

## The Noble 341

Chapter 341: The challenge (R18)

"haah!~".

After the high tension came relaxation; I leaned on her and put all my weight on her.

But the obvious thing was that Astrid was in the same—or even worse—state than me, and in that very moment, both of us, who had moved away from the desk in our struggle, nearly collapsed from the sudden loss of tension, with nothing to hold on to.

Luckily, as I felt the sensation of falling, I pulled myself together in a moment and prevented us from falling straight down.

When I go into 'rapid fire' mode, my refractory time between "light" shots is basically zero, I was just catching my breath a little bit because of how intense it was and I was back up to 100.

Thwapp! Skkkshhhh! Thwapp!

Without waiting a moment longer, again I began to move my waist, moving in as far as I could and out until I was almost completely outside Astrid's back door, who seemed to have quickly adapted and handled my size.

"hmgh~ wait, honey mngh~ haaa, feels good, haa~"

She really seemed to be liking the experience, her melodic moans were music to my ears accompanied with the crashing sound of my thrusts.

Which really only ignited in me even more the flame of desire and lust, as well as my side, sadistic, that saw the helpless but willing Astrid receive my raw desire so easily.

" Astrid, don't you feel that going towards the couch would be more comfortable?"

"mnggh, yes, mmmgh!!!, please...ahh~♥♥"

"Well, start going towards it."

"Huh?, uhmm!~, what do you mean, mnggh~?"

"heuheu~, Well, I thought it would be fun to see you doing it, can't you."

"nhmnggh~ honey, you're getting sadistic, Aaaa~ well, I'll do it, mnggh."

It seemed like a funny thing to say to Astrid—who, even while kneeling, looked like her legs were giving out. She was trembling from persistent spasms; just staying on her knees was hard, even with her hands for support.

I had only been toying with her, planning to lift her and carry her to the couch... but she took it seriously—and accepted the challenge

"Hmnggh!~Honey!♥♥"

She with difficulty started to move her legs and crawl with my member inside her, while I sadistically still matter an intense thrusts increasing even more her the difficulty of her task.

I stopped holding her so tightly, which allowed her to do so, but also made my cock at risk of slipping out of her as she crawled forward.

Plap!

"Mngghm!♥♥, honey, you're bad~!mnggh!"

So I too moved forward, as she did, making up the distance and re-entering with more intensity making that thrust especially intently and hard, shuddering both Astrid and me.

We had been moving frantically before, and now we were a bit far from the sofa bed that was our calculated finish line.

Given what she had just done, we would arrive in about twelve crawls from Astrid, of course, if she didn't give up halfway.

In fact, she was so shaky that it was clearly transmitted to me, and that intense thrust and the one I'm maintaining at the moment doesn't help at all.

She really has it hard right now, I'd like to help her, but I honestly can't stop thrust.

Thwapp!.... Slrrppp!... Skkkshhhh!...thwpps!..

" Haaahh!♥ Mngh! ~♥, nooo!~♥ Aahh!~♥"

She moved forward a little, pulling my shaft out of her to the point of almost coming out, but I quickly compensated the distance and returned deep inside her, making her jerk and moan intensely, with my energetic thrust.

She was breathing heavily, her moans becoming more and more sensual, charged with ecstatic need.

From my position, I could see her back sweating intensely, each drop running down her as if she was burning inside as well.

Her natural scent was getting stronger, more, more her? mingling with mine and with the intense smell of sex that was beginning to saturate this closed office.

On the floor were messy papers, traces of our previous moment. Astrid didn't even notice them as she continued to crawl toward her destination.

She carelessly trampled over them, some left crumpled, others wet from the constant drip of her sacred nectar that fell between her thighs soaking the carpet and papers alike.

Hhrrphh! mmp!p! thwpps!...

I kept on ramming, persistent, deep, charged with a tension that grew with every second.

My body was vibrating, my muscles tense, my breath ragged. Each advance of Astrid, each movement of her hips, each new moan increased the risk that I would fill her again with my seed.

But I held back. I gritted my teeth and resisted, I wanted to see if Astrid could get there first. And that... just made everything burn hotter. The anticipation, the expectation... it was becoming unbearable.

I couldn't cum, not yet. Not until we got there.

Thhmmpp!

"!Aahh!!!❤️❤️"

When there were only five crawls to go, my tension was so high that I unconsciously took a very intense step, pushing her a little and almost making her fall forward.

Which I stopped. The couch was almost within reach, and Astrid felt it too. She felt that the goal, the reward for all her efforts, was right there.

But by the way her insides were becoming erratic, by the way she was trembling, panting and squeezing with every second... I understood that she was at her peak, one step away from climax, from the big burst.

I really thought she would cum at that moment... and inevitably drag me down with her, but-....

"Mmmngh!! Aghhh!~♥□♥□"

But perhaps knowing that this would prevent her from reaching the couch, she gritted her teeth hard and held back. And tenaciously, with legs that no longer responded firmly, she gave two big shuffles. More than big: defiant. Each one was as if it were worth the previous two.

And it almost made me pull out. But I was also at my limit, at maximum tension. I kept up, kept pace, and that generated a new involuntary pumping, one so intense that I slammed hard against her ass.

Stock!

"AAAH!~♥♥"

"arggh!! Astrid!!"

The impact made her shudder--and a shudder crossed her back, and mine. I felt her insides squeezing me inside, almost uncontrollably, almost making me fall...it was so intense that I stopped all movement.

