]

Card Effect: Equipping this card, the user will learn and gain proficiency in the Fist technique called Wild Fist Arts.

Additional Effect: Enhanced Strength, Enhanced Agility, Wild Footwork.]

[Card Name: Tree Demon Whip Arts

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 7-Stars

Card Durability: [95/100]

Card Effect: Equipping this card, the user will learn and gain proficiency in the whipping technique called Tree Demon Whip Arts.

Additional Effect: Enhanced Dexterity, Enhanced Reflexes, Mirror Whip, Rapid Whip, Whip Shield]

Mirror Whip- The user can use the whip so fast that it can create mirror images confusing the enemy.

Rapid Whip- The user can withdraw the Whip rapidly, making it impossible for it to be caught by the opponents.

Whip Shield- the user can maneuver the whip so efficiently that it can form a shield to ward off attacks.

[Card Name: Wood Demon Sealing Arts

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 8-Stars

Card Durability: [97/100]

Card Effect: Equipping this card, the user will learn and gain proficiency in the sealing technique called Wood Demon Sealing Arts.

Additional Effect: Wood Coffin Sealing arts, Wooden Stake crucifixion, Wood Burial.]

Wood Coffin Sealing Art: the user can manipulate wood to create a wooden coffin imprisoning the enemy within it. Imprisoned in the coffin, the enemy cannot access Soul energy or rules. They are entirely cut out of the outside world.

Wooden Stake Crucifixion: Wooden Stakes are summoned and used to impale the enemy. Once the wooden stakes enter the enemy's body, their body will be petrified and rendered immobile until the stakes are removed. The number of stakes required to petrify an opponent increases with their realm.

Wood Burial: The user can summon roots from the ground to trap the opponent and bury them in the earth.

[Card Name: Demonic Wood Escape Art

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 7-Stars

Card Durability: [98/100]

Card Effect: Equipping this card, the user can burrow into the earth like tree roots and travel unground to escape the enemy's pursuit.

Additional Effect: Enhanced Agility, Enhanced Hearing, Carry, Drag]

Carry: The user can use wood escape art while carrying their allies.

Darg: The user can drag and bury their enemies into the ground using the wood escape technique.

[Card Name: Desolate Demon Body Arts

Card Type: Skill card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare Grade

Card Rate: 7-Stars

Card Durability: [94/100]

Card Effect: Equipping this card, the user will learn and gain proficiency in the body arts called Desolate Demon Body Arts. The Desolate Demon's body has high resistance to Elemental energies.

Additional Effect: Enhanced Strenth, Enhanced Defence, Enhanced Vitality, Enhanced Stamina, Enhanced Elemental Resistance, Desolate body]

Desolate body: Upon activation of this skill for a limited period, users' bodies become invulnerable to elemental attacks.

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Going through the card Info of the four demonic cards, I was impressed as they matched my requirements perfectly. Wood whip and sealing arts will perfectly fit the crowd control skills I was planning for Kane's origin card.

As for the wood escape technique, it seems pretty similar to Mandrake's Earth escape skill. If I play it right, I may be able to fuse these two arts and add a hybrid escape art to Kane's origin card.

The enhanced elemental resistance provided by Desolate Demon Body arts will complement the elemental resistance from the Treant core that I plan on adding to the origin card. Also, the Herculean strength of treant will enhance the physical effect of the Desolate Demon Body art.

Seeing how the martial arts cards created by Park were the perfect match for my requirements, I really wanted to see what she could pull off if I gave her some time, but I didn't have that luxury since I had to finish card creation before Kane's grandfather heard about this. I did not see the need to hide the truth from Rami Kaga, but since Kane wanted it that way, I had no opinion.

"How much for these four cards?" I asked Corey the price of martial arts cards. After all, she made it very clear that I had to pay in full to get the cards.

"1000 soul Jades each!" Corey quoted a sky-high price. But considering that if these cards were auctioned, they could fetch a higher price, I did not complain. And agreed to her price because compared to the millions of soul jades Kane was paying in terms of assets, these 4000 soul jades were a small price.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 16:40

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

"Now that all the ingredients have been prepared. Let's head to the card lab." I headed towards the card lab while Kane and Vivian followed behind.

Inside the card lab, forming a party, all three of us sat in the lotus position. Then I took out Kane's fate ingredient, Ironwood seed, and the origin core. Now I had to carefully and meticulously transfer the soul pathways and arrangements of Ironwood seed into the origin core. I had to be extra careful when moving it into the origin core to ensure that the health of embryonic tissue was not lost or damaged. Ensuring that the seed was healthy and would germinate even after the transfer.

After transferring the Ironwood seed into the origin core successfully, now I had to alter its soul pathways and arrangements in such a way that when sowed in the ground, it would not germinate into an average Ironwood tree but a humanoid variant of elder druid.

In this step, I was basically rewriting the genes of the Ironwood seed to make it grow into a high-ranking tree monster rather than a G-rank Ironwood tree dubbed the waste wood tree. If it were an ordinary card creation, the chance of me pulling this off is meager, but this is not a common card creation but an origin card creation, and I was dealing with a fate ingredient here. Making my chances pretty high.

After all, origin cards are miracles by themselves. They don't have card ratings and durability, so I didn't have to worry about achieving low card ratings and maintaining high card durability. That's a load off my back. As long as I did not make a colossal blunder, I would be fine. With the soul pupils, my chances are more than pretty high.

For the edition of ironwood seed's soul pathways and arrangements, I had formed a perfect detailed map by fusing the change of soul pathway arrangements recorded

during the germination of the ironwood seed into a mature ironwood tree and the blossoming of the flowers of the elder druid into a Homunculus.

I formed this soul pathways and arrangements map after running thousands of simulations through Hive AI. If I were to edit the ironwood seed's soul pathways and arrangements according to this map, the ironwood seed would no longer germinate to grow into a common ironwood tree but a beautiful female humanoid monster quite similar to the fairy guards produced by elder druids in Vivian's forbidden garden origin card.

Later I would further alter these soul pathways and arrangements map by merging the soul pathways and arrangements of the Entwives, Mandrake, Treant, and Viltronian core. I needed to do this so that the humanoid tree monster I created could inherit their abilities.

Unlike humans, who depend on grimoire for supernatural abilities, monsters depend on their core and body. Therefore the humanoid tree monster I was creating needed to inherit the physique of Entwives, Mandrake, Treant, and Viltronians so that it could also inherit their supernatural abilities and display them without any hindrance and side effects. So the appearance of the end product created was unknown. I couldn't guarantee that in the end, the humanoid tree monster created would be as beautiful as the fairy guards created by elder druids. That's where the prowess of Vivian's blood clone meaning of blood rule will come in handy.

So without further ado, I began modifying the soul pathways and arrangements of the ironwood seed according to the map I had developed with the help of Hive AI. Since the soul pathways and arrangements I was altering were related to the embryonic tissue of the seed, I had to be extra careful as I modified them.

Once I had modified the seed's embryonic tissue's soul pathways and arrangements to match that of a fairy guard, next, I had to introduce the soul pathways and arrangements of Entwives, Mandrake, Treant, and Viltronians one by one. Then try to merge them with the modified soul pathways and arrangements without diverting too much from the original map to maintain a beautiful female humanoid appearance of the end Tree monster to be developed.

I didn't have to worry about merging soul pathways and arrangements of ironwood seed with Entwives, Mandrake, and Viltronians counterparts because they, themselves, had beautiful female humanoid appearances. The problem came while converging the soul pathways and arrangements of Treants. Though these tree monsters were humanoid, they were far from looking like humans. Especially their bark, which is meant to protect them from elements, is responsible for their high elemental resistance.

If the female humanoid tree monster I was creating for Kane had an epidermis similar to tree bark, then it would be anything but beautiful. Therefore I need to keep the

elemental resistance of the Treant but remove its hideous appearance, which is very complicated since the elemental resistance stemmed from its bark.

Still, I needed to find an alternative to this. Because without elemental resistance, the origin card I create for Kane will have a severe vulnerability to the Fire element. For the fortune Kane was paying to have his origin card created, I could not slack off and provide him a summons with a severe flaw. After running numerous simulation with Hive AI, I managed to develop an alternative.

The way to keep the treant's high elemental resistance despite giving up on its barks was to make use of the Viltronian skin. They, too, showed high resistance towards elements to the point where they became invulnerable against elemental powers of a lower realm than theirs. I could add the treant's high elemental resistance to its skin. Since Viltronian's DNA shows high adaptability to mutations, I believed this was possible.

Now that I have managed to map out how the merging of the ironwood seed's soul pathways and arrangements with Entwives, Mandrake, Viltronians, and Treant counterparts would proceed, I began the meticulously merging process keeping the health of the seed's embryonic tissues in mind.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 17:32

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

It took a while, but I managed to merge the altered soul pathways and arrangements of the ironwood seed with the Entwives Core, Mandrake Roots, Viltronian Core, and Treant Core's soul pathways and arrangements in order to modify the physique of the Ironwood Variant tree monster I was creating.

Now that the modified physique was in place, I had to add the various abilities of the Entwives, Mandrake, Viltronian, and Treant species to it. That would be taken care of by introducing the related soul pathways into the origin core. This one wasn't tedious, as all the groundwork was laid down when I modified its physique. Now all I need to do is converge the soul pathway arrangement of the abilities to their respective places like putting together a puzzle.

Once the various abilities of the Entwives, Mandrake, Viltronian, and Treant species were added to the ironwood variant elder druid, three-quarters of my work was done. All that remained was that I added the various skill cards I had selected to increase the combat power of the origin card. I had a total of five martial skill cards and one occupation card to merge with the origin core. Namely Wild Fist Arts, Tree Demon Whip Arts, Wood Demon Sealing Arts, Demonic Wood Escape Arts, Desolate Demon Body Arts, and the Arborist Card.

I could throw the soul pathways and arrangements of these skills in the origin core be done with it, but that would mean that the origin card will have to figure out how to use these skills in synergy with the multiple abilities gained from various species. That would require Kane to spend time training with his origin card. By the looks of how much this kid wanted revenge, I don't think he will be patient enough to wait and train his origin card before exacting his vengeance on his bullies.

And considering that I was getting paid big time for this single origin card, I decided to go one step further for Kane and arrange the skills with their compatible abilities so that they can display maximum efficiency in combat and other respective fields.

First, the martial skills Tree Demon Whip Arts and Wood Demon Sealing Arts had high compatibility with the Entwives' ability to grow and manipulate trees/forests. These skills, together with this ability, will make perfect crowd control moves.

Second, the martial skills Wild Fist Arts and Desolate Demon Body Arts had high compatibility with the Treant and Viltronian species' monstrous strength and high elemental resistance. When used in synergy, these skills and abilities will make the origin card a perfect close combat fighter.

Third, the martial skill Demonic Wood escape art has very high compatibility with Mandrake's Earth Escape ability. When used in synergy, both the skill and ability will make the perfect ingredients for the ideal escape recipe.

After merging the skills with their compatible abilities, all that remained was adding Vivan's blood clone meaning of blood rule to the origin core to complete the most crucial part of Kane's request for his origin card, the wooden shapeshifting blow-up doll.

How was I going to go about this? All Vivian had to do was add her blood clone meaning blood rune to the origin core. After that, I would merge the rune with the most compatible part of the modified soul pathways and arrangements of ironwood seed in the origin core to give the origin card ability to shapeshift with the help of victims' blood.

Vivian's blood clone meaning is not limited to making blood clones of herself. Meaning she could create blood clones of others as long as she had their blood. Opening many possibilities to use her blood rule meaning.

There were two abilities in the origin core that were compatible with Vivian's blood clone rune. One of the abilities belonged to the Elder druid, and the other belonged to the Treant part of the modified soul pathways and arrangements.

The ability of the Elder druid that was compatible with Vivian's Blood Clone rune was, of course, the fairy guard production ability. And the ability of Treant compatible with Vivian's Blood clone rune was Seed rebirth. Apparently, the Treant tree monster can live even after having its monster core destroyed in the form of seeds, hence the name seed rebirth.

There was a significant drawback to this seed rebirth ability, and that is that the monster has to restart from infancy or, in this case, from the sapling stage. But I had found a way to overcome this drawback by using the Elder druid's ability to grow fairy guards within seconds.

So by adding Vivian's blood clone rune, the origin card will be able to create fairy guards of any species with the help of the Victim's blood.

The origin card could also use Vivian's blood clone rune in synergy with the ability seed rebirth to destroy its previous body and form a new body of a different appearance with the help of the target's blood. Since the origin cards have no card durability stats, the origin card can switch between any number of bodies it wants to. Satisfying Kane's request.

Following my instructions, Vivian transfers the Blood clone rune into the origin core. Then I used the Blood clone rune to modify and enhance the two particular abilities in the origin core. With this, the creation was almost complete leaving the final step, which is to morph the origin core into an origin card, which would determine the success of the origin card creation.

Success! I was able to morph the origin card into an origin card without a hitch. And then, I hold the card to look at its card info,

[Card Name: Variant Ironwood seed

Card Type: Origin card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: A common Ironwood seed's soul pathways and arrangements are modified, resulting in the creation of the Variant Ironwood Seed.

Additional ability: Germination.

Note: The origin card's growth is not complete. It needs to germinate.]

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 19:12

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

"Kane! Here." Passing his origin card to Kane, I got up.

"Finished already! That's earlier than I expected." Kane said in surprise, taking his origin card.

"I got a lot more efficient in transferring and editing soul pathways. Thanks to that, I have outdone myself this time too." I replied as Kane eagerly checked his origin card info before equipping it.

"Umm, Master Wyatt. I think there is something wrong with the card. It reads that card growth is incomplete." Kane's complexion had turned pale, going through the description of his origin card. He had already steeled himself for an origin card creation failure but not something like a faulty origin card. Card growth is incomplete, what heck does that even mean?

"What are you worried about? Equip it already." I said, patting Kane's back.

"But, here it says the origin card growth is not complete. I think the origin card is only partially finished." Kane implored frantically. Clearly, he was not satisfied with his new origin card.

"Partially finished? I agree. But there is nothing for you to worry about. Trust me and equip it." I agreed with Kane because, in a way, the origin card I created for him was indeed partially finished in its current state.

"But... This..." Kane's words trailed as he hesitated too much about speaking his mind. I guess it cannot be helped since he didn't want to offend his idol.

"Don't tell me you want to discard such an excellent card?" There is no rule that a person must equip his origin card right away. Kane could destroy it, discard it or keep it in his cardholder. It was his origin card, and he could have anything he wanted with it.

After all, origin cards are for life, and one should not be stuck with something they don't like for life.

"Master Wyatt..." despite me spilling out his thoughts for him, Kane still hesitated to speak his mind.

"It is a pity that such an excellent card will eat dust in your cardholder. But it is your card, and it is up to you to decide what to do with it. But don't expect me to refund you the money. I have done my part. Those assets are mine now." I meant what I preached. The Variant Ironwood Seed origin card belonged to Kane. Now, if he does not like it, I will not force him to equip it, but he still needs to pay me in full as I did my job. Saying that, I followed Vivian and exited the card lab.

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"..." Kane stood at the center of the card lab, looking at his origin card in his hand in a daze, deciding whether to trust his idol and equip the faulty origin card or discard it. His happiness of successful origin card creation was short-lived, but what bothered him most was that his revenge would have waited for another who knows how long. Nothing's changed. He will have to continue to live his torment-filled life. Become the object of ridicule and disgust for his classmates.

Remembering he would soon be returning to his hellish life again, a thought flashed in mind, suicide. Kane hurriedly shook his head and didn't entertain that thought for a second. He could not leave his loving mother alone in this vile world, and for some reason, his grandpa with questionable morality.

"If I can kill myself, I can live with a faulty origin card!" Yelling that, Kane equipped his origin card. During the moments of his action, he decided to put all his trust in his idol and see it through to the end.

Equipping the Variant Ironwood Seed origin card, Kane trudged out of the card lab. Each of his steps felt heavy as he was disappointed and depressed, seeing that even after equipping the origin card, its status growth incomplete did not change. Seeds of doubt started to sow in Kane's heart, whether his idol knew what he was doing? Was it a mistake to be influenced by his feelings and ask his idol to help his origin card?

Before entertaining those thoughts, Kane decides to trust his idol one last time and see what he has to say about his situation. So he shuffled to the warehouse hall, where everyone was enthusiastically waiting for him and his new origin card. But they were in for a disappointment. Shaking his head, Kane looked at his Idol and said, "Master Wyatt, I have equipped the origin card. What now?"

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"Good to know that you decided to equip the card, but why are you asking me? You should know what to do next." I replied casually.

"What do you mean?" My reply visibly ticked off Kane. His voice gave away his emotional ups and downs.

"Huh? So the card didn't tell you what to do next? You must be too depressed to hear its voice. Calm your mind and listen to your origin card. Even though it is a seed, it has high-level sentience." I did not tell Kane that his origin card needs to go through germination to achieve its full potential because I wanted to check how much he trusted me. After all, he did claim to be my number one fan.

If Kane equipped the card trusting me, then his origin card would guide him on how to help it go through the germination stage so that it can achieve its full potential. But Kane was too depressed, and his thoughts were preoccupied with doubts about his origin card and me. Stripping him of the ability to listen to his origin card. Therefore he did not realize what's the deal with his origin card.

I know I went a little far by testing him like this, but he was the one who called himself my number one fan. But I planned I explain everything about the origin card in case he decided not to equip it. In the end, he equipped the card, but his depressed thoughts kept him from listening to the needs of his origin card. So as the responsible card creationist, I stepped in to help.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 19:24

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

"Kane, listen to me. Throw away all those depressive thoughts. Clear your mind. Focus on your origin card. Ask it what it wants." I guided Kane on listening to his sentient origin card to learn how to help it germinate. As its creator, I knew how to sprout it, but where's the fun in that? And Kane listening to his sentient origin card and figuring it out by himself was also good for his relationship with his summons.

Summon-type origin cards are usually more sentient than average summon cards, and their sentience continues to grow with the number of baptisms they undergo. With the increased sentience in the summons, summons develop their opinions influenced by

their emotions. And sentient origin cards cannot be used as a tool. They need to be handled with the exquisiteness of managing a person.

Origin cards are bonded to card apprentices for life, and having a summon-type origin card is like being in a marriage. Origin cards can't disobey a user's demands, but an unhappy summon is like an unhappy wife. Any married man would warn you that you don't want that. Especially Kane since he planned to maintain a sexual relationship with his summons.

Therefore it is crucial for Kane to start developing healthy communication with this origin card from the very beginning. Hence, instead of telling him, I guided him, "Kane, can you hear it? What does it want?"

"Yes! Yes, I hear it," Kane replied excitedly, and then, opening his eyes, he looked at me and said, "I know what it needs to germinate. There are three methods. I don't know which one to choose."

The three methods to germinate the variant Ironwood seed that Kane spoke of were,

- 1) Sow the seed within himself and provide it with soul energy to germinate.
- 2) Sow the seed within a monster so that it can feed on the monster's soul energy to germinate.
- 3) Sow it in a land with an abundant presence of soul energy for it to germinate.

The first two options of germinating the seed seemed the same, but there was a vast difference between the two.

If Kane were to sow the seed in himself and let it grow by feeding on his soul energy, the summon would form an undying bond with him. Giving him a huge head start to earn his summons affection. Making it more submissive to his command. This meant that Kane could usually direct it without using the authority of the origin card.

Whereas if Kane were to sow the seed in a monster, then the seed would treat the beast as a nutrient and supplement of soul energy to help it germinate and complete its transformation. In this option, Kane would lose the chance to gain affection points with his summons.

The third option was very basic, but it would be slower than the second option depending on the soul energy present in the land where it is sowed. There is a way to overcome this drawback artificially by adding a large amount of powdered soul jade to the soil where the variant seed is planted. Making the soil rich in soul energy and suitable for the seed to germinate and mature in record time.

All three methods were indirect methods for the seed to consume soul energy to facilitate its germination. Still, in the end, considering the undying emotional bond between the summons and card apprentice of the first option made it more desirable compared to the other options.

"So, which germination method will you pick, Kane?" I asked, looking at Kane, who was lost in his thoughts.

"I want to go with the first option, but I am afraid my soul energy is not enough to help germinate the variant seed." Kane was worried that his origin card might suck him dry if he were to choose to sow the variant seed within him.

"Those worries are unfounded with me here. I, too, recommend the first option. As I have a feeling, there are more benefits to choosing the first option over others." As a creator, I knew the origin card I had created better, and the bond between the card apprentice and the summon formed by choosing the first option for the seed's germination had more to it. Since this was my first time experiencing this, I did not know what it actually was.

"Okay, I will do as you say, Master Wyatt." Right now, Kane has mixed feelings regarding his idol. He felt guilty for doubting him and proud of him for creating such a mysterious card. With this mixed feeling, Kane's trust in this idol once again reached the level of a blind believer.

"Wyatt, are you sure? Won't he die if his soul energy is insufficient for the seed to germinate and mature?" Susan asked in concern. As manager of the card boutique, she needed to be the voice of reason to stop her boss from becoming a mad researcher.

"Don't worry. I have these." saying that, I take out a bottle of mid-tier silver milk pills. Handing them to Kane, I said, "swallow them when you feel your soul energy is not enough for the germination of the seed."

"Whoa! Are those pills? I feel a lot of soul energy in them. I can have some?" Corey exclaimed and asked a few for herself.

