

Card Apprentice Daily Log

Chapter 901 Pelt Family

[1,008 words]

Pelt Family

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 16:56

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP
Venue

Due to the restriction on the size of the summons during the city tournament, summons armament cards played a crucial role in most of my fights during the tournament. Though I don't expect to face such restriction in the future ever again, the armament made from my summons looked awesome and felt good to use. Therefore asides from their killing power, I wanted to have these cards for their killer style, it was too showy but these summon armaments were still way better than most of the item cards I have come across so far.

"Wyatt, you interested in this card? Are you planning to bid for this card? I remember you using such a card in your tournament matches," Eliza asked finding me go through the summons armament card info.

"I do," answering Eliza I was about to place my bid for the card but was interrupted by a stranger dressed like a butler, "Excuse me, gentleman, before you place your bid may I have word with you for a second."

"What?" I asked glimpsing at the old man dressed in a black tux with a family crest sewed on his lapel and imprinted on his cufflinks.

"Gentleman, let me introduce myself to you, I am Joe Pelt the butler of the Pelt family from Azura blossom city," The old man narratively introduced himself to me as if his name, his family, and his city's name were supposed to impress me in some way.

"Pelt family of the Azura blossom city? You mean the top family from one of the few second-rate cities in the blossom district. No wonder a mere servant dares to be so haughty in a social gathering, what is it that you want?" Cheng has held many half-yearly auctions over the past decades and depending upon the timing of Joe Pelt's arrival and lengthy but self-important introduction it was clear to him that this old butler was up to no good following the orders of his master.

"Association head, I am sorry if this humble servant's word has offended you," Joe Pelt apologized but there wasn't a trace of sincerity on his face. Making it clear that he didn't care for Cheng's impression of him and turning to look at me, he said, "My family young master has taken a liking for this card and would appreciate it if you were not to bid for this card."

Hearing Joe the butler say those words with a straight face and a demanding tone I, Cheng, Rami, and Eliza couldn't help but look at him in surprise wondering, 'Is he for real?'

And his next sentence answered our doubts, "My family young master will thank you for your cooperation." Having said that to our dumbfounded faces Joe left with an elegant stride as if he had achieved everything he was set out to achieve.

Looking at the weirdo butler's back I shook my head in amusement and placed my bid for the summon armament card not taking the lunatic from the pelt family seriously.

"Bastard, his servants, and juniors are also as arrogant as he is," Rami suddenly burst into curses. Eliza and I looked at Rami in confusion not understanding what he was talking about. Feeling my gaze, Rami explained, "3rd elder of the Pelt family has been aiming for my position as the chief of the medical association of the blossom district for a decade now. Though he has not been successful so far, he has always been the second choice for my current position. That bastard and his young ones consider themselves above others just because their family is from a second-grade city."

Hearing Rami, I had enough understanding of the pelt family of the Azura blossom city but it also made me find a little respect in me for Rami who was able to defeat opponents with bigger backgrounds than his and stably occupy his position as the blossom district medical card association for decades.

"My father has also warned me about the pelt family, they have a reputation for being a tyrant in the Azura Blossom city. After suffering a loss at their hands my family had stopped trading liquid spirit gold with them for the time being. My father described that family as the greedy blood sucking lich that never lets go once it latches on to you," Eliza and the Whiteburn family seemed to have had their version of experience with the Pelt family.

"Master Wyatt, you do not have anything to worry about, every half-yearly card auction there are clowns like these who think that they can exploit the auction for their benefit using their background to intimidate the competition. And we have rules set in place to teach these fools a lesson," Cheng spoke awe-inspiring but then undermined what he just said by adding, "Though corporal punishment is not possible to impose on them out of consideration their families we can impose a ban on them and their family members from participating in the auction for next few years."

"A ban?" I asked Cheng and added, "You can do that? Though it is not much it will save me some competition for this card. I will testify, so go ahead and ban this Pelt family from participating in any of the hear-yearly auctions held by the card creationist association of the Sun blossom city."

Following my suggestion, Cheng called an attendee to make it clear that all the bids made in the name of the Pelt family were invalid due to the violation of the association rules. This was good for me as the only competition for the summons armament card was banned from bidding on any of the items in the auction. Now I could bid for the summons armament card with just one median soul jades more than the base price set for the card by the card creationist association of the sun blossom city.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:12

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP Venue

After placing a bid for the summon armament card I found other cards that could be helpful to me in tonight's adventure and placed the bid for them accordingly. Then I thought it was about time I put my plan to recruit James Cheng as a calamity daughter gem in motion, and said, "Master Cheng, where is the restroom, I would like to freshen up a bit."

"Sure, Master Wyatt. Let me take you to the exclusive restroom for the staff. It will not be as crowded as the regular ones," Cheng replied but this plan crippled my plan right at the start.

"I will go check up on Lucy," said Eliza, and then Rami proposed that he be soon heading towards a foxy Cougar who seemed to still be in her prime.

The Sin Squad were waiting near the regular restroom for me to bring the target of their mission to them but now things have changed as Cheng was leading me to the exclusive restroom for the card creationist association staff helping with the half-yearly auction. This way my plan failed even before it had the chance to take off. Thinking about it, I decided to improvise the plan rather than give up.

So while following Cheng to the card creationist association staff exclusive restroom I contacted the sin squad and asked them to track my location with Hive AI to the restroom and then continue with the previous plan as planned. Only the location of the

plan had changed and all else remained the same. So there was not much improvisation to be made to the actual plan, it remained the same. The Sin squad would subdue Cheng and feed him the calamity daughter gem. During this process, the squad needed to make sure there was not a single witness to their crime.

Following Cheng, I finally arrived at another hall that was connected to both the regular and VIP venues, allowing the staff to freely travel back and forth between the two venues without wasting much time. The hall was surprisingly big and less crowded as all the staff was busy attending to the guests and maintaining the party. An interesting thing to notice was that though the VIP venue had fewer guests compared to the regular venue it had more staff attending it than the number of staff attending the regular venue.

Soon enough I arrived at the staff exclusive washroom under the direction of Cheng and I could feel the presence of my sin squad not far behind. I looked around to find that there were only a few staff in the hall and they were busy doing their thing. As for the restroom, I used my soul pupil to check that it was empty. Feeling the moment was right I signaled the sin squad to take action.

With my signal, the sin squad burst with full power and rushed toward Cheng, covering his mouth, and binding his arms, and legs. They made sure he couldn't scream or struggle and carried him into the restroom in a matter of a second.

Walking into the restroom I found the five members of the sin squad holding Cheng down. The confusion and fear were clear in Cheng's eyes. It grew stronger seeing me give no reaction to seeing him being restrained by a bunch of unknown card apprentices. It did not take him long to understand that I was working with the card lords restraining him. Cheng had a lot of questions in his mind but he couldn't ask as a hand was covering his mouth so hard that it felt like his mouth was about to be crushed.

Unlike Rami who was a card overlord, his best pal Cheng was not a card overlord but a card lord. Cheng's talent seemed to be very poor as he seemed to be unable to forge his ego gem even after trying for a few decades. This was good news for me as if Cheng had forged an ego gem then it would have been very difficult to restrain him with just his physical strength.

There was the reason why Physical strength was used to restrain Cheng and not some fancy cards or rules and their meanings, it was because of the energy detectors placed through the auction hall. It helps the security of the auction hall to monitor who is using how soul energy or rule energy at what location. And the systems would immediately flag the people who are using rule energy or soul energy more than it was required to make grimoire calls or make use of grimoire networks.

These security measures were necessary for the Auction house to make sure that people were not up to something not good as card apprentices who think they can steal from the auction house or use the auction house to target the society's elites were not

less in number. The card creationist association's auction house was able to continue its half-yearly auction for decades as a tradition because they were aware of the risks and prepared for it.

To beat them at their own game and target their head, I had to go a little primitive and make use of physical strength to restrain Cheng, if not for the viltronian physique granted to the sin squad by calamity daughter gems they would not have the physical prowess to subdue peak card lord such as Cheng within a matter of second despite their numbers.

Ignoring Cheng's hate and anger filled glare I handed the sin squad a storage card containing a calamity daughter gem to use on Cheng and walked outside the restroom heading back to the VIP venue, not that I could not handle doing this myself but to avoid the preying of the certain curious semi-demigod hiding in my shadow. With this, the first goal of the reason why I came to visit sun blossom city was achieved and now I could move on to the second phase of today's plan.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:12

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP
Venue

'Wyatt, what just happened? Who were those people? What do they plan to do to that man?' Agatha's mentally asked me about the sin squad. Before the sin squad acted to retrain Cheng, I had asked Agatha who was hiding in my shadows to stay put and not attack the suspicious men who were about to kidnap Cheng.

'Those people are my goons, they handle my dirty laundry for me. And that man that you show concern for, James Cheng, is on the circle's take. My goons will have a heart-to-heart chat with him so that he will not make use of the city array to help the circle when my forces attack the circle's headquarters tonight,' I had stressed to the sin squad to be very discreet while using the calamity daughter gem on Cheng to avoid Agatha's suspicions. First, the sin squad will beat him up real good, and then they will feed him a health potion laced with calamity daughter gem.

'I see, so you have done your homework. It is good to know that you are not just charging in head first blinded by vengeance. This way I will not have to worry about you failing and me cleaning up after you fail,' Agatha was not new to this, so she did not

have an opinion of me having my men attack Cheng as long as I had a valid reason for it.

Agatha was necessary for my protection, I still vividly remember what happened at card stadium's VIP box during the tournament. That dreadful mask-like creature nearing me without anyone noticing and the numerous card emperors pouring out of it, that moment I still remember as in that moment I was so close to death that I felt it breathing down my neck, had it not been for my soul pupils and calamity soul gem, I would have died on that day.

By now Sansa should have gotten the news of me still being alive and that her men were not able to finish the job they set out to do. Now that I have left sky blossom city, it would be the best time for Sansa to send her assassins again, considering that they failed last time, this time around those guys will definitely stick around to make so that I stay dead. Though I can see through enemies' stealth, I did not have the strength to resist their power or escape them. Therefore I wanted a capable semi-demigod on my beck and call, act on my command to immediately engage the incoming invisible enemy or flee with me. Hence at the risk of some of my secrets leaking I had to go ahead with executing the first phase of my plan. With the first phase of the plan taken care of, I had to look forward to the results of the second phase of the plan.

Speaking of the second phase of the plan, recruiting the yin-yang harmony sect's disciple, Roy had already returned to the circle's headquarters and had handed over the calamity daughter gem to the maid whom he had just recently recruited to my calamity daughter gem army.

According to the maid, the yin-yang harmony sect's disciple was very cautious by nature even though she has been attending to him for about a week now he doesn't seem to have lowered her guard towards her. Hence she had no other opportunity to use the calamity daughter gem on him until dinner. She usually delivers him his dinner by eight in the evening which means the success of the second phase of the plan will not be certain until after the yin-yang harmony sect's disciple has had his dinner at eight in the evening.

So while I am waiting for the maid to execute the second phase of the plan, I decided to make most of the newest member of my calamity daughter gem army, James Cheng, the head of the card creationist association of the sun blossom city.

Asides from the nine energy sword cards and summon armament card I had bid on many different cards that could help me in tonight's fight or will make a good addition to my card arsenal. Either way, I had my heart set on these cards but did not have the patience to keep strolling around the venue, checking to see if anyone has outbid me on one of the cards bid for. That's where James Cheng comes in, he will assign his staff to each of the cards I bid for to place a new bid for the cards in case someone outbids me on one of those cards. This way my bids will always be on top and will be the winning bid allowing me to procure all the cards I bid for seamlessly.

'Master,' Cheng mentally greeted me as soon as he caught up to me walking out of the washroom. I nodded my head and mentally ordered, 'Act normally as if nothing changed and address me as master Wyatt in presence of a company.'

'Yes master,' Cheng agreed to my order, and his expressionless face grew a pretend gentle smile that he had on his face earlier when he strolled the venue with me.

Then I walked towards the center of the VIP venue where Eliza and Lucy must be waiting while mentally giving Cheng instructions to use his authority to help me win the cards I bid for using the staff of the card creationist association.

Now that the first phase of the plan was achieved and since Cheng was going to help me procure the cards I bid for, I had no other reason to be in the auction house, so I planned to say goodbye to Eliza and had back to my lodging, wait for Roy and the maid send a report on the success of the second phase of the plan.

"Ahh..."

"Don't touch her, let go of her,"

"Dessert Cannon activate,"

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:18

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP Venue

"Ahh..." As I neared the center of the VIP venue where the energy sword cards are put on display I had a sharp scream. Followed by the yell of a familiar voice, "Don't touch her, let go of her,"

Hearing the familiar voice yell my pace hastened, piercing through the crowd I made it to the nine glass columns displaying energy sword cards. Only to see an agitated Lucy summon her grimoire and activate her origin card aiming at a middle-aged woman with heavy makeup, "Dessert Cannon activate,"

"Ahhh! She wants to kill me, somebody help me," Seeing Lucy's hands morph into cannons, the middle-aged woman let go of Lucy's hair and screamed for help, causing panic in the crowd.

Once the middle-aged woman let go of Lucy's hair, Eliza hugged Lucy's head in her bosom, while gently brushing her hair she whispered, "Lucy, calm down, everything is going to be okay, calm down, big sister is here,"

Eliza's whispers in Lucy's ears worked like a charm. Lucy's cannon arms morphed back to normal hands and she did not seem to be as agitated as before. And soon the duo was surrounded by a fleet of men in uniform.

Lucy activating her origin card had triggered the soul energy monitoring alarms, alerting the security of the auction house who responded in a record time as per their training. The chief of security walked out of the men surrounding Eliza and Lucy addressing them, "Miss, you have violated the rules of the auction house, please leave the auction houses while we politely escort you out."

Hearing the Chief of security the middle-aged woman from earlier flared up yelling, "That bitch tried to kill me, and you guys want to let her go, does the card creationist association have no sense of justice? I want her to be imprisoned."

Hearing the middle-aged woman, Eliza threw a glare at her but before she could refute the middle-aged woman's slander, the Chief of security respond by saying, "Madam, that is not possible since no one is harmed, we have no reason to detain them but if you want to press charges against them, please contact the city cops."

The Cheif of security did not make things difficult for Eliza and Lucy hearing the middle-aged woman's demand because he knew that the card apprentices present in the VIP venue were all influential people with high backgrounds. So he did not want to offend either of the parties so decided to do things by book so that neither of them come back for his head.

"What? She almost killed. I was so frightened by this incident, I may be traumatized for the rest of my life. But you are telling me no harm was done? Is there no justice in this world? I want you to hold her for the attempt to murder charge," after the Chief of security said there was no harm done the middle-aged woman flipped yelling she was mentally traumatized.

"Hey, old lady, don't just go around spouting your bullshit. If anyone here was traumatized then it was my friend. If you had not grabbed her by her hair and tried to slap her, she would not feel the need to use her card to defend herself. She should be the one pressing charges against you. Hold on I will call the city cops myself and let them decide who is in the wrong here," Finally getting her chance Eliza did not spare the middle-aged woman.

"Old Lady? Little slut who are you calling old lady?" Being called old Lady the middle-aged woman who was targeting Lucy so far snapped at Eliza.

"Old Lady, please watch your language. I will add it to your list of offenses when the cops come here," Eliza did not bicker with the middle-aged woman but threatened her with the law.

"Cops? Go ahead and call them I have nothing to worry about since I have done nothing wrong," the middle-aged woman acted as of the word, cops, did not fear her but she visibly calm down from before Eliza threatened her with it. This woman knew who was wrong here but still bickered to not give Eliza the satisfaction of being right and winning against her.

"Fine, I will call the cops right now," Eliza was not willing to let this go until she found justice for her friend because she knew Lucy did nothing wrong yet was abused by this unreasonable middle-aged lady.

Hearing that Eliza and the middle-aged lady wanted to settle this through cops the chief of security knew things were already above his pay grade and right now he should do what he was paid to do, maintain peace in the VIP venue.

"Okay, ladies, I will have to ask the three of you to step out of the auction house, you are disturbing other guests." Now that the trio wanted to call the cops, the chief of security did not want the arrival of the cops to ruin the open auction experience of the other guests. Therefore he decided to escort the middle-aged out along with Eliza and Lucy.

"What? You will regret this," hearing the Cheif of security wants to throw her out too, the middle-aged woman gave him a death glare while making thrid-rate cliche threats.

"Security, escort them out," ignoring the middle-aged woman's threat the chief of security ordered his men to escort the three ladies out of the auction hall.

"Come on, Lucy let's go," Eliza said to Lucy as the security escorted them out but Lucy did not move an inch and said, "No, I want the energy sword card."

Hearing Lucy, Eliza's expression turned complicated as due to this incident with the middle-aged woman they were being expelled from the auction house meaning the bids made by them will become invalid which meant Lucy will not be able to buy the energy sword card through this open auction.

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Chapter 905: Liar

Date- 3 April 2321 Time- 17:28 Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP

Venue

Eliza was in a bind right now, she did not know how to get Lucy to leave the auction house with her before the security threw them out. Even though Lucy understood what was going on her mental health quirks did not allow her to act on it, instead, she gets fixated on things and would not leave the auction house without winning the energy sword card. But that was not possible since they were being expelled from the auction house. Just when Eliza thought to use desperate means, Imock Lucy unconscious and carry her out of the auction house, she saw a figure make his way out of the crowd surrounding them. Then her eyes shone as the solution to her predicament docilely followed behind him.

"What is going on here?" Cheng asked the chief of security. "Reporting to the association head, that girl summoned her grimoire to use her cards, and these two are causing a commotion disturbing our guests, violating the auction house rules. Following the rules of the auction house, we are expelling all the parties directly involved with the incident from the auction house," the Chief of security saluted Cheng before answering him. "Um, I see..." just when Cheng was about to ask the Chief of security to overlook this incident and let the offenders free, the middle-aged woman yelled, "Association head, he is lying. That bitch tried to kill me, only then did I cry for help. I did nothing wrong. Why am I being expelled from the auction house." "You..." Hearing the middle-aged woman call him a liar in front of the card creationist association head the chief of security was enraged, he regretted not ordering his men to drag this vile woman and throw her out of the auction house earlier.

Cheng did not respond to the middle-aged woman, instead, he turned to look at the chief of security and said, "Access the surveillance feed and check what happened." "Yes, sir," the Chief of security immediately summoned his grimoire and accessed the surveillance feed monitoring the nine energy sword cards floating in the glass columns. And watching the footage of the incident he sneered at the middle-aged woman and forwarded the footage to Chen&

As Cheng watched the footage forwarded to him by the chief of security, I used the Hive AI to get the live feed of what Cheng was watching. Apparently, it all started with the middle-aged woman bidding for the energy sword card that Lucy bid for. Every time the middle-aged woman bid for the card, Lucy would counter her bid by adding the minimum bid of one low soul jade. The middle-aged woman was tolerant the first time, second time, and third time but the fourth time she lost calm feeling that Lucy was taunting her and purposely increasing the bid for this particular energy sword. So she snapped at Lucy yelling, "Bitch, you going too far? I am warning, you don't want to mess with me."

"I am not a bitch, a female dog is called a bitch," Lucy answered in her innocent way. Though Lucy did not say anything offensive, the middle-aged woman still took offense as in her mind nobody was allowed to talk back to her. So she lashed out yelling, "Who are you calling a bog, you bitch." Being yelled at, Lucy was confused and agitated not understanding why she was being yelled at for. From her perspective, Everything the middle-aged woman did or say made no sense. So she was unable to come up with a proper response to respond to the middle-aged woman and ended up choosing to stay silent, which to the insecure middle-aged woman's eyes seemed like Lucy was looking down on her.

Enraged, the middle-aged woman lunged at Lucy and grabbed hold of her hair, pulling hard on it the middle-aged woman yelled, "Now, do you think it's funny, bitch?" Lucy did not understand what the current social protocol dictated but she did feel that the lady opposite to her was being hostile toward her yet she still failed to react to the middle-aged woman's assault. Things escalated quickly, Lucy was frightened, and feeling the need to defend herself she ended up summoning her grimoire and activating her origin card. Fortunately for the middle-aged woman, Eliza stepped in time to stop Lucy. Otherwise considering the firepower of Lucy's dessert cannon the middle-aged woman would have been blown into a blood and gore shower. After going through the surveillance footage it was clear that everything stemmed from a misunderstanding but the middle-aged woman had instigated the fight and Lucy was only defending herself. So it was not hard to conclude that all the fault lay in the middle-aged woman. Now that we had the evidence, I ordered Cheng to help Eliza and Lucy to press charges against the middle-aged woman. "What are you looking at? Detain that woman until the end of the auction," Cheng ordered the chief of security and then turn to Eliza and Lucy he added, "I will share the surveillance footage of the incident with you if you want to press charges against her." Following Cheng's verdict, the chief of security asked the female security to escort the woman to the drunk tank and detain her there until the auction ended. Being manhandled by the female security the middle-aged woman started yelling, "Don't touch me I did nothing wrong, you guys are conspiring against me, my son will not let this go." "Association head thank you for your help but we will not be pressing charges," pressing charges meant Lucy testifying which was another headache that Eliza choose to avoid by deciding not to press charges against the middle-aged woman.

"Okay, then. Suit yourself," Cheng agreed with Eliza's decision. "Unhand my mother, what the heck do you think you are doing!" A deafening shout sounded throughout the auction house..

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:37

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP Venue

“Son you are here, these people are bullying me,” the middle-aged woman yelled at the source of the deafening shout.

“Mike Brown,” the crowd in the venue started to whisper learning that the middle-aged woman was the mother of the circle’s branch leader, Mike Brown.

Mike Brown slowly walked toward his mother and looking at the female security restraining his mother he yelled, “What are you waiting for, unhand my mother.”

Under the influence of Mike Brown’s intimidating aura, the female security unconsciously let off the middle-aged woman. Regaining her freedom the middle-aged woman rushed to her son and started weeping, “If you have not arrived in time, your mother would have been bullied to death by these animals.”

Mike Brown held his weeping mother in his embrace and looking at Cheng he asked, “May I ask what is going on in here? Association head, what wrong has my mother done for you guys to inflict such shame on her?”

“Leader Mike, I did not know you had a mother,” Cheng asked Mike, he was not trying to insult Mike but he genuinely believed that the leader of the circle was an orphan.

“Association head, like everyone else I too was born from my mother’s womb, what are you trying to imply here,” Not matter how you put it in the end Cheng’s words would still come out as offensive, so Mike’s reaction was not surprising.

“No, I did not mean to embarrass you. I heard rumors that you were an orphan,” Cheng explained.

“No, I am not. Isn’t she evidence enough,” Mike said pointing at the middle-aged woman weeping in his embrace.

“Just because my son grew up in the city slums doesn’t make him an orphan,” the middle-aged woman lashed out at Cheng for assuming that Mike Brown was an orphan.

Cheng ignored the middle-aged woman, seeing this Mike Brown frowned and demanded, “Association head, I demand an explanation of what is going on here and an apology for my mother.”

“Leader Mike, this is not your cult, this is the card creationist association auction hall, and those who break the association’s rule will be dealt with accordingly,” Cheng did not get daunted facing the leader of the circle instead he held his ground in front of him and

continued to add, “Your mother tried to abuse this little girl over here. Hence we decided to detain her until the auction ends.”

Seeing Cheng not back down Mike was puzzled, things were not turning out like he thought they would. Mike thought that once Cheng knew that the middle-aged woman was his mother, then Cheng would immediately apologize to him publicly but that did not happen instead Cheng was arguing with him.

Mike was so confident that Cheng would immediately apologize to him and acknowledge his mistake because the so-called head of the card creationist association was on his side. Therefore Cheng’s rebellion came as a huge surprise to him. Then he realized that Cheng was doing this to show that he was not satisfied with the current amount of money they were paying to him and wanted to demand more money.

Coming to this realization Mike’s face turned stern and he glared at Cheng and said, “Association head you don’t need to detain my mother until the end of the auction, I will take her home now.”

“Please do,” since the subject’s offense was minor and was willing to leave the premises on her own accord, Cheng had no right to detain her, therefore he could only agree when Mike said that he would take his mother with him.

“Come mother, let’s go home,” If not for too many people watching, Mike would have taught Cheng a lesson and made him cough out everything he had been fed by the circle. And then continue to work for them for free. Unfortunately, to maintain his public image, Mike had to swallow the rage he was feeling and take a step back.

“No, son we cannot leave without taking that energy sword card,” The middle-aged woman demanded her son. Hearing his mother’s demand Mike frowned but then he said, “Don’t worry mother I will have my people bid for an energy sword card. For now, let us head home.”

“No, not just any energy sword card, I want that sword energy card. I planned to present it to you later,” It was not clear whether the reason the middle-aged woman gave was true or not but everyone present here had an idea that the middle-aged woman was doing this out of spite for Lucy and wanted to make her suffer by winning the bid on the energy sword card that Lucy was bidding for.

“Sure, mother.” Mike agreed with his mother and signaled his goon to complete his mother’s request.

Following Mike’s instruction, one of the goons walked to the glass column enclosing the sword master card and directly placed a bid of 1000 median coins. Which was almost 3 times Lucy’s bid and 5 times the price of the card in the central market.

Seeing this the middle-aged woman nodded in satisfaction and looked at Lucy provocatively. And then turned to leave with her son in satisfaction. With them gone the VIP venue returned to its usual self.

"Lucy, are you still going to bid for the card? or will you bid for other cards?" Eliza asked Lucy contemplating whether to call her aunt Robert if Lucy were to continue to outbid the circle for that particular energy sword card.

"No, the card is no longer worth it and the same goes for the other cards," Lucy said dejectedly. It wasn't that Lucy lacked the money to bid for the card but she felt that price of the card was not worth it.

There was a reason why Lucy was fixated on this particular energy sword card over the others, unlike other energy sword cards its durability was near perfect. Making 300 median soul jades the right price to buy this card, after all, the same cards with higher durability and lower star ratings were more expensive than their counterparts with lower durability and star ratings. But 1000 median soul jades were not worth buying the card even if it had perfect durability ratings let alone near-perfect durability ratings

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[1,029 words]

Chapter 907: Complicated

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:46

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP
Venue

Despite her mental health issues, Lucy was smart. Though she had trouble following which came to the rest of us as easy as drinking water and breathing air, her years of experience had created her way of making up for what she lacked. Yes, it was not the ideal replacement, but over time experiencing and learning from mistakes, her system was reaching its perfection with time. What was commonsense to us, for Lucy it was as hard as solving an ugly math problem. And her way of coping with things has brought her this far long along the way.

"So you don't want that card anymore? You changed your mind just like that?" Hearing Lucy easily give up on the sword energy card that she fixated on after causing all this drama, Eliza was stumped. She was surprised to see how far Lucy was willing to go to

get what she wanted and how certain Lucy was about what she wanted. Eliza felt that in some way she had a lot to learn from Lucy. Still, this realization did not help her with the frustration she felt over the fact that Lucy was going to just walk away after all that trouble she went through- they went through to win that particular energy sword card out of the nine energy sword cards.

"No, not with that price," Lucy answered nonchalantly. She did feel Eliza's irritation through her voice but since she did not understand it she chose not to address it. In her experience asking a person why they were irritated was often responded with a lie, 'I'm not irritated' followed by increased levels of irritation. Lucy never understood why people failed to agree to their feelings, if you are feeling sad agree that you were sad. It was the same for her grandparents they always have a sad look in their eyes but keep assuring her that they were not sad. Why did people have to make things so complicated for her?

"Okay, what about bidding for other energy sword cards? You wanted to buy an energy sword card right? Wait why did you want to buy an energy sword card in the first place? With the nature of your origin card, weapon cards are redundant to you." Eliza felt Lucy's answer made sense because no card was worth buying for the five-time the price of its actual price.

"Yes, I know. That card was for grandpa. Grandma asked me to buy a good gift for grandpa's birthday. Grandpa is good with swords. An energy sword card with near-perfect durability and star ratings for 300 median soul jades is a good gift for grandpa. Other energy sword cards are not a good gift, as their pricing is too high," Lucy answered Eliza.

Hearing Lucy's definition of a good gift, Eliza did not know whether to sigh or laugh. And she could not help but feel Lucy was confusing the definition of a good gift with the definition of a good deal. Eliza shook her head with a small smile, hearing Lucy's straightforward answer Eliza could not be mad at her anymore. This was the reason why Eliza liked to hang out with Lucy, as while talking with Lucy she did not have to worry if there was a double meaning or second agenda to what Lucy said. She did not have to worry about Lucy lying to her or her doing something contrary to what she said. As the heir to the Whiteburn family, Eliza has met a lot of people who approached her with motives in mind, so for her, someone like Lucy was a change, a good chance, "it can't be mad at you anymore, come let us get some ice cream, I have a sudden craving for it."

"No, I haven't found a gift for grandpa yet. Were you mad at me?" Lucy rejected Eliza's request and showed concern if Eliza was mad at her.

"Not anymore. Let's find your grandpa's gift and then we are going to get ice cream," Eliza answered Lucy, and any signs of frustration she felt were long gone.

"Okay," Lucy agreed and was happy that she would be getting ice cream afterward.

"Association head, thank you for your help. And sorry we seemed to have created unnecessary trouble for you," having sorted out things with Lucy, Eliza finally remembered the association head who came to their rescue. Then she thanked him for his help and apologized at the same time as she knew that Mike Brown was the new branch Leader of the circle and surprisingly the son of the unreasonable middle-aged woman. Eliza always pictured the leader of the circle as this big scary dude, but today the impression she got from him was different from the one she had of him. Especially when she saw him stand up for his mother.

...

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:51

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, Circle leader's car

Sending his mother to her residence safely in her car, Mike Brown got into his car and ordered his head goon, "Declare a state of emergency. Call in all the inner circle members to gather for a meeting. And ask all the executives and outer members to ditch whatever they are doing and return to the headquarters."

"Yes, sir." The head goon did not question Mike Brown's order and immediately agreed to it without thinking about it as that was his job. After the head goon forward his leader's to every circle's members, Mike Brown's grimoire started to bus with numerous notifications, all asking why he had declared the state of emergency. To which he replied saying, "Gentlemen, we are preparing for war."

Mike Brown was not worried about other members of the circle double-crossing him like the leader of the card creationist association did. Because no matter how dissatisfied the member of the circle was with their organization there was no way out for them. Once a part of a circle, always a part of the circle.

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

[1,031 words]

Chapter 908: Verification

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:57

Location- Sun Blossom City, Circle leader's car

Mike Brown's visit to the half-yearly auction held by the card creationist association was unexpected, not just the guest at the open auction but the host of the open auction, all of them were surprised by his visit. They never expected the leader of the circle to visit the auction personally. If the unexpectedness of the situation made the other guests and the host surprised, the nature of the circle's new branch leader raised fear in them. They all knew that the leader of the circle will not grace them with his presence without a reason and this unknown reason behind his physical visit made them uneasy and nervous. But thankfully everything ended fast and smoothly when the card creationist association head stood up to the new branch leader of the circle.

That was what the masses believed but the truth was far from that. The new branch leader of the circle left because the objective of his visit to the auction was achieved.

At first, Mike Brown did not think much of the card creationist association head Cheng's insubordination but when he recalled the news he got earlier this afternoon, Mike Brown knew the information he got may not be wrong.

The reason Mike Brown visited the half-yearly card auction was that he wanted to check out the information he received earlier this afternoon. The information he received revolved around a teenage card soldier. Whom he traced and followed to the half-yearly card auction held by the card creationist association. As for meeting his mom at the auction, it was a mere coincidence.

