

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 702 Ollie

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 09:37

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Wyatt, you're still here, great." Just as I planned to leave the base and head to the warehouse, I heard Anna's voice calling out to me. She seemed to be looking for me.

"Yep, unfortunately, I am still here. It seems my luck is not working today." I said, turning to face Anna, who hovered towards me. Three young soldiers in their early twenties wearing standard southern watch uniforms followed her on foot. Two of them seemed to be identical twins.

"It's a beautiful morning. No need for you to be so grumpy. Lighten up, or do you want me to loosen you up?" Said Anna hovering in the air. Ignoring her twin and grand-uncle. And those two didn't seem to be bothered by it.

"What's gotten you so chipper in the morning?" I asked while using my viltronian flight to hover next to Anna. Because the sun was right behind her and its rays blocked my sight.

"This year's rookies are here. It will be fun to watch them break down. Will you care to join me?" Replied Anna with a sadistic smile.

"No, thank you. But isn't this base supposed to be a top-secret temporary base? Why would you bring a bunch of Rookies here?" I rejected Anna's invitation plainly.

"It is. But plans were made months ago to welcome the rookies to the southern watch today, and I have to defend here... since I cannot be at two places I had the rookies sent here." Anna replied irresponsibly.

'You can! You have a freaking long-distance teleportation card. You can be anywhere you want in the southern region.' I wanted to yell this out loud but chose not to as it was pointless. And there was another thing bugging me, the three soldiers in their early twenties that followed Anna here were directing their ill-glare at me for a while now. I thought it would pass, but it only got intense. So I spoke up, " What's the deal with these three? They are glaring at me as if I owe them money."

"Are they now?" Anna turned to look at the young soldiers. The soldiers hurriedly looked down to avoid making contact with Anna's eyes. Seeing this, a sadistic smile formed on Anna's face as she yelled, "you assholes, give me a hundred pistol squats for each leg."

"Yes, ma'am." The young soldier hurriedly replied and began their punishment.

"By the way, what kind of rookies need the commander of the southern watch to welcome them," I asked Anna while looking at the young soldier rhythmically performing pistol squats. Looking at their young age and card lord realm, I knew these three were part of the rookies Anna spoke of.

"They are legacy rookies. Someone in these rookie's families served the south with honor and sacrificed themselves when the south needed them to." The legacy rookies are the juniors of the courageous martyrs of the southern watch.

"Huh," The Southern Watch's legacy system was news to me. I know they are children of martyrs, but still—

"Don't look down on them. Even though they were given a special entrance, they all have met the regular threshold to join the Southern Watch." Anna saw through my thoughts and explained.

I had to agree with her about the rookies. Their strength was not bad. They had achieved card lord realm in their early twenties and had already forged their ego gem. That meant they were in the top 10 percentile of the mightiest youths globally.

"I can see that," I said, agreeing with Anna.

"Don't be sarcastic, Wyatt. Not everyone is a monster like you." Anna seems to have misunderstood my words.

"Not what I meant, but you are right." I didn't bother correcting Anna because I felt she was doing it on purpose. I gathered that by witnessing the young soldiers glare at me with hostility after hearing Anna's words.

"Commander! Permission to speak." Out of the three young soldiers. One of the twins finally couldn't hold back and decided to act. He indeed looked like the rash one of the twins.

"Yes, what is it?" Anna asked nonchalantly.

"Permission to duel this person." The young soldier yelled, pointing at the boy who hovered next to his commander.

"Me?" I blurted, seeing the young soldier express his desire to dual me. I don't understand why these three have been hostile toward me since the start. I have a hunch that Anna was behind it.

"Cadet Ollie, how dare you challenge the honorary member of the southern watch? Unless you give me a reason for your action, I will be forced to take disciplinary action against you." Anna, who sparked the fire, acted as if trying to suppress the fire.

"Commander, I do. The honorary member—"

"That's Master Wyatt for you, rook." Anna corrected Ollie, reminding him that my rank was higher than his and that I was a respected card creationist.

"Yes, Commander," Ollie answered Anna respectfully. And added, " I want to duel Master Wyatt because he was disrespectful to the Commander in his manner of speech."

"..." This guy is nitpicking so he can pick a fight with me. Still, I explained, " Look, buddy, she may be your commander but not mine. I will speak to her however I want to."

"You heard him. Anything else?" Anna asked the young soldier named Ollie.

"..." Thinking for a bit, he pointed out, " Your highness, Master Wyatt, is in direct violation of the flight ban inside the base."

"You three have been giving me hostile glare just because I flew inside the base? " I asked, looking at the three young soldiers.

"Wyatt, he is right. This is a restricted area. And it is forbidden to fly over or inside the base without permission." Anna announced, trying to seem impartial.

"Well, nobody informed me of that. Okay, then I will leave. You guys enjoy your restricted area all you want." I didn't want to be here in the first place anyway.

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Chapter 703 Susan's Declaration

[1,014 words]

Chapter 703 Susan's Declaration

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 09:45

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

I turned to head back to the warehouse to find Ollie blocking my path. With a sneer on his face, he said, "Where do you think you are going?"

"What? Are you going to write me a ticket for flying in your fancy restricted area?" I asked in sarcasm.

"Ticket? Funny, didn't you hear me earlier? I challenged you to duel. Are you going to turn your back on a duel like a coward?" If this was Ollie's way of taunting me, consider him failed. Cowards live a longer life. I don't know why people hate fear? Fear is good. If taken with a positive attitude, that is. It helps you live longer by keeping you awake at night and having you prepare for the worst until you overcome it.

"Anna, is he being serious right now?" I turned to ask Anna. She seemed to be amused.

"Yes, I did say if his reasons were valid, I would allow his duel." Anna supported Ollie's unreasonable actions. The other two young soldiers' attention was here even though they were executing their punishment.

"Okay, I will play along. But where do you come off by calling me a coward? When you are challenging a card soldier realm teenager with your card lord realm. Does this seem fair to you?" Seeing Anna find Ollie's recklessness amusing, I knew things wouldn't end with a talk but the way Anna wanted if I don't help it.

"..." Ollie's face turned tomato red from embarrassment hearing my words. He finally realized how rash his actions were. And he moved out of my way.

"Yeah, that's what I thought." I passed Ollie and was about to leave, but my steps stopped hearing a report from a soldier.

"Commander, two girls are causing ruckus at the entrance." A card king realm soldier appeared from the shadows a few meters away from Anna and reported.

"So why are you here reporting instead of throwing them out," Anna replied in annoyance.

"Commander, one of them claims to be your goddaughter. She says she is here to visit her boss." The soldier added a little context to his report.

"Send them in." Anna's face turned black hearing the word goddaughter. But still, she chose to let Corey into the base.

"Anna, you don't have to. Since they are here to meet me, I will meet them at the entrance." Since I was heading out anyway, there was no point in letting Corey in to meet me.

"Wyatt, you can't leave just yet." Seeing my frown, Anna explained, "I require your expertise."

"You want my expertise, Uh? On what exactly?" I asked Anna with hesitation. I hesitated because I felt Anna was up to something. I gathered that from how she did not stop Ollie from rashly challenging me.

"I—" When Anna was about to go into detail about her request, she was interrupted by a loud voice.

"Godmother, long time no see." The loud voice was none other than Corey.

"..." I was surprised, not because of Corey but the person who tagged along with her. It was Susan, what is she doing here?

Anna vanished from in front of me and appeared a centimeter away from Corey. Staring into Corey's eyes, Anna warned, "Call me your godmother one more time and see what happens."

"Yes, boss." Feeling the intimidating aura oozing out of Anna, Corey's wings folded. Seeing Corey submit, Anna returned to her chipper self and greeted Susan, "Welcome, manager Susan. I heard you are looking for Wyatt. Were you worried that he did not spend his night in the warehouse? Are you here to check up on him? Don't worry. He is in good hands."

"..." I was confused, hearing Anna's oddly specific questions. Susan is not my mother for her to check up on me or worry about me spending a night out.

"Knowing Wyatt is with your highness. I am assured that he is in good hands." Susan's answer was even more confusing. She seems to be agreeing with Anna's oddly specific claims.

"For your information Susan, I don't like to share," Anna spoke, looking right into Susan's eyes.

"Your highness, you cannot share what's not yours." Replied Susan with her usual professional smile.

"..." I give up. I don't understand what these two girls were talking about.

"Manager Susan, you have grown quite confident since last I saw you." Anna could clearly hear Susan declaring that she would not back away.

"Since the last time we met, my priorities have gotten clearer. I will fight for what I want. No matter who I have to face." Susan's words got louder as she spoke the last few words.

"Good, I can respect that. But don't think I will go easy on you." Anna's eyes showcased overbearing pride, and they clashed with Susan's courage-filled eyes which showed will to fight.

"Your highness, I have never accepted charity in my life. What I have, I gained in exchange for my blood and sweat. I am not new to struggle." Susan brimmed with an unwavering spirit as she spoke those words.

"Hahaha, Manager Susan, I like you. If we had met under different circumstances, we would be best friends." Anna's words were genuine. She meant them and was impressed by Susan's courage and fighting spirit.

"Your highness, you flatter me with your kind words. My humble self would be proud to be your friend." Susan's professional smile never left her face.

"Do you have any idea what they are talking about?" I walked next to Corey and asked.

"..." Corey looked At me with a complex gaze and then said, "Boss, your luck is heavenly. Please, let some of it rub on to me."

"This..." 'Fuck, I truly don't understand woman.'

"Whoa! Second godmother." Corey yelled in surprise, looking at Ann. Far away, Anna, who was in a staring contest with Susan, couldn't help but frown, hearing Corey.

"Hello, I am Ann. Anna's twin sister."

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

[1,026 words]

Chapter 704 Certification

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 09:57

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Hi, I am Corey Bright. Nice to meet you." Corey introduced herself and whispered to me, "Anna had a twin sister?"

"Apparently, she does," I answered.

"You are not like your parents described you." Ann found Corey cute. With her feisty and tomboy demeanor.

"I have grown up a lot since the last they saw me," Corey answered. There was some truth to her words. Leaving her origin card aside, it has been years since Corey and her parent meet each other.

"I can see that. The little princess, in their words, has grown up to be a fine card apprentice. I heard you are a gold-grade card creationist and can see that you forged your ego gem. Your talent is nothing short of what they described. If you join Southern Watch, you can meet them at the Way beyond." Ann praised Corey and smoothly tried to recruit Corey using her parents as a bargain

"I suddenly lost all respect for you." Corey was disgusted hearing Ann try to recruit her using her life's deepest trauma.

"..." Hearing Corey be so straightforward, Ann's eyes twitched.

"Hey, little girl. Watch how you take to her highness. Even if the commander is your godmother, you have no right to talk to her sister so rudely." Ollie once again rushed his nose into other people's business. And hearing him say the word godmother, Anna had made a mental note to teach this righteous sob a lesson later in the training drill.

"Fuck off!" Ollie was rash, but Corey was an edge lord who could be easily triggered with any word in the dictionary.

"..." Ollie has never been given the finger by a girl, much less a beauty like Corey. He was having a hard time processing it to figuring out how to react to beauty cussing at him.

His pondering face triggered Corey, who mistook his pondering eyes as judging eyes, "I challenge you to a deathmatch."

"What? I am not going to fight you. I don't like to bully the weak." Ollie was reluctant to accept a duel put forward by a teenage girl.

"I don't care. I will pluck those eyes off your sockets. And see if they are still judgy." Corey almost pounced on Ollie. If not from me, holding her back.

"Corey, let go of your anger. He is a simpleton. He didn't mean anything by his words." I consoled Corey.

"Ollie, go back and give me another five hundred pistol squats for each of your legs." Anna's voice sounded as she walked hand in hand with Susan towards us.

"Yes, commander" Ollie didn't complain and returned to complete his punishment along with the other two young soldiers.

"Good morning, Susan. How did you guys know that I was here? Is there anything urgent for you guys to search for me? You could have just called me." After greeting Susan, I asked if there was something urgent for them to look for me in person instead of making a grimoire call.

"We tried calling you, but we couldn't reach your grimoire. Corey's cousin informed us that last he saw you was when you were heading out to drop her highness at the Southern watch base. So we came to check on you. To see if everything was okay." Susan explained.

"Yes, we were worried that these people had imprisoned you here. But it seems you are enjoying your company." Corey said the last sentence eyeing the twin princesses.

"..." I rolled my eyes at Corey's words. But I was happy that Susan and Corey went out of their way to find me. The first time when I revealed my prowess to the southern royal family, I was worried that they would lock me up in a secret base. What bothered me even more was that nobody would be looking for me. And the royal family would get away with it. Today seeing Susan look for me, I felt warm. And knew that I, too, had a person who would miss me.

"Your call could not reach his grimoire because of the anti-eavesdropping array covering the base. But, you guys have a rich imagination." Said Anna looking at Susan. Even though it was Corey, who spoke about the conspiracy, something is going on between these two. It feels like a rivalry. But I can not put my finger on it because Susan and Anna are people of two different worlds. They do not have anything in common to have a rivalry between them.

"Boy, I finally figured out the entire cleansing array formation you came up with. I tried to modify it to get more efficiency, but your model already had the highest efficiency. I was surprised to discover that. But this proves that your capabilities are beyond an advanced array master. If you don't mind, I will help you apply copyright for your recipe." After accepting his defeat in his wager against me, Old Lorenzo began deciphering the temporary array I had set up. Until he finally mastered the array itself and tried to modify it to get more efficiency, only to find that my array already gave the highest efficiency.

After analyzing the cleansing array formation I set up, old Lorenzo was astonished and impressed. He even offered to help me apply Copyright for my array formation recipe.

"Sure, but not yet. Because it utilizes the new nature of the temperature soul pathway, we can apply for its copyright after our joint venture in acquiring the copyrights of the various array formations reaches a conclusion." The reason I did not bring up applying copyright to the cleansing array formation recipe I created is that it made use of the new nature of the temperature soul pathway I discovered.

"Okay. And have you thought about applying for an array master certificate?" Lorenzo agreed with me and asked if I would consider becoming an official array master.