One more push and everything would fall apart, I focused all my concentration on not letting myself be won over by his tight interior. There was only a little more to go.

And if Astrid hadn't cum yet, I wouldn't be the one to ruin that last step. So I held on. With my whole body. My whole being.

She gave it all she had too At first, seeing how shaky and hesitant she was, I didn't think she'd hold on for more three crawls without collapsing, but she showed me otherwise.

She showed me her stubbornness, her tenacity...

"Astrid... put your will to it. Come on, there's only one left. You can do it."

I encouraged her. I wasn't going to let her give up, not when she had come so far. Not when she was so close.

She took two big steps before, which meant there was now only one left. the next one would be the last.

I was at my absolute limit. Anything would set me off including Astrid's next move which had me on high tension.

Sweat was running down my back, down my neck, down my tense arms that were trembling with endurance.

The same could be said of Astrid: her skin was already soaked, glowing, shining with desire.

And in that state, I swear she looked even sexier than she already was, which I felt was impossible.

I was really losing my sanity, but it was only a little bit away. Just a little more... and the glory would be there.

"Haaah~ Aaahhh!!! I can!!! Aaaaah!!!"

And then, as Astrid built up all her resolve, all she had left... she gave the last one. A final crawl, long, dragging, powerful.

One that not only got her to the couch. she was able to lean with her upper half on it.

My tension was so high that it felt like everything was moving in slow motion. I was on the verge of pulling out of her, because of the intensity of her movement.

But instinctively I thrust forward again, closing the distance with a strong, deep thrust that buried me back inside her, chasing that unbearable heat... and the edge of release.

"ughhh! Good job Astrid, there it goes !!!"

Immediately I knew that was the breaking point. I couldn't hold back any longer.

Spurt!!! Splurt !!!...gush!...

There, deep inside, buried to the limit, my body gave way completely.

A wild shudder ran down my spine and I began to release an intense discharge of seed, hot, thick, invading her mercilessly.

"AAAhhhh!!❤️👄❤️👄❤️"

Pshhhhh! splrrghh! Fwaaah!

Astrid, who barely managed to rest her torso on the couch, and just like me was holding back to the limit, also reached her climax and just at that moment her body seemed to break.

A deep shudder ran through her from her hips to her back, as she moaned heartbreakingly.

"HAAAH~!!! AAAHHHHHHhh!!!~❤️👄❤️👄❤️👄"

Psshht.. squish. . splish... quelch... trickle.....

She clung to the cushion desperately, fingers digging in, as her back trembled as if she was being possessed by waves of pleasure she couldn't control.

"ughhh!!! Astrid!"

Gush!...gush!

Her insides squeezed me with a wild, spasmodic, devouring force, as if her body wanted to milk me, to make me empty myself completely without mercy.

Chapter 342: End of Volume I (R18)

In the middle of the climax, the tension released was so brutal, so devastating, that it made me react instinctively.

I stood up, swept up by the animal impulse of the moment, and positioned myself on top of the kneeling Astrid, without leaving her for a second.

glssshhhh! plpsshhh slrrrrpp!

I remained squatting, holding her tightly by her waist, and I kept pumping, but this time downward and more intensely, thrusting with each spasm, with short, tense, desperate movements.

As if even when I was already cumming, my body refused to stop, trying to empty itself to the very depths, to leave nothing, even though it was supposed to be just a quick shot, which should already be coming to an end.

Still I didn't care about anything else and kept going, my thrusting persistent and into Astrid's anus that never stopped squeezing and ordeigning me.

"Nnghh♥□... hmmmphhh♥□... haaahhh ~♥♥♥"

Splatsh! squelch! shhhh....

She was losing control. Now that I was on top of her, I could see it clearly: her whole body was trembling, shaken by waves of pleasure as she received my creampie and my persistent pump.

She clung desperately to the cushions, as if they were the only thing keeping her anchored to reality, her fingers marking the fabric until it was almost tearing her apart.

Her face, sunk into the cushions, barely contained the deep, halting moans that still escaped into the atmosphere with such raw intensity that they were felt rather than heard.

Every fiber of her body reacted, and I could feel it all-how she surrendered, how she lost herself, how she let herself go without reserve.

glssshhhh! plpsshhh slrrrrpp!

Every thrust. rumbled, crashed against your big ass with a wet, carnal sound, making us vibrate as if we were still on the edge.

"!!!"

I felt as if, even during my orgasm, another one came at once. Not only that; it was a big one, which meant I suddenly came out of rapid-fire mode.

In fact, I felt like it was the first time it had ever happened to me and I couldn't stop it.

AUmmmfh-!!!mmfhnn....AAAHHMM!!!!! ♥️👄♥️♥️♥️♥️"

Sploosh! splash! shhhh! squelch!

And she wouldn't stop either. She was writhing, contracting, shuddering, moaning with her face buried in the sofa bed, which seemed to tremble with every one of my bestial thrusts.

We were both in pure ecstasy, and I continued to fill her relentlessly, as she appreciated wanting to milk me wildly.

I couldn't stop; the intensity of that onslaught and the resistance she was giving me was driving me crazy, making me dizzy, losing all sense.

I could only feel how Astrid's sacred hole seemed to suck my soul, while her skin, drenched in sweat, barely allowed me to hold myself steady.