The insubordination of the card creationist association head Cheng played a big role in helping Mike brown verify the information he received. At first, Mike took the association head's insubordination as corrupt Cheng's way of shaking him for more money. But Mike Brown's thought changed once he saw the teenage card soldier, whose footsteps he traced to the auction standing not far from Cheng. Especially the shadow of the teenage card soldier, he could sense unimaginable from within it. That was when Mike Brown was a hundred percent sure that the information he received in the afternoon was indeed true. Now that he had verified that the information he received was true Mike decided to return to the headquarters to prepare for the war. As the enemy, he was about to face this time was more prepared than he was.

This afternoon, he received a piece of information that a teenage card soldier he haven't even heard about was the one who had been causing trouble to his operations at sun blossom city, especially with his false propaganda initiative. The information said that this teenage card soldier was going to attack the circle headquarter's tonight at the earliest with 3 semi-demigod bodyguards protecting him.

Hearing this information, Mike Brown felt that the source of the information was pranking him. But still, he decided to check out the truth of the information because the information provided by this particular source was never wrong and was always very detailed. And he was right to have trusted the source because the information given by

the source was indeed true. As he did find a semi-demigod hiding the teenage card soldier's shadow. This meant that the other two semi-demigod bodyguards of the card soldier were not far away and also that the branch of the circle under him was in imminent danger of being attacked tonight and he had to prepare for it.

Visiting the half-yearly card auction held by the card creationist association not only helped Mike Brown verify the information but also helped him gather important information that he could not count on the authorities of the sun blossom city despite them taking his bribes. The head of the card creationist association was the perfect example of this.

With the card creationist association head out of his pocket, Mike Brown knew that entier sun blossom city was a death trap for him and his organization. And right now he could not help but feel proud for having used the yin-yang sect's punisher array to protect the headquarters, because of which the sun blossom city's array will not be able to imprison or isolate their headquarters in an isolated space.

Mike Brown was so confident about the yin-yang sect's desolate punisher array that he decided to use the circle's headquarters as a tarp for the teenage card soldier and his force who believed that they were ambushing them at night but instead were going walk to their deaths. But still, Mike Brown did not dare to underestimate his enemy. If the teenage card soldier was able to find the solution for the city array then, Mike believed that the teenage card soldier must have planned something for the desolate punisher array covering the circle's headquarters. Therefore as preparation in case, the desolate punisher array was broken through, Mike Brown decided to gather every member of the circle branch of the circle within the headquarters to fight or stall the enemy depending upon the circumstances at that time. Mike Brown did not hesitate to consider using his men to stall the enemy forces giving him time to escape.

Mike Brown had all the plans and contingencies prepared for the war yet to come but he had no idea how to deal with three semi-demigod bodyguards of the teenage card soldier. For this particular part of the upcoming war, he decided to call the main headquarters for reinforcement, and the semi-demigods assigned by the main headquarters should be arriving soon.

Though Mike was sure that the enemy semi-demigods will not participate in the war due to the various protocols and the political consequences. But he would only feel safe if he too had a few semi-demigod bodyguards of his own protecting him. Hence he did not hesitate to ask the main headquarters for semi-demigod reinforcement when he reported back that the information that was passed to him earlier this afternoon was true, that little shit, teenage card soldier seems to have come prepared for a full-out war.

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[1,064 words]

Chapter 909: Leak

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:51

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP Venue

From the time the circle's new branch leader Mike Brown showed up in the auction to the time when he left the auction, I tried to keep myself invisible not to attract his attention but it did not work. He still spotted me. It was as if he was searching for me and my shadow. At first, I left it alone thinking that I was overreacting. But when Agatha mentally reported to me, "I think he knows I am hiding in your shadows. Fuck, what is going on here? First you and now this asshole, my ace card is starting to seem shabby."

So it wasn't just me but Agatha too felt like the circle's new branch leader Mike Brown knew she was hiding in my shadows. So I brought up the Hive AI recording of Mike brown casually glancing over me and my shadow. He was able to keep his act while glancing over me but when he glanced over my shadows turn there were visible changes in his micro expression. Knowing that a semi-demigod was hidden among us, his act almost fell for a second. This proved that what I and Agath felt was true and that was when I realized that, "Fuck, he knows."

Not just about Agatha hiding in my shadow but the purpose of Agatha hiding in my shadow. This meant that my plans to attack the circle's branch in sun blossom city have been leaked. The reason I felt that my plans about attacking the circle were leaked was that the casual glance of Mike Brown over me and my shadow was not so casual. It was a well-calculated and time move on his part. Though his acting was solid, my Hive AI broke his act part by part and concluded that there was nothing casual and random about Mike Brown's glance over me and my shadow. It was a planned event by Mike Brown. The only reason for him to do this was because he knew something. If he knew about Agatha hiding in my shadow then whatever he knew must be regarding the purpose Agatha was hiding in my shadow. Which was to protect me while I attacked the circle branch in the sun blossom city. So his unexpected visit to the open auction was to confirm whether the information being sold to him was legit or not.

The circle was already on alert for an external attack long ago due to the grimoire network war but they never knew who their enemy was and now they had a face to put to their unknown enemy. It would be a safe bet on my part to assume whoever sold Mike Brown information on my plan to attack the circle must have also sold information about me and my forces. Now the question was who sold the information to Mike Brown and how much do they know about me, my forces, and my plans to attack the circle.

Seeing how they even knew about Agatha hiding in my shadow then it means they must be very close to me. Making my list very short. And I did not have to worry about my activities being reported to the southern capital because once the royal family knew about Sansa's abilities, to cripple her information network in the southern region. They stopped making an archive about stuff classified as top secret, and I was also classified under top secret. The pool of suspects who leaked information regarding my plan to Mike Brown was small and they were people who arrived in Sky blossom city after the failed assassination attempt on me. And I had a feeling that they had something to do with Sansa.

The southern watch soldiers are not close to me so they could be excluded, leaving Cole, Aba, Agatha, Asong, Asong's aides, and Asong's bodyguards. I could exclude Aba and Agatha as if Agatha wanted to assassinate me she could have successfully done it numerous times by now and if Aba wanted to assassinate me she could have asked Agatha to do so- Wait, she did ask Agatha to kill me, let us not remove her from the suspect pool yet. I was kidding of course. Aba was in the clear, according to the clown mask's vision she was this world's humanity's hope, so she would not do something like this to someone whom she considered a friend.

Leaving Cole, Asong, Asong's aide, and Asong's bodyguards. That was a total of 13 suspects. Considering that Asong had already tried to deceive me twice despite my grace to her, she had the most suspicion of the 13 suspects. But that was not enough for me to point fingers at Asong. Come to think of it why was she even here? No, the right question was who called her here? It was Cole, that son of a bitch. He approached me of his own accord and even brought me a big client like Asong. What kind of black merchant pitches a teenage card creationist to his VIP client, fuck him, everything about this guy was starting to seem suspicious.

When I first Cole came to me with a business proposition, I had my superbrain card scour the grimoire network to get information about Cole, his business, his friends, and his family. As it would be foolish of me to consider a partnership with someone without doing the correct due diligence which involved a mandatory background check. What superbrain found about Cole on the grimoire network checked out, it painted Cole as a successful philanthropist who got to where he was today with his talent and hard work despite all the difficulties he faced. Come to think of it everything about Cole on the grimoire site sounded like a fairy tale with Cole as the protagonist. That son of a bitch, though I cussed Cole I was trying very hard to control my anger as all this was my speculation the chances of it being correct were a good 60 percent. Still, I had to give Cole the benefit of the doubt. Sudden a thought crossed my mind, why not ask Anna what she thinks about my speculations? Thinking of this, unconsciously, an evil grin formed on my face.

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[1,046 words]

Chapter 910: Arsenal

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:55

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP Venue

“Wyatt, your reasons to suspect Cole are valid but not enough. Without proper evidence, even the southern emperor cannot judge a member of the vassal family of the Royal family,” Having heard her protectee’s speculation Agatha too felt he made sense but even if what he said was confirmed there was not enough evidence to support it. So, Agatha did not see how this helped their current situation and added, “Now that your plans have been leaked to the enemy shouldn’t you be aborting your mission.”

“Agatha, if you think I come here with one plan in mind then you are seriously underestimating me,” I said while I called Anna. I decided to ignore Agatha’s input on this matter as she did not know about the matron and her scary origin card. But Anna knew, so she will understand my reasoning and worries.

[Calling Anna...]

“Hello, Wyatt. Do you miss me already?” Anna’s enthusiastic voice sounded from the other side of the grimoire call.

“Yes, the outside world is too scary,” I played alone with Anna, which caught her off guard causing her to shyly reply, “Should I come over there to help you immediately? I don’t mind breaking a few laws to help you.”

“No, I need you at the sky blossom city to verify something. Where is Cole right now?” I asked Anna.

“I don’t know he left right after you,” hearing Anna’s answer my suspicion of Cole grew. Then I immediately asked Anna, “Anna you trust me right?”

“Yes, you know I do,” Anna answered without hesitation.

“My plan to attack the circle’s branch in sun blossom city has been leaked, even the part about me having a semi-demigod bodyguard was leaked, and I have reasons to believe Cole had something to do with this...” I narrated my speculation to Anna without revealing the fact that I knew about the matron and her paw clan while hinting to her to conclude that Sansa was behind this and Cole was a part of the paw clan. So that Anna would approach Cole carefully keeping in mind Sansa’s dreadful origin card that allowed her to turn her victim brain dead with a thought.

Thankfully for me, Ann was right next to Anna listening to the entire conversation, so she understood what I was implying, "Wyatt, this is Ann. Don't worry we will find Cole immediately and approach him cautiously. What about you? Do you plan to abort your attack and return now that your plans have been leaked to the enemy?"

"No, I will continue my attack using the contingency plan. You guys handle Cole," I replied.

"I thought so good luck," Ann wished me good luck and was about to hang up the call but was interrupted by Anna, "Ann, you go handle Cole. I will see whether Wyatt requires any further assistance."

I don't know what transpired there but I knew for sure that Anna got her way after hearing her say, "Wyatt, do you need any assistance with the mission? Now that enemy knows your plan you will need more help, do you want me to hire mercenaries and send them over?"

"No, don't. I have enough numbers. What I am lacking is a personal arsenal of powerful cards. So, I would like you to ask Luna about the advance on broken Runes we talked about," Luna did promise to give me advance payment for the project she ordered. I have been waiting on them quite patiently for Luna to bring it up but now I could not.

"I will talk to her, but I cannot promise anything to you. But I have some broken runes on me. Do you want me to bring them over?" Anna asked.

"No, pass what you can gather to Diana Kieth of the Fine Gold. She will be leading my forces to the sun blossom city, she can bring the broken runes along too," There was a reason I chose Diana as the courier for the broken runes over one of my calamity daughter gems. My calamity daughter gems don't need me to impress them but Daina and others needed to be so I was trying to help Diana see that she was playing the right bet. A personal visit from the southern emperor with numerous broken runes as a gift for me was the best way to show it.

"Okay, then I will get to it. You stay safe," Knowing that my schedule was tight and Diana would soon be leaving the sky blossom city with my forces, Anna hung up on me and headed to execute my request to her without any delay, surprising me.

"I did not know your sugar mama valued you this much, to trust you enough to detain a member of a Royal family's vassal family without evidence. I knew the Southern emperor was crazy but what she is doing now was bat shit crazy because if this ends badly then it could sow discord between the vassal families and the Royal family. Therefore for your sake, you better hope that your speculation about Cole is correct. Otherwise, as the instigator of this matter, you will be facing serious consequences." As soon as Anna hung up the call, Agatha spoke out, trying to help me understand the gravity of the situation that if my speculations were wrong then I would be facing serious repercussions, not just me Anna included.

“Don’t worry about it,” I said while I checked the grimoire notifications that I had received while on grimoire call with Anna.

[Message received... read/ignore/delete]

[Read]

[Sender: Ann Heatsend

Wyatt, I don’t know how you know about the Matron and her paw clan but I will decide what to do with it after you are done will explain everything to me when this is over. Until then this will be secret between the two of us.]

Reading the message sent to me by Ann, I was shocked to know how much Ann had gathered from a short exchange between us over a grimoire call. But it was good to know that she did not report this to Anna and the rest.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 17:59

Location- Sky Blossom City, Temporary Southern Watch Military Base

[Message received... Read/Ignore/Delete]

[Read]

[Sender: Dalton Wyatt

Ann, I don’t know what you are talking about. Are the so-called ‘Matron and her paw clan’ you speak of behind Cole’s actions? Who are they supposed to be? Some kind of Resistance? Revolutionaries? Freedom fighters? Or a secret organization of cat ladies?]

Reading the reply she received, Ann was stumped. But soon she replied asking,

[What is a cat lady? Is that some kind of monster.]

She did not have to wait too long for a reply,

[Sender: Dalton Wyatt

No, Cat Lady is not a monster. In a distant world, the Cat lady is a very lonely woman of any age who tries to fill the missing companionship in her life with cats.]

Reading the reply that she received, Ann did not know what to make of it, she was more confused than before. She wanted to interrogate the teenager instead they were goofing around. Which Ann couldn't get enough of. So she replied,

[That sounds sad. So what else do they have in this distant world you speak of?]

Every second Ann waited for the boy's reply felt like an eternity for her, it was somehow worse than being trapped in Anna's grimoire for days. But when the message notification rang she felt like the spring has arrived and a thousand fireworks were lit in her heart,

[Sender: Dalton Wyatt

A lot of things but I don't know where to start. Anything you are particularly interested to know about?]

Ann did not know how to answer this question. Wasn't this the boy's imaginary world? How will she know what it has and does not have? When Ann was wracking her brain trying to think of an appropriate answer to reply with, one of the soldiers reported, "Commander, they have located Sir Cole. He is back in the Sky Blossom city."

"Good job," Ann said and dismissed the soldier and thought of an appropriate reply,

[Found Cole, got to go. Bye]

After sending the reply Ann waited for the boy's reply only after receiving it did she take action against Cole.

[Calling Grandpa Lorenzo...]

"I know, that brat is back in the city. I have already modified the city array. I will deploy it at your signal," Lorenzo answered from the other end of the call. He seemed to have been updated about the situation. And he also had made appropriate preparation to capture Cole in the limited time.

"How sure are you that this will work? Because if we cannot extract the required evidence of his betrayal, then we will have a hard time explaining to the Wilson family why one of their family members was intercepted by us and became a brain-dead person afterward," Capturing Cole directly would spook the matron who was controlling him and as result, she will not hesitate to dispose of him. This way they will not be able to achieve anything but the relationship between the royal family and the vassal family. Therefore, Lorenzo and Luna together had come up with a plan to capture the victims of Matron's origin card without alerting her and Cole was their first test subject. So the

chances of success of this mission were very low. Hence Ann cannot help but stress to Lorenzo the consequence of failure.

“I can’t guarantee anything here. I have no idea what Matron’s origin card is capable of. So there are many variables in this plan. But Luna and I have made sure to prepare for everything we know about Matron’s origin card. We can only hope that this works,” As a researcher who strongly believed that failure was part of every success, Lorenzo did not guarantee anything to Ann. After all, there wasn’t much information on the Matron’s origin card. So there were too many variables in this plan that was unaccounted for. So Lorenzo saw this plan as the early attempt to successfully create a method to overcome Matron’s origin card. And he couldn’t give two shit about the Wilson family. According to him, they were the ones who should be answering the Royal family for harboring a traitor. This was how things worked in the old days. As long as the royal family was the strongest, the vassal families could only swallow their dissatisfaction to mooch off them.

“So, you are sure that this plan is going to fail. But want to attempt it anyway to find how Matron’s origin card will counter your measures against it. Allowing you to collect enough data to prepare for it the next time. This point alone is worth straining the relationship between the Royal family and the vassal families under it. This is good enough. So, grandpa, you can proceed as planned,” Ann easily skimmed through what Lorenzo said and what he was implying and concluded that any gains from this mission may look small but looking at the bigger picture and long-term gains it was worth it.

“Ann, it is so easy to talk to you. If it was Anna, I would have to spend another 20 minutes trying to dumb it down for her to understand. I will contact you when it is done,” Lorenzo liked working with Ann for a change, they seemed to have a lot in common.

“No, need. I am coming to the location. I can’t stay on the back for this one,” Since this matter was related to the boy Ann wanted to personally handle it. This way they will have a lot more to talk about during their next chat.

“Ann, you too. Now I really want to know what potion that boy has fed you two sisters. Sigh,” There was no need for two card emperor to handle a mere card overlord. But Ann insisted to tag along. it wasn’t hard for Lorenzo to guess why Ann was doing this, it was that boy again. Only could make these two sisters act against reason.

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

[1,004 words]

Chapter 912: Illusion

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:08

Location- Sky Blossom City, Loin cubs high school

"How much longer?" Ann asked Lorenzo looking at Cole who appeared to be asleep while standing.

"I am making a clone of his entire memory, not a candy. It will be a while. Let's hope that the array will buy us enough time," As Lorenzo said this he already knew that coming this far was already unexpected, and hoping for more was them being greedy.

"Is the city array strong enough to bare the burden of the samsara array?" Ann asked because if the entire thing were to fall apart just because the hybrid array set up by Lorenzo using the city array as the base array was unable to withstand the burden of the samsara array as the main array, then it would be a pity.

"Don't worry I have strengthened the city array, strong enough to withstand the burden of the samsara array. The only thing we have to worry about is that the samsara array can deceive the failsafe set by Matron Cole's head long enough for me to completely clone his memories. Cole's memories will be a prime example of what Matron's origin card was capable of. I need the clone memories to contain every little detail of Cole's memories this way I will know how many times Matron has edited or erased his memories, especially the memories suppressed by her. This may as well give me the info on Matron's origin card's failsafe that we are dreading. You understand why I can't rush it," Lorenzo explained to Ann.

"I did not ask you that," Ann said looking at Lorenzo with her left eyebrow raised.

"Fuck, I haven't been this excited in a while," Lorenzo did not need to say that, his face expressed the same.

"Language," Ann said, hearing Lorenzo cuss. Hearing this Lorenzo missed a part of Anna who would cuss along with him.

The memories of every member of the paw clan were designed in such a way that when caught their memories would detonate in the process they would turn brain-dead. Making the process of getting any information on the Matron or her paw clan was an impossible feat. Torture, truth serum, memory reading, etc all had zero effect on brain-dead people. So Lorenzo and Luna came up with a way around it.

The way around Matron's failsafe thought by Lorenzo and Luna was based entirely on an assumption. If their assumption was wrong then the entire point of this would amount to nothing. But still, it was worth a try. Since they had to start somewhere.

The assumption that formed the foundation of the method Lorenzo and Luna thought of to counter Matron's origin card was that the failsafe that Matron had planted in members of the paw clan only activated when the members were captured or dead.

Now the question was how did the fail-safe that Matron placed in her paw clan members know that the members were captured or dead? Considering that Matron's origin card was all about manipulating and controlling memories, the answer was simple and very obvious, the fail-safe that Matron placed in her paw clan members knew that the members were captured or dead using their memories.

Since it was the memories of that particular target that allowed the Matron to know whether or not a person was captured or dead the only way against it was to deceive the memories of the target. Make it so that they don't know that they are captured and placed under interrogation.

The only way to deceive a person and his memory was through a strong illusion. This way when the person was lost in the illusion, the illusion becomes part of the subject's memories. As long as the subject doesn't know that he was in an illusion his memory of it will stay real until he realizes it was an illusion. Then the memories of it will become an illusion and trigger the failsafe turning the person brain-dead.

Having planned to use illusion to counter Matron's origin card, Lorenzo created a hybrid array by using the city's space isolation barrier array as the base array and the samsara array as the main array.

Samsara array is a very strong illusion array that can even trap newborn demigods in it. Though this array was just an illusion array it has various functions. And one of them was to trap a person in a fake world that will be a replica of the real world based on the memory of the target. Trapped in the illusion's fake world the target will think that they were in real life doing the things they normally planned to do in real-time. Since the fake world is based on the target's memories of the real world. It will be very hard for the target to differentiate the fake world from the real world.

"So, what he is doing right now in the illusion?" Ann asked Lorenzo planning to understand why Cole was at the high school that the boy attended.

"He seems to be kidnapping a girl, it is Wyatt's aunt Kathy. Fuck, what is the matron up to? Why did she ask Cole to kidnap Wyatt's aunt?"

...

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:03

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP
Venue

[Message received... Read/Ignore/Delete]

[Read]

[Sender: Ann Heatsend

Found Cole, got to go. Bye]

Reading the reply I knew even though I was not able to get rid of Ann's suspicion entirely, I was able to establish a status quo where she knew that I would deny everything. This should be enough to stop her from coming to me for answers to the question I would rather not share. But one thing was clear to me, Ann was a lot more difficult to handle than Anna. If not for her inexperience and interest in the opposite sex I would have had a harder time dealing with her.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:07

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP
Venue

"Eliza, have you bid for any card in the auction?" after the chat with Ann, I decided to leave the auction and prepare for tonight. But before that, I decided to attend to one matter. For which I would require Eliza's cooperation.

"No, instead of buying cards for steep prices here, I would rather plan a trip to the southern capital and buy the cards for a reasonable price at the southern card association. Why do you ask?" Eliza made it sound like the rest of us in the open auction were all fools to bid for the cards in the auction.

"Why don't we go somewhere quiet to discuss?" I said looking at the crowd of self-important people in the venue.

"Sure, let me check with Lucy," Eliza agreed

"Bring her with you," I said

"Lucy, we are going to... somewhere quiet. I will come to pick you up later or If you are done with the auction you can tag along with us," Eliza asked Lucy, who answered, "I did not get a gift for my grandpa."

"So, you will stay?" Eliza asked Lucy for confirmation.

"No, I will come with you," Lucy answered.

"Okay," Eliza nodded. All three of us followed Cheng to a secluded hall deep inside the auction house. Making ourselves comfortable on a couch, I asked Cheng, "Master Cheng, please Inform Rami that I am waiting for him here."

"Yes, I will do that," With Cheng's departure, I turned to look at Eliza and Lucy.

Feeling the graveyard silence awkward, Eliza said, "Well, what was it that you wanted to discuss?"

"I cut to the chase. It is about Lucy's condition," I skipped the small talk and directly spoke about the reason I invited Eliza and Lucy hear.

"What about it?" Eliza asked while Lucy glanced at me.

"I know the reason behind it and I think I have a solution for it," I said confidently.

"What do you mean?" Eliza looked at me with a scrutinous gaze as if looking at a scammer.

"There is a tumor in Lucy's brain. It is not malignant but benign but It is responsible for Lucy's mental condition," I explained feeling that adding more context to my claims would help Eliza and Lucy trust my words.

"What is a tumor?" Eliza asked. In this world where soul energy washes each cell of the body of every card apprentice cancer was not that common. And not many even knew about it.

"Tumor is an abnormal growth of the tissue, for example, a mole. Now imagine that such growth inside the human body. In Lucy's case, it is inside her brain or adjacent to it," I explained.

"By mole you mean, the disgusting stuff that grows on a mortal's face, it has a hair in it sometimes," Eliza asked.

"Yes," I replied.

"Such a thing is inside Lucy's brain and it is the cause of her mental condition," Eliza said based on my explanation so far.

"Correct," I exclaimed seeing Eliza understand what I was saying, and added, "Though this tumor stopped growing long ago, it is located near the sensitive area of her brain making it hard for Lucy to function like an average human being."

"Okay, let's say what you are saying is true. How would you treat it?" Eliza questioned. I don't think she believes me but she could not ignore my confidence so she decided to hear me out for Lucy's sake.

"Before I explain that you, promise me that you will hear me out to the end, let me finish, and then ask your questions," The process of removing the tumor would sound too cruel for someone who does not know about surgeries and would drink a potion or take a soul pill to treat every injury or disease in their life.

"Fine," Eliza promised.

"Okay, just let me finish. Hopefully, you will not have any questions to ask when I am done explaining," I said and thought, 'Hopefully, you two will be on board with the procedure.'

"Just, explain it already," Eliza said in annoyance. As for Lucy, the subject of our conversation her gaze never left me since I brought up her mental condition.

"The only way to treat the tumor is to remove it. To do that I will have to make a small hole in Lucy's skull, from where I can access the tumor and cut it out. And then patch her up using elixirs and medical cards. Once the tumor is gone, the area of the brain it was affecting will be able to operate normally. Allowing Lucy to function like average humans," I said everything in a single breath in fear of being interrupted mid-way.

"Well, you were right about one thing. Hearing everything you had to say, I no longer have any questions. As I now know that you are fucking crazy. And you would be crazier if you thought that I or anyone else would allow you to cut Lucy's skull open," Eliza yelled and even added a few cusses in between.

"..." I expected Eliza to react wildly but not this much. For the subject of this topic, she was calm and listened to us as if it did not concern her.

Eliza kept glaring at me, her chest heaved up and down with her deep breaths. It was already a surprise that she did not storm from here along with Lucy in a fit of rage. Taking this as an opportunity I asked Lucy, "What do you think?"

"You haven't dropped this matter, yet? Wasn't I clear enough earlier," Eliza said while glaring at me.

I ignore Eliza's glare and said, "Eliza, this matter is for Lucy to decide, not you."

Hearing my words Eliza turned to look at Lucy, but she did not get any answer from Lucy's blank and calm face so she asked me, "How do you even know all this? Now you are some kind of genius medic, is that it?"

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:14

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, VIP
Venue

The moment I came to know of Lucy's mental condition I used my soul pupils to scan her entire body. Over the repeated use of my soul pupils, I have been able to identify different body organs and glands based on their soul pathway arrangements. When I scanned Lucy's brain today I found an abnormal growth adjacent to it. And with the help of Hive AI, I was able to determine that it was a benign tumor which has stopped growing long ago. But the area where it was located was causing a complexation in Lucy's mental response.

Just to be sure, I had Hive AI run several tests and simulations on the soul pathway arrangements of Lucy's brain. Only when I was a hundred percent sure that the abnormal growth adjacent to her brain was a tumor and I could help her, did I choose to talk to Lucy about it. Otherwise, I would only be adding to her problems with my half-assed and premature conclusion.

"Eliza, I know you care for Lucy. But please understand that I would not have brought this up if I wasn't a hundred percent sure," Saying that I handed her a few A-rank blood elixirs adding, "With these rune cards after I am done removing the tumor we can easily patch Lucy up. If this is not enough to assure you, We have Rami, the head of the blossom district medic card association. That guy is equivalent to a walking hospital. If there is any complication during the procedure, he will step in."

"Wyatt, do you hear yourself right now? Do you know how crazy you sound?" Eliza did not seem to be able to walk past the part where I will be cutting open Lucy's skull and operating next to her brain.

"Eliza, I can help Lucy. Whether you choose to believe me or not it is up to you guys," I said looking into Lucy's eyes.

"Wyatt, please understand no sane person would ever agree to what you said," Eliza said before getting up and walking away with Lucy, "Lucy, come let's go."

"I know the best gift for grandpa," Lucy suddenly exclaimed. Hearing her shout something unrelated to what we were talking about, Eliza and I looked at her in confusion.

"Lucy, honey, what do you mean," Eliza asked Lucy for more context.

"I once heard grandpa tell grandma that, if one day I were to live like a normal child that day would be the happiest day of his life. So, if what master Wyatt has to offer will help me be normal, I want to give it a try as a gift to my grandfather," Lucy explained what she meant in her way.

Hearing Lucy, Eliza panicked, and just when she was about to try and talk Lucy out of this, she thought if she were in Lucy's situation would she let go of the opportunity to live an average life? Now she was troubled over the dilemma that whether to support Lucy's decision or talk her out of it. But knowing Lucy's personality, once she has made up her mind it was hard for anyone to persuade her otherwise.

Lucy then looked at me and said, "Master Wyatt, how much is the procedure going to cost?"

"It is free," I replied. The reason I said it was free was that I did not want to make money off Lucy's disability. This was different from the time when I charged Elliott a hefty amount to cure his genetic disorder.

Different how? In Elliott's case, I not only got rid of his genetic disorder but I turned it into a super origin card which gave him a mutated Viltronian physique. That upgrade I gave to Elliott was worth its fee but in Lucy's case, all I would be doing was removing a benign tumor from her skull. As result, I would be helping her get rid of her mental condition but other than that I would not be doing her any favor. So I did not feel right to make a profit from Lucy's disability.

"Did I hear you right?" Eliza was dumbfounded hearing the teenager say that he did not plan to charge Lucy anything for his service. As she clearly remembers his past with her siblings.

"Yes, I won't charge you anything for the procedure. it is free," I repeated myself.

"My grandfather said everything needs to be paid for in one or the other way. And if something is for free I should not trust it," Lucy spoke her grandpa's wise words implying that she wouldn't undergo the procedure if I don't charge her.

"Fine, it will cost you one low soul jade," I said

"Okay, when do we start?" Lucy asked, feeling that she had gotten a bargain on the price of the procedure.

"Lucy," Eliza called out to Lucy, and holding her hands she asked, "Are you sure about this?"

"Yes, I want to see grandpa happy," In her way, Lucy expressed that she wanted to do this to be an average granddaughter.

"I will not stop, but I think you should talk to your parents or grandma about this," Having figured out that there was no way she could convince Lucy out of this. Eliza decided to call in the big guns, Lucy's parents, and her grandparents.

"I am 17, I am an adult," This was Lucy implying that she was an adult and did not need her parents or grandparent to tell her what she can do and what she cannot.

"Yes, you are an adult, Lucy. But won't it be good to know their opinion on this matter? You know second opinions can be of big help. After all, this is a big decision," Eliza tried to have Lucy inform her parents and grandparents about her decision. Hoping that they will be able to get through to Lucy.

"It is a big decision, it is my decision"

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:20

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"This is a big decision and it is my decision," Lucy snapped at Eliza, it was the first time I saw Lucy lash out at Eliza. I bet any average teenager would lash out if their friend kept undermining their decision.

"I agree, it is your decision, but you're doing this for the wrong reasons. You say this procedure is your gift for your grandpa then don't you think he should have a say in it, considering that he cannot return this gift once you bought it for him? All am saying is what if this is not what your grandpa would want as a gift from you," Eliza made some sound points. Clearly, she seemed to be a pro in reasoning with Lucy. No wonder Lucy's family let Lucy come to the half-yearly card auction with Eliza. They knew they could trust their daughter with Eliza.

"He is my grandpa. I know what he wants. He loves surprises," What Lucy meant was she knew her grandpa better than Eliza did. And if she were to discuss this with her grandpa then it would ruin the surprise.

"That is why I asked you to talk to your parents or your grandma. I may not know your grandpa better than you but your parents and grandma sure do. They have been with your grandpa longer than you. So they know everything about your grandpa, his likes and dislikes. By asking your parents and grandma if your grandpa will like you to undergo this procedure, you will be able to know if your grandpa will love this gift of yours while maintaining the integrity of the surprise of your gift for your grandfather. Don't you think this is the most efficient way to address this situation?" hearing Eliza's bullshit, even I was convinced that Lucy should ask her parents and grandma for their opinion. I was beginning to think Eliza had her edition of the user manual on Lucy.

"..." Hearing Eliza's argument, Lucy fell into deep contemplation, but it did not take her long to reach a conclusion, "Granpa always said that I know him the best."

That was Lucy's way of throwing Eliza's edition of the user manual on Lucy on Eliza's face. I did not expect this turn of events. I was looking forward to seeing how Eliza will make her comeback from this.

"That's it, I was hoping that you would do the right thing but you didn't. Your grandpa let me in charge of you so you do as I say. Lucy, do not force me, I will call your grandpa if don't leave with me this instant," It seems Eliza was out of tricks and decided to handle this old-school way. Well, I gotta give it to Eliza for holding up till now.

"Nobody is in charge of me I am my own person. I going to undergo this procedure and you can't stop me," I was being to think that Lucy was no longer agreeing to this procedure just as a gift for her grandpa but also in spite. Lucy seemed to be very angry at Eliza for undermining her decision. So she stubbornly agreed to go through this procedure to show that she can make her decisions and live with them like the rest of us. This showed great progress on Lucy's part. Wanting to be normal, what could be more normal than that?