"Wait? Can I apply for that? I haven't even received my high school diploma yet." I asked Lorenzo in surprise.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:07

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Yes, for a young aspirant with your talent, there is always a way around things." Lorenzo was happy that this student showed interest in applying for array master certification.

"Good, count me in. What about the card creationist certification? Can you help me with that too?" Though the only merit of having a card creation certificate is having access to the card creationist guild's large customer base. A certificate from them will help me boost my reputation in any place I try to prop up my shop.

"Why do you need a card creationist certificate when you have an array master certificate? Boy, trust me, an array master certificate will open many doors for you that the card creationist certificate cannot enter. Array masters are like VIPs. Card creationists are like third-class citizens with poor credit scores. Let me tell you something. Every array master is a card creationist but not every card creationist is an array master." Lorenzo said passionately. He meant what he said. And could not understand why his student wanted to be a card creationist when he could be an array master.

"Old man, I don't care about the feud between array masters or card creationists. The reason I want a card creationist certificate is that, if you haven't noticed, it is my bread and butter. My trade. It is a good business where I can earn decent money. People

need card creationists. What about array masters? Except for cities, nobody needs them." The reason why I prioritized Card creationists over array mastery was that card creationists have a large market. Every card apprentice needs a card creationist. So I would never run out of business.

"Money? Is that reason you prefer card creationists? Hahaha, For somebody who claims to be smart, you can be short-sighted sometimes. Times like these remind me you are just a high school student." Lorenzo was amused by the reason for his student to prefer a card creationist over an array master.

"Old man, if you find something funny, then share it. Spread the smile." Seeing Lorenzo smug, I felt annoyed.

"Okay, okay, it is not your fault that you are short-sighted, but this third-rate city's fault. It has limited your worldview. Boy, don't let the standards of the third-city limit your view. People here are poor. They cannot afford an array master. That is why you don't see any array masters in this city. Compared to what an average array master makes, the amount you make being a card creationist is chump change.

Just take the field/trap cards as an example. Do you know how costly they are compared to other cards of the same rank?

Any wannabe card creationist can create regular cards and call himself a professional card creationist. But the same is not valid for an array master. It takes a lot of skill, hard work, and dedication with the talent to be an Array master, and sometimes that is not enough. That is how difficult it is to be an array master." Lorenzo explained, but there was bias in his words. He looked down on card creationists as a profession.

"How much can I expect to earn as an array master? Since the people of a third-rate city cannot afford them, they must make a fortune, humor me." Lorenzo's words made it sound like array master was my dream profession.

"More than you can imagine. Just open an array shop and set up a few advanced tier soul energy gathering arrays and rent them out for hourly charges. You can live the rest of your life on the rent from those arrays. Before you say anything, the minimum rent for a primary array gathering array for an hour is two soul jades. Now you do the math. And you tell me if you still think that a card creationist earns more than an array master." The more I listened to Lorenzo's words, the more I felt I would have a better standing in society as an array master than card creationists. Especially in the central academic city. Array rental shops will bloom there compared to a card boutique. Or I could open both of them, and my prospect of making money would increase by a few more times.

"Well, old man, sign me up. Do I need to take some tests for this? Tell me the process. I will finish them right away." Listening to the prospects of an array master in a big city, I was hyped to be certified as an array master.

"I knew you would come around. You made the correct choice. Don't worry about the certification. I will make the arrangements. Just be prepared for the certification exam and wait for my call." Seeing his student finally be excited about being an array master Lorenzo was delighted. Being cursed with disappointing sons who did not choose the path of array master and followed their mother's footsteps to be muscle-brained fighter card apprentices. Therefore he felt like a proud parent as his student choose to be an array master.

"Good. I don't mean to undermine your explanation till now, but I would like to have a card creationist certificate too. Could you help me with that?" Having a certification as a card creationist will not hurt. If anything, I will be able to attract more customers due to my certification as both a card creationist and an array master.

"Okay, I will contact the city's card creationist guild and have them send you a card creationist certificate." Lorenzo decided to cave to his student's request. After all, all he was trying to do was attract more customers and make more money. Lorenzo respected that.

"Just like that? Don't I need to undergo a test or exam to prove my capabilities as a card creationist for the certification?" I asked in surprise.

"No, I will vouch for you. So it will be fine if you don't take an exam, but the same is not valid for array master certification. It would help if you prepared for that."

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:15

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

Lorenzo's words made it seem like a card creationist certification was nothing serious compared to an array master certification. He got me a card creationist certification through back doors to prove his point that any regular card apprentice could be a card apprentice but not an array master. Seeing this, I felt that being a card creationist was not as prestigious as the people of this city made it seem.

"Okay, thank you," I said as I had no problem getting a card creationist certification through back doors.

"I will call you when I have made arrangements for your array master certification. Until then, please go through all the notes I have given you." Saying that Lorenzo left towards the core of the base's array to return to his research work.

"Once again, thank you, old man," I yelled gratefully. Like they say, sometimes connections are more critical than talent.

"Now that the old fossil is done hogging you. Can I have your time, Wyatt?" Anna said after Lorenzo left.

"That's new. As if you would leave if I said no. What do you need, Anna?" I said, rolling my eyes at Anna's polite act.

"Good to know that you understand your circumstances. Like I said earlier, I need your expertise in card creation." Said Anna as she flew near me. Hearing Anna, the three young soldiers looked at me with confusion.

"Yes, how may I be of your help?" I remembered Anna spoke about this earlier but was cut off midway by Corey.

"I want you to create the origin cards of these three rookies," Anna replied. The confusion in the three soldiers' eyes turned into shock hearing her words.

"What? Why me? Don't you have veteran platinum or diamond grade card creationists for your southern watch soldiers on the payroll?" I was confused why Anna would prefer me over the platinum or diamond grade card creationists at her disposal.

"I can, but they will not be able to create genuinely unique origin cards like you." What Anna meant by this was that the other card creationists followed a template for creating a card. The template was their safety net to ensure that they created the origin cards successfully. But following a set template did not make an origin card genuinely unique, despite the origin cards being known for their uniqueness.

Not everyone could see soul pathways like me and venture into new unexplored ways. The other card creationist only took the paths that they were similar with. To minimize their losses and maximize their wins. This way, the customers would keep coming. But in this process, the sense of uniqueness of the origin cards is lost.

"You may think that, but I don't believe they want my help," I said, pointing at the three young soldiers. Their faces clearly read that they didn't want me to create their origin cards.

"Their opinion doesn't matter. The southern watch is paying for creating their origin cards, so they will get their origin card made where I ask them to." Anna said calmly as she really treated these rookies as trash. Unless they become the official members of the southern watch, they could forget about her going easy on them.

"Well, their opinion matters to me. If they don't want my help in creating their origin cards, then I will not help them create their origin cards. That's as simple as that." I said.

"Fine. Rookies, tell Master Wyatt, whose help you want to create your origin card." Anna's voice was dreadfully chilly. The meaning behind her question was obvious to all three rookies.

"Master Wyatt, help us create our origin card." The three young soldiers yelled at the top of their lungs.

"Not sincere enough," I replied.

"You heard him," Anna yelled at the rookies, and they looked at me as if questioning, 'why are you adding salt to our wounds? Haven't we already given our origin cards to you? Was it not enough?'

"Master Wyatt, please help us create our origin card." The young soldiers added 'please' to their yell, thinking it would do the trick.

"Fine, since you desperately want my help with your origin card creation... I will help you guys but don't blame me if I fail." I said casually, looking at the ugly, forced smile the young soldiers had on their faces. This was my payback to them for targeting me earlier.

"Thank you, master Wyatt. We are blessed to get your help with creating our origin cards." The three young soldiers thanked me for agreeing to help them.

"So, before we start, let's get a few things cleared. All you guys need to do is tell me about your fate ingredients and what type of origin cards you want. With that, your part in the origin card creation is done. I will create the cards based on the amount the southern watch is willing to pay for your cards. Is that clear!" I asked the young soldiers.

"..." The three soldiers didn't know how to answer. The origin cards in question were theirs, but the people making decisions were their commander and some high schooler card creationist. They would like to think their commander was playing a prank on them, but it didn't seem like that. They didn't know what they did to deserve such treatment. So they could only look at their commander, hoping that all this was a prank.

"Why are you guys looking at me? Were his instructions too complex for you guys to understand? I will repeat it then. Tell him about your fate ingredients and the type of origin card you wanted to create with them." Anna ignored the three rookie's hopeful eyes and instructed them to tell the high schooler about their fate ingredients and the type of origin card they wanted to create.

"..." Hearing Anna's instruction, the three young soldiers despaired. They looked at each other, then shook their heads helplessly. They had finally given up on owning fancy and strong origin card.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:25

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Well, I am waiting," I said impatiently, looking at three young soldiers who looked lifeless as if they had given up on their lives. They didn't look this down when Anna had them do 100 pistol squats on each leg.

"Rookie Todd, answer the man," Anna ordered sternly.

"Yes, commander." Todd turned to me and said, " Master Wyatt, I am Todd O'Reilly. My fate ingredient is this black steel armguard. I want a weapon-type origin card suitable for my first origin card, 'Weapons Master.' "

"Umm... so you already have one origin card. Can I see its card info? That way, I can make better judgments for creating your second origin card." I heard Todd wanted an origin card that would help him showcase the full potential of his first origin card. So I needed to know what his first origin card's specifications were.

"Sure, please go ahead." Said Todd and he passed me his Golden grimoire.

[Card Name: Weapons Master

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: The user can achieve the highest mastery of any weapon they wield based on its grade.

Additional Effect: Resonance, Enhanced Intelligence, Enhanced Dexterity, Enhanced Strength.

Note: Common Grade weapon - Proficient

Uncommon Grade weapon - Elite

Rare Grade weapon - Master

Myth Grade weapon - Grandmaster

Legend Grade weapon - Sage]

Resonance: The user's personal mastery of a weapon can increase the proficiency of the weapon they wield.

For example, If the User has Master level mastery with Swords and then wields a common-grade sword, he can still display Master level sword proficiency despite the card limitations of the origin card.

"Interesting origin card, and one more thing, since you have already forged an ego gem, you must have started comprehending rules. What rule have you gained insight in?" Based on my unproven theory of the effect of the card apprentice's origin cards on their rule comprehension irrespective of their ego gem's synchronization rate, I guessed that Todd had to comprehend a weapon-related rule since his origin card was highly weapon originated.

"I have comprehended the Spear Rule. And gain ultimate mastery in Swift meaning of Spear Rule. And super mastery in the accuracy meaning of Spear Rule." Todd narrated and added, "Master Wyatt, because of my spear rule, I would appreciate it if you created a spear as my origin card."

"Noted. But answer me this, do the comprehension rate of the spear rule increase when you equip a high-grade Spear card in your grimoire." This was only a hunch, but I believed the higher the grade of spear Todd equipped in his grimoire, the faster was his comprehension of spear rule. Because that hoe his origin card work. This hypothesis of mine was in accordance with my theory about the effect of the origin cards on rule comprehension irrespective of their ego gem's synchronization rate.

"I never noticed it, but now that you speak of it, the comprehension of my spear rule increased drastically as I switched to the military-issued Rare garden spear from the university-issued uncommon grade spear. Does this mean despite my average synchronization rate, I have a way to increase my rule comprehension." Todd asked me enthusiastically.

"I believe that the origin cards have a effect on rule comprehension irrespective of their ego gem's synchronization rate. This is only a theory of mine. I still need a lot of evidence to back it." I said.

"If I didn't know you didn't leave the Sky blossom city your whole life, I would have called you out for plagiarism.

The theory you speak of has already been proven and is called the Origin rule theory. This is high-level information only available in the top ten university libraries. So most people don't know the effect of their origin card on their rule comprehension.

Wyatt, if you ever think of publishing any of your theories or findings, run it through old Lorenzo or Luna before posting. To avoid any counts of plagiarism. And also, we need to enroll you in the top 10 universities soon. Someone of your talent level cannot be wasted in this black water city." Anna explained that some researchers had already proved the theory I spoke of. Since Anna is also familiar with this theory, it should be well-known in the upper community.

"I see. It seems the libraries of the top 10 universities are a treasure trove of knowledge." Imaging the vast knowledge accumulated by the top 10 universities thanks to millennia of research work, I couldn't help but get excited about visiting the morning star university library.

"So Wyatt, what kind of card do you plan to create for this rookie." Asked Anna.

"You already know what you want me to create, so why ask?" I knew why Anna chose me over her family's platinum or diamond grade card creationist. She wanted me to create an origin card similar to Susan's origin card Slime Armor.

Slime Armor could take the form of any armor card feed to it. Anna wanted me to create a similar card for Todd with a minor change. Instead of feeding Armor cards, we would feed it weapon cards so that it can morph into any weapon fed to it.

"So you saw through my intentions. Give me an earful later but for now, tell me whether the card I am thinking of is possible or not?" Anna asked eagerly.

"It is possible. The only question here is how much are you willing to invest in this particular card creation." I answered confidently.

"Name a price. I will tell you whether I can afford it or not." Said Anna flaunting her wealth.

"Mimercornium is the highest quality ingredient that I can use right now. Fifty pounds of it would be enough for me to build a good origin card for him." Anna asked me to name a price, so I named the highest and the best A-rank ingredient I could think of to create Todd's origin card.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:25

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"50 pounds of Mimercornium, that's out of the southern watch's budget for the rookie origin card creation fund," Anna replied. For someone flaunting her wealth earlier, Anna folded pretty quick.

"If you tell me your budget, I can think of a suitable ore for your budget," I said.

"No need. We will go with mimercornium ore." Anna disagreed with my proposal and turned her head to Todd to add, "Since I introduced you guys to such an expensive card creationist. I will bear the extra cost for your origin card creation. This isn't a charity. You will be paying me back in full with interest when you can"

"Thank you for your generosity, commander," Todd yelled, thanking Anna for her help. Though inwardly, he wanted her to switch the current card creationist for platinum or a diamond-grade card creationist.

"Don't mention it." After replying to Todd, Anna turned to me and asked, "Do you need anything else?"

"Nothing else, just the 50 pounds of Mimercornium," I answered Anna.

