

The Noble 196

Chapter 196: Doppelganger

There was something that I had noticed these last few months with dual sync. Leaving aside the fact that I think it seems to take longer and longer when you swap skills with the same person, is that you can swap the same skill more than once.

The first time I noticed this was thanks to Elena. The first time we exchanged was her affinity for darkness, and on my part the affinity for lightning. Two months later, one morning I noticed that Elena had the plant affinity ability, which was the first one I had exchanged with Alice. When I looked at my status, I noticed that the affinity to darkness had advanced to rank A.

I don't know about other skills, but I more or less understand what is required to bring the affinities at least up to rank (S).

I was sure I hadn't done enough to move that affinity up, and that's when I noticed that, when this skill swap is done, if I already have the skill, it strengthens it.

Luck or not, after only two weeks we had a third exchange, which doesn't let me fully understand if the time between these exchanges was really increasing, or if I was just very unlucky with its randomness, since Elena is the only one it happened with, three times and Alice only once.

I wouldn't have noticed this exchange if it wasn't because I usually check the girls' progress from time to time, and I noticed that Elena now had the "Heiress (B)" skill.

And when I looked at my status I didn't find anything different, but after trying a few things I noticed that, although it didn't go up in rank, my affinity for darkness was more fluid.

I could handle it better and instinctively knew that, if we made another exchange and I received the affinity for darkness, it would go up in rank. Although it doesn't specify, I felt it should now be something like 'Affinity with darkness (A+)'.

'Haaah, how I wish a system-chan would explain all this to me, or at least that useless Qetesh would be more collaborative.'

[[fuck you]]

"...."

Yeah, I'm going to pretend I didn't hear that, That aside, if that function still works above rank (S), then it would be really important in the future.

But back on topic: if my ability went up yesterday, it means I had a dual sync with one of the girls who already possessed parallel thinking.

The only two who had it were Alice and Astrid, and, in fact, now I feel like I can activate a third mind. But it's no use if I have to create only two Doppelgangers with only thirty percent and no abilities.

Antony had the skill at rank (A) and, if I remembered correctly, he could make two Doppelgangers with all his stats.

Both Doppelgangers were as fast as he was when they ran. I didn't know if he originally came in that rank from birth or if he somehow upgraded it at some point.

I got to thinking what the requirement might be. I had never needed more than one clone and, although I could create more by reducing his strength, I always just needed one to replace me. It was the first time I had thought, how I could make it ascend....

"Oh!"

And I just realized a possibility I had overlooked.

"It's kind of silly, but we've actually never tried it, have we?"

"That's right, let's go out and try it."

A possible solution came to mind. Considering the skills I had so far promoted, such as Resonance, which I promoted twice, I realized that, in a way, their requirement was to push the skill to the limit, adding more and more people.

This aligns with affinities, which you must push to the limit of their rank to promote them. Not all skills shared this logic, but I could give Doppelgänger a try.

Doppelgänger certainly is a powerful skill: it allows you to create a clone by sacrificing all your mana, and creates a mana being with all your stats and appearance.

It is an ability that defies all common sense. Even early on, when mana was not my strong suit, the clone possessed all my strength and could last a full day if I did nothing.

There is a glaring lack of logic here, since, with only having approximately 30 mana, I could create a being with my full strength and even an ability.

But that's the way skills are. Just like the Resonance power of the twins: that extra energy that is not drawn from the other person, but seems to be generated out of thin air.

These abilities, the more I analyze them, the more absurd they seem to me. And they are not even the most illogical ones in my inherited memories.

The point is that most of the time I used him for him to have abilities, like affinity for light, which was part of my facade as Seraphina, or with morphogenesis when I needed his support in specific tasks like on certain nights... ehm, well, the point is that I didn't need him for anything else and I never tested him thoroughly.

The only time I tried something different was to check if he could act as a fourth person in resonance.

However, this failed: the doppelganger could copy the ability, but could not be affected by it, even when I created it in the middle of the resonance.

It always retains my base strength, and so far it was the only thing I thought it could be useful to me, besides replacing my identity.

Sure, I could sacrifice strength to split it and create two clones with 30 strength each, but I felt they would be less useful. Besides, one of them would end up as a mindless puppet, since I only had a parallel thought before

what I thought now that I needed manpower is that if I activated the Doppelgänger ability, being the doppelganger, what would happen, would it activate or would it become unusable like resonance?

And now in a secluded alley, with no onlookers and barriers so we wouldn't be disturbed, I watched as my doppelganger was about to activate the Doppelgänger skill, and to my surprise....

"Fuck, it did work!"

There I was, watching my Doppelgänger create another clone of us in its original form, as these clones come with that design passively.

I immediately directed my new extra thought into him. And suddenly I now had three perspectives.

Getting used to having two had already been complicated at the beginning, but once mastered, the third one was not difficult and I handled it normally. I relegated those two additional perspectives to the back burner of my attention and concentrated solely on my own.

I carefully analyzed the second Doppelgänger created by the Doppelgänger.

"Okay, but there's a problem..." I muttered, looking at the new Doppelgänger.

"If the strength is only 50%..."