"Fuck it, I will drag you out of here if I have to," Saying that Eliza grabbed Lucy by her left wrist and began dragging Lucy. In response Lucy's left hand turned into a cannon, preying open Eliza's grasp on her hand. And then Lucy's cannon arm morphed back into a hand.

"You..." Eliza stared at Lucy.

"I am not coming, I want to go through the procedure," Lucy yelled.

"..." Eliza stared at Lucy hard and then said, "Fine, I give up. You can undergo the procedure if it means that much to you."

"Really, your not mad?" Lucy was surprised to see Eliza agree with her decision and began to feel guilty for yelling at Eliza.

"I understand you did not do it on purpose, so it is hard to be mad at you," Eliza assured Lucy that she was not mad at her, and eyeing me she said, "Let's make an appointment with Wyatt and when everything is set, you can undergo the procedure like you want to."

"Okay," Hearing Eliza, Lucy cheered and turned to me and said, "Master Wyatt, when can I undergo the procedure?"

"If you guys are not busy then we can get right to it. It will take an hour at max," I said confidently, as I had Hive AI simulate the procedure on Lucy thousands of times and had gotten an average success rate of 99.99 percent. So there was no doubt in my mind about the success of the procedure.

"Great," Lucy cheered upon hearing my answer. But the same was not true for Eliza. She was was dumbfounded hearing my answer. It appears she did not agree with Lucy's decision. It was just part of her plan.

Eliza would rather let Lucy drink liquor for the first time or go on a joy ride in her hovercar or sole a C-rank dungeon rather than undergo the procedure. But she agreed to Lucy's decision because she believed that a procedure that involves cutting open a person's skull and operating next to the patient's brain would involve a lot of planning and preparations. So she believed that even if Lucy agreed to undergo the procedure now it would take the quack doctor a day at minimum to do all the planning and preparations. During this period she can contact Lucy's parents and grandparents and have them fly in to stop Lucy from undergoing the procedure. But she did not imagine the young quack doctor would agree to do the complicated procedure on Lucy any moment, anywhere, as if the procedure was equivalent to butchering a pig or chicken.

"You fucking quack Doctor. Do you even know what you are doing?" Enraged Eliza climbed the tea table between us and reached to grab me by my neck.

"let go of me, you crazy bitch."

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:25

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"I am sorry, I let my anger get the better of me," Eliza apologized to me for her outburst earlier.

"I understand, you did it out of care for my client so I will not hold it against you," I accepted Eliza's apology and added, "And I too apologize for cussing at you."

"It's okay, I was asking for it," with this conversation Eliza thought, 'Wyatt seems like a reasonable person.'

And then said, "Wyatt, Operating on Lucy's brain is a big deal and has many risks, don't you think it would be wiser for you to talk about this with Lucy's parents?"

"Big Sis," Seeing Eliza trying to convince the boy not to go through with the procedure on her, Lucy called out to her but was interrupted by the boy, "Lucy, Let me handle this one."

Lucy hesitated but in the end, nodded to the boy and heard him say, "Eliza, though I will be operating next to Lucy's brain there are not many risks to this procedure, I am very confident about its success. When I am done with it, Lucy will not even have a scar to show that her skull was cut open. As for the matter of informing Lucy's parents, It is up to Lucy. I do not require their permission to operate on Lucy, she is a legal adult and her consent is enough. If she wants to, I will operate on her right here, right now."

"Y-you... do you know what you are talking about? You want to cut open her skull and operate on it here, in this open area filled with pathogens, I am not a doctor but even I know that exposed wounds have the risk of being infected let alone an exposed brain. Lucy, do you want to trust your life to this quack doctor?" persuading Lucy or me did not work so Eliza was now defaming me. That was not intentional, she did not understand my capabilities and had her concerns. So to put her mind to ease, I decided to show off.

Under the influence of my mental strength, the soul pathways inside the west wing hall started to change. Both Lucy and Eliza felt the change in the atmosphere, though they were not able to feel the sharp change in the soul pathways inside the room, they could feel the changes brought by the change of soul pathways in the hall. Such as the space temperature fell sharply to 64 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 40 percent, the air circulation in the room increased, the air felt a lot cleaner and all the sounds from the outside the hall could no longer be heard soon there were zero sounds in the hall except for the sound of their breathing. Aside from the changes to the atmosphere and the surroundings of the hall, Lucy and Eliza felt that they and their clothes were cleaner. When they were lost in the changes of the hall and to themselves, they suddenly found that they were inside an array, to which Eliza exclaimed, "No way."

Coming out of her shock Eliza looked at the boy and said, "Did you just set up a temporary array?"

"Yes, I did. This temporary array is my creation and I call it the operating room. This hall and all three of us are sterilized, the conditions inside the array are just right for me to operate on Lucy without worrying about infection. Eliza, I get that you are being cautious for Lucy but know this I know what I am doing," I said without trying to sound humble because it would not be considered a show-off if I were to be humble about it.

"You are an array master? There are no array masters in sky blossom city, where did you learn array mastery, and from whom?" Eliza asked with great surprise.

"About that, the Raining alchemist is helping me with the array mastery, but I still have a long way to go," Having gotten the expected shock and awe from Eliza I switched to humble mode.

"Wyatt, can you promise me that there is no risk to Lucy's life if she undergoes this procedure?" Eliza stared into my eyes and asked me to promise what no doctor would ever promise.

"I promise, the success rate of this procedure is 99.99 percent. I have gone through every possibility about the procedure in my mind and I assure you I am prepared to handle all of them. That 0.01 percent of uncertainty is the possibility where the world ends due to various reasons as I operate on Lucy. That would mean all of us would die too, so considering it is a bit moot. In conclusion, there is no risk to Lucy's life whatsoever," I assured Eliza that there was no risk to Lucy's life if she undergoes the procedure.

"You know what, I choose to believe you. But I swear to god if something were to go wrong, you would not only have the blood of Lucy on your hand but mine too. Even if she agrees with it or not Lucy is my responsibility, If something were to happen to her... Damn it," Eliza's words could not be clearer, since she was not a match for me in strength, she chose to threaten me with guilt.

"Okay, I guess," I did not know how to respond to Eliza's threat. Since things will not come to that I decided not to think about it.

"Big sis, you are on board for real this time, right?" Lucy asked Eliza in doubt. After Eliza's numerous attempts to stop Lucy from undergoing the procedure so far, Eliza has given Lucy enough reasons to be skeptical about her priorities.

"Yes, I am on board for real this time, hundred percent on board," Eliza assured Lucy, but the way she said it made us doubt her.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:31

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Master Wyatt, you called for me," Rami entered the hall answering my summons.

"You are finally here. What do you know about mortal medicine?" I asked Rami since he was the head of the blossom district medic card association and I thought he must have dabbled in the mortal approach to medicine.

"A little bit. Why do you ask?" Rami had indeed explored mortal medicine. Not everyone can afford to pay for a medic card apprentice. Though medic cards are miraculous they do not have answers to many things. A good medic card apprentice should not be limited themselves to the knowledge of using his medic card but also be well-versed in the ways of mortal medicine as it was the legacy left behind by the first to walk this world way before medic cards even existed.

"I am going to perform a procedure on this girl here, the procedure requires me to operate next to her brain. You are going to be my assistant. Are you up for it?" I asked Rami to be my assistant as I performed the procedure on Lucy.

"Is it going to be an open brain surgery? Is that what this array is about?" Rami asked enthusiastically instead of asking about my qualification to attempt something like that. It seems in Rami's book as long as the southern emperor was backing me, I could do anything I wanted to.

As for me arranging a temporary array, it did not surprise him. He had already learned about that at the airstrip. He wasn't surprised by the fact that an array would be used to replace the operation room as someone who had participated in the monster war as a medic he has seen the array masters set up quarantine for the injured soldiers using arrays. And he would expect nothing less from the disciple of the raining alchemist himself.

"No, that won't be necessary. She will be sedated for the entire procedure. We will be using this hall as the operating room, ask Cheng to block everyone's access to the west wing. And you prepare the required tools we will need for the procedure. Sounds good?" I instructed Rami to prepare the surgical tools required for the procedure.

"I have them right here," having said that Rami summoned a drawer using a modified version of the storage trunk card, instead of a trunk, this card summoned a customized drawer. Opening every section of the drawer Rami showed his arsenal of surgical tools.

He had every tool sterilized and neatly arranged in the drawer. Seeing how prepared Rami was I was starting to see him in a new light. Guess he was not chosen to be the head of the blossom district medic card association for no reason. Rami seemed to have a passion for medicine.

"Great, these will do. Now pass me the list of medical cards you have on you right now," I planned to use the various medic cards as the substitute for the medications for the surgery. This way the burden of me being precise would decrease as the medic cards had a greater and immediate effect than the medications.

"I have shared the list of medic cards I have with me to your grimoire and also informed Cheng to seal the entire west wing," Rami started to be dependable when I actually needed him. I guess every man has his passion and things he can be proud of.

"Damn, with these medic cards you can be considered as a walking hospital. They are more than enough to conduct this procedure," As the head of the medic card association of the blossom district, Rami was in a position where he would come in contact with various medic cards, he used this opportunity to hoard the medic cards as his real retirement plan. Hence he did not freak out when his grandson transferred all the property that he had bought under his name to the teenage genius. Each medic card Rami owned was a fortune, their true fortune was that they could help Rami establish a successful medical practice if he were ever to be kicked out of his current position.

"Master Wyatt, this table good enough for an operating table?" Rami asked as he summoned a modified table/bed which could perfectly serve the purpose of an operating table.

"Yes, that will do," with that, the preparations for the procedure were done. Then I turned to look at Eliza and asked, "Will you wait outside or stay in here as we operate on Lucy?"

Lucy and Eliza both were dumbfounded by witnessing how the posh hall was turned into an operating room by the two, one old and one young. But this gave Eliza the feeling that these men knew what they were doing.

"Miss Eliza, If I may, it would be better if you waited outside," Rami advised Eliza, he knew there were chances of complications during the procedure, which would panic any average by-stander disturbing the atmosphere of the operating room, that a medic would require to have a peace of mind and think of a solution under the pressure to overcome the challenges for a successful procedure.

"Sure, but before that senior Rami, has something like this been attempted before?" Although Eliza appeared to be on board with Lucy undergoing the procedure she still wasn't convinced therefore when given the opportunity she decided to discuss her concern with an acknowledged specialist in the field.

"These kinds of procedures were normal back in the times of monster war. Back then medic card apprentices were not well organized and were fewer in number compared to the injured people that is when the mortal medicine shone. Not to mention most of the medic cards today are created using mortal medicine as the foundation. There is nothing for you to worry about. Your little sister is in good hands," Rami assured Eliza narrating the history of mortal medicine and medic cards, and how they were related to one another. But he left the part where after the monster war mortal medicine did not receive the credits it deserved for its part in the monster war.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:36

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

Hearing that the procedure advised by the quack doctor to treat Lucy's condition was a common practice in mortal medicine and was quite popular during the monster war, Eliza was surprised. And immediately understood how the medic cards had easily overshadowed the importance of the mortal medicine. Between having your fractured leg magically recovered in seconds or waiting for months to remove the cast after your fracture was healed, anybody would choose the former. There was no surprise why the mortal medicine was not given enough credit.

"No, I will wait here. I have seen my share of blood and gore" Eliza decided to not take Rami's advice, the idea of leaving her friend alone in a room with two men with the chance of her friend being sedated did not sit right with her.

"I will be here, watching over you, you have nothing to fear," Eliza muttered to Lucy, and then she stared at the quack doctor one last time and added, "I hope you will prove my gut wrong."

"Okay," I replied to Eliza and gloved on while using the array to sanitize the room and the four of us within it one last time. And then asked Lucy, "Get on the table and relax. Everything will be over before you know it."

"Yes," Lucy nodded and headed towards the operating table but then she turned back and rushed into Eliza's embrace giving her one big hug.

Eliza was surprised but she understood, despite how stubborn Lucy was about going through this procedure she too was afraid of it. Eliza wanted to say one or two words of

support but ended up saying, "If you don't want to go through this, just say the word, and I will take you out of here."

"Thank you but no, I want to do this," Lucy resolved herself and headed back to the operating table and lay on it.

I signaled Rami to use his 'Deep Sleep' and 'No Pain' cards on Lucy, together they will act as a replacement for the Anesthesia medication to put Lucy under so that we can operate on her without worrying about her feeling pain or waking up when we would be drilling a hole in her skull. Rami followed my instructions and sent Lucy into a deep sleep state with her pain receptors dampened to feel no pain.

'It has been a while since I last witnessed the mortal medicine in practice. Was it the monster war? No the most recent was at the way beyond,' Agatha's voice sounded in my head. And then she asked, 'Wyatt, how do you know that there is an abnormal mass of tissue putting stress on the girl's brain causing the complications in her mental and emotional response?'

Eliza was too wrapped up in the idea of persuading Lucy not to undergo the procedure that she forgot to question one of the most important questions. But as the uninvolved third party in this situation, Agatha was easily able to spot the holes in the quack doctor's claims. And could not help but confront him about it.

'Well, that's a secret. Wasn't the bodyguard's job to keep guard and not to eavesdrop on their client?' I have no answer for Agatha so I had no choice but to act shady by getting defensive about it. It was better for me for Agatha to think that I was up to something rather than I was hiding some secrets. There was a lot of difference between these two streams of thought, Agatha assuming the prior worked for me better for now.

'Wyatt, I overestimate you too much to fall for this crap. Be real how did you know the source of the girl's condition?' It appears my flawless acting failed to work its charm in face of a skeptical audience like Agatha.

'I said it is a secret. What part of that don't you understand?' Some things have straightforward solutions, like in this case. Agatha had no right to ask me about my private life and she need to know her place.

'I ask because I won't stand by watching you cut the girl's scalp and drill a hole in her skull if you don't know what you are doing,' Agatha justified herself.

'You and I both know that you don't care if the girl lives or dies, so stop bull-shiting me with your righteous act,' If Agatha knew about me enough to look past my award-winning acting in the short time we have been together, I too had figure out Agatha enough to know that she gave zero fucks about the world and the people in it, all that mattered to her was Demigod Windsor, and as his daughter, Aba inherited Agatha's loyalty.

'Did I overplay my hand, I knew I would have had a better chance with intimidation instead of pulling the righteous crap,' said Agatha

'Yeah, now shut up. I have a delicate procedure to perform and your mental conversation is too disturbing,' I asked Agatha to shut up as I need to focus on performing the procedure.

Looking at Lucy who lay unconscious on the operating table, I adjusted its height and angle to my convince. Then I began by cleansing Lucy's hair with a cleaning array. After making sure that Lucy's head was clean and sanitized, I marked the affected area on her scalp and shaved Lucy's head in that area and the area surrounding it. The lack of hair would give me a better visual for scalping.

With that, all the preparation for the actual procedure was done. Now I had to cut the scalp following the markings I had made on Lucy's scalp and then drill a hole in her skull, which should give me enough access to remove the tumor that was putting stress on Lucy's brain. But this was easier said than done, one mistake and Instead of curing Lucy's pre-existing condition, I may end up creating new ones.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 18:43

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

As I was about to start the surgery, my grimoire notification kept buzzing, it was Ann, considering the intensity of the miss calls and unread messages she sent to my grimoire I guess it must be urgent. But I chose to ignore it as I had an idea of what Ann was trying to tell me. I did not speculate or guess it, unable to reach me Ann contacted Agatha, who informed me why Ann was trying to contact me so urgently, it was regarding Cole.

That was all Ann could share with Agatha as who Cole was working for was a top secret and what he was up to was very sensitive information that would shed light on the top secret nature of this particular case, so in order not to leak too much to Agatha, Ann asked to me call her immediately as soon as I get this message.

I wanted to call Ann and hear her out but I was in the middle of a procedure under the watchful eyes of Eliza, so calling Ann right now would look unprofessional, and unethical, which may even alarm Eliza into pulling the plug on this entire procedure and

forcefully dragging Lucy home. So I choose to delay calling Ann until after the procedure was done.

Eliza stood in the corner of the hall and watched the boy shave a part of Lucy's hair and mark her scalp. Eliza was contemplating what would have gotten into her for her to agree to something like this. While every fiber in her being asked her to call the procedure off and take Lucy home but she stopped herself from doing so remembering Lucy's resolve when she climbed that operating table. She felt if she were to follow her instincts and stop the procedure Lucy would never forgive her because it must have been a lot for Lucy to put herself out there and try something so risky despite no one supporting her decision. Considering Lucy's condition it would not have been easy for her.

Putting everything aside, I decided to begin cutting and pulling a part of Lucy's scalp where the procedure was going to be performed. The blood flow and the number of blood vessels in the scalp of a person were high, even a small laceration to it will cause a lot of blood to pour out while I cut open a part of the scalp. Which would be very troublesome during a procedure, surgeons back home had many ways around this but I had my own around this. So I used my blood rule power to stop the blood from rushing out as I carefully made the surgical cuts on Lucy's scalp following the markings that I made on her scalp. Though I did not comprehend the blood control meaning of the blood rule, stopping the blood flow from the surgical incisions was within the limits of the blood rule I had mastered.

Usually, after cutting open the scalp the surgeons would pin the flap of the scalp to stitch it or staple it back together after the procedure was done but I straight out cut the scalp and disposed of it, as with the healing cards that Rami had on him, for Lucy, recovering the missing part of her scalp could be regrown in minutes.

After cutting through three layers of the scalp and pulling it out, I then used a surgical saw to cut open a small patch of Lucy's skull. This process was very nerving and brain wrecking because while cutting the skull if the saw were to go even one millimeter deeper it would start bleeding inside the brain which would make my procedure more complicated than it had to be. With the healing cards, I did not have to worry about the damage to the brain but the blood would accumulate within the brain between the time the wound was inflicted and the healing card was used, which could later start to clot.

Therefore I had to be very careful and precise as I cut a small part of Lucy's skull, Hive AI was a big help. If not for it I do not think that I would get it right on my first try to cut open a person's skull. After I carefully removed the small part of the skull I stored it safely as I would need it later to close the skull after the tumor was removed.

With a small part of the brain exposed, I could see the abnormal growth of mass next to the brain. Fortunately for Lucy, it stopped growing before it attached to any of the important nerves. But I still needed to be careful while I cut and remove it as it was

adjacent to the brain. One slight slip and I may end up cutting one of the nerves or blood vessels in the brain. Therefore, I had the Hive AI guide me through the entire process, the AI precision was seamless. It did not talk me long to detach the tumor and dispose of it. I made sure to remove all the roots of the tumor in hopes that the tumor would not return in the future.

Once the tumor was removed, all that remained was to patch Lucy's skull and scalp back together. But before that, I took another thorough scan of Lucy's brain to make sure that the tumor was removed from its roots and that I didn't accidentally injure Lucy's brain during the procedure. Only when I was sure of these two concerns did I dare to patch Lucy's skull and the scalp whole again.

I took the piece of skull that I cut off from Lucy's skull earlier and held it in the position to join it back to the skull. Mortal Medicine spoke of joining the piece of the skull to the skull using metal plates and bolts. With the medic cards available I did not have to worry about that.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 19:33

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Rami use your bone fusion card on the piece of skull and the skull," I ordered Rami while I held the piece of skull in place. The bone fusion card was one of the most popular medic cards as it was commonly used to join fractured bones. Usually, it would be used to help join the fractured bones in the arms and legs but I was going to use it to join the skull.

Rami followed my order and used the bone fusion card on Lucy's skull joining the piece of the skull I cut out from her skull to perform the procedure back with the skull. There was hardly any scar or sign on the part of the skull that I had cut left to prove that I had cut it open to perform the procedure. This was way better than using metal plates and screws. Though the metal plate and screws did their job they took 6 or 12 months to slowly reattach the bones and it would still not be the same, but thanks to the medic card I was able to save Lucy some trouble.

After patching up the skull, I summoned a blood elixir bottle and rubbed it on the scalp, in no time a new scalp covered the exposed skull leaving behind a huge bald spot in its place. The new scalp was smooth similar to a baby's scalp. The Blood elixir not only

helped with the scalp but the skull too, as the elixir was strong enough to regrow lost limbs.

Normally the cut scalp flap would be stitched or stapled back and after that, the patient would have to spend some time in intensive care while consuming some medication to make sure that the scalp flap has been successfully healed. Still the patient would feel itchiness, pain, burning, headache, and numbness along the incisions which could last for months, but fortunately for Lucy, I had used an A-rank blood Elixir card to rejuvenate her scalp and regrow it. Leaving her no side effects to worry about.

With that the procedure was complete and the results would only be known after Lucy awakens but before waking her up I had one last thing to do, "Rami, hair growth card."

"Yes, master Wyatt," with that Rami used his hair growth card to grow hair on Lucy's newly grown scalp. With that Lucy was as good as new, there were no signs of her having undergone a procedure to remove a tumor adjacent to her brain.

"All done?" Eliza's voice sounded from behind. She has been monitoring the actions of the boy from the beginning to the end, fearing for the safety of her friend who was undergoing the procedure led by the boy.

"Yep," I answered Eliza and then ordered Rami, " Use wind of spirits card."

The 'wind of spirits' card was an AOE card that can energize and refill the stamina of ally soldiers. I asked Rami to use it on Lucy, to help her body overcome the sense of exhaustion because of the procedure it had just been through. Even though Lucy's body looks normal it was overdrawn by the procedure and various cards that were used on it to patch it back after the procedure. Therefore before awaking her I thought it would be best if Rami used the wind of the spirit card on Lucy's body allowing it to regain its peak once more.

Then after conforming that Lucy's body was in excellent condition I asked Rami, "Awaken her from the deep sleep state."

With that, we all looked at Lucy eagerly, her eyes quivered slightly before they shoot open. Lucy's eyes looked at her surroundings and then finding a familiar face she asked, 'Big sis, where am I? What is going on?"

"You just went through a major procedure to remove the tumor next to your brain, how are you feeling?" Eliza asked in great concern. Right now her heart had slowed down to record low waiting for Lucy's answer. If anything were to go wrong with Lucy she was the one who would have to answer to the Robert family.

"I remember, was the procedure success?" Lucy finally recalled the events that transpired before she was put in a deep sleep state for the sake of the procedure.

"We were able to successfully remove the tumor from your brain but was that enough to reverse the effect it had on your brain is still unclear," I answered Lucy honestly.

"What do you mean? Was the procedure successful or not?" Lucy asked.

"Seeing your speech pattern I am drawn to say that the procedure was a success but I cannot come to a conclusion without a proper study," I answered Lucy and noticed she was now able to express herself better than before but without continued observation of her behavior it will be hard to tell if the mental condition of hers was fixed or not.

"Don't worry, I have a way to make the study faster," saying that Eliza looked at Lucy and added, "Lucy, $2+2$ is 4 , $1+1$ is 1 ."

"Isn't $1+1$ supposed to be 2 ?" Lucy asked Eliza

"Nope, you are wrong $1+1$ is 1 ," Eliza stressed.

"Okay, I guess. But big sis I think you too are in need of a procedure. Master Wyatt, is there any procedure for being dumb? If yes please recommend them to Big sis," Lucy mocked Eliza for her math.

"It seems the procedure worked, if it was old Lucy, she would correct me and if I still did not correct myself she would fixate and whine about it. She would not be able to move past it until she heard the correct words come out of my mouth," Eliza explained with great enthusiasm and then added, "For you to not fixate on my mistake and even joke about it, I think procedure worked fine."

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[1,031 words]

Chapter 921: Consequences

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 19:57

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Yes, her speech patterns have changed and she seems to understand sarcasm, that is progress," I said after observing Lucy's response to Eliza's series of tests that would test her patients and push her buttons.

"Yes, she is like a whole new person. The old Lucy I knew would not stop whining if I had with her hair," Eliza agreed with me as she tied Lucy's hair in a braid.

"You people are one to talk, I feel like have a whole new side to the world that I had not explored yet. Who knew that words could be so complicated, I always used them to speak what was on my mind and what I felt but never the opposite. I have so much to explore and so many things to learn. I am finally getting the jokes that I previously did not get. Wait... I finally understand why Tim Shaw would always bring me chocolates, or I think I do. Big sis, correct me if I am wrong, but does he like me?" Lucy's brain function was normal but she had zero knowledge about things that her mental disability stopped her from exploring so when her mental condition was gone, she felt like she had discovered an entire continent in socialism that she need to explore and learn from. But she was a quick learner, just in a few minutes, she had already learned about sarcasm and lying.

"Good, it seems the procedure was a great success. But I still advise you to take it slow as soon you will also experience feelings and emotions that you have never felt before. Unlike human behavior, it is very hard to explain feelings and emotions. It could be overwhelming, especially if all of them hit you at once. So I recommend you not to overdo it," though Lucy seemed to be doing fine, it was in a controlled environment. Who knows what kind of emotions she would experience when among a group of people or a crowd? Especially how will she handle the urges of the hormones in her body? One would find all this overwhelming therefore it would be best for Lucy to take her time before she decides to rejoin society.

"What do you mean, there are still things I have yet to experience? How much was my mental condition holding me back? How many important things have I missed out on in my life?" Lucy was starting to realize how much her mental condition was limiting her. Now without her mental condition, she felt like she had so many options to choose from. Which was not always a good thing, especially when you were experiencing it for the first time.

"Lucy, those words right there, they are things I was talking about, calm down, take a deep breath it is not as bad as you think," I tried to console Lucy as she started to panic experiencing what every teen underwent, not realizing what was important. Lucy with a mental condition had it together, she knew her limitations and priorities. For the new Lucy, everything that felt unimportant to the old Lucy started to feel like an important part of her life which she now regrets missing out on.

"Oh my god, how many people have I hurt with my ignorance? I always thought why can't my parents, grandparents, and family accept me as the normal me, instead of hoping that I could be more like an average child? Now I get it, I wasn't grateful for many things I had," Lucy finally able to understand and see the problem from her parents, grandparents, and family's eyes, she clearly had a hard time reciprocating the feelings they showed her, everything little thing they did was respond with indifference. Which made it hard for people to repeat the same care for her again knowing that they

would be met with the same indifference. It wasn't that Lucy cares less about her family but her way of showing it was not broadly known or considered normal, one would have to understand Lucy to understand her form of appreciation.

"Lucy, honey, calm down. It was not your fault, you were young and immature, and things were different back then, you had no way of knowing. What happened was not your fault," It seems Eliza understood what Lucy was talking about it must have been very traumatic for Lucy to spiral like this.

"Rami, use your deep sleep card on her, now," Clearly, the issues that old Lucy had suppressed using her lack of mental and emotional response were now crawling back up, as Lucy began to recall the past events and started to see them in a new light with her improved mental health condition.

This was bound to happen, it was like when you grow up and rewatch the cartoons from your childhood and began to get the jokes that you missed back then. With Lucy's new mental state, her recalling her past decisions, and reconsidering each of them was a given. The old Lucy and the new Lucy were like two different people with two different sets of priorities. And the decisions they would make were definitely not going to be the same and they were not going like the consequence due to the other's actions. Now, this was going to be a very difficult time for Lucy. She will have to come to terms with old Lucy's actions and their consequences. She would have to move on and not let the past affect the brand new present and future ahead of her.

What would you do if an ignorant person uses your body to do a bunch of ignorant things to people surrounding you, people you care about, and then returns your body to you to deal with the consequences of it? That was what Lucy was kind of dealing with right now. Her new mental state allowed her to look at every mistake her past self made and sympathize with the people who were hurt in the process.

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[1,011 words]

Chapter 922: Take

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:11

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Eliza, take her back home. To the people who she considers to have suffered the most because of her old self, maybe their forgiveness would help her come to terms with everything," I know Lucy's parents and grandparents would beg to differ with Lucy's mindset. They may not consider raising Lucy as suffering or a burden, but seeing this may help Lucy come to peace with her past. And she would come to understand that the actions of the old Lucy were not intentional but the result of her mental condition. For which neither her old self nor the present self can be held accountable.

"Okay, I leave immediately. Association Head Rami, how long will the effect of your card last on my friend," Eliza still had the business deals to talk to with the Vice-head of the sun blossom city's card creationist association but did not hesitate to postpone it for the sake of her friend. As she felt that her friend needed her the most right now, then her family.

"About another 12 hours that should be enough for you to head back to sky blossom city," Rami answered Eliza.

"Thank you both for your help. I will be heading back to Sky blossom city," thanking us Eliza excused herself as she carried Lucy out of the hall in her embrace.

"Master Wyatt, that procedure was brilliant. I still cannot help but shake in excitement when I recall how precisely you were able to cut the skull and the tumor without injuring the patient's brain in the process. That was just perfect. I really can't wrap my head around it. Thank you for letting me be a part of this wonderful experience. If you don't mind there is one thing I would like to ask of you?" Rami was not ass-kissing this time around he was genuinely impressed by the boy's procedure on the patient's brain. He has not seen or heard anything like this or close to this before in his decades of experience as a medic. And he was really happy to be a part of something so revolutionary. He would have never believed it if somebody told him that a patient's mental and emotional response deficiency could be cured by performing a procedure on the patient's brain.

"You have caught me in a good time. Very well what is it that you want from me," I was very happy right now, after all, I did just successfully remove a tumor. Though benign, it still harmed the patient so it had to go. And I am glad I was able to help Lucy with it.

"Master Wyatt, if you don't mind I would like to write a paper on the procedure you performed today and submit it to the magazines. As this procedure was a perfect example of what the mortal medicine and medic cards could achieve when applied together. This procedure would open new inspirations for the mortal and card medics for generations to come. I want to be the one to immortalize it in the fine print. Master Wyatt, will you let me have the honors," I could see that Rami was genuine about what he said and it meant a lot to him. So I decided to give him my blessings.

"Fine, do what you want. Just make sure that I don't come to regret it," getting my permission Rami thanked me repeatedly before taking his leave.

...

"Are you sure about this?" Agatha who has been silent this whole time suddenly asked.

"About what?" Spooked, I asked Agatha in confusion.

"About that old due writing a paper on the procedure performed," Agatha said.

"What about it? The man is clearly hyped about it and is well meant so what is wrong with it?" I asked while I summoned my grimoire and prepared to call Ann.

"What do you think will happen if he publishes a paper on the procedure you did today? You know right the first question people will ask is how did you know that there was an abnormal growth of tissue next to the patient's brain?" Agatha went ahead and spoke about her concerns. After all, the boy got very defensive and secretive when she asked the answer to how he was able to find the tumor next to the patient's brain, "You really didn't think of this, or are you pretending to be clueless to pull my leg? Or are you going to say no to the enter world?"

"I have thought of it and it is not that big of a secret, and Rami's paper will be the perfect attention grabber for me to introduce my new field card to the world market.

"Shit, I was correct you would never act without your benefit in mind. When you said that the procedure was free, I knew you planned to use it in some way or another. You being greedy, that's the one thing about you I can count on," Agatha said as if she had me figured out.

"Me being greedy, Agatha, let me ask you something, real quick? Considering your street background, do you think I am greedy enough?" Why was I so greedy, Agatha should be more clear about it based on what she had to go through to climb out of the streets to achieve what she has achieved. Therefore it puzzled me when she called me greedy.

"Not enough," Hearing the boy, Agatha was without words as she knew exactly what he meant. The journey of a card apprentice was not cheap and not something an orphan from the slums of a third-rate city down south could afford. Therefore they had to hustle. She had first-hand experience that society was not kind to the card apprentice like her. They had to earn and take what they have earned. As no one was out here leveling the playing field for others' sake.

"See, you understand,"

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- Chapter 923: Nosy Agatha

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:16

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

Having shut Agatha up I called Ann going through about three dozen unread messages Ann sent to my grimoire while I was operating on Lucy.

"You finally called. I was getting so anxious that I planning to check on you in person," Ann said immediately after answering the call.