"I will ask Luna to place an order, and when the 50 pounds of mimercornium becomes available, I will contact you." Since the required ingredient wasn't available for now, we had to push Todd's origin card to creation to a later date.

"Okay." I agreed with Anna.

"Next, the Garcia twins. This one is tricky." Anna gave me heads about the twin's fate ingredient.

"Ollie Garcia and Andy Garcia, greet master Wyatt." Andy Garcia greeted me politely. While his twin Ollie still looked at me sullenly. It seems this one was as stubborn as a bull. Despite being punished by Anna twice, his wings didn't clip.

"Nice to meet you. Name your Fate ingredient and type of origin card you want." I asked.

"Fate ingredient is the bone marrow of baby dragon. We want a martial skill-type card." Answered Andy Garcia.

"Aren't there two of you? Shouldn't you two have two fate ingredients?" I was confused. As the twin only named one fate ingredient for the two of them.

"Master Wyatt, we both share the same fate ingredient," Andy answered, clearing my confusion, and I finally understood what Anna meant by tricky. Ollie Garcia and Andy Garcia, their fate ingredients were the same. This type of thing was a rare occasion and only seen in twins.

"Wait, you guys want me to create two origin cards using one fate ingredient. This is more than tricky and edging on the line of impossible." Creating two origin cards using a single origin card is more than just challenging but stupidity. Do I divide the fate ingredient into two to create origin cards? How would one go about that?

"Don't think of cutting the fated ingredient into two. That will only damage the fate ingredient in the best-case scenario, but in the worst-case scenario, the fate ingredient will be wasted." Anna advised me.

"..." I looked at Anna with a grudge. Because it became clear to me that she brought the twins to me because all the platinum and diamond card creationists under her must have denied this particular case.

Feeling my glare, Anna hurriedly said to the Garica twins, " Rookies, hurry and tell master Wyatt about the rules you two have comprehended."

"Commander, we haven't comprehended any rules yet." Andy Garica replied in embarrassment.

"..." Hearing Andy's response, Anna's smile became awkward.

"Enough. I have thought of a way to create two origin cards with one single fate ingredient, but I don't know if it will be successful." I put forward what I could do for Anna to decide whether she would continue with my expertise or try her luck elsewhere.

"How much is the chance of success?" Anna asked me to give her a number to work with.

"I can not say for sure because I have never tried this before." The Gracia twin's situation was an impossible challenge. The word impossible made me excited. I wanted to prove that it was possible. But this matter doesn't just concern me but the twins too. If

I failed, they would have lost the only fate ingredient they could find in their lifetime. Therefore I need to be innovative and patient about this.

"Boss, I may have something that may help." Corey, who was waiting with Susan and Ann, suddenly pitched in.

"Little girl, don't interrupt when adults are at work here." Anna dismissed Corey's help without listening to what she had to say.

"Shut up, you cow. I was not speaking to you." Corey snapped at Anna.

"It's time." said Anna as she flickered in front of Corey and added, " Time for me to accept my responsibilities as your godmother and teach you some manners."

"What the..." Corey jumped back as Anna appeared next to her out of nowhere.

"Don't get scared, my little goddaughter. This won't hurt." Anna flickered again, and this time, she appeared behind Corey and grabbed her by her neck.

"Let go. You damn cow." Corey didn't cower in fear in front of Anna's Emperor realm might. Instead, she struggled harder despite no fruits to show for it. It was a fruitless effort.

Slap *Slap*

Lifting Corey in the air by her neck, Anna started to slap Corey's butt, "little girl, blame yourself for forcing me to use corporal punishment on you."

No matter how painful it was, Corey did not let out a single cry because she was that prideful and also because it would make her situation more embarrassing than it was.

Neither Susan nor I came to Corey's rescue because we had already stuck our necks out in front of Anna for Corey twice. Corey had to learn not to piss off people stronger than her. And also, Anna's punishment was more about shaming Corey than killing her, so I guessed that it should be okay. I hope Corey will learn her lesson. After a good five minutes of ass slapping, Anna let go of Corey. Corey's legs had grown numb due to the pain. She had a hard time standing. Still, she stood straight stubbornly.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:38

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"I will return a thousandfold," Corey said grudgingly. A sinister fire raged in her eyes, and black smoke oozed out of her body.

"I will be waiting." Longing anticipation could be seen on Anna's face proving that she took Corey's words seriously. As if she was waiting for a worthy enemy for eons. She really hoped Corey could be that enemy.

"I will not keep you waiting for long," Corey replied as she limped. Though Anna didn't use full strength, she ensured the corporal punishment she delivered had a lasting effect.

"Corey, honey. Drink this." Susan handed Corey a low-rank blood elixir Van had explicitly made for her.

"I will get stronger so that you don't have to face such a situation again." Said Corey as she drank the blood elixir given to her by Susan. Corey felt it must have taken a lot of restraint on Susan's part for her not to step in as Anna punished her.

"Corey, honey, learn to endure it. Be moderate and show self-restraint. You cannot keep challenging her Majesty's authority without enough power to back it. The only reason you are still alive is that her highness has accepted you as her goddaughter." Susan didn't know what was going on in Corey's head, but she decided to teach Corey not to stretch her tongue further than her strength.

"Saints endure. Demons live unrestrained." Uttered Corey. She ignored Susan and her words. Then she gazed at me and sincerely said, "I can help."

"I know." I had seen the martial arts card Corey had created with the help of her ego fire. Each one of them is a masterpiece and worth a fortune. I gained a bargain by paying one thousand soul jades' for her martial card.

When the Garcia twins said they wanted a martial art type skill card, I already decided to recruit Corey's help after I found an answer on how to create two origin cards using one fated ingredient.

"..." Corey didn't expect me to agree with her. She expected me to ignore her help without listening to what she had to offer as Anna did. So she was stumped.

"Name your price," I said to Corey.

"What?" Corey was confused because, in her mind, she did not prepare this far as she believed that I would need a little convincing to let her help.

"Girl, state your price." I repeated myself and added, "Our client this time is loaded. So be wise when you answer."

"But, you haven't heard how I can help you." Argued Corey.

"I don't need to. I trust you." 'I trust Corey Park.' I knew if Corey said she could help, it meant Corey Park had a solution to the problem we were facing.

"Okay." Replied Corey resolutely. I could see my words had the desired effect on Corey. Even if she had memories of her past lives, she still was a troubled teenager.

"Oye, I am right here. How dare you two plan to take advantage of the state treasury right in front of me?" Anna felt stupid for trying to flaunt her wealth as she saw the card creationist she was employing didn't even bother to hide their intention to raid her wealth with steep services.

"I want an ingredient of my choosing from the devil you slew yesterday." Corey suddenly stated. The reason Corey overzealously tried to help her boss was that she wanted to get her hands on the ingredients Anna collected from the devil she slew yesterday.

"..." I looked at Corey dumbfoundedly. I did ask her to state a steep price for her help, but damn, she didn't hold back and directly reached for a demigod realm legendary grade ingredient. 'Wait! Anna slew a devil yesterday? How come I haven't heard about it?'

"No fucking way. Little girl, have you gone insane? An SSS-Rank ingredient for your services? Even a Diamond grade card creationist will not demand that. Don't be unreasonable. Ask something more reasonable." Anna flipped, hearing Corey's price, but she suddenly realized, "Wait, how do you know I defeated a devil yesterday? It is confidential information."

The Devil descended on the world for 2 seconds at most before it was trapped in Anna's field card and defeated. Therefore, someone of Corey's status shouldn't know that Anna beat a devil yesterday. Yet she knew, which could only mean Corey was more than what meets the eye.

"My master told me about it." Answered Corey nonchalantly.

"And who would that be?" Anna pressed Corey for more details.

"Master is master." Corey played the fool, but Anna wasn't buying it.

"Girl, don't play with me. Unless you are looking for another ass whopping." Anna threatened Corey straight.

"I don't know the original identity of my master. She never revealed it, and I never bothered to ask." Corey said innocently. But only she knew that she had whooped up a mysterious master out of thin air to hide the reason for recent progress in strength and card creation.

"You expect me to believe that you have a mysterious master who told you about me fighting a devil yesterday." Though Anna said this, she had already bought into Corey's lies because this was the most reasonable answer to explain the staggering changes shown by Corey.

"Yes. A mysterious but beautiful lady walked up to me and said that she wanted to take me as her disciple to pass all her knowledge to me. And in return, she wanted me to fight against the demons and devils." Not only did Anna sell an image of a mysterious female master with unfathomable strength, but she made sure to make it clear that she was an ally of humanity and hated demons and devils.

"If your said mysterious master is real, how come the states array couldn't detect her?" The array formation was explicitly made to detect and locate powerful card apprentices. If there was a mysterious master behind Corey, as she claimed, then the array should have detected her presence.

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Chapter 710 World's Grace

[1,028 words]

Chapter 710 World's Grace

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:49

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"How would I know that? Isn't it your job to discover why it did not find my master?" Corey answered with questions. The best way to avoid being caught up in your own web of lies.

"You are begging for an ass-whooping. Answer properly!" Anna thundered as she heard Corey throw the ball in her court. And to her surprise, Corey's questions were reasonable.

"I know you are not the type to acknowledge responsibility. So let's play evidence. I show my proof of why my master's existence was real and not a story I just made up. And you show your evidence to prove otherwise." Corey made a sound argument.

"Why go through all that trouble? Just call your mysterious master over." Anna suggested.

"Nope, I can't. Master visits me when she wants to." Corey answered plainly.

"What if I were to imprison you deep within the Tartarus? Or better yet, execute you publicly tomorrow morning? Your Master, if real, should come to your rescue, right." Anna said this to scare Corey.

"Master won't come to rescue me because, according to her, if I can't handle my day-to-day problems, I am better off dead. Because being caught by demons and devils is worse than death." Corey narrated.

"..." I was stumped as I heard Corey cook up a story on the spot. The story she was using felt oddly familiar. It seemed like I had read it somewhere. However, most of what Corey spoke wasn't a lie because she did have a master teaching her, her ego fire Corey Park.

"Girl, do you think you are funny?" Anna would like to believe Corey's story, but in her mind, that meant the state's array formation erected by her ancestors had a loophole.

"I am not. How do you explain the martial arts skill cards I made? I have never practiced martial arts in my whole life. Until I met my master, that is." Corey decided to argue with facts supporting her story. This way, the lies she was spewing would sound more acceptable.

'She is lying.' Just when Anna was about to consider that the state's array formation erected by her ancestors had a loophole, a mysterious voice in her head answered, telling her otherwise.

"Who!" Spooked, Anna blurted and searched for the source of the voice. Her sudden reaction caused everyone else to become alert. After all, she was the strongest here. If someone could spook her, then others stood no chance.

"Little lady, get hold of yourself. I don't have enough time, so listen carefully. I am one of your ancestors. I am talking to you through your unparalleled arena card.

Usually, it shouldn't be possible, but we took the liberty to use the grace bestowed upon you by the world's will for killing the devil to create this opportunity. So don't let it go to waste. Learn soul whisper and enter the Unparalleled arena to talk to us.

Next, I will pass you a method to open a gate to the dark realms. The place you people refer to as the demon realm. You should have already learned from Devil feastus that the Devil doesn't really die if you kill them in this world. But there is a way to kill them permanently. That is to kill them in the presence of an open gate to the Dark realms.

But remember, you will only have a two-minute window to kill the devil in the presence of the gate to dark realms. Because after that, dark realms start to suppress the world's will, in turn reducing the suppression of the world's will on the devil. So don't open the dark realm until you are sure that you can kill the devil in the next 2-minutes. Otherwise, you will die in the devil's hand, and with your death, the gate to the dark realms will close." After narrating his purpose, the voice claiming to be Anna's ancestor mentally passed her the method to open the gate to the devil's realm.

"It seems I still have time left." Said the voice after transferring the method to open the gate to the devil's realm to Anna and added, "That girl in front of you isn't simple. Instead of an ego gem, she has a dem—"

"—" The voice suddenly went silent midway. It seemed to have finally run out of juice.

The voice claiming to be Ann's ancestor left her with too many questions. Thankfully it had given her a way to get answers to those questions. That is to learn soul whisper and enter the Unparalleled arena. As Anna was contemplating the information provided by the voice, she was awakened from her trance by Ann's cries, "Anna! Anna!"

"What?" Anna replied in annoyance.

"I thought I lost you." Ann hugged Anna tightly in her embrace.

"Get off me, you idiot." Already confused, Anna was puzzled by Ann's behavior. No matter how hard she tried, she could pull away from Ann's embrace. Giving up trying to push Ann away, she turned to me and asked, "Can someone tell me what is happening here?"

"Don't you remember what happened? You were in a trance-like state for about 5 minutes. I don't know if this is a twin thing, but all the time, you were in a trance, Ann kept weeping and wailing that she could not feel you. She was devastated. The whole base is in red alert." I answered Anna explaining what happened when she entered a trance-like state.

"What happened? That girl made it sound like somebody stole your soul." Lorenzo returned immediately from his patrol around the base to search for assassins after learning Anna awakened through the base's array.

"Nothing. I just received the World's Grace for killing the devil yesterday." Said Anna.

"Why is it delayed? Isn't it supposed to be given by the world's will right after one kills a devil?" Lorenzo wasn't new to World's Grace. According to what he knew, Anna's case was odd.

"It is a little complicated. I will explain it later."

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 10:57

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"Ann, I am fine. Now get off me." Said Anna, trying to pull out of Ann's embrace.

"I was scared. Promise me you will never do that again." Ann and Anna's lives are connected. If Anna died, Ann would die along with her. But if Ann died, she would resurrect as long as Anna lived. Therefore Ann cared more about Anna's life than Anna herself.

"I can not promise you that," Anna replied truthfully because it was not in her control. She was forced into a trance-like state by her Ancestors. It had no say in it.

"Why can't you make a promise to Ann? Mama! Anna is bullying me again. Woooo" Ann literally began to cry. Her life was uneventful, and Most of it was spent in Anna's grimoire. Despite having an almost immortal-like perk, she was the person most worried about death.