Slrrrp!... thhhmmmp!!... slurrrp!...

Still, I kept pumping hard causing watery, overflowing vulgar sounds.

Luckily, the bastard down there knows how to use magic and my blessing and fixed the problem to again start filling Astrid without needing to stop, not for a second.

I felt that having made that abrupt change put me into a new kind of state that I couldn't explain, but it resulted in my cumming being prolonged, even as it shot abundantly.

I have long since stopped thinking about the logic of this and will simply enjoy the moment as I continually fill Astrid without any mercy.

"I... I-I'm♥️ burning! Aahhh!!! ♥️Aaaaahhhnn!!!! ♥️♥️"

Psshht!!... Squish!... splish!!!...

"Argggh!!!!

Spurt!!! Splurt!!....

We were both giving our all, feeling the shared ecstasy grow between us, something I didn't think was possible.

Astrid moaned deeper and deeper, her sounds choppy and increasing in intensity.

Bathed in sweat and gasping for breath, I could do nothing but continue. In fact, I felt like I had to move or I would go crazy.

I picked Astrid up, which was a bit difficult, because of her sweaty, smooth skin; and threw her on the couch that was basically forced to become a bed with our intensity.

And I did the same thing next, positioning myself behind her so that we were both sideways on the bed.

"Aaahh!,..., Honeyyyy!!~♥□♥, mmmhg!!!, Mmggh~♥♥♥♥"

Plssshhhhhh!... plssshhhhhh!... slkktkk!

I found my way to her tight ring again. I grabbed one of her legs and lifted her up, continued aggressively as I pulled Astrid in and began an intense kiss along with intense flurry of lunges.

I did all this while still cumming, her tight passage could not have been more lubricated and I was moving with such intensity that considerations were long out of place.

But in fact, it helped that Astrid had nothing but good reactions; she was already in ecstasy and her hot breath confirmed it, as did her soft moans of pleasure drowned out by our hot kiss.

I gripped her soft thigh tighter, intensifying each movement. My member was opening wider and wider, to the point that, unintentionally, for a moment it slipped completely free.

Then, as if drawn by an irresistible impulse, it slipped smoothly into Astrid's trembling depths, her muscles tightening and quivering around me with a fierce rhythm, amplifying the fire of every thrust.

"MMmmgh!!!, ~♥♥♥♥♥"

Squelch... trickle... plip....

She was taken by surprise by the sudden intrusion with creampie included, and I didn't really mind; I was more given to doing my best.

I really was overwhelmed by the feeling of release in more ways than one, and I wanted to do my best.

"Aaahhh!❤️❤️"

I held Astrid again and we did a half turn, making us both look up, with Astrid still on top of me and starting to pump intensely upward.

As I made intense lunges from below, now with more leeway, I began to intersperse the hole I was using, giving me a unique and intoxicating pleasure.

At that moment I wasn't thinking clearly, I just wanted more pleasure; both her vagina and her anus felt so good that I couldn't decide which was better and I couldn't stop intercalating out and in one from the other, until....

"AAHHH!!!❤️👉 WAIT, HUMMmm!!!, NOOOO~❤️❤️❤️❤️"

Psshht!!.. squish!....splish!!.

I summoned a second member that settled in effortlessly; no more pauses, no more switching—just a steady flow driving us to the edge.

I moved with deliberate intensity, driving into both of Astrid's entrances at once, her trembling body rising and falling in sync with every thrust—surrendering completely to the overwhelming wave of pleasure.

Her legs shook, muscles stretched and taut, braced against the bed—too drained to resist, yet too enflamed to go still. I held her close beneath me, feeling the heat of her slick skin as she leaned back, arching with every shared tremor.

Her deep, ragged gasps filled the room—each one a raw reflection of the fire devouring us both.

I could feel the slick heat of her skin pressing against mine, the dampness of her sweat mingling with the air, and the slight shiver running down her spine with every shudder—a silent confession of the ecstasy that held her just on the edge of collapse.

Without pause, I continued filling her, again and again, as we both lost ourselves in a flood of sensation—heat, pressure, and the intoxicating mix of sharp and sweet pleasure washing over us.

In that suspended moment, only her and I existed—exhausted, breathless, and united by the trembling final surge that marked the peak of our shared madness.

"Mghh♥️... mmmmmhh!!!♥️ NHNNGHHHAHAAHHH!!!♥️♥️♥️♥️"

..

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"ahhh!~.... mmmgh~ Honey~♥️☐"

"Astrid, stop moaning like that or you'll make me start all over again."

"but honey, your massages are very good and I really needed them, I was really stressed lately".

After an intense session and feeling like I almost reached nirvana and beyond to the point of almost getting to know Aeloria again, we finally finished that session which was short but intense; we couldn't continue because Astrid had passed out from pleasure.

Actually, although she improved a bit with the statistics of our synchronization, she is still the weakest, but having Lily as an example, it seems that at least during sex being stronger is not totally crucial to endure more or less during sex which has many factors in addition at play.

Because, although Lily also improved and is now as strong as me, she still cannot dominate me to the end, but she would be my father-in-law's worst nightmare...

On the other hand, after a few minutes and confirming that Astrid did not enter the reincarnation cycle, I calmed down and started to fix everything.

Although, unfortunately, the couch which I was very fond of - since it was the scene of many things between Astrid and me - was partially destroyed and could barely hold us at that moment.