"They are called silver milk pills. Here, catch!" I threw a bottle of high-tier silver milk pills at Corey. Considering her cards were helpful in the creation of Kane's origin card, I didn't mind giving her a few incentives.

Crunch Corey popped the silver milk pills one by one like candies and said, " They taste like milk candies."

Seeing Corey devour a whole bottle of high-tier silver milk pills like candies, Anna couldn't help but look at her twice, " Him, I can understand, as he was monstrous even before I knew him. But girl, you too are getting mysterious day by day."

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[1,020 words]

Chapter 671 Impregnation

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 19:32

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

"This... how do I sow the variant Ironwood seed in me?" Kane asked, holding the variant Ironwood seed in his hand.

"Swallow it!" I answered.

"I won't become pregnant, will I?" The seed had already instructed Kane regarding how to sow it in his body, but Kane didn't listen to its instructions fearing he would grow pregnant with his summons.

"Whoa! Impregnation will be a good name for this germination method of your origin card." I teased Kane.

"No, I no longer want to use the first method to germinate my seed. Let's go with the third method. I don't care how many soul jades are devoured by the third method, I am willing to pay the price, as long as I don't get to be impregnated by my origin card." My words gave Kane a good scare, and he frantically opposed using the first method to germinate his origin card.

"Kane, calm down. I was kidding." Learning that I was teasing Kane, all the eyes in the room looked at me. If their gazes spoke, they would be asking, 'what's wrong with you? That wasn't funny.'

"Master Wyatt, will I or won't I be pregnant if I use the first method of seed germination." Asked Kane with his eyes red while his upper teeth bit on his lower lips.

"No, you won't get pregnant. So don't be a baby and get started already." I answered, denying Kane's fears.

"Are you lying to console me?" Asked Kane. Clearly, the boy would instead give up on his revenge than become pregnant.

"What reason do I have to do that? Kane, you came here hungry for power. Right now, I am serving it to you, so why are you hesitating? Swallow it or shove it down your throat. Do what needs to be done, and your hunger for power will be met. Remember, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." I encouraged Kane to swallow the variant ironwood seed to germinate it using his vitality and soul energy. I had motives for encouraging him to opt for the first method to germinate his origin. How can a card apprentice grow a tree monster using his body as a vessel? I wanted to record this using my soul pupils and Hive AI for my future references.

"Okay, for power and vengeance! Here goes nothing, *gulp*." Resolving himself, Kane finally swallowed the seed, hoping that his worries were for nothing and his Idols words were valid.

"Fuck! You really swallowed the seed believing his words, you blind fool." Seeing Kane gulp the seed despite knowing the chances of it making him pregnant with a tree monster, Corey couldn't help but blurt in dismay. She was shocked by Kane's blind trust in her boss.

"Shut... Ahh! Arh!" Kane wanted to retort Corey's words, but he began grunting in pain, holding his belly.

"Now, face the consequences of trusting a charlatan." Seeing Kane groan in pain, holding his stomach, Corey didn't miss the opportunity to mock him for blindly trusting her boss.

"Corey, shut up. Mr. Kane, are you okay?" Rimparmanding Corey for her comments, Susan rushed to Kane in concern. Then turning to the card boutique boss, she asked, "Wyatt, what's going on? Do something. He seems to be in a lot of pain."

"This much pain is normal. But he doesn't need to be conscious during this process. The seed's sentience will take care of everything as long as he keeps providing enough soul energy for it to mature." Saying that I offered Kane an option whether he wanted to be unconscious during this ordeal.

"No, I can endure. I want to be there when she enters this world." Kane spoke resolutely. I could see a firm resolve in his eyes.

"If I didn't know the dirty things you planned on using her for. I would have commended your perseverance." Corey commented, looking at Kane, who could barely keep himself from falling unconscious due to the exuberant pain.

"..." Kane suddenly stopped groaning in pain and, looking at me, he said, " I don't feel pain anymore. Where is she? How is she doing? " As Kane questioned, he mentally

received answers to all those questions from the variant seed he swallowed. Then he hurriedly removed his shirt only to see a small flower bud growing out of his belly button.

"Gross!" Yelled Corey, but she continued to look at the blood-red flower bud sticking out of Kane's navel region.

"What is it saying?" I asked Kane. Knowing that he could communicate with the sentience of the blood-red flower bud.

"It says it requires a lot of soul energy to grow, which I cannot provide due to my low realm." Kane narrated what the flower bud told him.

"Didn't I lend you those pills for this particular reason? Now use them. I have lots of them on me. If you require extra, ask me." I assured Kane that even if his realm was insufficient to help the flower mature, he could always rely on the silver milk pills that I gave him.

"Yes, thank you master Wyatt." Thanking me, Kane started to take the silver milk pills to help his flower mature.

I have been using my soul pupils and Hive AI to record the soul pathway changes in Kane from the moment he swallowed the variant Ironwood seed. These were important research materials people would kill for. This would help me further broaden my horizons regarding the human body and how I can use it to my advantage.

Kane felt unimaginable pain after swallowing the seed because it laid roots in his flesh and grew out of his belly button as a flower bud after consuming more than three-quarters of soul energy in his body. This shows that the seed was aware enough to leave behind some soul energy for its owner. Otherwise, it could have sucked Kane dry of his soul energy, but it didn't. Showcasing its intelligence and care for its host.

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[1,014 words]

Chapter 672 Birth

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 19:38

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

Thanks to the silver milk pills, Kane was able to provide a steady supply of soul energy for the blood-red flower bud growing in his navel region to continue its growth and mature to its final transformation.

With the abundant soul energy available to feed on, the blood-red flower bud grew. Its stalk began to broaden and increase in length until it developed to a meter long. Then the blood-red bud began to grow bigger and bigger to the size of a basketball. Later the huge blood-red bud blossomed into a giant flower that matured into one big blood-red fruit. Then the fruit grew in size and got larger until its diameter grew to a meter.

"Bloody hell." Muttered Kane as he looked at a meter-long stalk connecting his belly button and a huge fruit that could fit a human in it.

After the blood-red fruit grew a meter in diameter, it began emitting a pleasant fragrance that soon filled the entire warehouse. Later a movement was noticed inside the fruit. Earlier, the fruit appeared to be like a meter-long blood-red grape. Now, as it began emitting a fragrance, it looked like a meter-long red water bed. It kept wiggling. Soon we started to notice a human face and hands pressing against the fruit walls from inside. It appeared as if something inside the fruit wanted to break free.

"Kane asks if it requires our help to break free," I advised Kane to ask his summons whether it required our help to break out of the fruit.

"She rejected our help. She said she could handle it herself." Kane replied after having talked with his summons mentally.

"Are you sure? Because it doesn't look that way. She seems to be struggling." I asked in concern, looking at the wiggling fruit. The tree summons was trying hard to break out of the fruit, but it appeared as though her efforts were getting her nowhere.

"Yes, she says not to meddle in her business." Answered Kane after mentally communicating with his summons, who was trying very hard to tear fruit skin trapping her inside.

"A summons with attitude. Now that's interesting." Said Corey. As she intently stared at the meter-long wiggling blood-red fruit.

"You can do it! Come on, you can do it!" Susan started cheering for the humanoid tree monster to break out of its fruit shell. Then feeling all the gazes in the warehouse land on her and look at her weirdly, Susan explained, "I read somewhere that positive words can influence the growth of a plant. Since she is a tree monster, I thought cheering would help."

"You can do it! You can do it." Feeling Susan's explanation reasonable, Kane began cheering for his summons enthusiastically. Soon Corey tagged along, " Girl, you can do it! Yes, you can do it!"

In a certain warehouse, three people cheered for large wiggling blood-red fruit while the remaining three looked at the other three as if looking at fools.

"I think it's working. It is struggling hard. Come on, Wyatt, join us," Susan asked me to cheer for the humanoid tree so that it could break free from the shell prison it.

"Cheering indeed helps, but I think three people cheering for it should be enough." I agreed with Susan that cheering does indeed help motivate the tree monster to break free of the fruit, but it is an activity I wouldn't willingly participate in. What surprised me was that Corey joined in to cheer for the tree monster. I guess she is not a lost cause.

"Come on, big sister, stop wasting time on that heartless man. The fruit is about to hatch any second now." There she is, the Corey I know. Trying to gain points with Susan by throwing me under the bridge. She would never give up on an opportunity to earn points from Susan.

As Kane, Corey and Susan continued to cheer for the fruit monster, Anna, Vivian, and I waited patiently for the fruit monster to break free out of its shell.

Splash Soon, the skin of the wiggling fruit ruptured, and the gore water spilled out and filled the warehouse floor.

The people in the warehouse were not concerned about the gore liquid covering their footwear as they were mesmerized by a tall green humanoid female figure with blood-red hair and eyes. The green figure's voluptuous body was covered in a tiny bikini made entirely of rose-red petals, which left very little to a person's imagination. She had long, slender legs and Sawn neck.

Despite her green complexion, she was an alluring beauty appearance-wise. Her red hair and green skin may be unlike any human female, yet they were breathtaking and tempting. A slight smile on her rose-red lips could capture any man's heart. She had pointy ears. They were of average size, unlike elf's long pointed ears.

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It took a while, but I finally noticed that in many ways, she was the green and red carbon copy of Kane's bully's mother. I don't remember adding this appearance to the origin card. Then it hit me, maybe she took the shape her summoner wanted her to see in.

"Kane, did you ask her to take this appearance?" I asked Kane as he could communicate with his summons as she shaped her body. He might have instructed her to take the appearance of his bully's mother.

"No, Master Wyatt. I would not do anything to put you in jeopardy." Kane hurriedly explained.

"Keh ker kek kekeh!" The green humanoid spoke, but all she did was let out weird sounds, which nobody understood except Kane.

"Kane, what is she saying?" I asked. As it appeared, she seemed to be answering my question about why she chose that particular appearance.

"Boss,... she says... she took this appearance because I like it." Kane dragged his words as he felt shy and embarrassed to explain why his summons took his bully's mother's appearance.

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 19:45

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

"Wear this for now." Susan handed her oversized baby-pink-colored pullover to Kane's semi-nude summons.

"Krek keh keke" taking the pullover from Susan, Kane's Summons made a weird noise. Which Kane translated as "She is thanking you for the pullover."

"Don't mention it," Susan replied to Kane's summons with a warm smile, leaving the summons in a daze for a moment before she wore the baggy pullover, which covered all of her curves but left her slender thighs exposed. A green-skinned redhead in a baggy baby pink colored pullover, cute! Except for the long red flower stalk connecting the belly buttons of Kane and his summons.

"Leaving the reasons for her underdeveloped vocal cord and the vine-like placenta connecting you two aside. What do you mean by she took that shape because she knew you would like her that way? Does she have access to your memories or entire mind?" I asked, curious how much in sync the Kane and his summons were. Usually, summoners and summons can feel each other's emotions in real-time, and some can even exchange thoughts mentally. But this was my first time seeing a summons who knew about its summoner down to his preference for a woman when they hadn't known each other for more than a minute.

"She asked permission to share our memories. Since it is just the memories and seeing how she will be my life partner, I didn't mind permitting her. Oh shit! That's how she knew to take this appearance. I am sorry, Master Wyatt. I didn't know this was why she asked permission to share my memories. I should have been more careful." Turns out that when Kane was impregnated with variant Ironwood seed, she asked him permission to share their memories. Kane unwittingly permitted her to share their memories. And that is how she knew to take the appearance of the mother of Kane's bully.

"It is okay. No big deal. Memory sharing is an excellent ability for a summoner and his summons. This way, she can learn about society and adapt to it through your experiences. It has its drawbacks, but it's the quickest way to get her civilized and adapt to the society." Kane's summons taking the appearance of her choice was no big deal. I was worried that she had access to Kane's mind which would be disastrous, but it turns out that it was a summoner skill, Memory Share, an excellent skill for a summoner to train his summons.

"Master Wyatt, what do you mean by drawbacks of memory sharing?" Asked Kane in concern.

"Kane, a person's memories are very powerful. They not only hold the truth to who you are but also the secret to why you are who you are. Various emotions are attached to these memories of yours. For example, memories that make you happy, memories that you hate, memories that you want to cherish, memories that you want to erase, memories that make you laugh, memories that make you cry, etc. Memory sharing doesn't just mean sharing your past but sharing the happiness, fears, trauma, and other emotions that are attached to it.

Over the years, you have grown to control your fears, traumas and handle your depression, but your summons, she is barely half an hour old. What do you think is going on in her head right now? How is her mental health right now? After all, she did experience decades' worth of memories in a matter of minutes. Most of the summons would have broken due to this, but fortunately for you, your summons has displayed high sentience since its creation. But still, I cannot guarantee that she is mentally stable.

What I can tell you for sure is, what you like, she likes it more. What you hate, she hates it more. What you are scared of, she is afraid of it more. What is traumatic for you, is more traumatic for her.

But there is a catch to this, your reaction to your hatred, traumas, and fear will not be her reaction. I mean that she will react differently when faced with a traumatic situation. Because though you two share the same memories, you two are not the same person. You two have different innate individualities and personalities. As your origin card, she is your guardian and is prone to protect you. So what will cause you to flinch will cause her to stand firm.

Therefore, next time when you are in the company of people you hate and fear, be calm and collected. Otherwise, she may go on a killing spree just to make you feel comfortable.

I recommend it would be best for her growth if you let her make her own personal memories." I explained how Memory Sharing could affect Kane's Summons. Considering this summons high sentence, it is a good thing for Kane but for the summons itself, not so much.

"Whoa! If I had known this earlier, I would not have agreed to memory sharing. I don't want her to go through the same pain and trauma I went through." Kane's words were genuine. He really meant what he said. It seems he is already very attached to his summons. Thankfully it is his origin card, and he doesn't have to worry about it getting destroyed unless he is killed. That's okay, as he would rather die than live a life without his new summons. That's how much he is attached to his new summons. I guess the impregnation germination process of the variant seed had a hand in this ungodly bond.

"Dude, how long do you plan to keep showing your unsightly and skinny body? Wear a shirt." Said Corey. And she wasn't wrong. Kane was really skinny. We could make out the outline of his ribcage, shoulder blades, and spine on his skin. It was as if he had no muscle or body fat.

"..." Kane chose to ignore Corey and her snarky remarks. But the same is not true for his summons. She glared at Corey with visibly burning rage in her eyes.

"What are you looking at? You are an origin card meaning you can revive even if you die. Which means I do not have to hold back. So unless you want to make your birthday your first death day, keep at it."

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[1,043 words]

Chapter 674 Ivy

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 19:52

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

"Corey!" Susan gave Corey the stink eye.

"What? It's not my fault that I am too straightforward." Corey replied nonchalantly.

"You are not straightforward. You are rude. What makes it worse is that you know that and still choose to continue as such. Go bring the mop and clean this goo on the floor." Susan gave Corey an earful and punished her by having her clean the gore goo that spilled as Kane's summons came out of its fruit. Despite its stickiness, the fragrance emitted by the gore goo made it bearable.

"Fine!" Corey wanted to use her cleaning cards but chose not to, thinking that would piss off Susan even more.

"Master Wyatt, what do I do about this vine?" Asked Kane, grabbing hold of the placenta-like vine connecting his belly button with his summons's belly button.

"Following childbirth rules, we should cut it but let's ask the expert," I said, pointing at Kane's summons. After all, she knew her body the best.

"She says she can use it to strengthen the bond between us. And is asking my permission to do so." Kane consulted my advice. After the whole memory-sharing ordeal, he did not dare to take his origin card's capabilities and the effects of his decision on it lightly.

"I don't know. But I guess she knows what she is doing, so let's just trust her with this." Memory sharing is one thing, but this shit, a vine-like placenta connecting a card apprentice to his summons, was my first time dealing with such a crazy situation. Therefore, I decided to trust the summons after all. Its role was to protect Kane. So it will not harm Kane in any way.

"... Okay." With too little information, Kane had no choice but to trust his summons and hope everything works out in the end.

"Kek ku" Though the summons made a weird noise, we could tell that she was trying to assure Kane. Then she removed the baby-pink pullover and handed it back to Susan. Giving the warehouse a complete view of her ample curves tied in a tiny rose-red petal bikini.

Then in a flash, she vanished. Not just her. There was no sign of the Vine-like placenta either. There was no sign of the summon or the placenta left. Thankfully, my soul pupils were active, and I recorded that she did not vanish but instead retracted back into Kane's naval region. I didn't think that was possible.

Gulp The subsequent second, two large leaves about 3 meters in size burrowed out of the floor and warped around Kane in an egg shape.

"Wa-ah!" Susan couldn't help but cry in surprise. Seeing two large leaves warp Kane into an egg.

"Don't worry. He is okay. I think he is undergoing metamorphosis induced by his summons. It must be regarding using the Vine-like placenta to strengthen the bond between them." I explained even before Susan asked me.

"Guys, move aside. I need to mop this." Said Corey, holding a bucket of water and a mop to clean the goo covering the warehouse floor.

"What are you doing? A mop and bucket of water are not enough to clean this. Use your cleaning card." I didn't mean to undermine Susan's punishment, but I didn't want to bear watching the fragrant goo covering my warehouse floor any longer.

"You are the best, Boss!" Yelled Corey and hurriedly used her cleaning card to clean the goo. Fearing that Susan would change her boss's mind.

Soon the leaves that were warping Kane, unwrapped and retreated into the ground back where they came from. Leaving behind a tall, hunky Kane. The skinny body, which outlined all of its bones, had turned into a well-chiseled muscular chick magnet. Kane's current fit body could be considered beyond handsome. His well-defined jawlines made me wonder if he was the same timid kid who came to me searching for the power to handle his bully problem. Kane had gone through a total makeover, similar to a certain legendary skinny cadet who transformed into a buff captain.

"Corey, close your mouth and wipe the drool," Kane advised looking at the astonished Corey, whose jaw hung open in shock and unconsciously drooled over the hard piece of meat in front of her.

"What, no" Corey hurriedly closed her mouth and wiped the drool.

"What is that spiral imprint on your abdomen originating from your naval region and coiling around your belly button?" I asked Kane, pointing at the red spiral tattoo that looked like a thorny vine coiling around his naval. It wasn't present before Kane's metamorphosis.

"That's a bond imprint between me and my summons. Or at least that's what she said." Kane pointed at his summons, who reappeared out of thin air. This time she wasn't wearing a rose-red petal bikini but a velvet tight-fitting mini dress with a deep V-neck, which emphasized her ample bosom while giving a full view of her deep cleavage.

"I think you should give her a name. It feels wrong to keep addressing her with pronouns." Anna pointed out. She seemed to have experience taking care of a pet or a summons.

"Master Wyatt, you created her. That makes you almost her father. So I think you should give her a name." Kane tried to make a good gesture, but he chose his words very poorly.

"If creating the card makes Wyatt her father. With that logic, since you gave birth to her, that makes you her mother. Together you three make one happy family." Commented Corey, trying hard not to laugh.

"Corey"

"Yes, Boss."

"Shut The Fuck Up!"

"Kane, you name her yourself." Telling Corey to shut the hell up. I coldly rejected Kane's offer to name his summons.

"Master Wyatt, I am sorry. I didn't mean it that way. But please give my summons a name. It would mean a lot to me." Kane did not take a no for an answer and pleaded with me to give his summons a name.

To shut Kane up, I had no choice but to give his summons a name,

"Ivy... From the plant Poison Ivy."

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[1,052 words]

Chapter 675 Cloning

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 20:18

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

"Ivy, Ivy Kaga. I like it." Said Kane. He even went ahead and gave Ivy his family name.

"Your opinion doesn't matter. Ask her if she likes the name Ivy." Said Corey. She seems to have taken a liking to Kane's new toy. It looked like she was about to throw a tantrum that she wanted one too. If not for Ivy being an origin card, she would have.

"Krek kek krrk kerr" said Kane's summon, which Kane translated as, "She says she likes the name, and my opinion matters to her."

"Great, Ivy Kane, it is then. Now let's go through some of her abilities, especially the shape-shifting abilities you asked for." Now we do the actual tests to see whether the origin card I created was able to meet the additional requirements of sensitive nature made by the client.

Ivy has proven that she has sufficient combat powers by transforming Kane into every girl's wet dream. Now what she needed to prove was whether she was everything Kane asked for in a blow-up doll.

"Here, take this." Kane handed Ivy a flask of blood and asked Ivy to use the blood to display her cloning and shapeshifting abilities.

"Wait, who's blood is that? And why are you carrying it on you?" Corey asked, pointing at the flask of blood that Kane passed to Ivy. I, too, was curious to hear Kane's explanation.

"The blood in this flask belongs to my grandfather's secretary. I got her consent to use it. Don't worry. She gave me her permission, fully aware of what I would use it for.

After seeing Ms. Vivian's origin card at work, I had a hunch that I would require this, so I prepared it prematurely. And I was wise to do so." Kane explained that knowing I was going to make use of Vivian's blood clone rune in the creation of his origin card to provide it the ability to shapeshift using the target's blood, he had borrowed his grandfather's secretary's blood to test the skills of his origin card later upon its successful creation.

It didn't come as a surprise to me that this kid had thought so far ahead. After all, he had decided to create his origin card in secret so that his bully's grandfather would not blame his mother or grandfather for canceling their origin card appointment. If not for his timidity, he would have been quite popular in his high school.