"Ann, don't cause trouble, or I will send you back." By sending back, Anna meant recalling Ann back into her grimoire.

"You promised you wouldn't do that for the next three months," Ann complained.

"Well, that was when you said you would not be a pain in the ass," Anna argued. And feeling Ann's grip holding her loose, she pulled out of her embrace.

"I am calling mom." Ann summoned her grimoire and made a call. She headed to her cabin. She seemed too depressed to say goodbye to us. And her call was answered in

the next few seconds, "Hello, mommy. Anna is being a jerk again. I want to see you. Can I come to see you now?"

"Now that needy has left. Let's continue our talk from before, shall we?" Anna spoke nonchalantly, but her eyes remained on Corey as she said these words.

"Okay. I said I wanted a devil's ingredient as compensation for my services." Feeling Anna's gaze on her, Corey thought she was speaking to her, so she answered her.

"Um. I heard you the first time. But hearing you say it the second didn't make it less funny than the first time you said that." Anna spoke, mocking Corey for sky high price for her service.

"..." Even I felt that the fees Corey demanded were a bit unreasonable. But the task that Anna gave was something that even the diamond grade card creationist deemed impossible. So her price wasn't excessive.

Diamond grade card creationists only involve the Card emperor realm. Demigods are above this division.

"Wyatt, what do you think?" Anna asked my opinion.

"How about you decide after we complete the work? It will be easy for you to judge if the cards we created were worth two devil ingredients or not." I answered honestly, trusting Anna's pride, which would never let her skip out on an outstanding bill.

"Two devil ingredients?" Anna asked, lifting one of her eyebrows.

"I can't be paid less than my employee, can I?" I answered.

"Fine." Anna agreed because she didn't mind paying that much if the cards created were worth it.

"..." Hearing Anna agree to two devil ingredients, the Garcia twins felt their heads spinning. If the origin card creation were successful, they would owe the southern watch two devil ingredients. Which meant they would be spending the rest of their life working for Southern Watch, repaying their debt.

Knowing all this, they stayed quiet because they planned to work for southern watch anyway, and if they got origin cards for that, it was worth it because they knew that it was near impossible to create two origin cards using one fated ingredient. And they felt grateful towards Anna because their Commander was willing to go more than the extra mile for them.

"Good. Now Corey, explain your plan for the card ingredient." Now that the payment was decided, it was only fair we told our employer how we planned to tackle the situation at hand.

"Well, my master has spoken to me about a particular martial art mostly practiced by twins. It strengthens the bond between the twins and allows them to share their energies. Once you achieve sage level mastery in this martial art card, you will be able to transform into a dragon. The martial art is named twin demon dragon body arts. You can use it in your card creation so that both the twins can share the power of a single fated ingredient." Corey narrated her idea of getting one fate ingredient to make two individual origin cards.

"That's your devil-level ingredient-worthy idea? To use martial arts to share the power of a single fated ingredient." Anna mocked Corey's idea. Thanks to her Ancestor's reminder, Anna knew Corey was lying about her having a master. Anna decided not to confront Corey about the lie until she knew everything her Ancestors had to tell about Corey.

"Corey, do you have that martial arts card on your person right now?" I asked Corey because I felt her plan was feasible.

"Wyatt, don't tell me you are going along with her stupid plan," Anna asked, hearing me ask Corey about the 'twin demon dragon body arts' martial arts.

"Yes. Since I don't have any other ideas yet, I see no harm in exploring Corey's idea. Who knows, maybe we can learn something new." I defended my actions.

"You, two, are crazy. You know that." Anna commented.

"No, I don't have the card on me. I didn't create it because I didn't know any twin powerful enough to use this card, so I didn't bother making it. I can create it now, but It will take me a day or two to complete the said card." Corey answered my question from earlier.

"Um... Okay, then get right to creating that card. If you need any ingredients, ask Susan." I ordered Corey, turned to Anna, and added, " I will contact you when we have a model for the card we can create."

"Okay, boss," Corey answered with great enthusiasm.

"Okay. And I will inform you when the Mimercornium arrives." Anna reluctantly agreed to my arrangement.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:09

Location- Sky Blossom City, Southern Watch military base.

"It appears that the creation of both the origin cards will be pushed to a later date until the ingredients for them are made available." Said Anna. Hearing her, the three young soldiers thought about how long their torment would last. They wanted to get done with it as soon as possible, like removing a band-aid in one go.

"Um," I nodded, hearing Anna. Now that the matters regarding my new clients have been arranged to a certain extent. I could move on to my other project, the Array Formation hack card that I wanted to create. Turning to Susan and Corey, I said, "let's head back."

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"Van, have you reached the southern academic city already?" I checked up on Van and his team.

"Yea, boss. We are about to contact our source in the southern academic city and find Ronnie's whereabouts." Van answered, reporting his group's status.

"Good, be careful. And if you find a card overlord or higher realm card apprentice, do not hesitate to retreat. And keep me updated." I warned Van to be careful. Southern Academic city is not a third-rate city like Sky blossom city. It is a first-tier city where card overlords and card kings are as common as card masters and card lord realm in the sky blossom city. Therefore Van and his crew need to be discreet when they hunt the people of Bob butcher to retrieve my thousand armed butcher origin card.

"Yes, boss," Van acknowledged my commands.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:27

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

"It was one hectic morning," I said as I sat on the couch, preparing to go through the material given by Lorenzo on Array formation.

"Yes," Susan Agreed with me.

"Boss, I will use the card lab to create the twin demon dragon body arts," Corey reported. She was going back to work as soon as we returned to the warehouse.

"Go use the card lab that your grandpa built for you. I will use this card lab after going through these materials on Array formation." I asked Corey to use her fancy card lab in her card studio because I would be using mine pretty soon.

"Okay." Corey headed towards the warehouse next door.

"And Corey, one more thing." I suddenly called Corey, remembering that I needed her help with one particular thing.

"What is it, boss?" Corey stepped in her path and turned to face me.

"I wanted some martial arts cards for myself," I answered. Corey was the only stable source of A-rank close combat arts in the blossom district. After much thought, I decided to buy close combat cards from Corey as they seemed very reliable when I used them to make Kane's origin card.

"Martial arts cards? You have come to the right place." Corey said excitedly as she took out a stack of martial arts cards she and her ego fire created.

"Corey, not those. They are generic. I want something more than that. Suitable for my strength." I asked Corey to create a custom martial card just for me and my physique.

"Um... I see you want the good stuff. But that is going to be expensive." Said Corey.

"Doesn't matter. As long as it satisfies my requirements, I am willing to pay the appropriate price." I answered Corey. Telling her that money wasn't the problem.

"So what are you prefer? Body arts, Foot work, lightweight technique, sword arts, or other weapon techniques." Corey agreed to create a custom martial art for me. And provided me with an option for each of them.

"One of each! Give me the complete set." I replied. I wanted the whole set because the martial cards will prove an excellent way for me to use the full strength of my body.

"Really? Okay. As long as you pay enough, I don't care." Said Corey casually.

"So which martial arts do you think would suit me best? Do you have anything in your mind or not?" Corey Park was a treasure trove of martial arts and techniques. I hoped she had one suitable for me.

"You have a very strong physique, but you also showcase strong 'active soul control talent.' Your body is like it is made for killing, a killing machine to be exact." Said Corey, and then, thinking for a while. She added, "Martial Arts are meant to defend oneself. But some martial arts were explicitly made to kill and slaughter. But such martial arts demand high talent and physique. You possess both of them. So choose what you want to be a killing machine or a defender."

Corey's words became more and more profound. And her eyes turn amber red, and That's when she is not Corey but Corey park.

"Hello, Park. Long time no see." I greeted Corey park.

"For you, maybe. But I see you daily from within Corey's core." Said Corey Park.

"Okay, what do you suggest would be the best for me?" I asked Corey Park.

"If you want to uncover the full potential of your physique and talent, I suppose you should go with the Martials Arts made to kill. But the path is yours to choose. I cannot choose for you." Corey Park answered honestly.

Martial art cards are unique, and most people claim that if you achieve Sage-level proficiency in one of them, your strength will grow, and you can break the restraint of the realm. It is believed that those who have Sage-level proficiency in a martial art can fight leapfrog and kill the opponent.

"Okay, I will go with the Martial arts meant for killing." I went through great trouble to get my current physique. It would be a waste not to use it to its full potential. Therefore I decided to go with the cruel martial arts meant for killing.

"Good choice because only weak people chose martial arts are for self-defense. Strong use the martial arts to conquer the world and dominate the planes. So you should use it for what you want it for."

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:17

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

"Demonic Martial Arts is what we call the Martial Arts meant for killing. And I am an expert at that. If you had chosen martial arts meant for defense, I couldn't have been of much help to you." Corey Park explained.

"Demonic Martial Arts? Aren't they plain old traditional martial arts with the word Demonic/Demon added to their name?" I said this because I had gone through Corey's collection of martial arts. They all sounded like traditional martial arts, but they had the word Demonic/Demon added to their name.

"How dare you say such blasphemous words to my face? You take that back!

There is a vast difference between demonic martial arts and traditional martial arts. Demonic martial arts are meant to overcome the suppression of destiny. In comparison, conventional martial arts is to rid all the roots of evil.

Can't you see only hypocrites and vain people practice conventional martial arts as martial arts itself is one of the roots of evil?" Corey Park flipped, hearing me compare demonic martial arts to traditional martial arts. And went on to explain how vain hypocrites practice the conventional martial arts.

"Okay, Demonic martial arts are better than conventional martial arts," I said what Corey Park wanted to hear. I was no expert on martial arts, all I knew about Martial arts was what I read in online novels back on earth. They were just fantasies to me but out here, they are natural. Since I knew nothing about martial arts, I decided to stick with the expert opinion.

"I will forgive you this once because earlier you didn't know any better, but now you know since I have explained it to you. So don't you dare repeat the same mistake twice, understood?" Corey Park questioned.

"Yes, ma'am," I answered, trying to seem genuine.

"Good. Since you want to use martial arts cards, you must know that martial arts and occupation cards are different from other skill cards.

To unlock the potential of Martial arts or occupation cards, you need to undergo vigorous training and practice to understand and gain mastery of said martial arts or occupation cards.

Take a cannon and Bow and arrow, for example.

A cannon doesn't require vigorous training and practice to master it. Any dumbass with a good eye can aim and shoot using the cannon's full power.

But the same is not true for the Bow and arrow. One requires vigorous training and practice to master it. And only by mastering can one expect the full power of the bow and arrow.

Skill cards are like cannons. All you have to do is aim and pull the trigger.

But martial arts or occupational cards are like Bow and Arrow. You require a certain mastery for you to show its full potential. A skilled archer can hit a bullseye no matter the circumstances, but a trainee archer can barely hit the target under normal conditions.

What I am trying to say is no matter how strong your martial arts cards are, you cannot unleash their full potential until you physically reach the mastery level mentioned in the cards." Corey park explained how martial arts or occupational cards are different from regular skill cards. According to her, it is necessary to understand this to uncover the full potential of martial arts cards.

"Okay." I understood what Corey Park was trying to tell because I have experienced something quite similar with my Abyssal Giant Bear Spirit Guard card. It had a beast form martial arts called the Abyssal Giant Bear form.

Back then, my body was fragile and had yet to form a calamity soul gem. Due to my weak body, I couldn't tap into the full potential of the Abyssal Giant Bear form. But still, when I practiced the Abyssal Giant Bear form, it slowly began to use the soul energy to enhance my physique to meet the requirements for unleashing its full potential. Later I never tried practicing it because I had gained the viltronian physique, which was stronger than Abyssal Giant Bear, rendering this card useless.

So I kind of understood what Corey was trying to tell about physically achieving the mastery mentioned in the card info.

"Martial arts or occupation cards are like training wheels. Upon activation, these cards rearrange the related soul pathways in your body according to the directions given in the cards to get the desired effect. How accurate these arrangements are depends on the mastery mentioned in the card.

When you physically start to recognize these soul pathways and understand their arrangement, you begin to physically master the said martial arts or occupation card. When your physical mastery reaches the mastery mentioned in the card, only then can you display the card's full potential.

Over time with enough practice, your physical mastery of the martial arts or occupation card can transcend the mastery mentioned in the card. That will be akin to upgrading your martial arts or occupation card.

For example, let's take Helen's bakery. Its bakery goods are best in the entry Sky Blossom city. People think that because of the baker occupation card she uses. But do you know how many bakeries there are in the city using baker occupation cards?"
Corey Park paused

"How would I know?" I answered, thinking Corey Park actually wanted me to answer her question. This misunderstanding was due to Corey Park's untimely pause.

"That was a rhetorical question. And please don't interrupt me again.

There are a lot of bakeries with baker occupation cards. Still, none can compete with Helen's bakery because Helen has physically achieved higher mastery than mentioned in the occupation card itself. Though her occupation card is of low rank, her physical mastery of the occupation has reached that of a high-rank card. That is how she is ahead of her competitors" Corey Park explained how martial arts or occupation cards could be upgraded to achieve the effect of a high-rank card despite being a low-rank card.

"Interesting." I was impressed by the upgradation part of Corey's explanation.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:28

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

From what Corey park said, using a martial arts card was more lucrative than using a skill card. Because the increase in the mastery of martial arts cards was akin to upgrading the martial arts card to a higher rank, the same was not possible for Skill cards.

Still, not everyone can break past the mastery mentioned in the card. To achieve that, a lot of hard work and dedication are required. Therefore, despite this incredible perk of martial arts cards, they are not popular among card apprentices.

Skill cards had apparent advantages over martial arts cards. Like the Guns had advantages over the Swords and Bows back on earth. Back on earth, there were myths that master swordsmen could dodge bullets, and some could even cut the bullet in half.

Here it was not a myth. Still, the martial arts card could not trump the skill cards because people are inherently lazy.

Listening to Corey Park, even I started to feel that it was hectic to own martial art cards. But what Corey Park said next changed my mind.

"You must have heard about card apprentices that have achieved Sage-tier mastery, in particular martial arts, can challenge or sometimes win against the card apprentices of a higher realm, right?" Asked Corey Park.