It was an improvement, all things considered, but still the third one couldn't copy any skills.

"Haaah, it's a fiasco.... No, wait."

At that moment, I came up with another idea. Although it was my Doppelgänger who met the ascension requirements to begin with, I am, originally, the possessor of the skills. To check, I looked at my status:

Name: Seraphina Silvercrest

Race: Human

Rank: Intermediate Transformation

Gender: Female

Stats:

Strength: 183

Mana: 190

Agility: 175

Defense: 89

Vitality: 179

Skills:

Purification (Ω)

Morphogenesis (A)

Eyes of Lust (A)

Dual Synchrony (A)

Protection of Lust (A)

Heiress (A)

Affinity with Plants (A)

Affinity with Darkness (A)

Affinity with Light (A)

Doppelgänger (A)

Parallel Thinking (A)

Affinity with Runes (B)

Resonance (B)

Pheromones (B)

Affinity with Lightning (B)

Fertility Control (B)

Demonization (C)

Heavy Weapons Mastery (D)

Affinity with Spears (D)

Enchantment (E)

Corruption (F)

Affinity for Light (EX) - sealed

Indeed, I had moved up in rank. I was now (A) . I thought how useful it would be if I had my personal system, "system-chan", that would tell me and notify me exactly the conditions and timing of promotion. I vowed to get the legacies as soon as possible.

I returned the extra parallel thought and also eliminated the second Doppelganger. Then, I sacrificed 100% of my mana again and tried to visualize myself creating another Doppelganger with all my power.

Usually, no matter how hard I tried, there was always something blocking me. But this time, as if I was activating the ability as I normally do, it worked, as if there wasn't already a Doppelganger created.

I created the usual emotionless Doppelganger, and immediately transferred back the parallel thought and....

"Good! Now this is perfect!"

My Doppelganger, doing a self-test, confirmed that I was at 100% and could use an ability. I thought about recharging my mana to maximum and seeing if I could create another Doppelganger or check what would happen if that Doppelganger created another one.

But I discovered that only one Doppelganger can use the same ability at a time. Thus, while the first Doppelganger could create a fourth Doppelganger with 50% power, due to some strange limitation that I don't understand, the second Doppelganger could not copy the Doppelganger ability, unless the first Doppelganger deactivated it and stopped copying it.

In the end, two Doppelgangers with 100% of my stats and one skill, and a third with 50% of my strength, without any skill, became the limit of this skill. Without any clue to promote it again, I just hope that more girls will get it, like Selene, and that I will ascend through synchronization.

At that time, my Doppelganger was swapping skills to test if any other skill, which I had never used before while using Doppelganger, could rank up.

Sadly, no other skills were ever promoted again. I guess this is more due to the specific workings of this skill.

The world of abilities is complicated, and even with all the memories I have I can't quite understand the logic behind them. I don't know why beings in this world are born with them or why only the gods can create and bestow them. I just hope the future will bring me answers.

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"Well, now then, it's time to get going."

Chapter 197: Mercenary

"Are you guys thinking about being mercenaries?"

'Fuck, man, why the hell would I be in front of you if it wasn't for that?'

Asked me the man who appeared to be a dwarf, behind the counter whose sole function was to give us our fucking mercenary certificates.

The old man was watching us with a clear lack of cooperation and asking a stupid question, even though he was the last step to get my mercenary status.

In the end, we eliminated the third empty Doppelganger, as it was not needed. The second one was temporarily stored in the dimensional stone, while my first one, was now my mercenary partner and was not using metamorphosis.

The skill upgrade did not extend that limit of copying a single skill, and we needed to be flexible. So we decided it was better to use the giant lenses, which unlike the ones from the academy did have anti-recognition magic cast by Elena, in case at some point I needed to use another skill besides morphogenesis.

Now we are both in the final phase of our mercenary registration, facing a man who doesn't seem to want to do it. Honestly, when I came in here, I did so with the expectations that someone would suppress me for being a newbie, then beat him up and make my strength clear, but in the end none of that happened and all went smoothly until here.

'I wonder if it will count if I have to punch that old receptionist'. In the meantime, he, with a bad face, kept asking:

"Okay. And I suppose you're planning to join the war that's going on?" He continued, with a tone that betrayed disapproval.

'Even though you're an old man, I'm not going to hold back if you're looking for trouble.'

"That's right," I finally answered his question, thinking that pulling off his mustache might be a good deterrent.

The man sighed heavily, crossing his arms.

"Look, guys. I just do the paperwork, but let me give you some advice. You're not the first ones to run away from home or come from the slums with dreams of being mercenaries."

"..."

'Wait, I don't think it's necessary to pull off his mustache.'

"Most die, and few make it far. I suggest you reconsider, let alone jump headlong into a war. One has to..."

"Sir, I have risen to four ranks of existence. So has my friend."

He didn't seem to want to find trouble for me, but rather to lecture me on how important life was. I had no choice but to interrupt him because, apparently, there had been a misunderstanding.

While my Doppelganger had no choice, I should have thought about making myself an older age to avoid scenarios like this. Well, it's too late now.

