

## Heaven 691

Chapter 691: Sand Castle Against the Waves.

Sarah felt her back being soaked in a cold sweat when Yasenias unrestrained killing intent swallowed her.

The dragoness's slit pupils had thinned into lines, and her voice boomed like a dragon roar as she shouted. "You ungrateful woman! I haven't revealed the fact that you are a human out of consideration of our past friendship; I gave you a place to stay without you needing to worry about anything, even at the cost of being discovered for housing humans! I gave you resources, status, and living conditions, cultivators ten times stronger than you would dream about! I kept you informed, gave you elder-level privileges, and even shared and traded with you information you would wish to know, like the date of this secret realm! Yet you say that I'm trying to bully you!? That I am toying with you!? That I forced myself on someone!?"

Sarah was startled, and her heart skipped a beat out of fright.

Then, she realized that something in what Yasenias had said was too dangerous for herself, but it was too late to stop her.

Meanwhile, Yasenias summoned her sword and was about to continue when she saw the faces of the four beast human women behind Sarah open their eyes widely while looking at Sarah.

As sharp as she was with emotions, she could realize that there was not only surprise but a sense of betrayal in those eyes. 'Huh?'

Of them all, the one who loved Sarah the most, Harmony, screamed at Yasenias, her eyes trembling with convoluted emotions. "What are you talking about!? How dare you call Sarah a human!?"

Yasenias looked at Harmony indifferently for a second, and then her eyes flashed with realization. 'No way, did Sarah fake her bloodline?'

She couldn't help but look at Sarah with mocking eyes and sneered. "You are a worse piece of trash than I imagined. You haven't told your lovers that you are a human? Hahaha, this is ridiculous."

Lana, the dragon woman, shouted at Yasenias with a high-pitched but timid voice. "S-Sect Master, even if you are angry at Sarah, you shouldn't slander her!"

Yasenias looked at Lana and saw the innocence around her about to collapse. Out of all of Sarah's harem, Lana was someone Yasenias had previously talked with privately, becoming somewhat close.

Even while anger burned inside her, and she wanted nothing more than to charge forward and start fighting with Sarah, she tried to calm her tone while speaking to this innocent dragon princess. "Why would I lie with something so easy to prove?"

"No! You are lying! There is no way Sarah is a human!"

While Yasenias confronted the four beast humans, Sarah was frantically speaking with her system.

'System, can I buy a beast bloodline or something? I need to make my beast appearance foolproof, or things will go very bad!'

[Host. Changing from human to beast is expensive, but if the bloodline is low enough, you have enough points.]

'Perfect! Let's do it quickly!'

[Host. Let me finish. While possible, the process is not instantaneous, and your human bloodline will be revealed while the bloodline changes. Moreover, you need to be cultivating. I don't think you can do so in this situation.]

'Shit, then what do I do!?!'

[Your concealing formations are strong. Even the tests Yaseenia made for the entrance test would not be able to tell your human bloodline.]

Sarah looked at the affection from the beast human girls and saw that the numbers were lowering and increasing, a sign that they still trusted her and didn't believe Yaseenia's words yet. 'Since I can't change, I'll need to fake it until I make it!'

Sarah used a few skills to avoid inspection and looked at Yaseenia angrily while she shouted. "Yaseenia. I'm not a human. Please stop trying to lie to them! If you want to separate us, you will need much more than a superficial lie!"

Yaseenia stopped speaking and looked at Sarah.

Sarah saw no emotions directed at her through that draconic gaze for the first time since their altercation.

However, it was far more chilling than when Yaseenia was angry. The moment she crossed her eyes with the indifferent golden orbs, she felt like she had become nothing in Yaseenia's eyes.

Sarah's mind spun, and she spat coldly. "Even if you want to separate us, it is impossible. I've already proved I'm a beast before them multiple times. Your tricks will not be able to separate our bonds!"

The four beast humans recalled the tests and auras they had felt before and frowned, looking at Yaseenia displeased. 'Is she really trying to lie to us?'

Sarah continued after she saw the reaction of the four. "See? Lana, don't believe her! She isn't who you think she is!"

Lana frowned, and Sarah saw with delight how the affection points toward Yaseenia went to the negatives.

Yaseenia continued looking as if her words were the same as the wind. Thinking about something, she looked at Angel and told her something through her spiritual sense.

Then, she asked Sarah calmly. "Do you dare to unleash your Beast Bloodline aura, then? You are a beast, right? Do something like this, then."

The atmosphere around Yaseenia fluctuated, and a gentle ripple extended outward, allowing her [Empyrean Cosmos Dragon] bloodline to flood the area with her Empyrean presence.

The four beast human girls swallowed when Yaseenia's aura enveloped them, feeling small and unworthy. The Peak-level Ancient Ranked bloodline was a massive deterrent for the beast humans before her, who didn't even reach the Divine rank.

Meanwhile, Sarah spoke coldly without much reaction. "Why should I listen to you? Yaseenia, we've come to this point already, so stop spouting nonsense and fight me!"

However, Sarah's lack of reaction was something the four beast humans caught. Worse, it wasn't only Sarah who lacked a response; the others around them also didn't react to the powerful bloodline ripple, making their hearts twist. Even Lillian and Lea, who were point black, looked unaffected. 'This...'

Yasenia's bloodline ripple was gentle, unlike when she used it tyrannically to pressure, and therefore, for a human, it would feel something similar to a breeze passing through.

Yasenia's indifferent eyes landed on the four beast humans and saw their reactions. 'Since we are already like this... I'll make you feel the consequences of your actions, Sarah. Feel despair as everything you've built crumbles before your eyes.'

She looked at Sarah and smiled, asking in a calm manner that was filled with hidden poisonous thorns. "What about the other six, Sarah? Lea, Lillian, Astarea, Soraia, Bai Lin, and Su Lin Shi. Are they also beasts?"

The eyes of the four trembled as Yasenia indirectly confirmed their fears.

Remember that with Distancia's education system, humans were the lowest kind of creature. While sexual slaves existed, they were generally bought by perverts and people with low morals. For upright beast humans like Dorian, Lana, Harmony, and Paledora, mixing bodies with a human was similar to a mortal human mixing body with a wild pig.

If the person you always thought was a human turned out to be an animal disguised as one, you can imagine the amount of disgust and regret they were feeling.

Sarah shouted. "Of course, they are beasts. They've all done the same tests as me!"

Yasenia looked at Lea and asked. "You can speak now. Are you a human or a beast, Lea? Let's hear your answer."

Lea looked at Yasenia's emotionless eyes, and her body trembled.

Yasenia continued slowly, forcing Lea to peer deep into her draconic gaze. "However, remember that words have consequences. For now, it's only Sarah... Your words can change that."

Lea swallowed, her heart beating rapidly. 'W-What does she mean with it's only Sarah?' Lea was someone who hadn't really faced nerve-wracking situations like these, so she didn't want to think about the meaning behind Yasenia's words.

Her trembling eyes looked at the four beast humans, and saw their eyes looking at her desperately. Her heart jumped at those eyes. 'T-They know.'

It was easy to see that they knew once she looked, but they wanted a saving straw. They wanted to hold onto something, even if it was a lie.

Lea knew how deeply Harmony loved Sarah. Even during those strange six months when Sarah was timid and eccentric, Harmony always stood by her side, consoling and telling her not to worry.

If Lea had to say who loved Sarah the most, she would say Harmony without a second of hesitation. Lillian obsessively liked Sarah, but the bird woman with white wings was devoted to an unhealthy level.

Sarah was anxious and shouted. "Lea, I can protect you! Don't get misled by her! Tell the truth!"

Of course, Lea understood what "truth" Sarah wanted her to tell, but there was something that blocked the words that should've been easy to say.

Yasenia was pinning Lea down with her piercing, draconic eyes, wholly ignoring Sarah and everybody else.

Lea was sweating, her entire body trembling. 'W-Why is she so focused on my answer.'

Her mind had been feeling dizzy for a while because of her argument with Angel, and the effects of [Lover's Second Chance] were still present, forcing Lea to "love" Sarah and always try to take her part.

Yasenia could feel the unhealthy trembling through her tail that tightly bound Lea, but her heart didn't feel pity for a second.

Her eyes were locked on Lea, waiting for an answer.

The petite woman's heart rate shot up with anxiousness and fear. 'What do I do!? Should I tell the truth? Should I lie? But, if I lie and those four discover it later, they will hate us even more. Moreover, I don't know what Yasenia will do if I lie...'

Yasenia mocked her. "What is it taking you so long? Hesitating whether to tell the truth or not? How about an oath to the heavens? Do you dare do that?"

The four beast human women naturally caught Lea's hesitation, and their faces fell, becoming gloomier with each second without Lea answering.

Lea saw a dark aura slowly begin to leak from Harmony, scaring her enough that she almost let out a scream.

On the other side, the four beast women were feeling their hearts ripping to pieces slowly in real-time.

They naturally had their suspicions, and although they were angry at first when Yasenia revealed it, as long as Sarah told them the truth, they would eventually find it in them to forgive her, perhaps.

They were lovers, after all, and the good moments between them would not magically disappear because Sarah was a human. Even if they hated humans, thanks to Yasenia's efforts inside the sect to slowly teach them to accept humans, they were actually more accepting.

Yet, what was happening was something they'd never imagined. The person they trusted the most, their lover, their companion, and the person who had been sharing a bed with them for years was lying to their face.

Worse, it wasn't just one of the people they trusted lying to them.

Seven of them.

Seven people might be lying at them together, while these seven a few moments ago were people they would risk their lives for.

Dorian, the short and slender Amphibian girl, asked with a stiff face. "Lea, please answer honestly. Are you a human? Please, don't lie. Please."

Between all of them, Dorian was the one who still didn't believe it.

She had been quite secluded in her clan before, to the point that she was abandoned and later rescued. She had only recently gotten to know love from this group, and it had been the happiest moment of her life. So, she didn't want to accept that seven of them had kept their identities a secret from her.

It was an important identity for someone who had grown in their position.

Lea felt a lump in her throat. She and Dorian were really close, yet, in her hands, there was now a decision that could break them.

'I-I can't do it.'

Lea looked at Sarah and felt anger.

'W-Why must I suffer like this.'

Her anger ballooned, and her love twisted into hatred.

'Why didn't Sarah tell them before needing to have sex with them!?'

Sarah received the message that would crumble the sand castle she built.

[Ding! Lea's affection dropped by 178 points. Affection reduced to -90 points (Hatred).]

[Ding! <Lover Second Chance> effect is still active. Affection fixed to 80 points (Love).]

And Lea's thoughts were once again twisted. 'But even then, I can't betray the trust that Sarah placed in me!'

After a few deep breaths, Lea's face hardened, and she spoke firmly and loudly. "We are not humans!"

Sarah's face was filled with relief for a second.

Yasenia's golden eyes flashed, and then the indifference turned to chilling coldness. "So, this is what you choose."

Lea looked up, and her heart thumped in genuine fear. 'W-What is that gaze?'

Then, Yasenia rested that enormous sword she had summoned on the ground and snorted a laugh. "Impressive, truly magnificent. You are not even able to admit such a simple fact to them. Have you become their lovers because they are useful to you? You really see them as nothing but resources, and what's worse is that they are an expendable one."

Lillian was still being choked by Yasenia's hand, and she shouted with difficulty. "Slut... Who are... you... to say that! Aren't you... the same?"

When Sarah saw Yasenia turning to look at Lillian while not changing her indifferent expression, she felt a bad premonition, and her body chilled.

Yasenia looked at Lillian for a second and then spoke. "Come to think of it, I grabbed you like this to stop Sarah from doing a stupid thing because I didn't want to really kill her. I wanted to beat sense into her... But..."

Sarah shouted with a truly scared voice for the first time. "YASENIA STOP!"

But, not even paying attention to her, Yasenia's tail uncoiled from Lea and moved agilely, ruthlessly piercing Lillian's chest and exiting from the other side.

"NOOO!"

Sarah's shrill scream spread while faces filled with disbelief came from her harem members.

Meanwhile, Lillian's eyes widened, and then she coughed a mouthful of blood. "Y-You..." She didn't expect Yasenia to attack her because she had seen her lenience in the past. Being part of her sect, Lillian expected much more "impunity."

Still, she misjudged Yasenia. Not only her but also Sarah and Lea. They thought this was an altercation where no severe blows would be traded.

Yet, they couldn't be more mistaken.

The dragoness stated coldly while looking at the trembling Lea. "I warned you, didn't I? That if you don't tell the truth, you will regret it."

Then, Yasenia looked at the crying Sarah and the four human beast women and spat coldly. "Angel, activate it."

Before anybody could react, a perfect and beautiful glass formation spread above them, shining with colorful lights.

Then, a powerful wave of energy swept them, making them become alert as they prepared for battle.

Sarah was still filled with horror because of Lillian's impaled state, but she still looked around, clearing the tears that fell from her eyes as she prepared to counterattack. Yet, nothing happened for a few seconds, making her frown.

Her confusion lasted very little as one message popped in front of her eyes, making her feel as if someone had cut the rope holding the guillotine blade above her neck.

[Ding! Bloodline Concealing Formation has been disrupted for one minute.]

Chapter 692: Shattering bonds.

[Ding! Bloodline Concealing Formation has been disrupted for one minute.]

With that seemingly innocent yet impactful message, Sarah's aura changed together with the presence of the other six, becoming distinctively human.

Sarah's eyes widened with the second consecutive blow, the first being Lillian being impaled by Yasenia.

And yet, while her stomach twisted and her entire body felt unwell, her vision got filled with many messages that made her mood plummet further as they came.

[Ding! Dorian's affection dropped by 150 points. Affection reduced to -58 points (Heartbroken).]

[<Lovers Second Chance> is on cooldown and couldn't stop the favorability drop.]

[Ding! Lana's affection dropped by 165 points. Affection reduced to -80 points (Loathing).]

[<Lovers Second Chance> is on cooldown and couldn't stop the favorability drop.]

[Ding! Harmony's affection dropped by 200 points. Affection reduced to -100 points (Mortal Enemy).]

[<Lovers Second Chance> is on cooldown and couldn't stop the favorability drop.]

[Ding! Paledora's affection dropped by 120 points. Affection reduced to -30 points (Disappointed).]

[<Lovers Second Chance> is on cooldown and couldn't stop the favorability drop.]

Sarah became stiff and hastily looked at them. "I can explain-."

But, before she could speak up, her spiritual sense caught a hand reaching for her neck, and she hastily protected herself with an energy wall.

BANG!

"Guh!"

The impact of the palm pushed her back several steps, and her eyes caught the face of the one who attacked her, making her heart feel as if someone was stabbing her. "H-Harmony, please listen."

The white-winged woman snarled with tears in her eyes, her aura exploding in a hurricane of gales. "Don't call me by my name, Human! How dare you deceive and rape me!? You disgusting creature should die and disappear from the face of this Continent!"

Then, Harmony rushed forward again, summoning a slim white sword and using her entire cultivation base to attack.

The attack carried intent to kill, making Sarah feel so unwell that she reacted a step slower, and the attack grazed her shoulder, drawing blood.

Harmony didn't stop; naturally, Sarah wouldn't stay still and be constantly attacked, so she summoned her own sword to parry her attacks.

CLANG!

Harmony's tear-stained face twisted further. "YOU DARE DEFEND YOURSELF!?"

Sarah's and Harmony's swords clashed continuously, and Sarah tried to speak in between.

"Harmony, please listen to me! I had a good reason to hide this!"

"SHUT UP!"

Sarah wanted to speak up again, but her back exploded in chills, and she hastily looked back.

Behind her, the usual innocently smiling and voluptuous brown-scaled dragon woman had her face twisted with hatred as she punched her back.

BOOM!

Sarah's entire body shook because of the brute strength of the dragon-woman's punch, and she flew tens of meters, smashing through a few tall rocks.

Lana's voice was cold like winter, accompanied by a dragon growl. "How dare you deceive me. How dare you betray my trust and steal my purity! With the name of my family at stake, I promise I'll hunt you down until the day you die!"

[Ding! Lana's affection dropped by 10 points. Affection reduced to -90 points (Wrath).]