After a few minutes, Astrid was finally back on her feet, although she still seemed out of it, so I gave her a recovery massage, all over her body, especially her back, shoulders and legs, which she claimed not to feel.

"Haah~, well, it's my fault for overdoing it. Can you feel your legs now?"

"Yes, haaah~ I really can't live without you anymore. Your massages are wonderful."

"Ah! So you only want me for my massages... That makes me sad, Astrid!"

"Honey! Stop talking nonsense—you know that's not true!"

"Hmm, do I?"

I asked teasingly, turning her body so she was facing me. I looked into her eyes—because if I looked at her still-lingerie-clad, temptingly sexy body, I might lose control again.

"You're playing dumb."

"Well, now that I think about it, someone's only been complimenting my massages lately. It really makes me wonder... maybe someone just wants me for my massages... oh, and my cock."

"Honey! That's not true... ~I—I love you because... because it's you."

"Eh? What did you say? I didn't quite catch that... Seems like someone's having a hard time expressing themselves."

"You really love teasing me... even though I'm the older one."

"In my heart, you're as young as the day I met you."

"That was just a few months ago! Geez, it's my own fault for letting you take advantage of me... I love you, honey. Even without your massages, even without your... skill... you're my treasure....There, I said it. Happy now?"

"Calling me happy doesn't even begin to cover it, my beautiful Astrid. I love you too, and hearing that from the one you love... it's simply beyond words."

"Ugh, honey, stop being so cheesy. I'm too old to be this mushy."

"But you're as young as the day that—"

"That day was only a few months ago! Because you make it sound like it was a long time ago!"

"Well, to me, it felt like a lifetime. Maybe we knew each other in a past life?"

"Seriously, honey, you're unbearably cheesy today. Stop it—I can't take any more. Just focus on my message. Make it so I can walk again... and so my shoulders don't hurt."

"Okay, okay."

Well, Astrid isn't one to act mushy, even though she calls me honey, she's more about action than words.

'But leaving that aside, today was a good day.'

I've been on a roll since dawn, even though night has not yet arrived, which is the most productive time.

'Why not go on?'

I thought it would be a good idea to give her an excellent restorative massage to get her back in shape and then sneak her into my room and bring the twins to end the day on a high note.

I would also like to drag Lily, but because of her stubbornness she still doesn't know I'm a girl, otherwise I would sneak her into the dorms as well, or maybe it's better to take them all to her place, it would also be a good opportunity for those who have not done it to become familiar with Lily.

'What a pity, well even if Lily is left out, I'll make it up to her later.'

He was determined to make it an excellent night, but at that moment:

"so honey, now what are you going to do with Lia?"

"huh?...oh right Cordelia!!!"

Astrid brought me back to reality and reminded me of the problem with Cordelia, but in fact I had already come to the conclusion that I would ask her out.

Right now, I (Seraphina) wasn't at the academy, earlier I was so scared before that I left for the Silvercrest mansion for the night, which I now think is an impediment to the party I had planned.

'well I can go back and affront her and then have the party, will we do it right away, will she want to do it?'

Well I had some doubts about what would happen with Cordelia next, first we should see what happens when she finds out about my current harem, let's see if Astrid did a good job, as she said.

"honey, why don't you answer me!"

"Ahh, yes, I'm going to ask her out. Now that she knows how she feels and is aware of my tastes, it's inevitable. I guess I'm ready too, even if it's a bit sooner than I thought—"

"Sorry honey"

"Never mind, we've settled the matter. But Astrid, are you sure? Do you think you're ready to tell Cordelia that you're dating me?"

"W-well honey... no need to go so fast, ehem, you can start dating her, and then after a certain amount of time... ehem, which you can take with your due calm, you can tell her the rest, and those little details, like you did with me."

"...""I remember those little details made her faint.... no that's not what's important right now...'

"everything will be fine if she goes out with Phina and I go out with Chris won't it?"

"but what!!! Astrid!!!, what am I hearing, you want just the benefits and no responsibility!"

"b-but honey it's not like it's really necessary, I think Lia will be happy with dating you, with just that it could already be very stimulating, if you tell her everything all at once it could be very bad."

"don't throw excuses Astrid, don't tell me you did what you did with a half-hearted resolution...I'm not saying it's wrong that you gave me the last push, but you are also part of this and I will drag you with me...I will tell her that you are dating me, it seems that you also need a strong push to come clean."

"h-honey, let's calm down, you know, this is not the time to overload Lia with so many things, it's better to wait a little longer"

"uh, if not now then when? for starters I had planned to tell Cordelia almost everything when we started dating the last few days of academy and you were the one who brought it forward, I don't blame you, but these are the consequences of your actions huehuehue~"

"wait honey that's what I mean, it was necessary to do it fast because there wasn't much time left, and the opportunity could be lost."

"huh? what do you mean? Come to think of it before you also said something about there wasn't much time, what did you mean?"

"yeah, it's not time to overwhelm her with so many things, the next few days will be hectic, the academy is suspended, tomorrow we will leave for the middle world"

"huh!?"

End of Volume I – Beginning of the Age of Gods: Days of Peace.

Chapter 343: ...

[Our identity is closely tied to those we love, and when they leave, we feel a part of us leaves too. ]

--

'Haah... why did I end up like this, what did I do wrong, again?'

In this world I thought I could make it too.

If I lived and tried as hard as everyone else....