I have also observed that in this realm they call metamorphoses 'existence rank ascensions', at the end of the day it is the same thing, but everyone calls the power ranks as they want, although I know that the most commonly used is 'metamorphosis', and 'existence rank ascension', and the latter seems to be the predominant one here.

"Oh, so you're not just any desperate people. I'm sorry I jumped to conclusions."

"No, it's okay. It's good that someone stops inexperienced people."

"It's just that every day I see people coming here being desperate for money and thinking that being mercenaries will get them out of it, since the minimum requirement is only to have moved up one time...."

"..." this old man likes to talk and if it wasn't, because I saw him waving his hands even as he did I would have interrupted him again.

"Four ranks of existence, him!...and you look young if it weren't for this war, the kingdom would probably sponsor you. It's a shame things turned out this way."

"Yes, but we're not giving up yet. We will become strong and be recognized by the gods."

I had to get into the role I had decided, so I played along.

"Well said, boy. With your strength, it's more than likely. Still, you must be careful with this war. But with your level, you must be a noble or the son of a knight and you should already know all this; you don't need this old man's ramblings. Well, I won't meddle any more in your affairs. Here is your certificate and identity as mercenaries."

His reaction took me by surprise. He seemed like a nice guy, someone who was trying to save rookies from certain death in this dangerous trade. Now I regret that I wanted to rip off that sleek, masculine mustache.

Being a mercenary was actually quite simple: you just had to prove your strength, equivalent to at least one metamorphosis, and pay a fee. Nothing else, you didn't even need to prove your identity.

Of course, if you were caught doing something illegal using your mercenary title, the punishment would be more severe than usual.

although I heard in the bar that it was not so easy before and it is more because of the current circumstances.

Besides, the army easily accepted mercenaries with no questions asked. You could even sign up from here and take it as a mission right away.

It certainly seems that the rumors from the bar are not so unfounded and with what I know it is possible that an event has already occurred that would be advantageous to me.

I had already spent half a day in the tavern gathering information, and I decided to leave immediately instead of waiting for tomorrow.

It was in the afternoon, and the place where I was to go was two hours away by saddle, I thought that if I ran I could be faster than them and arrive in half an hour at the most.

I started gathering as much information as I could at the mercenary guild, and finally, after half an hour, I left the city.

After running forty minutes longer than I originally thought, perhaps because the standard of the mounts they measured was higher than that of the kingdom.

the road was straight and, from the middle, there was no way to get lost. For I could begin to glimpse on the horizon an immense and large red spot, which from my inherited memories I knew was my target.

The closer I got, the more details became apparent. It was a sort of diamond-shaped red crack. You couldn't see anything through it; it seemed to be formed by a red liquid or smoke with black hues here and there.

At times it looked like the hues were coordinating and spiraling around, only to then dissolve in an optical effect, flowing like running water or moving like windblown clouds.

It was strange and hypnotic. The closer I got, the more I noticed its dimensions, which were measured in miles at least. It was gigantic.

I was not surprised, since my objective was beyond that crack, which could be said to be the origin of all the conflicts, in every age of the gods, of this world.

Here, especially, they seemed to take less traditional, and warlike measures due to an incident, starting an all-out war, ignoring everything that was the standard to do during this era.

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"Alright, you two, you have four ranks each, fine. On the average, you will be assigned to front three. Right now you are in an intense battle, you will be part of the reinforcements, and you will be integrated immediately."

As soon as we arrived at what looked like a castle with high walls and a solid defense, we were assigned what to do as soon as we demo'd that we were mercenaries.

We couldn't get inside, but there were camps outside, which was where we were welcomed. The place was especially hectic; people, both wounded and not, were coming in and out, most of them in clothes that looked like army uniforms, a combination of white and red.

The situation was more intense than I thought. In addition, the surveillance seemed especially strong. Just at a glance I noticed that, in the space between the rift and the castle, there were multiple barriers with different functions, mainly detection and that was more than a mile away.

I reaffirmed to myself that it was a good idea to do all this instead of trying to sneak straight through. If this was how complicated it was on this side, on the other side it would be the same or worse, especially for a human.

Once the man finished assigning us, without even asking us any questions or waiting for an answer, he passed us what looked like a badge and led us to a squad that seemed to be in the process of forming. Neither I nor my doppelgänger said anything, we just looked around.

I knew from just looking around the city before coming: although humans, just like in the kingdom, were the dominant species, it seemed that their relationship with other species was as good or even better than in Avaloria.

I saw some giants, dwarves, elves and beastmen, and some even seemed to occupy high positions. In fact, the one who seemed to lead us was a dwarf, before I had not paid much attention to the old man, because he was behind a counter, but now that I looked at them clearly, I was surprised.

Just as they were depicted in my previous life, their height was less than 150 cm, with short legs and a sturdy body like a barrel. He was the second pure dwarf I had seen, as they are very rare in the kingdom and not a single student was a dwarf.

If that blacksmithing instructor at the academy doesn't count, someday I will reveal that he is actually a poorly disguised goblin. Unlike that instructor, although not so handsome either, this one had a decent appearance, with red hair and braids in his beard.

It was such a generic dwarf that I found it curious that in my previous world they were represented so well, being supposedly fictional.