The other five human girls were stunned for a few seconds at the intense reactions of the people they considered close just a few minutes ago. Still, after reacting, they rushed forward and began clashing with the rampaging Harmony and Lana.

Astarea, a tall, blonde, righteous woman, stepped forward and blocked Lana's frontal attack with her shield. "Lana, what are you doing!"

Lana's pupils thinned to lines as she snarled. "Shut up! Was it fun to have us in your little human group? Did you laugh at us for being stupid and not realizing!?"

Su Lin Shi was with Harmony. Her beautiful face and slim body danced between the storm of attacks released by the enraged winged woman. "Harmony, will you really throw this many years of relationships because of a simple thing?"

Harmony cackled, her laugh sounding hoarse. "A simple thing? A simple thing!? Hahahaha! Die with her! [Gale Sublimation]!"

Meanwhile, Yasenias kept looking, her face emotionless. The second Yasenias heard that Sarah didn't speak about her human nature to them, and deeply understanding how deep-seated hatred toward humans was in Distancia, she had expected this kind of outcome.

Her eyes moved toward the struggling Lillian and the trembling Lea. While her tail had pierced Lillian's chest, she was not dead yet.

Suddenly, she heard a woman talk. "Yasenias, think closely about what you want to do."

The dragoness looked over, and her eyes fell onto the white-haired human woman. "Bai Ling. Aren't you Sarah's lover? Why aren't you helping her?"

Bai Ling was tranquil, looking at Yasenias deeply with her blue eyes. "No one has died yet, so things can still-."

Yasenias's tail burst with Sun and Star energies, exploding Lillian's insides into a pulp while her meridians and even dantian exploded.

Lillian's eyes bulged, and her body expanded because of the internal pressure, and then her body fell limp.

The dragoness smiled at Bai Ling as she flicked her tail and threw her corpse to the side. "What now? There is one dead."

"YASENIA! HOW DARE YOU!?"

The dragoness turned to look and saw Sarah looking at her with a warped expression full of hatred. However, Dorian, the frog woman, attacked her, forcing Sarah to defend herself again.

Bai Ling frowned, her blue eyes flashing coldly. "Why didn't you listen to me? Now, she won't stop until she gets her revenge."

Yasenias looked at her with a sneer. "Hey, you are a Fate cultivator, right? Did you think that your words could control me? That your skills can work on me?"

Yasenias smiled mockingly. "You can't. So, if you tell me not to do something, I feel like not listening and going completely against your words."

Bai Ling spat. "Childish. Instead of listening to reason, you are just moving with emotions."



Yasenia's lips arched downward. "Who do you think you are, Bai Ling? What do you know about me? Do you think I fear her? You are a little brat who has her ego inflated because of her mastery of her Fate attribute. Honestly, what does it matter what Sarah thinks when she will die here today?"

Bai Ling, feeling her pride hurt, answered with a cold voice. "You can't kill her."

Yasenia lifted an eyebrow as she leisurely stole Lillian's spatial ring and poured all the contents into her ring. "I can't kill her? What makes you so confident, Bai Ling? Also, what tells you that you are not one of my targets to kill here today?"

Bai Ling's mind spun, and then she confidently said. "You won't because there is no reason to kill me."

Yasenia gave her a bored look and ignored her. Bai Ling was utterly inconsequential to her actions. Her being here or not changed nothing in Yasenia's thoughts.

While looking at the ongoing battle, the dragoness suddenly felt Lea trying to flee from her side. Her tail latched to her ankle before she could escape, and she pulled her toward herself.

"Where are you going, Lea? I still haven't thanked you for lying about your identity, right?"

Lea felt her body cooling down as the thinned golden eyes of the dragoness locked on her. "Y-Yasenia, please. I never wanted to hurt you. I just wanted you to join Sarah's harem because I also liked you! Please, please, don't continue with this madness!"

Yasenia lifted Lea upside down by her leg and looked at her coldly. "Lea, your first mistake was to approach me with those intentions. Your second mistake was vocalizing those intentions. Your third mistake was angering one of my lovers with your attempts. Your fourth mistake has been lying when I told you to tell the truth. And now, your final mistake was trying to flee toward Sarah's side when you knew that she and I would shortly fight."

Lea shook her head desperately. "I-I won't fight, I won't fight! I just wanted to help her! I never wanted to fight against you!"

Yasenia looked at Lea closely, and she felt something amiss. The emotions inside Lea were very convoluted, but not in a normal way. 'It's like something is forcefully changing her emotions. Very strange...'

Yasenia pondered many situations, and her eyes finally landed on Sarah. 'Is it her? But, if she could do something like that, why hasn't she influenced the beast human girls?'

No matter how sharp our dragoness was, she couldn't imagine something so otherworldly as the existence of "Skills" and "cooldowns."

So, she didn't really know what was happening to Lea. 'Hm... I'll suppress her in a formation and see what happens later. After that... Angel can do whatever she wants with her. After all, the one Lea angered was my baby, not me.'

She swung Lea and threw her toward Angel's location.

Lea screamed for a few seconds and then fell in the middle of a strange circle that appeared as she flew. 'What's this? A formation?'

"[Glass Prison Formation]."

A dome about three meters tall surrounded Lea, trapping her inside.

Lea looked up and saw Angel looking at her with narrowed eyes. "Stay still. If you move, the formation will make you lose half your weight."

Lea gulped and stayed still.

Yasenia looked at Sarah and waited for how the conflict would evolve. She had no haste in dealing with her, as there were still many hours until the two-day-long event finished.

Sarah continued exchanging blows, but she was holding back because she didn't want to hurt them. She was constantly trying to speak and convince them, but she had been unsuccessful.

'Why don't they listen to me!?'

Sarah felt her heart breaking when the eyes of the girls who loved her now shone with raging hatred.

After a few seconds of exchanging moves, the four beast human women stopped and faced the group of humans made of Sarah, Astarea, Su Lin Shi, Soraia, and Bai Ling.

Harmony, still filled with loathing, asked with a hoarse tone. "You five knew it all along, right?"

Although her face was enraged, one could see that there was pain below that enraged gaze. Harmony had loved Sarah dearly and took care of the others often, so this betrayal felt like someone had dug her heart out.

Paledora, the usual brightly smiling dog kin woman, asked coldly. "Were you going to keep this a secret forever?"

Sarah instantly defended herself, crying because of all the powerful feelings running rampant in her. After all, Lillian was dead, and her lovers were attacking her. "Of course not! I-I was waiting for the right moment! I had decided to reveal it slowly to you after the secret realm!"

But her words didn't sound believable. Even when she was telling the truth, the four beast human women didn't trust her.

Sarah saw their faces, and she felt that it was unfair. If no one interfered, she would've been able to live happily with them. "That's right, it's not my fault."

Her bloodshot honey-colored eyes moved and locked on the blurry figure of the dragon woman. Her tears fogged her vision, but after a few blinks, she could clearly distinguish the indifferent Yasenia coldly looking at her. 'It's all her fault! If Yasenia didn't exist, if the people of Distancia were more normal, nothing like this would've happened.'

Sarah turned toward the girls and bit her lip. 'How can you hate a single race so much!? Aren't we very similar? Weren't they unaware of my nature until it was revealed? They are all brainwashed to be racist!'

When all her thoughts culminated, she said emotionally. "If I told you since the beginning that I was a human, you'll never have even looked at me because I know that beast humans here are brainwashed by their seniors! So, I wanted to make you understand that I was not that different before telling you!"

However, those words were one of the worst she could've chosen for her situation.

[Ding! Dorian's affection dropped by 15 points. Affection reduced to -73 points.]

[Ding! Lana's affection dropped by 5 points. Affection reduced to -95 points.]

[Ding! Harmony's affection dropped by 30 points. Affection can't go lower, and it was maintained at the minimum of -100 points.]

[Ding! Paledora's affection dropped by 15 points. Affection reduced to -45 points.]

Lana laughed, but her laughter sounded incredulous. "Brainwashed? You have the gall to say that we have been brainwashed!? Rubbish! Everything that exits your mouth is complete and utter garbage!"

Sarah didn't know what to say, so hastily asked the system. 'Make a speech option appear! Quick!'

[Host. Speech Options are triggered by themselves. I can't create one at will. Please manage this situation by yourself.]

'Useless!'

Sarah tried to explain herself. "Y-Your culture revolves around an irrational hatred toward humans! It doesn't make any sense! Aren't we very similar? You didn't even notice until now, even when we had sex!"

[Ding! Dorian's affection dropped by 17 points. Affection reduced to -90 points.]

[Ding! Lana's affection dropped by 5 points. Affection reduced to -100 points.]

[Ding! Harmony's affection dropped by 50 points. Affection can't go lower, and it was maintained at the minimum of -100 points.]

[Ding! Paledora's affection dropped by 25 points. Affection reduced to -70 points.]

Harmony screeched. "WHY ARE YOU REMINDING ME OF THAT!? YOU DISGUSTING HUMAN, I WANT TO RIP YOUR FLESH APART AND EAT IT!"

While Sarah's words were somewhat rational and relatively correct, they weren't something that these four wanted to hear.

The dragon princess laughed. "You have no clue what humans did to us in the past! The situation they are in today is deserved!"

Sarah bit her lips and also became agitated, shouting. "What kind of stupid behavior is that!? Humans in the past are not the same as humans in the present! Moreover, we are not that different. Not to mention that the actions of beast humans today are equal to or worse than anything humans might have done in the past! You are all a bunch of hypocrites, and because of you, Lillian died!"

[Ding! Dorian's affection dropped by 10 points. Affection reduced to -100 points.]

[Ding! Lana's affection dropped by 2 points. Affection can't go lower, and it was maintained at the minimum of -100 points.]

[Ding! Harmony's affection dropped by 5 points. Affection can't go lower, and it was maintained at the minimum of -100 points.]

[Ding! Paledora's affection dropped by 30 points. Affection reduced to -100 points.]

The bird woman laughed with mockery. "So what? We are just returning the favor. Look at you; you violated us while disguising your identity! Humans have changed? Hahaha! You are the living proof that they haven't!"

Paledora spoke coldly. "Sarah, I misjudged you. I didn't really hate you and somewhat understood your situation. But blaming Lillian's death on us is too much."

Sarah was so anxious that her heart hurt. She understood that logic would not enter their heads now. 'I need to pacify them in a more relaxed situation. I need to... get rid of the one orchestrating this!'

Then, Sarah turned to look at Yasenia, and her body exploded with auras. "Yasenia, it's all your fault!"

Chapter 693: Draconic Reckoning.

Then, Sarah turned to look at Yasenia, and her body exploded with a wrathful feeling. "Yasenia, it's all your fault!"

The dragoness looked at her and smiled. "My fault?"

Sarah began screaming, her hands gesturing out the deep and uncontrolled emotions she couldn't hold back anymore. "You fault! Of course, it is your fault! Everything would have been perfectly fine if you hadn't appeared in my life! Why!? What did I do!? What the fuck did I do to deserve this!?"

With apathetic eyes, Yasenia answered. "What did you do? Target me after so many warnings to stay away from me. Insult my integrity. You even tried to make me a villain when I've done nothing but help you. Moreover, everything you are suffering is your fault."

Sarah laughed, tears still streaming through her eyes as she looked at Lillian's corpse. "I thought you were not so pathetic as to use my origins like that! I regret ever trusting you. I regret ever speaking to you."

Yasenia spoke again in a nonchalant manner. "If you hadn't lied to them, nothing would have happened. I just revealed to those closest to you what and who you are."

Sarah screamed hysterically. "AND WHO GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO DO EVEN THAT!?"

Then, she hissed through her teeth. "You are always so high and mighty because of your pretty face! Why did you seduce me!? Why did you change me!? Couldn't you have ignored me since the beginning if you didn't want to do anything with me!? Why console me when I was at my lowest and trample on my feelings!? Why give me a hand and then pull it back!?"

Yasenia sneered. "Are you done shifting responsibility to others? The answer to those questions is another question. Why did you expect anything at all in the first place? I showed friendliness but nothing deeper. You are the one obsessed with trying to seduce me when I've rejected your approaches many times."

Sarah's eyes trembled and shone with animosity. Then she smiled dangerously. "Right, all of it was my delusion, no? How about I return the favor you've done to me."

The dragoness's face became serious, and her eyes quickly moved toward Sarah's hand. "Two talismans?"

However, she didn't know what it was.

"[Spatial Shift Talisman]."

Yasenia got alert and expanded her spiritual sense to the limits. However, she didn't feel anything around her.

Still, there was a strange fluctuation on Du Xian's and Angel's side, and she shouted. "Du Xian, Angel, move!"

Angel had been alert, and her cultivation base exploded, successfully resisting whatever the aura around her was trying to do.

However, her warning came too late for the other girl, and because Du Xian was not on guard since the conflict was around Yasenia, she got caught.

The dragoness's eyes widened when Du Xian disappeared and reappeared before Sarah. 'Huh!? What kind of talisman is that?'

Yasenia wanted to rush forward, but Sarah caught her by the neck like Yasenia had previously done with Lillian.

Sarah laughed, her eyes shining with ruthlessness. "Although it's a shame that I didn't catch your lover, at least I managed to grab this one. You seemed to like her, right?"

Du Lian shouted. "What are you doing!?"

The dragoness's expressionless face became cold, and her brain turned quickly, thinking of ways to save her.

On the other side, Du Xian was startled, but her energy instantly began rotating inside her, ready to fight if needed.

Of course, Sarah wouldn't allow Du Xian to react, so she swung her sword while grabbing her by the neck and pierced Du Xian's chest. "AH!!"

Yasenia's body twitched as she saw Sarah's sword piercing through Du Xian and the petite woman screaming in pain.

Du Lian naturally got extremely angry. "If you dare kill her, I'm going to hunt you down for the rest of my life!"

The human girls had their faces frowning at Sarah's actions, but they didn't stop her.

On the other side, the beast human ex-lovers sneered as if they weren't surprised. They couldn't wait to rush forward and continue their fight with Sarah, but they waited to see what happened between Yasenia and their ex-lover.

Sarah smiled widely as her energy locked around the squirrel woman. With just a thought, the energy inside the sword would explode, killing her. "Since you killed Lillian, I should reciprocate, right? Hahahaha."

While Sarah boasted, the dragoness's eyes flashed, and she thought of something.

Sarah saw Yasenia reach over and tensed, prepared to kill Du Xian if she did something suspicious. However, her actions halted because the person Yasenia took was Lea.

Unlike Sarah, she didn't pierce anything and just grabbed her by the scurf of her neck. "Have you forgotten about this?"

Sarah's face twisted, but she smiled weirdly with a hint of dropping sanity. "So what? Neither you nor I can move now. How about this? If you surrender the competition or give Lea to me, I'll release Du Xian."

Yasenia easily nodded. "Sure."

Then, she threw Lea forward with her tail.

Lea stumbled a few steps, stunned at Yasenia's quick agreement.

Sarah, who had been aggressively smiling, froze for a second. "Huh, what?"

Yasenia spoke coldly. "Now, release her. Didn't you want to fight me? Good, release Du Xian, and I'll fight you."

Tatyana and Angel had been silently observing, and while Angel was leaking murderous intent from every pore of her body, Tatyana had a thoughtful gaze. Then, she communicated with Mirrory in less than a second.

'That talisman should be from the system. It was so perfect that it almost surprised me because it aimed at Du Xian, who I wasn't paying attention to. Mirrory, why did you not stop it? You could've done so, right?'

Mirrory answered indifferently. 'Why should I? As long as Sarah doesn't target Angel, I'd rather allow things to develop naturally. If Angel wouldn't have been able to react, I would've blocked that talisman. We won't be by Yasenia's side forever, so if Sarah can make her feel a loss, it will be because she was not prepared enough.'

Tatyana blinked and got thoughtful. 'But a system is not something she can be prepared against, right? It's an otherworldly thing that defies reality in multiple ways.'

Mirrory commented after a slight pause. 'You have been quite wary of her; is it because of her system? You seem quite afraid of them.'

Then, Mirrory commented. 'Moreover, if you really wanted, you could've stopped Du Xian from falling into Sarah's grasp. I don't believe you are helpless against that kind of trick.'