Getting up every time I fell, moving forward no matter how dark the road became....

Living earnestly... finding my own happiness.

"Defendant Christian Leonheard understands the weight of his crimes."

'So why do I have to go through this...? No. These are the consequences of my actions. I caused everything to come to this point..... Still, it seems futile to expect anything else...'

It seems that this world never agrees with me.

It's a chaotic place, where effort is not enough.

A cursed world plagued by intrigues, where power is disputed at every corner, and each person acts only out of self-interest, sowing more and more chaos.

A chaos where the slightest carelessness turns you into someone else's stepping stone...

One more among the thousands -maybe millions- that ended up being just that:

one more stone in someone else's ascent.

The cycle repeats itself.

Over and over again.

Over and over again.

It is absurd. A cycle so cruel, so eternal, that no one seems to have the courage - nor the strength - to break it.

But that's the way this world is.

Wanting to stop this madness is a stupid ideal.

It is useless.

It's useless, pointless... and you'll probably end up as a corpse before you even glimpse a possibility.

That's why ideals are just that: ideals.

Distant dreams that should remain what they are.

No one gets very far chasing ideals alone.

'So what's the point of all this?'

'It's different. We follow a clear goal, without clinging to any silly ideals.'

'True... and for that we had to pay a high price.'

'That's where the two differ.'

The ideal may be foolish, but it still exists in every person.

The important thing is not to cling to it, but to be aware of your capabilities and your purpose:

a clear purpose that drives you forward.

...As long as there is a purpose,

no matter how stupid, irrational or desperate your goal is.

It doesn't matter if your purpose lacks logic, if your engine is weak or bent.

Anything goes.

It's a clear goal, not a stupid ideal.

Since it is impossible to stop this madness... then all that remains is to join it.

Join in... and triumph over all others, crushing the fools pursuing an ideal and proving that your goal is superior to any other, not with objectivity, but with brute force.

'So what if the cycle repeats itself, so what if I have to stand over thousands to achieve it?'

I've already decided my goal and purpose...

and I swear I will do it... at any cost.'

"I will say it again: Christian Leonheard, you are accused of ruthlessly wiping out a large portion of your companions and two generations of the Five Kingdoms ."

And all of that led me here: bound to a cold, rough pillar, forced to kneel at the center of a massive raised platform, surrounded by a crowd that spreads like a dark mass, fading into the shadows of the place.

Their faces are marked by hatred and resentment, and in their eyes burns fury. Many are relatives or friends of those I am accused of eliminating.

Their murderous intentions are so palpable that they seem to cut the air, and they are more than justified.

For indeed, I did.

"Accused, you have the right to give your side of the story."

"Haah~ "

I don't understand what they expect me to say.

What I did is obvious.

Everyone knows it.

The evidence is all over the place, it's an empty trial, a meaningless formality, part of a dysfunctional and rotten system.

One more nonsense from this place that made me do what I did.

This stupid little corner of the world that thinks it's big, that struts about pompously without realizing that they are but insignificant ants in the vast scheme of things.

'these idiots, who meddled where they shouldn't have, should thank me, for what I did'.

Neither a kingdom, nor a continent can hold out forever if it allows itself to be consumed by its own stupidity.

"Have you nothing to say to defend yourself, you, who caused the greatest tragedy in the history of this continent?"

"...No."

This is complete nonsense.

I gave my answer and position clearly and precisely, but even so, whoever dictates my judgment looks at me with disappointment, as if expecting something more from me.

There is nothing more to say.

Almost my entire generation, and the one before it, have disappeared because of me.

And that... is absolute.

The memories hit me with intensity, and I curse this crappy world, for what it forced me to do, just to survive and fulfill my purpose.

'Is this what they call a small sacrifice for the greater good?'

"Haah~..."

I can still feel that nasty, slimy sensation of cutting Elena's throat with my spear...

And the cold, terrible weight of having to get rid of all my partners.

And the rest of my friends and companions.

'At least I was quick and precise.'

It was disgusting.

But necessary, in the grand scheme of things.

Something I did for the greater good.

From the beginning, I thought I was prepared for a situation that would cause me to make decisions of this caliber.

But one is never prepared to do something like this.

And yet...

"Haah... I guess I'm on my own again. Yeah, that was my decision. Hahaha...! Never mind! I can start again! Hahaha!"

"Well, I see you're not in your right mind anymore. No more need be said. I proclaim that your judgment and-"

"Hahaha! You're calling me crazy!? I'm the sanest one here! Judge me!? Hahaha! No one in this continent has the right to do that!"

To hell with it all! Everything is so stupid, so ironic... it's actually funny

"Defendant! Christian, stop!"

Chained, I began to shake violently as I laughed.

These chains were made of an extremely strong material, engraved with suppression runes.

Normally they would be more than enough to restrain someone with a rank far above mine.

Admittedly, I was firmly chained, with no way of freeing myself with brute force.

But that didn't matter.

Being bound did not make me hesitate.

I did what I did, and I have no regrets.

I only did what had to be done.

And I will do it to the end.

I started this, I'm here... and I'm going to finish it!

"hahaha!... do you know why I came back?? why I willingly gave myself up, being able to run away with the demons?"

"..."

Silence fell over the dais. I may have looked insane, but I planned to make the reason for my return very clear... Before returning to the demons' side and starting everything from scratch.