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After a few minutes, enough people seemed to gather. Finally, the dwarf leaned his axe and began to speak authoritatively, as he swept his gaze over everyone present.

Unfortunately, I couldn't see his state, but from the aura he was emitting, he was approximately at the level of seven metamorphosis.

"Well, I won't say anything unnecessary. Whatever the reason you came, from now on your only goal is to kill demons. Your payments and rewards will be based on the number of contributions. The medallion you have will account for it. If they survive, glory awaits them. If they die, the rewards will be given to the surviving members of the group."

"..."

"That's it. I don't expect you to follow the military order state of any of you and you can basically act on your own in the place we assign you, just don't interfere with the main army. Understood?"

""Understood." "

When the dwarf asked, and only a few of us responded, including us. It was already clear why he didn't expect some kind of military order; we're just there to fill out the numbers.

He showed a somewhat disappointed face, sighed and turned, walking in the direction of the rift. Our group of over a hundred mercenaries followed behind him.

Chapter 198: Total Chaos

Anyone who had never entered that crevice would be nervous about what would be on the other side, or rather, nervous about just getting close.

There was a sort of invisible pressure in the surroundings, and a feeling of stagnation and suffocation began to form the closer you got. If I had to describe it, it was like getting really close to a big flare, but without the heat factor.

While it was my first time as well, I wasn't nervous at all. The memories of my alternate self, where I entered or exited these crevices were so many and so numerous that I felt like I had done it many times before.

When I came in contact with the portal, I felt like I was in between something liquid, but at the same time intangible like fog, it was strange.

You could feel it with your skin as if it were a liquid, but at the same time the sensation was so faint that it could very well be a hallucination.

At a certain point, I began to feel a new and strange sensation, but if I thought about it, it is not very different from when I use space runes or when I used the teleportation scroll. The feeling is almost the same, but more how to say... natural, Stable and free.

'It's truly interesting, too bad I don't have time to analyze it thoroughly'.

"Waaa!", "Unbelievable!", "This is weird...", "So that's how it is" "Tsk", "Newbies."

Finally after a few seconds, we reached the other side, From the group we heard different reactions. Some seemed surprised, impressed, clearly coming for the first time and showing expressions of amazement or confusion.

In contrast, some who seemed to have come before simply snorted, glaring at the newbies who were acting like country bumpkins.

This almost provoked a fight, but luckily the dwarf leader stopped it immediately.

I, for my part, immediately focused on the concentration of mana in the environment. Certainly, it was at least three times better in quantity and quality than normal.

I looked around and realized that we were at a height that looked like a mountain, especially high, as far as the surroundings were concerned, which gave us a great ability to see.

The world displayed before me was a bit unique: its sky, instead of the common celestial, had light lavender hues and soft silvery tones that gave it an ethereal concept, there was no sun, or anything resembling a concrete light source, still, it was clearly daytime.

From my vantage point, most of the terrain was woodland, with trees in a variety of somewhat exotic shades.

Mostly warm colors with some cooler ones like purples and blues standing out; they were in the minority, but there were also some of the natural green with which I am more familiar.

Looking carefully, I managed to distinguish at some distance structures among them, infrastructures that seemed to be of civilization.

If I was not mistaken, they should be a line of defense before the portal, and they were placed, strategically, as far as my sight could reach from left to right, I did not know if there were more where my sight could not reach.

There was one especially clear one in a vacant lot. What struck me most, however, was that, curiously, not far ahead of it, I saw a lot of movement.

They looked like ants from this distance and I couldn't make out exactly what they were doing, although my eyes now, they are kind of binding, were still too far away to see in more detail.

It was then, as I looked at the horizon, in the middle of what looked like the beginning of a mountain range, I noticed a small dark red dot. It was a bit unnatural, so it caught my attention.

A possibility and bad feeling came over me, especially since it was a familiar red, so I strengthened my eyes with mana to look at exactly what it was.

Maybe it was a striking red big tree or maybe it was a more outpost or some kind of in-between spot that made it stand out, it was the most logical from my thinking, and experience, but....

"Hey..."

"...Yeah, that's exactly what you looked at. fuck! Those, forts over there aren't the last line, they're fucking outposts! Why are there even two crevices so close together?"

However, once I looked at it, I could not help but ask my clone if I was seeing it right, and he confirmed it, since through me he also saw it.

Yes, what I looked at on the other side was a crack similar to the one behind me, it was an event that I found curious and answered my doubts a bit.

Not to mention that I could now clearly see structures near that rift, and from all the information I gathered in that bar, it told me that definitely, that rift was being controlled by the Demons, I had heard it was close, but I didn't imagine it would be that close.

Usually, these types of rifts are so far away that it would take days of travel, even for the most powerful, but here if I set my mind to it, in less than three hours I could reach it.

The war that I thought was taking place in a large territory seemed concentrated in a small place, and now I understand, how easy it was to start a war, here.

Now, my attention and enhanced eyes returned to the wasteland, and I realized that the movement I noticed and thought was military drill or something similar was, in reality, a bloody battle in progress.