"Kerh!" Ivy opened the flask containing the blood and swallowed it in a single gulp. And then she pointed at the warehouse floor where a tree root broke through the concrete floor and branched out of the ground. Soon the tip of the wooden branch grew a blood-red bud, which blossomed into a blood-red flower in no time. The flower shed its petals as it matured to form a fruit that lengthened from the size of a grape to a tennis ball and then to the size of a watermelon. It did not stop growing until it grew 1.2 meters long in diameter.

The 1.2-meter-long fruit was similar to a big red grape in appearance. A fragrance filled the warehouse as the fruit wiggled and ruptured as a humanoid figure tore out of it. The humanoid looked like a female human with golden blonde hair and blue eyes. She had a pale white complexion and wore a tight bodysuit made out of the large green leaves. The tight bodysuit emphasized the female clones' S-shaped figure from the sides and hourglass body from the front. Though the female clone was alive, she was void of expression, similar to the dead. Her eyes were blank. They lacked the curiosity that Ivy showcased after her birth.

"Is that her, your grandpa's secretary?" I asked Kane as I did not know what his grandpa's secretary looked like, but looking at the clone in front of me, I felt Kane's grandpa knew how to hire a secretary as this one is smoking.

"You tell me, boss." saying that Kane forwarded a few compromising images of his grandfather's secretary to my grimoire.

"The clone is a perfect copy. Don't tell me you got these pictures with her consent too." I said, looking at the pictures that Kane forwarded to my grimoire.

"Yep. Otherwise, I couldn't have captured her beauty from such excellent angles." Kane replied with a positive answer.

"You grandpa and grandson pair, sure know to live it large," I said, reconsidering certain aspects of life. And then, thinking back to the original topic, I asked, "How much blood of the target does she require to create one of these clones?"

"Not much. According to Ivy, the blood in the flask should be enough for her to create ten such clones. The only drawback I noticed is that the realm of the clones depends on my original realm." Kane explained. But he didn't know that there was another considerable drawback.

The drawback that I was talking about was that Ivy could not record the target's blood after devouring them once, like Vivian's Elder Druids could. The Elder Druids could record, remember and recreate the target's clone/fairy guard without injecting the target's blood for the second time.

I think this difference when Elder Druid and Ivy make use of Vivian's blood clone rune exists because Kane wasn't the true owner of the blood clone rune. But this difference can be overcome by baptism upon realm promotion and Kane comprehending blood clone meaning of blood rule.

"Can the clones speak? Or do they also have a malformed vocal cord similar to Ivy?" Anna asked. Because if the clones can't speak, they can not be called perfect clones.

"No, they too can't speak." Answered Kane dejectedly.

"Don't worry. I think Ivy undergoing baptism a few times should help her develop her vocal cord." Though Ivy was able to retain the human form, Her body was a little different from a genuine human body, for example, her green complexion, her sharp pointy ears, and the underdeveloped vocal cord. They are the differences I know of, and one of these differences had shown up in clones she created, the underdeveloped vocal cord.

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

[1,084 words]

Chapter 676 Leash

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 20:24

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

Viltronian soul pathways and arrangements are strong and have high adaptability. They are one of the main reasons why Ivy was able to maintain the humanoid appearance despite the diverse soul pathway pool of Ironwood trees, Elder Druids, Treants, Entwines, and Mandrakes used in its creation.

It would have dominated all these spices and given Ivy a perfect human body, but that would mean giving up on most of the abilities possessed by these monsters. This was not an option, so in order to keep these powers, the Viltronian soul pathway had to take a step back and leave room for some of the soul pathways from other species leading to certain deformities like underdeveloped vocal cord, green skin, and pointy ears. And one of these was passed on to the clones she created.

"What about shapeshifting?" I asked. Because Ivy's use of Vivian's blood clone run was not only limited to creating fairy guard clones but also morphing into the appearance of a target herself.

"Ivy, do your magic," Kane commanded Ivy to use the remaining blood she swallowed from the flask to shapeshift into his grandfather's secretary.

"Kerk Kek," Ivy nodded in agreement, and then the root that branched out of the ground from earlier grew another blood-red bud, but this one was larger than the one used to

make the clone. This bud grew to 2.3 meters tall and blossomed into a ginormous blood-red flower.

Ivy then walked it to the blood-red flower. Climbed into its pistil and sat comfortably, hugging her knees. Then the blood-red flower enclosed and shed its petals as it morphed into a gigantic fruit. The fruit appeared similar to a ginormous blood-red grape. Later the fruit ruptured, and a pale white human female with golden blonde hair and blue eyes climbed out of it. She wore a velvet mini dress that Ivy was wearing earlier. She, too, gave a full view of her plumpy cleavage. Still, it wasn't the same as Kane's bully's mother's body as her body was more curvy and voluptuous than Kane's grandfather's secretary's body. Especially when it came to their bosom, Kane's grandfather's secretary couldn't fill up the deep V-collar of the mini dress like Kane's bully's mother did.

"Whoa, if she doesn't speak, I will mistake her for an actual person." Said Corey looking at Ivy, who had morphed into the appearance of Kane's grandfather's secretary. This time she did not have green skin but pale white skin. Making the shape-shifting a success.

"Ahem, Ivy is an actual person, but she isn't a human, that's all." Susan corrected Corey. But she appeared a little alerted about Ivy's ability. Which woman wouldn't be? Ivy could morph into any of them with a few milliliters of their blood. Ivy could shapeshift into the opposite sex, too but considering Kane's intentions for Ivy. He would never permit her to do that.

"Pervert." Corey cussed. After the amazement of Ivy's abilities passed, she, too, had the same worries as Susan.

Kane ignored Corey and scratched the back of his head while laughing like a fool because he was more than satisfied by Ivy's abilities. And he couldn't help but imagine the look on his bully's face when he would exact his revenge. Kane couldn't help but look forward to it.

"You know Kane, with your current looks, you can get yourself a real girlfriend to satisfy your urges. If you try hard enough, you can make your bully's mama your sugar mama or even have her fall for you. It may sound far-fetched, but you can achieve it with your current appearance and depending on her marital happiness." I wasn't exaggerating when I said these words. Using the vine-like placenta, Ivy had transformed Kane into every woman's wet dream. I bet Kane can land a few of his high school goddesses relying on his current looks. Alas, the boy was far too broken from the inside for him to start living an ordinary life now.

"I hear you master Wyatt. But that's impossible for the current me. I don't think I can trust anybody as much as I trust Ivy. And when I have the world's hottest woman at my beck and call, why would I look for other trash? My Ivy is the best and most beautiful. Ivy, change back to your original appearance." Kane's experience with his bullies had

left him broken. He could not trust anybody except his mother, me, and himself. Yes, his grandpa wasn't on the list of his trusted people, but a total stranger like me was. So one can guess how much mistrust Kane had towards his own kind, humanity.

Ivy summoned another enormous flower, and using it, she reverted to her original appearance as her master wanted her to. Then she was pulled into the embrace of her Master as they both bowed to her creator and her master yelled, "Thank you, Master Wyatt. For everything. If I am not imposing, I would like to ask you one more thing."

"Kane, skip the formalities and speak your mind." I know Kane was genuinely grateful to like the rest of my clients except Jaya.

"I would like you to take me in as one of your subordinates. I would be truly grateful if you gave me the opportunity to serve you. I promise to do my best and not disappoint you ." With my permission, Kane spoke his mind. But I didn't expect him to ask to become one of my cronies. This was tough because all my true subordinates had a calamity daughter gem, and the rest were the subordinates of my calamity daughter gem, with Daina, an expectation, of course.

That reminds me that I seem to have spared a lot of leash to the Fine Gold sisters, which concerns me since I was thinking of grooming her to take over my operations in Sky blossom city. I think Cindy should be enough to tighten the leash for these sisters. Let's have a chat with her later.

"Kane, I hate to say this, but I don't have an open spot for you. But if there is something unique you could offer to my cause, I can reconsider your request." Kane's origin card is overpowered, but it's nothing compared to my calamity daughter core. And I couldn't think of anything where I could make use of someone like Kane

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Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 20:30

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

"..." Kane thought hard but couldn't think of a way he could be of help to someone who ran multiple organizations and had his arrogant grandpa, Rami Kaga, fears him despite being 17-year-old.

"Kane, I know you are grateful. You don't have to go out of your way to prove it." I appreciated Kane's resolve, but like how his trauma stopped him from believing in

people similarly, my past made me want to control every aspect of my life. If I can't control something, I don't trust it. That is one of the reasons why I keep Anna at arm's length despite the soul contract between us. She can't harm me, but I can't stop her if she really wants to harm me. And to avoid attracting attention, I rarely use the calamity daughter gems.

"Thank you, Master Wyatt. You are right. The current me cannot be of any help to you, so it is ambitious of me to be your subordinate. Therefore I have decided to start from the bottom.

Master Wyatt, please allow me to join one of your organizations and start from the bottom. I will climb ranks and prove myself worthy of being your subordinate." Kane did not give up. He understood with his current capabilities, he was of no help to his idol, but he believed he could learn and become someone worthy.

"This..." I was taken back seeing Kane's resolve to express his gratitude. Honestly, I do not feel like I did something worthy of Kane's appreciation. He already paid me more than enough for the services I provided to him as a card creationist. But I understood where he was coming from.

I didn't just help create an origin card for him but a life partner with whom he can share his burdens and rely on. This may not be appreciated by many, but for someone like him, whom his peers and society had rejected, this was a huge deal. He was no longer alone in this two-faced, cruel world.

"Please, Master Wyatt. Don't say no. I am already an adult. So let me start living my life my way by showing my appreciation for you. And I trust that if I follow you, I can unleash my full potential and achieve much more than anywhere else." Kane pleaded. He made it clear that he planned to give up on his family, high school, and college to follow his idol and build a career around him.

"What?" Hearing Kane, I was dumbfounded. I felt like I heard the craziest joke of the year. What he said was insane to listen to. He wanted to drop out of high school to work for me instead of attending college. How crazy is that? For someone who has zero trust in people, he was putting a lot of faith in me. I guess he's one of those guys who has a hard time trusting people, but once someone manages to gain his trust, he is willing to do anything for them.

"..." Kane stared at me with bright resolute eyes. Looking at them, I almost said yes. But he/his origin card had too much potential to waste time by starting from the bottom. Therefore I decided to give him a test, and by the end of it, if he still wants to follow me, then so be it, " Kane, you have great potential. It would be a waste for you to start from the bottom. Instead, I have another proposal for you. If you are up for it, we can reach an agreement."

"Anything you say, Master Wyatt," Kane replied humbly, but I felt a fanatic vibe from him. And his target of obsession was me.

"For now, I will add you to my reserve group. It consists of talented people who with proper guidance can become the pillar of the new world order." I had to create a new group to satisfy Kane's request. And why was I going this far for him? Because I want to. Influencing people to trust me was nothing new to me, but to find someone who was genuinely willing to be your follower is rare. I wanted to test him, and if he passed, I would give him an opportunity for him to become useful to me.

"..." Anna's eyebrow raised, hearing her love interest speak big revolutionary words like new world order. If it were someone else, Anna would have scoffed at him, but her crush was different. If it was him, then the new world order he spoke of was possible, which was not good news for her family, who are the pillars of the current world order.

If it were a month ago, Anna would have nipped any bud that could grow into a crisis for her family without a thought. Even now, nothing's changed except the person in question has stolen her heart. And she can not bring herself to harm a single hair on his body.

"Reserve group? I accept it! What are our duties?" Kane asked enthusiastically. He seemed to be genuinely happy to be part of something big which had nothing to do with his family. This was his and his alone.

"To grow," I said with stern eyes.

"To grow?" Despite his blind faith in his idol, Kane felt that he was being treated as a child by his idol. But still, Kane decided to give his role model a chance to explain himself.

"Bottom work, I have other people for that. What I need you to do is complete your high school, forge your ego fem and attend Morning Star university along with me or as my junior." The TSR guild, Tiger Squadron, Fine Gold, and Bright Lions were my forces for the sky blossom city. I will soon move to the central academic city, and I cannot take these organizations along with me to create and establish my power over there. That is where someone with Kane's origin card could come in handy.

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[1,777 words]

Chapter 678 Rejected

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 20:36

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

Reserve group, a group I just made up to fit talented people whom I would consider taking along with me to the central academic city. Apart from my younger calamity daughter gems, Susan and Kane were the only ones to make it into the group. But Kane would not be of much use to me there unless he forges his ego gem. As for Susan, she was a non-combatant, so her managing skills were enough for her to make the cut.

I created this group to recruit talented people to help me stabilize myself in the central academic city, just like how I made a mark in the sky blossom city. So I was not horsing Kane by putting him in the reserve group. It was real, and I needed them.

"Complete high school, Forge ego gem, and attend Morning Star university...." Kane looked as if someone had wronged him. He felt his idol was making things difficult for him so that he would give up.

"Before you jump to a dumb conclusion. You need to know that in a few days, I will be closing my card boutique and moving to the palace for a project, and then three months later, I will be attending the morning star university. And hopefully, for the next five years, the central academic region will be my base of operation." I explained to Kane to avoid complications due to misunderstanding.

"...." Listening to his idol, it dawned upon Kane that his role model was not making things difficult for him. Instead, he was paving a path for him to follow and catch up to him. Realizing this, Kane's eyes burned with an unyielding passion.

"Kane, I hope next time we meet each other, we meet as a junior and senior at Morning Star university." I didn't think Kane could forge his ego gem in three months, another year maybe, so I hoped he could join as my freshman to my sophomore at Morning Star university. What made me so optimistic about Kane is his origin card.

"Yes, boss," Kane yelled, expressing his resolve to complete my test for him and join me as I made the Central academic city my bitch.

"Good. Now let's head to the party. Everyone should be waiting for us." I said, looking at the rest. I had tasked the Bright brothers with throwing the party for the Bright Loins and arranging a beautiful dinner for two, that is, Anna and I.

"Sorry boss, I can't make it to your party. I promised to take Kane out for dinner tonight." Corey reminded me. Hearing her, I remembered when Kane wanted me to create Ivy in Corey's image.

"Well, I will be taking a rain check on that." Kane detonated a bomb in the warehouse by flatly rejecting Corey to her face in public.

"Whoa!" Comment Anna. Yep, she was having the time of her life seeing her arrogant goddaughter be rejected to her face in public. The rejection couldn't be brutal.

"What? You were the one who begged for it. And now you have galls to reject me in front of everyone." Corey exploded in shame and felt like being put on the spot. She didn't hesitate to lie. If not for Susan grabbing her wrist, she would have pounced on Kane.

"No, I clearly remember you offered to take me out on a dinner to earn my forgiveness. I should have rejected your offer back then and complained about you. At least I would have helped Master Wyatt cut a tumor-like you," Kane wasn't polite. He laid out the facts straight.

"You... Okay! Fine by me. It's not like I wanted to go out on dinner with a perverted dork like you. Good for me." Realizing her mistake and seeing no way out of it, Corey swallowed her previous words. Even though it meant that she would be letting Kane off the hook for publicly rejecting her and declaring Kane as the winner of the argument because she shouldn't have lied in the first place, no matter how unexpected and embarrassing the situation was, since she crossed the line, Corey willingly chose to do the right thing and not pointlessly argue despite having lied in the first place.

"Lies, I didn't have expected much from you," Kane spoke to Corey condescendingly. The current Kane was very different from the previous sad virgin, he looked like a fanatic simp. As for his goddess, I bet it is Ivy, his personal blow-up doll origin card. All the other women except for Ivy Kaga are trash in Kane's eyes. Therefore he did not blink twice before rejecting Corey and her dinner date for two.

"You... that's taking it too far." Corey was not interested in Kane, even if his body had morphed into a dashing one. She asked him out for dinner to complete the commitment she had made. Because that is the kind of person she is right now.

"Too far, you haven't heard the end of it. If not for you being the boss's employee, I would have shown you what taking it too far is." Kane's words were not wrong, but no matter how bitchy Corey is, rejecting her in public was a bit too much. Considering the fact that she could whoop his ass in seconds. Kane could have handled it differently.

"..." I appreciated Corey for the fact that she didn't pointlessly stick to her lie and let Kane off the hook for publicly rejecting her. And my appreciation grew further when she let Kane off for publicly humiliating her. The Corey I know wouldn't let anyone humiliate her. But it seems she feels guilty about blurting out lies at the start of this argument.

"Mr. Kane, please. Everyone present here understands that you no longer want to go out for dinner with Corey. I think we should leave it at that." Susan asked Kane not to talk rudely toward her employee.

"Manager Susan, if you say so." Kane didn't act arrogantly in front of Susan and decided to let Corey off as humiliating her further would not gain him anything.

"..." Corey ignored Kane and looked at Susan with googly eyes. She had seen Susan reprimanding her for her mistakes, ignorance, and arrogance. And today, she saw Susan defend her. She felt moved. Only her mother treats her the best.

"Wyatt. Corey and I will be skipping the party. Hope you understand." Susan decided to skip the party and spend some time with her troubled roommate, Corey.

"Big Sis, you don't have to skip the party because of me. I will be attending the party. This dork is not worth ruining my mood." Corey hurriedly asserted

"..." Kane stared at Corey hearing her words.

"Bitch! What are you looking at? Mind your eyes, or I will fix them for you." There she was, the Corey we all know and hate.

"What?..." Kane's eyes widened, and he was wordless as he felt a vast killing intent land on him. Ivy, who was next to him, came in between him and Corey, sensing an imminent threat coming from her.

"..." Sensing the killing intent oozing out of Corey, Anna was astonished. A murderous aura can only be developed by slaughtering hundreds and thousands. And according to her information, Corey was a greenhouse flower raised far from war and violence. So how did she develop such a thick killing intent?

First, her love interest with his stupidly insane card creation skills, and now this girl with her thick murderous aura, which almost formed a fog. The more time Anna spent with these two the more she felt that there was no bottom for these two monsters.

"Bitch, when I let you win, you should take your trophy and scurry, not bite the hand that gave you the trophy. I let you off because it was my mistake. I shouldn't have lied. But I guess old habits die hard. I am a work in progress. Right now, I am being very generous by letting you off despite what you have said. I have killed people for much less. Unless you value your life, you keep at it and see where it gets you. Or should I give you the spoilers?" As Corey spoke the last sentence eternal flame of agony could be seen burning in her pupils.

gulp Kane swallowed his saliva and retreated backward, looking at the wasteland covered in raging red flames, and billions of souls within it screaming in agony were displayed in Corey's Iris.

"Know your place bitch." Saying that, Corey grabs hold of Susan's wrist and drags her out of the warehouse, saying, " See, Big Sis. Everything is fine. There is nothing to worry about."

"Kane, you okay, man?" I patted Kane's back and asked him if he was okay. He looked like he had seen a ghost.

"Devil, she is the devil." He muttered. It took a while for him to gather his composure. I don't blame him. After all, what he saw in Corey's eyes was not meant for a young soul like his.

"Yep, she is the devil. If I were you, I would steer clear of her until you have the appropriate strength to face her," I advised Kane to stay away from Corey. She didn't physically teach Kane a lesson because of Susan's presence. Knowing Corey, if she gets an opportunity, she would not mind showing Kane who is the boss again.

"Yes, boss." Kane nodded. And Ivy kept her eyes on Corey's back, fearing a sudden sneak attack.

"Come on, let's head to the party. You have a lot to learn from the Bright Lions. Otherwise, you will get yourself killed." I wasn't kidding. In a way, Kane was lucky that he did not reject Corey privately. Who knows how she would have reacted in a fit of rage and humiliation.

"Yes, boss." Kane though physically present, mentally, was still lost in the agony-filled cries of billions of souls in the wasteland covered in a red flame. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't erase that sight from his mind. The weirdest thing was he heard the cries of the billions of souls in the flame. How is that possible when Corey only displayed that gruesome scene in her iris? Many questions ran through Kane's mind, but he was afraid he would never get answers to them. Because the only person who could answer his question was Corey, and he had pissed her off.

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 20:49

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City, Abandoned High School, Bright Lions Party.

"Boss, you are here." Bright brothers and other small leaders of Bright Lions greeted us at the gate of the abandoned high school.

"If you didn't have enough budget for the party, you could have called me." I was not satisfied with the venue Nick chose for the party. Though the Bright lions have taken over most of the gray operations of the circle in the city, it hasn't been long since then, and the projects weren't lucrative yet. It seems I should allocate separate funds for them.

"Boss, you seem to have misunderstood. I didn't choose this school as the venue because we lack funds. We chose it because of its history.

Though this school is in ruins now, before the monster war, this institution was where the best and brightest of the city's future got their education. Later during the monster war, many brave students got together to protect their city and used this building as their base of operations. And then, after the monster war, the old city, along with its infrastructures, was in ruins. Hence abandoned as it was more lucrative for the city hall to build a new city.

Though the elder generation had abandoned the old city, the younger generation never did. This school is a symbol for all the students. It represents what a bunch of students can achieve when they set their minds to it. This symbol later became a show of power for many high school gangs. Later conquering it became a tradition.

Every year different high school gangs will gather here with one common goal, which is to conquer this abandoned high school by planting their flag on the school terrace. So this time of year, this place would be a battlefield for a bunch of high school delinquent gangs trying to subdue other high school gangs and showcase their dominance by taking over the abandoned high school.