"I did it to show them how stupid they are. Fools who don't know their place, who think they are the axis of the world while sinking in their own arrogance.

You insects! You can't even protect your younger generation!

I have come to forcefully teach them their place."

"I have heard enough. Now you will be sentenced to-"

"SILENCE!!!"

My voice erupted like thunder.

Enough was enough. That was all I could tolerate.

'For one thing...these damn handcuffs bother me.'

I'd played this rotten theater long enough.

My shadow suddenly stirred.

And out of it emerged a hooded figure.

My doppelgänger.

He held a golden spear, ancient and majestic in design, carved with symbols that seemed to breathe.

His very presence froze the room.

And that was all the time we needed.

With a single blow, he severed my chains.

In that instant, I summoned my own spear-identical to his-which appeared in my hand wreathed in a searing flash.

"Listen well and record it: no one! Absolutely no one on this continent can judge me!"

Those present with power began to move, trying to suppress us.

Let them try!

I will not allow it.

"Art of Radiance, Third Stance: Sanctified Piercer" (x2)

Swoosh!

We moved in the blink of an eye. My doppelgänger and I hurled our spears straight at the face of the one trying to judge me. They were like golden lightning bolts—just inches from piercing his face... but they stopped.

"Ahh!?"

The reason was that both my double and I appeared in an instant and held the spears, halting the fatal fate of the judge, who was just beginning to react to the events. I looked at him with disdain, that was exactly what I was referring to.

Sometimes, actions speak louder than words.

I drew back my spear, grabbed him by the neck, and incapacitated him in a single movement.

I unleashed a murderous intent so dense that it drove back everyone who tried to intervene.

"Get out of the way... if you don't want him to die too!"

Holding the judge hostage, I made my point clear.

I showed him his helplessness and how quickly things can change.

And I wasn't done yet.

My doppelgänger began to transform.

He began to grow by breaking the hood, but when he revealed his human appearance was mostly gone. His hair grew longer and turned white, his body was covered with White striped fur.

Feline ears and a tail emerged, his size increased and his spear adjusted to his new form.

I took a different path.

I reached out into the void, which resulted in my hand disappearing for a few moments only to emerge a few moments later holding , a small ruby gem, pulsing like a heart.

Without hesitation, I swallowed it and activated the demonization.

But I did not fully transform into a demon.

My body also grew, and two pairs of horns emerged on my head: one demonic, one draconic.

My hair glowed as if made of dark fire.

They called me a traitor.

An ally of demons.

Maybe... they were right.

But I don't care anymore.

This miserable continent...

has nothing for me anymore.

I need something bigger.

It didn't go as I planned.

And it happened before my time.

But that's the way this world is.

"This play ends here!"

I shouted, twirling my spear.

My doppelgänger did the same, right next to me.

We hit the ground with the shaft in unison.

Bang!

We looked like two guards at the gates of hell.

And maybe that's not a bad comparison...

because That's exactly what we're about to show you.

Art of Lust, Eighth Stance: Erupting Reverberation (x2)

At that moment everything stopped

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[And if our identity is tied to those we love... then I guess I'm no one anymore. Now only the monster remains.

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"Alright, listen up everyone! From today I will be the The Eminence in Shadow"

"What nonsense are you talking now? Is that why you called us, and...why are you blindfolded?"

"Silence, plain-faced woman! The Eminence is speaking! minions like you can't question me- ugh! Wait, Aurora, don't pull my ears, they're sensitive!"

"I didn't come here to listen to your nonsense. And stop saying I have a plain-face or you'll make me mad."

"Wait , you're going to be my number one henchman, my right hand Ugh! Why are you pulling harder? Guys, help me!"

"Don't drag us into your problems."

"She's your girlfriend."

"Tsk, you just called us so we could watch you flirt."

"Damn you! That's why you're still single. Aurora, stop pulling my ear! If you want the title, just say the word and we'll settle it fairly.... in a death match that will decide who will carry it!"

"Who wants that title? Really, if you're just going to talk nonsense, I'm leaving. Rather, why do you keep calling me to these meetings?"

"hey we're a couple, but you're also still part of the guys alliance."

"I'm leaving."

"Wait, don't go! I'm not just saying silly yes there is an important reason. Let me explain it first... have a seat."

Chapter 344: The Eminence in Shadow

"Wait!, don't go! I'm not just talking nonsense, yes there is an important reason. Let me explain it first...have a seat."

"Here I'm fine, in case you're still talking nonsense."(Aurora)

I encouraged Aurora, who at that moment was 'lovingly' hugging me from behind while I was sitting on the couch.

I must say that position left me very vulnerable to her sadistic hands, but she slyly refused.

"Tsk, who knew you'd be a girlfriend who likes to abuse her vulnerable boyfriend, agh!, stop pulling my ears already."

Damn, she had the positional advantage, it was best not to keep provoking her, so I ignored her and let her do what she wanted while I turned my attention to the rest, which were all the male members of the group. After all, this was a gathering of guys + Aurora.

"Why do you guys have those looks, are you still hung over, didn't I take them off earlier?"

I looked at them, well, if you can call it that because at that moment I had black bandages covering my sight, I wore them for many reasons.

One was due to personal training to improve my senses, I was planning to do it the last two months of the academy, but since this happened, I have no choice but to do it now.

But, even without seeing them I could clearly feel that most of them had a doubtful face towards me and Aurora, it seems that my senses were already very sharp which is good.