"..." After the previous debacle, I didn't know if Park was actually asking me or if it was just another rhetorical question.

"Answer me," Said Corey Park.

"Oh, I thought it was rhetorical. But yes, I have heard about that." I hurriedly answered Corey Park.

"But those rumors are only half of what the card apprentices who have achieved Sage-tier mastery can achieve.

After achieving Sage-tier mastery in particular martial arts or occupation cards, a person no longer needs to equip the card to get the effects of the cards. They can display the effects of the said card physically without the help of a card or grimoire." After dropping a piece of bombshell information, Corey Park paused to let her words sink in.

"What? How is that even possible?" I asked in great astonishment.

The effects of occupation cards are very bizarre. Take a food-related occupation card, for example. They have products like giving temporary extra stats to the card apprentice that eat their dishes. So if a person achieves sage-mastery in the food-related occupation card, their cooking might be top-notch, but how will they add the effects mentioned in the cards to the food? It was mind-bending to think that people could achieve the card's effect without actually equipping a card.

"You are learning about array formation, right?" Corey Park questioned

"Yes, so..." I was confused about where Corey Park was going with this question.

"So you must have learned about temporary array formation, right? How is it any different from achieving the effect of the cards without cards?"

"Oh!" Then it dawned on me how the card creationists made Skill cards without extracting skills from the monster core. It had something to do with Advanced and higher-order temporary array formations. Realizing this, I couldn't get more excited about reading other materials on array formation given to me by Lorenzo.

What Corey Park was saying was that at the Sage-tier mastery of a martial arts or occupation cards, the card apprentice would have physically memorized the soul pathways in their body related to the said martial arts or occupation cards and understood how to arrange them without the assistance of the said card to get the desired effect mentioned in the card.

Now I understood why Corey Park said Martial art and occupation cards are like training wheels earlier.

"When did you learn of array formation?" I could help but ask Corey Park.

"I didn't. I just know the basic theory required for the university exams." Explained Corey Park.

"Wait, don't tell me you are preparing for the University exam in Corey's place. You plan to help Corey cheat her way through the written exam?" Not that I am complaining, as I have three slave-conscious and Hive AI to do precisely that.

"That girl is very dumb. She cannot make it to the Morning star university without my help." Corey Park said in Corey Bright's defense.

"..." University exams, I would have to attend them if not for my patent on Silver milk powder and my paper on how to break the shell of the dungeon calamity seed. Pretty soon, my paper on the nature of the temperature soul pathway is also going to be added to the list. Due to my research work, any of the top 10 universities will welcome me with open arms. I dodged that bullet named university exam.

"Now that you understand how the Martial art cards are to be used. You need to know that with your current body, most of the A-rank martial arts are useless to you. They can not bring or add any strength to your superhuman physique." Said Corey Park truthfully.

The martial arts card's basic advantage is that they give the user enhanced physical attributes. Card apprentices have the average physique, so that average martial arts cards can improve their physique. But thanks to calamity soul gem, my physique had already crossed the physical limit these average cards can give.

Corey Park was trying to convey that equipping average martial arts cards wasn't giving me any physical boost, but they did give me the technique to use the monstrous strength coursing through my body efficiently. The guided force is always stronger than the unguided force.

"But you must have something suitable for me, right?" I asked, understanding what Corey Park was trying to convey.

"Yes, I do. But I don't know if I should pass these martial arts to you. The relationship between you and Corey isn't that optimistic. If it turns to worse, I don't want you using

the martial art I taught you against Corey." Corey Park did not hide her concerns and spoke about her worries genuinely.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:39

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

"Ms. Park, this is business. If you are not comfortable selling them, then don't mention it. Seeing how you mentioned it despite your concerns means it has a price tag. So please don't beat around the bush and name your price." From what I know about Corey Park, I know she was some bigshot in her past life and a powerful one. Even if she is just a remnant of her past self, she should be confident enough to face a talented high schooler.

Her concerns about me using the martial arts that she sold to me against Corey in the future were bullshit. She was playing hard to get to make her sales pitch about whatever she was after more convincing.

"Master Wyatt, you are a rational man. Doing business with you is going to be easy. And you are right. The martial arts I spoke of do come with a price tag. I don't know if you are willing to part with it." Said Corey Park as she laid back on the couch to her comfort.

"Part with? I don't understand." Based on Corey Park's words, it was clear that she didn't want soul jades. She wanted something else in return.

"Asides from the appropriate cost of the martial arts cards, I want you to let me create big sis Susan's second origin card." Corey Park put forward her demands.

"I can not help you with this matter.

If you want to create Susan's second origin card, you have to ask her permission, not me." I thought Corey Park would ask something significant in return for the cards, but I was wrong. Corey Bright and Corey Park both have a soft spot for Susan and do not make rational decisions when she is involved.

Heights of shamelessness, Corey Park calling Susan big sister, if that is not shameless, then what is? After all, who knows how old Corey Park is, yet she called Susan as big sis? Is it because she believes Susan to be her mother?

"Park, I thought we were done discussing this? Didn't I already tell you that I wanted Wyatt to create my second origin card?" Susan immediately reprimanded Corey Park for bringing up something she had already said no to.

"Big Sis, listen to me this once. Origin cards are crucial for the growth of a card apprentice. A good origin card can come a long way. You need to consider this matter seriously. All he can do with your second origin card is create another junk armor. But if you allow me, I can use it to make something out of this world. You experienced the effect of the card Turtle's Dream, right? Big sis, please trust me on this one. I can create wonders with your origin card." Corey Park began to pester Susan to allow her to create her second origin card.

"Wait! Susan, you know about Park. When did you two meet?" I asked, seeing that Susan could distinguish between Corey Bright and Corey Park.

"Corey is staying with me for a few days until her grandmother is in the city. And during our stay together, I met Park and knew why Corey was suddenly acting differently." Susan explained that Corey had bunked in her home to escape her grandparent's steamy sessions, and during that period, she met Park.

"So you guys confided in her about everything?" I asked Corey Park in astonishment.

"Yes- yes. We told her everything." Yep, they didn't tell her everything. Park's awkward way of answering made it clear.

"Ms. Park, now can we get back to talking about business." I stored the conversation back to the martial arts cards.

"Yes, and my price remains the same. I need you to let me create big sis Susan's second origin card. This condition is non-negotiable." Corey Park once again asserted that she wanted to create Susan's second origin card.

"Ms. Park, let me clarify to you. Unless Susan, herself, asks me to let you create her second origin card, only then will I allow you to create Susan's second origin card. If not, you can forget about it." I had big plans for Susan's second origin card, a MegaMorpher made entirely of mimercornium ore.

Ever since I learned that a card apprentice's origin card could affect a person's rule comprehension, I was dead set on making Susan's Second origin card so overpowered that it can make up for Susan's Ego Gem's synchronization rate when she forges one. This was crucial for Susan's growth. And I didn't plan to compromise on this.

"Wyatt, don't be rash. I will talk to her about it." Susan spoke up, seeing that I gave up on acquiring a martial arts card from Corey Park because of her unreasonable demands. And then, turning to Corey Park, she said sternly, "Park, I thought you were

brighter than Corey. Why are you, too, acting like her? Please don't be stubborn. We are all friends here. Let's talk and help each other out."

"No, big sis, you don't understand the importance of your second origin card. It directly affects your future growth. I can not compromise on this. You have to let me create your origin card." Corey Park did not budge under Susan's pressure. Instead, her stance became firmer.

"Corey, I know you are looking out for me and that you have my best interest in your mind. You, too, should know that I trust you and appreciate you looking out for me. But please understand I want Wyatt to create my second Origin card. No matter what you say or do, my mind will not change. So please quit being unreasonable and create the martial arts cards for Wyatt." Susan patiently explained to Corey Park that she should stop being stubborn about demanding to create her second origin card cause she would not change her mind about it too.

"Fine! But, if I cannot get the chance to create your second origin card, then I want a favor in exchange for the martial arts along with their fair price, of course."

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Chapter 716 Favor

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:48

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

"What kind of favor?" I asked Corey Park suspiciously.

"I don't know yet. I will tell you when I need something." Said Corey Park. I don't know if she is for real or just messing with me. Why would I hand out favors that would come back to bite me in the ass?

"Nope, not agreeing to it." I refused Corey Park directly.

"What? I already compromised. Now it's your turn to compromise." Said Corey Park. Did she take me for a three-year-old child?

"That's not how compromises work. Come to think about it, you didn't even compromise. What if I agree to you now and tomorrow as a favor, you ask me to let you create Susan's second origin card. Don't act smart, Park." I do not know how Park expected me to fall for that.

"I didn't think about that! Aren't you looking too much into things? How about this? I will be more specific. You have to accept my favor only if it is reasonable and within your limits. Now, what do you say?" Corey Park went into detail, specifying that I can set the rationality and limits of the favor she asks myself. That's a lot of freedom. A favor like this can only work if you can trust the person enough to be willing to help you. Corey did go the extra mile trying to Compromise. I can work with that.

"Woah! You are indeed being sincere. Fine, I agree with it. While fully aware that I can reject the favor you ask if I feel it is unreasonable and not something I can achieve." This kind of thing only worked based on mutual trust. Since Corey Park is willing to put her trust in me, I can put my trust in her or not, "And I have a condition that you sign a soul contract stating that the martial arts you sell me are authentic, complete, best suited for me, and will not harm me."

"I am okay with the soul contract, but what's with the terms 'Will not harm you.' This is impossible. If you don't cultivate the martial arts properly, you are bound to face a rebound and get injured in the process." Corey Park readily agreed to sign a soul contract, but she found the fourth term needed to be more detailed.

The reason Corey Park readily agreed to the soul contract was that martial arts cards that are sold in this world are authenticated and verified by the martial council, that these martial arts would not harm the user if practiced before realizing these martial arts for public use.

Corey Park is not malicious. So I don't need to be on guard against her. Like when I used her cards to create Kane's origin card. I could not be so careless with my life, so to be on the safer side, I decided to have her sign a soul contract.

"Hmm... How about this? A soul contract stating that the martial arts you sell to me are authentic, complete, best-suited for me, and will not specifically harm or target me." I repeated the terms of the Soul Contract with minor changes to it.

"Okay, that sounds about alright." Park agreed to the new terms of the soul contract and showed a willingness to sign it.

"Good, now can you tell me about the martial arts you plan to sell to me?" Now that both I and Corey park had come to an agreement, I asked her to talk about the martial arts she was planning to sell me.

"Sure. The martial art I am about to sell you is the Heavenly Demon fiend arts. This is a set of body art derived from the heavenly demon itself. I don't want to spoil the fun for you so that you can check its effects when I create the card.

The next martial art that I picked for you is the Tainted Divine Roc Steps, a set of footwork. This movement technique is one of the fastest movement techniques I have known.

As for your combat martial arts, I choose Infinite Destruction Fist. This set of martial arts I chose specifically for your multi-arm physique. With your extra three pairs of arms, you can display this martial art three times its original efficiency.

So what do you think? Are the three martial arts to your taste?" Corey asked me with sparkling eyes. She was very enthusiastic when she introduced me to the various martial arts she had hand-picked for me.

"Heavenly Demon Fiend Arts, Tainted Divine Roc Steps and Infinite Destruction Fist. The names of all three martial arts sound grand and denomeering but are they as grand as their name in terms of effect?" I asked Corey Park skeptically. Unless I have seen the card effects, I won't be satisfied with just Corey Park's words.

"You tell me that after reading the info of three martial arts cards I have created for you." Corey Park seemed pretty confident about her martial arts.

"Do you need any down payment for the cards?" I asked Corey Park.

"No need for a down payment. Pay me in full at the end if you decide to buy the Cards after having experienced their greatness by yourself." Corey Park rejected any down payment.

"Okay, if you say so. But your confidence is infecting me too. I can't wait to check out the martial arts cards once you have created them." Corey's confident attitude caused me to look forward to the three martial arts cards.

"Look at you two, already getting along," Susan commented. Hearing that, Corey and I turned to look at her with blank eyes.

"Don't be shy, you guys," Susan complained. We ignored her.

"So, when can I expect these cards?" I asked Corey Park.

"A week, I guess." Corey Park replied, unsure if she could finish by the time limit she proposed.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 11:56

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

"A week, just to create these three cards? Your card creation speed is very slow." I commented hearing Corey say it would take a minimum of a week for her to deliver the promised martial arts cards.

"My card creation speed is not slow but moderate. But the long wait period for the three martial arts cards is because all the three martial arts I picked up for you would easily create a Legend grade martial arts card. So I have to find ways to lower the grade of the card without actually hindering the actual efficiency of the card by adding probation and restriction to the cards. Dumbing down from legend to Rare grade takes a lot of time and preparation." Corey Park spoke, explaining why it would take her so long to create the three said martial arts cards.

"Wait! Legend grade? I don't know if I can afford them." I knew Corey Park was a big shot in her past life, but for her to come up with three legend grade martial arts so easily implied that her past existence was a being of the upper realms.

"Of course, you can. You can use the devil ingredient you will be getting from Anna as the payment for the three martial arts cards." Corey Park did not hide her greed for the devil ingredient Anna promised as payment for the twin soldiers' origin card creation.

"Not happening." It would be a foolish to use a scarce peak demigod realm ingredient to exchange for three legend grade martial arts.

"Well, then you can pay me in monthly or yearly installments. I am sure we can agree upon a reasonable plan with a fair interest rate." Corey Park knew I wouldn't sell the devil ingredient, but she didn't regret trying.

"Interest rate?" I asked in confusion.

"Well, don't worry. I will use the rates used by the banks. Pretty standard stuff, Wyatt. keep up." Corey Park acted as if she didn't understand the root of my confusion.

"Look at you, a perfect example of a Greedy merchant?" I expected Corey to consider the employer and employee relationship between us and give me an interest-free installment plan, but she didn't.

"Well then, I will also be a greedy boss. Forget about the installment plan. I will pay you in full with one of the two devil ingredients I will be receiving from Anna." I said with sincere eyes.

"What do you mean two? Anna is only paying you one devil ingredient for the twin soldier's origin card creation." Corey Park didn't understand what I meant.

"Well, guess again," I said with a smug look.