This year though, because of your presence, all the other high school gangs have disbanded and joined Bright Lions. Some needed more convincing than others, but we managed to make the Bright Lions the only high school gang in the entire city. So by default, we, boss, you, are the sole ruler of this place." Nick explained the history behind the venue and the significance of choosing it as he walked us to the administrative block, which was at the center of all the buildings in the high school.

"Good." After knowing what the abandoned high school symbolized, I was no longer dissatisfied with the venue. But still, Nick could have tried to bring the action to this abandoned dust-redden ghostly place.

Stopping 100 meters from the administrative block, Nick stepped forward and yelled, "Bright Lion's Boss is here. Let the party commence!"

Sweeeeh!

boom *boom*

With Nick's command, fireworks shot to the skies, and various light beams under the moonlight lifted the school from the darkness. Though the school's outline was visible now, an incognito darkness still loomed over it like in the nightclubs. After the fireworks and lighting, soon the loud music and sick beats followed. Finally, it felt like we were in an actual party, not a haunted high school.

Nick turned to me with a white flag with golden lion head embroidery. He passed the flag to me and said, " please do us the honor."

"The honor is mine." Taking the flag, I flew and landed on the terrace of the administrative building, and with precision, I erected it on the concrete roof of the school. With that, my actions were followed by another round of fireworks. Then loud applause and chanting followed as I saw a swarm of high school students gather around the building chanting, "Bright Lions For Life!" "Bright Lions For Life!"

When I arrived, I had already spotted them lurking in the shadows. Seeing them finally walk out of the darkness, I guess they planned for this grand welcome.

I raised my hand in the air, signaling the mob to stop the chanting and applause. And said, "Tonight, we begin our conquest from here and will only stop after we have conquered the world! Bright Lions For Life!"

My words were once again followed by loud applause and continuous chants, "Bright Lions For Life!"

"We have come a long way from a bunch of misfits delinquents. Together we became Bright Lions! I bet it was tiring, so tonight we party! Tomorrow we claim the world." I said, after the crowd had time to settle down. Once again, my words were greeted with loud applause. Without waiting for the crowd to mellow out, I flew down from the terrace and let Nick take the lead.

"Bright Lions! You know where the dancefloor, drinks, and food are at. Now let loose!" Yelling that Nick once again prioritized attending to me.

"Conquering the world? Don't you think you are too young for that?" Said Anna. She didn't mock her crush as she felt that if it was him, then those words may come true.

"Yes, yes I am." I said, and looking Anna straight in her eyes, I added, "I got to start at some point."

"This side of yours turns me on." Replied Anna, catching me and the others next to us off guard. Susan and Kane's faces were tomato red, and Corey had an irritated look. While the calamity daughter gems remained expressionless, the look of the other small leaders of the Bright Lions was full of admiration for the capability of their boss. Though they didn't know who Anna was, her beauty was self introductory, and for a bunch of virgin high schools, this incident was right out of a porno.

"I thought we agreed on waiting." I remind Anna about our agreement.

"So, what, now, I cannot be honest about my feelings. You are too controlling for someone who is not my boyfriend. But all is forgiven since I like it." Anna spoke in a sultry voice, biting on her lower lips. She gazed at me with seductive eyes. Looking into those eyes, I almost lost my footing.

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[1,034 words]

Chapter 680 Trouble

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 20:58

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City, Abandoned High School, Bright Lions Party.

"So, what do you think?" I asked Anna looking at the rooftop candlelight dinner arranged by Nick for my dinner out with Anna.

"It is far from the party noise. I guess it is okay." Said Anna reluctantly.

"Come on. It is excellent. The starry night sky, moonlight, candles, expensive wine, rooftop dinner, what else do you want?" In my books, Nick had pulled all the stops for dinner for two. Though it was a tad bit romantic as long as it kept Anna satisfied, I am good with it. But she wasn't.

"Sigh, what was I expecting? Let's get over with this." Anna had a lot of lovers, each pampered her to their best. Compared to them, her current crush's efforts seemed a bit lacking and insincere. Funny how out of all of them, she lost her heart to this one. The only consultation was that others were doing it to get into her pants, and this one wasn't.

"What is that supposed to mean?" I asked as Anna's sigh got my mood down.

"This arrangement may be excellent for a mortal woman. But compared to dinner on the clouds, this is nothing." Anna complained.

"Dinner on clouds? Did you just compare my rooftop dinner with a dinner on the cloud? Good! I can't fall behind now, can I? Especially after hearing that." Though I wasn't

interested in a dinner date with Anna, I hated doing things half-heartedly. So I couldn't let Anna have a rooftop dinner when she compared it to dinner on the clouds.

"Oh! Then what are you going to do about it?" Anna asked with a naughty smile. She enjoyed that I finally began to care about the dinner I promised her.

"Stone Viltronian! I choose you." I summoned a stone Viltronian. This one was special as it has managed to comprehend the float meaning at the bifurcation point of the gravity rule. The next part was obvious. I had the Stone Viltronian float the entire building we are standing on to the skies above the clouds.

I had the entire building float above the clouds so that catering services would be available as Anna and I had our dinner floating above the clouds. Nick hurried downstairs to control the catering staff and assure them that everything was under control.

"Now, have you ever had dinner on the rooftop of a floating building?" I asked Anna.

"Actually, floating restaurants are pretty typical in the capital city." Said Anna but looking at my sullen face, she consoled, " But I never got to have the entire building to myself. This is better."

"Um... even though I know you are saying things to console me. I will take the win." Comparing what I could provide with the luxuries Anna had experienced would be foolishness. So I took the win that Anna gave me.

"Good! I like a smart man over a foolish one who always feels insecure and compares with others." Saying that, Anna walked to the edge of the terrace and, looking at the full moon in the night sky, she muttered, "it's beautiful."

"Good to hear that you like it." And with my signal, the band started playing soothing music.

"..." Anna and I stood side by side, gazing at the moon in the starry night sky. The music had us fully immersed in the beauty of the universe.

"Since we have music, would you like a dance?" Anna asked.

"It would be my pleasure." I took her hand, walked to the rooftop center, and signaled the band to play slow music. Something we can dance to.

music

With my arms warped around Anna's waist and her arms warped around my neck, we slowly swayed to the music. Anna's head rested on my chest, and my forehead rested on top of her head.

Thank you, viltronian height.

We didn't speak, just enjoyed each other's company. Despite the background music, we could feel each other's heartbeats. They seemed to be in sync.

"I haven't felt this peace for a long while. I missed it." Anna murmured softly.

"..." I did not know how to reply to her, so I decided to listen.

"Can you hold me for longer?" Asked Anna.

"Anything you want. Tonight is your night." Honestly, I, too, was enjoying Anna's company. A little companionship would not hurt, so I agreed with Anna.

Music We continued to sway to the music silently. We seem to have forgotten the passage of time in each other's embrace. I don't know about Anna, but my mind was blank and relaxed. But this tranquility did not last for long. It was disturbed by a call to my grimoire.

I ignored the call, hoping to salvage the moment and believing that whoever was calling would take a hint. But nope, they called me again.

"Pick it up! It must be urgent." The moment was gone. Anna let go of me and walked away from my embrace. Pissed, I checked the caller's name ID. It was Van. Couldn't he just use Hive AI to contact me?

"Yes, what is it?"

"Boss, it is about your cousin Ronnie," Van spoke solemnly.

"Yes, what about him?" So Ronnie is the real culprit to be blamed here.

"He committed suicide. But failed." Van replied

"What happened?"

"He ran away from Southern academic city to escape the Bob butcher's men. But failed to escape. Then he resorted to using suicide to threaten his pursuers, but they didn't budge, and the accident happened." Van explained.

"Where is he now?" Hearing the context behind Ronnie's suicide, I could not help but frown.

"Bob Butcher's men sent him to the medic. Though Ronnie's life is out of danger, he is still in a coma. But our source down there says that they are planning to transfer him. We could not get the transfer location, but it is safe to assume that they are transferring

him somewhere they can give him proper health care and keep an eye on him." Van narrated the information he got from his sources in detail.

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 21:08

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City, Abandoned High School, Bright Lions Party.

"Who else knows about this?" I asked, hearing that Ronnie will be soon imprisoned in Butcher Bob's custody.

"Ronnie tried to ask help from college authorities, but Butcher Bob has managed to keep the college authorities quiet about it. All the professors in college have a guest officer position in the Butcher Bob industry. So it is safe to assume they run the college." Ronnie seems to have reached out to college for help, but they became the eyes that monitored his every action. That is how Butcher Bob's men knew when and where Ronnie planned to flee.

"What about Ronnie's family?" It is safe to assume that Ronnies' family doesn't know about this yet. Otherwise, they would have come knocking at my door for help.

"Ronnie did not want his family to worry, and Butcher Bob didn't want his family to make a ruckus regarding this incident, so they made sure that Ronnies' family didn't hear about it," Van replied.

"Um... what do you need to get my property back?" Ronnie was no longer my cousin. He was my property. Seeing how he chose to flee and went far as suicide rather than cave to Butcher Bob's temptation and threats, he had earned himself that designation.

Turns out even a douchebag like Ronnie has a line that he is not willing to cross. For him, that is his baby mama Jackie. For her, he did not give in to the temptation of wealth, lust, or power. He didn't even cave to their threats. He is willing to die rather than marry into Butcher Bob's family and betray Jackie. His resolve is praiseworthy but not of my use.

"Boss, since you have called off the ambush on the circle planned today. I have enough personnel for this operation. But I think it would be best if just Fred and I went." Van suggested that rather than sending guild members for the task, it would be better if I sent just two of them. This way, we could get the job done without attracting much attention.

"Okay, come to my location and bring Old Ben along with you. It's about time I upgraded you guys." Butcher Bob is a huge company. Underestimating them would be a mistake. Therefore I planned to send three of my strongest calamity daughter gems to get the job done.

"Yes, Boss. And one more thing, I have found a bunch of suitable candidates for the Sin Squad."

"Great! How many within the Sky blossom city?" I asked with tremendous enthusiasm. Sin squad is going to be my shadow army. The TSR guild, Tiger Squadron, Bright Lions, and Fine Gold are the forces that have a presence in the society, and using them to do some questionable tasks would not be wise, so I needed an identity-less shadow army who could move in darkness and solve my troubles without any fingers pointing back to me. And Sin Squad was just that.

"4 Card Lords and 21 Card Grandmasters. If not for the presence of Southern Watch in the city, the number would be much higher." Van specified the number of candidates that have been able to locate for the Sin Squad

The absence of Circle in the city has brought in many new predators to the city, even with the presence of the temporary base of Southern Watch. Once the Southern Watch leaves, all hell will break loose in the city. The first ones to suffer will be the citizens, of course, and next will be the organizations that have fed on the Circle's remains. That means Bright Lions would soon face territory war against the immigrant predators.

"It's okay. I don't need all of them. I only need those that can get a job done without anybody taking notice of it." There are many options to recruit from, but I only need the capable ones.

"That leaves us with 4 Card Lords and 7 Card Grandmasters. These guys are more ruthless and cunning than demons. They are involved in all kinds of crimes one can and cannot imagine. But nobody has ever been able to tie them with their crimes. These maniacs are very meticulous and never leave behind tracks. But when they are done, you know they are to be blamed but can't do anything as there is no evidence to prove it. Interestingly they never engage against someone stronger than no matter how many advantages they have." Van stated the number of capable candidates for the Sin squad.

"Sounds like the people I am looking for. And I have forwarded my location to your grimoire. Hurry over. Tonight is going to be a busy night." Ruthless and more cunning than a demon, meticulous people with patients to cover their tracks, these are people I wanted in the Sin Squad.

"Yes, boss. Right away." Saying that, Van hung up the call.

"I thought tonight was my night." As I hung up the call, I heard Anna complain.

"It still is. Just excuse when I ask for a bathroom break. There is no need to ruin a perfect night over nothing. Speaking of which, by chance, did Luna send over the platinum grimoire she promised?" I know I was hypocrite by asking about work even though I stated otherwise.

"With the demon cult attack on the base, she didn't have time to attend to your request. But here are some platinum grimoires I collected from the demon worshipers." Anna answered with a frown, and her gaze seemed to be saying, 'I will forgive you this once. If it repeats, I am out of here.'

'A few? That's a dozen of platinum grimoires.' I thought, inspecting the storage card handed by Anna.

"Would you like to continue our dance?" I asked Anna politely and reached my hand to her with noble manners.

"No, I don't want to. Let's gaze at the stars if you don't mind. I want to borrow your body to lean on." Asked Anna with her gaze stuck on the starry sky.

"Since when did you start caring about my consent for borrowing my body."

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

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 21:15

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City, Abandoned High School, Bright Lions Party.

"I thought you were going to attack the Circle tonight. What happened?" Anna and I lay on the terrace gazing at the stars. But I could not focus on the stars because Anna used my arm as a pillow, and I was distracted by the pleasant smell the wind carried from Anna's hair and body to my nose.

Correct me if I am wrong. When you have beauty in your arms under a starry night, who would you rather gaze at, the beauty in your arms or the stars? The beauty, of course. I was no different from any other man. Anna knew that I was gazing at her more than the stars. I think she is proud of it. And why wouldn't she be?

"I canceled that after facing the demon worshiper in the afternoon," I answered.

"Why?"

"Array Formation. Today I realized how strong the array formation could be as the city isolated the whole block from the rest of the city. When I made plans to attack the Circle in Sun blossom city, I didn't take the sun blossom city and the circle's base's Array Formations into consideration. I thought I could use my aura sight to cripple any array, but after today's incident, I realized that wasn't the case. I almost led my forces to their deaths." I explained to Anna the reason why I postponed my attack on the circle to a later date.

"So what now?" Anna asked.

"We wait. I have tasked Rami Kaga to determine what kind of array formations are used by the sun blossom city and the Circle's base. Once I know how to tackle them, the attack on the circle is a go." Though it was not possible to become an array master overnight, learning how to overcome a few specific array formations was possible and more than enough to attack the circle at its base.

"Good plan. But I think you should ask Luna or Lorenzo to teach you the basics about array formation. That way, you can overcome any misfortunate circumstances. Never take chances. The circle is a big organization. Even someone as capable as Rami Kaga cannot find their bottom." Anna warned me not to depend too much on the information brought by Rami Kaga. Not that Rami Kaga is not trustworthy, but according to her, the information he gets will not be enough as the waters of the circle are deep, and what they have prepared for their defense nobody knows.

"Um, but I thought your family couldn't participate in these wars," I reminded.

"No, silly participating and teaching are two different things. Since Luna is busy with the dungeon relocation project, before reaching out to her, you should ask Lorenzo. He may teach you one or two things." Anna advised that though I could not drag the royal family into my fight, I could still utilize the other resources that they could provide.

"As if Lorenzo would teach me." I did not believe that old fox Lorenzo would teach me about array formation. Whenever I am in his presence, I feel that he wants to lock me up in a dark room and turn me into a slave to the royal family and its interest for the rest of my life.

"Why not? Didn't he already ask you to become his disciple? Lorenzo is not petty when it comes to knowledge. If you ask him nicely, he will teach you for sure. He believes you will make a great formation array master with proper guidance. And I think so too." Lorenzo did ask me to become his disciple back when we met during the school tournament. I rejected him because he was too arrogant, and I had enough confidence that with proper material on array formation, I could become a good array master in no time with the help of my two cheats, soul pupils, and Hive AI.

"What do you mean by 'ask him nicely.'? I will not become his disciple if that is what you mean." I know that there is no free lunch in the world, but I would never consider becoming Lorenzo's disciple. I am afraid that cunning old man will sell me off without me knowing. He is not easy to handle like Anna.

"No, silly. Flatter him. You know how that works, right?" Corrected Anna.

"Yes, my lovely princess. But I think Lorenzo is too smart for flattery." Lorenzo was cunning and ruthless. He would sniff the reason behind my flattery miles away. Therefore, using flattery to get on his good side would be useless.

"Flattery will work on him because he can see it and the way he interprets it. People only flatter others when they need something or they respect you. Those are the people that are weaker than you. So Lorenzo will see you flattering him as a sign of you admitting his greatness. And will reciprocate by agreeing to your request." Anna explained why flattery would work on someone like Lorenzo.

"What kind of bullshit reasoning is that?" I called bullshit on Anna's explanation. Flatter is flattery. If someone flatters you, it does not represent that they are weaker than you. Yes, sometimes it does mean that people need something from you, but that's it.

"..." Anna felt like the pastor who was shot trying to mediate between local tribes and immigrants.

"Anyway, if it is to obtain knowledge, I would never shy away from it. So don't worry, I will ask Lorenzo for his teaching in array formation, 'nicely.'" I would never let my pride come between my pursuit of knowledge, but it would be another thing if I had to risk my life as I need to be alive to pursue knowledge.

"Um... I need the break I asked for earlier. I will be back soon." I excused myself after Van used Hive AI to inform me that they had entered the floating school building and awaited my arrival.

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[1,056 words]

Chapter 683 Plans

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 21:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City, Abandoned High School, Bright Lions Party.

"Here, take these platinum grimoires and upgrade your gold grade grimoires," I said, handing a platinum grimoire to Van, Fred, and old Ben each.

"Thank you, Boss." The calamity daughter gems thanked me for the platinum grimoires.

"Remember, upgrade your grimoires but do not break through to the next realm unless I tell you to." Van, Fred, and Old Ben all had cultivated their active soul control percentage to the peak of the card lord realm. And thanks to the calamity daughter gem, these guys had already begun comprehending rules. They could break through to the next realm whenever they wanted. With the help of a platinum grimoire, I gave them, breaking through to the card overlord realm had become much easier.

But I can not have them breaking into the card overlord realm. Because following the government laws, their citizenship will be upgraded to a new second-rate or, if the lucky first-rate city. Where card overlords are not a rare sight. If that happens, I will be losing three of my strongest and most experienced calamity daughter gems. Which I can not let happen because I need these three to lead the two of my current biggest armed organizations, the TSR Guild and the Tiger Squadron. Not to mention they were required to spearhead the attack on the circle's branch in sun blossom city. In the end, I needed Van, Old Ben, and Fred to present here in this city, managing my organizations in my stead. Therefore I forbade them from breaking through to the Card Overlord realm.

"Yes, Boss." The three calamity daughter gems agreed.

"Make use of the funds I gave you to obtain a few AA-rank and S-rank mythic grade cards you fancy. If you can not get those cards here, buy them when visiting the Southern Academic City. If you don't have enough funds, ask me. I want you at your strongest all the time." Having a platinum grimoire wasn't enough. They needed to have the appropriate grade cards to showcase the true power of the platinum grade grimoire.

"Thank you, boss. But we have sufficient funds." Van replied. It took a while for the TSR guild to get back on its feet after the merger of what remained of the three allied guilds and had finally started to yield. It could be considered to have become more than lucrative. Therefore Van was not short on funds.

But the same could not be said for the tiger squadron. They had become a private force after cutting ties with their previous employer, city hall, and coming to work for me. Not to mention, they don't have any work of their own to raise funds of their own. They are a work in progress. I planned to wait until after we took down the Circle branch in Sun blossom city to make a few arrangements for them, and the plan hasn't changed.

"Boss, Tiger squadron doesn't have enough funds." Old Ben has been trying hard to gather funds for the tiger squadron by using his Blood craft meaning of the blood rule.

But one person alone cannot shoulder the entire expanse of an organization. Of course, I am an exception.

"Van provide the necessary funds for captain Ben's cards." Since both organizations belonged to the same parent organization, there was no reason for the TSR guild not to help the tiger squadron.

"After you three are done upgrading your grimoires, take this and recruit the members for the Sin Squad. Van update them about how our organization works and the duties of the Sin Squad.

Also, help them unlock the second transformation of the calamity daughter gem and take them along with you to the southern Academic region. Let them complete the task. You three don't show up unless it is absolutely required." I handed Van a storage card containing 13 calamity daughter gems so that he could make use of these gems to recruit the 4 card lords and 7 card grandmasters into the Sin Squad.

Putting it vaguely, the people who I was about to recruit are bad people. And the best at what they do. Their reconnaissance and anti reconnaissance ability are top-notch. They commit the most heinous crimes yet manage to evade any repercussions. These guys were perfect recruits for my shadow army, The Sin Squad.

The retrieval of my property from the Butcher Bob's men will be my first official task to the Sin Squad. And Van, Fred, and Old Ben will be there as backup. This way, I could see if I had recruited the right people for the job.

"Okay, Boss. anything else?" Asked Van.

"Um... here, take these documents. Have somebody check each asset listed in these documents and update the ownership status of these assets to the people managing them." The documents mostly contained Dungeons in various cities in the blossom district and were leased to different guilds and families to tend to. Rami had made arrangements for them. Now all I had to do was inform the concerned parties about the new ownership and enjoy the agreed-upon compensations for the lease of the dungeons and other assets.

"Boss, all these assets are all over the Blossom District. It will take a while to pay them a personal visit for inspection. But I can have the guild staff inform the concerned parties about the change in ownership over a call." Taking the documents and inspecting them, Van replied that a personal visit and inspection of all these assets would take a while. Until then, he could have his members inform the asset managers about the new ownership so that any payment will be directed to me.

"Okay, you do that. But if somebody creates trouble, persuade them harder. You don't need me to teach you that, do you now?" Rami Kaga and I are two different people. All the assets have been managed without trouble this far because of Rami Kaga's

prestige, and people know what happens if somebody crosses him. Now that I am the new boss, I need to set the same tone for my new asset managers so that they don't let greed blind them into doing something stupid.