Tatyana wasn't afraid to admit it. 'You are right, but I felt like not reacting for reasons similar to yours. Also, I'm wary because I have... A slight trauma with those things. I have yet to discover how they work completely or how they come to be, but their means are basically endless.'

Mirrory spoke after a moment of thought. 'Just let things move. Regardless of what we might do, Yasenia seems to have a plan.'

Tatyana nodded. 'Agreed. Let's hope it works. Seeing Yasenia sad will break my heart.'

After Yasenia released her, Lea hurriedly returned to Sarah's side, making Sarah feel troubled.

She wanted to use Du Xian as a hostage to avoid facing Yasenia and leave, or in the best-case scenario, force Yasenia to surrender, effectively making her disappear. Still, she didn't expect such decisiveness, making her stumped at what to do now.

The dragoness looked coldly at Sarah, a silent wrath building inside herself and ready to burst at the slightest chance. 'Not only did you target Du Xian, you targeted Angel. You wanted to do what you are currently doing to Du Xian to Angel, my precious Baby. Sarah, Sarah... Pray to the heavens that you know how to navigate my traps because the only thing that can save you now is something as powerful as them.'

Harmony's mocking voice reached her. "What, have you fallen so low that you won't even follow your own words?"

Sarah looked around and realized that even her human lovers were looking at her with frowns because she was still holding Du Xian tightly. 'What do I do, what do I do? Won't Yaseenia attack me after I return Du Xian back to her? If I release her, Yaseenia can attack me without consequences. Still, if I kill her, I will also be in the same situation because, without Du Xian, she will not hold back and come after me.'

Flustered and not knowing what to do, her eyes darted around, trying to find a solution to her situation. After a few moments, Sarah felt resentful instead of grateful that Yaseenia released Lea so quickly. 'Why did she have to let go of her so quickly!? Don't people usually doubt or be suspicious when someone gives their conditions!? I have a sword pierced through her chest, for fucks sake! Why is her face so calm!?'

While Sarah was confused and did not know what to do, Yaseenia kept calm and observed her actions.

The reason she released Lea so quickly was because of her deep understanding of Sarah. She knew that while Sarah was still heartbroken and furious at Lillian's death, she was also terrified.

Right now, Sarah's four lovers have betrayed her and attacked her, and during all of that, one of them, Lea, was captured, and another, Lillian, was killed. The convoluted feelings have placed her sanity on the edge, and the only thing holding it together were the lovers that were still around her.

Through personal experience, the War Trial taught Yaseenia how the psychology of someone who loses a close person works. It had taught her by making her experience situations like the one Sarah was in and dozens much worse than this one.

Therefore, Yaseenia knew that Sarah was at a crossroads with two paths.

The first road is for Sarah to release Du Xian and flee the competition with her human lovers by surrendering, trying to use the time it took Yaseenia to finish it to hide from her.

The second path was again for Sarah to release Du Xian, but instead of fleeing, she was overconfident in her own capabilities and chose to fight her.

Killing Du Xian in any shape or form was not something Sarah could do because she was afraid of her human lovers despising her when she herself had been quick to release her hostage in a show of "goodwill."

But there was no goodwill in Yaseenia's actions; they were coldly and ruthlessly calculated to constrict Sarah's choices and allow Yaseenia to lead the situation toward an end that only benefited her.

The cold reptilian eyes observed every little expression on her prey, prepared to jump and finish it off at the slightest chance she had.

Astarea, the tall, righteous, blonde woman, spoke to Sarah. "Sarah, release Du Xian."

Sarah's body trembled, and Du Xian grunted in pain as the sword inside her also moved with her.

Du Lian wanted to shout as he felt nervous for his wife, but he suddenly felt a tyrannical aura surrounding him, forcing him to shut up. The origin of the aura was Yasenias herself, who wouldn't allow others to create unknown factors.

Even then, the dragoness hadn't even moved an inch, and she wasn't even looking at him, showing the control of the scene she had thanks to her ever-present spiritual sense.

Sarah spoke, not realizing how much her voice was trembling. "A-Astarea, if I let go, Yasenias will attack! E-Even if I'm confident, you all will be in danger!"

Bai Ling spoke. "Then, kill her. We can always give up the competition."

Sarah looked at Bai Ling and gulped to moisten her dry throat. "T-That's right, I can kill her. Either way, we can always surrender."

The dragoness's eyes moved for the first time, and she looked deeply at Bai Ling. Bai Ling was about to smile, thinking that she had disrupted Yasenias's plans, but after two seconds, the draconic gaze moved away from her, returning to observe Sarah as if her words were inconsequential.

This made Bai Ling's expression fall.

Yet, Bai Ling didn't realize that Yasenias had done so to make her expression change.

When Sarah saw Bai Ling's expression falling when she didn't answer, she thought that she was unhappy that she was considering killing. Therefore, she quickly gave up the option of killing Du Xian.

It was all mind games that the dragoness was puppeteering.

Astarea spoke soothingly one more time. "Sarah, let go. Whatever challenges are ahead of us, we'll fight them together."

Taking into account her recent thoughts and because of the righteous and soft tone, Sarah decided to trust Astarea.

She took out her sword from Du Xian and then pushed her forward. However, Sarah's eyes were locked on Yasenias, preparing to move again if Yasenias recklessly charged forward.

Knowing how tense Sarah was, Yasenias remained calm on the outside and beckoned Du Xian. "Come here, Du Xian."

The squirrel girl hurriedly scurried forward toward Yasenias, who gave her a greater sense of security than her husband. She fell into her arms, burying her face in Yasenias's warm bosom. The sweet floral scent quickly calmed her taut nerves, and her entire body melted in her arms.

She was the Matriarch of a race with hundreds of years of experience, so even if she was shocked, she had a strong mentality and quickly recovered her mood. She coughed twice and then looked up at Yasenias with a smile. "Thanks, Yasenias."

Angel didn't say or feel anything this time, as Du Xian had been on the verge of dying. Yasenias took out a peak-level Heaven-ranked healing pill and fed it to her. She didn't have many pills of this



quality, but it didn't matter. It was her fault that Du Xian ended up in that situation, and giving her anything other than the "best" to heal her didn't sit well with Yasenia.

The dragoness gently caressed her hair and asked with a soft tone. "Do you feel anything strange, Du Xian?"

Du Xian closed her eyes, quickly feeling the powerful healing capabilities of the pill, and she shook her head. "Nothing, I'm okay, Yasenia."

Yasenia nodded and then turned to look at Sara coldly, separating from Du Xian and walking forward slowly.

Almost 200 meters separated them, not too far for cultivators at their level.

Her steps were unhurried, and she didn't really cover much distance with them, but the presence around Yasenia began condensing.

"Sarah."

The woman flinched when Yasenia called.

"This is the first time I've abhorred someone so much outside the War Trial."

Then, a message popped in front of Sarah with a static-like sound that hurt her ears.

[Ding! Y@se#&a Dr@#\$ry favorability De#re@#d by \*\* points, rea#\$ing -100 points (Mortal Enemy).]

[Ding! All missions related to Y#@en#a Dra&###@ and those close to her will be automatically canceled, and those accepted will be counted as failures.]

[Ding! Warning! You've provoked the rage of a powerful enemy!]

[Ding! An urgent mission is being generated. Please, wait for a second.]

Yasenia grabbed the heavy Draconic Heart with one arm and lifted it effortlessly, stepping toward Sarah without placing others in her eyes. "Sarah, I had one thought from the first moment I met with you. Either we became close allies, or we became enemies. That's why I tried to become close to you at first. That's why I kept trying to pull you to my side even while I felt my doubts."

CRACK!

The ground under Yasenia split, creating a dreadful sound that steps shouldn't make.

"Now, I challenge you to a Death and Life duel."

Chapter 694: Yasenia's Tyrannical Presence.

Sarah was still resentful toward Yasenia because she killed Lillian. Moreover, in her mind, there wasn't really a better chance to fight Yasenia because she was in a rare situation where she was away from her usual group.

Instead of all the people who usually surrounded her, only Angel, Laurina, Tatyana, and the Du pair were around.

However, her current inclination was to escape with her human lovers, mainly because the four human beasts were still eyeing her like predators.

When she was about to choose, a string of messages popped in front of her eyes.

[Ding! A new urgent mission was initiated. "The Celestial Dragoness Wrath"]

[Ding! The enemy has been analyzed to an initial level, and the name will not be blurred anymore. Further encounters will allow the system to understand Yasenia Dravory further.]

[Mission Description: Instead of making Yasenia Dravory fall in love with you, you have managed to anger her to the point that she treats you like a <Mortal Enemy.> While many have angered Yasenia Dravory in the past, not many angered her to the point that she wanted their death as much as yours. You need to survive after damaging her enough or defeat her to show her that you are not a person who would flee in front of adversity.]

[Mission Summary: Yasenia Dravory has been angered due to your response to her. Her strength is unfathomable, and she is the strongest opponent you have yet to fight.]

[Clear Condition 1: Survive the encounter against Yasenia Dravory while damaging her more than 40% and escape with your life.]

[Clear Condition 2: Survive the encounter against Yasenia Dravory for one hour and escape with your life.]

[Special Situation! Because it is an <Urgent Quest>, Clearing one condition is enough to complete the mission.]

[Rewards: 500,000 Points, Quasi Transcendental Robes, Quasi Transcendental Spatial Ring, +1 cultivation Level, 2x <Potential Burst Talisman>, 10x <High-Level Skill Level Up>, and Weapon mastery increased to Yasenia Dravory's level: <Transcendental Expert> (A <Transcendental Expert> is a weapon master that has mastered more than fifteen different weapons to the point of mortal perfection, touching Transcendental Concepts like <Battle Intent> or <Weapon intent>).]

[Failure: Unknown.]

[Penalties to rewards: Death of a lover. For each lover that dies, rewards will be lowered by twenty percent. If five lovers die, you will automatically fail the mission.]

[Extra Condition: Defeat/Kill Yasenia Dravory.]

[Extra Condition Rewards: Normal condition rewards will be multiplied by two, 10,000,000 Shop Points, One Lesser True Dragon bloodline of your choice, gain Yasenia Dravory's comprehension talent, +5 cultivation levels, Choose to learn one of Yasenia Dravory's Techniques, Unlock <Dragon Strength>.]

[Additional Rewards: For each enemy defeated besides Yasenia, the extra rewards will multiply by 1.25.]

[Enemies: Dragon Princess Lana, Harmony, Dorian, Paledora, Du Xian, Du Lian, Laurina, Yasenia, Dravory, A%\$el Dr#&%ry, T#@#ana Dr#&%ry, ???????.]

[Lovers: Lea, Lilliana (Dead), Astarea, Soraia, Bai Ling, Su Lin Shi]

[System Hint: If you fight alone and answer to her challenge, the chances of Yasenia's partners interfering will lower.]

[System Hint: Use precautions against T#@#ana Dr#&%ry.]

[System Hint: Buy <Formation Destruction Bead>.]

[System Hint: Don't hold back anything.]

All these messages appeared in Sarah's mind in less than a second, making her feel overwhelmed. 'W-What?'

After she read and assimilated them, Sarah's heart raced, her body tensed, and her intense feelings soared. 'If I defeat her, forget about any other rewards, my cultivation level will skyrocket to the seventh level of the Dantian Spiritualization Realm? Moreover, I'll gain the <Weapon Mastery> I've been so eager to buy...'

Sarah bit her lips, thinking if the rewards were worth the risk. 'Well, can't I always flee if I see there is too much danger? The failure conditions are unknown, though... What does that mean?'

It was the first time a quest of this magnitude had appeared besides Yasenia's capture mission many years ago.

Sarah looked at the slowly approaching dragoness, who had crossed twenty of the 200 meters between them with unhurried but heavy steps. 'Fighting her for an hour shouldn't be that complicated with the system items help, right?' No matter how strong, she is in the eighth level while I'm a half-step. The distance between a half-step and a level nine is already enormous, not to mention if we compare it to an eighth level. Furthermore, both of us can fight above our level, so Yasenia's usual advantages should be gone.'

Sarah suddenly shouted. "Yasenia, I accept your challenge. However, this is between you and me! Do not touch those outside our conflict!"

The dragoness stopped walking, a flash of wicked joy that nobody caught flashing in her emotionless eyes.

Because Yasenia had nothing against Sarah's lovers besides feeling slightly resentful toward Lea, who lied in that situation and previously angered Angel, she spoke emotionlessly. "The only people I can influence here are Angel and Tatyana. The rest can do as they please."

Sarah's heart jumped when the system hint worked. 'It's possible! System, buy a...' Sarah looked at her saved 112,000 Shop points and the costly 100,000 points <High-level Formation Destruction Bead>. Then, she muttered. 'Buy a <Mid-Level Formation Destruction Bead>. I need to save 75,000 Points for later and save the remaining 27,000 for emergencies.'

[Ding! You've bought a <Mid-Level Formation Destruction Bead> for 10,000 Points.]

The dragoness and Sarah moved to the side and looked at each other.

On the other side, three groups had formed.

Sarah's beast human ex-lovers.

Sarah's human lovers.

Yasenia's group.

Du Xian was still angered at Sarah's previous attack when she was not that involved, so she had kept her resentment in check until now. 'The moment they start fighting, I'll go give her human

lovers a bit of a taste of what I went through. Don't blame me for being ruthless, Human. You should face the consequences since you didn't care and involved me in this mess.'

Then, she whispered. "Du Lian, follow me later."

Her husband nodded coldly.

The four beast humans also decided not to take action for now, but their anger wasn't only directed at Sarah. After all, the ones who deceived them of their identities were all of the human lovers.

Laurina stood beside Angel, not knowing what to do but being alert and helping her little sister Yasenias if needed. 'You can do it, little sister! I'm cheering on you!' Her emerald draconic eyes admired Yasenias while she made little gestures to cheer her on.

Tatyana restrained her thoughts of slaughtering all of Sarah's lovers to demoralize her and waited, deciding to observe Yasenias's fight closely. 'If Little Treasure starts to lose the fight or is in danger because of strange system shenanigans, I can be more prepared. It is better to wait than being mid-fight and failing to protect her because of that.'

Angel thought similarly. 'Mirrory, help me keep an eye on Du Xian. Although I'm a bit jealous, it is rare for Yasenias to make non-romantic friends. Losing her would make her unhappy.'

Mirrory easily agreed. So, Angel focused on the fight between her dearest dragoness and Sarah.

Sarah summoned her [Elemental Spirit Splitting Sword], the low-level Transcendent Ranked Weapon she gained back when she got the Golden Key.

The beautiful sword shone because of its sharpness, and Yasenias squinted. 'That sword can cut through my scales.'

Sarah saw Yasenias focusing on her sword to the point that her face shifted slightly and her lips arched. 'She is afraid of the sword.'

Then, the human woman heard Yasenias's cold and threatening voice. "Sarah, prepare yourself. I'm not holding back."

Thinking that she needed to resist or even beat Yasenias, Sarah also didn't hide any cards and used one of her most vital skills, her only innate skill, [Primal Element Mastery].

Sarah was naturally not weak as the system gave her many rewards over the years and increased her initial elemental mastery and spirit connection.

[Primal Element Mastery] was a skill that increased all her physical attributes, elemental control, elemental damage, and general perception for each element she controlled. In her case, with a quintuple-attributed physique, the power-up was immense.

Five colored lights representing Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth burst from her, making her long brown hair flutter as her power multiplied.

Angel's expression became severe as the strength increase of that skill was extreme. She didn't have a skill that boosted her personal power as much. Even her [Crimson Heart Surge], her innate berserk skill, was a step behind in terms of self-strengthening. Of course, it compensated with many other buffs, but Angel had to admit that [Primal Element Mastery] was powerful. 'This won't be a walk in the park, it seems.'

However, as if to respond to the impactful self-strengthening, an aura that appeared to swallow the sky burst on the other side of the battlefield.

Sarah's eyes widened as many messages began appearing while her opponent's aura seemingly expanded without end.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has used <Monarch Intent Level Two>. Your strength is suppressed by her, and your attributes are reduced.]

Sarah felt a wave of pressure hitting her, making her heart constrict.

Another aura burst expanded from the dragoness.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has used <War Intent Level Two>. Your strength is suppressed by her, and your attributes are reduced.]