"You wouldn't." Finally, understanding what I meant, Corey yelled in protest.

"Why wouldn't I? When you cannot let go of a bit of interest for the installments for me." I answered Corey with the smug look still present on my face.

According to the employment agreement between Corey and me, she will be my slave for the next three years. That was what the wager between us said. Meaning Corey will work for me for free. Which meant the payment she would receive for her service in the creation of the twin soldier's origin card would belong to me.

Earlier I did not consider doing this to Corey because, without her skills, the creation of the origin card would be halted till I found another solution. So in a way, Corey had earned the devil ingredient with her skills and effort. I didn't want to make things difficult for her. But now, things have changed, seeing how she wouldn't even consider letting go of a bit of interest for her big-hearted, generous boss.

"This is nothing short of a robbery! I won't agree to this." Corey Park complained and protested.

"Fine, if you don't like my payment method. Then forget it. I guess I can exchange excellent martial arts for a devil ingredient. For your information, you brought it upon yourself. So don't blame me." I threatened Corey Park by holding her devil ingredient hostage.

"Boss, don't be like that. For you, I agree to an interest-free installment plan. And along with that, I will give you a 30 percent discount on the overall price." Corey Park caved, but it was already too late.

"Corey, do I look like a boss who profits from his employee's misery? I don't need a discount. I will pay in full with a devil ingredient." I tried to be nice, but Corey Park didn't appreciate it and tried to be wiser. Now she had to pay for her actions.

"Wyatt, you can't do this to me! I earned that devil ingredient fair and square. You know it." Seeing that I was adamant about it, Corey Park could help but raise her voice.

"Corey Park, take what I am giving you, or I will not pay you with the devil ingredient but soul jades. Or better yet, since you are a slave to this card boutique, I order you to

create the three martial arts for free." I warned Corey Park to take the offer on the table before I changed my mind.

"Big Sis, don't tell me, you will let him bully me into making the martial arts cards for him for free." Seeing that I didn't cave, Corey Park turned to Susan for help.

"Well, I don't want to point fingers, but it was you who started this." Susan took my side, which didn't come as a surprise to me. After all, I am her exclusive client. It's her duty to look out for my interest.

"Big Sis, how can you say that? I didn't start anything. I was asking for fair compensation for my services. Is that wrong?" Said Corey trying to justify her actions.

"Well, Corey, you did lose the bet. And according to the wager, you are Wyatt's slave employee for the next three years. So in a way, He is claiming his winnings. There's nothing wrong with that." Susan defended my interest and actions.

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[1,034 words]

Chapter 718 Compromise

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 12:08

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

It didn't take long for Corey Park to realize she was barking up the wrong tree. Susan was a pro card boutique. Which meant she would always side with the side that benefits the card boutique as a whole. And this time, the benefit of the card boutique was in screwing over her.

If it were some other time, Corey Park wouldn't bother to deal with this. But right now, a devil ingredient and a fortune matching the entire Bright family's worth were at stake. With so much to lose, how could she continue to be nonchalant?

A devil ingredient will come a long way in raising her active soul control as her titled demon core could feed on the demonic soul energy from it. So she could not bear to part with the devil ingredient.

As for the price for three restricted legend grade cards, their price was more than the entire net worth of the Bright family. Corey was rich enough not to fight over money, but that did not the same if the money was more than her family's net worth.

"Come on, Wyatt, I know I am wrong. Please forgive me. How about I add a legend-grade soul energy refining technique for free?" Seeing Susan was of no help. Corey tried to convince me with a freebie.

By legend grade, Corey only meant that the martial arts and the Soul energy refining techniques are legend grade, not the cards. The cards will be of Rage grade so that I can equip them in my grimoire, which means that the martial arts and techniques would be imposed with prohibition and restrictions to make it so that they are eligible to be within the norms of a Rare grade card.

"A Legend-Grade Soul energy refining technique!" Susan exclaimed in astonishment. Having experienced the common-grade Soul energy refining effect of the Turtle's dream card given to her by Corey, Susan knew how important soul energy refining is. A card to have that effect was unheard of. So, for Corey to develop a legend-grade soul energy refining card was out of this world. Something coveted by the world rulers.

"Hmm..." thanks to my mutated soul, I didn't need to refine my soul energy. They would purify my soul energy for me every time they mutated. So I wasn't psyched by the legend-grade soul energy refining technique. But it had a lot of research value for me, especially now that I had learned array formation.

When it comes to forging Ego Gem, everyone struggles with soul energy refining. As the soul, energy needs to be purified to a certain degree to condense the ethereal spirit and forge the Ego Gem. But the soul energy refining is a very time-consuming process, and there are no cards to help with that. Until the appearance of Corey Park, that is. She brought otherworldly martial arts and techniques with her.

Now I can use these martial arts to create array formation with soul energy refining as an effect. If I were to be successful in creating such an array formation, I would hit another jackpot similar to the silver milk powder. Thinking of this, the legendary grade soul energy refining technique started to sound attractive. If I successfully turned the soul energy refining technique into an array formation, it would earn me more than hundreds of devil ingredients.

"Okay, Corey. Since you are being so sincere with your apology, I will forgive you this once. But I will be paying for the martial arts cards in installments with zero interest rate and take a 40% discount. Are you okay with that?" Seeing the prospects of the legend grade soul energy refining technique, I decided to compromise with Corey Park.

"Thank you, Wyatt. You won't regret this." Corey Park cheered for chump change, not knowing she had lost the fortune of a lifetime. If she knew, she would regret agreeing to give her boss the legend-grade soul energy refining technique for free.

"Don't mention it." I waved my hands, indicating that it was not a big deal.

"I will head to my card lab to create the twin demon dragon body Arts card for the creation of the twin Soldiers' origin card." After I agreed to pay for the three martial cards in installments and promised not to take her devil ingredient, Corey Park hurriedly excused herself, fearing that she or Corey Bright would say or do something to change my mind.

"Wyatt, are you sure about this?" After Corey left, Susan asked me if I was sure about letting off Corey Park in exchange for a legend-grade soul energy refining technique.

"Yes, this is a good deal for us in the long haul." I didn't go into detail to explain to Susan how the legend grade soul energy refining technique was worth more than a devil ingredient and the fortune spent for three legend grade martial arts cards.

"If you say so." Susan didn't understand how the deal helped them in the long haul. But since her boss was confident, then it meant he must be planning something.

"Susan, I will pass another list of ingredients to your grimoire. Please purchase them as soon as possible. I plan to begin the advanced experimentation phase with the array formation as quickly as possible." To develop the Array formation hack card, I need to experiment with various arrays. And see how much resistance each array has to outside invasion through nature's soul pathways.

"Okay, I will get to it right away." Saying that Susan exited the warehouse and left for the guild association mall to acquire the card ingredients I mentioned in the list.

As Susan left to procure the ingredients, I took out the new materials on array formation given to me by Lorenzo.

I planned to have the Hive AI scan the material on array formation and save it for my slave consciousness to go through them for me while I experimented with the advanced array formation technique. And how to hack them in the fastest and most effective ways.

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Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 15:23

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

I spent the last three hours arranging all the arrays of the advanced array formation, then the intermediate and the basic array formation. It has been hectic the last few hours for Susan procuring ingredients at my wimp. She didn't complain, and she earned my appreciation for that. I know I could always count on her.

Why did I spend the last three hours rearranging the basic, intermediate and advanced formations? How did I achieve it in mere three hours?

It only took me three hours to arrange all the arrays because I had arranged them before and kept the array cores I used to arrange those arrays. Since I had the array cores ready, it took little effort and calculation to rearrange them. But during this process, I unearthed a variable that I didn't consider earlier.

The reason I rearranged all the array formations was that I wanted to hack them through the weak points of the array I had discovered yesterday night. But it turns out that what I believed to be weak points of the arrays only existed in the first place because of the unaccounted variables in the surrounding nature's pathway. The so-called weak points in the array kept changing with the change in surrounding nature's soul pathways. This means the vulnerability in the array changes depending upon the location you arrange them.

This deeply hindered my idea of creating an Array formation hack, a universal Array formation hack.

Creating a hack for an array was no longer as simple as dominating the surrounding nature's soul pathways and knowing general knowledge about the array formation arranged.

In the new hack, Dominating the surrounding nature's soul pathway remained constant. The knowledge about the said array required was more than regular as we needed to calculate the weak chains of the array and instruct them through the nature's soul pathways that we dominate to do something other than what's required of them to maintain the array.

The requirement of knowledge of the said array had increased above the general knowledge because I assumed the weak points of the array formation were constant when they were not. They change according to their surrounding nature's soul pathway.

During my second round of experimentation with Array formation, I found the variable that I hadn't accounted for in my first round of experimentation. Though nature's soul pathways are open sources free for all to access and manipulate as they please, I forgot to account that they were very volatile. Yes, they were not constant. They kept changing based on the location.

The only difference between the first round of experimentation and the second round of experimentation was the location, which I hadn't considered in the first round of

experimentation, which led me to blindly assume that the weak points of the array are constant.

How did this affect the creation of my universal array formation hack? First, it increases the knowledge required about the said array as we need to calculate the vulnerability of the array formation in real time depending upon the surrounding soul pathway.

This meant that if I wanted to hack two soul energy gathering arrays 100 meters apart from each other, I needed to dominate surrounding nature's soul pathways and then calculate the vulnerability of both the array formation separately even though they were literally the same array as the vulnerability of both arrays were different despite them being fundamentally the same and arranged by the same person due to the difference in their location.

The open-source trait of nature's soul pathways made it easier for anybody to access the soul pathways used in a particular array. Its volatile attribute acted like security to the soul pathways used in a specific array.

Because of the volatile attribute of nature's soul pathway, the same array formation arranged by the same array master in two different locations had inherently different vulnerabilities. In a way, nature's soul pathways themselves were the best first layer of security for an array formation.

The idea of creating a universal array formation hack was still underway, but it had become more sophisticated, and I needed to gain my hands on more array formations of different tiers. But meanwhile, I had walked into a new project. Something opposite to a universal array formation hack, a versatile array formation core.

The idea behind the versatile array formation core was one core for all the array formations but for now, the 78 basic, intermediate, and advanced array formations that were taught in Lorenzo's study material because they were the only array formation I had mastered so far.

If I had a single core that could be used to arrange 78 different basic, intermediate, and advanced array formations at my wimp, how awesome would that be? But there were challenges to achieving that. And they were pretty much the same challenges I faced with creating a universal array formation hack, Location, and knowledge of the said array.

These two challenges were not a big deal for me with my soul pupils, three slave consciousnesses and Hive AI. I could overcome them. But they became a problem if I wanted to commercialize the universal array formation hack and versatile array formation core. I was a long way from being able to apply for a patent for these two ideas.

Unless I had a working product, publishing this research would only be considered a theory, and everybody could have a crack at it. And then these projects of mine would become a race for everyone, and whoever wins the first place would apply for the patent. I was not a fool to sow the tree, only for others to pick the fruits.

For now, I would be satisfied if I could achieve a working prototype of a versatile array formation core with 78 basic, intermediate, and advanced array formations that were taught in Lorenzo's study material. Since I had all the materials I required for the creation process, without further delay, I began the creation process.

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Right now, I have 78 array cores in front of me. Each one of them is a near-perfect array core with zero flaws. All I need is a bit of mental strength, expert knowledge of the said array, and nature's soul pathways. I could use the 78 cores to set up 78 different arrays in a matter of two or three hours.

But that wasn't what I was after. Right now, I wanted to join all these 78 different array cores into a single core. Not to be mistaken with the superimposing of two or more arrays, a hybrid array.

Hybrid Arrays that's the topic on which Lorenzo's second set of study materials dwelled. I thought it would contain how to make a field or trap card, but it didn't. All it spoke about was Hybrid Arrays.

Hybrid Array formation is a complicated concept for array masters because it involves the superposition of two or more arrays. Arranging a single array is already hectic. Imagine superimposing two or more arrays in such a way that you get a single array with the effects of multiple arrays or the effect of each array complimenting each other to get a higher output. A highly complex concept indeed, but not for me.

It was complex because the array master not only needed to calculate the surrounding nature's soul pathway but also the impact of having a single soul pathway do two or more chores to maintain the array. If the soul pathway becomes unstable, then the whole array will implode.

But this problem was of little difficulty for me because I could see the soul pathways with my eyes and watch how the soul pathways reacted to the overlapping of the arrays and whether they could handle the heavy workload or not. Or would I need more soul power to stabilize the soul pathways? Since I can see the problem, I could address it. But other array masters could not see it. They had to be precise with their calculations and empower the soul pathways with soul energy before they became unstable and exploded.

The temporary cleansing array formation I set up in wager against Lorenzo was a simple superimposed array. It superimposed two arrays, the usual holy light array and the other array created to control the airflow and moisture. Together they formed the cleansing array formation.

'Did old Lorenzo give me the study materials on the superimposition of Array because he saw me create a basic superimposed array formation without the knowledge of it?' If yes, then I guess he must have doubts about my origin card aura sight and whether they help me sense the soul pathways better than the naked eyes, which are blind to soul pathways. Should I be worried about it? I don't know. But since we are in a mutual partnership, for now, I should be safe.

Not worrying about what I could not control, I focused my attention on creating a versatile array formation core. Now there were two goals of Versatile array formation I needed to achieve.

1. It should allow me to arrange the array formation of any one of the 78 array cores used in its creation at my will.
2. It should allow me to superimpose the two or more arrays.

Adding 78 array cores to a single core was not going to be easy. The core would be cluttered with soul pathways. It would be difficult to determine which set of soul pathway arrangements belongs to which of the 78 arrays. During the operation, if the soul power were leaked to any of the other soul pathways, the arranged array formation would collapse.

There is no way that 78 separate soul pathway arrangements of 78 different array formations could be placed in a single core without it blowing up on my face. To overcome this problem, I decided to create a system, a system similar to a human body. The human body has so many organs that constitute different human body systems. All of them work in harmony and help each other with their functions. If not, they don't hinder each other.

So to create a versatile array formation core, I was going to make a system mimicking the human body. My approach would have 78 different organs which would come together from various small systems that would then together form a versatile array formation.