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

[1,036 words]

Chapter 684 Possessive

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 21:33

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City, Abandoned High School, Bright Lions Party.

"That was a long break. Are you sure everything is okay down there? Do you want me to take a peek?" As I returned to the terrace of the floating building, Anna asked sarcastically. Conveying that, I made her wait long.

"I wasn't gone that long. It hasn't even been more than 15 minutes." I said in my defense, looking at the beautiful and elegant Anna sitting on the dining table and emptying her one, two... third bottle of wine. Three bottles of wine in 10 minutes. Wow, she is pissed.

"..." Hearing me talk back and not bother to kiss her ass, Anna frowned.

"What? Don't be like that. Since you already helped yourself to the wine. Let's eat, I am hungry." I ignored Anna's frown, and sitting across her, I signaled the staff to bring the dinner.

"And who's fault is that? You're lucky that you look a lot cuter when I am drunk." Replied Anna. Blaming me for leaving her waiting for a while.

Hearing Anna claim that she was drunk, I picked up the wine bottles and checked their labels. Though expensive, they weren't strong enough to get a card emperor drunk. I decided to call Anna out on her drunk act, " Anna, sweetie, even ten of these wine bottles are not enough to get you drunk."

"Are you calling me a liar? Are you telling me that you look this cute all the time? No way." Anna asked, pointing at me.

"What?" Hearing Anna, I was confused. Is she pissed or really drunk?

"Come here, let me check." Anna climbed onto the dining table between us, and kneeling on it, she started to touch and grab my face with her hands.

"Okay, I agree. You are drunk. I think we should head home." Though all signs said Anna was acting drunk, seeing her up close, I felt otherwise. And by home, I meant the temporary military base of southern watch. After the incident Anna caused today morning, I did not dare to take her back to the warehouse. I didn't want Susan to find Anna naked in my bed again. Once maybe a misunderstanding, but twice is more than a coincidence considering the nature of this episode.

"So, you agree that you become cuter when I am drunk." Grabbing me as support, drunk Anna crawled off the table into my embrace and nested on my lap. Her arms warped around my neck and her head rested on my shoulder.

"Anna, Anna..." once in my embrace, Anna fell asleep.

"She smells nice." I could not help but sniff Anna, remembering her pleasant smell. As I was about to carry Anna in a princess carry and drop her off at the temporary base, the catering staff brought dinner.

Growl hearing my stomach growl in hunger, I decided to have dinner with Anna sleeping in my embrace. With my physical strength, that wasn't tiresome.

*Sniff**Sniff* "I am hungry."

No, it wasn't me sniffing Anna. It was Anna sniffing the food. She woke up from her half-asleep state and said she was hungry, looking intently at the piece of monster meat steak on my fork.

"Ahhh," ignoring Anna, I moved the fork towards my mouth, but Anna opened her mouth wide. Hearing her, I frowned, thinking that now not only do I have to babysit drunk Anna but also feed her. Still, I diverted the fork with a piece of steak meat to Anna's mouth.

"Ahhh," whenever I would bring the fork close to my mouth, Anna would open her mouth wide as if telling me to feed her. Before I knew it, the plate of juicy steak was empty. Still, I was hungry and drunk Anna is to be blamed for that. And the same repeated with the sides and dessert. I finished the dinner, yet I was hungrier than before.

"Pack a few monster steaks for takeout," I ordered the catering staff, knowing with Anna by my side, I would not be able to eat.

Soon the catering staff returned and handed me a G-rank storage hot case card containing my takeout. Fancy! It seems Nick did not spare any money for hiring the best

for dinner. I could not comment on the food because I never got to taste it. Thank you to Anna.

"Boss, would you like me to escort her highness Anna back to the southern watch base?" Nick offered his help. But for some reason, even before considering his offer, I rejected his proposal. Now that came as news to me.

If Nick took Anna back to the safe, I could enjoy my dinner under the starry sky floating above the clouds. Yet, I could not bring myself to hand Anna to Nick. Nick was my calamity daughter gem, which meant he was more loyal to me than himself. So it is not because I don't trust drunk Anna with Nick. Then what else could it be? Was I falling for her?

The same thing happened when Anna and I agreed to be friends. I felt just like right now while asking Anna if she would resume seeing other people. But my heart settled down once she assured me that she wouldn't and instead wait for the one she liked. For some reason, I assumed that the person she likes is me and would continue to be me. Though my heart doesn't flatter in her presence, it gets anxious when she starts to drift apart. I wasn't in love with Anna, but I had grown possessive of Anna.

"No, you are the host of this party. You are needed here. I will take her home since I have nothing to do here anyway. And what about Susan? Is she enjoying herself?" Thinking of Susan, I felt guilt. Another emotion that I have been ignoring. Why do I feel guilty thinking about Susan when with Anna? Why do I think about Susan when with Anna?

Anybody else would enjoy Anna's company, and here I am thinking of Susan and what would she think seeing me carry drunk Anna.

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Chapter 685 Anna's Impersonator

[1,013 words]

Chapter 685 Anna's Impersonator

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 21:39

Location- Sky Blossom City, Old City

Anna slept peacefully with her head lying on my shoulder and hand wrapped around my neck while sitting on my lap. The wind ruffled her long beautiful hair as I drove the hoverbike towards the southern watch temporary base. I left the party early, ordering Nick to oversee if Susan reached home safely from the party. I would have personally seen to that, but for some reason, I did not want Susan to see me with drunk Anna.

The distance between the old city to Dungeon highway can be 3 minutes apart, that is, if your vehicle is up to the challenge. As a C-rank vehicle card, my Nanomorpher was more than up to the challenge. If I was willing to, it could reach there in a new record time. And I did. My emotions were chaotic. I had no reason for my actions.

On the one hand, I didn't want Anna to be apart from me, but I did not want Susan to assume the obvious. It's like my heart was juggling between two fires. Was I being fickle? No, I know what I want. I want to possess Anna but not lose Susan. But I could not bring myself to accept my dark thoughts as this would make the chill life I was longing for a bit complicated. One girl is enough to complicate your life, but I wanted two. This is going to be cumbersome. The heart wants what it wants.

Reaching the military base, I passed through the checkpoints without hindrance. I guess seeing their immediate superior in my embrace was proof enough that I had clearance to enter the military base. But considering the fact that they faced the demon cult's attack in the afternoon, the security was too lax. It may be because the array formation covering the base has expanded by another kilometer. I guess Lorenzo is already aware of my arrival.

Soon old Lorenzo flew over to my location with a female soldier. I did not need instructions. With an understanding, I handed Anna to the female soldier, knowing that she was here to escort Anna to her barrack. After the female soldier carried Anna away, Lorenzo gave me a deep look and was about to fly away. Seems that the old man is not interested in making small talk. Since I was the one who wanted to learn array formation from him, I had no choice but to initiate the conversation, "Old man, hold up."

"..." Hearing my call, Lorenzo paused and turned to look at me. And said, "Boy, aren't you getting too familiar. Even my kids don't dare to call me Old man."

This is not the first time I called Lorenzo Old man, but this was the first time I called him as such with Anna present to keep Lorenzo honest.

"Haha, Senior Lorn, who dares to call you old man. You are a dashing silver fox in your prime." Drunk and passed out, Anna would not come to my rescue, so I had to control myself.

"Glib tongue, no wonder that girl is mesmerized by you. But that is not enough to spare you of your crimes." Old Lorenzo spoke emotionlessly while I felt the temperature of the surroundings fall by a considerable margin.

"Old— I mean, Senior Lorn, what crimes? Please don't scare this junior." Old man is one of many names I used to call Lorenzo with. In Anna's presence, he never showed any sign of displeasure. It seems he has been holding it in. Me and my big mouth, he would have continued to hold it in if I had watched my words while addressing him.

"What crimes? Disrespect to your superior is punishable by death." Lorenzo asserted sternly. The wind blew his long silver hairs highlighting his grim look.

"Superior? Senior Lorenzo, I am not a soldier. That doesn't apply to me. Senior, I just remembered I forgot to turn off the gas in my kitchen. I should hurry back." I was a civilian, and there were no actual laws stating that I could not disrespect higher realm card apprentice because it was already the part of unspoken but widely followed jungle law.

"That's it, endangering the lives of innocent citizens." Lorenzo used my excuse against me, " Boy, you need to pay for your crimes."

"Grandpa! Stop scaring him. Otherwise, he will get the wrong impression of our family." Anna's voice sounded from above. My savior had arrived. But wasn't she supposed to be drunk and passed out? Who cares as long as Lorenzo behaves.

"Anna..." I turned to look at her, but something was different about her? Was it her out-of-fashion ancient hairstyle or conservative dressing style? I couldn't put my finger on it. Wait! Did she call old fart Lorenzo grandpa?

"You are not Anna." Anna had never addressed old Lorenzo as grandpa, not even once. It was hard to miss the grudge between Lorenzo and Anna, as Anna made it apparent, " Who are you?"

"..." Instead of answering me, the Anna impersonator looked at me with a broad smile and a longing look. I felt warmth from her staring, far from Anna's predator gaze.

"Old m— Senior Lorn, quick, capture her. Someone is impersonating your princess. She must be a demon cult spy." I yelled at old Lorenzo to take action and detain Anna's impersonator.

"Grandpa, you head back. I will accompany him." Anna's impersonator advised old Lorenzo.

"~sigh, I don't know what black magic this brat has done to bewitch you two. I envy his luck." Old Lorenzo let out a sigh and prepared to leave, following Anna's impersonator's request.

"Old man! Have you finally gone senile... wait, two?" Halfway through cursing old Lorenzo, It hit me, "Don't tell me you are Anna's twin?"

"Something similar! And you should not call grandpa names." Replied Anna's twin.

"Okay... Old man, where are you headed? I need a favor." I yelled, seeing Lorenzo head back.

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[1,025 words]

Chapter 686 Favor

Date- 31 Mar 2321

Time- 21:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Favor? Not only do you disrespect me, but you dare to ask a favor. Boy, your skin is thick. Come on, lay it on me. I want to hear what outlandish demand you want to make." Lorenzo was more expressive of his thoughts in the presence of Anna's twin compared to Anna herself.

"Old gentleman, I will keep it short. Could you teach me array formation?" Yes, Anna did warn me that I would have to flatter Lorenzo for him even to consider teaching me array formation. But things had already deviated from the original path.

"Old gentleman? That's a new one. I don't know whether to consider it disrespectful or not? But my answer is a big fat no! I don't want a disrespectful disciple like you. I would instead teach array formation to a stone over you." Lorenzo made his intentions clear to me.

"Fine, I will ask your granddaughter. After all, she will be my professor in three months. I bet she is more generous and approachable than you." Anna did say that Luna is too busy to teach me array formation. Well, Anna said many things, but none of it was going accordingly, so I had to improvise.

"You stay the hell away from my grandbaby. She is too pure and will easily be tainted in your company. I forbid you from ever uttering her name. Stay the heck away from her." Lorenzo yelled frantically.

"Whoa! Where is that coming from? And who are you to decide for Dr. Lorn? I will meet her now and decide on our schedule to begin classes on array formation." I didn't heed Lorenzo's protest. This petty old man could not stop me from pursuing knowledge.

"You win! I will teach you array formation." Lorenzo gave in as he could not imagine his grandbaby spending long hours teaching array formation to the hooligan who bewitched Anna and Ann. Not to mention, array formation is the most romantic field of all.

"Nope, you don't seem sincere enough. Step aside. I will find Luna." I reject Lorenzo's offer. Now that I knew what got his strings strained, I was unwilling to settle.

"What? Kid, here take this. It contains all my books on basic to advanced array formation. Am I sincere enough now?" Lorenzo hurriedly handed me a storage card. Calming that it had books on all his understanding, research, and findings from basic to advanced array formation.

"Um... okay. So when do we start our sessions? If you are free, I would like to start right away." After inspecting the storage card, I agreed to let Lorenzo teach me.

"First, go through all the materials I have given you. If you have any doubts, come find me." Seeing my sullen expression, Lorenzo added, " don't expect me to spoon-feed me. Don't you pride yourself as a genius? A genius would not require me to spoon-feed him. Would he now?"

"..." Seeing the smug smile on Lorenzo's shameless face, I wanted to slap him hard, but I controlled myself as the materials on basic to advanced array formation was enough for me. I could handle the learning part by myself.

"What? If you have nothing else to say, I will head back to my post." My glare only made Lorenzo happier. He thought he pulled one over me. But I will give him the greatest shock of his life, a surprise so big that he will start to question his reality.

"..." I glared at Lorenzo's back as he flew deeper into the base.

"Grandpa's notes are very detailed and self-explanatory. You will not require step-by-step guidance. As he said, if you have any doubt, you can reach out to him or me. However, my knowledge of array formation is not on par with my grandpa. But I am confident that I can solve some of your doubts as long as it is limited to advanced array formation." Anna's twin tried to console me. And offered her help with regards to doubts about an array formation.

"Hi, sorry for the late introduction, but I am Wyatt, Dalton Wyatt." I indirectly reminded Anna's twin that she did not introduce herself.

"Sorry for my lack of manners, I am Ann, Anna's twin sister." Ann wanted her suitor to treat her like a person rather than Anna's summons or worse, a card. Therefore she lied.

"Ms. Ann, nice meeting you. Forgive my rude remarks earlier. Anna never mentioned that she had a twin." I apologized to Ann for calling her Anna's impersonator earlier.

"No need to apologize. You didn't know. And I should have introduced myself earlier." Unlike Anna, Ann sounded polite and humble. If you compare the twin's fashion styles and speech patterns, you can notice that despite their external similarities, they are opposite to each other personality-wise. Ann was everything Anna wasn't. That included boring and plain. I didn't mean it as an insult to Ann, but it was my observation.

"Thank you, Ms. Ann. You are too polite. It's getting dark. I should head back." I made an excuse to take my leave. But hearing my words, Ann's face expressed disappointment.

"Master Wyatt, I was about to have dinner. Would you care to join me?" Ann invited me to dinner out of nowhere.

"Sure, why not? I have a takeout of monster meat steaks with me. We can share it." Ann did save me from Lorenzo, so I couldn't bring myself to reject her.

"Oh! That's great." Ann replied excitedly. She seemed thrilled to hear me accept her dinner invite. Then I followed her into a standard military tent. Entering it, I was surprised to see the inside of the tent was more spacious than it appeared from the outside.

"Tammy, bring dinner for two," Ann ordered her personal aid to make arrangements for dinner for two.

"Right away, madam." Ann's aid replied politely and hurried to make the necessary arrangements for the dinner.

"Master Wyatt, please make yourself home," Anna said, seeing me look around the tent with curiosity.

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Time- 22:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"That was nice. A satisfying dinner with beautiful company. It's late. I should head back now." After finishing dinner with Ann, I decided to head back to the warehouse.

"Wyatt, you flatter me. You, too, were a delightful company. It indeed is late. How about you sleep over?" Ann offered with an enthusiastic tone.

"Sleep over? Here?" I asked in surprise. I guess I shouldn't be surprised. After all, she is Anna's twin.

"Yes, I can have my aid arrange a cabin for you." Ann persuaded me.

"Oh! You mean a separate cabin. Sure, why not? This way, I will get to meet Luna when she is available." The warehouse was cold and empty, and so was the southern watch cabin. At least the southern watch base was protected by a reliable array formation.

"Okay, I will have them prepare the cabin and inform you when Luna becomes available." Ann was very hospitable. I was touched. Her first impression is way better than Anna's. She not only had arranged a separate cabin for me, but she also asked her aid to inform me when Luna's schedule became accessible, "Thank you."

...

Getting comfortable in the military cabin arranged for me, I equipped the storage card handed to me by Lorenzo to summon his books on Basic Array Formation Mastery.

Array Formation is to alter and modify the soul pathways and arrangements present in nature to our requirement using an external stimulus.

Nature has its own soul pathways and arrangements that influence the weather, temperature, humidity, gravity, vitality, etc., of the region. The essential thing as an array formation master would be to feel them. One cannot become an array master if one cannot get insight into nature's soul pathways and arrangements.

Thanks to soul pupils, I don't need to gain insight into nature's soul pathways and arrangements. I see them. I could see each soul pathway in nature, where they are headed? How are they arranged? How do they react with other soul pathways in nature? What external factors are affecting them? How do they influence nature? I could see everything related to the soul pathways. Making array formation simpler.

Other array formation masters had to spend hours in the field trying to gain insight into the soul pathways in surrounding nature and calculate all the variables that could

become a liability when they arrange a formation array. They achieved this by studying and observing nature.

They monitored nature to deduce the soul pathways and arrangements related to it. They did this because, unlike me, they couldn't see soul pathways, they could only see nature. So they made use of what they could see to calculate what they could not see. Since I could see the soul pathways, I had a huge advantage. I did not need to deduce soul pathways by studying nature.

For example, in a certain field, most array masters would start to gain insight into nature's soul pathways and arrangements by seeing wind flow patterns, the vitality in the land, the soul energy in the surroundings, the presence of life forms such as grass, bushes, trees, the influence of elements, mountains, rivers, underground water, the habitation of different sentient life, the gravity, the water levels, the moisture in the air, etc. Considering all these factors, the array master thinks about what soul pathways can relate to the parameters they had calculated. After numerous calculations, the Array master finally has a rough grasp of the soul pathways and arrangements in the surroundings.

Then they start to use Soul jades, graded cores combined with their mental strength to stimulate the soul pathways and arrangements externally and modify them according to the array formation blueprint.

Graded Cores are refined monster cores that can be used as replacements for origin cores to create regular cards. In array formation, they are used as the core of the array formation. Unlike in the creation of cards, where all the soul pathways are stuffed into the core, here, the soul pathways in the core are extended out to connect with the soul pathways of nature. And the bond between the soul pathways of nature and the core is strengthened using the soul energy of the soul jades. Apart from that, the soul jades also act as power sources of the array formation to empower nature's soul energy. If the grade of the array is equal to the realm of the array master, an external power source like soul jades is not required.

To create a card, the soul pathways of various card ingredients are stuffed in the core and arranged strategically, forming a cocktail of soul pathways that form the card. Here in array formation, the ingredient is nature itself. Trying to stuff its soul pathway into a core would be stupid and impossible. Therefore the core is used as the crux to modify surrounding nature according to the blueprint and control it to achieve specific actions to the array master's will.

There are three types of Formation Arrays,

1. Temporary Array
2. Stationary Array

3. Permanent Array

Temporary Array- they are heavily dependent on nature. Since nature is volatile, the Array formation built entirely depending on it will become unstable if it is not able to adapt to the changing nature

Stationary Array- these arrays are created by altering nature's soul pathway using external stimulus so that the specific parts of nature required for the array formation will not change with time.

This can be achieved by modifying the array core so that it has the capability to make sure the soul pathways of the nature required for the array don't change the changing nature.

The core can be modified by introducing the soul pathways of certain ingredients to it, which can help it control the specific soul pathways of nature without affecting its usual flow.

The City array formation and the array formation covering the southern region are good examples of stationary arrays.

Permanent Array- field cards and trap cards are the best examples of this array. But the area of effect of these array formations will be limited.

Various ingredients are used to modify the core of the card such that when the card is activated, the core will influence the soul pathway of the surrounding nature heavily. So much so that it will morph the soul pathways of nature of the specific region to its specifications.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 00:23

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

Thanks to my Soul pupils, I got to skip most of the basics of array formation mastery, mainly explaining how to deduce nature's soul pathways by observing nature. I didn't need that stuff as I could see the soul pathways of nature itself. But still, I had the Hive AI save all the information and had my slave consciousness go through them and get

well versed in them. Because knowing how regular array formation masters work, think, and understand the array formation would help me make copyrights of my findings in detail.

The reason I am not able to pump copyrights for card recipes is that I do not know the techniques and methods used by regular card creationists, so I can not put my card recipe in wording that a typical card creationist can understand. My lack of knowledge regarding card creation techniques and methods are hindering me from sharing my knowledge with the world for a fee, of course.

I did not want the same thing to happen with array formations. In the case of card creation, I did not have the appropriate materials for learning its various techniques and methods. Still, in the case of the array formation, I had notes written by the world-class array master Raining Alchemist containing a detailed explanation of various basic, intermediate, and advanced techniques and methods of arranging an array formation.

I had to learn and get well versed in each technique and method to arrange basic, intermediate, and advanced array formation and share my discoveries with the world at a sky-high price. My soul pupils were a boon for humanity, and I had to make use of them for the good of humankind as long as it paid handsomely.

Assigning my three slave consciousnesses to master the technique and method to arrange basic, intermediate, and advanced array formation, I jumped from the theoretical phase of array formation to the practical phase.

For the practical phase of the array formation, I decided to start with the basic array formations, such as heater array formation and cooler array formation. As their name suggests, the heater array formations acted similar to heaters by warming the surrounding atmosphere. In contrast, the cooler array formation worked similar to a cooler by cooling the surrounding atmosphere.

Both these array formations were low-level temporary array formations. In my current realm, I didn't even need a core to arrange these array formations. Since I didn't need extra ingredients for experimentation, I began experimenting with both the arrays right away.

I chose the heater array formation as my first subject for experimentation. The concept behind this was simple. First, I needed to determine the range of my array formation. For experiment purposes, I limited the range to the cabin. Then I needed to isolate the temperature-related soul pathways in nature, empower them with soul energy and modify them using my mental strength to increase the temperature in the cabin. Making the cabin warmer. As long as I continue to supply my soul energy to the soul pathways, the temperature in the cabin will be warmer. But if it were to rain suddenly, the array formation I set up would crumble due to the change in nature, especially the temperature soul pathway.