"I am doing fine here, you don't have to check on me. So what was so urgent that it couldn't wait for an hour?" I assured Ann that I was fine and asked her what she wanted to speak about.

"It is about Cole," said Ann, she was hesitating to speak freely as she was worried that Agatha might be hiding in the boy's shadow and would end up eavesdropping on their conversation based on the circumstances.

"Let's switch to the chat," I could hear the hesitation in Ann's voice and understood that she was not able to speak freely keeping Agatha's presence in my shadows in her mind.

"Okay, we can chat freely there," Ann said in relief, as what she wanted to discuss with the boy was sensitive information regarding a high profile and top secret target threatening the southern royal family. That she could not risk compromising by speaking about it despite knowing about a potential leak.

Hanging up on Ann I waited for her message, which spiked nosy Agatha's interest something not very appreciative quality in a bodyguard.

"I understand that the southern emperor must have found the evidence that Cole was the one who leaked the information," Agatha asked. The descendant of one of the highly valued vassal families of the southern royal family turned out to be a traitor. This was a big scoop, how could Agatha not be interested to learn more about it?

"Yep," I answered with one word as I did not plan to talk more about it with Agatha.

"So, correct me if I am wrong, but Ann must be calling you to tell who Cole was working for or to whom he sold your information. The plot thickens," Agatha said as she made her speculations.

"..." I chose to ignore her as I did not want to be dragged into her conversation and end up revealing things that the southern royal family and I would prefer to be a secret that only we knew for the moment.

"No, this is the southern royal family we are talking about here. They must have found more than who Cole was working for or to whom he sold your information. Otherwise, Ann would not be so anxiously trying to reach you. She even went far as to call me to check on you. Whatever they found must be juicy. Maybe they must have found out how Cole and his employer were planning to use the information on you to assassinate you," Agatha was not bothered by the fact I ignored her rant instead she took my silence as evidence supporting her claims and began to build on it. Reaching unfounded but plausible conclusions.

"..." I continued to ignore her thinking about what was taking Ann so long to send a message.

"Wyatt, if the southern royal family was able to find information about enemies' Identity and their plot to assassinate you, as your bodyguard I have the right to know who they are and how they planned to kill you. Otherwise, I will not be able to protect you as efficiently as I would have if I knew who the enemy is and how exactly they planned to assassinate you," Agatha came up with reasons to justify why they should not keep her in the dark about the information that the southern family had gathered from Cole and share it with her.

"Yeah, get in line. I am still waiting for Ann's message and your constant rant in my ears is not making the wait any less annoying," I said to Agatha as I continued to wait for Ann's message not knowing what the hold-up was about.

Being called Annoying by the high schooler, Agatha snorted and turned silent. She was starting to reconsider her career choice as a bodyguard. She was a respected semi-demigod, she could do better.

A minute later, a message notification sounded in my grimoire, but the sender was Anna, not Ann. And I finally understood what the hold-up was, it was Anna.

[Message received... Read/ Ignore/ Mark as Read/ Delete]

[Read]

[Sender Anna Heatsend,

Wyatt, if that bitch dares to try and flirt with you, tell me. I will teach her a lesson.]

I have no idea what transpired between Anna and Ann but it seems Ann won the debate and the Anna was pissed about whatever it was those two were fighting about.

While I was thinking of what to make of Anna's message, another message notification sounded in my grimoire, this time the message was from Ann.

[Message received... Read/ Ignore/ Mark as Read/ Delete]

[Read]

[Sender Ann Heatsend,

Wyatt, sorry I made you wait. I had a situation over here, nothing to worry about everything is handled.]

Ann apologized for the delay while explaining herself in her message. I replied, [I know Anna sent me a message.]

[And don't worry about the delay I had Agatha and her nosy questions to keep me company.]

[I specifically asked her not to call you about it,] replied Ann

[Well, technically she did not call me. Anyway, what did you guys fight about?] I replied by defending Anna's action and soon thought, 'What is wrong with me, why am I defending Anna's possessive behavior?'

[Nothing, I felt that it would be best if I explained Cole and our progress to you considering the sensitive nature of the matter. Anna did not seem to agree but I convinced her,] Ann replied, explaining what Anna and she argued about but she left out the part where she had found a mental trick to keep Anna from accessing her thoughts. Which was the real reason for their argument and why Anna was pissed.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:23

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

Accessing each other's thoughts was an advantageous effect of Anna and Ann's origin cards. Ann knew that her thoughts about the high schooler that Anna was dating would potentially get in trouble with Anna so she racked her brain and thought of a neat mental trick to keep Anna out of her mind which Anna found out when she could not access the

thoughts of her origin card, pissing her off. Helpless Anna could only ask her young lover to help her keep tabs on the conversation between him and her evil twin.

[Enough about Anna. Wyatt, you need to be very careful. We were able to clone Cole's memories before he was turned brain-dead. Going through Cole's memories we have discovered many shocking information about the organization he was working for. And they seem to hate you with a passion for some unknown reason.] Ann finally got to the part about why she needed me to contact her urgently. Hearing what she had to say I was stumped. Because being able to clone the memories of one of the members of the paw clan was a huge feat, and in the future vision seen by clown mask the southern royal family was not able to achieve this until it was already too late for them to make a comeback in the fight against the Matron and ultimately leading to their defeat and them running into hiding.

Being able to clone the memories of one of the paw clan members meant that the southern royal family now had information about how Matron and her secret organization operated. Which was a huge advantage for the southern royal family which they did not have in the clown mask's future vision. If they were to make proper use of this information they will be able to be one step ahead of Matron but it was too soon to say that as even after knowing how Matron's secret organization operated there was nothing much the south royal family could do as of now as the hierarchy system in the paw clan was very simple, Matron was the queen and the rest were her pawns that could be replaced anytime. Unless they took down the queen anything else they did was temporary damage.

[I think we were clear on them hating me with a passion when they sent about 3 dozen card emperors to assassinate me. In other news were you able to get anything else off the clone memories of Cole? For example how they operate or something like that?] I asked Ann even though I knew there was very little chance of her answering my question. The southern royal family seems to have no notion of involving me in this matter. If I had not uncovered Matron and her paw clan myself, Ann and I wouldn't be having this conversation.

[I shouldn't be telling you this but the way paw clan work is like a sleeper cell and a guild. The sleeper cells infiltrate the big organizations, they, themselves, do not know that they are working for Matron and their memories get backed up with Matron every once a week. As for the regular members like Cole, they do not hold important positions in big organizations but they are capable and ambitious. They are aware of the organization and Matron's grip on them but they continue to do Matron's bidding to earn merits and exchange them for resources, just like how a guild operates but with very high privacy and encryption. And also the members only know each other by their code names. Making it very hard for us to track the other paw clan members we found in Cole's memories. A bunch of them are in the southern region, they could be part of the vassal families, branch families, military, or other authorities of the southern region. A few days ago they did not exist but now it is like they are everywhere, watching every move of the southern royal family. The whole family is upside down. We will have to

revise every protocol and every important bill passed in the last decade. That is a lot of work, and there are not a lot of people the family can depend upon considering the nature of the Matron's origin card.] Ann explained but most of it I already knew and the rest was the same old. Clearly, Ann acted as if she had shared something important when it wasn't. But still, she did tell me more than what Anna or others were willing to share with me on this matter.

[Then how does the southern royal family plan to handle these spies? Don't tell me you guys are okay with them roaming among you.] I said because I knew there was no way the southern royal family would let the enemy eat them from the inside out.

[The royal family is monitoring every important card apprentice in the southern region, to see if there is any inconsistency in their actions. In case of any inconsistency that merits suspicion, the royal family plans to deal with them the same way they dealt with Cole. If the clone of their memories comes out clean with no connection to Matron whatsoever then good but if it does then the southern royal family's plan is working.] Trial and error method, that was what the royal family was planning to use against Matron's paw clan. There wasn't any way around it. Unless they were somehow able to identify if someone's memory has been tampered with.

Think of this, a brilliant idea popped into my head. According to the findings back on earth, the memories of a person were contained in their brain's Hippocampus. A curved seahorse-shaped organ on the underside of each temporal lobe of the brain, the hippocampus was part of a larger structure called the hippocampal formation. It supports memory, learning, navigation, and perception of space.

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[1,526 words]

Chapter 925: Solution

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:28

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

I bring up Hippocampus because I thought it was the answer to ending Sansa's tyranny. I had this theory based on the function of the Hippocampus, if I was right then I could come up with a way to identify the members of the paw clan. In this sense, it may not be

far-fetched for me to think that I may also find a way to help Sansa's victims free from her grasp.

[Ann, I need to meet with Cole, I think I may have a way that can bring an end to our Matron problem faster,] I immediately sent this to Ann because I wanted Cole to be at the sky blossom city and not moved to some secure location before I return after I am done handling the circle in the sun blossom city.

The reason I needed to meet Cole was to test out my theory. Yes, I was planning to use Cole as the guinea pig. Hence, I needed him to be present at the sky blossom city and not be imprisoned in some secure location.

I had a feeling that If I were to look closely at the soul pathways of Cole's Hippocampus I would be able to find anomalies in it considering that Matron's origin card was able to manipulate its victim's memories by attacking their Hippocampus. By anomalies in the soul pathways of Cole's Hippocampus, I mean tiny traces of foreign soul energy in it, which could only be left if someone messed with his Hippocampus.

Usually, I only scan the overall soul pathway arrangements of a card apprentice using my soul pupils and never tend to look deep into the soul pathway arrangements of other card apprentices respecting their privacy especially not the soul pathways of their organs individually. That was how I might have missed the anomalies in the soul pathways of Cole's Hippocampus. I couldn't possibly find what I was not looking for. Now that I know what I was supposed to look for I will not miss it this time around.

[About that, the Matron got to him. Fortunately for us, she got to him after we created a clone of his memories. Otherwise, it would have been a great loss.] Ann replied as she recalled how Cole immediately became brain-dead as soon as the Samsara array's influence on him decreased.

[That's okay. No good deed comes out of crying over the spilled milk. But do you think the southern royal family can capture a few paw clan members for me to test my theories,] Hearing that the geniuses of the southern royal were only able to clone Cole's memories before Sansa silenced him for eternity I was pissed but then I calmed down and thought maybe the southern royal family could capture a few members of the paw clan for me to use them as my guinea pig to test my theories.

[Yeah, I don't think that will be possible any time soon.] Ann meant she did not have high hopes for the Royal family's trial and error method to sniff the Matron's goon in the southern region.

[Speaking of which, there is some news you need to know.] Ann added another reply.

[What is it?] I asked still preoccupied with my theory on identifying the victims of Matron's origin card based on their Hippocampus.

[Before we captured Cole he was lurking near the Lion Cubs high school. And through his memories, we found out that Matron had ordered him to kidnap your aunt Kathy and bring her to her. I believe she planned to get your aunt Kathy under her control and use your aunt to get rid of you. Neat plan, it might have worked if you hadn't suspected Cole. By the way, how did you figure out that Cole was Matron's pawn? You never went into specifics about it.] Ann's words rang alarms in my brain. The one thing I dreaded so much that I rather not consider, was that what if Kathy was just the start? What if Matron starts aiming at people surrounding me? That was when I resolved, 'That bitch got to go.'

[I was suspicious of Cole from the start. What reputable black merchant in his right mind would bring his VIP client to a high schooler card creationist to get her origin card created? None, right? That was suspicious as hell but I did not have enough reason to voice my suspicion about him until I was alerted by the Circle's branch leader's behavior.] I answered Ann and then sent another reply adding [Is my Aunt safe?]

[She is safe, we were able to intercept Cole before he made his move. Wyatt, one other thing. Matron has sent her elite assassin squad of five card emperors to assassinate you. This doesn't make sense, why would Matron send five card emperor on this mission when she clearly knew that a semi-demigod bodyguard was protecting you from within your shadow? I really don't understand the reason behind her decision but you got to be careful.

And Anna is still searching for their location using the array formation covering the southern region but so far we have had no luck finding them. According to Grandpa Lorenzo, these five are the same squad that failed to assassinate you last time. According to Cole's memory, they plan to assassinate you when you engage the Sun blossom city's Circle branch, making it look like you died in the fight with the Circle's goons.] Ann finally narrated the real reason for her having the boy contact her immediately when he receives her message through Agatha.

[Thanks for the heads up, I will keep a lookout for them. It seems I will very soon have five guinea pigs to test my theory on.] I said while thinking that Sansa should really trust these five card emperor goons of hers to send them to assassinate me despite knowing a semi-demigod bodyguard protecting me from within my shadow. Her confidence must stem from the impressive unique ability to enter the empty space of one of the card emperors that she sent to assassinate me.

If she wanted this assassination on me to be blamed on the circle then using this squad that had the ability to hide in the empty space was a better option than sending a bunch of semi-demigods that would attract unwanted attention to her organization by their participation in this fight. Matron seemed to have planned out everything meticulously and underestimating her and her threats to my life would be foolishness on my part. Therefore I decided to be extra vigilant today.

[What do you mean, Wyatt? Didn't I just ask you to look after yourself? Wyatt, promise me that you will not risk your life unnecessarily] Reading my reply Ann grew worried about me and immediately replied asking me to promise her that I would not risk my life unless the circumstances demands it.

[Don't worry I love and value my life more than you think,] I assured Ann and then hung up the call. And soon I received two calls. One was from Diana and the other one was from Roy. They both had two different jobs assigned to them by me. I bet they were calling to update me on the mission I assigned to them. I decided to answer Diana's call first considering that she was given the responsibility to bring my forces to the sun blossom city, Roy will have to wait.

"Hey, Diana. What is it ?" I answered Diana's call.

"Master Wyatt, I called to inform you that all your forces have arrived at sun blossom city. We are hovering a few miles from the city, ready to be deployed at your signal," Diana immediately answered saying that my forces have arrived at the sun blossom city region and were awaiting my orders a few miles away from the city.

"You are here earlier than I expected. You did a good job, Diana. But you guys will have to wait there a little longer as the ambush on the Circle's branch in the sun blossom city will start at the midnight to avoid bystanders casualties," I complimented Diana for a job well done and asked them to wait outside the city as the ambush on the circle will begin at the stroke of the midnight.

"Thank you, master Wyatt, we will await your orders a few miles outside the city. And what should I do with the storage trunk card handed to me by the southern emperor to deliver to you?" Diana asked immediately.

"About that, I will come outside the city and meet you in person then you can hand over the package to me," I answered Diana, planning to visit her and my forces outside the city to fetch the package given to her by the southern emperor to deliver to me. The storage card from the southern emperor in question must contain the broken runes I asked her to prepare for me.

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[1,012 words]

Chapter 926: Lich

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:33

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

After I hung up on Diana, Agatha confronted me saying, "Tell me you didn't just agree to leave the city to meet your goons in the late evening."

"Yes, I did. I don't see the problem with it," I replied to Agatha not understanding what she was getting at with this.

"You don't see it or are you just pretending to get me worked up," Agatha asked.

"Agatha, I don't see what's the problem," I said asking Agatha to be more specific about her concerns.

"Didn't you say that the circle knows your purpose of visit to the sun blossom city? Including the fact that three semi-demigods are protecting you. Don't you think they must have made preparations against it? You running around will make it easier for them to target you," Explained Agatha unable to make the point she wanted to.

"What you just said makes no sense, if they wanted to attack me why wait for me to leave the city, why not attack me directly? I don't know what you are worried about but don't I have you here to protect me?" I said and then decided to call Roy.

"That is it, I am here to protect you but I don't want to fight the semi-demigods from the circle. I would rather prefer to fight in the way beyond for a decade than fighting them," hearing Agatha's words I was dumbfounded. She seemed to dread the semi-demigods for the Circle for some reason maybe she has encountered the semi-demigods from Circle before and it did not seem to be a good experience.

"What the fuck? I brought you to protect me and now you are telling me you are too afraid of the enemy. Why did you not say so earlier? This is messed up. Shit, out of all the semi-demigods out there why did I have to get one with such a weak spine? Tell me what exactly you mean by those words," Yelling at Agatha I asked her what did she mean by her words that she would rather fight in the way beyond for a decade than face the semi-demigods from the Circle.

"A few years ago, I heard that a half dozen of semi-demigods from the circle disobeyed the direct orders of their immediate superior and went deep into the way beyond only to get stranded in the way beyond. Despite them disobeying the orders of their immediate superiors, our battalion decided to conduct a rescue mission for them, after all, they were promising semi-demigods. We could not just give up on them.

But by the time we got there, those six semi-demigods were standing on a pile of 310 semi-demigod monsters' corpses. And they showed no sign of exhaustion or had any

scratches to show from their fight. It was as if they defeated 310 enemies of the same rank without breaking a sweat. Those of us who went to rescue them could not believe our eyes. If you do the math, it would be apparent that each one of the circle's semi-demigods has killed about 51 semi-demigod rank monsters within a few hours.

I am considered pretty strong in the semi-demigod realm but even I don't have the confidence to face 51 semi-demigod rank monsters without getting a single scratch or dying from exhaustion. Now, do you understand why I would rather not face the semi-demigods from the circle and rather refer to fight at the way beyond for a decade?" Agatha explained her concerns about facing the semi-demigods from the Circle.

"You are telling this to me now? Why did you not tell this to be back in the warehouse? When I had the chance to make changes to my security detail," I asked Agatha and then went through the Clown Mask's memories to understand and get more details about what Agatha was talking about.

It did not take me long to dig up what Agatha was going on about in Clown Mask's memories. The semi-demigods in Agatha's story were not card apprentices but Lich. All six of them were Lich disguised to look like card apprentices using human skin cards, which was why they were not exhausted or had a single scratch on them even after taking down 310 enemies of the same realm.

Those six were not the only semi-demigod Lich that the Circle was hiding, they were many more from where these six came from. But the Circle's semi-demigod rank was not just made using Lich they also had capable card apprentices of semi-demigod rank.

The Circle deploys its high-level Lich only when it has to get important things done. As for the small matter of assassinating a card soldier from a third-rate city, they would not deploy a Lich with the risk of exposing to the world that they are making high-level Lich. So Agatha had nothing to worry about. But I did not know how to explain this to Agatha.

"Just so you know, I am not afraid about facing the semi-demigod from the circle, I am only concerned that while facing a semi-demigod of that caliber, I cannot divide my attention between protecting you and facing the demigod. And if anything were to happen to you, Anna will harm my princess, which I would like to avoid at any cost. Therefore, I plan to retreat with you at the first sight of an enemy semi-demigod, whether you agree to it or not." Agatha spoke about her decision; it seems she had made up her mind and there was no way for me to talk her out of it.

"Fine, I agree with your decision. If those guys are as dreadful as you speak of, I would prefer my life over some revenge. But you have to promise me one condition," I agreed with Agatha because by off chance if the Circle did send a lich then I did not want to die a foolish death.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:39

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Okay, what is that condition of yours? If it is to help you deal with the low-level card apprentice of the circle then don't even think about speaking it just swallow those words," Agatha agreed to hear me out but warned me that she will not harm those that are weaker than her without a proper reason to do so.

"I want you to help me see the semi-demigods before we retreat. That should not be too much to ask, right?" I stated my condition to Agatha.

"Why is your condition so specific and odd? As if you want to confirm something. Wyatt, what are you up to, tell me the whole truth. I am your bodyguard you need to be frank with me so that I can be good at my job to protect you. Why don't you understand that, damn it?" Agatha was not a two-year-old, hearing the boy make such an odd but specific condition, she knew he was up to something or knew something that she did not know. Being kept in the dark about so many secrets Agatha was frustrated and finally snapped at the boy asking him to be honest with her so that she can do her job to protect him better.

Hearing frustrated Agatha, I did not answer her but asked, "So you can do that or not?"

"I will agree to nothing unless you tell me everything you know. As your bodyguard, I need to know what we are getting into to tell you if you are being foolish or not," Agatha demanded.

From the moment she accepted this task to protect the boy she felt something was off about this mission. It felt as if something else huge was afoot here than she was being let to know. Especially the part where Anna went as far as to threaten her with the life of demigod Windsor's daughter to take her task of protecting the boy seriously.

She thought the mission was to protect the boy as he ambushed a small-time organization, but it was opening to be something bigger than what she can handle. What was more frustrating was that the fact the card soldier boy knew more than what she knew. To her, this was humiliating. She had worked hard to get to where she was today and yet she was being led by a card soldier. It felt as if everything she had worked

for was for nothing. That fact that she was at a point in her life where, she, as a semi-demigod had to compare herself to a young card soldier. She thought that things could not go lower for her.

"Agatha, you know I cannot tell you that. The information you are asking for is the Southern region's top confidential secrets. Anna will not be happy to hear that you are asking for the state secrets," I said not giving into Agatha's unreasonable demands.

"Oh, yeah, how about I take you back to sky blossom city? I bet Anna will be thrilled about that," seeing her demands not met Agatha threatened me.

"What you can't do that. That is not what we agreed on. The deal was you will be my bodyguard until the whole thing got an ending. Are you going to go back on your words? Agatha, is that what you are trying to do?" I said in protest to Agatha's threat. But I had a feeling at this point if I don't say what Agatha wanted to hear she will follow through with her threat.

"No, I am not going back on my words. I agreed to be your bodyguard and I will be your bodyguard. As your bodyguard, I don't feel you are safe here so I will take you back to the sky blossom city to your sugar mama. I bet even if you do not appreciate my work as your bodyguard she will," Agatha doubled down on her threat and I felt like she was enjoying it.

Threatening the boy to take him back home to his sugar mama Agatha felt like she was back in control again. She hated the fact that she had to do and follow as the card soldier said, her ego did not allow it but now, right now, she felt as if she was in charge. This feeling was wonderful, she could not help but think about why she did not do this from the start. Why did she let this boy walk all over her earlier?

It was because back then it was just some ordinary mission that she wanted to complete and be done with it but now it had become a mission where the possibility of her death was a thing. The moment she knew she would be risking her life for a card soldier to get his revenge, she felt backed up against the wall and then she snapped deciding to snatch the reigns from the boy's hands and be in control.

"Agatha, as a bodyguard why can't you just do what you are told to do without asking too many questions?" Even if I wanted to share what I knew with Agatha, I did not know where to begin and how to prove it without revealing my secrets. There was too much at risk here and Agatha was being difficult.

"Wyatt, if not for the southern emperor holding my princess hostage, I would have killed you for what you just said to me. Please don't push it. Let us be civil about this, I still want to be friends with you when we are done here. So let us not say or do things to each other that either of us will regret later. You give me what I want and I will give you what you want. Then part as a couple of BFFs. What do you say, buddy?" Agatha sounded like the worst mobster to ever exist. But what she said made sense. I reveal a

few things to quench her curiosity and manipulate her to do exactly what I had in plan. This worked for me.

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[1,538 words]

Chapter 928: Evidence

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:44

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Agatha, I get that you hate the feeling of being kept in the dark about many things. That doesn't mean that you can just threaten me for answers but considering our situation I am willing to compromise. But you have to understand that what you are asking me to reveal to you are considered state secrets, which means I can be sentenced for revealing the information you are asking for. Therefore, if we are going to do this we will have to be smart about this. Instead of revealing the secrets, how about I guide you to them? This way I will have the plausibility to deny everything that transpires here. Can you agree to that?" I asked Agatha.

"For someone who acts tough, you suddenly seem to worry a lot about the southern royal family's rules," Agatha did not seem to be convinced by my words.

"Hey, no matter what, the Southern region is my home. And I would like to have a home to come back to. You understand right," I said, as I felt Agatha's intent gaze on me from my shadows before she agreed to my proposal, "Fine, I will hear what you have to say, and if I like what you say then we have a deal."

"Good," I nodded my head appreciating Agatha's compromise, and continued saying, "So this is how we will do this, I will ask you a bunch of connected questions and you will have to guess who or what these questions signify. If you get it wrong I will tell you but if you get it right I will not deny that you were not wrong. I call it the guessing game. All you have to do is guess, got it?"

"Yea, yea, I get it, will you start already," Agatha said impatiently.

"Okay, I will get to it. Agatha here is your first question, name one creature that can fight like a card apprentice and used to be a card apprentice. I repeat, name one creature

that can fight like a card apprentice and used to be a card apprentice," hearing the boy's question, Agatha's brows frowned. The answer to this question was obvious but Agatha felt that it would not be that simple so she decided to wait for the second question, "Next question, please."

"Agatha, your next question is, name a creature that can no longer feel pain or other emotions but used to feel pain and other emotions at a certain point of its life. I repeat, name a creature that can no longer feel pain or other emotions but used to feel pain and other emotions at a certain point of its life," I felt that my first question could not be simpler yet Agatha asked me for a second question so I gave her the second question.

"Third question, please," Agatha had a feeling that the answer she had in her mind was the right one but she denied the possibility of that due to the bizarreness surrounding it and asked for another question.

"Agatha, your next question is, name a creature that can recover at an astonishing pace and no longer feel exhaustion. I repeat, name a creature that can recover at an astonishing pace and no longer feel exhaustion," I gave Agatha the third question considering whether to make my questions simpler.

"Fourth question, please."

"Agatha, you can guess more than once, so before asking for the next question just state your guess if you are right I will not deny the fact that your guess could be wrong. You get it, right?" I felt that Agatha was not clear on the rules or did not understand the guessing game.

"Oh, I see," saying that Agatha went silent.

"So your guess is?" I asked Agatha.

"I guess, a Lich. It used to be a card apprentice so it can fight like one. It feels no pain or other emotions but it used to when it was a card apprentice. Unless their life vessel is destroyed they keep recovering at an incredible pace and never get exhausted. Is my guess correct?" Agatha guessed, pointing out that her answer fits all the questions.

"I am not denying that your answer is not wrong," I said

"So, my guess was correct," Agatha cheered and got to thinking how a Lich was connected to what she asked about.

"Now that I have answered your question. In case the Circle's semi-demigods do show up, will you let me see them before we retreat?" I said, trying to help Agatha connect the dots between the Circle's semi-demigods and the creature Lich that she guessed by playing the guessing game.

Recalling where the argument started, Agatha felt a light bulb turn on in her head and mentally yelled, "You are saying that the semi-demigods from the Circle are Lich."

"Ah, too loud," I complained to Agatha about controlling her mental voice.

"Sorry, I got carried away. Won't happen again," Agatha apologized.

"Once again, I am not saying anything. You are the one who thought of it all by yourself," I said, reminding Agatha of what we had agreed upon.

"Yes, yes, you did not tell me anything. I was the one who thought of it all by myself," I could feel Agatha rolling her eyes at me as she said this.

"Yes, it's not me, it is you who came up with that. Remember that," I asserted.

"Sure, but all of this sounds like some outlandish theory with no evidence to back it up. I am not sure about this because if the Circle's semi-demigods were, indeed Lich disguised as semi-demigods then how did they manage to get past the perception of Demigods stationed at the way beyond," Agatha said, she did not want to conclude without any evidence to back it up.

"I don't know how they managed to fool the demigod's perception but evidence, really? Earlier you wanted answers and now you want evidence. Why don't you just ask me to raid the entire top confidential secret archive of the southern royal family, while you are at it?" I yelled at Agatha trying to press her to blindly trust the conclusion she came up with. Wasn't that the point of this dance?

The reason I promised Agatha that I will help guide her to the answer, instead of answering her what I know was not because I was worried about being sentenced by the southern royal family. The real reason was it would be harder to get Agatha to believe in my words and manipulate her if I just told her everything. So instead I decided to have Agatha reach the answers so it will not be hard for her to believe them when she starts to connect the dots.

"Wyatt, I know what you mean but..." before Agatha could finish I interrupted her adding, "Fine, you need evidence right? You had the evidence long ago. You just did not know how to interpret it.

Remember the story you told me about half a dozen semi-demigods from the Circle defeating 310 monsters of the same rank without even breaking a sweat and not a single scratch to show from the fight?

Imagine if half a dozen Semi-demigod Lich were in the same situation, would the result be any different?"

Being interrupted by the boy Agatha frowned but then what he said made sense to her. Because she could not bring herself to believe that six card apprentices were able to survive the ambush of 310 monsters of the same rank. This was just too unbelievable for her but Agatha also did not want to believe what the 6 card semi-demigods were able to do was because they were Lich as this could easily be interpreted as her calling her opponent a cheat instead of agreeing with her incompetence.

Seeing Agatha struggling to reach a conclusion I said, "You know my origin card is called Aura sight. It helps me see the aura of everything. Each thing's aura is different but closely related to their kind. For example, take humans, all humans have a distinct aura but if something else is disguised as a human, I will be able to tell the difference because even though all our auras are distinctive they are closely related. Kind of like our appearance. One can always tell us apart but collectively we all are the same. Where I am getting at with this is that I can-"

Agatha completed my sentence by adding, "You can detect whether the semi-demigods from the Circle are Lich disguised as card apprentices. Is that the reason why you made that specific but odd condition to look at the semi-demigods from the Circle before we retreat if they show up?"

"So you understand," I said with a calm smile.

"Kind of, but I don't see the point of doing this," Agatha said, she felt that knowing whether the semi-demigods sent by the circle were Lich or not was of no value unless we were able to defeat them or at the least successfully retreat.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:49

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"Point? honey, we have a once-in-the-lifetime opportunity here, if you are too skeptical to see it let me lead you to it," I said, hearing Agatha say that there was no point to my action.

"Let me guess you plan to reveal to the world that the circle has the semi-demigod realm Lich in its forces," Agatha spoke my thoughts but she showed no interest to act on it.

"So you do see it," I said and added, "Not only do we have a shot at destroying a branch of the Circle but we can also put the entire Circle in the hot water. This day could not get better."

"For you maybe, you get your revenge, what do I get out of this?" Agatha said as if repaying my favor by being my bodyguard was a thing of yesterday.

"Ahem, did you lose your memory or what? You are doing this to repay the favor that you owe me. A debtless consciousness is what you get out of this. Nothing trumps a clean consciousness," I reminded Agatha that she owes me this one.

"Wyatt, you have your way with words but that is not enough to blind me from the amount of risk you are asking me to take for a benign favor," Agatha said, the favor she owed me was not worth the risk.

"Benign favor? Agatha, are you being serious right now?" Seeing Agatha show signs of renegeing on her favor I could not help but wonder if she was for real.

"Remind me again what favor you did for me to return it with my life on the line," Agatha did not seem to let go of this one. She was not worried about Anna as she knew as long as she kept the boy safe and brought him back home in one piece Anna would not bother her.

"About that... I don't care, a favor is a favor," now that Agatha brought it up, I too felt that the favor I did for her was benign compared to the one I was asking of her. But I can't tell her that. If she knew I agreed with her point I would have no leverage in whatever angle she was working here.

"Wow, Wyatt, now that I said something you don't like you are going to baby about it. You know what I did not expect much from you anyway," Agatha spoke as if she was disappointed in me.

"You are one to speak, making excuses to renege on what you owe me. What? Did I say something wrong?" I snapped at Agatha.

"Okay, that is it, I have decided that you are not safe in this city we are heading home," Agatha decided to play her card seeing that I was not letting the conversation advance to where she gets to make demands.

"Fine, what do you want? Before you answer, let me make it clear to you, do not push your luck," I decided to reach a compromise with Agatha because I needed her to follow my lead to the dot, her insubordination could be deadly when a fight breaks out.

"A card soldier threatening a semi-demigod isn't that funny. Still, I appreciate the fact that you are willing to be fair," Agatha's calm voice sounded in my mind.

"Well, go ahead, what do you want from me?" I asked

"Nothing much, I want you to make me a pattern in your next big venture. I want to form a steady source of income. That is all," Agatha put forward her demand.

"Are you sure that you are a semi-demigod? Sometimes when you say stuff like this I can't help but wonder if you are a fake semi-demigod. Tell me you are a real semi-demigod," I mocked Agatha and her measly dream of forming a stable source of income.