Well, leaving aside the surprise at how curious it was that two rifts were so close and were the catalyst for this peculiar war, it didn't interfere with my plans at all.

Once the dwarf solved the problem, he led the way. Interestingly, the way down was along the mountain cliff, on a carved path, digging into the cliff, and now that I was there, I noticed that the last defense was carved into this vertical cliff, embedded in the mountain. It was easily defensible and extremely difficult to invade from below.

I noticed that we were certainly passing countless more barriers. Everything seemed so airtight that it was suffocating, but they were mostly anti-demon. It was normal, considering this was a war against demons.

And without any pause, once at the foot of the mountain, we set off towards what was supposed to be our objective.

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"Damn ... This is worse than I thought."

The smell of ozone and scorched earth hit me as I tried to catch my breath. A demon had tried to pierce me with its spear moments before, but now it lay at my feet, its body had a hole in its chest resulting from me piercing it with my gauntlets.

I straightened up, feeling the residual heat in my hands, which were still glowing faintly with traces of mana.

Bommm!!! Baang!!!clank!!!

In the distance where the sounds of explosions and chiques were more intense, for a moment, I was still having trouble processing the situation.

We were on the only front without natural cover, which, from the top of the mountain, was a vast wasteland that offered no hiding places. Here, survival depended on quick reflexes and instinctive decisions.

I certainly knew it was war. It wasn't just one of the inherited memories that showed it to me, but I don't know if it was conscious or not; my alternate self left me with no feelings ingrained in those memories.

It was more like a first-person movie memory. More than anything else, while I had seen it, living it was another matter. Today, in my first war, I began to feel the weight it really carried.

The light thoughts of focusing on my purpose above all else faded, and now I had to think about preserving my life before anything else.

Being mercenaries, we were not put on the main ground, only asked to guard the surroundings to prevent the demons from flanking the sides.

Magic crackled in the air like a thunderstorm, I was distracted by the fighting going on in the distance, where the heart of both sides was, as the aftershocks reached as far as I am.

It was a chaos of clashes of weapons, clashes of magic, defense versus attack, some demons were employing what looked like some kind of poison, but the humans also had people purifying it, and recovering, assassins were sneaking in and trying to take out pillars on both sides, while experienced archers were not afraid to join in that chaos.

"damn, get down!!!"

I was only distracted for a moment to capture the situation in the heart of the battle, but there seems to be no room for distraction on a battlefield like this.

My doppelgänger, who was actively watching me, grabbed me by the head and forced me to crouch down with him.

swooshh!

Above us, a scythe of wind passed over us, followed its path, and cut the unsuspecting people around us in half.

As if that wasn't enough Not long after, sharp shards of metal flew towards us. I quickly activated defensive plant element spells.

"damn, why are they attacking us!"

"maybe that guy with the spear was your friend?"

As we grumbled among ourselves, my doppelgänger quickly counterattacked, creating spears of light and lightning and firing them at each mage who directed his spells against us, killing one and wounding the other, who had stronger metal defenses.

But now he was vulnerable, and a mage with no visible defenses in this field is an easy target. As I immediately thought, an opportunistic mercenary on our side put an arrow through his head, finishing him off.

I barely had time to get up when I felt the searing heat of another spell heading my way.

fuwoosh!

I looked at it and quickly understood the structure of that fireball and, immediately, when it was within my reach, I deflected it with my hands, without wasting mana in defending myself.

I did not think deeply about the origin of that fireball and left it to my doppelgänger. There was something else to take care of. My gaze rested on the corpse at my feet, specifically on the demon's spear.

Without thinking, I grabbed it, reinforced it with lightning and plant spells and quickly prepared to hurl it at a crazed bastard who was about to cast a large-scale destruction spell.

I also noticed that it was aided by some blessing that made it more lethal; it seemed to be a six-metamorphosis wizard and I would be harmed by that spell if I did nothing.

'Art of Lust, Fifth Stance: Tempting Torrent'

I did not hold back and mentally activated the art of lust by circulating elemental mana through my body and hurled the refrained spear with all my might.

The spear cut through the air with a speed difficult to decipher and embedded itself in the head of what I now noticed was a female mage. Her defenses were too weak; at least they did not withstand that spear thrown with my art of lust it seemed,

I also noticed that she was relying on her companion, who was holding a shield in front of her, but did not react to the spear strike in time, either because her senses did not allow it or she did not expect my attack.

When he realized that his companion had died, the bewilderment left him vulnerable and he was pierced by the axe of a nearby mercenary and died. It was total chaos, and the smell of blood and burning began to become more prominent.

Chapter 199: Persecution

Swoosh! swish! swoosh!

While I eliminated the mage who seemed to be the most powerful in the area, it was not time to celebrate. For, for that very reason, I had now become a more prominent target. Three flashes emerged in the air, each aimed directly at me.

I identified the elements instantly: water, earth and ice. A deadly combination, designed to cover all my possible escape routes.

I acted before the situation overwhelmed me. I activated "Eyes of Lust," analyzing the magical structure of the water spell.

"Bang!"

With my pre-recorded magic I quickly threw A piece of crystal at high speed shot out from my finger, decomposing the macuic water spell into an explosion of steam.