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Deep inside the temporary military base, in the array formation core region, Lorenzo continued to multitask between monitoring the array formation covering the base and his regular research. But he suddenly felt a change in nature's soul pathway within the military base. Alerted, Lorenzo immediately checked the area of disturbance.

To his surprise, Lorenzo peeped at Wyatt, experimenting with the low-level basic heater array formation. The astonishing thing was for some who claimed to be a rookie, Wyatt was able to arrange a perfect heater array formation using himself as a core. This was an expert-level achievement. If not for Lorenzo, having personally gone through Wyatt's history, he would not believe that Wyatt was a rookie when it came to array formation.

"It must be due to his Aura sight origin card." Lorenzo credited Wyatt's achievement in the array formation to Wyatt's origin card. Still, he was intrigued by Wyatt's achievement, so he decided to continue peeping at Wyatt.

But the old fool did not know that soon, the reality as he knew it would be shattered.

...

Done experimenting with heater array formation, I felt like I was being watched. I decided to use my Gigamite physique's ability 'I spy you.' But I couldn't use it. Then I knew that I was being monitored by the array formation covering the military base. Since the Array formation's grade is very high compared to my realm, my ability 'I Spy You' was rendered useless.

But I had a good guess why the array formation covering the base was monitoring me all of a sudden. It must have sensed the disturbance in nature's soul pathway from my location as I experimented with array formation. And I was sure the person controlling the array formation covering the military base was old man Lorenzo.

I hated old Lorenzo peeking into my privacy, but I decided to act as if I had not realized his peeking. And continued with my experimentation.

Next, I decided to arrange the Cooler array formation. Limiting the boundary of the array formation to the cabin, I isolated the temperature-related soul pathways, empowered them with soul energy, and modified them to decrease the temperature in the cabin, making the cabin chilly.

Arranging the cabin heater and cooler array formation one after the other, I had the idea to combine both the array formation to get an effect similar to a thermostat. But it was easier said than done.

There is a reason why both heater and cooler array formations aren't combined to form a single array formation to reap the benefits of both the array formation so far. It is not because the other array masters haven't thought about it.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 00:41

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"This brat! He can already arrange both Heater and cooler array formation with his mind as the core. Looks like Aura Sight is convenient for gaining insight into nature's soul pathways and arrangements. Maybe I should teach him... let's wait and see how far he can go by himself." Deep inside the military base, at the array formation core region, Lorenzo mumbled to himself, watching Wyatt arrange both Heater and cooler array formation with his mind as the core.

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Heater and cooler array formations are low-level temporary array formations. Many have thought about combining these two array formations, but the resulting array formations cannot be categorized as a temporary array but as a stationary array. Because the method they came up with to combine these two arrays requires modification of the core to facilitate the combination of the array formations. Which is straight up the alley of the stationary array formation.

Temporary array formation and stationary array formations have their differences and advantages. But I wanted to arrange an array formation with the combination of the heater and cooler array formation as a temporary array formation. To achieve this, one has to understand the principle behind the soul pathway of temperature.

The temperature soul pathway works on the principle of expansion and contraction. If the temperature soul pathway is bulky, the surrounding temperature is high. If it is narrow, then the surrounding temperature is low.

To set up a heater array formation, we isolate the temperature soul pathway, empower its soul power and modify it using mental strength to increase the temperature in the room.

Here what we are doing is we use our mental strength to instruct the temperature soul pathway to expand using the soul power we empowered it with. As the temperature soul pathway expands, it gets bulkier, increasing the surrounding temperature.

To set up a cooler array formation, we isolate the temperature soul pathway, empower its soul power and modify it using mental strength to decrease the temperature in the room.

Here what we are doing is we use our mental strength to instruct the temperature soul pathway to contract using the soul power we empowered it with. As the temperature soul pathway contracts, it gets narrower, decreasing the surrounding temperature.

This is the actual principle behind the working of heater and cooler array formations. But the other array masters do not know this as they cannot see the temperature soul pathway expand and contract with temperature change like I do because they do not have soul pupils, which allows me to see all soul pathways.

There is no need to combine the heater and cooler array formation to gain the merits of both the array. All they needed to do was to reverse either of the array formations to get the opposite effect. But this also is not as simple as said. The room temperature is the central temperature, increasing the room temperature is the application of the heater array, and decreasing the room temperature is the function of the cooler array.

When trying to reverse either of these functions, you have to know when and how to switch between using soul energy to increase or decrease the temperature, that is, expansion or contraction of the temperature soul pathways.

Let's take the example of the heater array with a room temperature of 20-degrees celsius.

To increase the temperature, we need to expand the temperature soul pathway, for which we need a certain amount of soul energy.

Let's say increasing the room temperature by 1-degree Celsius requires 1-unit of soul energy.

Accordingly, to maintain a constant supply of 22 degrees Celsius temperature, you need a continuous supply of 2-units of soul energy. For 23 degrees Celsius, we need a continuous supply of 3-units of soul energy.

Let's say I have to decrease the warmth in the heater array from 23 degrees to 22 degrees Celsius. Then all I have to do is reduce the soul energy supply from 3-units to 2-units. If I were to cut off the supply of soul energy, then the temperature would return to room temperature.

This is how you control the heat in the heater array. Similarly, in the cooler array, to handle the cold, we regulate the supply of soul power.

This regulation of soul power causes complications when an average array master tries to use a heater or cooler array in reverse.

Regular array masters only know that if they add soul energy to the heater or cooler array, the temperature increases or decreases. They don't know that what they are actually doing is expanding or contracting the temperature soul pathway. Therefore, they cannot properly regulate the soul energy to reverse the heater or cooler array.

But I knew the principles behind both the heater and cooler array, so I knew how and when to regulate the soul energy to reverse the heater and cooler array formations.

Now that I had sorted the principle and calculations behind reversing the heater and cooler array formation, I decided to experiment with it.

First, I isolated the temperature soul pathway and then set a boundary limit of the array within the cabin. And then, I introduced the soul energy to expand the temperature soul pathway. As the temperature soul pathway expanded the surroundings got warmer. And then, I cut off the soul energy supply for expansion of the temperature soul pathway and introduced the soul energy to contract the temperature soul pathway. With that, the temperature soul pathway grew narrower, and the cabin started to feel chilly.

I repeated this process a few more times until I got the hang of it. Soon I no longer needed to regulate the soul energy supply to expand and contract the temperature soul pathway separately because I was able to switch the supply of soul energy between expansion and contraction at my will, just like a thermostat back on earth.

Since the experiment was a huge success, I had my slave consciousness create a paper on this using the techniques and methods to arrange array formation it learned from Lorenzo's books.

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[1,027 words]

Chapter 690 Husband!

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 00:58

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"What in god's name! Did that brat successfully combine the low-level heater and cooler temporary formation array to achieve a temperature control array as a temporary array formation? Fuck, That's impossible!" Old Lorenzo yelled out in disbelief. And his reaction was justified because temperature control array formation is a stationary array formation that requires a modified core to regulate the temperature between heat and cold. Many prominent array masters have tried to create a temperature control array formation as a temporary array formation and failed. Yet a rookie who started learning array formation a few hours ago achieved that with slight effort.

Lorenzo felt like his entire worldview had been shattered by the monster named Wyatt, Dalton Wyatt.

"Not only did he manage to arrange a temperature control array as a temporary array, but he did it by using his mind as the core of the array formation.

Fuck! Is the aura sight skill this amazing? No wonder the circle was attached such importance to the boy's mother.

Even if the boy had the help of aura sight, how did he achieve it? I need to know. Fuck it," giving in to his curiosity Old Lorenzo hurried to Wyatt's cabin. He was a researcher, a man who devoted his entire life to array formations. Therefore, when he witnessed a groundbreaking development in the field of array formation, he could not control himself and rushed to quench his thirst for knowledge.

...

I conducted a few more experiments on the temperature control temporary array so that my slave consciousness could note down all the required parameters for the paper on the temperature control temporary array.

I had to do this because we know how to achieve temperature control as a temporary array, but we had to explain in such a way that other array masters could understand it.

My slave conscious went through various techniques and methods for arranging basic, intermediate, and advanced array formation. To develop an efficient procedure to achieve temperature control as a temporary array. Every process they came up with was simulated using Hive AI. They had already managed to come up with three procedures that could arrange temperature control as a temporary array. But they didn't have high efficiency. They required a lot of soul energy to maintain the temporary array. There were still 46 simulations to run, so I was pretty optimistic that we could develop an efficient and simpler procedure soon.

Swoosh Suddenly, the cabin door flung open, and a silver-haired solitude rushed into the cabin and closed the door behind it.

"Fuck! Enemy attack! Assassination!" Spooked by the sudden intrusion of a card emperor realm expert into my cabin, I screamed at the top of my lungs because, in front of a card emperor, any kind of struggle by a card soldier realm is useless. So I screamed, hoping somebody strong would come to my rescue.

Even if the hostile card emperor managed to kill me before the help arrives, all he would be doing is destroying my flesh body which I can reconstruct with enough nutrients, of course.

"Boy, calm down. It is me." The silver hair solitude stopped in front of me and asked me to shut up.

"Fuck! Old man. I almost killed you, mistaking you as an enemy." I yelled.

"Forget that kid. How did you achieve a temperature control array as a temporary array formation? Quick, tell me." Ignoring the fact that I called him old man, Lorenzo grabbed me by my shoulder and asked me about the temperature control array enthusiastically.

Boom The cabin door was blown to smithereens, and then the solitude of Ann rushing in could be seen. Entering the cabin, she yelled, "who dares to assassinate my husband?"

"..." Old Lorenzo stared at Ann, and then ignoring her, he looked at me with desperate eyes and yelled, " Boy, tell me, how did you achieve it?"

"Wait! Ann, who is your husband?" I asked Ann, who rushed into my cabin in her cute nightdress to my rescue.

"Husband? What husband? Whose husband? I am a virgin! How dare you slander me?" Ann spoke nonsense.

"What? Just now, you yelled, 'my husband!' " I didn't really care about that, yet I did not let go of the topic because I wanted to irritate Lorenzo as payback for earlier.

"No way, I said no such thing. Your ears must be ringing. And what is happening here? Grandpa, what are you doing here?" Ann hurriedly diverted the topic to her uncle. I didn't care about it much. Because right now, Lorenzo looked like a pressure cooker about to burst any minute now. If I continue to ignore him any longer, I can't imagine what he will do next.

"I am here because of him. Wyatt, tell me, how did you arrange a temperature control array as a temporary array formation." Lorenzo's eyes were bloodshot. If anybody were

to see him right now, they would mistake that I had impregnated Luna, and Lorenzo was here to drink my blood.

"Calm down, old man. I am going to publish a paper on it soon. You can read it with the rest of the world." I didn't have to answer Lorenzo just because he asked me to, as I had no obligation to him. And I had no intention to answer him.

"Boy, don't act coy with me. Tell me how you achieved it." Lorenzo's grip on my shoulders grew tighter.

"Old fossil, get off me. You're hurting me." My shoulders did hurt, but not to the point of saying these lines, but I had to say this so Ann would pull Lorenzo off me.

"Grandpa!" As expected, Ann came to my rescue. And pulled Lorenzo off me.

"Little girl, don't meddle in this. I gave him my life's work to study and understand array formation, but this kid dares to say that I can read his paper with the rest of the world. Boy, is this how you repay your teacher?" Lorenzo yelled, saying I had betrayed his trust.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 01:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Repay your teacher? When it suits you, you want to be called a teacher. Old man, have you gone senile. When did you become my teacher? Didn't you take off saying genius doesn't require personal guidance?" I yelled, responding to Lorenzo's claims that I betrayed him. I received zero guidance from Lorenzo, yet he dared to claim that he was my teacher. Researchers are shameless and worse than thieves when it comes to sharing credit. Each of them is a credit hog.

"What? Brat, how dare you speak to your teacher like that? Now tell your teacher how you were able to arrange a temperature control array as a temporary array." Lorenzo was beyond shameless. I bet he had no limits to stop him from satisfying his curiosity.

"Old man, didn't you say that you would instead teach a stone than teach me? Now you are proclaiming yourself as my teacher, have you no shame?" For a renowned array master, Lorenzo surprisingly showed zero pride right now.

"Boy, Didn't you use my materials on array formation to get started with array formation? Haven't you heard the saying that books are the best teachers? Since my books helped you master array formation, I am your teacher." Lorenzo stooped down to lying and was one step away from begging.

"Who said that? It must be some nutjob similar to you. Old man, leave me alone. I am too busy trying to finish my paper on how to arrange a temperature control array as a temporary array. So please shoo...." I said this because after running all simulations of the remaining 46 simulations, my slave consciousness was finally able to decide on a procedure for arranging a temperature control array as a temporary array. The chosen procedure was efficient compared to the other methods. Still, it wasn't as efficient as when I arranged a temperature control array as a temporary array by myself, using my mind as the core.

But this much efficiency was the best I could get with average array formation techniques and methods used by regular array formation masters. Still, the difference in the efficiency and soul energy spent wasn't that great. So I decided to publish this procedure to arrange a temperature control array as a temporary array.

Honestly, I couldn't get this far without Lorenzo's notes because they not only taught me about convention array formation and techniques used to arrange them in detail but also pointed out where the conventional techniques and methods were lacking.

Lorenzo had written his experiences, thoughts, and research on the various techniques and array formation blueprints. He pointed out ways to increase the efficiency of the different array formations based on his experience and gave a very detailed explanation regarding the subject. His insight into the basic, intermediate and advanced array formations was profound, which saved me a lot of trouble and time. Lorenzo's notes did help a lot. So I guess I can cut him some slack.

"Boy, come on, let the past be water under the bridge. Please don't waste time resenting it, enjoy the present and build towards a hopeful future. Let me in. I can help you with the paper. I published countless papers. Trust me." Lorenzo no longer demanded that I tell him how I arranged a temperature control array as a temporary array. Instead, he started to play nice.

"Fine, old man. Since you are persistent, I will forgive you and be the bigger person here. Watch and learn." I used the procedure I just decided on earlier to give Old Lorenzo a demo of arranging a temperature control array as a temporary array.

"..." Old Lorenzo sensed every single change in nature's soul pathway and the techniques I used to achieve those changes. And made a mental note of it to replicate the same. As an array master of the card emperor realm, his connection to nature was stronger than a regular array master. His insight into the surrounding nature's soul pathway was also profound. He wasn't renowned in the field of array formation for nothing. His knowledge, skills, and experience spoke for themselves.

Soon I began to set up the temporary array, and then the room temperature varied on my whim. The cabin would be cool for a second and warm for another. I switch between cold and heat, trying to point out to Lorenzo where the critical function of my array lies.

"Did you notice how I switch between the heat and cold temperatures? That's the key of the array formation." I said after demonstrating the temperature control array formation as a temporary array formation.

"I did. First, I thought you had managed to combine the heater and cooler array without using a modified core. I couldn't be more wrong. Instead, you used a heater array to increase the room temperature and then reversed it to decrease the room temperature. That switch of soul energy at room temperature, how did you achieve it?" Lorenzo described the crux of the temperature control array formation based on the insight he gained by deduction. Scary, but I guess this much was to be expected. After all, he was well versed in both Heater and Cooler array formations. And if he couldn't deduce this much, his years of experience would be considered a waste.

"Now that's the million-dollar question. If you recall the techniques I used to arrange the array formation, then you will have a rough idea of why I chose those particular techniques to arrange the heater array over the conventional techniques you mentioned in your notes." Each technique used to arrange an array had its specific functions. By determining those functions, one can determine the influence of the array over the soul pathways utilized in the array formation.

"Umm... I noticed that you used different techniques to arrange the heater array formation. Wait, these techniques are used to control the size of the soul pathway. Why are these techniques able to achieve similar results as the conventional techniques used in heater and cooler array." Lorenzo's mind raced, trying to recall every technique used to arrange the array and the effect of their presence in the array, but he could not put his finger on it.

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[1,022 words]

Chapter 692 Opportunity

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 01:26

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"..." I watched as Lorenzo contemplated how the techniques used to control the size of soul pathways in an array be used to replace the techniques used to empower the soul pathways.

The techniques used in the heater and cooler array empower the temperature soul pathway with soul energy, allowing it to swell and shrink on the array master's mental command.

Using soul energy to empower a soul pathway is different from using soul energy to change the size of the soul pathway. Therefore, Lorenzo could not understand how such other techniques could achieve a similar effect.

The regular array master doesn't understand that by empowering temperature soul pathways, they are not empowering the heat and cold part of the temperature soul pathways individually. This misconception stemmed from the fact that they believe there are two individual temperature soul pathways. One for heat and the other for cold. Therefore, they think that by using the heater array formation, they empower the heat-related temperature soul pathway, and using the cooler array formation, they empower the cold-related temperature soul pathway.

Lorenzo thought the same, so he could not understand why the techniques used in arranging arrays to modify the size of the soul pathways would be used as a replacement for empower technique in a heater or cooler array.

"Wyatt, I don't understand?" Lorenzo no longer called me a brat or a boy. Instead, he called me by my name. I could see he was starting to respect me.

This was a huge change in Lorenzo's attitude towards me. At first, he looked at me as if I was a tool, a tool to be enslaved for the royal family. But now I can feel that he was considering me as a person. I guess it is true that you can get anyone to acknowledge you if you use their language. And Lorenzo's language was Array formation.

"How about I demonstrate the array formation array again. This time you know what to look for. Try focusing on sensing the soul pathways and the effect of the techniques I used while the room temperature switches between heat and cold." I advised old Lorenzo and began arranging the temperature control array as a temporary array.

"..." Old Lorenzo nodded to my advice, and closing his eyes, he tried to sense the changes in the temperature soul pathways as the room temperature switched between heat, and cold. He continued to immerse in feeling the changes in soul pathways and mumbled in confusion, "There are only one type of soul pathways in the array, but they are able to give both heat and cold energy. Wait!"

"Fuck! We were wrong all along. So there are no separate individual soul pathways for heat and cold temperature." Upon sudden realization, Lorenzo could help but yell in excitement. Impatient Lorenzo, having sensed the temperature, soul pathways are not divided into two types. Got excited before sensing the effect of the size of the soul pathways as the room temperature switched between heat and cold.

"Old fool! You are missing the important part, the effect of the size of the soul pathway on the temperature change. Shut your hole and focus." I maintained the temperature control array and reminded Lorenzo to focus on the critical part rather than celebrating too early.

"Sorry, I will get right to it." Old Lorenzo apologized. That was first. It seems Array formation is really the soft spot of his heart.

"Um... so that's how it is, huh? When the temperature soul pathways swell, the temperature increases. And when it narrows, temperature decreases." Lorenzo said after finding the key to temperature control. Unlike me, Lorenzo cannot see nature's soul pathways, but he can sense them with his strong connection with nature and other unusual cards with the ability to gain insight and sense soul pathways. As a prominent array master, Lorenzo will definitely have such cards. For example, the Gore bat's ear bone which allows the user to feel the vibrations of the soul pathways.

"Correct! But to put it neatly, it's the expansion and contraction of the temperature soul pathways that cause the cold and heat effect in the surroundings." I said. I, too, felt excited seeing the enthusiasm in Lorenzo upon making discoveries in temperature soul pathways.

"This is a groundbreaking discovery. This changes everything. Fuck! Its applications are countless. This is going to be huge." Lorenzo's excitement grew with every passing second. He seems to be imagining how this discovery would affect the field of array formation. There are many array formations where temperature soul pathways are made use. This discovery will affect all of them.

"Old man, calm down. Now that you know how I could arrange a temperature control array formation as a temporary array formation, please leave." I wanted to return to experimenting with other low-level temporary arrays because being able to control my surroundings with my thoughts was fun.

"Leave? How can I leave now? Didn't I promise to help you with your paper? Let's get right to it. I will not only help you write the paper but publish it in all the renowned outlets." Lorenzo wanted me to publish the paper as soon as possible and share the discovery with the world. But I disagreed with his thoughts.

"Are you dumb? Old man, if you keep giving me such dumb ideas, then please leave." I said sternly.

"What? How is publishing the paper on your research a dumb idea?" Lorenzo asked, feeling wronged. Young researchers would lose an arm or foot to have him help with their paper, but his student called him dumb and threatened to throw him out.

"Don't you see it?" I asked Lorenzo

"What? What don't I see?" Lorenzo didn't seem to get my point.

"Old fool, this is a golden opportunity. Don't you see if we use it properly, we can get rich? How can you let such a golden opportunity go to waste? Just because you are impatient to share the discovery with the world."

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

[1,036 words]

Chapter 693 Negotiations

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 01:42

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Rich? Are you thinking of monopolizing your discovery? Weren't you going to publish your discovery?" Lorenzo had a puzzled look on his face. To him, discovery and credit are all that matter. He never stopped to ponder how to use the discovery to make a fortune.

"Yes. I will publish my discovery but at a later date. For now, we will hold off on the publishing front and exploit this discovery in every fucking way possible. But I cannot do this alone. This is where I need the help of the Heatsend Royal Family. So, Princess Ann, I have a deal for the Heatsend Royal family. Are you willing to hear my proposal?" I proposed to Ann. She hadn't left yet but waited in order to stop her grand-uncle from bullying me.