"Hey, I am a real semi-demigod. Not everyone, like you, is gifted with various extraordinary talents that would put an adult to shame. If your every meal while growing up came from your mother selling her body, you would understand- sorry I did not want to make this depressing," Agatha's story took a dark turn making the conversation too depressing.

"So your mother was a sex worker?" It was insensitive of me to ask Agatha this but I had my reasons.

"I wish unfortunately I don't know who my mother is," Agatha's voice did not hide the fact that she longed for a mother.

"So, what was the dark story for?" I asked Agatha in confusion.

"I was trying to make a point," said Agatha

"Your point being?" I stressed Agatha for an answer because the story was really messed up.

"Enough about that, you still did not give me an answer," Agatha changed the topic and I decided to go with it.

"The next big thing I am thinking about is related to the medical field- " I was about to go into detail about my plans but was interrupted by Agatha, "Medical field? Haven't they found everything there is to it?"

"Do you hear yourself? That right there is the reason why I have trouble believing you are a semi-demigod. Do you get me now? Do you?" I wasn't really surprised that Agatha was so ignorant when it came to the medical field, with her semi-demigod physique she hardly needs a doctor.

"You think I am ignorant, you haven't seen the semi-demigods out there, half of them don't even know how much a loaf of bread costs," Agatha said trying to defend herself but she did not do a good job with her defense.

"And you do?" I asked Agatha skeptically.

"A 100 dollars," Agatha replied confidently.

"A 100 dollars for a loaf of bread, where do you buy your bread? Apple care maybe," I said forgetting the fact that they don't have apple care in this world for Agatha to get my reference.

"Apple care, what is that?" Agatha asked in confusion.

"Forget About it, didn't you ask how I knew there was a tumor next to Lucy's brain? My medical invention is based on that," I revealed what my next big idea was about to Agatha.

"Great, then what are your plans for it?" Agatha asked, and she seemed genuinely interested in my idea.

"First step, I plan to patent it, and then for the second part, I will sell the manufacturing rights to whoever pays me the highest," My plan for my next big idea couldn't be more obvious but it was the best one.

"And where do I come in these two steps?" Agatha asked with a deadpan face. As the two steps in my plan did not have any room for Agatha.

"It depends, how much capital do you plan to invest? If you are confident in your savings, you can bid for the manufacturing rights," I said with a professional smile, this one I learned from Susan.

"My savings are enough for me but not enough to bid for the manufacturing rights. What else can you offer me?" Agatha did not want to make a fool of herself by bringing up her measly savings to bid for the manufacturing rights of what could be the biggest invention in the medical field so far.

"How about distribution rights? I can ask whoever buys the manufacturing rights to give you the exclusive distribution rights of the product for an entire district in the central region. That should be enough. You can pull that off, right?" Knowing that Agatha's savings would not amount to much I decided to give her something that cost less capital but a lot of commitment.

"Sounds good. And if it turns out to be more than what I can bargain for, I can always bring in more partners," Agatha said, having already decided on the partner to bail her out if things don't work out, and that was none other than her beloved master demigod Windsor.

"Sure. Now that you got what you want, it's your turn to deliver," I paid nothing to get a semi-demigod slave but I have doubt whether my slave semi-demigod is fake.

"Fine, I will go with your plan. But if things go south, we retreat. After all, my princess's life is and will always be my top priority," Agatha stated and it seemed that was her bottom line.

Hearing Agatha, I could not help but feel sorry for her future husband unless she planned to seduce her boss. I say this because Agatha had displayed all the signs pointing to that scenario.

Feeling my long silence suspicious, Agatha questioned, "What's taking you so long?"

"Yes, I agree. Safety trumps vengeance," I agreed to Agatha's condition because when things get out of my hands, I would rather leave than foolishly stay waiting for my death.

"Good, but before you forget, I want the mangrove district of the central region. I will not compromise on that," Agatha demanded.

"Sure, why not."

Fast forward to the future, these words, I would come to regret.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 20:55

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

Now that I had successfully acquired a semi-demigod slave, I continued with my call back to Roy,

[Calling Roy...]

"Hello, boss. The mission was a success," Roy reported immediately after answering my call.

"I know, I was alerted about the addition of the new member, I expect great things from him. With this everything is set for tonight," I said feeling in control as everything was going as per my plan as moments ago Hive AI had alerted me about the addition of the new calamity daughter gem.

"But, boss, there has been a new development that I wanted to report to you urgently," Roy said he has matters that need to be brought to my attention, hearing me prepare for the event tonight.

"Well, go ahead. I am all ears," the words 'new development' caught my attention, as those sets of words represented the uncertain part of the plan that I had come up with.

"Boss, the circle's branch leader has called all members to arms to guard the headquarters. it seems he knows you are coming for him tonight," Roy reported.

"There has been a leak but it has been handled. So nothing has changed, the plan is set to go tonight," The news about Cole and his deeds, I have yet to share it with my calamity daughter gems. The reason I did not share the news till now was I did not think it mattered.

As for Mike Brown gathering the Circle's forces to prepare for our ambush at the circle headquarters, all I had to say in that regard was that he was not only digging his grave but his subordinates too.

"Okay, boss. I will update you if there are any more developments on my side," As my puppet, Roy did not voice an opposition instead he did what a good puppet does. A puppet does what a puppet is.

"You do that," saying that I hung up on Roy and could not help but thank Mike Brown for making things easier for me.

"You have an inside man in the Circle, no wonder you are so calm even after got the news of your plan being leaked to your enemies. Wyatt, I have to say I underestimated you," Agatha praised the boy knowing he was not charging at the enemy just because he had a sugar mama to wipe after him.

"Maybe if you were not too soon to jump to conclusions, you wouldn't have underestimated me," I said, calling out Agatha for judging people.

"Maybe I would not be so quick to judge you if you did not run to your sugar mama whenever you came across an obstacle in your path," Agatha went straight for the home run with that one.

"Are you sure you should be talking like this to the key person in your dream for a stable source of income?" I reminded Agatha that I owned her.

"Are you sure you should be using that kind of tone for the person who will be guarding your whining ass for the next 24 hours?" Agatha did not budge from my threats. Rather fought back.

At the first sight of rebellion from my semi-demigod slave, I was alerted but eased when I heard her say, "Wyatt, you are not the boss of me. We are in cooperation. I am exchanging my services for your services, nothing more."

The fact that a semi-demigod had to explain herself to a card soldier was enough evidence that my threat worked. But it also showed that my semi-demigod slave had a mouth on her, I guess we can't have everything.

"Sure, we are in a cooperative relationship. Now don't speak unless I ask you to, I have things to do, I don't your mental voice messing my train of thoughts," as I said that I felt an intense glare on me but I ignored it as that was all my rebellious semi-demigod slave could do.

"Clone 1," I summoned one of my slave conscious as a clone and ordered, "You know what to do, get to it."

"Yes, original," after saluting me, Clone 1 hurried out of the hall to carry out the task I had tasked him with. Which was to meet Diana outside the sun blossom city, to fetch the broken runes that Anna had sent for me via Diana.

"A sentient clone with 100% of the original's powers, that's some high-level card. How are you a mere card soldier with a golden grimoire able to use it?" Agatha spoke in surprise as she saw the boy summon a high-level sentient clone which was too high-level of a card for his current realm.

Hearing my semi-demigod slave fail to see through my first order to her as her master, I wanted to reach for my whip but was interrupted by Cheng who came in bearing gifts, "Master Wyatt, the open Auction ended. And you won all the bids you bid for."

"I did, that's good," I said with a sly smile as winning all the bids I bid for was not that lucky if I owned the person in charge of it.

"Here, master Wyatt, these are all the cards you bid for," Saying that Cheng handed me a bunch of cards that I won in the open auction.

"Let me see," going through the cards I couldn't help but giggle like a little girl thinking, 'Tonight is going to be an eventful night.'

'Stop giggling, you look like a damn pedophile going through photos of kids in their birthday suits,' Agatha's mental whisper filled with dark humor destroyed my train of thoughts. Which gave birth to a strong urge in me to smack someone or something.

But I controlled myself and I mentally replied to her back saying, 'enough with your comments or forget the cooperation between us.' Hearing that Agatha went silent and Cheng reported,

"Boss, there is someone who claims that one of the energy sword cards of the 8 energy cards that you acquired is their fate ingredient and is willing to pay any price to procure it from you."

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:11

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

Cheng did not leave after handing me the cards but reported about a person who claimed that one of the energy swords I won in the open auction was their fate ingredient and they were willing to pay enough to procure that card.

But here's the thing, if one of the energy sword cards was their fate ingredient then why did they not bid for it in the open auction instead of coming to me?

If they were willing to pay enough price for their fate ingredient then why did they not just outbid my bid in the open auction? Why come to me now?

This whole thing seemed suspicious. And I don't know what to make of it. As much as I wanted 8 energy swords for my Gigamite form, I did not want to be the one to come between a card apprentice and their fate ingredient as long as they compensated me appropriately for my troubles.

And the timing of this incident could not have been worse. Still, I kept an open mind thinking there must be a story behind this, and ordered Cheng, "Ask them, if what they say is true they should try and find me in the sky blossom city at my card boutique in the next two days. You can give them my address if they still stick around."

"Yes, Master Wyatt," saying that Cheng excused himself and exited the hall.

'Do you think the circle is behind this?' Agatha's voice sounded in my head.

'To do what exactly? Don't they know a semi-demigod bodyguard is hiding in my shadow? You are overthinking it,' I said so to Agatha but I couldn't help but wonder if the circle was really behind this.

'Really? Now, who is the dumb one? If I can hide in your shadow then the Circle's semi-demigods too should have one or two tricks under their sleeves. Wyatt, one cannot be

too cautious about stuff like these. It is for the good that you did not meet whoever it was,' Agatha said, she spoke from her decade of experience as the bodyguard of her princess.

'You are right, but what about Anna, can't she sense the unknown card apprentices, semi-demigods, and demigods once they enter the southern region?' I asked, remembering how Anna mentioned an array that informed her of Yin Widow's arrival.

'You mean the array formation covering the southern region? There are many card apprentices out there with ways to deceive it, the demon worshipers are one such example,' Agatha explained, showing that she has taken her job of protecting the boy very seriously.

'What was I expecting? Fuck, this fantasy world.' Having learned that Anna could not monitor every high-level card apprentice that entered the southern region unless they showed themselves I was genuinely dejected as I thought within the southern region under Anna's grace I was untouchable but it seems I was under the wrong impression.

'What is that supposed to mean?' Agatha asked, hearing my cuss.

'Nothing,' I said, not knowing how to explain fantasy to a person in a fantasy world.

"Master Wyatt, they left saying that they will meet you in the sky blossom city within two days and urged you to keep the energy sword cards safe," Cheng returned having dealt with the person who claimed that one of the 8 energy swords I own was their fate in the ingredient.

"Good," I said and after thinking for a while I added, "Cheng, I will send you a list of mortal materials and their properties. I need you to find appropriate card ingredients of rare grade matching the properties of the mortal materials. You do that?"

"Yes, master Wyatt, please leave this matter to me to handle. You won't be disappointed," Cheng as my calamity daughter gem immediately agreed to my request without even considering the amount of work it meant for him and his staff.

"Good," I nodded, sharing the list of mortal materials and their properties with Cheng's grimoire. Receiving the list Cheng left to arrange for the mission I had assigned to him.

'Was that about the invention you spoke of for the medical field,' Agatha seemed to be very keen about this stuff. She sniffed that I was speaking about the product that I was planning to invent for the medical field.

'Yes, why do you ask?' My tone became skeptical as I relayed these words to Agatha.

'Great, I am here to help too,' Agatha offered help hearing that I sought Cheng's help with the product I was planning to invent for the medical field.

'Okay, what do you know about the rare grade ingredients and their properties? How many of them can you name without using the grimoire network?' I asked Agatha trying to show her that she can only be helpful in this situation by keeping out of it.

'Point taken, but if you ever need an extra hand for that project I am available,' Though rejected Agatha took it like a champ and let me know that she was available if I needed any help with the product in the future. Now I felt bad for undermining her offer to help by quizzing her.

'Sure, I will keep it in mind. Maybe you can help me with acquiring the rare grade card ingredients after Cheng has managed to find card ingredients matching the properties of the mortal materials I listed to him. Are you up for that?' I decided to leave the acquiring of the rare-grade ingredients to Agatha because if I involved Anna in this then I will have to involve the southern royal family in it who would have no qualms about taking over the entire project. To avoid all that I decided to keep this project known to a select few whom I could trust. I know my semi-demigod slave was still in a rebellious phase but I don't think she will do anything to jeopardize her dream to have a stable source of extra income.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:14

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

"This alley should make a good place to introduce ourselves," the boy said to the unknown stalkers as they revealed themselves now that he had chosen a perfect location for them to get to work.

"Boy, hand over the summon armament card," One of the stalkers wearing a black face mask demanded.

"Summon Armament Card? I don't have it," the boy replied truthfully not because he was afraid of the unknown stalkers but because he did not have it.

"Boy, don't think you can lie your way out of this, we know that you placed the winning bid for the Summon Armament card," the black face masked stalker seemed to be well informed about his target.

"No, I did not, you guys are mistaking my identity for someone else," the boy claimed that he did not bid for the summon armament card despite the stalkers being positive that he did.

"You-" just as the stalker with the black face mask was about to call out the boy for lying he was interrupted by an old man in a well-fitted black tux, everything about the old man reeked that he was a butler from a big family, "Boy, you have nobody but yourself to blame for your present situation. I was kind enough to warn you not to bid for the card but you had to bid for something that my family's young master was interested in. You should have listened."

The old man loosened his customer-made cufflinks imprinted with his family crest and pulling up his sleeves he added, "this doesn't need to get messy, just hand over the card and I will give you painless death."

"Listen to me, you guys are mistaking me for someone else. I did not bid for the summon armament card," even in face of threats the boy stuck to his story.

"You leave me no choice then," saying that the old man summoned a silver grimoire and chanted, "Field card torture dungeon."

With the old man's chant, the unknown narrow alley morphed into a wide field much like an empty basement with hooks and chains dangling from the ceiling. With passing wind the dangling chains ran into each other and made a metallic noise, like a wind chime.

"Wow," looking at his surroundings morph, the boy exclaimed in excitement as if it was his first time witnessing something as magical as this.

"Hooks," the old man chanted again, and with that, four hooks dangling from the ceiling extended, aiming for the boy's wrists and feet.

Seeing the incoming hooks, the boy did not react but curiously waited to see what they were up to, allowing the hooks to pierce through his wrists and feet, blood rushed out tainting the hooks and the boy's clothes while he moaned in pain.

Soon the chains attached to the blood-stained hooks tightened, lifting the boy's body in the air as the hooks pulled his body in four different directions.

"So, is this pain?" The boy mumbled to himself as if this was his first time experiencing pain and his actions seemed to convey the same that he had never felt or experienced pain before.

"Boy, it didn't have to come to this but you forced my hand. But I will give you one last chance to redeem yourself from a painful death, hand over the card," the old man seemed to not care about the boy and was focused on achieving his target, missing the obvious signs that there was something wrong with the boy.

"This feeling, pain, I don't like it, I don't want to feel it ever again," saying that the boy tried pulling on the chains to struggle free, but it only increased the pain he felt causing him to moan in pain.

Seeing the boy struggle by pulling on the chains made the old man laugh out loud as he yelled, "Boy, struggling is of no use, this field card is special, in here the captive's power is dampened in exchange for their senses being heightened as per my choosing. And guess what sense of yours did I increase? Pain."

After explaining his field card the old man continued to take pleasure in the boy's pain-filled moans and then added, "For the current you, even a prick from a needle will hurt like a mortal wound. So, if I were you, I would stop the senseless struggle and start cooperating."

"How many times do I have to tell you that I am not the one who bid for the summon armament card? You got the wrong guy," the boy stopped struggling as in face of the unbearable pain he was not able to muster even the least bit of his strength and had lost the will to struggle and free himself from the hooks constraining him.

"Boy, stop lying, I saw you bid for the card despite my warning. Did you feel like you could overlook my words just because the good-for-nothing Rami was backing you back then? Well, guess what? The so-called ban on my family by the card creation guild of the sun blossom city is not enough to stop my young master from getting what he wants," The old man was impressed by the boy for sticking to his story even when his sense of pain was increased by the same percentage his strength was decreased by. Which meant the stronger the boy was the greater the pain he was feeling at present.

"I am telling you I am not the one whom you saw place the bid for the summon armament card. All this is a misunderstanding," the boy yelled again as the pain he felt right now grew beyond unbearable and he felt his consciousness can't take it anymore.

"Boy, you got guts I will give you that. This is the first time I have seen someone as young as you who did not crack for so long under the effect of my card. You should be proud," the old man applauded the boy's mental tenacity for not cracking under the pain. And then added, "let us say, I believe you were not the one who bid for the summon armament card then who did? Don't tell me it was your evil twin. He does the deeds and you are stuck paying the price."

"No, he is not my evil twin but my original, I am his clone! So if you want the summon armament card go find him," the boy identified himself as a clone. And did not think twice before pinning all the blame on his creator, the original.

"Hahaha," hearing the boy, the old man burst into manic laughter and abruptly went quiet. Then he glared at the boy and snapped, "Do you take me for a fool? You want me to believe you are a clone. You know what, you are a damn good liar, I will give you that."

"AHH!" The old man walked towards the boy and then poked into the wound on the boy's left wrist, forcing the boy to cry out in pain while his index figure dyed with the boy's blood.

Wiping the blood-stained finger on the boy's cheek the old man said, "Guess what boy, no matter how good you are at lying, this right here will never lie."

Understanding what the old man was getting at, the boy yelled, "Old fool, don't compare me with ordinary clones, I am a high-level sophisticated clone created using a mutated soul!"

'While you are at it, why don't you explain to him the power system I developed based on mutated souls?' mental voice of the original sounded in the clone's head interrupting him midway from revealing the secret of his creation.

"Boy, why did you stop? Possing like a clone was too much even for you, a seasoned lair, to pull off," the old man made fun of the boy who claimed to be a clone.

'Original help, me,' The clone mentally asked the boy for help.

'The first time I let you act like an independent consciousness and you ended up asking for my help to deal with such trivial enemies, how disappointing,' the original sighed, seeing the clone not amount to his expectation.

'Will you stop with that and help me? The pain is getting beyond bearable,' the clone begged the original for his help.

'Sigh, just hand over the control to the slave Hive AI program in your body, it will handle the rest,' the original was disappointed that in face of the intolerable pain his sentient clone had forgotten about its prowess. But considering that it was the clone's first day in the world, it had done well for itself. With proper training and enough experience, it will become a powerful entity not to be indeterminate ever again.

"Boy, what happened? Did the pain finally get to you? Are you willing to cooperate?" Seeing the boy turn quiet for quite a while the old man felt that the pain had finally cracked the boy's will unaware of the mental dialogue between the clone and its original.

"Hive AI, combat mode activated. Command: eliminate all threats."

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:16

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

[Initiating combat mode...]

[Command: Eliminate all Threats...]

[Assessing Threat...]

[7 Hostiles discovered...]

[Calculating course of action...]

[143 favorable scenarios calculated...]

[Running simulation on 143 favorable scenarios...]

[Efficient Scenario selected based on hosts preference...]

[Priority target: Joe Pelt]

[Eliminating 7 Hostiles...]

As the series of prompts sounded in the clone's head its eyes turned blank as if it were sleeping with its eyes open.

Seeing the eyes of the boy hung in the air by four hooks and chains turn blank, the Old man panicked, fear could be seen in his eyes, he was afraid that he broke the target before he could complete the task of retrieving the summon armament card given to him by his family's young master. The old man seemed to be more worried about the wrath of his young master than the life he supposedly destroyed.

As he knew how badly his master wanted this card and what would happen to him if he were unable to retrieve it. Hence the fear in his eyes. As for the boy, he did not give a rat's ass, if possible he wanted to redo the whole thing but this time he would remember to retrieve the summon armament card before killing him.

But if he knew what was going to transpire the very next second he would not be worried about what his young master would do to him for failing to retrieve the card but worry about how to escape from this unknown alley with his life because he had messed with the wrong clone.

As the old man was thinking of numerous ways how to save his ass when he gives his young master the bad news regarding the failure of the mission, suddenly a golden grimoire appeared next to the boy, and the boy mechanically chanted, "Field Negator."

With the boy's chant, the surrounding torture dungeon field card of the old man shattered like glass returning the unknown alley to normal. With the torture dungeon field gone, the hooks and chains restraining the boy disappeared and the boy landed on his feet. Then his blank eyes glanced at the old man as the holes on his wrists and feet closed in seconds leaving behind blood traces as a reminder of the wounds that were there.

Before the old man could process and react to the sudden appearance of the golden grimoire next to the boy he was hit with another shock, his field card was canceled more like destroyed. By the time he could process the changes surrounding him the boy's wounds had healed and except for the blood stains he was back to normal, just like the unknown alleyway. All this transpired in a matter of seconds leaving not enough time for the old man to process it, baffled, he yelled "What the fuck?"

In response to the baffled old man's yell, the boy just stayed silent and suddenly rushed at the old man aiming for his heart. Under imminent danger, the passive defense of the old man was triggered, and a yellow translucent hexagonal barrier, 6 feet wide, appeared in front of the old man.

The appearance of the yellow translucent barrier did not deter the boy, he kept charging toward the old man. Soon the balled fist of the boy slammed onto the barrier protecting the old man shattering it into bits and pieces as a result he triggered a passive effect of the shield, knockback, which did not affect the boy but the old man, sending the old man flying out of the alleyway.

Having escaped the imminent danger the old man finally came to his senses and yelled at the masked card apprentices that had stalked the boy into the alleyway under his orders, "You fools, what are you waiting for? Subdue him."

"..." The half dozen stalkers heard the orders of the old man loud and clear but having witnessed what just happened and the golden grimoire hovering next to the boy they knew even together they were not the match for the boy so they decided to ignore the direct orders from old man, rushed out of the alleyway and ran in different directions merging with the crowd on the street.

Seeing this both the boy and the old man were at the loss for words, especially the Hive AI as the number of threats suddenly decreased to one from seven. Thankfully it did

anticipate the old man's hired goon escaping when overwhelmed by their opponent so it had already selected the next best course of action depending on its host's preference, focusing on eliminating the priority target.

"These third-rate city scums," seeing his hired goons ignore his orders and escape, the old man cussed.

The old man was very dissatisfied with his hired goon's cowardice but right now he could do nothing about it as his death was rushing towards him in the form of the boy he had enjoyed torturing earlier.

"Nooo..." seeing the incoming fist of the boy aim at his head the old man screamed in utter fear but the fist he was dreading never came instead he heard a loud sound and felt a blow of wind on his face.

As the boy's fist was about to land on the old man's head and burst it open like a watermelon, a black shadow came out of nowhere and took the boy's punch head-on.

A loud wind brushed past the old man's face as the aftermath of the shadow and the boy's fist clashing with each other. After the collision, the boy was forced to retreat a few steps back and the shadow did a beautiful summersault in the air and landed on the head of the old man. The shadow turns out to be a black cat.

Seeing the black cat the old man's eyes which were filled with fear earlier were now filled with hope and thirst for vengeance as he yelled with great relief, "Young master, thank you for saving this slave's life."

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:22

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

[Card Name: Torture Dungeon

Card Type: Field card

Card Rank: C-rank, Uncommon Grade

Card Rate: 8-Stars

Card Durability: [86/100]

Card Effect: When activated the card can morph the surrounding 500 meters into a torture dungeon. Inside the torture dungeon, the user can dampen the target's strength and increase any one of their senses proportionally.

Additional effect: Hooks and Chains

Note: inside the field, the user will be under the same penalty as the target.]

Hooks and Chains: The user can use and manipulate the hooks and chains dangling from the ceiling of the torture dungeon at will.

Note: the length of the chain is limited to 500 meters.

[Card Name: Last Barrier

Card Type: Skill card (Passive)

Card Rank: C-Rank, Uncommon Grade

Card Rate: 9-Stars

Card Durability: [83/100]

Card Effect: The last barrier is a passive 6-feet wide barrier that gets automatically summoned to protect the user whenever the user is in imminent danger.

Additional Effect: KnockBack

Note: If the user cannot feel the imminent danger then the card will not activate]

Knockback: when the last barrier is attacked the aggressor is knocked back several feet if the barrier can withstand the attack of the aggressor. If the barrier is unable to withstand the attack of the aggressor then the user is knocked back several feet.

Note: Every time the last barrier fails to withstand the attack of the aggressor it will lose one durability.

...

"I was getting impatient thinking about what is taking you so long and decided to check on you. Looking at your sorry state it seems I did the right thing by tracking you down," A young man walked out of the shadows. Seeing him the black cat jumped off the old man's head and landed on the young man's shoulder.

“Young master, please punish this slave, I wasn’t able to complete your task,” the old man was not the least bit dissatisfied by the young man’s words and instead he begged for the young man’s forgiveness with his clever yet humble tongue.

“Save it, I will handle you later, and besides I don’t blame you. After all your opponent had a golden grimoire, as a silver grimoire holder you can never be his match even if you are in the grandmaster realm. I don’t blame you, but your punishment is due after all somebody has to take the responsibility for this botched-up task, right?” the young man did not blame the old man for failing his mission but still held the old man responsible for the failure of the mission.

“Yes, young master. It is my fault for underestimating the enemy. I will take full responsibility,” the old man readily accepted the young man’s arrangement because he was satisfied with walking away with his life.

With the interruption of the young man, the course of action that Hive AI had calculated was no longer in play. So it had to recalculate the favorable course of actions again but was stopped by the original, ‘move, I am taking over.’

“As the appreciation of your might, I am willing to let this incident slide if you hand over the summon armament card,” the young man was totally oblivious to the inner changes of the boy and proposed a compromise to him.

“Sure, I believe you,” the boy replied sarcastically.

Hearing the boy’s sarcastic remarks the young man’s brows frowned, he did not like the boy’s sarcastic response but he had his priorities straight. So he choose to ignore those sarcastic remarks and said, “You are quite remarkable to be able to defeat a card grandmaster with your card soldier realm. You have a bright future ahead of you. Don’t waste it over something so trivial. Just hand over the summon armament card and we go our ways. It will be like we never met and this incident never transpired.”

There was a reason why this arrogant young man was willing to reason and reach a compromise with the boy instead of directly subduing him to snatch the summon armament card from him by force.

The young man knew about his retainer’s torture dungeon field card and knew that there hasn’t been a soul so far who was able to withstand the effects of that card, yet the boy in front of him seemed to have somehow overcome it, so he knew better than to use force or torture on this boy.

Therefore he decided to deceive the boy with a hoax compromise. Right now he was willing to tell or do anything that would make the boy hand over the summon armament card to him. And once he gets his hands on the summon armament card then he plans to take his time killing the boy in the most agonizing way he could think of.

Unfortunately for him, he was not facing some third-rate city's wide-eyed dumb teenager but a transmigrator with trust issues who would rather enslave hundreds with his ability than let an enemy escape.

The boy saw right through the charades of the young man, the first time the young man proposed the compromise to him. Hence his sarcastic response. But the young man's reaction to his sarcastic response was beyond the boy's expectations.

The boy was impressed seeing the young man control his anger and keep his eye on the prize, the summon armament card. The boy was amazed by the young man's reaction but he did not have the time for this as he had places to be, get many things done, and prepare for a midnight ambush.

So he impatiently asked, "Who the fuck are you, man? Where did you come from?"

"I am Matthew Pelt, the future honor graduate of the Northern Star university," the young man peculiarly introduced himself but his style of introduction did not match his character.

"That introduction of yours is a bit out of character, you sure you alright man?" The boy could not help but ask the young man in concern

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:22

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

Matthew Pelt's actions defined him as a ruthless entitled second-generation snob but his self-introduction was similar to what a middle schooler would make which did not match what his actions spoke of him, prompting the boy to wonder if the young man had multiple personalities in him.

"What? I am fine. Are you sure you are fine? Just hand over the card," Matthew was embarrassed as his self-introduction did not have the desired effect he was hoping for.

Matthew's actions and self-introduction did not match because that was not him, the real him that is. All his actions up till now were the result of him wanting to appear gangsta and cooler. Until his self-introduction, he did appear gangsta but after it, he looked like a naive middle schooler who was in over his head.

Matthew was not to be blamed, he was just a misguided teen. Apparently, the gangster whom he adored once told him that a gangster with a dream was to die for. Since that day he has been doing everything to appear as a gangsta with a grand dream. But in reality, he was just an entitled rich second-generation bully who had no qualms about abusing his family's power.

As for the dream part, Matthew took the gangster's words to heart and went big. What could be grander than aiming to be admitted to one of the top ten universities?

"Look, Matt, I am-" before the boy could finish his sentence he was interrupted by the young man, "Don't call me Matt, we don't know each other like that."

"Okay, then Mathew, what I am trying to say earlier was if my original body was here, today would be the luckiest day in your life but unfortunately for you that is not the case. I am sorry to have to say this but I will have to kill you and your retainer," the boy apologized to the young man as he had to kill him because he could not access one of his abilities to enslave him.

"Fuck, you sure are insane," Matthew yelled as he felt the possibility of him dying under the hands of the boy was impossible in any scenario.

The boy seemed to not care for Matthew's words as suddenly a red aura started to ooze out of his body and cover every inch of it. Seeing this Matthew was alerted, as a member of the top family of a second-rate Azure blossom city he fully knew about the rule energies and what it looked like when one were to use one. Therefore seeing the red energy cover every inch of the boy's body he could not help but mouth the following words in dismay, "Holyshit."

The same was true for Joe, as the butler of the Pelt family which dominated the second-rate Azure blossom city for decades, he knew about Rule power and how devastating their power can be. He knew at this moment that neither he or his young master were going to make it alive out of this predicament.

Right now there was only one thought in Joe mind was that the Pelt family would not be foolish enough to try and seek revenge for them.

The Pelt family did mistreat Joe and his family as their possession but in the end, his and his family's well-being lies with the well-being of the Pelt family. Therefore despite all the grievance in his heart for his masters he genuinely wished well for the Pelt family.

The reason why Joe did not want the Pelt family to seek revenge for the death of his young master was that he believed even with the combined strength of the Azure family, they would not be able to harm the boy. This was because he knew that no teenager would be able to forge an ego gem and master rule power unless he had a powerful force backing him.

For a force to be able to help their young ones cultivate ego gems in their teenage years that force had to be very powerful. So powerful that they could eradicate a small family like the Pelt family of a second-rate Azure blossom city on a whim of a teenager. Hence he believed that all the grudge they developed with the boy would end with his and his young master's death and not spread to their family.

Having thought of this Joe was prepared to die so that the Pelt family is not implicated because of the sins of his young master.

Right at this very moment, feeling the power hidden in the red energy covering the boy's body Matthew knew he had messed with the wrong person and this was not a fight he would be able to walk out alive. He regretted tracking Joe down and saving him from facing the wrath of the boy. In face of imminent death, his survival instincts kicked in, and he immediately mumbled, "Hey, look man- I mean Master Wyatt, I am sorry. I should not have coveted your summon armament card. Please forgive me."

Matthew remembered the name of the boy and respectfully addressed him to beg for forgiveness but got no response in return. So he panicked and wrecked his brain to come up with better excuses to get out of this one.

"..." Hearing Matthew beg for his life the boy paused for a second. It seemed he had very little experience in killing humans. They say it gets easier after the first time but they were wrong. It never gets easier to take a life of the same kind. Maybe it would have been easier for the boy to kill the culprits and be done with it if they were not apologizing and begging for their life.

"Master Wyatt, you and I do not have any grievances. This does not have to be this way. You don't have to kill me over a little mistake. I was wrong. Please, forgive me," Matthew continued to apologize and beg for his life. He seemed to have no notion of fighting against the boy after he witnessed that the boy had mastered a rule powerful enough to cover his entire body with it.