"It's not that, you know, even though it's been a few months now, I still find it hard to believe that you and Aurora are dating," (Mike.)

"Yeah, we thought because of the twins and Leyla-onesan, you had... hum, how to put this politely... ...A minimum standard," (Ivan).

"ahh!, You're the toad who always wants to eat a swan, who will also remain a bachelor for life," (Aurora).

"Hey!, I said politely, what's the need to insult, I was referring to the characteristics of beast women." (Ivan).

"it's obvious you didn't mean that...hmm, but it's true that it's a surprise, we thought you could only see her as a friend, and that's why you kept inviting her to our gentlemen's meetings", (Esteban).

Yes, since that night of the banquet I'm basically dating Aurora, being Chris, which honestly doesn't make me happy at all.

I was taken aback that time, as I couldn't process what she meant by 'helping her stay away from myself'

, which left me blank and uncomprehending.

Then she talked more about things I don't remember, to finally bring out a contract, and I still not understanding anything signed it and agreed to a collaboration with her where I would pretend to be her boyfriend and protect her from me (Seraphina).

When I came to my senses and read the contract, as much as I read it I did not see any clause or anything advantageous for me, it was a fraud, it was more like a slavery contract, disguised as a mutual aid contract.

The few advantages were nonsense like "party (B) me , could make a reasonable request to party (A) Aurora, who as princess will comply (can refuse)", which is basically nothing and she can refuse, even if reasonable.

She used my contractual fraud technique, well, I can break it at any time, but I didn't, because I wanted to see where she wanted to go....

"Well, it was love at first sight since I saw a version of Auran that looked like she was wearing a wig, she is the prettiest..., in my heart. You don't know how happy I was when she accepted my nervous confession, oh! how I'm embarrassed just remembering it, but I'm really happy now (¯ \_ ¯)."

"Hey, if you're going to say something like that put a believable face and tone, rather say something believable," (Ban).

"Well guys, you know how Chris likes to joke around, don't mind him, we're a happy couple, aren't we?"(Aurora).

"Yeah, besides you don't know how much I love it when you hug me from behind and stick your ribs, I mean breasts on the back of my neck..... (¯ \_ ¯)."

"You idiot, be serious!" (Aurora).

"Ugh! Now you're hanging me...aghh!, this is domestic abuse, I'll sue you."

"But you know, when they act like that, they do look like a couple" (Willian).

'hmm, that was a very sensitive comment, for someone who is dense as a rock, ugh, she really wants to kill me'.

"Well, love comes in different ways, doesn't it? I think they make a good couple, like Alice and me," (Alexander).

"Come on dude, even I'm getting tired of telling you to give up, you know earlier I saw her very honeyly hugging with Ms. Silvercrest, there's something weird there," (Mike).

"/\_\" (Alex)

"Hmm, but I'm not convinced they're a couple. Let's see, Chris, blink three times if they make you... ah!, he blinked, they saw it I told them" (Ivan).

"Idiot!"(Aurora).

"Hold on, Aurora, blinking is a natural impulse and more so if someone is strangling you."

Yes, I am fully collaborating with her to make our relationship believable. To bad she was a more abusive girlfriend than I thought she was.

But putting that aside...

'she should definitely know.'

Yes finding this out was also a reason I played along, by this point I thought I was sure Aurora had deduced that Seraphina and I were the same person since that night of the banquet.

I really blame Tristan who I think gave Aurora too many clues that made her put things together, maybe that's what she was missing, I was underestimating her too much.

At first I wasn't sure, and I was a little heartbroken because even she moved out of me dorm the next day into her own dorm that she was entitled to as a student.

I couldn't stop her because she basically never presented any problems and the surgery was perfect.

I thought I had blown it, but oddly enough Aurora didn't interact differently with me; she was still friendly and even willingly came over to hang out on the weekends.

The only thing different was that she gave me some warnings that I couldn't take advantage of her because she was dating Chris, which left me not knowing what to think or how to act around her. I never took advantage to begin with..., well, maybe a little.

And after several meetings with myself and the girls, we came to the conclusion that she possibly knows this, and with her personality she wants to get back at me for playing games with her by dragging me into her own game.

It's either that or she wants to get more secrets out of me on her own knowing I have more, with Aurora's personality it's not uncommon for her to want to go for all or nothing and maybe both are the right answer.

The only good thing about all this is that it was never in doubt that she is interested in me and she said so herself that day and curiously from time to time she obviously proves it.

When we came to these conclusions, something inside me... for some reason I felt that I shouldn't let her get away with it and I stood my ground and played into her game, starting something like a competition between her and me of who was playing the dumb better.

I didn't let her find out more about me, and I didn't bring up the subject that she already knows my double identity, I'll play dumb so well that I'll even make her doubt that again.

we've been at it ever since, like fighting for dominance before we started our relationship, or that was the analogy Eira gave me from her neutral point of view, which seemed to be accurate.

'I'll show her that I'm the dumber one... wait, that doesn't sound right...'

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"Ahem! First of all, William! From now on you're the leader of this group!"

I said decisively, finally managing to get Aurora to stop strangling me and made her sit on the couch like the rest.

As Astrid mentioned, the time at the academy was coming to an end, and now we were on a flying ship bound for the Kingdom of Vestalia, where one of the three rifts to the Middle World of this continent was located. And it was the only one we had under control.