This wasn't going to be easy, but it was possible with the help of the hybrid array concepts. I need to sort out the 78 array formation based on their compatibility to form the hybrid arrays. These hybrid arrays would be small individual systems. Then these small individual systems would together for a one large working system that would be incorporated into a core.

The idea was good and all, but it required a lot of work. I needed to find the compatible arrays and form a hybrid array with them together. Then arrange these hybrid arrays together such that even though they don't compliment each other's functions. They will not hinder each other. This wasn't easy because I would have to check how each array reacted to each other individually. Then the hybrid arrays would be individually assessed for their reaction in the company of different hybrid arrays. It was like planning a seating arrangement for a marriage.

All this process was tedious and required a lot of planning and calculations. Not something I could handle individually. I could, but it would take a lot of time, weeks, or even months, but I could shorten the time required with the help of the Hive AI and three slave consciousness.

There were hundreds of possibilities to create a system void of conflict between them. But not all of them were optimal or efficient. I had to have the Hive AI run simulations of all these possibilities and weed out the ones with less efficiency and stability factor. And find the one option that is the most stable and efficient.

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[1,059 words]

Chapter 721 Honeypot

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 16:47

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

Weeks of work were completed in a mere hour, thanks to the Hive AI and the three slave consciousnesses. Not only was I able to arrange the 78 array soul pathways in a single core but also in such a way that they don't hinder each other's function, but they sometimes enabled and complemented each other's function while showcasing maximum efficiency.

The first prototype versatile array formation core was ready. Still, I needed to add a few extra layers of security to it, like the Honeypot method used by the cyber security back home.

A honeypot is a cybersecurity mechanism that uses a manufactured attack target to lure cybercriminals away from legitimate targets. Once the attacker takes the bait, we can gather intelligence about their identity, methods, and reasons for the attack.

Similar to honeypot in cybersecurity, I would create a few decoy flaws and vulnerabilities as bait in the versatile array formation core. So when somebody tries to attack the main array that I have set up using the versatile array formation core will fall prey to these decoy flaws instead of attacking the actual vulnerabilities in the array. Buying me enough time to ensure the security of the array by any means possible.

Finally, I held the first working prototype of a versatile array formation core with 78 basic, interminate and advanced arrays to choose from. With this single array core, I could set up any of 78 basic arrays at my whim in a few minutes. But the same could not be achieved by other Array masters using the versatile array formation core. They may be able to arrange the arrays, but it will take them a lot more than a few minutes because they lack the soul pupils that allowed me to set up the array accordingly based on the reaction of the soul pathways.

Even though I held the versatile array core, I couldn't just arrange an array or switch from one array to another. I need to do the calculations for setting up the array's taking the surrounding soul pathways into account. The calculations need to be accurate to set up the arrays for which I should have mastery over the array or hybrid array I am about to set up.

Anybody who wants to use the versatile array core should also be well versed in the 78 arrays and their hybrid arrays to make full use of it. All this cannot be achieved in mere minutes, but I could due to the support of my three slave consciousness, Hive AI, and Soul pupils. Honestly, other array masters stand a better chance to set up an array using a standard array core because then they would not have to watch out for triggering different array soul pathways while arranging another array, like in the case of the versatile array formation core.

These constraints are the reason even though I had a successful product, I could not market it because it was not perfect to be used by regular array masters. I need to perfect it and increase its convenience factor. Maybe I could try removing some of the lesser-used array pathways or something more profound. But for now, I had a versatile array core through which I could arrange any of the 78 arrays and their resulting hybrid array formations.

Successfully creating the prototype of the Versatile array formation core, I walked out of the card lab. Only to be greeted by Rami Kaga. There would be only two reasons why

he was here. Either he achieved the task I gave him, or he learned about me helping his grandson create his origin card without his knowledge.

After experiencing the might of a city array during the fight with the demon worshipers, I realized that I was being too complacent about my plans to attack the branch of the Circle in the Sun blossom city. I hadn't taken the Sun blossom city array and the array formation covering the headquarters of the circle into consideration in my plans. If I had continued with the attack despite knowing this, I would face an utter defeat by the arrays even before we got to the enemy.

This is one of the main reasons why I started learning array formation in the first place. I needed to have ways to decipher the array formation before my forces descended to wipe out the branch of the circle in Sun Blossom city.

At first, my interest in array formation was limited to deciphering the array covering the circle headquarters and escaping the sanctions of the Sun Blossom city array. But as I explored the array formation, I was roped into it because of its majesty but primarily because of my ultimate cheat soul pupils that made me a prodigy in the field of array formation.

Thanks to Lorenzo's notes, I could be considered an advanced array master. I think this should be enough to face the array protecting the circle's headquarters in the Sun Blossom city. That is, if Rami has completed his task of finding out the array formation being used by the Sun blossom city and the Circle headquarters. But he could also be here about this grandson's issue.

"Master Wyatt," Rami greeted me respectfully as soon as he saw me.

"Hm," I nodded, acknowledging his greeting.

"Master Wyatt, first, I need to thank you for helping my grandson create his desired origin card." I didn't expect Rami to thank me for creating his grandson's origin card without his knowledge.

"So Kane has already shown you his origin card?" I asked Rami what I actually meant was if he had seen Ivy's appearance and how it resembles Kane's bully's mom.

"I have. It is an extraordinary origin card with peculiar abilities. I could not have wished for more. And it helped me realize how much Kane has been through. I saw a rare maturity in him, which wasn't there before. I am happy that he has grown into a fine young man who could look after the family interest." Kane seemed to have explained to his grandfather the events that led to his decision to have me create his origin card and the appearance of his summons.

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I was confident that Rami would be satisfied with the origin card I created for his grandson, but what I wanted to know wasn't that or their family drama. All I cared about was whether Rami was aware that his grandson had transferred all his ill-gotten property in his name to me as payment for the creation of his origin card.

"Master Wyatt, I want to know if it is possible to create a card similar to my grandson's origin card," Rami asked me with a hint of redness on both of his cheeks.

"..." Hearing Rami's question, I became speechless. If I didn't understand the intentions behind Rami's question, I would be the dumbest fool in the world.

"Master Wyatt, don't get me wrong. It had been ages since my wife passed away. I miss her. If there is a way for me to see her image once again in the flesh, I would be relieved." Rami hastily explained the reason behind his question.

"..." I don't know if Rami was telling the truth or not, but for sure, I knew that if I made that card for him, he would indeed relieve himself. Fucking perverted old bastard.

"Hahaha!" I burst into laughter thinking of a scenario where Rami would borrow his grandson's Origin card. Now that's just wrong. Come to think of it, Kane's origin card could help him open a thriving brothel. Not to mention his fairy guards can appear in any appearance, which could be the main attraction to his brothel.

"..." Rami was puzzled, seeing me suddenly burst out in laughter. He didn't take any offense or didn't dare to.

"Rami, I can create cards with similar abilities as your grandson's origin card. The card will have near-zero combat ability, but it will be the ability you are looking for." With the help of Vivian's Rune, creating a wooden blow-up doll card with the ability to morph into any appearance using the target's blood wasn't impossible.

"Really!" Rami exclaimed. He could barely hide his excitement.

"But it will cost you shit tons of money, and there is a condition," I started my demands. I planned to charge Rami the same amount of fees his grandson paid for his origin card.

"Money is not the matter, Master Wyatt. You name the price I will pay in full. As for the condition, you name it, and I will follow." Rami expressed with a genuinely sincere expression on his face.

"You can never speak about the card to anybody else. And the same goes for your grandson too. He cannot disclose the steamy and juicy side of his origin cards to others." The reason I added this clause was because there were too many horny, desperate, and perverted men in the world. If they knew a card like Kane's origin card was possible, I would be flooded with requests to create such cards. There was too much potential to earn money in this field, but I didn't want to spend the rest of my life creating wooden blowup dolls for perverted old men.

"Don't worry, master Wyatt, my lips are sealed, and Kane is not foolish enough to share the abilities of his origin card with the outside world," Rami assured me that he and his grandson would not reveal the information about their cards to the world.

"Good, and as for the price, I will be charging you the exact amount your grandson has paid to create his origin card." I didn't give Rami a number because even after a day, I could not calculate the total worth of the assets Kane transferred to my name.

"Master Wyatt, name the price. I have accumulated a small fortune as the head of the medical card association of the blossom district. So please do not hesitate to use expensive ingredients to create the card. Feel free to improvise. I am willing to pay extra for the card." Rami's words made it clear that Kane has not disclosed the fees he paid for creating his origin card.

"Rami, I believe you should have a chat about the fees your grandson paid to have his origin card created. Once you have done that, then we can talk about your custom card." I thought that it would be in Rami's best interest if Kane were the one to inform his grandfather about his deeds.

"Hm... I understand, master Wyatt." Realizing that his grandson was not upfront about everything to him, Rami decided to go with my suggestion and discuss his custom card after talking with his grandson. And then he added, "Master Wyatt, I was able to uncover the arrays being used by the Sun blossom city and the circle."

"Great. What array are they using?" I asked in anticipation.

"The Sun blossom city uses the standard space isolation barrier array specified by the southern royal family similar to the one used by our city."

As for the Circle, they used a hybrid array called the desolate punisher array." Rami named the two areas used by the Sun blossom city and the circle.

"Space isolation barrier array, Desolate punished array." There was a mention of a space isolation barrier array in Lorenzo's study material. But nothing about the Desolate

punished array. So I couldn't help but ask, "Rami, what about the recipes for both of the arrays? Especially the Desolate Punisher array."

"Master Wyatt, about that, the recipe for the space isolation barrier array is a state secret. I couldn't find it on the black market."

As for the Desolate Punisher array, I could not find such an array in the market. The creator of that array never disclosed it to the world." Rami came empty-handed. Except for the array names, he didn't find anything useful for me to raid the circle on the Sun blossom city.

"Fuck!" I could not help but cuss, seeing how I couldn't get the recipe for either of the arrays.

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"Master, I don't know if this helps, but I heard the royal family has a token that gives them direct access to the Space isolation barrier array covering cities. It is rumored that anybody with that token can override the authority of the city array and control it to their will." Hearing his benefactor cuss, Rami hurriedly added.

Rami tried his best to find information on the Space isolation array and Desolate punished array but couldn't due to their special nature. Though he couldn't find any accurate information regarding both the arrays, he still managed to gather some rumors about the arrays. He didn't bring them forward, not knowing if it would be appropriate to relay rumors without checking the facts. But feeling he was of no help, in the end, he wound up deciding to talk about the rumors.

"Interesting, you are proposing that I ask the southern emperor for the token in the rumors to take control of the Sun Blossom city's Space Isolation Barrier array to deal with the branch of the circle in Sun blossom city," I asked Rami.

"I wouldn't dare to. I am sorry I shouldn't have played a part in spreading such rumors by something of it," Rami hurriedly explained himself and apologized for spreading rumors about the Royal family.

"Okay." Rami misunderstood my intentions, but I didn't try to correct him. And asked, "What about the desolate punisher array?"

"I heard one needs to be equipped with a token card to enter this array. This one doesn't seem to be a rumor." Rami retold what he had heard.

"There was no such function to array covering the circle branch in Sky blossom city. What changed?" Realizing this, I checked the copied memories of the clown mask of the security measures used by the circle to protect their hideout, especially the arrays.

'Yin-Yang Harmony Sect' this name popped up when I searched the Desolate Punisher array through the clown masks' copied memories. This array belonged to the Yin-Yang Harmony sect.

According to the alternate future, Circle shouldn't have this array until a few years ahead in the future because the Yin-Yang Harmony sect hadn't allied with the Supreme leader yet. But for some reason, it appears that the alliance between the Supreme leader and the Yin-Yang Harmony sect has formed way ahead compared to the alternative future seen by Clown mask.

What prompted this? I had no idea.

But thankfully, Clown Mask's copied memories had more detailed information on the desolate punisher array.

First, the presence of a desolate punisher array meant that the branch of the circle in Sun blossom city had an Array master from Yin-Yang harmony present. Because the desolate punisher array was the sect's secret, and it wouldn't pass its recipe to the circle despite their alliance. Therefore the sect would send trained array masters to their allies to set up and maintain the array formation to express their friendship. Of course, the circle would be paying a fee to the sect for their service and bare all the expenditures of the array.

From the memories, I knew that a person needs to be equipped with a token card to enter the array and not be targeted by its effects. Rami wasn't wrong about that. And if a person without the token card were to force himself into the array formation, they would face a dire consequence because the desolate punished array involves the silence rule.

The silence rule is why the allies of the Yin-yang harmony sect were willing to pay a high price to add a desolate punisher array to their regular protection array.

Clown Masks' memories had the history and effects of the desolate punisher array. But, it did not have any details on its recipe and workings of the array. Which is required to understand the array better for me to hack it.

"Hmm..." learning about the effects of the desolate punished array, I was bummed because I couldn't try to break through it with force because the silence rule used in the array left little room for struggle. And also because I didn't know how to use rules with arrays. There was nothing about this segment in the notes given by Lorenzo. Incorporating rules in the array formation, I didn't even know it was possible until I learned about the desolate punisher array from Clown Mask's memories.

But there was one plus point in this, the disciple of the Yin-Yang harmony sect that was sent to the circle to arrange and maintain the desolate punisher array. Why would a sect disciple be the one good thing out of this ordeal? The Silence Rune in his ego gem. Since the sect disciple can arrange a desolate punisher array, then that means that he has forged a silence rule rune. The prowess of the silence rule is undisputed. Clans and families are willing to spread a fortune to recruit a card apprentice with the silence rule, but they are scarce and get recruited for sky-high benefits as soon as they hit the job market. The card apprentices with the silence rule have no choice but to join the big prowess of the world because they get hunted for their ego gem.

Almost 65 percent of the world's card apprentices with silence rule are from the Yin-yang harmony sect. The sect was able to maintain this monopoly only because of their ancestral heritage, which allowed their disciples to comprehend the silence rule.

Hunting the disciple of the Yin-Yang harmony sect for their ego gem was akin to signing a death warrant. They would immediately become the enemies of the Sect and their allies. And will be hunted to the end of the world.