The other two... Although I thought they were magics, when I activated my eyes and saw them in detail I noticed that they were arrows imbued and empowered with some elemental art.

Without time to think more, they arrived almost simultaneously. I reinforced my hands with layers of the crystal element, quickly using my affinity for light.

Thud!,Thud!

I managed to deflect both just at the last moment. The impact reverberated through my arms, leaving my muscles numb. Those guys were powerful, of about five metamorphoses.

I decided to stop drawing attention to myself and backed up a bit, along with my dopelganger who was covering me, blending in with the other mercenaries to take a breather, not caring about those guys who attacked me.

Unlike the center, where the real army was, this place, where the mercenaries were fighting, had no plans or strategies. Just pure survival.

It was a raw battle. Now my brain was beginning to understand clearly what the weight of a war was and how lives fall easily.

You don't even have time to understand if the one you killed deserved it or not. There is no time to make those conscious decisions here.

Luckily, our side seemed more numerous, both in army and mercenaries, as we were not the only groups that had come as reinforcements to this front and there were many more human mercenaries than demonic ones.

"haaaa..."

Well, now that I backed off from being a priority I finally managed to calm down and regain my composure. to begin with, there was no need for me to be active in this war. What happened before was just me trying to survive.

I didn't have to act unless the situation compelled me, as before I had foolishly gone ahead, concentrating only on my purpose.

I still kept my purpose in mind, but first I had to stay alive, I couldn't lose focus or it would be the end of me. With my senses sharpened, I braced myself for anything, but just at that moment....

Buuuuuoooooooo!

"Retreat!!!!"

What sounded like a retreat signal from the demons rang out, and I heard many of them shout the same thing.

Finally, this gave me scope to understand things more clearly since I arrived on this battlefield.

And, as the rumors said, the humans seemed especially bent on this war. You could see in whoever was leading this front and how they were handling things, how determined they were.

I didn't know exactly how long they had fought before we arrived, but, from the time I looked down from the top of the mountain until we arrived, it had been about an hour of running.

The humans seemed especially focused, not caring about the losses, causing the demons to finally acknowledge their defeat in this battle and retreat.

Now that I didn't have to worry about an attack from the opposing side, I finally had time to resume my original plan, I certainly couldn't waste this opportunity.

I had to take advantage of the fact that things were flowing in my favor. Somehow, I feel that being close to William would have passive advantages, and events were lining up, allowing me to accomplish things more smoothly than even being optimistic I thought.

I couldn't foolishly risk it, while this was a golden opportunity, running without thinking about it would be dangerous. But from what I could see there was a good chance that I wouldn't have to take a big risk....

"Attack! Don't let them escape!"

"Right!"

for a moment I thought I had to let this opportunity go, but the captain general who was the highest authority here, met my expectations, now I didn't have to risk anything and I could take advantage of the chaos of the chase.

It seemed that it was time for a hunt. While it is not at all pleasant to be in a war and kill people, if it was for my goals it was necessary I would not hesitate.

I know that those who hesitate in this world die, and I will not be a pushover who dies, not when I knew that these situations would occur more than once in the future, and my girls were waiting for me at home.

Those who were not tired began to run after the demonic army. I could see how what looked like the mounted squadron, who were the fastest, decimated the fleeing demons.

The same was happening with the faster people; they mercilessly slashed or threw magic at the backs of the demons.

It was not a cheerful scene, let alone a satisfying one. The stifling air of war and the smell of blood made me nauseous and dizzy, but I still kept running forward.

Now that my life was not in danger, I simply ran, looking for the opportunity I was waiting for.

My doppelgänger lagged behind; he didn't run as fast. Not because he couldn't, but because it wasn't necessary. If things turned out well, from now on we would work separately.

After several minutes of running, we finally reached what looked like the beginning of a wooded territory.

From the looks of it, the main ones of the demon army were following the main paved path through the forest, while others, perhaps hoping to lose the knights and mounted soldiers, were going in from the sides, which were dense woods.

After all, everyone was desperately retreating, and the smoothed path was only enough for a hundred men to pass at a time.

And with thousands running, this seemed inevitable even for the infantry of the demon army. They had no choice but to scatter.

Their leader was not orderly handling the retreat, and the lower ranks of the army had to survive as best they could, not to mention the demon mercenaries who only came for the money.

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"there's one, perfect!"

Among the demons there was a particular race that wore masks. One might think that it was just any demon wearing a mask, but I knew that these were a peculiar race that would help me in my goal, I had them in mind since I found out in the bar that there was a war in progress.

Finally, I was close enough to one that was going into the forest and I noticed that it also had four metamorphoses. It perfectly fulfilled everything I needed.

Now, in this chaotic situation I needed to be quick and I couldn't hesitate at any moment. I was on a tightrope where the slightest mistake could lead to my

I was already prepared, it took my doppelgänger more than a day to complete that magic space circle and it was not only to extend the scope of the scroll; the magic circle had three functions, and now, it was time to test the second function, which was accompanied by the help of the twins.

I took a red gemstone from my storage bag and immediately, with the resonance activated, I transmitted my intentions. Seconds later I felt the connection.