Matthew knew no matter what card he used it would be useless in front of the might of the rule power. As the rule power can only be contended using rule power, there was no way around it. Hence, Matthew had given up all hopes of struggling in face of the rule power and chose to accept his mistake and surrender in hopes of forgiveness.

"Joe- he was the one who tortured you. Kill him if you want to. All I did was covet your card, I know I was wrong. This won't happen again. Please, I am begging you don't kill me. I don't want to die. I want to live. Please, please, I haven't lived enough, don't kill me, I don't want to die," when it came down to it Matthew had no qualms about throwing his trusted retainer under the bus to save his ass. When throwing all the blame on Joe did not work Matthew broke down into tears and started whimpering while chanting that he did not want to die.

"..." Hearing the young master for whom he worked day and night without rest throw him down the bus without a second thought, Joe was not surprised. He knew this day would come the very day he started working for Matthew.

Interestingly, Joe hoped that the boy would only hold a grudge against him and not Matthew. So that the boy's grudge would be complete by killing him and he would let Matthew go. Joe knew this was very unlikely because no murderer would leave behind a witness and not to mention all this started with Matthew who coveted the boy's card. So Joe could not think of any scenario where the boy would let Matthew walk out of here alive.

Yet, he still hoped that the boy would let Matthew walk and resolve his grudge by killing him because if Matthew were to die along with him there was a chance that Matthew's grieving parents would make things difficult for his grieving family in the Pelt family. For the sake of his family, Joe had no other option but to beg the boy to kill him and let Matthew live. Whether it works or not, only God knows. But at his death bed, Joe would not shy away to try everything in his power to help his family.

"Master Wyatt, my young master does not have any fault for what happened to you. He had assigned me to procure the card. But, I was too greedy, and to save some money and pocket it, I decided to use the Pelt family name to intimidate you. When things didn't work out I planned to ambush you and snatch the summon armament card from you. I am the one to blame for this, please let my young master go, he did nothing wrong."

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:24

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

Joe pleaded guilty and took all the blame. He wanted Matthew to walk out of here alive even if it meant he would be losing his life. He was willing to take this bullet for his family. He had no hope that this selfless sacrifice of his would move Matthew in some way such that Matthew would reward his family yet he still went through this because all he cared about was that his family not would be implicated because of this incident if Matthew returned alive.

Matthew looked at Joe in surprise when he heard him plead guilty and take all the blame. He did not understand why Joe did this nor did he try to understand. He took Joe's selfless sacrifice for granted. Matthew felt that Joe's purpose was to sacrifice himself for him. Matthew and the other members of the Pelt family felt that Joe and

other members of the branch family were just tools to make their day-to-day life easy. The branch family's contribution to the main family was taken for granted it was not a new news.

"Yes, yes, what he said. I just asked him to bid for the summon armament card I never knew he would end up harming innocents for his greed. Believe me, I did not know. This is not my fault, it is all his fault. This lying son of a bitch did this. He deserves to die not me," it did not take long for Matthew to collaborate with Joe's story. Matthew looked like if it were to save his life he would not hesitate to give up on his father and mother.

Hearing the butler and the young man change their story, the boy just stared at them and after a long pause he said, "Which one of you has an origin card?"

"Master Wyatt, I don't have an origin card," Joe answered the boy immediately because he had learned that in a hostage situation it is best to answer the captor respectfully.

"Guess, I don't have much use for you," saying that, the boy vanished from his position and soon a hand could be seen sticking out of Joe's chest holding his heart.

The hand belonged to the boy, after vanishing in front of Joe and Matthew he instantly appeared behind Joe and used his hand to pierce his chest like a knife cutting through butter, and then he ripped Joe's heart out. Just like that Joe die without knowing what hit him but he had a pretty good idea.

Seeing this Matthew was scared shitless and he screamed in fright. Then he watched as the hand crush Joe's heart, with that Matthew's knees turned weak and he fell to the ground on both his knees. Matthew then witnessed Joe's corpse fall to the ground as the boy removed his hand from his chest.

For some weird reason even after he witnessed his retainer's gruesome death, Matthew felt that he still had a chance to walk out of here alive just because unlike Joe he had an origin card. Therefore he decided to answer the boy before he killed him.

As Matthew tried to answer the boy he looked at the boy's bloody arm from which Joe's blood kept dripping on the ground of the unknown alley. Watching this horrifying scene Matthew swallowed his saliva in fear. He felt like he was watching a grim reaper at work. As for his summons, the black cat, that was sitting on his shoulder this whole time cowered in fear sensing the rule power emitted by the boy instead of stepping up to defend its master. When even his strongest summons, the black cat, was cowering in fear after seeing the boy, Matthew was terrified by the thought of how easy it would be for the boy to kill him. Still, he mustered all the courage in his body and answered the boy, "Master Wyatt, I have an origin card."

"You do, good," the boy said with a smile which to Matthew's eyes was the most terrifying smile he had ever seen.

Not understanding the meaning behind the boy's words Matthew grew cautious but was assured that the boy did not plan to kill, at least not for now.

"Tell me, what is your origin card? Better yet hand over your grimoire let me see the info on your origin card for myself," The boy ordered Mathew to hand over his grimoire so that he could check the info on Matthew's origin card.

"Yes," Matthew immediately passed his golden grimoire to the boy and patiently waited for what was to come next while praying to live to see another day.

"Summon Possession, interesting origin card. No wonder you were so desperate for the summon armament card," the boy said going through the info on Matthew's origin card.

"..." Seeing the boy interested in his origin card, for some unknown reason Matthew felt that there was still hope for him to see the next sunrise.

"Mattew, If it's you-" as the boy was addressing Matthew, he was suddenly interrupted by Matthew, "Master Wyatt, please call me Matt,"

"Sure, Matt," the Boy nodded in agreement with Matthew and continued to say, "As I was saying earlier, Matt, if it is you, I won't feel burdened using this new rune of mine on you. I thought Mike Brown would be the first subject to test the ability my peculiar rune of mine but I think you will have that honor now. This is better because I will get an idea of what this ability of mine is capable of before tonight's fight. So, I guess thank for you being such a horrible person."

Matthew who patiently heard what the boy had to say to him, did not understand what the boy was talking about. Even though Matthew had no idea what the boy was going on about he was thankful and happy about every second he got to breathe. He would not be so relieved if he knew that when the boy was done with him he would rather wish for a gruesome but instant death like the one, Joe, his retainer was lucky to have.

"Matt, before I do this, tell me why did you not just think of buying a summon armament card at the southern capital like the rest of your arrogant and rich kind do?" The boy asked Matthew. As he knew that second-generation rich bullies like Matthew would never come to a third-rate city as they consider it beneath their social standing to visit a third-rate city unless their situation forced them to.

"That is because I spent all the money I had buying this summons card," Matthew answered, eyeing the black cat on his shoulder. Since he spent all his money buying a summon card Matthew did not have enough money to buy or bid for the summon armament card so he decided to use his family name to get the summon card for the cheapest bid. And if that did not work out he could always loot the card from the one who won it.

"You spent all your money on that thing, really? For a summons card, it appears to be very expressive and smart but it seems to be more interested in saving its ass than yours," the boy said as he looked at the cowering cat on Matthew's shoulder.

Most summon cards are not that expressive of their thoughts as they have none and since they do not have thoughts of their own they were loyal to their master and not afraid of death unlike the cat on Matthew's shoulders. Witnessing such odd behavior from the summons the boy thought Matthew had wasted his savings on a useless card.

"Master Wyatt, this summons may not look like it but it is very handy and has many tricks up its sleeve. When used with my summon card It can help me achieve incredible feats. If you don't mind, I would like to give it to you," Matthew did not hesitate to offer up the summon card that he bought using all his savings to the boy in hopes that it would help him win some points with the boy.

"Elusive Aerial Puss, interesting name," said the boy going through the information on the summon card, and continued adding, "Um this summons is not a monster but a spirit. I heard spirit summon cards are ten times more expensive than monster summon cards of the same grade. You must have spent a fortune to buy this card, no wonder. This answers a lot. But still, it is very rare for spirit summon cards to appear in the market. How did you manage to get your hands on this?"

"I had to jump through a lot of hoops to get my hands on this card. Since it seems to have fate with you, master Wyatt, I hope you accept it," Spirit summons cards rarely appear in the market. And when they do appear they get sold at a moment's notice. Mathew was sure that if it was this card he would be able to exchange his life for it.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:28

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

"Sure, and I will be taking the other cards too," the boy said, glancing at Matthew who was handing him the spirit summons card.

"All the cards?" Matthew asked in distress.

"Yes, do you have a problem with that?" The red energy covering the boy intensified as he asked.

"No problem, I got no problem," Matthew hurriedly replied as he unequipped all his cards from the grimoire attack page and cardholder while consoling himself thinking that as long as he was alive he could apply for the top 10 universities next year.

"Good, not that you can do anything about it anyway," the boy said without any trace of emotion as he took the bunch of cards from Matthew.

"That's all the skill cards I have," Matthew said, having handed over all his skill cards to the boy.

"Don't act smart with me, hand over the item and storage cards too," the boy said mercilessly.

"Yes, right away," Matthew did not decline the boy's orders. After witnessing Joe's gruesome murder he no longer had the will to resist the boy's arrangement.

"Now that's more like it," complementing Matthew for his submissive stand, the boy began to go through his loot.

[>Elusive Aerial Puss summons card, A-Rank

>Torture Dungeon field card, C-Rank

>Last Barrier skill card, C-Rank

> Myriad Beast Style Martial Arts skill card, B-Rank

>Stone Golem summon card, B-Rank

>Wooden Serpent summon card, B-Rank

>Cloud Steed mount card, C-Rank

>Abyssal Horned Bear summons card, A-Rank

>Royal Purple Quartz Silk Palm Guard item card, A-Rank

>Royal Purple Quartz Silk Unitard item card, A-Rank

>Royal Purple Quartz Silk Ankle Guard item card, A-Rank

>Storage Trunk item card, A-Rank]

The loot comprised a total of Twelve cards, of which six were A-rank cards, 3 were B-rank cards, and 3 were C-rank cards. This did not include the contents of the storage card as the boy decided to check its contents later.

The cards mostly comprised summons cards as they were the best match for Matthew's origin card, Summon Possession. As for the item cards except for the storage card, the rest were rare but peculiar item cards made using Royal Purple Quartz Silk, which would lead one to question whether Matthew had some kind of fetish. But considering the morphing effect of Matthew's origin card, it was understandable why he had such a peculiar collection of attire item cards.

The boy could not help but chuckle as he placed his loot in his card holder. Then he turned to look at Matthew and said, "This might hurt considering that this is my first time using this rune."

"What?" Matthew blurted hearing the boy and before he could clarify his suspicion he saw a blood-red rune float out of his body and head toward him.

Seeing the vivid blood-red rune Matthew was horrified, he wanted to run but under the pressure of the rune, he could not move his body. He felt like his knees were stuck to the floor of the alleyway and matter how he willed he could not struggle in front of the rune. Terrified by overwhelming fear, Matthew whined, "No, no, no, no god, please no-"

The blood-red rune floated high above Matthew's head and soon he felt a wet section in his eyes, ears, nostrils, and mouth. Then soon Matthew witnessed seven thin streams of blood float and submerge within the blood-red rune. A feeling of suction and fatigue started to dawn on Matthew whose white skin with each passing second turned pale and sick having lost a lot of his blood.

In a matter of seconds, Matthew went from a healthy male teenager to a malnourished youth to a mummified corpse. Matthew Pelt was no more.

After swallowing the entire blood in Matthew's body the blood-red rune shone brightly with brilliant red color. The red flash emitted by the rune was so bright that even the boy had to look away so as not to hurt his eyes. Son with a bang the brilliant red flash vanished leaving behind a blood-red card floating in the air in place of the blood-red rune.

The boy reached for the floating blood-red card and as if the card could read the boy's intent it moved toward the boy's hand. Grabbing the card the boy read its name aloud, "Summon Possession."

Then the boy went through its card info to check whether the card's stats were affected in some way after being turned into a rune card. And to his joy, the stats of the card did not change the slightest after being extracted as a rune card but, unlike the origin cards, the rune card seems to have a durability stat to it.

[Card Name: Summon Possession

Card Type: Origin Card

Card Rank: Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability: -/-

Card Effect: When activated the user can possess the summon or vice versa while sharing each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Additional Effect: Summon Fusion, Summon Symbiosis

Note: The summons card which the user plans to possess needs to be equipped.]

Summon Fusion: This skill allows the user and their summons to fuse with each other mentally and physically.

Note: When used the User's body may undergo certain physical transformations and mental alterations based on the strength gap summon and the user.

Summon Symbiosis: this skill allows the user and their summons to live in harmony and share each other's ability when either of them happens to possess the other.

Note: The summons card which the user plans to possess needs to be equipped.

[Card Name: Summon Possession

Card Type: Rune Card

Card Rank: Upgradable, Unique Grade

Card Rate: -/-

Card Durability:[100/100]

Card Effect: This rune card has been created using the blood fate plunder rune. When activated the user can possess the summon or vice versa while sharing each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Additional Effect: Summon Fusion, Summon Symbiosis

Note: The summons card which the user plans to possess needs to be equipped.]

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Chapter 938: Summon Possession - Elusive Aerial Puss

[1,014 words]

Chapter 938: Summon Possession - Elusive Aerial Puss

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:34

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

Glancing at the card's info, the boy seemed to be displeased about it gaining durability. As the master of the blood fate plunder rule meaning he knew that if his blood rule meaning had achieved ultimate mastery and understanding in its comprehension then this would not have been the case.

"Tsk" clicking his tongue in annoyance he equipped the card Summon Possession rune card and the Elusive Aerial Puss summon card deciding to test out his new set of cards.

Before he activated the Summon Possession rune card the boy remembered that he could transform when he activates the summon fission skill so he decided to equip the Royal Purple Quartz Silk Palm Guard, Ankle Guard, and Unitard item cards. So that in case his physical transformation was more than what his current attire could handle then he can switch to the attire item cards. Having made the necessary preparation the boy decided to go through with his idea.

"Summon Possession - Elusive Aerial Puss,"

[Card Name: Royal Purple Quartz Silk Palm Guard

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare-Grade

Card Rate: 6-Stars

Card Durability: [89/100]

Card Effect: when activated the user is equipped with a pair of palm guards made using Royal purple quartz silk. It provides support and protection for the user's palms.

Additional Effect: Universal fit]

[Card Name: Royal Purple Quartz Silk Ankle Guard

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare-Grade

Card Rate: 7-Stars

Card Durability: [91/100]

Card Effect: when activated the user is equipped with a pair of ankle guards made using Royal purple quartz silk. It provides support and protection for the user's Ankles.

Additional Effect: Universal fit]

[Card Name: Royal Purple Quartz Silk Unitard

Card Type: Item Card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare-Grade

Card Rate: 7-Stars

Card Durability: [85/100]

Card Effect: when activated the user is equipped with a unitard made using Royal purple quartz silk. It provides support and protection for the user's body.

Additional Effect: Universal fit, Sleeveless]

Universal fit: The attire's size scales to the user's dimension.

Sleeveless: this allows the user to choose to equip the Royal Purple Quartz Silk unitard with sleeves or go sleeveless.

[Card Name: Elusive Aerial Puss

Card Type: Summons Card

Card Rank: A-Rank, Rare-Grade

Card Rate: 6-Stars

Card Durability: [81/100]

Card Effect: when activated the user can summon an A-rank Elusive Aerial Puss.

Elusive Aerial Puss is a wild spirit blessed by the wind. It is said that like the wind one cannot catch an Elusive Aerial Puss as its fur can sense and manipulate wind, helping with its unique evasion ability.

Addiction Effect: Blessing of the Wild, Blessed By Wind, Wind control, Wind runner, Wind Shadow, Wind Claws, Fur Clones, Elusive Spirit Blessing]

Blessing of the Wild: This blessing allows the user to grant its allies +50 favorability to wild spirits.

Blessed By Wind: This ability increases the user's all wind-related damage and defense by 100 percent.

Wind Control: This ability allows the Elusive Aerial Puss to control the wind to its will.

Wind Runner: This ability Allows the user to step, walk, or run on wind.

Wind Shadow: This ability allows the user to form an exo-armor made up of wind.

Wind Claws: The user can conjure claws made up of wind.

Fur Clones: The user can make clones of oneself using their body fur.

Elusive spirit's blessing: The user can bless its allies granting them +25 evasion.

"Summon Possession - Elusive Aerial Puss," with this chant a bright light burst out of the boy, and then when the light disappeared the boy was over to be seen he was replaced or rather transformed into a humanoid creature resembling the boy with black feline fur covering his arms, back, legs, and thighs except for the chest, neck, face and the palm of his hands and feet. This creature was none other than the boy, he seemed to have grown feline fur all over his body along with a long feline tail at its tailbone.

The facial expressions of the boy after the fusion remained the same but they were much sharper. His eye pupils had also transformed and were elliptically shaped just like a cat's pupils. His teeth seemed to have grown sharper along with his nails on both his hands and feet. The most noticeable changes the boy had undergone after using the soul possession card other than the fur, tail, and pupils were his ears and hair. His ears appeared to be more like cat ears than human ears. And his hair reached his waist, it

had not only grown long but had also grown thick like a lion's mane. And physically he had grown bulkier and taller.

Overall, there wasn't much change to the boy's appearance except for him growing feline fur, tail, long hair, cat ears and pupils, and physically growing a little taller and bulkier. Anybody who knew the boy would easily be able to recognize the boy despite the changes.

Having transformed into a half-man half-cat creature, the boy felt this wild power within him, he felt like he could outrun the wind if he wanted to. The wild energy coursing through the boy's body awakened a primal instinct in his body, wildness could be seen running rampant in the boy's eyes.

It was as if the boy did not calm down soon he would lose his mind to the wildness of the Elusive Aerial Puss, the wild spirit that he fussed with. Which meant the Elusive Aerial Puss would gain control of the new and enhanced half-man and half-cat body instead of the boy.

The groggy eyes of the boy soon gained intelligence suppressing the wildness that ran rampant in them. The boy losing control of the half-man and half-cat body to the elusive aerial puss was not possible as no matter how wild the elusive wild spirit was, in the end, it was still a card that had to follow the arrangements of its card apprentice.

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[1,516 words]

Chapter 939: Target

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:43

Location- Sun Blossom City, City Gate No:3, Unknown alley

After going through the changes to his body the boy finally spared a thought to his attire, it was still intact making him feel that equipping the three attire item cards beforehand was a wasted effort.

The changes to the boy's appearance were huge but his physical changes were minor. Therefore the previous attires the boy was wearing were still whole and fit him a little tight making the three attire item card unnecessary.

Having used the summon possession card, the boy understood the reason why his changes were so minor after he morphed. Apparently, the difference in the physical strength between the summons and the card apprentice undergoing the fusion will be the deciding factor in how minor or major changes to the body of the card apprentice would be after undergoing summon fusion.

If the card apprentice's physical strength match's physical strength of the summons used for summon fusion then the changes that appear on the card apprentice's body after undergoing summon fusion will be minor. But when the physical strength of the card apprentice doesn't match or is lesser than the strength of the summons used in the summon fusion than the changes that will happen to the card apprentice's body after insertion of summon fusion will be major.

The same was true for mental strength. If the mental strength of the card apprentice was greater than that of the summons used in the summon fusion then the card apprentice will be in total control with no mental hindrance from the summons after undergoing summon fusion but in case the card apprentice's mental strength was not greater than the summons used in the summon fusion then even though the card apprentice will be controlled by default after insertion summon fusion but the card apprentice will face major mental hindrance from the summons and their emotion will be all over the place enough to kill people over small things.

Therefore summons stronger than the card apprentice should not be used for summon possession, useless if it was the last card available.

Thinking of this boy shook his head as he glanced through his surroundings before he decided to head toward his destination in his new form rather than using his beloved hoverbike.

Under the moonlit sky, a humanoid covered in feline fur walked in the air and climbed to the clouds heading out of the city gate following the location his associate had sent to his grimoire.

...

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:45

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area.

"What is that thing? Some kind of new monster?" Codename Sniper said after he witnessed a weird humanoid covered in black fur and thick mane wearing human attire run in the air during his turn of the watch.

As the Sniper focused on the humanoid he came to realize that its facial features and soul energy signature closely matched their target. Though the facial features of the humanoid and soul energy closely matched his target it did not mean the humanoid was their target so making this discovery Sniper wanted to shoot it down but then remembered that the Matron had specifically asked them to assassinate the target when he was fighting the sun blossom branch of the circle. And by off-change this humanoid was really his target then he would have messed up big time. Not to mention Matron was not a strong believer in forgiveness which meant this screw-up could cost him his life so he did not want to take his chances. After all, he was a few for merits shy of exchanging them for a divinity. He could not die now things were finally starting to look up for him.

"Hey, Gray fur. Come out here, you need to see this," not knowing how to respond to his discovery codename Sniper decided to call their group leader, Gray fur. In this way, he would not be the only one to be blamed for something we're going to go wrong.

"What is it, Sniper?" Grey Fur replied to Sniper in annoyance as he walked out of the temporary portable stealth secret base.

"Look at that thing, tell me I am not seeing anything wrong," Sniper asked, pointing at the humanoid creature that was walking with clouds under the starlight.

"Shit, it is our target. It seems he has used some kind of morphing card that gives him the strength and appearance of a beast," Gray fur said confidently as he knew that even if the facial feature of the creature were to trick him the soul energy signature would not lie. So he was sure that the humanoid creature walking in the sky was none other than their target.

"What is he doing walking out of the city? Is he trying to escape?" Sniper asked, as according to the intel the target wasn't supposed to leave the city until he had destroyed the sun blossom city branch of the circle.

"From the direction, he is heading, he will soon meet up with the 7 shipping containers hiding using stealth. I bet he and they are all the same. These card apprentices in the shipping container must be the forces belonging to the boy that he plans to use to attack the circle. He must have come out of the city to check on them," Gray Fur explained based on his speculation. He did not know if his speculation was true or not but they would know soon enough.

"Is that so? Then, do we follow the initial plan and wait or do you have something else in mind?" Sniper asked Gray Fur. If it were up to him he would kill the boy right away and go back home to rest but was not in charge, Gray fur was.

"According to the intel, a semi-demigod bodyguard is hiding in the target's shadow. It will be too risky to try and assassinate the boy now. Let's go with the initial plan, which has very little risk involved. Assassinating the boy will be easier if his semi-demigod

bodyguard hiding in his shadow was busy dealing with the semi-demigods from the circle. So be patient even if it means that you have to wait another day," Gary fur too wanted to get off work early but he knew this did not give him the reason to slack off. As any sloppiness could prove as a grave mistake to their mission or on their part.

"Okay, then. Still, do you want me to keep an eye on him? Just in case he chickens out and runs back home crying," Sniper asked Gray fur, feeling that the boy did not take what it takes to destroy the sun blossom city branch of the circle.

"Sure, do that. But remember we cannot engage the target until he is attacking the sun blossom city branch of the circle or being ambushed by it," Gray fur felt Sniper's idea was reasonable so he gave Sniper his permission to continue what Sniper planned to do.

"Good," Sniper continued to monitor the target while Gray fur returned to the stealth secret base.

...

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:48

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area

"Sister, you got to see this. Some kind of humanoid creature is heading our way," Jaya who was hidden between the clouds using her viltronian flight and surveilling the surroundings of the 7 carrier ship reported to her sister through her grimoire adding, "do you need me to engage it? Before it reaches us and reveals our location to whoever is looking."

"No, you will do no such thing, I will look into it. As for you, shut up and stay hidden in the clouds, if this mission were to be jeopardized by your willfulness then you will have to meet the worse side of me. " Daina did not want to bring her little sister to this mission but against her better judgment under the constant pestering of her younger sister she gave in and now she regrets it.

Instead of staying put in the stealth field of the carrier ships, she kept flying around with the abilities of her origin card without the care of revealing their position to the city guards. Diana was very unsatisfied with her younger sister and voicing it out did not help as her younger sister recently ever since they got a new boss, did not seem to take her words seriously. Therefore Daina decided to teach her younger sister a lesson at the first opportunity she got.

"It's our boss you dumbass. I can tell it's him from here, what are you doing up in the clouds, sleeping?" Cindy who stood next to Diana yelled at Jaya loud enough for Jaya to hear it through the call.

Hearing Cindy, Daina immediately looked into the night sky, and further away she found the half-man half-cat humanoid creature that her younger sister spoke of, walking in the air headed toward them.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:52

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area

"The appearance of the creature resembles that of the boss and also its soul energy signature matches his soul energy signature. Considering that he said he would meet us out here and that humanoid creature is heading toward us It has to be him," Cindy said, seeing Diana scrutinize the humanoid creature.

"Shut up Cindy, don't speak as if you are an expert. Our boss always wears his signature red hooded trench coat and the humanoid creature isn't," Jaya said through the grimoire call referring to the blood-hooded trench coat presented to I their boss by Captain Ben.

"Yes, you are right. Great observation Jaya," Diana praised Jaya but continued to observe the humanoid creature considering whether to call their boss and put an end to his discussion.

"Only an obsessed stalker would remember such details," Cindy mumbled in dissatisfaction because to her it was obvious that the humanoid creature was their boss, and a transformation card must be the one to be blamed for the minor changes to his appearance.

"Hey, I heard that," Jaya complained, hearing Cindy call her obsessed stalker.

"Jaya, immediately return to the carrier floaters, the creature is heading towards you. Your location has been compromised, it seems the creature has found you hiding between the clouds. Jaya, return immediately," Diana who was monitoring the humanoid changed its course from the carrier floaters to the cloud where her younger sister was hiding. So she hurriedly ordered her younger sister to evacuate and return to the carrier floater immediately.

"Relax big sis, let it come, I can handle the creature," Jaya did not plan on listening to her elder sister or returning to the carrier floater for safety. She wanted to test out the creature's powers.

Ever since Jaya had become aware of her ethereal spirit her viltronian physique had undergone drastic changes. Especially her physical strength. Jaya no longer had a clear understanding of the limits to her strength, she felt that she could skip the realm difference and challenge card apprentice with a higher active soul control percentage than her.

Hence she challenged the fine gold guards but nobody in the fine gold would dare to go all out with the fine gold heiress never allowing Jaya to fully understand her limits. Therefore she planned to confront the humanoid head-on to test her strength. Old Jaya would never care for such things but some things changed about her. She has become more adventurous and outgoing, that was putting it politely but some would say she was looking for a fight. One wrong look and she would come to pick a fight with, only if you have a higher active soul control percentage than her. It was as if Jaya was turning into a muscle-head barbarian who could only find joy, happiness, and meaning in her life by defeating strong opponents.

This was becoming burdensome for the employees of the fine gold, especially the fine gold guards. This was brought to both Cindy and Diana's notice but they have been too swamped with work that came with the new changes to the company to spare time for Jaya.

"Jaya, stop whatever you are thinking to do and return to the base immediately. That's an order," seeing her younger sister blatantly ignore her orders Diana repeated herself more sternly.

"Watch me whoop that creature's ass, sister," yelling that Jaya came out from her hiding between the clouds and dashed toward the humanoid creature.

"Jaya Kieth came back right now," Diana yelled at the grimoire call but before she could finish Jaya hung up on her. Concerned, Diana turned to look at Cindy and ordered, "get me a hover car or a bike, hurry."

"Don't overreact, if you use a hover car or a bike the city guards will take notice of it and besides Wyatt can handle Jaya," Cindy trusted her gut and advised Diana not to overreact as the situation did not call for it.

"If they fight the city guards will notice, this is bad," Diana was now blaming herself for getting soft when it came to her younger sister.

"That is given. I bet you now regret bringing that brat with us," Cindy said oil to the fire.

"Stop it, I know you love her more than me," Diana said, she knew Cindy was the only other person to love Jaya as she did.

Yes, Cindy complained about Jaya, like, all the time but she was the one who was present during Jaya's childhood. According to Diana Cindy did not hate Jaya she was just disappointed that Jaya grew up to be a spoiled little princess.

"You couldn't be more wrong. I hate both of you sisters, if not for you two my life would be easier," Cindy lashed out hearing Diana call out her true feelings about the two Fine Gold sisters. Her words literally translated to I love you two sisters and if not for you two sisters my life would be lonely.

"Sure, I love you too. Now, come up with an excuse for that girl's actions. She is going to give away our location to sun blossom city guards who may alert the circle. Boss is going to be so pissed about this when he learns about this," Diana was used to Cindy's way of expressing her love. The reason she had calmed down was mostly because of Cindy. Diana knew if Jaya was in danger Cindy would be the first to her rescue. So seeing Cindy so calm about this humanoid creature fiasco Diana decided to wait and cover her younger sister's ass when their boss blamed them for her actions.

"See, that right there is how you two make my life harder than it has to be. I refuse to be dragged into your mess. This is your fault, you two sisters answer to the boss, don't drag me into this. I was in no way responsible or part of this. I finally see a hope to amount to something bigger in my life, I am not willing to risk for you two sisters."

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:52

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area

Cindy argued, making clear to Diana where she stood on this matter.

"I hear you. It's about time Jaya starts taking responsibility for her actions. We should stop covering for her and let her be an adult for once and deal with the consequences of her actions. So, we agree that we blame it all on Jaya, that works for me too," hearing the last part of Cindy's words Diana realized that she had to make a hard choice. Her baby sister or the new opportunities that came with her boss. As things were headed she could only choose one of them. Cover for Jaya, lose her boss's trust, or throw her younger sister under the bus and choose her career.

Hearing each other's argument, both Diana and Cindy, eyed and nodded at each other coming to a tactical understanding. They both mentally agreed that they were doing this for Jaya's sake, to help her grow into a responsible adult, and not because they did not want to risk pissing off their new boss and losing what can only be described as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Both Cindy and Diana did not want to lose their standing in their new boss's eyes and jeopardize their shot at joining the world's top one percentile. They felt Jaya was old enough to take responsibility for her actions. It was about time they both stopped covering for her.

"Diana, you do know that. It will still track back to you, right? After all, it was you who brought Jaya on this mission," Cindy reminded Diana.

"Oh, I know that. I have thought of a befitting punishment to punish Jaya with as a consequence of her action. Don't worry, the punishment is severe enough to satisfy our boss's anger," Diana answered on the spot.

"Sure, but does the punishment fit the crime?" Cindy asked in concern hearing Diana claim that she was going to punish Jaya severely just to please their boss.

"Ah-huh, there it is. You do care about that little brat," Diana said, catching Cindy display her feelings.

"Right now, amid this fiasco. Really Diana, grow up," Cindy was pissed about being caught in the act by Diana no less. If it was Jaya it would be okay because sometimes she can't help but feel Jaya did not know how much she cared for her.

"Relax, don't worry. We have taught Jaya better than that. She will make sure that it doesn't track back to us," Diana announced confidently.

"What do you mean by us? You were the one who allowed her to get on board," Cindy said, hearing Diana make her part of the crime.

"I know I am the one who allowed her to get on board but you stood there, right next to me, you don't see me blaming you," Diana argued. Thankfully none of their staff were present during this conversation otherwise they would be dumbfounded to hear their majestic boss say something childish.

"My god, you are impossible. I hate the fact that I will somehow end up as a part of your mess and be okay with it," despite their work relationship Diana and Jaya were the only two close to being family for orphan Cindy. Despite being an orphan nobody knew more than Cindy about her obligation to her family.

"Oh, look Jaya is going to make contact with the creature. I bet 10 low soul jades that she will kick that creature's butt," Diana who was monitoring her younger sister and the humanoid creature gave Cindy a heads up as they two neared each other.

"I will take that bet. Don't get me wrong Jaya is strong but not stronger than Boss. I watched the city tournament video and our boss displayed physical prowess that rivals a peak card lord. Jaya's physical strength is strong but not enough to overpower the boss," Cindy still strongly believed that the creature was her boss.