And another one.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has used <Empyrean Dragon Regal Aura>. Your strength is suppressed by her, and your attributes are reduced.]

And another one.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has unleashed her bloodline pressure <Progenitor Queen: Empyrean Cosmos Dragon>. Your bloodline level is overwhelmingly inferior to hers, and your attributes are reduced.]

And another one.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has unleashed her constitution pressure <Unique Constitution: Celestial Yin and Yang Body>. Your constitution is overwhelmingly inferior to hers, and your attributes are reduced.]

And another one.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has unleashed her soul pressure, <Quasi-Transcendent Soul Pressure>. Your Soul is overwhelmingly inferior to hers, and your attributes are reduced.]

Then, one final aura burst spread around them, engulfing every other aura Yasenias had unleashed and enhancing them while making a phantom Celestial Blue Star surrounded by a beautiful black disk filled with stars and constellations appear above them.

[Ding! Yasenias Dravory has unleashed her Unique attribute <C@l\$@#ial At#&!b\$%e>. Your attributes are significantly reduced.]

Sarah's mind almost collapsed when the entirety of what Yasenias had released slammed on her.

She felt small, so insignificantly small that she took a step back as Yasenias's slit eyes locked on her.

[Ding! <Heart Demon Pill> is in effect. Mental strength will be reinvigorated.]

Sarah took a deep breath, as if she was drowning in air, and hastily checked her stats. Her eyes widened stupidly as her attributes had been reduced by at least 20%, which was absurd when the person facing her was two levels below her cultivation-wise.

Just with her presence, Yasenias had weakened her enemy by a fifth!

Yasenia's tsunami-like aura didn't just hit Sarah. It spread around like a tide and swallowed everyone, making them feel like a primordial beast had suddenly manifested right before their eyes.

Astarea, one of the human lovers, muttered incredulously the feeling the others couldn't clearly put into words. "What kind of creature is she?"

Bai Ling's heart also dropped. 'No wonder I couldn't read her. That's not something the heaven's intended to create.'

Not to mention the humans, the four beast-human ex-lovers, forgot about their enmity as their eyes got glued to the Empyrean dragoness, and their most basic instincts almost overtook them.

'So beautiful.' Lana was completely mesmerized.

'Such a mighty presence.' Dorian was awe-struck, unable to look away.

'If people knew, her progeny would be sought after by everyone.' Harmony felt her body heat up as it naturally reacted.

'Making her an enemy was a mistake.' Paledora tried to remain rational, but her straightened dog ears and stiff tail told her emotions very clearly.

Even if it were temporary, if Sarah were to look at their affection toward Yasenia right then, it would've shown a big 100 for a few seconds before they snapped out of it.

Without speaking another word, Yasenia strongly took one step forward, making the ground shriek under the weight of her pressure, and while leaning forward and slowly pushing against the ground, her voice echoed for thousands of meters around.

"[Heavenly Constellation Steps, First Sky: Pegasus Gallop]."

Chapter 695: An Otherworlder's Plight and Consequences.

Sarah has never been an outstanding woman. She was born in a middle-class home, she was brought up by normal, loving parents, and while she never excelled at school, she also never failed.

Her social skills were there, she had a good physical appearance, and the friends she made during her adolescence lasted through her short adulthood. Besides that, she had many hobbies, reading online books being one of them, and had settled most of her future by the age of 25.

An average but fulfilling life with friends, family, and a normal-paying job. The only thing she never had was a lover, or, to be more precise, a serious lover. She had gone on dates but never crossed the last line, finding her partners not good enough to choose them to spend the rest of her life with.

She was undoubtedly not a blessed or wealthy person, but her day-to-day life was not complicated, and she lived a happy and primarily stress-free life.

Yet, without knowing when or how, she suddenly appeared in the middle of a forest.

At one moment, she was driving toward her workplace, and at the next moment, she was standing in the middle of nowhere.

What surrounded her were trees so tall and wide that she doubted her eyes. Not even on the internet had she ever seen trees this big. Trees that stretched upward higher than even the skyscrapers of the city she lived in.

'Am I dreaming?'

That was her first thought; after all, the sight was so absurd that everybody would be confused.

And while she looked around, lost and confused, a mechanical and cold voice rang in her head, startling her.

Reading the messages, she realized that she was no longer in the place she previously lived. She was no longer even on the same planet or reality.

Instantly, she realized that she was in a fantasy World. Moreover, it was one of her favorite cultivation novels.

'A cultivation world!'

The world of cultivation, a place where powers that can move stars and allow people to move between worlds, existed.

However, while she was excited at first, her surroundings suddenly felt many times scarier.

Thankfully for her, she wasn't thrown here without anything. She had a system with her! A thing she knew that if the people of the cultivation world knew about, they might hunt her down. So, afraid of being discovered, she swore never to reveal the existence of the system.

What she learned next was that this system called itself the [Harem Goddess System], making her feel excited. She could already picture her future of being surrounded by handsome men, all coddling her and loving her.

Still, it seemed that her Fate wasn't as such.

She met someone who twisted her sexuality so severely that she became as bent as a 'mosquito coil.'

'Beautiful women are the best!'

That's what she thought, and a thought that held up for a while. While she wasn't successful in wooing the absolutely gorgeous woman who made her heart thump just thinking of her, she managed to create her own harem.

The women of a fantasy world, with beauty standards that would make any model of her past life feel ashamed, took care of her so nicely that she was drowning in passion.

Sarah was satisfied with her first lover. However, her system, the cheat code that could guarantee an easy-sailing life in this world, was a Harem System, owning many tools that helped her get stronger the more lovers she gained. So, she decided to seduce all the girls she found interesting.

'After all, there shouldn't be any real dangers with a cheat-like system. So, let's create a harem of beautiful women!'

And she was very successful at that.

However, the place she was in after the secret realm was a place where humans were detested to the point that cattle in her past World might have been treated better. Although the cows were eventually killed and eaten, at least they were fed and left alone until that day. Humans in Distancia were treated much worse, used for things that made her stomach churn just thinking about it.

'If I fall in the hands of a beast human, I'll be in trouble.'

And so, she chose to hide her identity, even to the new lovers she gained. While she thought that beast humans would be very harsh, the four beast-human women she seduced were fantastic and exciting to be with.

One of them, a tall and voluptuous dragon woman, reminded her of her "first love." Still, unlike that person who seemed to be perfect, this dragon girl was a bit shy and childish. Either way, the contrast of appearance and body made her very attractive.

And then, she heard about the existence of her "first love."

Armed with new confidence, she decided to chase after her and try to seduce her. 'Now I'm much stronger. I'm sure she will look at me with new eyes!'

But, unlike the easy-sailing that was seducing the rest of her harem, her "first love" appeared to be a mountain that was impossible to conquer. Even those around her were so exceptional that they made her feel slightly inferior.

But, Sarah's ego, even when her system was shut down for six months, was untouched. What losing the system felt like for Sarah was dreadful, as she realized that her talents for cultivation were non-existent without its help.

Therefore, instead of becoming less reliable, she became even more reliable on the System.

And, to Sarah's delight, or plight, depending on how you looked at it, it worked.

A few women who previously didn't budge to her attempts, once she used the system tools, started looking her way. A woman who looked very similar to those around her "first love" began falling in love with her. An extraordinary Fate user with white hair, blue eyes, and a lonesome beauty that reminded the onlookers of the Moon.

Sarah's confidence was significantly boosted.

So, even when her attempts were not landing, she didn't give up.

'I'll eventually make her fall in love with me!'

And yet...

"[Draconic Sunset]."

BOOM!

Sarah's entire body shook as a sword massive enough to be impossible to lift by people from her original World was being violently swung at her.

The explosion of Sun energies from the heavy hit burned her skin, making her feel pain all over. Moreover, her physical strength was unable to match the person fighting her, and her body was blasted flying backward for tens of meters.

Thankfully, her defense was strong enough to resist the shock.

The cold and ethereally beautiful voice chanted again. "[Starfall]."

Enormous stars that could be compared in size to her house back in her original World rained at her from all directions in the hundreds, making her entire body feel chills of fear.

"[Stoneheart Stance: Earthen Sanctuary]!"



Earth-attributed spirits sunk into the volcanic region, lifting a massive black dome made of volcanic rocks.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Her dome trembled with each strike, and through her connection with it, she could feel how heavy each explosion was, making her throat move up and down as she swallowed.

"[Draconic Star Charge]."

BANG!

Her earthen dome shattered as her opponent smashed through it, surrounded by a spiral of white energy and white orbs while her giant broadsword pointed at her.

"[Mystic Blade Art: Elemental Veil]."

Her feet moved on their own, following the technique automatically with the help of her system, and her body "split" in five different colored images, dodging the white meteor.

BOOM!

An explosion big enough to make her "split images" disappear and push her back smashed on her like a wall of metal, making Sarah gasp.

From the crater, her enemy stepped out and charged at her, not allowing her a single moment of rest.

The woman she was facing was sadly her "first love."

A woman beautiful enough to make any other person she had ever seen in her previous or current World feel inferior was looking at her with a cold and emotionless face, making her chest hurt.

A dragon beauty that had captured her heart with just a glance, a smile, and a comforting hug was now trying to kill her.

'How did I end up in this situation?'

What was worse, Sarah, for the first time, felt the threat of death close by.

Even with all her system cheats that always calmed her down and gave her confidence even in the face of usually desperate odds, Sarah was afraid of the creature attacking her.

She knew, or better said, she realized that the dragoness attacking her had the strength to overcome her system cheats with raw strength and overwhelm her. Sarah couldn't help but think.

'What if Yasenya was the one with my system instead of me? What kind of monster would that create?'

While fighting, Sarah felt helpless. She couldn't counterattack, she couldn't use her skills comfortably, and the only thing available for her was defending the onslaught. If she lost concentration for a second, that giant sword might be lodged through her chest in the next instant.

'How can fighting someone feel so overwhelming?'

Their mastery over weapons, their knowledge of combat, their ability to judge, their reaction time, their natural talents... Sarah knew that nothing could be compared between them.

Sarah understood, deep inside, that she was utterly outclassed.

Blocking Yasenia's attacks with her [High-Level Sword Mastery], Sarah managed to parry many of them.

[Host. Be careful.]

Sarah focused and saw energy gathering toward her enemy's throat. 'A breath attack?'

"[Elemental intent Level 3], [Pyraforge Prowess: Emberweave]!"

Sarah swung the [Elemental Spirit Splitting Sword] several times, and red spirits gathered around her sword, sending a massive wave of burning crescents toward Yasenia.

The power behind them was no joke, and even middle-level Epoch Core cultivators would feel threatened.

'This should stop the breath attack.'

However, a silver dome spread from her enemy's body, smashing against the flames and shattering both attacks.

But, the silver dome's destruction felt strange, as Sarah sensed it could last for more attacks.

She didn't realize that the path between them was now clear.

"[Sun Dragon Roar]!"

ROAR!

A massive golden ripple slammed onto her body, making her ears ring and her very soul tremble and burn. She could feel her very existence, the soul that she previously thought of as a metaphysical and invented thing, being attacked and damaged.

Sarah didn't like to fight. She didn't want to face the dragon attacking her. 'Why couldn't we just be friends?'

The dragoness appeared before herself with a speed she couldn't comprehend, lifting that enormous sword high up and lowering it like an executioner's blade.

"[Draconic Dusk]."

"[Aerospire Artistry: Tempered Blade Technique]."

A goldish color surrounded her sword, while metal elements and spirits increased the sword's quality and strength many times over.

BOOM!

Sarah's sword was blasted backward, almost forcing her to lose her grip on it, and a large part of the attack hit her frontally.

"AAAH!"

Sarah screamed in pain as her body flew across the place for several hundreds of meters. Burning and freezing feelings attacked her as the Sun and Moon energies in Yasenia's attack seeped inside her and increased her injuries and burns.

[Host. That attack has changed all the Moon energy into Yasenia to Sun energy through complex skills and mastery.]

'Why would she focus all her energy toward one element? Is she preparing something?'

Thinking of that, Sarah began healing herself. "[Aquaflow Mastery: Healing Ripples], [Sylvanweave Sorcery: Blossom Blooming Healing]."

With her powerful level three intent, the water and wood elemental spirits surrounded her body and healed most of her wounds. The Moon Energy and Sun Energy damaging her insides were also expelled, recovering Sarah to almost a pristine state.

Sarah looked up, but she couldn't see Yaseenia's figure, making her panic.

[Host. Use your spiritual sense!]

Even her system sounded rushed, so she quickly did so and felt Yaseenia approaching from her southwest direction, a blind point.

However, it was too late. Sarah could only turn around and see how Yaseenia approached and attacked her with a skill that made her heart sink in despair.

The enormous sword dragging behind Yaseenia's figure spewed golden flames as if they were propelling Yaseenia forward, and even more Sun energies gathered crazily around the dragoness.

"[Sun Dragon Body]."

A golden glow surrounded the dragoness, and the gorgeous blue tail with rings was dyed entirely golden.

Then, the woman who could steal her breath away with her appearance disappeared before her eyes and reappeared at her side in a ready-to-attack position.

"[Empyrean Sun Collapse]!"

WHOOSH!

Sarah felt a mountain of pressure as a hurricane of Sun energies coiled around the enormous blade that was swinging at her.

The attack felt colossal, and Sarah knew that if she tried to block that, she might receive much more than a few burns.

Sarah wanted to close her eyes, but she didn't do so because something had happened.

The amateurish movements of the woman changed, and the energy inside her rotated perfectly.

On her system menu, her points had decreased by 75,000, almost three-quarters of her entire points.

On the other side, Yaseenia saw Sarah's scared expression flatten, and then, while she was swinging her sword with one of her strongest skills, she saw Sarah also slashing toward her attack.

In front of Yaseenia's eyes, in a time frame that felt too small, Sarah's body burst with a five-colored light, and her lips parted to utter a single, cold sentence.

"[Elemental Warding Lotus]."

An enormous lotus with five leaves of different colors bloomed and surrounded Sarah.

Then, both attacks collided, releasing a metallic sound, followed by an enormous golden explosion that engulfed everything.

CLANG!

BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Chapter 696: Celestial Assimilation. A battle between a System and a Dragon.

After the explosion, both sides slid backward for tens of meters, creating a significant distance between them.

Yasenia's expression hardened, looking directly into Sarah's eyes. However, she couldn't see any emotion in them, just a profound calculating nature.

Her stance was utterly different, looking ready to counterattack anything thrown at her, and the aura coming from her body was increasing by the second, approaching her own even after the buffs.

'Dangerous.'

That was the feeling coming from Sarah. Unlike just a moment ago, where the feelings were one of weakness and lack of technique, the woman before her had changed so much that she looked like another person had substituted her.

'Wait, this feeling...'

Yasenia looked more than 25 years back in her memories and found the resemblance.

'Right, it happened when we took the test to enter Lost Town. At that time, Sarah's entire atmosphere changed, which is the thing that initially made me look at her suspiciously.'

Realizing that, Yasenia's attitude changed, and she crouched a little, taking her own stance. At the same time, energy circled inside her meridians at high speed, preparing as if her opponent was on Tatyana's level.

'A mistake will cost me dearly.'

Looking from the outside, it looked as if the battle had stopped for a few seconds.

Angel's attitude had changed from relaxed to serious as she spoke aloud. "Mommy Tatyana, that defense..."

Tatyana was also looking on seriously, none of her previous playfulness in sight. "Little Angel, look closely. That's the strongest enemy Yasenia has ever seriously faced."

Mirrory asked Tatyana. 'Did the system take over?'

Tatyana nodded. 'This is the first time I've seen this. Mirrory, although I don't want to pamper Yasenia, please help me keep a close eye. A single instant can decide life and death in this situation.'

Mirrory agreed, even materializing herself. 'I will.'

Seeing Mirrory appearing by her side, Angel's heart tightened.

Meanwhile, after both sides looked at each other deeply, they took a simultaneous step forward and disappeared from their standing points with resounding sonic booms.

CLANG!

BOOM!

They collided in the middle, creating a massive shockwave and clashing weapons while they looked at each other.

Yasenia's expression hardened. 'This is not Sarah. It is the thing inside her.'