"A deal, you say? The Royal family is willing to support all the dubbing minds of the state. If your proposal is good, you have our support." Speaking of trade, Ann's expression turned serious, and the words she said sounded like they were rehearsed.

"I don't want the Royal family's support. I want to form a new partnership like the one we have in the silver milk powder project." By partnership I meant the Heatsend Royal

family did all the work while I counted the profits. Just like in the case of silver milk powder.

"The Royal family is willing to provide financial support, but partnership among us is impossible. If you think financial aid is not enough, you can always explore other options like selling your project for a fair price. The silver milk powder project was a blunder, and we would like to avoid such mistakes in the future." Ann's attitude changed completely when it came to talking about business. She was utterly opposite to Anna. Anna's way was like a gangster's way, intimidation and going with her guts. She was so easy to manipulate. But Ann was like a professional who knew that she would only get what she negotiated. Therefore she did not even bother to consider our friendship during the discussion.

"How can you say that partnership is off the table when you didn't listen to my proposal? At least listen to what I have to say, and then if you like what I have to sell, we can always negotiate terms." Ann was proving to be more complicated to deal with than Anna.

Anna would have bit the bait by now, hearing that my proposal would make the Royal family tonnes of money. But Ann acted like the money didn't interest her or the Royal family. She played as if this deal only benefited me alone, and I needed the Royal family not the other way around.

"Master Wyatt, whatever your proposal is, it won't warrant a partnership with the Royal family, but if you think you are not up to the challenges of your project. The Royal family is generous and willing to buy your project for a fair price. To help you cover your losses." Ann didn't even bother to hide her intentions. She was gunning to buy me off for a price while keeping the whole pie for the Royal family. She blatantly proposed as such.

She did so because she knew that I needed the Heatsend Royal family to execute my plan. And I knew nobody else of Heatsend Royal families caliber to help me. My options were limited.

"Ms. Ann, the Royal family's appetite seems to have grown since last I checked with Anna." Seeing Ann was being difficult to negotiate with and the negotiation was going nowhere, I decided to wait till Anna sobered up and then negotiate with her.

"Master Wyatt, be it Anna or me, we will not consider a partnership in which only you stand to gain the most out of the Royal family's hard work. Not just us. Nobody else will be willing to agree to such a partnership." We didn't even speak the terms of the partnership, and Ann seemed to have already guessed what I was after.

"That may be true for the Heatsend Royal family. But the same cannot be said for the Morning Star university. I think they will be willing to enter a partnership with me. After all, no matter how wealthy one is, no amount of money is ever enough." Seeing Ann's

confidence, I let out a bluff. I had no contact with MorningStar university other than the fact that Mama Wyatt was an alumnus of that university.

"MorningStar university? Well, if you have already found a suitable partner. We wish you well in your endeavor." Ann called my bluff. She didn't even think twice before calling it.

"Fuck! Alright, you win. I will give you 60 percent." Now that Ann knew about all my moves, I had no choice but to compromise.

"90:10 split. Of course, you will take the 10%." Ann stated.

"What? You forced me. I will sell my shares of silver milk powder to facilitate my project." I was back to my old tricks. Though Anna had warned me never to speak of selling the shares of silver milk powder to someone outside of our partnership, I had no moves left.

"Is that a threat? Are you threatening the Royal family Master Wyatt?" Ann's words were frigid. I really missed dumb and stubborn Anna, my golden goose, she landed me the one-sided silver milk powder contract.

"Old man, let's publish the paper. I have prepared the paper. Use your contacts to help me publish this paper as soon as possible."

Ann knew I wanted the money and had limited or only one option. So she played hard to get, acting as if our partnership would not bring any benefits to the Royal family, only to undervalue what I was trying to sell. I know this is not personal, just business, but I was beginning to hate her. After all, she wasn't after more profits, but she wanted the Royal family to be the sole owner of what I had built. In comparison, giving me chump change for my work.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 01:56

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Wyatt, are you sure?" Old Lorenzo asked if I wanted to publish my paper about the nature of the temperature soul pathway.

"Yes, you heard me. Earlier I wanted to make a buck or two with my discovery, but Ms. Ann has opened my eyes to the bigger picture." I said, glancing at Ann.

"Master Wyatt, I hear you. 15% is all I can offer you. Anything more than that Royal family would be making a loss." Ann finally began to bargain. Since I had proven that I was willing to throw the bat if she was unwilling to play ball.

"Nope. 60:40 split, the Royal family will be getting 40 percent. At first, I wanted a 51:49 split. But I am fining the Royal family 9% for the emotional damage you caused me with your heckling." Now it was my turn to show Ann my might.

Ann pretended that the Royal family did not need the money. But any big organization will never have enough money. So showing that I prefer not to make money instead of taking a loss, I scared Ann straight. Showing her that I needed money but the Royal family was more desperate than I.

"You are kidding, right? The royal family would never agree to these conditions—" I interpreted Ann midway and said, "70:30 split."

"What? You... Fine. But 51:49 split. The royal family will hold the majority cut." The southern region was the poorest compared to the other regions, especially compared to the central region. They could always use more money. Therefore, unlike me, they cannot let go of the money-making opportunity I proposed. No matter how Ann acted, this fact cannot be changed.

"That is possible if the Princess is willing to apologize to me for trying to take advantage of my goodwill. And if the Heatsend family is willing to sign a soul contract stating that it does not try to squeeze me out of my shares later and protect me from other parties." Like I said, even though this was just business, I had taken Ann's words personally. Therefore I requested Ann's apology. As for the other conditions, they were pretty standard so that the Royal family doesn't screw me over later.

"Okay, Master Wyatt. I apologize if my actions earlier offended you. As for the soul contract, we will have to wait for Anna to sober up. Because currently in the military base only she can represent the will of the Royal family." Ann agreed to all of my conditions without hesitation. I was surprised to hear that even Anna's twin couldn't represent the will of the Royal family. It seems being the heir is a big deal.

"Okay, then let's discuss it tomorrow." Since the contract cannot be signed without Anna's presence, there is no point discussing further.

"Wait! We haven't discussed your proposal yet." Ann, finally, asked about my proposal.

"Wouldn't it be better to discuss in Anna's presence since both of you don't have any authority to make decisions?" Only Anna, as the official heir, had the power to represent the Heatsend family. Ann and Lorenzo, at most, could only act as her advisors.

"Okay, I will go get her then," Ann replied.

"Isn't she drunk and wasted right now? " I didn't know how Ann planned to get Anna to attend the discussion.

"I have my ways." Saying that Ann headed out of the cabin to fetch Anna.

"Old man, you start preparing a list of array formations which utilize temperature soul pathways in them. And we have to acquire all of their copyright. Especially those that are no longer in use. We can get their Copyright for pennies." This was my plan. This only worked if I didn't share my discovery with the world. Therefore I didn't have to worry about getting double-crossed by the royal family.

The plan was to modify all the acquired arrays using the principle of temperature soul pathway and reintroduce them to the market. Not all of them will pan out, but those who do will make a fortune. After all, we would be buying the copyrights of the arrays for dirt cheap. This was kind of like insider trading.

"Oh, so you want to buy all the arrays for cheap now, and when your discovery is made public, they will be worth a fortune. And the passive income from their copyright will indeed add up to an even greater fortune over time." Lorenzo understood what I was up to.

"Correct, I believe that with my discovery and your expertise in the array, we can make all these arrays to get operating at a hundred percent more efficiency than the before.

Old man, you need to be very smart about this. Even the unproven array hypothesis that relates to our field is worth buying. Who knows the new principle of temperature soul pathway may open new possibilities for these Arrays.

If we play it smart, we can single-handedly monopolize a massive chunk of the array market." This is the main reason I required the Heatsend Royal Family's help. Though I have insider information, I did not have enough capital, workforce, or prestige to make the most of this information.

Therefore I had to shake hands with the Heatsend royal family. They will do all the heavy lifting in an our partnership once again. The Royal family will do everything in its power to buy the copyrights of the arrays, but they will only own 51% of each copyright. At the same time, I will hold the remaining 49% of it. And eat the fruits of their hard labor.

"I will get right to it. Wyatt, you did it." Said Lorenzo before turning to leave.

"What?" I didn't understand what Lorenzo was talking about.

"You changed my reality as I know. Like you said you would. I have grow old, it's time I passed my legacy to the young."

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Chapter 694 Insider Information

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 01:56

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Wyatt, are you sure?" Old Lorenzo asked if I wanted to publish my paper about the nature of the temperature soul pathway.

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"What?" I didn't understand what Lorenzo was talking about.

"You changed my reality as I know. Like you said you would. I have grow old, it's time I passed my legacy to the young."

- Chapter 695 Nether Witch

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 02:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Hello, uncle. You haven't slept yet?" Anna's mother answered Lorenzo's call.

"You haven't either. So what's keeping our princess awake late at night." Lorenzo knew with his brother-in-law and nephew at the front lines of war beyond. All the state's work had fallen on his elegant niece's lap. Thankfully she was a demigod. Otherwise, even a card Emperor cannot bear this amount of workload and months of sleepless nights.

"It's Sansa Baylor. I had my people monitor her movements. It seems she has sniffed that Wyatt is still alive." Replied Anna's mother. Ever since the Heatsend family knew Clown Masks' predictions were accurate, they added Sansa Baylor, the Matron, to the top of the State's enemy list, which was only accessible to the demigod realm personnel.

"What about it? As long as Anna personally protects him, nobody can harm a single hair of his body in the southern region." Lorenzo assured his niece confidently.

"Sansa Baylor has made an appointment with the Nether Witch. I think she is planning on cursing the boy. Curses are not Anna's strong suit." Anna's mother said in concern.

"Wait, don't you know that Anna has given him my sister-in-law's ring? She told the boy that you asked her to give it to him for his protection." Lorenzo asked in surprise as he thought Anna would have consulted with her mother and other family members before passing the family heirloom to others.

"What? She did what? Why would I say such a thing? That ring signifies a promise to a soulmate, to cherish and protect them unconditionally. Doesn't she know she cannot pass the ring willy-nilly to some fling of hers? I didn't dare give it to her asshole father even though his love blinded me for years. Yet this dumb daughter of mine handed it to a fling. I about to die of anger because of her." Anna's mother's voice grew cold and frustrated after hearing Anna's actions. Dummy ring signified a piece of romantic history for the Heatsend Royal family. A romantic story only passed among the offspring of the Royal family.

"Fling? I think Anna cares about this one. Otherwise, she wouldn't have borrowed my sister-in-law's ring for him.

For you to not know what your daughter is up to, the workload is getting to you." Lorenzo tried to defend Anna's action.

"Uncle, you know that girl better than anyone. Do you really believe she can be serious about a relationship?" Anna's mother did not believe that her daughter could hold on to a man. Her husband had messed her up in the mind.

"So far from what I have observed, Anna has changed a lot just to please the boy. I don't know what she likes about him, but she is willing to forgo the party life for him. It's been weeks since she last partied. That's a new record." Lorenzo had never seen a night in which Anna didn't like to party, but for the past few weeks, ever since she met the boy, she has let go of the party animal in her.

"Wow! Really? Then why did she react so wildly when I asked her to marry him." Anna's mother clearly remembers asking Anna to marry the boy to fix the silver milk powder debacle. After all, the terms of the soul contract were similar to a one-sided marriage.

"What? Did you really propose that to her? I guess, by then, she didn't realize her feelings. And also, Wyatt does not fully trust Anna and her feelings." Lorenzo answered according to his understanding.

"Isn't that boy picky? Shouldn't he be happy that my daughter chose him as her partner for life? Does he think he is better than my daughter just because he accidentally discovered silver milk powder?" Anna's mother disapproved of Anna's lifestyle, but still, she was her mother and was not happy about the thought that her daughter was being stringed along by a boy.

"..." Lorenzo didn't know how to answer his niece because right now, she wasn't speaking as the demigod in-charge of the south but as a proud mother.

"I guess I will have to pay a visit to the boy. See what my daughter sees in him." Anna's mother felt that it was her duty to inspect her future son-in-law. If Anna wants him, then he is her son-in-law. The boy's opinion didn't matter.

"About that, he will be coming to the palace within a week. To create cards for Luna's personal army." Lorenzo reminded me.

"I did hear about that. Uncle, do you really believe that the MegaMorphers created by the boy will help the younger generation across the river? Even during my generation, we lost many talents to the river. I don't want that to repeat again. Enemies of the South are growing bolder. We cannot handle such a loss at times like these." Anna's mother's voice grew serious as she spoke about the inheritance left by the Heatsend family ancestors.

"Only thing I can tell you is to wait till you see the MegaMorpher for yourself. It is nothing like you have ever seen before. Not to mention Luna is trying to have the MegaMorpher created using Memirconium." Lorenzo was without words to praise MegaMorphers majesty. So he asked his niece to see it personally to believe it.

"Uncle, are you okay? Were you not the one who said MegaMorphers were nothing but a giant golem? And also, didn't the boy say, Memirconium wasn't suitable to create the MegaMorpher." From the call, Anna's mother could hear that her uncle was no longer biased against the boy. Instead, he seemed to adore the boy as his junior.

"... About that, I believe that the boy will find an alternative as long as we get him the recipe for the Mimerconium," Lorenzo replied.

"Uncle, weren't you the one who said that the boy was too young to create an alternative for Memirconium?"

"Yes, yes he is." Lorenzo paused and answered, "But don't underestimate the youth."

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 02:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Uncle, what actually happened? Why did you call me?" Anna's mother was surprised that her uncle's opinion about the boy had changed. She knew her uncle. He was a stuck-up, stubborn old fool. If he formed an opinion of something, it would be impossible to change it. Yet the boy managed to alter her uncle's impression of him significantly.

"I thought you would never ask me. It's regarding the boy. He wants to partner up with the royal family on another project. This one is not a big one like the silver milk powder, but it will add a massive boost to southern regions income." Lorenzo started to talk about why he called his niece late at night.

"Knowing the way that boy does things. He must be trying to get the Royal family to do all the work while he sits and counts the profits. The question is whether the project he proposed is worth our effort." Anna's mother directly went to the crux of the matter.

"Trust me, it is. Ann has already agreed to a 51:49 split. All that remains is Anna's sign-on the soul contract." Lorenzo informed his niece about the terms agreed by Ann.

"It seems the boy is no average teenager to make Ann throw in the towel for such terms." Anna's mother strongly trusted her second daughter's capabilities when it came to the negotiation.

"Yes, he is not to be underestimated. But trust me, the deal is worth it. If we play our cards right this time around, we can get something more capable than the Holy Empire's Divine incineration Array formation." Lorenzo finally told the real reason for his call.

"Holy Empire's Divine Incineration Array Formation! Uncle, are you serious?" Anna's mother asked in astonishment.

"Yes. Do you remember a few decades ago, the top ten universities joined together to duplicate the Holy Empire's Divine Incineration Array Formation?" Lorenzo asked

"Yes, but didn't they fail in the end? Didn't MorningStar University recruit you as outside help for that project? Why are you bringing that up now, unless—" Anna's mother was interrupted by impatient Lorenzo.

"Yes, thanks to the boy's latest discovery, I have already figured out why the ten universities failed to duplicate the Holy Empire's Divine Incineration Array Formation.

Right now, I need the Royal family to buy all the research related to this project from the top ten universities." Though Lorenzo's prestige precedes him, dealing with all the top 10 universities at once was beyond his power. So he needed his niece's authority to achieve that.

"Uncle, the top ten universities are greedier than beggars. What you are asking for isn't going to come cheap. How sure are you about this?" Buying something that a single top university owned was already expensive, but something that all ten top ten universities own together would cost more than a fortune.

"Trust me on this. You will make the money you spent in no time with the copyright of the array. The Royal families, the government, Noble clans, and Sects have been coveting the Holy Empire's Divine Incineration Array Formation for centuries. They will pay any price to get their hands on it." The world has coveted the prowess of the Holy Empire's Divine Incineration Array Formation. Seeing the fortune to make in this array, the top ten universities collaborated to duplicate it but ultimately failed. While the Empire mocked them for their failed effort.

"Okay, I will gamble on you on this one. But the top ten universities are not fools. To avoid their suspicion, we need a story to sell to them." Anna's mother decided to gamble on her uncle's instincts.

" That array isn't the only one. I have a list of arrays that we need to acquire as soon as possible. As for the story, just tell them that I plan to use these array formations to get inspiration to form my divinity. That should be good enough." Lorenzo then forwarded the list of array formation copyright to be acquired to his niece's grimoire.

"These are too many, uncle. People are bound to ask questions." Going through the list, Anna's mother was astonished by the number of arrays listed.

"We don't have to buy all of them, but the ones I underlined have to be purchased no matter the cost. Those arrays will pay for themselves at a later date. As for the people, I trust you will think of a way to erase their curiosity." Lorenzo believed that if anybody was up to this task, it was his niece.

"Uncle, I will worry about acquiring all of these arrays. You worry about fixing them up and reintroducing them into the market. These copyrights will serve as the backbone of our family treasury in the long run." Anna's mother assured Lorenzo that she would acquire all of the arrays mentioned in the list.

"Niece, aren't you forgetting about the boy." Lorenzo reminded his niece that they had a partner with whom they would have to split half of the profits.

"How can I forget my son-in-law?" Anna's mother implied that if Anna were to marry the boy, everything would stay within the family, and their children, her grandchildren, would own a hundred percent of the copyright.

"I don't think the boy feels about Anna that way." Lorenzo liked his niece's idea, but he felt that the boy had someone else in his heart.

"Uncle, the only reason I am letting the boy take advantage of our family is that I see him as one of us in the future. If that is not possible—" Lorenzo immediately interrupted his niece.

"Even if he doesn't become a part of the Royal family. We need him. He is the only person who can help the Royal family stand on the same stage as the central region and the government. Dear niece, it is not clear who is taking advantage of whom. He is the goose that keeps laying golden eggs for us. Don't let your ignorance kill the goose for momentary gains."

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

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 03:12

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"So, that's how it is. Expansion and contraction of temperature soul pathways, Who would have thought? Such a simple action can explain the temperature change in the atmosphere." Said Luna as she arranged a temperature control array formation following the procedure my salve consciousness prepared. Like me, she, too, did not require a core to set up a temporary array. Instead, she used her mind as the core.

After hearing about my discovery, Luna paused all the work regarding the dungeon relocation and hurried to my cabin, requesting a personal class on my discovery. So I read her my paper on the behavior of temperature soul pathways and explained to her the procedure that my slave consciousness came up with to efficiently arrange temperature control arrays as temporary arrays using the conventional techniques used by regular array masters.

"Remind me again how this will help us keep earning a fortune for generations to come," Anna asked. I don't know how Ann got her up, but ever since she got here, she has been in a foul mood.

"We purchase the copyright of all the old out-of-use arrays that use the temperature soul pathway for a dirt-cheap price. Then modify them using my theory and reintroduce them in the market as the best version of themselves and better choice over their competitors." I repeated myself. I don't know why Anna was doing this, but I left that she blamed me for what Ann did to get her sober.

"..." Anna kept nodding but never moved forward to signing the contract.

"Anna, I have already discussed terms with Wyatt. All you have to do is sign the soul contract." Ann reminded Anna that her work here would be done with a single sign. Now that the negotiations were over, Ann was back to calling me Wyatt.

"..." Anna glared at Ann menacingly. This wasn't the first time, and from this, I have gathered that though Anna and Ann are twins, both have opposite behaviors and beliefs. Hate is a strong word to define their relationship, but they don't get along with each other should be appropriate.

"Anna, what happened last night? Those wine weren't strong enough to get a Card Emperor drunk. But you were wasted and passed out after emptying a few bottles." Seeing that Anna was in a foul mood, I decided to talk about something else other than the soul contract.

"..." Hearing my question, Anna's face turned tomato red in embarrassment, and without answering me, she looked at Ann and said, "Where is the soul contract? I will sign it right away."

"I have already forwarded it to your grimoire. Sign it and forward it to Wyatt." Ann said with a neutral, but her eyes gave her away. I could see she knew why Anna got drunk and passed out over a few bottles of low-level wine yesterday night. I was curious as to what it was but decided to wait till Anna signed the soul contract establishing a new partnership between the Southern royal family and me.

"Done. Wyatt, I have sent you the contract. Please read and sign it. I am feeling sleepy, so I will be heading back to bed." Saying that, Anna hurried out of the cabin.

"Wait..." I wanted to stop Anna, but she left in haste before I could say a word.

"Wyatt, you are curious, aren't you. The answer is simple: Anna can't handle her liquor. Usually, she makes use of the passive skill card, which keeps her sober regardless of the amount of liquor she drinks. But yesterday night, she wanted to get drunk with you. Which only ended with her getting drunk, you pampering her, and feeding her. Not the night she had planned but the best dinner date she had." Ann explained Anna's embarrassment. But I didn't know which part she was embarrassed about. Is it the part where she could not handle her liquor, or is it the part where her drunk self acted like a child and ate my dinner?

"It was a one-of-a-kind experience for me too." Since Ann dubbed yesterday's dinner as Anna's best dinner date ever, I had no room to complain but to agree with her with a broad smile. Then I turned my attention to the soul contract forwarded to my grimoire by Anna. The terms were pretty standard. Especially the part where the southern royal family would offer me protection. Ann wanted to add a clause like the protection is only valid if I do not harm the Southern royal family interest. I had it removed because harming the interest of the southern royal family wasn't specific and could mean anything.