Strength: $[183 + 183 + 39]$ 405

Mana: $[190 + 187 + 180]$ 557

Agility: $[175 + 174 + 50]$ 399

Defense: $[89 + 89 + 31]$ 209

Vitality: $[179 + 178 + 49]$ 406

I immediately felt stronger: Selene's stats, which were almost identical to mine, and Eira's, which were just beginning to sync up, were adding to mine.

"Art of Lust, Fifth Stance: Tempting Torrent."

I immediately circulated the attack art, before I had used it to imbue a spear now it was as if I was the spear, after all, to the art of lust is a spear art not melee, however, the more I practiced and understood it, I realized it was a more flexible hybrid art than I thought, something rarely found in arts, which always has a predisposition to a weapon and Element.

The demon was about a hundred meters in front of me, but this attack stance is special because the more momentum you build up, the more powerful it is.

Using it directly on my body instead of a weapon, it is extremely useful for shortening distances instantly. Putting a large amount of mana to make it more effective, along with lightning and light mana, which are two especially fast elements, the result of all that was:

Boom!!!

"Uggh!!!"

With an explosive roar originating from my feet, before anyone could notice anything, I was already on the demon's back, piercing its back with my claws. Although some of the momentum was sapped by the impact, I didn't stop.

I kept moving, dodged the large trees in the way and continued forward. The demons were busy running to pay attention to me.

As I ran and carried him, the guy squirmed a little at the unexpected pain, it seemed he didn't understand what was happening all of a sudden and couldn't say anything, it was too late for him.

This posture of the "Art of Lust" is highly destructive. Immediately, the energy, light and lightning mana I fed it with began to consume him from the point of impact.

If I didn't act fast, it would turn him into ashes, just like the demon I killed at the academy.

I stopped for a moment in a relatively covered spot before it disintegrated and placed a hand on its head.

"Animae Scrutinium."

Chapter 200: Lilith

"Animae Scrutinium."

It was a spell from the soul echisos branch that my new parallel thinking had been brewing since before, activated. Immediately, many memories began to flood my mind.

It was a sensation that gave me a tinge of nostalgia, but now I had more control over it than in my first days in this world and I put them away quickly, without paying much attention to him, apart from that from his body I removed the mask that emitted an ominous aura.

At that moment, I felt as if something wanted to invade me, but it was correctly repelled by my blessing. Without a moment to breathe, I immediately pulled out a large hood from my storage and put it on.

I quickly dressed, deactivated the morphogenesis, took the core of the demon's body, which had now almost disintegrated, without even understanding how it had died, taking the core I had made sure not to damage.

And finally I took its storage bag, with that I already had everything I wanted from that demon, and next was....

"Fuck, why isn't there an easier way!, haaa... you fucking shitty world... ughh!!!!!"

Complaining about how irrational the world was, that it made me unto inflict wounds on myself from time to time, especially every time I used this ability, which is definitely not made for humans.

With no choice, quickly made an incision in my chest and placed the core, which looked like a purple pearl, into the hole. Immediately, before I released any more blood, I activated demonization.

If I could use morphogenesis to make a small artificial space by molding the bone and skin a bit, it would have been easier. But maybe because they are both physical change abilities, or I didn't have enough control, they couldn't overlap.

The ability began to activate and started searching for the energy source.

Honestly, demonization is an ability that only some pure-blooded demons have, an ability that stimulates their lineage to revert to a kind of ancestral regress, giving them increased strength and even new abilities.

It's as if they temporarily transform into a superior species. I, being human, obviously don't have that, and I blame whoever created the sin legacies for not taking that into account.

But my alternate self, who stood next to legacy bearers who were also not demons, learned of this method to use it to harness another powerful legacy ability.

Once it started, the pain went away a bit, along with the bleeding. I clearly felt horns growing on my head, as well as a tail, and how the skin around the demonic core began to cling to it, creating new magical conduits and adapting to my new, non-human form.

Name: Seraphina Silvercrest

Race: (human-sealed) Lilith

Rank: Intermediate Transformation

Gender: Female

Strength: $[220 + 182 + 39] = 441$

Mana: $[228 + 187 + 180] = 595$

Agility: $[210 + 174 + 50] = 434$

Defense: $[107 + 89 + 31] = 227$

Vitality: $[215 + 178 + 49]$

= 442

Demonization is affected by the quality and rank of the demon core I use, and I am now 20% stronger and my stats reflect that.

Interestingly, even though my lowest stats went over two hundred, with demonization it still tells me I'm on the fourth metamorphosis, but I think the reason is that these are temporary improvements.

And now, along with the help of the twins, except for defense which was at the fifth metamorphosis, the rest was at the sixth, and the mana, surprisingly, came at the seventh metamorphosis, which ranged from 450 to 650. It was a huge improvement.

My body stopped functioning as a human one would, and I became what I believe to be the ancestral species of succubi.

That name... I remember hearing it in many games, and I think also in my world there was an actual mythology behind that name, although I didn't remember it clearly. But From my point of view, it seemed more like a name than a race per se.

Also I think the even the abilities, except for morphogenesis, could be used more fully, including dual synchronization. Unfortunately, since I can't use morphogenesis at the same time, I can't test how useful it is, unless I do it with a m...