"Sarah" twisted its wrist, deflecting Yasenia's weapon, and with perfect and calculated steps, it managed to dive deep while swinging its sword and aiming at Yasenia's waist.

Yasenia quickly reacted, using her tail to slash at Sarah's leg to force it to stop the attack, but as if it had predicted it, "Sarah" took three steps back to avoid her attack while spinning and using three consecutive skills.

"[Pyroforge Prowess: Inferno Chain]."

The cold and emotionless voice triggered the Fire Energy in the surroundings, summoning three wide fire arcs at extremely close range.

Yasenia's face changed. 'This attack will also hurt her!'

"[Celestial Cosmos Dress]!"

The sides of her incredibly long skirt lifted like a wall, and the three attacks landed with tremendous momentum.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

While Yasenia received the attack, it chanted. "[Sylvanweave Sorcery: Verdant Veil]."

At the same time, Yasenia took several steps back, and using her spiritual sense to locate her enemy in the sea of flames, she noticed a shadow approaching from her left.

Quickly turning, the dragoness slashed, using [Draconic Sunset] without holding back.

The pressure of her attack blew the flames away, revealing the creature coming at her. 'This isn't Sarah!'

It was a plant creature that had Sarah's shape and aura, but it was not her.

'Danger!'

While her sword cleaved the plant Sarah in half, a hidden presence materialized behind her.

"[Elemental Synergy Surge], [Essence-Infused Blade]."

Yasenia's face hardened, and her aura burst with incomparable energy. "[STAR DRAGON ROAR]!"

ROAR!

A massive white explosive sound echoed, pushing the person slashing at her back away. However, from its sword, a wide arc of multicolored energy hit Yasenia, creating a loud, explosive sound.

BANG!

Yasenia was blasted forward, rolling on the ground a few times and leaving a trail of blood. Using her tail, she corrected her stance and quickly refocused on "Sarah."

Yasenia felt her back burning and felt the trickling of her blood. "Good. Now I know."

She hadn't left her guard down for a second, and yet, she was overwhelmed by skill. The thing she was fighting felt like a senior, but not quite. 'It's as if a senior was restricted by a weak body. It's not impossible to win.'

On the other side, Tatyana's face was chilling cold, but she didn't interfere. Getting injuries was a normal part of being a cultivator, and enemies that could injure Yaseenia without being many realms above were rare.

Killing "Sarah" because it damaged Yaseenia was stupidity in itself. Regardless of whether Yaseenia lost or won, this was an extremely valuable experience.

Yaseenia spun her large sword once, and a tyrannical energy wave spread from her, engulfing her surroundings.

"[Empyrean Galaxy Domain]."

A massive pressure increase came from Yaseenia, but "Sarah" maintained an indifferent expression.

Without a single shred of doubt, "Sarah" charged forward. "[Stoneheart Stance: Quakestrike]."

Each of her steps made the land around them literally tremble, and the floor below Yaseenia exploded, engulfing the dragons in a lethal attack.

However, from the aftershock, Yaseenia emerged, surrounded by a silver dome created by [Draconic Full Moon].

Then, Yaseenia's entire presence became oppressive, and everything seemed to fall under her control.

A galactic-blue aura surrounded her entire being, and "Sarah's" expression flickered for the first time.

"[Celestial Assimilation]."

WHOOSH!

The phantom night sky created by [Empyrean Galaxy Domain] twisted as a titanic vortex of silver, gold, and white energy spun around Yaseenia and combined into a giant sphere in the sky.

The image of a mystical blue star surrounded by a black halo filled with constellations materialized after the energies converged.

"[Pegasus Gallop]."

"Sarah's" eyes flickered as she lost sight of Yaseenia, who appeared at her right in the next instant.

"[Draconic Sunrise Barrage]."

Flashes of golden light manifested with each of Yaseenia's sword strikes, showing an absurd consecutive use of a skill.

"Sarah" quickly changed her footwork and began dodging and blocking the powerful attacks raining on it.

While skills could be used one after another, they needed a small buffer, even if they were the same skill.

Yasenia's Assimilation skills, like Sun Assimilation, when combined with Celestial Energy, gave birth to [Celestial Assimilation]. This skill was not an attacking skill but a supporting one.

The effects? Absurd amounts of energy gathering while in combat. In short, Yasenia was in a state where she could "spam" skills at will.

"[Draconic Noon]."

An enormous golden wave of energy scorched everything in its way, and "Sarah" could only block with the lotus skill.

But even before that skill was over, the dragoness pointed at the sky, and every single celestial body created in the phantom night sky fell as if the strings attaching them to the sky had been cut.

It looked upward and coldly uttered. "[High-Grade Spirit Summoning: Earth King]."

The entire land below "Sarah" became "alive" and transformed into a humanoid creature with just its upper body sticking out of the ground. Even then, the size was mountain-dwarfing.

The enormous High-grade Earth spirit used its own body to block the literal falling sky.

Countless explosions created by the giant Sun, Moon, and countless stars ravaged the mountain-sized titan, blocking the attack but, at the same time, being destroyed.

However, Yasenia was not still during this time.

A few instants before the titan blocked Yasenia's attack, she combined her charge skills and movement technique. With nonsensical speed, she streaked through the battlefield, surrounded by colorful lights representing her elements, arriving beside "Sarah."

Its eyes widened slightly, thinking that Yasenia had quite literally appeared below her attack.

'Calculation Miss. Opponent Yasenia Dravory had believed I would block the seemingly unstoppable attack and took me off-guard.'

Yasenia's [Draconic Heart] burst with tremendous energy, and Yasenia roared as she used every single melee attack skill she had in quick succession.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!  
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!  
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!  
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

"Sarah" couldn't keep up with the monstrous waves of attacks, and several injuries began appearing around its entire body.

With a quick sideways strike, Yasenia managed to blow "Sarah's" sword sideways, and her tail lashed several times in an instant, surrounded in silver energies and creating tens of silver crescents.

"Sarah's" sword flashed continuously, barely blocking all of them and gaining a few bloody slashes across her body.

Then, the dragoness transformed [Draconic Heart] into a pair of dragon claws and entered melee combat.

Punching "Sarah's" sword sideways one more time with a quick strike accompanied by [Sun Dragon Claw], her other fist landed deeply into "Sarah's" stomach, exploding with [Moon Dragon Claw].

"Sarah" spat blood and flew.

Not giving her a single instant of rest, Yasenia overworked her meridians to use all her speed-enhancing skills to overcome Sarah's flying body, punching downwards at the streaking "Sarah."

BOOM!

It was hit on the side of the head and sunk deep into the ground, creating a giant crater.

"Sarah" quickly reacted, bursting with a combination of water and fire skills that created light injuries on Yasenia. However, as if she didn't see her own body bleeding, the dragoness pushed forward and used her fists, legs, and tail to deliver an absolutely devastating barrage of attacks.

[Sunrise], [Crescent Moon], [Sunset], [Sun Dragon Claw], and many other skills continuously burst from her fists, many landing on "Sarah's" body and creating heavy injuries.

At the same time, "Sarah" also used its quintuple elemental attacks to answer and try to survive the onslaught. With powerful healing skills like [Healing Ripples], [Blossom Bloom Healing], and her body-enhancing skill [Advanced Elemental Defense], "Sarah" could bear the barrage of attacks that would've killed any other participant in the tournament many times over.

The collision of their attacks left deep marks on their surroundings, and their bodies moved across the Treasure Land, closely followed by Tatyana and the others.

Everyone was in awe, the seniors included, not realizing that Yasenia had grown so much since she had not really encountered equals until now to showcase her growth.

Tatyana couldn't help but feel proud that her young, fifty-year-old daughter was the one fighting hand-to-hand with an absurd existence like a System.

With a quick combination of tail and leg attacks, Yasenia created a small opening that she didn't miss.

"[STAR DRAGON CLAW]."

Her fist, surrounded in glittering white light and the blue-colored [Draconic Heart], streaked like a shooting star, deeply and firmly landing on "Sarah's" stomach.

BOOOOM!

The ground sunk because of the shockwave, and "Sarah" spat a mouthful of blood, becoming a comet that flew across and smashed against a large rock in the distance.

Then, Yasenia's body exploded with even more energy, her meridians shrieking in pain as the absurd amounts of energy roiled inside of her, and she activated [Star Dragon Body] and [Starfall].

The next second, the phantom black night sky turned white.

Thousands upon thousands of five-meter-wide white stars were summoned by Yasenia, blotting the sky with their absurd majesty and beauty.

Yasenia pointed her hand at the sky as if she was grabbing the firmament, and then, with a throwing motion that looked strenuous, she flung the white river of stars toward Sarah.



"Sarah" looked at the incoming attack that would quickly kill a middle-level Epoch Core, and it began calculating counterattacks at inhuman speeds.

'Analyzing odds of survival. Unknown. Analyzing the strength of the attack. Too little time. Analyzing optimal path of attack. Done. Further analysis will be made during the attack. Using 100% of computing power.'

"Sarah" took a deep breath and then exhaled while relaxing its body.

As air left its mouth, a multicolored aura shone around it.

'Unlocking body's maximum potential, unlocking innate skill evolution via potential burning, secondary effects guarded by using 20,000 Shop Points.'

BOOOM!

"Sarah's" hair blew wildly, the five-colored glow around it exploding upward like a pillar of energy.

"[Primordial Element Mastery: Endless Spirit Slaughter]."

Then, the [Elemental Spirit Splitting Sword] in its hands blurred as it hacked at the endless stars raining at it.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!  
SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!  
SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

As the stars streaked and approached "Sarah," they were cut in half once they entered within a one-hundred-meter radius of "Sarah," stopping their momentum and making them explode outside a dangerous radius.

"Sarah's" body moved so accurately and precisely that even the slightest muscle reaction was calculated before making it.

Efficient, ruthless, precise.

Those were the adjectives that described "Sarah's" assault.

As its body moved, it looked like a person in the middle of torrential rain, cutting down all the water drops before they could enter a certain radius, creating a strange, dome-like area where nothing happened.

Yasenia was constantly summoning stars and looking over with cold, calculating eyes.

'While she isn't showing fatigue, I can feel her energy reserves lowering. It seems that it will be an endurance battle or something decided in a single moment. I can't use [Day and Night], or my meridians won't last. I need to wait until [Celestial Assimilation] ends, which will happen in about six seconds. I should go all out with all the energy I've gathered.'

[Draconic Heart] changed back to a giant broadsword shape, and she used her charge skills and movement technique to flash forward and approach "Sarah."

This time, it was alert, and even while cutting down the thousands of stars, it sensed Yasenia approaching.

Its emotionless eyes flashed and suddenly stopped cutting down the stars. "[Elemental Warding Lotus]."

An enormous five-colored lotus surrounded Sarah, twice as big as the first one it summoned, and the stars that previously couldn't advance suddenly fell onto them.

From the outside, it looked as if Yassenia and "Sarah" were about to be swallowed by the monstrous attack, and Tatyana's heart tightened.

Meanwhile, Yassenia's face remained unchanged. "Did you think I wouldn't predict something like this?"

"[Celestial Field Master]."

With a profound ripple, all the stars stopped unnaturally, as if someone had hit the pause button.

Then, Yassenia stomped the ground and placed her sword back, instantly lunging forward as she swung her giant sword.

"[Empyrean Star Collapse]."

All the stars that stopped became light streams and rushed toward Yassenia's sword, exploding with radiance comparable to a thousand Suns.

"Sarah's" face hardened because an aura that felt threatening descended, pressuring everything, as a white Sun seemed to envelop Yassenia's sword.

Then, her attack collided with the lotus, but unlike their first clash, the result this time was very different.

The massive white shockwave from [Empyrean Star Collapse] ripped through the [Elemental Warding Lotus], and a cold-faced Yassenia managed to get face to face with "Sarah."

"Die."

BOOOOOM!

Chapter 697: "Hands Off My Child, System."

The enormous explosion created by [Empyrean Star Collapse] was large enough to blind most spectators for a small timeframe.

The explosion was so devastating that almost everybody in the Treasure Land heard it.

After all, during their fight, they didn't stop in one place, and they had moved a long trail while being pushed by each other's attacks, creating a path of destruction.

Laurina gulped and asked. "Aunt Tatyana, do you think Yassenia won?"

The rest of the people present looked over.

Tatyana looked on calmly. "Not yet."

As if they were answering Tatyana's words, an aura burst blasted all the dust away, showing the battle situation.

On one side, Yassenia stood still, breathing heavily as the aftereffects of her reckless use of energy ran through her body, making her legs and muscles twitch.

On the other side, Sarah stood missing an entire arm and with a large gash that ran from her shoulder to her waist, revealing her ribcage and dropping rivers of blood.

Soraia, the tall, muscular, brown-haired human woman, rushed forward. "Sarah!"

Tatyana squinted, but she didn't intervene. She didn't need to.

Soraia's pupils shrunk as she summoned an enormous two-handed battle ax and swung it toward her right while coating her body in an energy armor.

CLANG!

Her attacker was repelled, but not by much, showing that their strengths were similar.

The one attacking her was Harmony, the white-feathered bird woman. "Where are you going, Soraia?"

Soraia looked solemnly at Harmony. "Is this conflict really deep enough to kill each other?"

The one who answered was Angel as she walked slowly toward Soraia. "I didn't want to intervene if you stayed in your place, but you are leaving me no choice."

BOOM!

Her aura soared, making her calf-length blonde hair wildly flutter in the air. "Hey, why did you rush forward? Are you trying to attack a weakened Yasenia?"

Angel's tone was chilling to the point that it didn't sound like her.

Soraia's expression hardened, looking cautiously at the monster in the skin of a little girl approaching her. "I didn't."

Angel sneered. "Oh? You didn't? [Truth Intent Level Two]."

A pale white ripple spread with Angel in the middle, engulfing her. Soraia spoke before her brain even processed. "I wanted to attack Yasenia to give Sarah time to recover."

Then, her eyes widened. "Y-You, how?"

Angel laughed chillingly and lifted her two arms. In the next second, [Glass Heart Shield] appeared in one of her arms while she grasped the hilt of her longsword with her other hand.

BANG!

Soraia and the others looked sideways as the explosion came from the main battlefield.

Yasenia had shot forward toward the motionless Sarah.

At the same time, Lea, Astarea, Bai Ling, and Su Ling Shi rushed toward Yasenia.

However, as if they were matching them, Dorian, Lana, Harmony, and Paledora rushed to block them.

Each took care of one, which allowed them all to be blocked.

While all of this happened, there was one person who didn't turn to look, and that was Angel.

"Hey, where are you looking?"

Soraia's body erupted in chills as the voice wasn't as far as before, but it came from right beside her. "[Magma Shield]!"

A hasty magma shield was summoned at her side, but it only earned a scoff from her attacker.

"Andrea's defense is ten times stronger. [Light Severing Sword]."

SLASH!

The magma shield split in half, and the woman behind fared only relatively better.

A massive eruption of blood burst from Soraia's center as if she had been slashed in two. But the blood only burst from the front, showing that the vertical wound was not as deep.

The only reason she wasn't instantly bisected was the defense she placed against Harmony moments earlier.

However, even if one attack didn't work, others would. Angel knew Soraia's intentions, so she was ruthless. In these tense fights, a single distraction can cost one's life, and Soraia's intentions, even if well-intentioned, were not a "little" distraction.

"[Eight Brilliant Swords]."

With all the other human girls being stopped by the beast-human girls and Sarah and Yasenia about to clash again, sadly, no one could save her.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

Meanwhile, in front of Sarah's eyes, a message popped.

[Ding! Rewards reduced by 20%.]

'Eh?'

The real Sarah's eyes widened, not comprehending the message.

While the System had fought with her body, she had been like a third-person spectator looking at what was happening.

She was honestly scared. She thought Yasenia was already overwhelming when fighting her, yet it appeared she had gone easy on her until the system emerged.

That was a misunderstanding, as Yasenia was initially gauging Sarah's strength to finish her off efficiently later.

Regardless, Sarah had been communicating with the system during the combat, asking about winning odds and such, but the only answers she received were unknowns.

Counting this time, the system had possessed her four times, and the previous three were all quick and overwhelming victories for it. However, the system had lost an arm this time, and Yasenia's giant sword had almost split it in half.