Yet, Ann insisted on adding yet another clause that I cannot ally with enemies of the southern royal family. I didn't agree with this either. Enemies of the Southern royal family could be the ant stealing the sugar from their kitchen pantry. This clause, too, wasn't specific and gave all the power to the southern royal family regarding the termination of the soul contract.

Ann came up with more of such clauses which either gave the southern family the power to terminate the soul contract at their convenience or to control and limit my actions and whom I am friends with. No matter what, Ann's only objective was to give the southern royal family an edge over me in the contract. When I threatened to cancel the deal, Ann backed off, and I signed the soul contract on my terms.

"Happy cooperation! You were great opponent. I felt like I had met my match." Ann extended her hand for a handshake with a broad smile, and the simple seemed genuine despite our disagreement during the negotiations. It seems she gets off on this kind of stuff. No matter the victory or loss.

"Yes, happy cooperation!" I shook Ann's hand as I got what I wanted from the deal and more. Now I don't have to worry about the Southern Royal family ever betraying me. Or planning to throw me away like a used bottle.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 03:42

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"This is wonderful! I can use this to optimize the temperature variable in the dungeon relocation. Yeah, that way, the efficiency of the dungeon relocation model will increase by 4-6%. If I achieve that, nobody can stop me from being the best researcher of the year. " Luna mumbled to herself as she explored the nature of temperature soul pathways.

"Un-huh, you can't do that." Ann reminded Luna not to do so. And Luna did not seem to mind getting credit for my discovery.

"I don't plan on doing it the right way, nor do I plan on disclosing it to anyone. But I will get started on the math right away by the time you guys are done with whatever you are up to. I should have completed the required math to optimize the dungeon relocation model. Then I can be the first one to submit the new dungeon relocation model based on Wyatt's nature of temperature soul pathway." According to Luna, she wasn't taking credit for my work. She was taking credit for the math she would come up with for the dungeon relocation model based on my discovery.

Luna was right. She was giving me the due credits for my discovery, and the only thing she was guilty of was insider information. Which would give her a head start over her colleagues at the university. By the time they hear about the nature of temperature soul pathways, Luna would have already used it to create a new optimized model for dungeon relocation.

"Okay, but Luna, be careful. This information cannot leak because the family is very invested in it. A lot of money is involved here, and if people know what our family is up to, we will be making a lot of enemies before even beginning to reap the harvest. So we cannot afford any mistakes. Wyatt, the same goes for you." Ann warned Luna to be careful with her research and not let it fall into the wrong hands. Suppose the world knows what the Heatsend Royal family is trying to do before achieving its objective. Not only will the Southern Royal family lose a great chance of investment, but it will also make the entire world angry. Making the world angry wasn't an issue if they made a fortune for it.

"Yes!" Luna nodded her head vigorously.

"Don't worry about me. My lips are sealed. And I don't leave a paper trail." My interest in the array formation was momentary to defend against the city array of sun blossom city

and destroy the array formation covering the circle's base in the sun blossom city. And thanks to Hive AI, I did not need a soft copy to remember my math and discovery.

"Good." Ann nodded.

"Luna, about the platinum grimoires I asked for?" I asked Luna about the platinum grimoire she promised to give me, due last afternoon.

"Here, with dungeon relocation and demon cult ambush, I never got the time to give them to you. If you hadn't reminded me, I would have forgotten about this." Luna handed me an A-rank storage card and explained the delay.

"No worries." I took the A-rank storage trunk card and directly placed it in the cardholder without checking.

"Ann, is there a way for me to get these card ingredients in the base? If not, I will head back to the guild association mall." I was in need of card ingredients to create my first permanent array formation card, that is, field/trap type cards.

"Yes, forward me the list. I will have my aid get you the ingredients." Ann replied. Following her advice, I forwarded the list of ingredients to Ann. And then Ann forwarded that list to her aid's grimoire.

"Thank you." I thanked Ann for her help.

"Don't mention it. My aid will be here shortly with the ingredients. " Saying that Ann got comfortable in my cabin, not just Ann. Even Luna did not show signs of leaving.

"Now that the negotiation is concluded, and if there is nothing else, you guys are free to head back." Without caring for politeness, I remind Ann and Luna that if they have no business to discuss, then they are free to leave, and I will not entertain them any longer.

"Oh, sorry. We will get out of your hair." Ann and Luna left the cabin after expressing their apologies.

Once they left, I checked on Van, Old Ben, Fred, and my newly formed shadow army, The Sin Squad.

After recruiting all the selected candidates for the Sin Squad with a calamity daughter gem, they borrowed the fastest floater to the Southern Academic region from Fine Gold. According to Van, they will be reaching their destination in another 4 hours.

I didn't have to wait long, and Ann's aid knocked on my cabin door.

"Thank you, How much do I owe you for these ingredients?" Taking the storage card, I prepared to pay for the card ingredients.

"None. Ms. Ann has already paid for them. She said you are Southern Watch's guest, and you should make yourself at home." Saying that the aid left without waiting for me to disagree.

"..." Shaking my head, I closed the cabin door and, equipping the storage card in one of my free item slots and began sorting the ingredients.

Permanent Array formation or also known as Field, Trap cards. In the notes given by Lorenzo. It contained various recipes for basic, intermediate, and advanced array formations, which are perfect for a beginner like me to get started with. For examples, Stealth array, Soul energy gathering array, Soul energy refining array, five sense deprivation array, Soul energy deprivation array, Purification array, etc.

I started with the stealth array and slowly climbed my way up from there. I arranged each array formation one by one because, according to Lorenzo's notes, the best way to decipher an array formation is by knowing how to arrange it.

The concept was that when I master arranging an particular array recipe, I will automatically understand where it is lacking and how long it will last against the enemy attack. This was more like the saying practice makes you perfect.

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[1,065 words]

Chapter 699 Wager

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 08:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

I spent the whole night arranging different basic, Intermediate and advanced array formations mentioned in Lorenzo's notes. Going through all of them, I realized they all had one weakness in common, nature's soul pathways that constituted them.

Nature's soul pathways are open-source and accessible to all. This meant that anyone with little knowledge of array formation could tamper with Nature's soul pathways to mess with the array formation you have arranged. The only way to avoid that is by having a more substantial influence over nature's soul pathways used in your array formation than your opponent. Therefore usually, array masters use high-grade cores in

their array formation to get an edge over their opponent. But in front of an expert Array master, that is not enough

This process of tampering with nature's soul pathway to mess with your opponent's arranged array formation, I decided to call Array Formation Hacking.

There are two important things needed for the Hacking of Array Formation,

1. Strong influence on the surrounding nature's soul pathways.
2. Average knowledge in array formation and minimum knowledge about the arranged array formation.

Strong influence over nature's soul pathway surrounding the array formation is required to bypass the enemy's influence over nature's soul pathway, allowing us to tamper with the array formation.

Once you have a strong influence over the surrounding nature's soul pathways, you require to know which soul pathways of nature are being used in the arranged array formation. By tempering with these soul pathways, you cause the enter array formation to break down.

Now that I had come up with this theory, I was willing to go one step further and create a card that would precisely help with the hacking of array formations through nature's soul pathways. For that, I needed a lot of specific card ingredients. I could have Ann's aid get them for me, but I felt that Ann had been hospitable enough, so I decided to head back to the warehouse.

"Good morning, Wyatt."

I planned to leave the base quietly without the hassle of saying goodbye, but I guessed wrong. As soon as I walked out of the cabin, I was greeted by Ann and Lorenzo. Getting greeted by two card emperors earlier in the morning was something. Ignoring that feeling, I returned the greetings, "Good morning, you two."

"Where are you ahead?" Asked Ann.

"To the warehouse to freshen up," I replied.

"You can freshen up here. Use the base's shower room, or if you don't mind, I can use dirt purge on you. It is a lot faster and cleaner." Ann suggested.

"About that, Old man, your notes didn't have any array formation recipe for arranging a cleansing array. Why?" I wanted a cleaning card for a while now, so when I learned how to arrange array formation up to advanced array formation, I wanted to create a

cleaning card for my personal use, using permanent array formation. But to my surprise, Lorenzo's notes didn't have any recipes on cleansing array formation.

"Even the most basic recipes on cleansing array formation have copyright," Lorenzo answered nonchalantly.

"What? How can that be? There have to be old recipes that don't have any owners now. Right?" I asked in astonishment.

"No, the chore cards have been recently discovered. In olden times card apprentices were too busy surviving to care about such luxury cards. These cards flooded the market recently. Therefore, free recipes for cleansing array formation are not available." Lorenzo narrated the history of chore cards, aka cards that make a card apprentice's life easier.

"I see. But you are a renowned array master. You should have one or two cleansing array formation recipes of your own. Right?" I asked to see if Lorenzo could lend me one of his cleansing array formation recipes.

"Boy, nobody got time for that. Instead of researching a cleansing array formation, I could do something of more significance at that time." For some reason, I felt like Lorenzo was dodging my question.

"Fine, I guess I have no choice but to create a cleaning array formation." I declared.

"Boy, it hasn't been a day since you started learning the array formation, but you dare to declare about creating cleaning array formation. You are a dreamer, aren't you." Lorenzo scoffed.

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According to Lorenzo, Wyatt discovered the nature of the temperature soul pathway thanks to his aura sight and the detailed explanation about the heater and cooler array formation provided in his notes.

Understanding the nature of the soul pathway and creating a new recipe for array formation were two different things. To understand the nature of the soul pathway, one needs keen observation and a deeper connection with nature. At the same time, creating an array formation recipe requires adequate knowledge of every soul pathway involved and how they will react and respond to each other. The challenges faced by the two were entirely different. Therefore, Lorenzo felt Wyatt was being wishful when he said he would create his recipe for a cleansing array formation.

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"Old man, I guess you haven't learned your lesson. How about this? If I create a recipe for cleansing array formation right here, right now. What are you willing to bet?" I proposed a wager to Lorenzo.

"You know what you want from me. You tell me that, and I will ask you what I want as a bet." Lorenzo could see that the boy was up to something, but he didn't care because he knew creating a recipe for array formation was easier said than done.

"I want all your notes on the array formation till to date." Lorenzo had only given me notes on Basic, intermediate, and advanced array formation. He did not provide me with his notes on higher-tier array formation. Now that I have mastered advanced array formation, I hungered for a higher tier.

"Is that it? Fine. But if you fail to create an array formation by today evening, I want you to stop being stubborn and accept Southern watch's protection and start staying with us until you leave for college." Lorenzo didn't ask anything for himself, but he asked me to stop being careless and accept the southern watch's protection by hiding in their base until I left for University.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 08:58

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base

"Old man, are you kidding me right now?" I asked Lorenzo, hearing what he wanted from me if I lost the wager.

"Nope, I am being serious. The people who sent 30 Card Emperors to assassinate you know they have failed in their mission, and you are still alive. The ring leader behind it has consulted a curse master to curse you to death from afar. Boy, the people after your life are way beyond your current capabilities. Even the royal family cannot afford to underestimate them. You need to start considering your safety and trusting your friends rather than spinning conspiracies about them in your head." Lorenzo lectured me.

"Old man, you worry too much. Anna gave me this dummy ring. It can protect me from the SSS-Rank curse. So there is nothing to worry about." Saying that, I added, "So, I am giving you another chance to change what you want from me."

"Kid, once they realize that cruse doesn't work on you, they will return to assassinating you using the old fashion way. And last time, it almost killed you.

So, no, thank you. I will stick with my wager. Being your elder, I have to be wiser than you." Lorenzo did not change his stance.

"..." I did not know how to respond to Lorenzo's words. Honestly, I don't understand why he is doing this?

This wager was a golden opportunity. He could ask anything from me, my shares of silver milk powder, my shares in the recently acquired array formation copyrights. Out of all the things he could ask me, he went ahead and asked something so cheezy. I didn't know what to make of it.

I couldn't tell whether he was being genuine. Was there an angle here that I couldn't see? What is he up to? This had me on edge. I would have felt better if he had asked me to be the slave of the southern royal family if I lost the bet. That I could understand, but this old fossil acted out of character and proposed to increase my safety if he won the wager. Fuck this!

"Boy, don't overthink it. You are the southern royal family's goose that lays golden eggs. We don't want to see you die young. We were hoping you could live a long life and keep laying golden eggs for us. That is all." Lorenzo elaborated on his reasons. Hearing them, I realized that the southern royal family planned to nurture me. Hoping that I will be their stairs to climb to prosperity.

"That sounds more like you." This reason I was okay with. You use me. I use you. We mutually benefit from each other. That is something I can put my trust in.

"Haha! Boy, I have never seen a kid as cautious about his feelings as you. I cannot help but wonder what led to such a change in your mentality." Lorenzo laughed.

"Then you have not been to the slums of the Sky Blossom city," I said, defending my response earlier.

"Nope, I have seen more orphans than you can count, but none of them were like you. You are different. The way you see the world is very different from how they see it. It may be because you are too mature for your age." Lorenzo's impression of me seems to have changed ever since yesterday night. He never showed this much care towards his relationship with me. He seems to have started valuing me as a human, no more than that, as his junior. I didn't know that showing talent in the field of array formation would gain me so much favorability with him. Otherwise, I would have done this much earlier.

"Okay, old man, enough. You said you had tracked the ring leader behind my assassination, and they have consulted a curse master to curse me. That means you

know who wants to kill me. When were you going to tell me about this?" Hearing Lorenzo talk about me, I felt like a specimen strapped to a postmortem table. So I switched the topic to my assassination. I asked about the ring leader despite knowing that Sansa Baylor is behind this because I had gained this information through questionable methods, which I prefer to keep to myself.

And also, if I don't ask them, they will get suspicious, seeing that I wasn't the slightest bit curious about people trying to kill me. This question was not only to stop Lorenzo from analyzing me but also to show him that I had no clue about who tried to assassinate me.

"About that, it is top-secret. We cannot disclose any further information to you." Lorenzo clamped up as I expected him to.

"Fine, I have my way to get the information." I did not bother to argue with Lorenzo and just left it there, leaving him wondering if I had the capability to get the information they knew.

"Kid, no matter how reckless Anna is, even she will not share this information with you," Lorenzo said, thinking that Anna was my source.

"When did I say that Anna is my source? Old man, don't underestimate me. I have my ways. What? You don't believe me. Like I care." Saying that, I couldn't help but snicker, imaging Lorenzo's face when he knows how much I know.

"Yeah, whatever. Boy, you only know to talk big. First the wager and now this. I am starting to wonder if you are a phony genius." Lorenzo spoke in disband.

"Hahaha! I would love to watch you eat these words later. Ms. Ann, please be the judge of our wager." I asked Ann to judge the wager between Lorenzo and me. Who better than her? After all, she knew the entire context to how we got here.

" My pleasure." Ann agreed to my request and asked, " Do you require anything to help you with the creation process of the cleansing array formation recipe?"

"Nope, I don't need any."

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 09:08

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Are you sure?" Ann asked in concern, hearing me say that I did not require anything to create a new recipe for a cleansing array formation.

"Yes. And please step back. I need room to set up the array." I said as I activated my soul pupils.

"Cocky brat, not only do you boast about creating a cleansing array formation recipe, but you want to create it as a temporary array formation. Aren't you ambitious?" Lorenzo commented, hearing me and then looking at my glowing pupil. He said, "Is that the aura sight? They are a beautiful pair of eyeballs."

"Silence, I need to focus," I said aloud, stopping Lorenzo from asking about aura sight.

"..." Hearing me thunder, Lorenzo went quiet as I expected him to.

Creating a new array formation was not hard if you knew what you wanted and which soul pathways to use to get the desired outcome.

To create a cleansing array formation, I was going to make use of airflow, moisture, and Holy light array. The idea was that the dense moisture in the air would form a mist, and I would use airflow to control the fog to clean myself, along with a shower of holy light to purge the dirt, germs, and smell of my clothes and me.

First, I had to find the soul pathways related to them and then check the things influencing these soul pathways. And how these soul pathways responded to each other and how they worked together.

Once I have all the necessary data, I need to arrange this soul pathway in such a way that their absence from nature will not cause the entire ecosystem to fail. If the surroundings were to be ruined, then the soul pathways borrowed from them would also be lost. Therefore it is most important to make sure that when you borrow a soul pathway from nature, it shouldn't mess up nature. This is one of the reasons why arranging a temporary array formation with the mind as the core was considered very difficult.

Now that I knew which soul pathways that I wanted to use, I had to make arrangements for the factors affecting them. For example, the moisture in the air is affected by the surrounding area's temperature. If temperature increases, it will lead to a decrease in moisture content in the air. Thus the air will become drier, whereas when the temperature decreases, the air will become wet, meaning the moisture content in the air will increase. Knowing this, I had to involve the temperature soul pathways in the array formation.

But sometimes, the factors affecting one of the main soul pathways will also affect the other main soul pathway used in the array formation. Like how the temperature affects the moisture in the air, it also affects the airflow in the surroundings. We have to make arrangements for such soul pathways so that their influence on both the main soul pathways is independent of each other.

Temperature is just an example. Many such factors affect the main soul pathways that we have borrowed from nature, which you need to attend to one by one. Therefore the creation of an array formation recipe is very hectic. And when you try to do it in real-time with your mind as your core, it becomes more complicated and messier.

But thankfully, I wasn't alone. I had three slave consciousness, each equipped with a Hive AI to share the workload with me. We would each select a main soul pathway of the array to be arranged and then tend to factors affecting them. And when we come upon an overlapping factor, the Hive AI will alert us and, with the simulation, help us figure out a way to make it so that main soul pathways are independent of each of others' relation to the said factor.

When done with that, we need to figure out an arrangement for the main soul pathways to work together to achieve the said goal of the arranged array formation. This arrangement needs to be near-perfect in order for the soul pathways to work together without a glitch while achieving maximum efficiency. This is easier said than done. We need to try out many soul pathway arrangement patterns, which is too time-consuming and not something that can be achieved in a day. Still, I had Hive AI, which could help me simulate the numerous soul pathway arrangement patterns in a controlled environment. And then, the one soul pathway arrangement patterns resulting in the most efficiency will be used as the recipe to arrange the cleansing array formation.

Something which would take weeks took a few minutes, and I had a near-perfect arrangement with the maximum efficiency for the Cleansing array formation as a temporary array formation, all thanks to the Hive AI and my slave consciousness.

Using my mental strength, I began borrowing the required soul pathways from nature. Then I arranged them according to the near-perfect soul pathway arrangement produced by the Hive AI and my slave consciousness in the form of a temporary array formation using my mind as a core.

After arranging the array formation, I start pouring soul energy into the array accordingly. And soon, a white mist covered me from head to toe. Then, using the airflow control, I spin the mist covering me into a whirlpool with me in the center. At the same time, holy light array shone on it.

The whirlpool of mist spun from my head to toe. With every spin, it would carry dirt, sweat, etc., off my body and clothes. The whirlpool basically agitates the clothes in a cloudy mist to remove any dirt and stains before spinning to drain the moisture from the

clothes and body. Upon reaching my toe, the dirt and sweat brought by the mist would then be thrown onto the ground.

Then came the second layer of cleansing through the holy light, which is used to clean clothing and my body by purging any remaining dirt and smell on my clothes and me.

The holy light array is a basic array used by the empire to ward off evil and darkness, basic of purification. They have widely spread this array for free to increase their influence and presence in the array community.

The cleansing array formation felt like a quick refreshing cold bath, but it got the job beautifully done. This wasn't perfect but hey, pretty good for something created on the spot.

"Son of a gun! You really did it." Lorenzo said with great astonishment. Though he spoke those words, his eyes said that he still could not believe it even though he had seen it with his own eyes.

"The winner is Dalton Wyatt," Ann announced.

"Wait! This array formation is not entirely yours. You used the holy light array formation of the empire in the end. So technically, you lost." Lorenzo protested on the basis that I added the empire's basic array to my array.

"Come on, old man, don't be a sore loser. All the new array's are built on the basic arrays left behind by the ancestors. By your logic, all of them are phony too, and they don't deserve the copyrights they own. I bet most of your arrays also make use of the array left behind by the ancestors." I argued, defending my win.

"Yea, grandpa. If the Holy light array was copyrighted, it could be considered a violation, but it is not. So Wyatt is the winner. Deal with it." Ann said sternly.

"Fine, the brat wins. I will keep my promise." Saying that, old Lorenzo took out a storage card from his grimoire and handed it to me, saying, "Right now, I only have copies of these notes. When you're done with these, contact me, I will give you the rest."

"Why not just share the notes to my grimoire?" I asked Lorenzo.

"I don't keep soft copies in my grimoire, just hard copies. Don't ask me why. I have my reason for that." Said Lorenzo.

"I won't. But prepare the other copies. I will be done with these soon." I didn't ask Lorenzo why he did not save soft copies of his notes in his grimoire. I wasn't interested. Who cares what goes on in this old bat's head. All I cared about was that he gave me my winnings.

"Yes, sure." Lorenzo wanted to argue that notes in the storage trunk were enough for a person too study for a decade but remembered he was not talking to a normal boy but an abnormal one. So he refrained from saying his thoughts. And added in concern, "Boy, I still think it would be in your best interest to stay in the base and that you don't run around until you join the university of your choice."

"Old man, I will think about it. And stop worrying. After all, the person that cares about me the most is myself. I won't die thst easy."

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