Despite knowing the dangers of killing a Yin-yang harmony sect disciple for their rune, I still planned to aim for them because of my Calamity daughter gem. I didn't have to kill them. I could enslave them. After enslaving the sect disciple, I could try to gain insight into the silence rule, borrowing their runes.

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

"Rami, how good is your relationship with the Circle?" I asked Rami, having thought of a way around the desolate punisher array.

"I hate them to the core. They are destroying the Sun blossom city. They are suppressing my city and extorting my citizens. I always wanted to do something about them. But, my power was never enough. So, I could only endure them," knowing that I would destroy the Circle's branch in the Sun blossom city, Rami spouted nonsense about him having a bone to pick with the Circle.

"Stop with the bullshitting. Tell the truth. I need you to run some errands for me." The circle was able to take root in the Sun blossom city by filling the pockets of the authorities governing it. And being one of the most influential people of Sun Blossom city Rami must have gotten his cut. So I didn't buy into his bullshit about caring for his city and hating the people destroying it.

Cough Rami coughed in embarrassment and spoke, "Except for taking a few gifts from them every now and then, I don't have any relationship with them."

"..." Rami finally spoke truthfully. After hearing his reply, I was disappointed because I needed someone on very close terms with the circle for my plan to work out.

"Master Wyatt, though I don't have a close relationship with the circle, I know people who do. I don't know if that helps." Seeing me disappointed, Rami thought of an alternative.

"That helps, great." I cheered upon realizing I could use anyone on very close terms with the circle to execute my plan. It didn't have to be Rami.

"I am happy that I could be of help to you, master Wyatt," Rami said humbly.

"Rami, have your people monitor if any core members of the circle are present in the Sky blossom city or come to visit the city. If you find any, inform me immediately. Got it?" I ordered Rami.

"Yes, Master Wyatt." Answered Rami without hesitation.

"Okay, then what are you doing waiting here? Go get to work." Seeing that Rami did not show any intention to leave, I had to force him to leave.

"Master Wyatt, about the custom card with similar abilities to my grandson's origin card." Rami shamelessly asked about the custom card once again.

"I already told you once you pay me the price equal to your grandson's fee for the creation of his origin card, I will make the custom card for you." Rami has been of help, so I didn't mind creating a custom card for him, but the price needs to be appropriate.

"Thank you, Master Wyatt." Confirming my agreement to create the custom card for him. Rami left delighted.

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'I should get Van to— oh! Right he is in the southern academic city.' I missed Van. He would execute any work assigned to him with perfect results. I had grown dependent on him compared to the other calamity daughter gem.

Come to think of it. It has been a while since Van's update. Should I check on them? No need. I guess he will contact me when he can.

Next, I planned to visit Anna at the southern watch temporary base. Obviously, to ask her if the rumor about the Space Isolation barrier array were true. If there existed a token that could override the authority of any city's space isolation barrier array, I planned to borrow it to use it in my invasion of the Sun Blossom city. I believed that I could get Anna to give that token if it existed.

"Wyatt, are you free?" Susan approached me.

"Yes, what is it?" I answered while putting the visit to Anna in the southern watch temporary base on hold.

"An interested customer contacted me. She said she contacted me after checking out our website. She has a bunch of questions. If you are free, can you answer them?" Susan explained.

"Did you mention my service charges?" I stopped taking on small budget projects long ago and had raised my service charges sky-high. So, I was surprised to see that a customer was willing to ask for my services.

"Yes, I did. And she agreed." Susan answered.

"Okay, then. What are her questions?" Since she could afford my services, I had no problem answering her questions.

"I have already answered a few questions of hers as they were about my origin card slime armor. She asked if the slime armor was created using slices and if you could create a mutant slime summon origin card instead of the slime armor.

I have already answered the first half of her question, that my slime armor used slime in its creation. As for the other half, I will leave it to you." Saying that Susan patiently waited for my answer.

"A mutant slime summon origin card, huh! I am capable of creating that. Ask her to visit the warehouse." Using a monster core to create a summon card was something many golden-grade card creationists could achieve, but the twist was the mutant part that my new client asked for.

Inducing a mutation in a monster core was very difficult. Even platinum-grade card creationists would think twice before taking up such projects. Causing mutation in the monster core of a particular spice requires lots of research and experimentation through trial and error. Even then, the success rate of causing mutations in a single monster core was low, almost negligible. The odds are very high, so no card creationist is willing to create a mutated summons card as an origin card unless they have previous research materials.

"This is odd?" Blurted Susan

"Why, what happened?"

"The client asked for our coordinates. I have already sent her the coordinates, but now I am curious why she would ask them." Susan explained her concerns.

Poof!

A flash shone in the warehouse a few feets from Susan. Alerted, I jumped to her rescue and hid her in my embrace with my back facing the flash.

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"Woah, you two love birds need the room? I can come back later." A voice sounded from my behind. Letting go of Susan in my embrace, I turn to find a petite figure in a private academy uniform as the voice source.

"Shorty, who are you? Where did you come from? Do your parents know you are here?" I asked the little girl with lavender-pink hair tied in twin ponytails.

"Shorty? Who are you calling short? Summon- Tundra! Smite this heathen." The little girl looked about 11-12 years old. She was easily triggered by the word shorty as she summoned her golden grimoire to attack me.

Boom A dark cloud filled the warehouse and struck me with a thunderbolt.

"Haha! That's what you get for messing with this princess." The schoolgirl laughed as the smoke and dust rose due to the impact of the thunderbolt. Though the smoke

concealed her sight, she was confident that her summons had taken care of the heathen.

"..." I faced the thunderbolt head-on because if I dodged it, Susan, who was behind me, would fall prey to it. I could withstand attacks ten times as powerful as this one with my physique, but Susan could not.

'Soul pupil,' opening my soul pupil, I found the core of the cloud-type summons of the peptide school girl and shot at it with a concentrated beam of soul energy using my soul energy manipulation ability.

Burst the monster core burst into pieces on impact, and the cloud-type summons died.

"No, Thundra!" The schoolgirl screamed in agony losing her summons even though it would revive with a slight drop in its durability. The peptide figure glared at me and swore, "I will be back!"

Poof with a bright flash, she vanished. As if she never appeared in the warehouse.

"She teleported back!" I said, turning to Susan, asking, "are you okay?"

"I am fine. But I think we just lost our new client. That little girl might have been the client who contacted us about creating a mutant slime summons origin card." Speculated Susan.

"Seeing how she could teleport at her convenience, your guess might be true. After all, she did ask for coordinates for this place." I supported Susan's speculations.

"Looks like our guess was correct. She left a one-star review on our online store, accusing us of misbehaving in the workplace and being impolite to our customers. And at the end, she swore that she will have her revenge for killing her summons." Getting the notification of a review posted about our online site on the grimoire net by her Grimoire, Susan immediately read the review left by the petite school girl who attacked me without warning.

"Not only did that girl surprise us with her unannounced teleportation but also attacked me out of nowhere, yet, she blames us for being impolite. The nerve of her. Let her come to avenge her summons. Next time I won't go easy on her and attack her summons but directly attack her." I did go easy on the petite schoolgirl. Who doesn't know the best way to take out a summon is to attack its summoner. At first, I aimed my concentrated soul energy beam at her but realized she might be the client who asked for the warehouse coordinates. I changed the target to her summon's core at the last minute.

Poof

"Wyatt! We felt a spatial disturbance here. What happened?" Learning of the spatial anomaly in the warehouse, Anna teleported here in concern.

"Nothing, we pissed off a rich but young client," I said casually.

"What?" Anna turned to Susan, looking for more details. Susan filled in Anna to update her about the events that transpired patiently.

"A teleportation card, with instantiations and consecutive effect. Looks like you have offended somebody with a deep background. Let's hope that the little girl doesn't go and cry to her parents. Or this whole thing can blow out of proportion." Anna speculated after hearing Susan explain.

"Leaving that aside, I was about to head out to meet you at the military base." I threw the incident with the little girl at the back of my head as there was nothing I could do about it.

"Huh, so what do you want?" Asked Anna

"Woah, you make it sound like I only reach out to you if I need something from you," I exclaimed, feeling guilty after hearing her words.

"What? Isn't that the known truth to everybody? I don't mind being your sugar mama, so don't worry." Said Anna.

"..." I was about to ask Anna about borrowing the rumored token that could override the authority of the space isolation barrier arrays covering any of the cities in the southern region. But hearing her, I realized recently I have come to depend on Anna way too much. That was an unfair and a jerk move, considering how I would not respond to Anna's feelings.

"Come on, don't be coy with me. Ask away. What is it you want?" Anna asserted.

"I will not pretend as if I wasn't going to ask for help. Considering our history, I think I don't need to do that. But you are right. I do depend way too much on you. So I will try to solve my problem by myself." Though Anna would not mind helping me, I did. After all, Anna could be considered my friend now. And taking advantage of a friend is not what I do. Especially a generous and loyal one like Anna.

"Wyatt, out with it! Don't make me force it out of you." Anna didn't seem to care about the words I had just spoken and demanded me to tell her how she could be of my help.

"Anna, I can handle it. And if I need your help, I know very to find you. So please put an end to this matter here. And let's talk about something less."

...

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[1,046 words]

Chapter 726 Agatha

Date- 1 April 2321

Time- 17:46

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

"Fine. Let's talk about your safety. Why don't you move to the military base? It will be a lot easier for me to protect you there?" Anna understood that I wouldn't compromise on that, so she brought up another topic she needed a win on.

"This again? Anna, you know why I would not move to the base. So please, don't start another debate over this." I requested Anna to stop.

"Wyatt, what is it? Your freedom? You spent a night at the base. Did you feel constrained in any way there? Did anyone try to restrict your movements?" Anna did not seem to plan to leave this matter to rest.

"..." Well, Anna's questions were indeed something to think about, but for apparent reasons, I felt repelled by the idea of living on a military base.

Since it is a military base, It has its regulations and protocol. If I am staying there, I need to follow them. There is no way around that. So obviously, I would be opposed to the idea of living on a military base. Anna wouldn't understand this, as she is a princess, and the army laws don't apply to her but are in place to protect her and her family's interests.

"Well, answer me," Anna demanded.

"Anna, I have my reasons, so please leave this matter here. I don't want to talk about it anymore." Knowing Anna would not understand my concerns, I did not bother to explain them to her.

"Wyatt, what reason could be more important than your own life? Can't you see, what if the person who teleported here was one of the card emperor realm assassins instead of a little girl. By the time I arrived at your rescue, it would have been too late, and they would have killed you a hundred times over." Anna explained her concerns.

"..." I couldn't argue with Anna because she was right. But I wasn't worried about encountering emperor realm assassins because I wouldn't really die until my calamity soul gem was destroyed. But the same was not true for people surrounding me. That was my growing concern. A few minutes ago, the little girl would have electrified Susan to death if I had chosen to dodge the thunderbolt. I don't want to see the people surrounding me be casualties. But living on a military base wasn't a solution for that.

Flash *Poof*

"Take cover!" I yelled at Susan, seeing a flash of light fill the warehouse, and two figures suddenly appear out of thin air.

"I am back!" A voice resounded in the warehouse. It was the petite schoolgirl from earlier.

"..." Instead of the petite schoolgirl, my sight remained on the white-robed figure next to her as she oozed a majestic aura. She was above the Card emperor realm, yet her power didn't come close to a demigod. She was the person with the highest active soul energy I have seen to date.

"Agatha, capture that boy." The petite schoolgirl ordered the white-robed girl pointing at me.

"..." The white-robed girl did not move, she kept staring at Anna at alert.

"You white fang mercenaries have grown bold to come into my region without my permission." Anna's voice thundered.

"Princess, retreat." Agatha hurriedly stepped in front of the petite schoolgirl and yelled asking her to teleport back home.

"What's going on? I can't teleport back." The petite girl exclaimed in shock. Though she did not know why Agatha asked her to retreat, she trusted her decision and activated her teleportation card to escape but her grimoire kept warning that,

[Warning: the surrounding space is enclosed. You cannot use teleportation.]

"Your highness, Southern emperor, is there a need to go as far as using the array covering the southern region to lock the space? We are not the enemy here." Agatha did not greet Anna but directly addressed her as if they were acquainted.

"Oh really, last time this arrogant girl escaped my grasp now I would like to see where she will run," Anna replied menacingly.

"What are you doing here?" The petite schoolgirl was too focused on the boy who killed her summon and did not notice Anna until Agatha addressed her.

"What am I doing here? This is my city, little girl, why can't I be here."

"How many times do I have to warn you not to call me little? Agatha, kill her." Despite her innocent middle school girl appearance, the petite schoolgirl was vicious with her orders. And did not hesitate to yell 'Kill' in anger.

"Princess, please control yourself, don't make matters worse." Agatha didn't follow her princess's orders but instead asked her not to act out in the enemy territory.

"Little girl, your temper hasn't changed since the day we met. You still blow up at every little thing." Anna seemed to know who the petite schoolgirl was and both of them seemed to have a history together.

"Are you trying to provoke this princess by purposefully calling me little? Blame yourself, you forced me to use this." The petite schoolgirl stepped out from her bodyguard's shadow and summoned her grimoire.

"Princess? You keep calling yourself princess but where are your kingdom and subjects? You are nothing but a fake princess, a pretend princess."

"Father help me!" A golden beam of light shot out of the petite school girl's grimoire and soon the golden beam of light morphed into a bulky human male figure.

"Agatha Lavender greets Demigod Windsor."

"Anna Heatsend greets Demigod Windsor."

Following Anna and Agatha, Susan and I greet the humanoid light.

"Susan Tucci greets Demigod Windsor"

"Dalton Wyatt greets Demigod Windsor." I had no idea who demigod Windsor was but he was a demigod and required utmost respect.

"Southern region? Heatsend girl, contact your family and inform them about the situation. Tell them there is no need to be alarmed. Before they rush over here, especially your mother I don't want to face her." The incarnation of demigod Windsor knew that his presence in the Southern region could be considered trespassing so he asked Anna to inform her family stating that he was not here to cause trouble.

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