However, there weren't any messages announcing defeat, which she had asked to tell her if it was more than 60% sure of defeat.

Still, once Yasenia charged at "her" again, Sarah became nervous, but she had confidence in the system. The reason was that Yasenia seemed to be tired, and the aura around her was not as oppressive as a moment before.

Even the speed looked much slower.

However, while looking at Yasenia, she forgot to look at her surroundings, and a message that made her brain freeze appeared before her.

'Rewards reduced by twenty percent?'

Sarah used this "ghost-like" state to look around, ignoring the about-to-restart battle with Yasenia, and spotted Soraia being sliced in chunks by Angel.

She had naturally heard their previous exchange, but Sarah had previously spoken with Angel, and in her mind, that woman was nothing but a cute and pampered girl who acted like a baby with Yasenia.

Yet, what Sarah was looking at was a cold-faced blonde woman who didn't even blink as she slaughtered her lover.

'Ah...'

Her voice was a choking lament, as if her emotions had twisted into a knot and didn't know how to be expressed.

Yasenia arrived in front of them at this point, lifting her sword and swinging it down mercilessly.

The world before Sarah slowed down, and she looked at the giant broadsword descending.

Then, she spoke bleakly. 'System. Kill everyone at any cost as long as I end in a reparable state.'

[Order Accepted.]

Sarah's body then burst with so much pain that Sarah fainted even in her "ghost form."

However, the system didn't care and followed her orders.

[Soul Combustion Activated.]

[Blood Essence Combustion Activated.]

[Potential Combustion Activated.]

[Needed Points to cushion the aftereffects with current strength are 12,500,000.]

[Not enough points.]

[Chances of self-injury 100%, ignored by Host's request.]

[Chances of self-crippling 100%, ignored by Host's request.]

[Chances of Death 85%, reduced to 0.01% after system intervention. Danger risk acceptable.]

[Unlocking Quasi-Transcendent state: Elemental Lord. Time remaining before burning kills host, 17 seconds.]

BOOOOOOM!

A few instants earlier, Yasenia was swinging down her sword with the intent to kill Sarah, yet, a moment later, her vision blurred as the entire world appeared to spin around her at extremely high speed.

'Huh?'

Then, her brain shrieked in pain as the bones in her entire body were filled with cracks. The feeling of having been hit by a metal wall spread around her whole self, and her organs were all ruptured, making her cough blood while she flew across the entire Treasure Land without control, smashing through dozens of large boulders and cratering into the side of a distant mountain.

All the air was forcefully expelled from her lungs because of the impact, and her skull fractured, making her so dizzy that she couldn't tell north from south. Her ears rang, her vision was gone from the shock, and her sense of smell and taste was filled with the taste and scent of her own blood.

If she were a mortal, her current injuries would be enough to kill her ten times over. The injuries were as bad as the ones she had received during her Heavenly Tribulations.

"W-What, COUGH, happened? BLREGH! COUGH, COUGH, COUGH!"

Yasenia was vomiting blood and pieces of organs as if her insides wanted to be expelled from her mouth.

She spread her spiritual sense, but she could see nothing inside her range, meaning she had been thrown flying for many kilometers. After the small moments of dizziness where she couldn't even think, she knew she couldn't remain in this state, so she immediately used her Celestial Energy with her Dragon Body techniques.

"[Celestial Dragon Body]!"

BOOOM!

Her heavily damaged meridians poured half of the Celestial energy left in the Celestial Energy Star into Yasenia's body and enveloped everything with its presence.

The dragoness's entire body began healing at nonsensical speeds, and while she continued to vomit blood and organ chunks, they were just the ones her body expelled in order to heal itself quicker.

Let's return a few moments earlier.

After the system released [Elemental Lord], Tatyana's and Mirrory's expressions sank, and they moved while bursting out without holding back a single bit. Their level nine intents exploded, and they instantly attacked "Sarah" with the intention to kill.

Sarah, or better put, the System, in its [Elemental Lord] state, gained the strength of a half-step Dantian Spiritualization Realm cultivator that was about to break through into the Transcendence Realm by burning the potential, soul, and Sarah's life-span.

This kind of technique was not known in the lower realms or middle realms, Sky Continent included, because if anybody used even one of those three, it would mean certain death.

So, if, by chance, someone discovered them and used them to test their effects, they would die, making it impossible to spread.

Worse, even in the places that it was known, it was only used by people who gave up everything and were desperate to the point of being consumed by heart demons. The reason was that, while burning even one of those, the very existence of the person would be crippled, which meant that their subsequent reincarnations would also feel that potential, lifespan, or soul burning.

Of course, as a system made by the heaven itself, it had a way of cushioning 99% of the effects. And still, if Sarah managed to escape alive, her existence would become miserable, to say the least, until she could gather enough system points to buy a panacea that could cure these symptoms.

After entering the Elemental Lord state, Yassenia's movements, which had been extremely quick, appeared so laughably slow that she might as well be still.

As an emotionless system, it was merciless.

It didn't think; it didn't ponder whether to kill Yassenia; it just did it.

"Die. [Elemental Lord's Punishment]."

The system's remaining arm moved forward, violently twisting the very fabric of space while five-colored light engulfed hundreds of kilometers around it.

Everyone in the entire Treasure Land saw the massive five-colored light engulfing everything in a presence that made those below the middle level of the Ethereal Soul realm slam against the ground, helpless and afraid.

However, to the system's surprise, two women appeared between Yassenia and itself with violent Death and Truth energies surging around them.

The system was confused.

[Nine Level Nine Intents detected. Extra calculations start. Result: Yassenia Dravory's Death is inevitable unless a Holy-rank skill is used. The probability of them owning one is infinitely close to zero, proceeding with the initial plan.]

Seeing the fist continuing its path, Tatyana and Mirrory acted.

One had an indifferent expression, her green eyes looking at the system with disdain as her long red hair gently swayed with her movements.

Meanwhile, the other had ruby-colored eyes oozing enough killing intent to kill mortals with a glance, her expression was bone-chilling to the point of giving nightmares and create heart demons, while her voice had a phantasmal undertone.

"Hands off my child, system. [Divine Lich Empress's Abyssal Aegis]."

"[Divine Truth: Block]."

[Miscalculation. Two unknown rank skills have been used.]

Meanwhile, Angel felt enormous amounts of energy flowing out of her body, making her lose balance.

Still, even before she could fall or properly think about it, an explosion that shook the entire Treasure Land blasted her and every other person there, flying like a leaf in a hurricane.

BOOOOOOM!

After the tsunami of multicolored light, an earthquake swallowed the entire treasure land.

Even when Tatyana and Mirrory protected 99.9% of the attack, the remaining 0.1% struck Yasenias as they were a fraction of a second too slow.

And that zero point one percent was what sent Yasenias flying like a shooting star across the Treasure Land and smashed her against a distant mountain, almost killing her.

Chapter 698: Sealed Fate. Conclusion to the conflict.

The results from the collision for the main parties involved were Tatyana and Mirrory being pushed back several hundred meters and the System sliding back just a few steps.

While their skills were strong, their cultivation level was pitifully weak.

As a level eight Unification Realm cultivator facing a half-step Dantian Spiritualization Realm, the matchup was similar to a mortal facing off against a Mental Nourishing Realm cultivator. In a normal situation, the mortal would be instantly killed before it knew what happened.

Of course, our seniors' Intent and personal skills greatly shaved off the distance between the System's current strength and Tatyana's and Mirrory's strength.

Moreover, while Tatyana was at the eighth level, her energy reserves were practically infinite as she drew energy from her original Dantian.

For those who had forgotten, the body she used was like a "body suit," while the soul and dantian were shared between her main body and this one by the singular entity called "Tatyana."

There were no "two" Tatanas but one with two bodies.

The only thing Tatyana needed to do to use energy with the [Divine Lich Empress Body] was transform her extremely high level and pure energy to a usable one that wouldn't explode her current "weak" body.

In short, she had infinite energy because the energy she used was from the demigoddess-tier Dantian.

On the other hand, Mirrory still couldn't create and gather energy on her own because it would damage Angel. Angel was still too weak to summon a small part of herself, and for Mirrory to accumulate energy on her own, she needed to at least have a small part of her "body" in the "real world."

Therefore, her combat capabilities were greatly shackled.

Mirrory communicated with Tatyana in less than a fraction of a second. "Tatyana, you are the main offense. I'll support you and wait to give lethal strikes. Angel wouldn't be able to feed me enough energy to keep up for the entirety of the battle."

Tatyana's voice was cold and terrifying. "Do as you please. That thing dared to damage my little treasure so heavily, almost killing her. If I don't make its emotionless self scream in pain until its throat is hoarse and begs for the sweet release of Death, my name is not Tatyana Dravory."

Mirrory looked at Tatyana's face and felt her lips twitch. 'Even some Gods of Death have less killing intent than this monster. Just how many lives has she reaped during her lifetime? It is at least a few



dozen worlds...' Then, she released a small laugh. 'If Jing'er were still here, she would've probably hunted down Tatyana since she was very righteous, considering her an evil cultivator.'

When their conversation ended, time normally ticked again. Before anything else could happen, Tatyana and Mirrory saw the System appearing in front of them with a cold and emotionless face and lifting a sword wrapped in mountain-destroying energies.

While Unification Realm cultivators had the destruction range of several cities to several mountains, high-level Dantian Spiritualization Realm cultivators could already do devastating damage to the surface of a planet.

With enough time, a peak-level Dantian Spiritualization cultivator would be able to make a habitable world inhabitable. Of course, it depends on the world's size and other factors, like the world's level, but you get the idea of how powerful they are.

One could lay waste to mountain ranges, and the other could lay waste to continents.

And at that moment, the System had the strength of the latter.

"[Elemental Lord's Annihilation]."

The [Elemental spirit Severing Sword] descended, carrying the momentum of a meteor.

Tatyana's face was stoic as she rushed toward the System and extended her empty hand.

"[Abyssal Strikes]."

Her Death energies outstretched twisted from her hand, creating a complex and beautiful 1.2-meter-long sword.

It was a replica of her primary weapon, [Death Dragon Bone Sword].

The Death Empress swung her sword, waves of Death Energy gathering with her attack and moving to collide with the land-changing sword strike.

Mirrory frowned, feeling that Tatyana's attack was much weaker than the Systems. 'Should I help?'

However, Tatyana's red eyes flashed with white lights, and the System's expression changed for the first time. 'Fate manipulation?'

Meanwhile, Mirrory's outstretching hand stopped, and her lips arched. 'No need to help, it seems.'

Clang~!

Instead of a catastrophic collision, a melodic echo ringed across the entire Treasure Land, and Tatyana's and the System's attacks altogether canceled each other.

The System was slightly stunned, but its body did not stop even for a fraction of a second.

Then, a cacophony of metallic sounds began echoing like a Heavenly melody.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

The System released a barrage of attacks that should've annihilated several mountains, yet, other than the speed of their clash. It appeared like a regular sword exchange between mortals.

Tatyana's face was emotionless as she faced attacks that were enough to make even many of the leaders of the top powers feel scared.

Her sword danced elegantly, appearing neither hurried nor overwhelming.

Her steps, moves, and strikes created ripples through the air, and her beauty was only exalted even when a death match was occurring.

What Tatyana was doing was striking the skill's core by using her [Future Sight] and destroying it before it exploded, a feat that was only possible when one side was overwhelmingly superior mastery-wise.

Only one second had gone by, even if hundreds of sword strikes had been exchanged, but the System hadn't even been able to advance a step from its initial position.

It was entirely suppressed by raw skill and combat mastery.

[Calculating possible answers for current combat situation.]

[Error.]

[Calculating opponent skill level.]

[Error.]

[Calculating Reasons for the outcome of attacks, including obscure database. One second needed.]

Tatyana's chilling voice entered the System's ears. "Hey, no need to think so hard. The reason you can't do anything is because I'm destroying the core of your pathetic skills. An immature System like yourself won't be able to reach a conclusion, and since we will spend much time together in the future, I thought of letting you know."

The System blinked without stopping its attempts and different strategies and was blocked by Tatyana's sublime sword mastery.

"[Probability of Opponent lying to affect performance, nearing 100%.]"

Tatyana sneered. "Lie? To garbage like you? That is below me, pathetic trash. [Fate Severing Strike]."

Tatyana's sword blurred and hacked three times around the System, missing its body completely.

The System was confused, but it didn't let go of its chance and slashed at Tatyana's neck.

The Death Empress's red eyes didn't even look at the sword as she lifted her weapon vertically, gathering energy and ignoring the attack.

The System's eyes glittered, thinking that the sword would land, but a dainty foot appeared above its sword and tapped it.

BANG!

The tap was gentle, but the System's eyes opened because it felt as if a mountain had struck the sword.

Not wanting to release the sword, its entire body was thrown cratering into the ground with a massive dust explosion.

The one who blocked the System's strike was a red-haired beauty.

She floated above it, looking down at the System lying on the ground indifferently.

For the first time, the System felt inferior. On an existence level, it felt that the red-haired, green-eyed gorgeous woman was a "superior" being compared to itself.

It wanted to analyze the red-haired woman, but its vision was rapidly flooded with error messages, making its brain freeze momentarily.

At least, with Tatyana, it could analyze the strength she was releasing, but with the red-haired woman, the only thing it could "see" was the four Intents swirling around her.

Everything else was an error, baffling it.

Mirrory asked. "What are you staring at? Two seconds have gone by, thing. If it weren't because we want to capture you, you would've died a hundred times over. Also, why aren't you healing your missing arm? So much for something made by the Heavens."

Tatyana answered. "Even as a System, my little treasure attack had Celestial Energy. Healing that kind of wound is not something it, or even us, can do in a few seconds."

Mirrory rolled her eyes. "It was a rhetoric question. Have you finished?"

Tatyana smiled chillingly. "A while ago, but I was curious as to how long it would stay stunned after analyzing you. Do you think it saw anything?"

Mirrory floated sideways, leaving Tatyana a way forward. "I don't care or know. Finish it off quickly. Its strength is in the Dantian Spiritualization peak, but it's false strength. A real one would've been a bit harder to defeat. Also, don't you want to go and see Yaseia's state?"

The System stood up slowly, the legs feeling heavy because the body was reaching the limits of its strain.

[11 seconds left. Finding ways of fulfilling user conditions. Error, impossible to fulfill. Finding the best way forward. Found, prioritize escape, and minimize damage to the host. Utilizing <Elemental Lord's Astral Shift>.]

BOOM!

Space began twisting, and the two seniors looked at its body while it melded in the folds of space and disappeared from their sight.

Mirrory blinked. "It escaped."

Tatyana shook her head. "Did you think escaping me is that easy?"

Then, she thrust the black sword forward, and it "pierced" space, disappearing into the air. Then, Tatyana's body exploded with energy, the meridians working over their limits, and she slashed sideways, opening the World.

"[Fate Altering: Reality Render]."

CRRACK!

For a second, reality crashed, and the body of the System appeared in the middle of the torn space. Its eyes widening with stupefaction. "What?"

Then, Tatyana threw her sword upward, and her entire body exploded with a Death energy pillar that swallowed it.

"[Death's Descent]."

In contrast to the hasty deployment against the Abyssal Horror, this time, she wielded it with careful preparation, avoiding the gruesome spectacle of her body exploding into gore.

The sword, wrapped in dreadful Death energies, flew toward the System's chest.

It was honestly not too fast. Even an ordinary low-level fifth realm cultivator would've been able to avoid it.

However, it couldn't move.

'Why?'

It was confused and analyzed the entire battle while the sword flew at it. It was that slow.

Then, it remembered one skill that "missed" from Tatyana. '[Fate severing Sword]'

Tatyana's cold and ruthless eyes were fixed on its face. "You had four escape routes. I severed three options from your thought process. You might have analyzed the most efficient way to continue and realized that it was fleeing, right? Well, yelling surrender would've allowed you the help of this tournament thing, and I'm unsure if I would've been able to interfere there, so I decided to get rid of that outcome altogether."

The sword had crossed the halfway distance between them, and the System quickly acted. "I surrender!"