"We will see," Diana did not argue Cindy's claim that the humanoid creature was their boss because she believed it to be somehow related to their boss.

Having entered a bet with Cindy, Diana no longer bothered to keep calling Jaya hoping that she would not ignore her call and following her orders she will return to the base.

...

Under the night sky, Jaya approached the Humanoid creature full of battle spirit and uncensored intent to fight. Jaya was filled with anticipation hoping that this humanoid creature would be able to put up a worthy fight for her to display her complete physical prowess. Excited Jaya sped through the night sky at her highest speed toward the creature. Lost in her hunger for a good fight Jaya seemed to have forgotten the fact that she was on a mission and right now what she was about to do could potentially jeopardize the entire operation.

10 meters away from the humanoid creature running on the wind Jaya balled her fist ready to punch the creature with all her might. She did not care if her strength would kill her opponent in one shot. As if it did, her foe was not worthy, but if it did not, then she had a worthy opponent at her hands, and her search for a good fight would end today.

"In cominnggg!" Jaya yelled as flew at full speed aiming her fist at the humanoid creature. Clearly, under the excitement of the fight, she seemed to have forgotten the point of them waiting far away in the city outskirts.

Seeing Jaya attacking him, the boy hoping to greet Jaya was shocked. He did not believe Jaya would do something so stupid as attacking her new boss but remembering that his body had morphed the boy had an idea about Jaya's action. Still, he thought that her actions were too blatant and could reveal his entire forces' position to the enemies, who could now bring the fight to them having learned their location, instead of just waiting for him to make his move.

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[1,011 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:56

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area

The location could be considered the most integral part of any war. A good general can make use of their surroundings to their advantage. Human history has many instances where brave leaders have made use of their surroundings to win a losing war. The same goes for the battle between the circle and me. Depending upon the circumstances the Circle felt that their home base was the safest location and decided to defend passively from their sun blossom city branch headquarters.

The only reason why Mike Brown chose to make his last stand at the Circle's sun blossom city branch headquarters was that he knew the enemy was coming when the enemy was coming but he did not know from where the enemy was coming.

Knowing that there was going to be an enemy attack and when the enemy was going to attack did not leave many options for Mike Brown. His options were to passively defend hold the ground and ward off the enemy attack, retreat to safety and go into hiding, or surrender and leave life to the enemy's mercy.

There are two reasons why Mike's options were limited to these three choices. First was that the Circle was a foreign organization in the southern region operating on diplomacy. So even if they knew their enemy's forces were based in sky blossom city they could not fully display aggression towards this rival organization backed by the southern royal family without a strong reason and evidence to back their actions.

The second was that they did not know where the enemy was coming from. Had they known where the enemy planned to invade the Sun blossom city and attack them then they could bring the fight to the enemy.

They could have the city lord declare the enemy organization's force as invaders and make use of the city's forces to fight the enemy in advance before they even infiltrated the sun blossom city to attack their headquarters. Even better they could have the city lord make use of the city array to trap and massacre the enemy.

In this instance knowing where the enemy was going to attack them gave the circle a chance to catch the enemy in the act and gather enough circumstantial evidence to launch a preemptive attack on the enemy and aggressively attack them instead of passively defending against the enemy.

As for the consequences that would come with such extreme actions, they would defend themselves using circumstantial evidence saying anybody in their situation would have done the same and blame the southern royal family for making the Circle feel unwelcome and threatened enough to resort to extreme measures in the southern region. Since both sides have enough fingers pointing at each other the diplomatic relations will continue with some compromises.

Therefore the location of my forces needed not to be revealed to the Circle. Since I have Cheng under my command, my forces and I did not have to be worried about being labeled as invaders by the city lord and its bureaucrats but this did not stop the circle from leaving their base and coming after us.

I was confident that my forces will take on the circle anytime and anywhere but I wanted the Circle to gather all its force at its headquarters where it would be easy for me to wipe out the Circle's sun blossom branch and all its remnants once and for all. But this was only possible if the circle's sun blossom city branch members regroup at their headquarters. Hence it was really important for my forces to keep their location hidden to avoid the chances of the enemy choosing to attack us instead of choosing to defend by staying that the base.

There was no telling how the enemy would react in war, therefore I need to control as many variables of the upcoming war so that the enemy had limited options to choose from, which indirectly gave me the ability to predict their responses allowing me to come up with a countermeasure for all the possible way's enemy would react in the war. This was how I make sure that the enemy would choose to continue to regroup at their base.

But all this advantage I had on my side would vanish if the sun blossom city guards were to take notice of our location because of the commotion caused by Jaya. Not being detected by the city guards was one of the reasons why I did not choose to travel using my hoverbike and instead chose to use summon possession on the elusive aerial puss summons.

Seeing the incoming fist of Jaya, I stepped aside and evaded it by a breath instinctively. The fur on my body felt the surrounding air currents and instructed me on the best possible way to evade Jaya's punch. I finally understood why the cat summons was termed the elusive spirit. Its fur could predict and counter the enemy attack based on the movement of the surrounding air. The ability of the fur was not limited there, it could also make use of the kinetic energy in the air to increase its agility allowing making it possible for an elusive spirit to make use of the enemy's power to evade their attacks. The elusive spirit could not only make use of the kinetic energy stored in the air to increase agility to evade but also to increase its agility while using wind runner and other such abilities. This meant that the elusive spirit could also evade the attacks of the enemies in a higher realm than itself without much difficulty and retreat without getting caught. This was one overpowered ability. No wonder the elusive spirit's description read that like the wind one could not catch the elusive spirit. Having used the abilities of

the elusive spirit so far I felt like its card info did not do justice to its skills. If I had used my hoverbike I don't think I would have been able to reach my force's hideout this fast.

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[1,000 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 21:57

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area

After evading Jaya's attack by a hair's length by stepping aside, I instinctively grabbed her fist by its wrist bringing her to an abrupt halt, and said, "WTF do you think you are doing?"

"Wyatt?" Jaya exclaimed in surprise and disbelief upon hearing the humanoid creature's voice. The reason for her surprise was apparent but the disbelief she felt was because of her boss's physical strength.

Jaya who was pumped up because of new growth in her strength felt that no card apprentice in her realm would be able to overpower her in terms of physical strength but it did not take too long for the universe to prove her wrong. Her boss who was of her age and a little behind her in the active soul control percentage was able to disperse her full power attack with a single move hurting her ego. At first, Jaya thought that he must have used a card but she could not deny the enormous strength she felt on her wrist opposing her strength. So Jaya was in disbelief she could not understand why her boss was so much stronger than her.

When Jaya tried to struggle free her wrist from his grasp she felt powerless as if her boarish strength was tackling a concrete wall. That was how much her physical prowess lacked compared to her boss's physical strength. Then out of nowhere an instinctive fear grew in her body. This fear stemmed from her genes. As if she had met the alpha of her kind. No something more stronger and gruesome than that. Every instinct in her body was telling her to run. It was as if she had met her predator. Jaya knew the source of this distress she was feeling was her boss but she did not know the reason why. The reason was simple it was none other than their physique.

The Gigamites, mutants of the Viltronian race were always considered to be tyrants by the Viltronian race. Whenever a Viltronian mutant was born to Viltronian the existing leader of the Viltronian tribe would choose to kill them in their curdle because no matter the circumstances these will grow to enslave the entire Viltronian race and wage war

across the galaxy. The conquest can be considered a huge part of the Viltronian race trait but it was stronger in Gigamites, this mutant thrived on war, and it did not care about the compassion for the race, weak or strong, it would try to conquer them all, unlike the pure-blood Viltronian who only found pleasure in conquering the strong. Hence Gigmaites were considered as the predators by the viltronian race explaining the instinctive fear that Jaya felt towards her boss. Had the gigamite in front of her been weaker than her Jaya's instinct would have forced her to kill it before it became a threat to her.

Putting her fear, disbelief, and surprise aside Jaya asked, "Wyatt, is it you?"

"Yes and no, this my clone. I will explain later. Let's head back to the hideout before you endanger the mission any further," saying that I dragged Jaya by her wrist and headed towards the carrier floaters.

"..." Jaya's mind crumbled and all that cockiness she felt with the sudden growth in her physical strength disappeared as if it was never there in the first place after hearing her boss say that she was bested by one of his clones. She was not defeated by the real body but mere clone things could not get more depressing for Jaya. As a result of the fact that her physical strength wasn't even able to put up resistance against her boss's clone's physical strength, the disbelief in Jaya's eyes grew stronger.

Apart from her disbelief Jaya started to question her entire reality as currently her feelings for her boss were messed up. Her heart seemed to yearn for a romantic relationship with him but her brain for some unknown reason felt distressed toward him. She really could not put a finger on where she was when it came to her boss. Does she like him or does she fear him? Which was it? As a viltronian woman, she was attracted to strong men so her body was favoring her heart but it also got alerted when she was near him.

Jaya's feelings towards her boss were not this complicated before, ever since she had found her ethereal spirit her power was growing exponentially which also seemed to affect her mentality too. It was as if she was undergoing super adolescence.

Jaya had an inkling that all this was tied to her origin. But her origin was no less mysterious to her than what she was undergoing so it was a dead end. So she decided that she will wait until one of the two feelings she felt toward her boss overcame the other to act on them. But she hoped that her romantic feeling for her boss overpowers her fear for him.

...

Below on the deck of a floater carrier, Cindy stretched her hand in front of Diana and said, "You owe me 10 soul jades, pay up."

“It seems the humanoid creature is the boss himself, but I don’t understand why has he morphed his appearance into a monster? Is it some kind of disguise?” Having concluded that the humanoid creature was their Boss by its response to Jaya’s aggression.

“I don’t know, but that girl is really lucky. If not for the boss, she would have ended up jeopardizing the mission. But I hope your punishment for her insubordination is enough to please the boss,” Cindy reminded Diana not to go soft on Jaya as the disaster was averted. Because she felt it would possibly leave their boss dissatisfied with them.

“Don’t worry, I have thought of a punishment fitting Jaya’s crime and you, in particular, are going to love it. Do you want to hear it?” Diana had a sadistic smile on her face thinking of the punishment for Jaya’s crime.

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[1,047 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:01

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area, Fine Gold Carrier Floater

“Welcome aboard, boss,” Diana and Cindy greeted me as Jaya and I landed on the deck of the carrier floater next to them.

“...” Not responding to Diana and Cindy’s greeting I moved my stern glance from them to Jaya and said, “Explain to me your train of thought when you acted me out of the blue.”

Jaya was in a daze, her thoughts were in a total mess concerning the recent discovery she had made regarding the physical strength that she was so proud about. Therefore it took her a little time to organize her thoughts and answer her boss, “Boss, I am sorry but I thought that you were a humanoid monster aiming for the floater carriers so I decided to-“

“Damn it Jaya, let’s say I was a humanoid monster, what were you thinking by engaging it so openly in the regulated air space? Did thought of leaking our location to the never your mind?” Hearing Jaya’s obvious excuse I furiously interrupted her asking if she had lost her mind to act the way she did.

“I’m sorry boss, I wasn’t thinking straight,” Seeing her boss get furious hearing her excuse she understood her boss did not want to hear her excuse and only wanted her to understand what mistake she made. But Jaya, who decided to engage the humanoid creature to test her physical strength limit did not understand what the big deal was. She felt that with her strength if it were someone else then she could have easily bested them.

“She wasn’t thinking straight, what about you two? Were you guys too not thinking straight?” Hearing Jaya accepts her mistake and apologizes for it I turned and yelled at Diana and Cindy for why they just stood there and let Jaya do as she pleased.

“Boss, It was my mistake. I disobeyed CEO Diana’s orders and decided to engage the hostile out in the open,” Jaya immediately took all the blame seeing her elder sister take the heat for her mistake.

“You are telling me despite Diana’s orders you went with your plan risking the entire mission. Are freaking out of your mind?” I yelled at Jaya in the wake of the new information. Knowing that Jaya disobeyed the direct orders and almost jeopardized the mission made it unable for me to forgive her with stern yelling. At first, I thought Jaya did not know any better, turns out she did know better but went ahead and did what she had in the plan anyway. Now that was not something that I could look past.

“Boss, I’m really sorry,” Jaya found that apologizing would keep the thing from blowing up.

“What happened Jaya? You were so responsible and reasonable when we meet to discuss the Slime fairy cards. I thought you had changed for the better. But it seems not you are as impulsive and rash as the day we met. I am disappointed,” I said shaking my head in disappointment. After the meeting on the slime fairy card, I believed Jaya could be more than a case study of how the viltronian core would react to ego gem but it seems I was underestimating Jaya’s vanity.

“...” Hearing her boss’s words Jaya who was still deciding whether she feared her boss or liked her boss came to a conclusion at that instant that the answer was the latter. Because if she feared her boss she would not feel bad for letting him down. She felt so sad that she was without words to explain herself. It is not like she could say that her newfound strength had gotten to her head and made her do stupid things. That would only make things worse.

“If I may, boss,” Diana spoke up as her boss furiously yelled at her younger sister. Especially after hearing the last part, knowing that their boss was her younger sister’s first crush she could not let this continue any further.

“What is it? If you plan to defend her then don’t bother speaking,” I warned Diana sternly.

“Boss, I would not dare to defend Jaya’s action. Her action has put our mission at risk, if not for you our location would have already been leaked to the Circle by now. Even though nothing happened, her action could have led to the downfall of the entire mission which is unforgivable. She will be punished for her actions with a punishment fitting her crime,” Diana said glancing at her little sister and then continuing to add, “Boss, though Jaya is at fault here, I would like to take the responsibility for her insubordination. I am in the wrong for not disciplining my troops.”

“Yes, you both are at fault here but let’s postpone the punishment until after we finish the mission. And for now, let’s keep our eye on the prize. Understood,” Diana said all the right things, so I did not have the mind to continue on this as for now I wanted all of them to be focused on the mission at hand. It would be best if they believed I would go easy on them if they performed excellently during the mission.

“Yes, boss,” Diana responded while Jaya nodded.

“So, where’s the southern emperor’s storage card?” I asked Diana to hand over the storage card that Anna had sent for me. After all, the broken runes in them were a crucial part of the plan b.

“Here boss,” Diana summoned her grimoire and hand me the storage card.

Then soon all my calamity daughter gems that be spread across different carrier floaters came to greet me. They did not need to do this but this was what the social convection dictated. They had to keep their appearance in front of the forces that were following them. It would look bad to the grunts if they did not come forward to greet their big bad boss. This was all to keep the morale of my forces. If they felt that their leader was not in favor with the big boss then they will start to have second thoughts about going to war under the leadership of their current leaders. Which was unnecessary and could easily be avoided if my calamity daughter gems followed the social conduct to assure their subordinates.

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Chapter 945 Being Frank Under Starry Night Sky

[988 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:04

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, unknown area, Fine Gold Carrier Floater

After a small meet and greet all the other leaders i.e my calamity daughter gems returned to their carrier floaters. Right now tensions were high it was important to show the troops that everything is going to be fine as they do as they were and follow their leaders. Promises of riches and rewards can only do much, managing the morale of the troops was important so that they know that they would be alive to get the riches and rewards that were promised to them. So after putting on a show for the troops my calamity daughter gems returned to their posts.

“Diana- Cindy I will be taking my leave now. Wait for my signal and make sure no more mistakes are made in my absence,” My word would not be clearer, Diana was no longer in charge of the mission, Cindy was. Yes, I said I was going to get to the punishment part after the mission but there had to be some kind of consequence for them to know that mistakes will not be tolerated and will be dealt with swiftly.

“Yes, boss. We will be awaiting your signal,” Cindy said enthusiastically feeling as if this was where her raise would begin though it was a pity that she would be stepping on her friend for her rise.

“Congrats Cindy, and Jaya don’t feel down. At least you did manage to make Cindy’s day,” Diana congratulated Cindy and did not forget to take a sarcastic dig at her younger sister.

“How could you say that? You have no idea what I am going through,” Jaya yelled at her sister for her sarcastic remarks.

“Girl, I have been through adolescence too. Despite going through all that, I could lay the foundation for the current Fine Gold Empire fending off the circle. And look at you, you managed to put waste to my days of ass kissing within minutes. You have no idea what I am going through right now,” Diana did not take pity on her younger sister and for the first time she felt that despite all the crazy up bring she put Jaya through somehow her younger sister ended up becoming a spoiled rotten entitled snobbish bitch.

“Hey, you two cut it out. You guys are being too loud. Your voice may attract the city guards attention,” Cindy decided to lord her new title on the two Keith sisters.

“I get what you are doing but can you be more realistic? We are about several miles from the city wall, even if we were to scream they will not be able to hear me,” Diana said, seeing the authority of the title already get to Cindy’s head.

“Correct me if I am wrong, but isn’t that the whole point of this?” Cindy pointed out that being unreasonable and unrealistic was one of the fun ways to abuse authority.

“Yes, I do miss the days when I would make you return the coffee saying it was too hot just for the fun of it and because I could. I don’t blame you,” Glazing at the starry night sky Diana reminisced about the days when Cindy was still her most loyal subordinate.

“Now that we are having a heart-to-heart, let me get this off my chest, I would spit in your second coffee whenever you returned the first one saying it was too hot,” Cindy too glanced at the night sky and reminisced the past when Diana thought that she was her most loyal subordinate.

“You, bitch,” Diana cussed while continuing to gaze at the Starry night sky.

“Yes, bitch,” Cindy cussed while mesmerized by the twinkling night sky.

“Cindy, tell me you weren’t lying when you threatened to spit in my food,” Jaya who heard the frankness of her sister and Cindy suddenly asked.

“If it makes you feel better, yes I was lying. And I never used your toothbrush to clean the toilet,” Cindy’s eyes never left the twinkling stars in the night sky as she responded to Jaya.

“I should have known better when my new toothbrushes got worn out within a day of use,” said Jaya, then mimicking her sister and Cindy’s line of sight she decided to come clean about the stuff that weighed her heart, “The reason why your diet soda’s are so sweet because I have been injecting uni-horn monster goat’s piss to it.

“I should have known better as there is no way a diet soda could be so sweet and when I felt a hint of sugarcane juice with every sip of the diet soda,” Cindy continued to look at the night sky remembering that uni-horn monster goats were popular for being one of the few herbivorous monsters and were considered to be very aggressive towards other races. Then she suddenly added, “No wonder I craved diet soda whenever I visited the uni-horn monster goat dungeon. Now, I feel thirsty whenever I smell uni-horn monster goat. There were too many tell signs how did I miss them.”

“Don’t blame yourself, studies show that uni-horn monster goat piss is addictive,” Jaya comforted Cindy while trying to count the number of stars in the night sky.

“Which deviant had the free time to conduct studies on uni-horn monster goat urine?” Cindy asked

“I did,” Jaya responded not bothered by Cindy labeling her as deviant as she was not the one who drank or got addicted to uni-horn monster goat urine.

“You, bitch,” Cindy cussed

“Yes, bitch,” Jaya responded to Cindy in Cindy’s own words.

“Is that why you insisted on spending a fortune to get the uni-horn monster goat summons card,” Diana asked Jaya.

“Yes,” Jaya replied feeling that the stars in the sky were beautiful, particularly tonight.

“I remember calling you dumb baby, you making a big fuss about it then storming out and returning with the uni-horn monster goat summons card. You went through all this trouble because I called you dumb baby?”

“Yes, yes I did.”

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[992 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:07

Location- Sun Blossom City Outskirts, Unknown area

“Hey, Gray Fur, the target is heading back to the city after meeting those ants in floater carriers. This is the last chance, give the green single, when I am done we can go home early,” Sniper updated Gray Fur on their target’s movement.

“That is not the target, it must be a high-level clone of some kind. Killing it will only alert the enemy. So don’t go doing something stupid and stand down,” Gray fur ordered Sniper.

“Wait, that thing is a clone of the target. Earlier, didn’t we agree that it was the target? What is going on here? Will someone explain it to me?” Sniper asked in confusion. He couldn’t believe a mere card soldier was being so much trouble for him a mighty card emperor.

“Sniper, really? Come on bro, don’t you remember the intel it clearly stated that a semi-demigod was hiding in the target’s shadow?” Codename flower thief spoke asking Sniper if he forgot the intel that was passed to them.

“What does that have to do with this?” Sniper asked the flower thief impatiently. As one of the senior-most members of the team, Sniper found it embarrassing that he was being briefed by the new rookie.

As for the flower thief, he was adjusting himself well in the group as everyone was good to him even the brute sniper did not dare to be excessive when it comes to him. Sometimes he even felt that he had more say in this team than Gray Fur their team leader. Gray fur and the rest of the team were doing a job of keeping Matron's most capable assassin satisfied as per her orders.

"Isn't it obvious? You have been monitoring that humanoid creature the whole time, if that were the real body of the target then by now the semi-demigod hiding in its shadow should have noticed your peeping and tried to pinpoint our location-" before Flower thief could complete his explanation Sniper suddenly interrupted him.

"Wait, you are telling me I almost disclosed our location to the enemy semi-demigod? Gray fur, you knew this right yet why did you ask me to monitor the boy the entire time?" It did not take Sniper much time to blame Gray fur for his actions.

"Relax, even if there were a semi-demigod it would be hard for them to figure out our location thanks to the kid's ability so chill. But it is good to know how you will react to such situations," Gray fur was not happy with Sniper immediately blaming him. He was known to hold his grudges for long so hearing him Sniper's facial color drained in an instant. Gray fur did not become the team leader of the team made by a bunch of rogue card emperors just using his mouth, he had the strength to back it up. Otherwise, brutes like codename Sniper would never follow his orders.

"So," despite Gray fur and the flower thief laying it all out their Sniper did not understand why they claimed the humanoid creature as the clone of the target but not the real target himself.

"What don't you get? Despite you monitoring the target for so long, there was no response from the said semi-demigod hiding in the target's shadow. Which could only mean that there was no semi-demigod hiding in the target's shadow. Why would that be? There was no way despite knowing that there was a threat to his life the target would travel outside the city skirts without any protection at night unless it was just a decoy. Meaning the semi-demigod was out there guarding the real target and the one we were monitoring was just a decoy," the flower thief explained to Sniper in one breath.

"Fuck, so the card soldier played us like a bunch of idiots, how dare he?" Sniper was pissed realizing that the creature that he thought of as the real target all this time turned out to be a clone of the target. Feeling tricked Sniper was pissed and glaring at the clone of the target that was returning to the city he said, "I going to kill this thing."

"What did I just tell you? You killing the clone will only alert the target. He will suspect that his plan to attack the Circle's sun blossom branch was exposed and then he may retreat without going through with this plan to attack the Circle," Gray Fur explained in annoyance. But seeing Sniper's face which seemed to still have clouds of doubt he added, "We need the target to wage war with the circle, only then we can assassinate him so that the circle will be blamed for the target's death. This way the non-existing

relationship between the southern royal family and the circle will worsen. So, you cannot do anything that would spook the target into chickening out of the attack he planned on the Circle's sun blossom branch, so stay put and don't attack unless I ask you to."

Matron planned to make use of this opportunity to not only kill the orphan of her late best friend but also stir up bad blood between the circle and the southern royal family.

Though Matron's plan was sinister she forgot to take one variable into account i.e the strings that she pulled to get her way were not as invisible as she would like them to be. The news of her and her organization had been exposed to the southern royal family. She did not know that the southern royal family knew about her and her organization more than she would like them to know. Therefore even if her men were successful in pulling off what she had planned she would not get the reaction she was expecting from the southern royal family toward the circle. Knowing what the future held for them the southern royal family was now more cautious than ever and would fall prey to tricks.

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Chapter 947 Not Safe

[984 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:07

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creationist Association, Auction house, West Wing Hall

"So, What are you doing?" Agatha asked me from my shadow.

"Can't you see?" I replied while making a few changes to the cards I bought in the silent auction.

"All I can see is you are staring at your grimoire," Agatha replied.

"I am busy customizing the cards I just bought from the silent auction," I answered.

"Wyatt, I got to say, sometimes I envy you. While I was your age, I struggled to get a decent card, and here you are customizing the cards that you won at a silent auction without care of losing them in case the card creation fails," Agatha reminisced and said,

"This brings back memories about the first card I that owned, it was six months after I became card apprentice. I had to work 3 jobs to gather enough money for an F-rank Leg enhancement card. I was so happy that day."

Agatha was not envious of the boy but seeing his life she could not help but think what if? What if she was as talented as him, would her childhood have been better? Would she not go sleep hungry in a cardboard box inside a dried-up clogged ditch? Agatha could not help but wonder if her life experience would have been different if she was as talented as the boy. Everyone has things they would like to change in their past and Agatha was no different. And those thoughts could not help but surface seeing an orphan just like her with a slightly better upbringing become the center of attention in any room because of his talent.

"Wait, you bought your first card? Did your high school not hand out three basic cards?" I asked as whenever a card apprentice graduates high school the school authorities award them with three basic cards along with their course completion certificate.

"Nope, back in those days, peace was not available in every district. Especially where I lived, the Mangrove District," Agatha responded.

"Agatha, Are you sure we are close enough to share this conversation?" I like Agatha after all my life depended on her vigilance but were we close enough to share childhood stories, I don't think so.

"Sure we are. Since so we are going to enter a business venture together this much is okay," Agatha took the hint that I wasn't interested in hearing her past and said some words to save face.

"Yes, you are right. Since you have already shared something it is my turn. When my parents died I was helpless, broke, gave up trying, attempted suicide, and failed but it scared me straight into the man I am today," I shared a little about the young Wyatt with Agatha because I felt my remark earlier was too rude and I did not want Agatha to hold this against me.

I mean that woman shared some sensitive personal information about herself with me and me telling her that I don't care about that to her face was cold. Now that was something people would hold against somebody. And I did not want to be that somebody for Agatha so I joined in on her sharing and shared a little true but false information about myself.

"About the suicide attempt, I did not read about it in your file. But that explains the sudden change in your behavior, it is as if you are a new man. Interesting, I never knew that the fear of death could bring so much change in a person's day-to-day life," Agatha blurted. Having lived on the street Agatha had her share of brushes with death they did manage to affect her so much that she had become an entirely different person but none turned her into a genius born once in million years.

“Wait, what file? Do you have a file about me? We just meet a few days ago, who gave you the data about me, did you have someone investigate me?” I was not surprised that Aba and Agatha did a little background check on me before coming to recruit me into Aba’s mercenary group. But I acted as if I just found it because it was a good conversation-ender.

“File? Sorry, I miss spoke. *cough* *cough* I will leave you alone with your card customization,” Saying that Agatha went silent.

“Oh no, come back, explain yourself, what do you mean you miss spoke...” I barely held in my laugh as I spoke these words.

With Agatha no longer disturbing me I finally could focus on the customization of the cards I bought in the silent auction. These cards were nothing compared to the broken runes that Anna had sent, I could not wait for my clone to return to get my hands on them. I was looking forward to what rules the broken runes were made of, I could just have my clone open the storage card to check on the types of broken runes Anna had sent but I had a feeling that it would not be safe. When I was controlling my clone I had a feeling that someone was watching me. I would have used the ‘when you see me, I see you’ ability of gigamite physique if it were my original body but I was out of luck so I could only ask my clone to return as soon as possible.

I was not sure about this feeling of somebody watching but just to be on the safer side I decided to speed up the plan. I was going to strike the circle’s sun blossom branch before midnight. According to Roy, almost all the members of the circle were gathered at the headquarters. Since the goat was already at the butcher’s mercy, he should swiftly end its life and not let the goat’s fear ruin its meat. Once I get my hands on the broken runes the operation was a go.

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

Chapter 948 Demon Worshiper

[991 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:20

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House

“About time you arrived, now hand over the storage card and bye-bye,” Talking to my clone felt funny but it made sense since I had let the slave consciousness that I used to create the clone develop its own individuality. Was I not worried about mutiny? No, I was not as I could control every aspect of the slave consciousness. Kind of similar to Matron’s ability except I could do much more.

“Here’s the card, If you don’t mind I would like to hang around for a while,” Clone 1 asked not to be sent back as he handed me the storage card he picked up from Diana.

“Sure. Sit over there and use the grimoire to entertain yourself,” I was not surprised by Clone 1 demanding not to return to my mutated soul. After all, individuality thrives on freedom which the slave consciousness cannot find in my mutated soul as I would mute it so that I do not hear voices in my head.

There was also another reason for me to let Clone 1 exist even after its purpose was achieved. I had other plans for it not just my other two slave consciousness too, I need them to play decoy when I attack the circle’s sun blossom branch. I know my gigamite form makes up my peak strength but with the new broken runes, summon possession card, and Elusive spirit card I had something new planned. If that did not work out I could always switch to my gigamite form with a thought.

“Clones cannot contract grimoire. How is it able to summon a grimoire?” Agatha who had gone silent earlier suddenly spoke out seeing my clone summon a grimoire while I too was using a grimoire.

No matter how advanced and high-level, clones are not considered independent beings by the world’s will, so it was impossible for a clone to contract a grimoire. The clones can share their originals grimoire but they cannot contract a new grimoire for themselves. Therefore Agatha was surprised when she saw my clone and I use the two grimoires at the same time.

“Welcome back, so we speak when you want something. Is that how this works? I thought we were closer than that,” I said sarcastically reminding Agatha of when she ghosted me for asking her about the supposed file on me.

“Fine, I confess. I did a background check on you when that person conditioned the princess that she would only join the princess’s mercenary group if you were in it. I was doing my job as princess’s bodyguard, nothing personal so get over yourself,” Agatha confessed but also justified her actions by saying that it was part of her job. Not that I cared but I had to keep up the act.

“Agatha don’t you think you are getting too casual when you talk to me,” I said hearing Agatha ask me to get over myself.

"Yeah, what happened? I thought we were close enough for that," Agatha felt that as the semi-demigod she should be the one warning the boy about him getting too casual with her. She was not his maid she was a freaking semi-demigod, damn it.

"Enough with that, I think we should set some ground rules- no, you know what the relationship between us is professional and nothing more than that. We agreed on mutual assistance, you keep me alive through this night in exchange I help you build your steady supply of income. Let's just stick to that," I declared feeling that keeping things professional between Agatha and me would be the best despite all that time I wasted on developing a relationship between us hoping that she would abandon me when the ship begins to sink and only have a life jacket to one person.

"So, how is your clone able to use a grimoire?" Agatha asked

"Did you not hear anything I just said?" I asked Agatha hearing her invade on my secrets. A semi-demigod level bodyguard in exchange for my privacy no longer felt like a good deal. I wonder how Asong deals with it with about 11 semi-demigods constantly following her around.

"I heard you loud and clear but the only reason I am asking is the only card apprentices whose clones can use a separate grimoire are the demon worshipers by refining a live person into their clone. I don't want to jump to conclusions, but I hope you have a good explanation. This me being professional," Agatha explained why she insisted on investigating my secret despite me making it clear to her to be more professional.

"As if you would let it slide earlier," I scoffed

"You don't know me, maybe I would have. But it is too late for you to beg for things to return to the way they were between us. You have burned that bridge," Agatha seemed to be hurt by my words earlier making it difficult to figure her out. As a semi-demigod who lived for more than centuries, you would think that she would have her feeling together and would not get hurt over a few practical words.

"Why are you so sure that I used a live person to create that clone? You have no evidence to jump to conclusions that I am a demon worshiper but you seem to have already concluded that I am a demon worshiper. Wait, Do you want me to be a demon worshipper? Just because I said some words that hurt your feelings," I said what came to my mind hearing Agatha's words as it was.

"Yes, I am jumping to conclusions, but for your information, I am so based on the facts. The fact is that the only clones that can have their own grimoire are ones refined using a live person. Even a demigod cannot create a clone that contracts its own grimoire. So yes I have every reason to believe that you are a demon worshiper."