'No, let's stop thinking stupid things. Concentrate, we can't let them catch up to us.'

Once the demonization was over, without thinking any more nonsense, I felt the ones who were once my allies almost catch up to me. This time, if they caught up, I would be their target.

I was in my best state and started running again. I moved through the forest on the way; I was now of the retreating side, and if I was caught by someone powerful, I would have no room to regret it.

Luckily, it seemed that the main forces were having their quarrel on the smoothed path, and only mercenaries and a few squads of soldiers were hunting in the forest. My doppelgänger, who lagged behind, confirmed it.

I ran with everything I had until, finally, after 30 minutes of running as far away from conflict as possible, I reached a clear territory. Lucky or not, I arrived just as the demon leader was entering his own front, and I took the opportunity to get inside.

Once inside, I had room to see that the main squad on the human side was being held at bay by some elite demon soldiers.

I guess they were left behind to buy time and allow the leader to get into his lair safely. It would only be a few minutes, at the cost of life I could count as around a thousand soldiers.

But they had complied, and their leader was now safe. That time was useful for the rest of the troops and mercenaries who were still coming out of the forest, like me.

I had already passed them, but I had to make sure anyway. I quickly activated my eyes and, as I thought, I felt I could see everything clearer than before. I could see several barriers around this demonic front.

From the looks of it, it was more important for defense than detection, as the defensive ones were powerful and complete, while the detection ones were the minimum necessary. Still, it would not have been easy to get through them if I were a human.

Hence why I have to be a demon. My target is a demon, and he's on the demon side.

I watched as the one who seemed to be the highest authority in this place, along with his subordinates, organized as best he could. They were sending the archers to the wall most urgently and the mages, protected by shielded warriors, to reinforce them.

He was surprisingly fast and competent, although his earlier withdrawal left much to be desired. It seems that front line defense was his specialty.

Before the barrier of a thousand soldiers was breached, he had already organized his defense. Arrows, which could reach farther than magic, began to rain down on the cavalry ahead, accompanied by some mages who seemed to have a great magical range, and so began the siege battle.

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'well, I didn't think that in less than a day I could be on this side already.'

I got to thinking. I was moving faster than I thought, and if I was lucky, it would last even less than the week, which was my most optimistic time, if it was the best situation. now that might be the second or third best situation, I thought it might have taken longer, but everything went smoothly so far.

I had even agreed with Astrid that she would allow me to extend my absence if I didn't show up, the same with the girls who are helping me.

While not ideal, it was a favorable situation. Having two portals from both worlds so close, and in the chaos of war, this could work and go more smoothly.

Now, pieces of information I was missing began to fill in in my head. I didn't have them because they weren't needed when my alternate self investigated the past of my now target.

That new information began to assemble and take the shape of a better plan in my head, and if I acted right, I could finish this quickly.

'Okay, let's continue without losing momentum.'

The sooner I finish, the sooner I'll get out of this senseless war for me, which was making me sick.

Discreetly, I went to the back. I was now a mercenary, and in a defensive assault we are useful only in desperate cases, as we could bring more chaos.

I watched as they closed the front door, and from my doppelgänger's perspective I realized that not all the mercenaries and soldiers made it inside. But they couldn't keep the door open with the enemy right in front of them.

Now my next step is important. I'm going at a good pace, and I can't break it. Originally I thought I could impersonate the supply or pretend to be wounded to get into the rift, but if I play my cards right, I could create a better situation....

I looked up at the sky with my eye ability activated. I watched as the sgenrally transparent barriers began to show before my eyes and show me their structure, allowing me to clearly see the runes that made them up and therefore their weak points, along with my affinity in the runes, helping me and giving me more clarity.

I did not stop at just seeing what their weakness was and began to analyze it to understand it. The function or algorithm of these barriers began to show itself to me.

I looked at the changing algorithm that defensive barriers used to have so that they would not find weak points easily, or at least so that they would not be fixed.

I began to decipher what they were doing, leaving aside detection, anti-diffraction or illusion spells and other simple miscellaneous barriers such as illumination, there were three barriers that were helping the demons in this defensive battle.

The first protected against magical attacks, absorbing mana and even using it to strengthen itself.

The second stopped the inertia of physical attacks, useful against direct attacks.

By the time objects imbued with magic passed through the first, they would only be arrows or swords without magic and only with inertial power, which would be totally blocked by the second.

And the third somehow linked these two individual barriers, and also affected them in such a way as to allow the barriers to only work in one direction, allowing attacks only from within, so that this side would attack freely.

They were strong barriers and far more advanced than I could ever see in the kingdom Avaloria and around the academy, where their future seeds were, giving us the best of the best in terms of barriers. Although it had already been breached once.

But leaving that aside With the information from the barriers I formed a plan that could kill several birds at once.

When I made it concrete, I began to move, or rather, my doppelgänger began to move.

I, for my part, did not stop watching the barrier until and again confirmed, I was now sure of its pattern and algorithm, to predict the right moment I needed.

With all my experience in runes and a quick calculation, I found what I was looking for....