Tatyana laughed in mockery. "Would I explain if I didn't believe that you are done for with complete and utter certainty? I've severed the World from around us for a few seconds. Not even the Heavens can help you now."

And, one more time, for the first time, the System felt its heart skip a beat and its limbs becoming chilly.

Tatyana's smiling face became cold, with evident anger in her eyes. "System, I'm going to send you to meet me. Although I can't use you, as the main heavens would kill me, I'll break you so thoroughly that you will wish that the Sky Continent's Heavens didn't create you in the first place."

Then, the black sword's tip touched its chest, and Sarah and the System were swallowed in a silent sphere of Death energies.

The next second, everything returned to the previous calm, leaving behind a titanic crater where the first collision occurred as evidence that it wasn't a dream.

Tatyana looked at the empty spot for a second, and Mirrory approached, extending her hand.

Mirrory smirked. "I know you can't walk."

Tatyana snorted, but she obediently grabbed Mirrory's arm, leaning on her. "Sigh, I'm too old- I mean, I'm extremely young, and my growing symptoms are making me sleepy."

Mirrory looked speechlessly at the shameless woman she carried, not knowing how to react. "Aren't you ashamed?"

Tatyana smirked playfully while her eyes moved toward the place where Yassenia was thrown. To her surprise, she saw a blood-drenched Yassenia flying toward her with a worried expression.

Tatyana sighed, feeling her heart hurt a bit. "That silly girl, she should've obediently waited wherever she landed and recovered slowly."

Mirrory smiled. "She probably came when she felt the battle signals stopping. It seems that the previous lesson was deeply learned."

Tatyana smiled a bit, but she said with a depressed tone. "We were a bit late. I didn't expect something like that."

Mirrory admitted it. "Even while paying attention, it took us both by surprise. That child shouldn't have received that attack. Thankfully, I can't see any form of permanent damage from a first look. Still, we have to ask Valeria to look at her in depth."

Tatyana smiled. "Well, as long as she is alive, everything is fine. I don't believe we can't heal her with our knowledge combined."

Mirrory smirked.

After a moment, Tatyana commented while looking at her. "By the way, can you kill the human lovers of that woman before my little treasure sees them?"

Mirrory blinked. "Why?"

Tatyana commented leisurely. "I don't want this drama to continue. Just kill them all and say to the beast-human ex-lovers that it was the initial explosion that killed them. I'll tell Little Treasure later."

Mirrory pondered for a second and asked. "Lea included?"

Tatyana nodded. "Yes. Even if she was controlled, I don't want any variable if I can avoid it. Killing all is the most efficient way."

Mirrory shrugged and waved her hand.

On another part, Angel, who just managed to stand up after recovering from Mirrory sucking out her energy, felt her legs wobbling again and comically fell face-first against the hard ground. "Ouch."

She wanted to cry. 'Why is Mirrory still using energy? I hurt my nose.'

Tatyana saw it and laughed a bit. "Cute."

Mirrory commented. "It's done."

Tatyana nodded and separated from Mirrory because the bloodied dragoness threw herself in her arms, throwing her against the ground because of the hug's impulse.

Tatyana grunted and laughed, feeling happy that her dear was still so energetic.

"Mom, are you okay!?"

Tatyana smiled. "That's my question."

Yasenia smiled broadly. "I used a Celestial skill, so I'm gradually getting healed. There is no danger."

Tatyana asked. "How are your injuries?"

Yasenia said with a smile. "Much better. My left lung just healed, allowing me to breathe again; my heart has healed the severed muscles, and more than half of my bones only have a few fractures from previously being broken. Also, my other organs and my skull are completely recovered. Oh, my tail is also in good health again, with only a few scales missing."

"That's much better?" Tatyana felt flabbergasted.

She seriously pondered. 'Was my training a bit too effective? Any other person would be squealing in pain like a pig.'

Mirrory's lips lightly arched with amusement, and a tiny laugh escaped her mouth; even her indifferent green eyes gained a touch of warmth. 'With this, everything is finally done... Oh? The other children are approaching, they look worried.'

Chapter 699: Sarah's End.

"Cough, cough."

After opening her eyes, the woman was confused. She felt her entire body hurting as if a stampede of beasts had run her over.

Looking around, she couldn't identify nor remember where she was.

"Where am I?"

Her eyes widened sluggishly as the tone of her own voice sounded so hoarse and damaged that it made her gut twist.

"My voice-."

She quickly stopped speaking and thought. 'What happened to my voice? No, what happened to my entire body? Why does it hurt so much? System?'

The woman, Sarah, asked in her head, but to her confusion, nobody answered.

"Oh? You are awake?"

A gentle and ethereal voice reached her ears, making her body shudder. 'Such a pleasant voice.'

With a somewhat blurry sight, she lifted her head and looked at the woman. Her appearance instantly stole her breath away.

The woman looking at her wore white and green royal clothes of an oriental nature, and her hair was as white as snow. Her two phoenix eyes commanded respect, and the ghostly green color gave an eerie but captivating aura.

The gentle-looking and ethereal woman smiled softly, lighting up the dark surroundings with her unreal beauty. "Hello, my esteemed name is Jian Ying Yue, the [Undead Empress], one of the strongest undead under the Death Empress's absolute command. Her Majesty, the Death Empress, has personally informed me to take care of you and heal your wounds until she halts her closed-door cultivation session. After all, she was preparing to break through, but she interrupted her session to welcome you."

'Take care of me? Welcome me? Why-.'

Then, like a film playing at forward speed, the events that happened previously flashed through her head.

The woman's honey-colored eyes widened. "Right, I was fighting Yassenia... My arm!"

She quickly looked down, but to her surprise, she had both arms. Moreover, her voice also seemed to have significantly recovered. "Was I hoarse because I just woke up?"

As she thought that, a question reached her ears.

"Hm? Fighting who?"

The pretty brown-haired woman, Sarah, looked up and saw that the gentle smile of the woman who called herself Jian Ying Yue had widened. "Is she worried?"

Feeling goodwill toward her, she quickly begged the gentle-looking woman. "P-Please, help me save some people! I swear I'll return the favor no matter how much it costs me!"

Sarah saw the otherworldly beauty look at her intensely. Then, she asked again, strangely focusing on one point. "Who did you say that you were fighting?"

Sarah blinked, confused. "Someone called Yassenia. B-But that's not important; I need to save my lovers from her! If I'm late, she might kill them!"

The white-haired woman pondered and then smiled. "Let's focus on your opponent. Remember that I haven't been told anything, so I need to understand your situation a bit before I do anything. You said she was called Yassenia? Can you describe her for me?"

Confused, Sarah asked. "Will this help with my request?"

Jian Ying Yue laughed, her ghostly green eyes shining with profound emotions. "Of course, even if you want me to go somewhere, I need an anchor or something to search for that place, right?"

Sarah's eyes shone with realization. "I see. Well, Yassenia is a dragon woman. She is very tall, at least a head taller than you. Then... She is very voluptuous, with golden slit eyes and long midnight-black straight hair! Oh, right, she has a long blue-colored dragon tail with golden rings, and the tail sparkles white lights."

Jian Ying Yue's smile widened as Sarah spoke.

"Oh." She uttered.

Sarah blinked, not knowing what that sound even meant.

"Out of curiosity, how are things between you and her?"

Unable to read anything from the woman's smiling face, Sarah frowned and said with hatred. "S-She killed my lovers! Although I used a trump card, I don't know if I managed to kill her. However, I know that I-."

"Kill her? You almost killed her?"

Sarah stopped speaking after being sharply interrupted and looked back at the otherworlder woman.

"Yes. My memories are fuzzy, but I know that she received an attack that heavily injured her. It would be best if she had died from the wounds, but I'm not sure. Listen, Lady Jian Ying Yue, that

woman is trying to kill my lovers, so I need to help them quickly. Can you aid me? I can feel that you are a powerful person!"

"Fufufu, help you? Ah... Right. I'll help you. Follow me."

Sarah quickly stood up, and her face was filled with wonder. 'My wounds are all healed? Did the one called Death Empress help me? She must have used very precious medicine.'

Sarah couldn't help but feel grateful, and she hastily followed Jian Ying Yue. "Lady Jian Ying Yue, can you give my thanks to Your Majesty the Death Empress? After all, the wounds on my body were not light."

Jian Ying Yue answered her without turning back. "Don't worry. It was I who healed your body. I didn't use much effort. However, what did you use to become that injured? Was the thing that allowed you to fight with the little princess- Cough, with that dragon?"

Sarah frowned at the "little princess," but a small energy wave rippled through her, making her ignore those words and answer honestly. "Yes, if I remember correctly, I gained peak-level Dantian Spiritualization realm cultivation and attacked Yaseia with it. If it weren't because two people interrupted, she would've probably been instantly killed."

"Hahaha, I see. It seems that doing it normally will be too merciful."

Sarah was confused. "Merciful?"

"Don't worry about it. We are reaching the main halls. Remember to keep your head down until you are told to lift it. The Death Empress's mood is very fickle, and she can kill if something or someone bothers her."

Sarah nodded. "I see. Thank you for the advice, Lady Jian Ying Yue."

The beautiful Undead Empress answered with a gentle laugh. "Don't worry. I don't think she will kill you even if you ask for it. I'll make sure to protect your life. I want to stay a long time with you, after all."

Sarah tilted her head, not understanding. "Why?"

Jian Ying Yue kept silent until they reached a pair of titanic gates, mainly black colored with bright green tones in the decorations, which followed the theme of everything else she had seen until now.

White marble floors, black walls with green decorations, very tall ceilings, and many undead-like decorations, with dragon-like newer decorations.

Sarah could tell that those draconic decorations had been placed recently as if they were commemorating something. 'Hm? That dragon form... It looks familiar?'

Jian Ying Yue's voice interrupted her. "Sarah, right?"

"Y-Yes, senior!"

Her eyes refocused on the woman placing her dainty hand on the gates that dwarfed hills.

"The reason I don't want you to die anytime soon will be revealed once you step inside and manage to see the Death Empress. Don't worry, and be brave. I promise you won't die."



Sarah nodded, feeling a bit nervous, and then her eyes widened as Jian Ying Yue lightly pushed open the gates that looked heavier than a mountain. 'S-So strong.'

The cracking of doors opening was the only sound for a few seconds, and Sarah looked down, remembering what Jian Ying Yue had said.

GONG~.

"Enter."

It was a single world, but Sarah felt like she had become small. She felt so tiny that calling her insignificant would not be inappropriate.

The power, authority, and tyrannical presence behind the cold, elegant voice made her heart thump with fear.

Not daring not to listen, Sarah walked forward.

She didn't know if to stop walking or not, but she kept walking forward, just in case.

The steps of Jian Ying Yue helped alleviate her nervousness since she heard them closely following behind her.

After walking forward for fifteen minutes, someone spoke.

"Halt."

The same cold voice ordered, and Sarah obeyed.

"Hm? Why are you looking down?"

Sarah didn't know how to answer, but the same cold and elegant voice muttered.

"Ah. I see. It was Ying Yue who told you. Well, it was unnecessary, but keep your head down for now."

"Y-Yes, your majesty!"

"Hm... Well, first of all, what is the last thing you remember?"

Sarah was confused but answered nonetheless. "I used a very powerful skill to fight an enemy, fainted, and appeared here."

"I see. It was you who triggered it... So, it wasn't lying..."

Sarah heard the mutters, but she didn't dare ask. The pressure coming from the place before her was the highest she had ever felt, even dwarfing one of the scariest moments in her life created by Yasenia's mother. 'T-This person is too powerful.'

"Well, I'm relatively powerful. But depending on who looks at me, I'm also relatively weak."

'Huh?'

"Surprised? A little Unification Realm expert, you didn't think that you could hide your thoughts from me, right?"

"I-I don't dare." Sarah's entire body erupted in cold sweat.

"You fear me, good. Well, let's stop here. I've heard what I wanted. Lift your head."

Sarah gulped and slowly lifted her head slowly.

First, the white marble floor was covered in an elegant black carpet with beautiful patterns extended forward.

No one was in the massive hall, so only the luxurious accessories and decorations entered Sarah's eyesight.

Her eyes met with a staircase, and she followed that staircase upward, finally landing on a complex and beautiful white, black, and green throne.

In the middle of the throne, with a contrasting red royal dress, a single woman sat leaning her face on her fist and looking at her with a pair of freezing red-colored eyes. On her hand was a strange orb that twisted the space around it. It was trying to move but was unable to.

"Eh?"

The lips of the woman sitting on the throne arched, and she asked. "Surprised?"

Sarah's brain stopped functioning for a good while. She didn't understand why the person before herself was someone who shouldn't be here.

Sarah blinked, and the woman who was far away appeared right in front of her eyes.

The gorgeous red royal robes fluttered without wind, and a tiara-like crown rested on top of her head. The aura around her was so powerful that the air twisted with just her mere suppressed presence.

Those ruby-like eyes released red light from the outer corner that trailed behind her while her red lips parted slightly as she looked down at her.

The face before her eyes, while it was the same she had seen before, was also incomparable.

So beautiful, so charming.

In Sarah's life, nothing could be compared to the beauty of the person coldly looking at her, not even Yasenja. There was an extra layer of beauty that eclipsed any physical appearance.

'Perfection? No, it's above that. A face crafted by a God to represent elegance, power, and beauty.'

If someone needed to describe Tatyana's natural beauty, the adjective "Violently gorgeous" would fit perfectly.

(Author Note: I've made Tatyana's image public since it will become a cover image shortly. It's also very fitting for the current situation~. pa tre /posts/death-empress-69287914 )

Tatyana spoke flatly. "Sarah. Your first mistake was trying to court my daughter. Your last mistake was hurting my daughter. From now on, you'll become my Undead, with your soul and consciousness trapped within, being unable to do anything for as long as I live. Your fate is eternally becoming one more undead of my endless army."

Sarah's eyes opened widely, finally snapping out of her trance. Then, she stuttered with fear corroding her insides. "W-Why!? I-I don't deserve this!"

Tatyana lifted her elegant eyebrow. "So what?"

Sarah blinked, stunned. "Huh?"

Tatyana smiled, a profoundly evil light flashing from her eyes. "So, what if you don't deserve it? If I want you dead, that's your Fate. You can do nothing to prevent it."

Sarah took a step back and blurted. "T-That's not fair! Y-You can't do that. I-It was all Yassenia's fault! If she didn't seduce me at first, I wouldn't have approached her!"

Tatyana followed Sarah's steps, making her trip with the heaviness of her gaze, and looked down at her indifferently. "You still seem not to understand. I care not about whose mistake it was. I couldn't care less about how things reached this point. You attacked Yassenia with the intention to kill, and Yassenia wants you dead. That's enough for me to kill you. I'll teach Yassenia whatever she did wrong... But after I deal with you."

Tatyana lifted her hand holding the crackling orb and spoke. "The fact that you almost killed Yassenia after trying to capture her with this disgusting system is just an extra. To put it bluntly..." The Death Empress looked at Sarah with her indifferent red eyes. "Your existence is a bother."

Sarah was trying to make distance while crawling back, and she quickly tried to stand up and flee once she understood that she couldn't escape.

Her face landed on a white and green dress, forcing her to a stop. Looking up, Sarah saw Jian Ying Yue's face. Desperate and with no other way out, Sarah screamed. "L-Lady Jiang Ying Yue, y-you told me that you wouldn't let her kill me. Please save me!"

Jian Ying Yue laughed gently. "Stupid woman. I told you I wouldn't allow her to kill you because I want you to suffer for eternity. How dare you place your filthy paws in my little princess? I can't wait to pamper her until she becomes a spoiled and happy little girl, and you dare almost kill her?"

Her ghostly green eyes leaked flames filled with Death energies as she uttered in a nightmarish phantasmal voice. "Don't fear Lady Death Empress because the one you will have to be the most afraid of is me."

Before Sarah could speak more, a beautiful hand with long fingers pierced her back and burst from the front. Then, leaning over her shoulder, Tatyana muttered. "Now, it's time for you to join me. [Innate Skill: Death Phantom]."

"AHHH!!!!!"

Extremely pure Death energies consumed her entire body, and pain, unlike any other, filled her whole being.