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Chapter 949 Copy Grimoire

[1,018 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:20

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

Agatha seemed to really believe that I was a demon worshipper or at least a card apprentice adept at their practices of card creation. I don't blame her clone 1's capability had given her strong reasons to believe that. But what surprised me was that Agatha claimed that she would overlook me using demonic practice because of our friendship. Now that I found it hard to digest. Not the fact that Agatha was willing to overlook the usage of demon practice because I bet in her long life as a card apprentice she might have been curious and tested out demonic practice sometimes. What I did not believe was that she would do that for me.

The world was all about manipulation, everything they do was because they expect a certain reaction from others in their life. From getting a job to marrying everything was one elaborate manipulation disguised by words, 'I got to do this to get that.' If you can't see it, my going into detail about it would only make me sound crazy.

So, Agatha would only be doing something so significant for me only to get what she wants. Maybe she will not use it to blackmail me but she certainly does hope that this action of hers makes me think more favorably about her. If this was not a form of manipulation then what was? Manipulation can be used to define very human actions but we only use it to define actions that make us uncomfortable.

"Well, you can relax I did not use an alive person to create this clone. I do not indulge in demonic practice," Knowing that Agatha had concluded that I indulged in demonic practice I did not waste time arguing and decided to explain myself.

"Said every card apprentice demonic apprentice who participated in demonic practice ever. Buddy you are going to need a better defense than that," Agatha did not believe me and asked me to show evidence to prove otherwise.

"Just look at the front cover of the grimoire my clone is using, the Qr code, it is the same as my grimoire's Qr code. Meaning the grimoire I and my clone are using is one and the same. Isn't that evidence enough?" I said in my defense.

The front cover of every grimoire has a unique round Qr code. No two grimoires can have the same Qr code as this Qr code represented the unique soul pathway signature of the card apprentice. So the grimoire my clone was using and the grimoire I am using to have the same Qr code signified that one was the copy of the other. Which allowed both my clone and me to share a single grimoire at the same time. Just like the one I created for Debra Khan's Skeleton Centaur Knight origin card.

"What do you mean? That is not possible. Are you using some kind of disguise card to trick me? That is not going to work," Agatha was suspicious about what I said because this was her first time witnessing something like this. As far as she knew for two grimoires to have identical Qr codes was not possible.

"No, Agatha I am not using any card to disguise the grimoire Qr codes to look identical. This is one of my early inventions. So it is not a surprise that you have not heard about it, but I plan to publish a paper on this once I get time. Please keep your mind open about this," Whenever something new which was considered impossible before was invented the first thing the human mind does was call it heresy unable to comprehend it but time has a way of making people come around.

"I don't get it," thankfully Agatha did not choose to close her mind to what she did not understand and tried to understand it. Which made my work simpler.

"Let me help you. How do I put it, the grimoire you see by my clone's side is a copy of my original grimoire. As a copy, its capabilities are limited. Other than helping me share the cards in my grimoire and access the grimoire network under my id it was basically useless," I did not know how to explain what a copy grimoire is to Agatha but I had to start some were. Depending upon what she understood I could continue to improvise.

"Tell me if I understood it correctly a copy grimoire is a grimoire that mirrors the cards in the original grimoire. So it basically allows you and your clone to access the capabilities of the original grimoire at the same time," Agatha narrated what she understood about the copy grimoire. And hearing her I was impressed.

"Correct," I said feeling that I had underestimated Agatha's intellect.

"You call it copy grimoire but many know it as Grimoire mirroring, you are not the first to come up with this theory. This theory has been out there for ages. Some believe that some demigods and secret families have achieved this but there has been no concrete evidence pointing toward that. So I find it hard to believe that you were able to achieve that," Agatha was still suspicious but I understood why Agatha was open to the idea of copy grimoire and was able to understand it without me having to repeat myself.

Considering the long history of the card apprentices it was not a surprise that someone had come up with this theory before me. And I was not narcissistic enough to believe that I was the first one to achieve this, the possibility of the card apprentices having already achieved grimoire mirroring somewhere out there was high. But the question

was why was this knowledge kept hidden. Agatha was a semi-demigod with high standing in that society as a retainer to Demigod Windsor something like this should be accessible to her. This made me reconsider holding off on the idea of writing a paper about copy grimoire and question myself for having used it in Debra Khan's origin card creation.

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Chapter 950 Envy, Sad

[1,033 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:22

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

"Well, it doesn't matter if you believe me or not the evidence is right in front of you. Unless you are blind you cannot deny it," having made my defense I had nothing more to explain to Agatha, and honestly, I did not have time for it.

"Okay let's say I believe that you have achieved grimoire mirroring, what does a gal have to do to get her hands on this stuff?" Hearing that I would not entertain her anymore trying to defend myself, Agatha came around the idea that maybe I could have achieved grimoire mirroring and wanted one for herself. Now that was funny, wasn't it?

"If nothing else you exhibit a thick skin that one could only develop with age, And speaking of copy grimoire, you can forget it. I may even commercialize it and sell it to the whole world but never give it to you," Now that I had something Agatha wanted I decided to make her work for it.

"Why?" Agatha asked and acted as if the entire demonic practice ordeal never happened.

"Just because I can," she might have thick skin I similarly was very petty.

"Do you have to be so petty about it? I was looking out for you, you know," Agatha had already proved that she was shameless so these words were no surprise to me but it surprised me that she did not say them sooner.

“Sure you were. And I too am doing this for your good. You don’t have to thank me,” I said sarcastically reminding Agatha that two can play that game.

“Fine, I am sorry I blamed you for using demonic practice without proper evidence,” Agatha apologized half-heartedly to me. Which was a big deal considering the gap between over realms. A semi-demigod apologizing to a card soldier now that was the fairy tale of the world.

“Not enough,” I demanded a sincere apology from Agatha but did not promise her that I would forgive her for her actions.

“Not happening, just tell me what is it going to cost me?” Agatha had her limits, being Aba’s nanny did lower them but they were still there. For Agatha to be so tame and reasonable I had Aba and Anna to thank.

“It is surprising to see how now you are not having trouble believing that I have achieved grimoire mirroring,” I taunted Agatha knowing that she could take a few more of these. Being tolerant of her client was a part of her job description so I was not worried about Agatha getting handsy all of the sudden.

“Go on, get it all out of our system before we talk about serious business,” Agatha knew this was not over by a long shot after all she almost labeled the boy as a demonic card apprentice.

“You bet I will, but not now. We can talk after we complete the mission we are here for,” I did not plan to waste any more time on this childish argument with Agatha I had other fish to fry.

“Seriously, you are going to make me wait a whole day for a simple yes?” Agatha complained seeing me not plan to give her a concrete answer.

“Since you already know what my answer is going to be, what are you worried about? A little waiting doesn’t hurt and you know why I have to do this,” I could just give her an answer right away but where was the fun in it, after what she had done, she owed me this much.

“I am not worried about waiting, but the price I will have to pay for it,” in our short time together Agatha had learned through experience that nothing was cheap when it came to me.

“Price? Is that how little you think of me? Come on, we can’t put a price on our friendship, we are closer than that. You don’t have to worry about that, I am not that shallow to charge my friend for my help. You can own me one,” The feeling of owning a semi-demigod slave as a card soldier was worth it.

"That is what I am worried about, just state a price I feel it will be a lot cheaper than owing you a favor," Agatha who had just managed to pay all the favors she owed to the boy did not want to be sucked back into that debt/death trap once again, she had learned her lesson.

"Come on, Agatha be reasonable. How can you put a price on something priceless like a copy grimoire?" Right now the grimoire mirroring technique was a rare commodity something that could be considered priceless, it was really hard for me to decide a price on that. Anything I would come up with would only make me feel not enough. Was I being greedy, yes I was.

"You know Wyatt, you exhibit a thick skin that is not common for your age group. Sometimes I forget that you are just a teenager," Agatha said out of the blue.

"Your point being," It was really hard for me to tell what Agatha was getting at based on her tone and no facial expression or micro-expressions.

"Nothing, it's just, I envy you," Agatha spoke her feelings truthfully. Sometimes she cannot help but compare the boy with her teenage self.

"Where did that come from? Should I be worried?" I was being serious, jealousy makes people do crazy insane things that one might not think they were capable of.

"Relax, you are not in trouble," Agatha jokingly said

"Now, I am worried," I played along. I don't know what Agatha had been through but it must be something horrible for it to haunt her till now. Or some people were just more sensitive and regretful about their past than others.

Did I feel pity for Agatha? It was hard not to when a Semi-demigod claimed to envy a card soldier. The semi-demigods were the source of envy for every card apprentice, you don't expect to see the other way round, that would be sad. It was similar to how every child dreams to become an astronaut when they grow up, only to learn that astronauts drink their own piss.

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

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:24

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

"Speaking of the price of a copy grimoire, I don't think that it is priceless considering that Anna and Ann use two different grimoires when Ann is basically Anna's clone," Agatha had just recently come to learn about Anna's origin card otherwise she would not say that Ann was Anna's clone.

"First, Ann is not Anna's clone, she is an entirely different person. So it is possible for Ann to contract her own grimoire. Get your fact straight," I got aggressive when I said this for some reason. Was I defending Ann?

"How can you claim that when Ann is Anna's origin card? No matter how you put it Ann is Anna's sophisticated clone card," Agatha did not back down making me remember an old saying back on earth empty vessels make more sound.

"Yes, Ann is Anna's origin card but she is not Anna's clone. They both are more like twins," For some reason, I could not help but get worked up about this. But having this argument with Agatha I was suddenly enlightened about the new clone advancement project I was working on.

"How can you be so sure?" Agatha was about to argue otherwise but was interrupted by me.

"Shut up, let me concentrate I am on a verge of a breakthrough here," I yelled at Agatha driving her insanely angry. But she controlled her anger and thought, 'I will get him for this later.'

There was a reason I allowed my clone 1 to develop individuality, and that was to see if they could contract their own grimoire just like Ann did. From the way Anna described Ann to me, I knew Ann was Anna's suppressed personality born out of her issues with her mother. When Anna can develop one of her personalities into an individual being recognized by the world's will, I thought I could develop slave consciousness similarly by allowing them to develop individuality. But arguing with Agatha, defending Ann as an individual being separate from Anna, I knew how wrong I was.

Allowing my slave consciousness to develop their individual personalities was not enough for me to advance them as independent beings in the eyes of the World's will. I needed to surrender my entire control over the other consciousness of my mutated soul, just like Anna did with Ann. When it comes to Anna and Ann, Anna had zero control over Ann. They both were totally independent other than the fact that both of them were each other's origin card. Which meant they could summon each other and do other stuff their origin card allowed them to do.

This meant that for my other three consciousness in the mutated soul to be recognized as individual beings by the world's will was not possible by just allowing them to develop independent personalities instead I would have to surrender my control over them. Similar to how a mother has no control over her children. This was the reason why Anna claimed Ann as her twin and not a clone.

This was a huge breakthrough but unfortunately, this marked the end of my project to advance my clones. Because if I go through with this then what I am doing would not be any different than the asexual reproduction in the single-celled organism. I was grossed out just thinking about it. It seems I found another taboo to add to my taboos that I don't plan on exploring list.

There were many things that I came upon while exploring the science that I believed to be taboo and too taboo not worth the risk of exploring. This happened quite so often that I had to make a list. And this one was the most bizarre and creepiest of all, only the most narcissistic person in the entire universe could consider something like this. Not that I am calling Anna the most narcissistic person in the entire universe as she had little choice considering her fate ingredient.

Coming to this bizarre conclusion I had no choice but to give up on having my clones contract independent grimoires. The only thing I can be happy about this turn of events was that I did not waste a lot of my time on this project only to come to this bizarre conclusion. Yes, so let's agree things could have been worse and move on.

"So, did you figure out how to allow clones to contract their independent grimoires?" Seeing that I was done with my enlightenment and back to working in my grimoire, curious Agatha could not help but ask. She felt that she was entitled to an explanation as this epiphany would not be possible without her arguments and not to mention she tolerated his rude remark earlier which any other semi-demigod in her place would not tolerate.

"Yes, I did," I answered truthfully because I saw no point in lying about it to Agatha. Because allowing the clones to contract independent grimoires through the freaky asexual reproduction-like procedure theoretically appeared to be simple but it was very complicated to achieve practically. If not for my calamity daughter gems even I would have a hard time pulling it off. In Anna's case was able to achieve something so complicated thanks to the miracle of origin card creation.

"Great," Agatha cheered enthusiastically, I found it out of character for someone who was doubting my capabilities a few minutes ago.

"Wyatt, come on, share it, there is no point in having secrets between us at this point," Seeing that I went quiet after saying three words Agatha was angry that I was not sharing the juicy details about my breakthrough with her. Though she knew that any kind of explanation would basically go right above her head, she want to listen to it anyway as she wanted to be a part of it. Can't blame her for wanting to be a part of something bigger, that the future generation would possibly look back to.

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Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:26

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

"Agatha, trust me you don't want your clones to contract independent grimoires. I am doing you a huge favor by doing this. Just leave it at this," I advised Agatha. Whether she took it that was up to her.

"Why would you say that? I am sorry to say this but I can't help but feel that you are hiding things from me so that you alone can enjoy your discovery. If you are worried that I want credit in your patent, then don't worry I don't want any credit. There I said it, now can you tell me how to get our clones to contract independent grimoires?" Agatha did not heed my advice and instead thought I was lying to her not to give her credit for her help in my breakthrough.

I honestly didn't know what to be more offended about, the fact that Agatha called me a liar and greedy credit hog or that she thought that deserved credit for the breakthrough I made. I wasn't surprised by the fact that Agatha felt this way. But this did not mean that I was not angry with Agatha.

"Agatha, what makes you so sure that I found a way for the clones to contract independent grimoires? A while ago you found it hard to believe that I had found a way to achieve grimoire mirroring, I could be lying about the whole thing you know," I said

"Now I am hundred percent sure that you found a way for the clones to contract independent grimoires. Is it about giving me credit for my help, I already said I don't want any credit, just tell me how to get the clones to contract independent grimoires? I deserve to know," Agatha kept insisting that he had credits in my research and that she had the right to know my discovery.

"Oh yeah, then tell me what did you contribute for you to thinking that you deserve an explanation regarding my research from me? Memory is a little foggy about it," hearing Agatha repeatedly claims that she had a right to know about my research because she contributed to it I snapped back at her asking her to remind me what exactly her contribution was.

"So it is about me asking for credit for my contribution to your research. As I told you earlier you have nothing to worry about, I will not sue you for credit, the research is entirely yours as long as you tell me how one can get their clone to contract an independent grimoire," Agatha took my aggression as proof of her unwarranted claims about contributing to my research.

"Agatha, you really going to be this shameless about this. Are you sure you are a semi-demigod? Its times like this I have trouble believing you are semi-demigod," I was really astonished by Agatha's shamelessness. She not only made false claims about making contributions to my research but also dared to use it to blackmail me. No self-respecting semi-demigod would do that to the one they promised to protect and serve.

"Wyatt, why do you have to be so stubborn about this? Just tell me how my clones can contract original grimoires and I will put this to bed," Agatha acted rogue, the more she spoke the more I couldn't help but get irritated at her.

"Okay, how about this, you tell me what contribution you made to my research then I will tell you how your clones can contract original grimoires," I said planning to get Agatha to confess.

"You are still hung up on that? Fine, I will say it I did not contribute to your research, it was all you. Is this enough for you to tell me how I can get my clone to contract independent grimoire or do you want me to write it down for you," Agatha wasn't even trying to hide the fact that she was not being sincere and was insinuating that she was only saying this because I was forcing her to say so.

"Really? You are going to play like that? Fine, have it your way," I had enough of Agatha jerking me around so I added, " the way to get your clone to contract an independent grimoire is by apologizing to me ten thousand times."

"Genius how will apologizing to you ten thousand times help me get my clone to contract independent grimoire?" Agatha asked

"This is how it works, you apologize to me ten thousand times and then I will generously tell you the next step involved for you to get your clone to contract independent grimoire," I answered smugly and turned my attention to help my slave consciousness with the customization of the new cards I bought in the silent auction.

"Wyatt, you are that immature? You can't even take a small joke. Did my little jokes hurt your feelings?" seeing that her jokes have backfired Agatha decided to resolve to taunt which was not the best opening to be used against a person who was confident himself.

"..." I ignored Agatha's taunts and buried my head in my grimoire to supervise my slave consciousness before I opened the storage card that Anna had sent for me.

"Wyatt, come on, I was just joking around, I didn't mean any harm or insult. You know that right?" being given the silent treatment, Agatha thought to change her tactics from taunting to pleading.

"..." My slave consciousnesses were doing a great job with the customization of the new cards. But two of them were pulling the workload of four people, the workload was not

huge but considering that they were pressed by time, the amount of work to be done for the available time was a lot. Therefore I could not help but turn my head to Clone 1 who was enjoying his independence by exploring the grimoire network. Feeling my gaze it raised its head to look at me and understanding my intent it shuddered. The sight was to pity for but I did not give a shit and ordered it to get work, I did concede that it could carry out the work from outside using its copy grimoire.

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Chapter 953 Wreck Job

[989 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:28

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

“Wyatt, come on, don’t be like this. Do you really want me to apologize to you ten thousand times?” Agatha constantly kept bugging me for giving her the silent treatment. Which was proving to be hard for me to follow through with her constantly bugging me with her mental voice. If it was her physical voice I could have asked Hive AI to close my hearing sense but the same option was not available for my mind. So I had no choice but to listen to her annoying mental voice continue to irritate me.

Frustrated I finally put an end to the silent treatment, “Enough.”

“...” hearing my yell Agatha finally went quiet and patiently waited for me to give her what she wanted. Minutes passed by but seeing me not show any signs to speak anytime soon she did not hesitate to remind me, “I am waiting”

“Good,” I commented and continued to divide the workload between the three slave consciousness.

“Any time now,” Agatha continue to repeat this sentence after certain intervals like an alarm on snooze.

“Yes,” I replied and continued with my work. I did not manage to get rid of Agatha but this arrangement was way better than before.

"Wyatt, I had enough, when are you going to tell me about the research," Agatha yelled

"How about we discuss that after we complete the mission? Then I will have all the time in the world to narrate to you the findings of my research. We will also have time for a little Q&A afterward. And then later we talk about boundaries and your professionalism as a bodyguard. What do you say?" I informed Agatha patiently

"Yeah, ditch Agatha after you are done using her, don't worry about her feeling bad, she is an orphan who cares about her feelings. It will be fun to see her face afterward. You know what will be more fun to laughing about it behind her back," hearing me Agatha suddenly spoke something totally unrelated to the topic we were speaking of.

"Agatha, you making no sense right now," I said hearing Agatha in panic, no matter how casually I addressed her it did not change the fact that she was a semi-demigod.

"Wyatt, I thought we were friends. Why don't you consider me as your friend, Wyatt, why?" Agatha seemed to have somehow been hurt by my words. I think it would be more accurate to say some of my words might have triggered her childhood trauma. I really starting to wonder how someone with such a weak mind was able to beat all the odds in her path and become a semi-demigod. Becoming a semi-demigod was not easy.

One needs a lot of patients to make it this far, as talent and resources were not the only factors on this path there were a lot of other variables in a person's life that needed to be factored in. There have been many individuals who were born with extraordinary talents that would make people jealous not many of them make it to where Agatha was right now. As they say shit happens, and nobody can control every aspect of their life. Hence they need a very strong mind to make peace or get past what life throws at them. Everybody who had made it to the semi-demigod realm would have a strong mental fortitude, that was given considering the shit they have been through to make it so far.

Take Anna for example she had it all, the talent and the resources, but also had been through a lot of shit that life had thrown at her over the course of her life. There may have been many intense in Anna's life where she could have just given up or things could have gone horribly wrong yet she soldiered through all that and made it to her current self.

Yes, Anna had it easy compared to Agatha as her talent and resources did give her a lot of room to make mistakes and learn from them. Therefore it was surprising to see that Agatha displayed such weak mental fortitude. What was more surprising was to think that demigod Windsor had handed the responsibility of his only daughter to this wreck job.

No, from the amount of time I had spent with Agatha, I knew she was an excellent retainer, there was no reason for Demigod Windsor not to leave the protection of his only daughter to his most trusted retainer. Something was amiss, did Agatha really

consider me as her friend? Things have not been the same since the movement Agatha had been honest about her feeling envious of me. This was huge, as a semi-demigod, it must have been very difficult for Agatha to reveal this to me but I brushed it off as if it was nothing. The only reason Agatha was able to share something so personal with me was that she really did feel that we were friends and were close enough for her to share her feelings with me no matter how embarrassing they were for her.

Fuck, I just wanted to have a good interpersonal relationship with my semi-demigod slave but instead, I ended up mentally and emotionally breaking her. The worst thing was right now I was not worried about her instead myself, I left the sky blossom city and boldly came to the sun blossom city putting my faith in her, but to think that she will end up having a breakdown right when the shit was going to get real.

I know I have a horrible personality which would make those who knew me feel an itch in their brains but that did not mean that my concerns were not unwarranted and any less important. We were in the enemy territory and my big gun was having a mental breakdown. Any general in my place would feel the same.

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[1,520 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:30

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

“Agatha, I do think of you as my friend. To prove it I will tell you how to get your clones to contract an independent grimoire. But don’t blame me afterward I did warn you,” As any good general I decided to fix my big gun, which means I gave in to Agatha’s demand.

“Nope, I no longer care about that,” Agatha refused to listen when I was willing to give her what she wanted.

“What do you mean? Do you not want to learn how to get your clone to contract an independent grimoire?” hearing Agatha refuse I was befuddled. I was really having a hard time figuring her out.

“I do but not like this. I care more about our friendship than this,” Agatha replied.

“Then what was the point of all this drama till now,” I asked Agatha feeling irritated.

“Drama? Don’t you get it? Or were you lying when you said you consider me as your friend?” Agatha suddenly snapped.

“Agatha, I don’t know how to read minds, just say what is it that you want?” I yelled in frustration and thought, ‘I will do or say anything to get it over with this.’

“...” Seeing my frustration Agatha got to thinking and then added, “I want to be your friend, and the only reason I acted so unreasonable, spoiled, and demanding was that I thought of you as my friend. Isn’t that how friends are?”

“...” I couldn’t help but wonder where Agatha got this misguided idea of friendship. And what was this fixation of her to make me her friend? Since when did semi-demigods go around searching for friends in card soldiers, I could not help but feel like this whole idea was- funny I guess, yeah that should be a proper way of putting it without hurting the feelings of the people involved in it.

Come to think of it I could not help but agree with Agatha’s misguided idea of friendship, if not for my friends, I would have died a virgin. Everything I knew about befriending a woman began with them. Though most of what we discussed was fallacious I had to start somewhere. Back then all I wanted to do was raise funding for my inventions. I was so lost in my studies that I had no time for a normal teenage life. Since I had no game when it came to women I would always choose to bury in research. If not for my friends dragging me to social gatherings despite me getting angry at them for that, I think I would have grow up to be one of those nerds who would grow a boner to 2d drawings of women, that’s how worse it could have turned if I did not have some friends who forced me to try new things. There were many things that my friend forced me to do and I was thankful for that because I would not have been able to experience many fine things in or about life and make my first million. Unfortunately, I lost touch with the old gang when I became rich and famous. I don’t know which one of us dropped the ball but we did drop the ball and things were never the same.

Though how Agatha describes friends was not correct, it was not entirely false either. The reason I liked to hang out with my friends back then was that with them around I never had to worried about being bored. If they had not talked me into doing so many things that I would have never considered I would have missed out on a lot. When interpreted this way I do feel that Agatha was just being a friend who doesn’t know about boundaries and timings.

“Agatha, you are right,” I guess a semi-demigod friend sounded better than a semi-demigod slave.

“Wait, what?” Agatha wanted to cheer over the fact that I too felt that she was right but then she stopped knowing what it meant for her to be right. This meant the person she thought of as her friend never thought of her as one. All this time she has been putting herself out there thinking of him as a friend when really she has been making a fool of herself. Sadly this was not the lowest point of her life.

“Agatha, I was a bad friend to you but you were a good one to me. And I am very lucky to have a good friend like you. I hope you will not let this be the end of our relationship and give me a second chance,” In many instances I let my fear get the best of me, and where a little trust can get the job done just fine, I end up using force. Therefore I have more calamity daughter gem than friends. I did not plan to change that any time soon but sometimes in life you will be lucky enough to come across people who will change your life for good or just be a good addition to it, I did not want to let my fear push away these people from me. I am afraid to say it but I feel that Agatha was one of those people.

“What are you saying, Wyatt? I was just doing my job as your bodyguard for the night. Don’t mistake it for something else. Forget what I said earlier I was just messing with you. Haha got you,” Agatha said awkwardly and then added, “You must be feeling so stupid right now. I am semi-demigod, I don’t need friends, I have plenty of them.”

“Agatha, come on, things don’t have to end like this between us,” I know it was bold of me to ask Agatha to look past what happened earlier but we had to start somewhere.

“Wyatt, can we just drop this discussion at this,” Agatha said in a stern voice.

“Fine, I was a bad friend to you, but I am trying here, aren’t I? What do you want me to do?” I thought if I was honest with Agatha, she would give me another chance to be her friend just like in the tv shows back on the earth but I did not expect such a turn of events.

“....” I got no response from Agatha. Considering that she was hiding in my shadow I did not even know how to approach her.

“Agatha, silent treatment, really?” Setting in an empty luxurious hall by myself talking to my shadow I wondered if I needed Agatha this much in my life.

Once again getting no response from Agatha I decided to approach it from another angle, “Agatha, Is all this drama because you want credit for my work? I am right, aren’t I?”

Hiding in the boy’s shadow Agatha could hear him loud and clear, she was so embarrassed about the previous event that she did not want to show her face to the boy. And her thought wandered wondering why was it that every time she considered someone as her friend she ends up making a fool of herself. These were the people who have been through some of the tragic life experiences that she had been through, she thought they would understand her more than anybody else out there but these people ended up hurting her the most. Why was that? Was she meant to be alone?

Just when Agatha was losing herself to her childhood traumas and depressing thoughts she heard the boy enunciate that she was only after his research, hearing this she was enraged and yelled, “How can you say such a thing?”

“Well, weren’t you the one who kept saying that you made a contribution to my work and deserved to know about it?” I questioned Agatha while elated over the fact that my plan worked.

“Y-you, I only said that to get you to tell me how to get my clone to contract an independent grimoire,” Agatha blurted in anger.

“Aha, you agree that you did all this to get me to reveal how to get your clone to contract an independent grimoire,” I said blaming Agatha.

“No, that is not it, you are twisting the fact,” Agatha argued and could not help but feel that she was being trapped.

“I knew it you were after my work all alone,” it was funny hearing Agatha argue and explain herself, now I knew why Agatha kept using this on me earlier.

“Fuck you, you jerk,” Agatha cussed seeing that the more she tried to defend herself the more she fell into the boy’s trap.

“Agatha, give me second chance. Tell me what I can do to make it up to you,” Now that I had gotten Agatha talking it was time I made things clear. Otherwise, there would not be a point to this.

“...” having cussed in a long while, Agatha felt she was back in her childhood on the streets with her small but warm gang. She forgot the embarrassment from earlier and decided to be the bigger person but she could not make it too easy for the boy.

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chapter 954

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:30

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

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- Chapter 955 Dark Humor

Chapter 955 Dark Humor

[983 words]

Date- 3 April 2321

Time- 22:33

Location- Sun Blossom City, Card Creation Association, Auction House, West Wing Hall

“You crazy, I am not desperate,” Hearing Agatha’s unreasonable condition for her to give me a second chance I directly consider giving up on Agatha’s friendship.

“What’s the problem, didn’t you already say you were a bad friend, all you have to do is say it another 9,999 times,” I could feel Agatha sneering at me within my shadow through her tone as she said, and then she went on to add, “Don’t blame me, you are the one who came up with this interesting punishment.”

“No, I did not,” I argued not planning to heed Agatha’s demeaning conditions.

“How is this any different from you asking me to apologize to you ten thousand times, just to get you to teach me how to get my clone to contract an independent grimoire?” Agatha said immediately.

“How about this I teach you how to form clones with independent grimoire instead of reciting that ‘I am bad friend’ 9,999 times. Sound good?” I negotiated with Agatha. Even though I know that Agatha was back to normal and did not hold the previous event against me.

“Nope, I no longer care about getting my clone to contract an independent grimoire. I will read it with the rest of the world when you publish a paper and apply for a patent on it,” Agatha was lying and was indeed curious about her friend’s research but both sides had said some words that cannot be taken back. She was worried that if her friend were to tell her about his research then those words would gain merit. Even though her friend would not think as such but she did not want it to be associated with her memories of this event when her future self reminisced about how she became the boy’s friend. She had a feeling she and the boy were going to be best of friends despite their differences.

“Agatha, you are not making it easy for me,” I said making it clear to Agatha that I cannot complete her condition.

“But to you but then we can only be a mere acquaintance, I am good with it if you are fine with it,” Agatha did not budge even a little.

“Ugh, how about this instead of reciting ‘I was a bad friend’ 9,999 times, I message it to you this way it will be a proof of my sincerity to you,” I said thinking that this would be less embarrassing since I will not be the one writing this message.

“You make a good point but I think video evidence will be better than a written one,” Agatha proposed inspired by my words.

“I think it is best if we stayed acquaintances, what do you think,” I said with a blank face.

“Fine, you win but I want the message sent to my grimoire by tomorrow’s sunset,” What Agatha meant was that after the mission this message took priority and I should not postpone it saying that I was busy.

“No problem, I have already sent you the message,” Using my super brain card to write a message containing the words ‘I was a bad friend’ 9,999 times was not a big deal. It was able to achieve it within a breath.

“Don’t try to be smart-” Agatha wanted to say she was being serious but was interrupted by her grimoire message notification, looking at me suspiciously she then read the message. Soon the suspicion in her eyes was replaced by utter disbelief and she blurted, “How is this possible? You must be cheating.”

"Yeah, don't call others cheaters just because they can do something that you cannot," I sneered as I said these words. In the end, even though ended up acting at Agatha's whim, I did not give her the satisfaction of it. Some would even say I won.

"You set me up, I won't accept this, you clearly did not even access your grimoire just now, when did you even get the time to write those five words 9,999 times?" No matter how hard Agatha thought she could not figure out how the boy could write the message.

"Come on, Agatha don't be unreasonable, I am starting to feel that my sincerity isn't being appreciated here," I said in said voice emotionally guilting Agatha.

"How dare you speak of sincerity after tricking me?" Agatha thundered and then cussed, "I hate you."

The feeling of being outsmarted or tricked was not good, no matter how you put it. Therefore Agatha went into total silence not bothering to argue with me.

"Agatha, don't hate the player hate the game," I said with a hearty laugh, I got to say, it felt good to have a friend, I wasn't in such a good mood in while.

As I said this I felt a strong sense of feeling of being stared at so I immediately stopped laughing, and said, "Agatha, you know I was just joking around and I am laughing with you, not at you."

"I am laughing though," An eerie voice sounded from within my shadow.

"That is because you did not get the joke," I explained.

"Maybe I did not get the joke because the joke was on me," the eerie voice got colder as it spoke.

Gulp I swallowed my saliva feeling claustrophobic despite being in the empty big hall.

"Haha, you should see your face," suddenly Agatha's laughter sounded in my mind almost frightening me up from the couch. Seeing my reaction Agatha laughed even more. This time her laughter gave me a piece of mind. Even though Agatha's joke was a bit dark, I relived that it was just a joke and nothing more.

"Relax, Wyatt, I will not lay my hand on you until the southern emperor is holding my princess hostage," Agatha mysteriously said.

"Agatha this is not funny anymore," Agatha's dark humor made me seriously worried for my life.

"Wyatt, it seems you did not get the joke."

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