However, different from what usually happened in the past, her flesh didn't fall off her bones, becoming skeletal Undead. Instead, it was reinforced by Tatyana's resentment toward her.

Sarah's strength skyrocketed, and her body burst with an aura comparable to the one released from the system's outburst.

Jian Ying Yue smiled. "Oh? A new general-class undead. Two more additions in quite a short time. First, it was that Alyssa, and now, it is this one."

Tatyana retrieved her hand from Sarah's chest, and the flesh quickly healed, becoming pristine. Moreover, Tatyana's hand was spotless. "How is Alyssa doing?"

Jian Ying Yue answered. "She is about to enter the Transcendence Realm."

Tatyana frowned. "So weak?"

Jian Ying Yue nodded. "She is quite untalented, even as a general class."

Tatyana said coldly. "Useless even after Death."

Meanwhile, Sarah's hair and skin quickly discolored, becoming pale white, and her honey-colored eyes changed to ghostly green. Then, her brown hair became white, and her body temperature plummeted.

Afterward, the Dantian was invaded by Death energies and resentment, enhancing her five attributes with the Death attribute and changing her blood essence to undeath essence.

Finally, the corpse gained a new soul, and Sarah's soul became the core of that new soul, feeding it with the essential knowledge to know how to move the body.

"Sarah" opened her eyes slowly and looked at her hands mechanically, looking around curiously with her new ghostly green eyes right after. After seeing Tatyana, without caring about the hole in the middle of her clothes that showed her breasts, she went to one knee and spoke in an emotionless voice.

"Long live the Death Empress!"

Tatyana turned around and ordered coldly. "Train her as a Shadow Undead. Since she hated my little treasure so much, I'll make her become Yasenias personal bodyguard when my love returns to the Sky Continent until she is useless. After that... Do as you please with her."

Jian Ying Yue gently bowed. "The Death Empress's orders are eternal, and we shall obey."

Tatyana then vanished and entered her cultivation room. She looked at the orb in her hands, not knowing what to do with it. "I extracted the system, but using or destroying it is impossible without angering the heavens to the point that it will become bothersome..."

Tatyana tried to suck energy from it out of curiosity and felt a non-negligible amount of Fate energy entering her body.

The Death Empress blinked, and her indifferent face changed to one filled with curiosity. "Oh?"

She gently absorbed that energy for a few seconds while inspecting if it had any influence on her. "There is nothing. It's a very pure Fate energy... Primordial Fate energy?"

She calmly sat cross-legged and closed her eyes, placing the system between her hands. "Now, I need to continue gathering energies for my breakthrough. If I use this and the thing doesn't stop giving me energy, I will need about 40 more years instead of 100... Well, since there are no drawbacks, let's try it."

After that, torrential waves of Death and Fate energy rushed toward her from everywhere in her domain.

In just a second, Tatyana had absorbed enough energy to make an average cultivator go from a mortal straight to the Transcendence realm.

In higher realms, the energy required to overcome levels became staggering.

Chapter 700: Finishing the fourth event. Outside situation.

In the Treasure Land, Cecile and the others just arrived at Yasenias side. They had been nearby because of Ceciles previous warning, so their arrival coincided with Sarah's beast lovers' approach.

Cecile, who was burning with anger after she saw Yasenia's bloodied body, looked at them with anger. However, knowing more or less what happened due to the connection with Yasenia, she didn't say anything nor snap at them.

She had seen that these four had gone against Sarah and even helped Yasenia. Her anger was primarily due to her inability to help and the fact that Sarah's situation was unknown.

To the girls' surprise, the one who spoke with anger filled in her voice was Andrea. "Hey, where are the other humans?"

The girls were also angry but slightly surprised because Andrea, who usually was very rational and took things slowly, now looked scary.

Her face had a scowl, and plumes of fire were swirling around her figure while her arms tightly but gently hugged Yasenia.

Andrea was scared. She had seen Yasenia hurt in the past, but she knew that this time, it was closer than ever. The reason was that when she arrived, Tatyana was tightly hugging Yasenia before she released her.

However, the attentive Andrea saw that the tight embrace meant more than usual, which made her heart twist. The thought of losing the gorgeous dragoness between her arms made her insides churn with pain and anger.

"Darling~."

Andrea looked down and used her hand to wipe a bit of the blood on Yasenia's face. "Don't worry, love. We will take care of everything from now on. Just relax in my arms."

The dragoness blinked cutely once and then smiled brightly, snuggling in Andrea's wide arms and burying her nose in her neck. The strong scent of her Darling made her relax and close her eyes, and before she knew it, tiredness hit her mind. Feeling secure in Andrea's arms, she relaxed and clung to her. 'Darling's arms are so nice~.'

Andrea naturally accommodated her, and she glared at the four beast humans. "Hey, I've asked something. Answer."

The four of them frowned when the human glared at them. However, the impact of her piercing gaze made them recoil.

Even when they had just gone through heartbreak because of a human, they couldn't help but feel intimidated.

It was Paledora who answered. "We don't know. We just arrived here."

Kali squinted and asked. "Are you sure? I have methods to make you speak the truth even if you don't want to."

Paledora had nothing to hide, so she nodded. "Yes. At least, I know nothing about them."

Kali looked at the others and asked. "What about you?"

Harmony, Dorian, and Lana shook their heads.

Angel spoke while standing right next to Andrea and Yasenia. "They are telling the truth."

Our girls frowned, and Du Xian approached, timidly intervening. "Um, I think I saw one of them in that direction."

Before they could say anything more, Evelyn's body was surrounded by lightning bolts, and she rapidly rushed in that direction.

Lana spoke timidly. "Um, Yaseenia, we didn't know, so..."

Andrea asked sharply, not having it. "Didn't you initially come to mess with her? Angel has narrated the entire sequence of events to us, so don't act as if you are suddenly innocent. The reason Yaseenia is like this is because you didn't stop Sarah to begin with."

The four of them opened their mouths, but they couldn't really say anything.

Even if they said. 'We were deceived.' That doesn't take away from the fact that they came here with the intent to fight, or if not, the intent of protecting Sarah from Yaseenia in case something happened.

Of course, protecting one's lover when they do something is not bad, but the problem here was that they all thought Yaseenia had something to do with Lea after Sarah spoke.

Instead of trusting the Sect Master, who had proved her character many times, and asking Sarah to clarify or at least to put forth evidence that something happened, they all came at Yaseenia like rabid dogs, ready to bite if Sarah asked for it.

From the beginning, they didn't question Sarah. Therefore, they had nothing to say to Andrea's sharp words.

Evelyn returned a second later, carrying four bodies with her.

Then, she threw them forward, and they tumbled on the ground. "Here are Lea, Bai Ling, Su Ling Shi, and Astarea." Then, she spoke. "After taking into account Lillian, whom Yaseenia killed at first, and Soraia, whom Angel killed later. They are all dead. It seems that they got involved in the shockwave and died."

Harmony and the others looked at the four corpses, and their hearts twitched. Even if they hated them, these people had shared their bed not long ago.

Laurina asked. "Little sister Yaseenia, what are you going to do?"

Yaseenia languidly opened her eyes from Andrea's embrace, reluctant to speak. Andrea's hand caressed her hair and scalp, making her almost purr in delight. At the same time, Valeria was by her side, analyzing her body with Kali, and their soft Life energies were extremely comfortable as they swam in her body.

If she weren't considering where she was, she would be groaning and purring, spoiled while sprawling herself all over them.

However, she made an effort and looked at the four beast humans. "They have zero animosity. Let them be. After all, while Sarah's situation is unknown, I doubt they are stupid enough to get together with her again. The fact that they fought against them and now look honestly apologetic is enough to atone. Of course, their 'Core Sect Elder' status in the sect will be revoked for ten years, reducing it to 'Outer Sect Elder.' But after that, I don't care."

While ten years sounded like a lot, it was not that long, especially if you considered a cultivator's longevity.

The four beast humans smiled widely and bowed deeply. "We thank the Sect Master! We will work to make up for today's blunders!"

Yasenia looked at them for a few seconds and commented. "Without Sarah's key, you can't continue the competition, right?"

Paledora, the tall and mature dog woman, spoke. "It's a shame. While our points might be slightly lagging behind, as only Sarah made it to the top fifty in the third event, we still have the three tickets. We were waiting for the final event to cash them in and try to aim for the top fifty."

The dragoness pondered. "Can you give them to us? This way, we can guarantee our top fifty position. Also, if you have any [Library Tickets], it would be fine..." Then, her lazy attitude cheered up. "Speaking of treasures. What are our gains?"

The girls, who were still worried, couldn't help but laugh and look tenderly at her.

Evelyn smiled. "Here, their four spatial rings."

Angel also smiled and approached. "This is Soraia's spatial ring!"

Yasenia got the five rings, and her long and charming dragon tail began wagging. "Nice!"

Tatyana also approached and gave her the spatial ring of the person she killed while waiting for Sarah to come. "Here, I waited until now to give it to you."

Yasenia's smile widened while her tail wags quickened. "Another one? Lucky!"

The beast human present couldn't help but feel their hearts squeeze. 'She is too cute!'

Then, the dragoness looked at the four beast-human ex-lovers, and they approached to give her one [Library Ticket] each. "Good, good. With this, if we add our library tickets, we have 30 of them!"

Tatyana took two more and gave them to Yasenia. "32, actually."

Yasenia blinked, confused. "Where do these ones come from."

Tatyana's eyes shone playfully. "I found them on the side of the road."

Everyone thought. 'Who would believe that?'

Well, they forgot the existence of one person.

"Really!? You are so lucky, Mom!"

Many lips and eyebrows twitched.

Yasenia finally separated from Andrea, and out of habit, she stretched, only to groan in pain. "Ouch!"

Valeria bonked her head. "What are you doing? We haven't healed you completely."

Yasenia smiled, embarrassed. "Sorry."

Then, she spoke. "Only a few hours left until the Treasure Land closes. Let's do the remaining search together. You four, Harmony, Dorian, Lana, and Paledora, also stick together and continue exploring the secret realm. If, before it finishes, you manage to find more [Library Tickets], come to me. People probably still remember you as Golden Key holders, so there might be a few greedy people who target you."

Paledora asked. "Sect Master, should we kill them?"

Yasenia looked at her strangely. "If they endanger you, why shouldn't you kill them?" Then, Yasenia said seriously. "Also, remember that if you are much stronger, you must hold back a bit and try not to damage the spatial ring. Extra treasures never are bad!"

Paledora coughed and nodded, thinking how the other person would've been very against the idea. 'They are truly different.' Her eyes moved toward the four corpses and thought. 'If we had any thoughts of revenge, we would've probably joined them.'

For the rest of the hours in the Treasure Land, our girls managed to get quite a few peak-level Earth and low-level Heaven-ranked volcanic treasures and fauna to add to Yasenia's ring, making its environment even livelier.

However, while our girls treasure hunted, something was moving outside the Secret Realm.

A few top figures from the strongest powers gathered in a large room.

"It seems that there have been three Golden Keys this time. It's unprecedented."

"Who are the owners?"

"The Astral Sky Clan owns two of them, and the last one is owned by [Lion Mane Wolf Hounds], a second-rate sect."

A tall and extremely handsome wolf-man slammed the table. "They are too greedy! Why should we respect them even if they are a new first-rate power? On the contrary, them getting these treasures would make us seem as if we are being disdained!"

"Patriarch of the [Steel Back Wolves], behave yourself." A woman's cold and ethereal voice pressured the entire place, making everyone's faces harden.

However, unlike usual, the man smiled, showing his fangs. "Linghui Mingyu! As the Mermaid Queen, you should know that there have been deaths on your part by them. How about we talk together over tea in my den and discuss how to flatten them?"

However, there was no answer from her.

"Am I being ignored?" A white-feathered charming woman spoke coldly.

However, the Steel Back Wolf Patriarch seemed strangely unafraid and mocked. "Tengliu, why are you so hell-bent on supporting them? Is it even worth it? Or did you fall in love with that dragon? I wouldn't blame you for that, though. I really want to make her groan under me."

Tengliu, instead of being provoked, she laughed. "Ignorance is bliss."

At the same time, another woman spoke. "Patriarch, be mindful."

Fu Lang Zu, the wolf Patriarch, ignored Tengliu. "Zephyrith, don't speak so coldly. We will marry in a few years, so you must become more gentle with me."

Zephyrith looked at him coldly for a second and then spoke flatly. "Regardless, if you keep purposely provoking them, you'll bite off more than you can chew. As your wife-to-be, I don't want to become a widow even before Marriage."

"Hahaha! You are as sharp-mouthed as ever."



"Have you already acted enough?"

A man's deep voice spread, and the wolf Patriarch stopped speaking, looking seriously at the man with four jade wings who had just spoken.

Then, the leader of the thirty-three clans spoke. "Once they are outside, we will demand the Astral Sky Clan to release half their treasures. While it's true that outright stealing from them is not ideal, we can manipulate the public into thinking that they are being greedy if we don't ask for everything. Anyone against the idea?"

Tengliu spoke. "You will regret it. Isn't it a few treasures? I'm speaking from the bottom of my heart that if you go ahead with that plan, you will look back at today's date and ask yourself. 'Why didn't I listen to Tengliu?'"

The man spoke. "Don't overreach, Tengliu. You are acting too arrogant lately. Also, would you rather make us all your enemy or make them your enemy?"

Tengliu stood up and shook her head. "You don't want to hear the answer."

Then, she disappeared.

The Jade Thunderbird Patriarch stayed silent for a few seconds and then spoke. "Be prepared to meet with counterattacks. Tengliu might really help them."

Zephyrith looked at everyone gathered here, and the smiling face of a certain tall and beautiful white wolf flashed in her mind. She shook her head and sighed. 'Why can't I forget her?'

Her eyes landed on the back of her Patriarch, and she sighed again. 'He is about to break through, and when he does, as I promised, it will be the time he finally claims me as his main wife. My future with you is impossible, and I should feel happy that the most powerful male wolf will become my mate, but... Why can't I seem to forget you? Why does my chest feel heavy? Why... Even when we met for just a week...'

She shook her head again and refocused on the meeting, wishing deep in her heart.

'Please, don't die... Sierra. Your next tribulation will be a very difficult one.'

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Author: Things are getting complicated faster than the growth of our girls!

Evelyn: Hey, Sierra, what do you think?

Sierra: That I will soon have a black pelt as my fur coat.

Evelyn: Woah! I got chills~.

Author: Well, we have a few questions accumulated since I didn't want to interrupt the flow of Sarah's arc, but we are online and ready to answer again! At least for a while. Let's see, doing it at random and... I summon you!

Andrew Miles: Hello!

Angel: Hello~.

Andrew Miles: Well, girls, does the rank of a cultivation technique dictate the greater realm that a cultivator can reach, or is it more of a guide up to a certain level?

Tatyana: Juniors, you answer. This is a very basic question that you should know.

Yasenia: Then... Do I answer?

Andrea: Go for it.

Yasenia: Well, Andrew, the answer is both. While a level of a cultivation technique will give you the general limits you can achieve with it, that's if the cultivator is untalented. What is a cultivation technique in the first place? Is a way passed down from another cultivator about understanding the world, its laws, etc.

Yasenia: Therefore, you can use it as a guideline and continue improving your cultivation level, "creating" a "new" cultivation technique. It's like a formula that can resolve things. The higher the level, the more complex and thorough that formula is and the easier it is to climb up to the point where the formula explains the world.

Yasenia: The reason it is difficult to change from one cultivation technique to another is because the understanding of heaven's path is as numerous as there are people. Each person can understand the heavens in many different ways, and all of them might be correct or incorrect. The "correct" path is the one that allows a cultivator to surpass the heavens themselves, but that's something that hasn't been done ever.

Yasenia: Moreover, how do you think the first cultivators managed to get to godhood and all those upper levels? How did the first cultivator appear? There weren't cultivation techniques then. So, creating them through one's understanding while being helped by the paths previously cleared by the seniors is the path to supremacy.

Yasenia: In short, a cultivation technique is a guide. The better the techniques, the further they can guide you.

Andrew Miles: Wow. Thanks for the complex answer, Yasenia.

Yasenia: No problem~.

Author: And that's all for today! Bye-bye, dears!