The other two lead you into territories dominated by beasts or monsters that the kingdom could not handle, at least until the restriction was lifted further.

For now, only those who had reached the ten metamorphoses could enter.

It was a pity that the most peaceful phase of my life was cut short, but I was already mentally prepared. The important thing now was to be The Eminence in Shadow.

"But Chris, you're-"(William).

"Stop it, William. Say no more. You are more than qualified. Didn't you receive personalized training from the instructors? You are the one who will undoubtedly be the leader of our generation."

Before, in the alternate line, the leaders were three: the other two were Ivan and Cordelia. But both of them were now regular members of our group, and that changed everything.

No one outside our group is strong or influential enough to take their places.

"Huh? Did you know that? Still, Chris you're much stronger and I don't think that..." (William)

"That's precisely why, William. As the stronger one, from now on I'll be the leader in the shadows, but you'll be the leader in the daylight."

"Huh?" (William)

"Yes, as you heard. Because I am the strongest among men, I will keep that position."

"Huh? Why only among the men, rather, isn't this an important topic? Shouldn't you have invited the girls too?" (Ban)

"An excellent question, Ban. But unnecessary... It's obvious that if we include the girls, I don't know if I could keep my position. I mean, Elena would threaten my position too much, not to mention it fits her better, if I do that I have the odds stacked against me."

Well, I had already politely asked Elena—who was my biggest competition—if she wanted the position, but she declined without even realizing what she was missing out on.

I didn't invite them because I was afraid that knowing the benefits Elena or one of the girls who are also tough to beat will change their mind, especially if Eira and Selene collude against me they might beat me to a pulp....

"haahh~, I don't know if this is a serious matter or not, no, it must be since we're deciding our leader, we have to call the girls, like Ban said"(Aurora).

"We can't her right now they have a girls meeting, it will be bad for us guys to interrupt, besides I asked, and none of them wanted to be The Eminence in Shadow."

"Damn it! Chris, I'm a girl too! Besides, what does the silly 'The Eminence in Shadow' matter, we're deciding our faction leader!"

"Oh, Aurora, I see you understand what's in store for us. Well, it was to be expected from a princess. Besides, the leader has already been decided: it will be William and him alone."

Yes, I don't understand why she keeps emphasizing that about the leader, the only competition among the girl would be Cordelia, but at this moment, I don't think she cares less about that, and I don't want to be one.

And if Ivan who was the other competition hasn't said anything is already decided, it's a fact that it will be William, besides there's still a long way to go for that. The important thing is the leader of the shadows.

Chapter 345: What happened yesterday?

"This... Chris, I'm not understanding. So, will you be the leader, or will William be the leader?" (Esteban).

"Uh, well, both... I'll be like a leader over William. William, who had custom training, will be in charge of being the leader in plain sight, as the leader of the Dynamite faction."

"Hey, you better stop thinking about putting that name on something, or Elena will beat you." (Aurora)

"That's where the advantages come in: I won't do it, William will. If anyone's going to get hit, it'll be him."

"...This, Chris, I don't know if I'll be the leader, but if I am, I'll refuse that order. I don't want to get hit."(William)

"What!!!! it's only my first order and you're already rebelling?....hmm, Well, since your excuse is reasonable, I approve. Haaah~, well whatever, you guys decide on a silly name later . Also, William, you're obviously going to be the leader. You were trained and taught how to lead a group and other useful things.."

"Hey! But if you're Will's leader, then you basically have all the privileges and no responsibilities. that's unfair!" (Mike)

"Too accurate an observation to be yours, Mike. But yeah, that's basically it. Do they have any complaints, huh? If you do, you can fight for this position, in a death match!"

"Ugh! Damn...!" (Mike)

"That's tyranny." (Ban)

"You? You're only strong against the weak." (Ivan)

"Alright, not everything is bad. You'll be my direct subordinates, starting with Aurora. You'll be Alpha. Next is Ban, you'll be Beta. Let's see... you're next, Esteban, you'll be Epsilon...No, you know what? Forget it. None of you are beautiful girls. I've lost all interest in having any of you as subordinates — we'd better stop."

"..." (All)

I ignored my bewildered former subordinates, who seemed to have something to say to me, and just concentrated on William.

After all, it's seriously important for him to be at the helm. Leading a whole generation and so on, it's annoying and cumbersome and I definitely didn't want to do it.

But more importantly, if I become leader, I would have more problems with the factions and all those who expect William to be the leader.

I would be having conflicts all over the place from the beginning, which I will avoid at all costs, even if I have to use threats, I want to stay as covert as possible and not draw attention to myself, in that place drawing attention equals trouble.

Besides, with William and his protagonic power, it is more likely that he will take us away, as in the alternate line.

Sure, I'll step in from time to time and make some minor corrections, but in the end, it's true that he's a more suitable leader than I am.

I really think that, if a very dangerous or disadvantageous situation arises, I would just take the girls and my close acquaintances and run away without any hesitation.

I can't I don't want to carry the expectations of a bunch of strangers, That's why I can't be the leader of a large number of people.

"Look, William, it would be a shame if the instructors went to the trouble of training you and teaching you so many things and in the end you don't put it into practice. You'd waste all those expectations and the passion they put into teaching you."

"Well, that's..."

I never saw it directly, but I was sure that an hour a day, instead of being an assistant, he was getting one-on-one lessons and other things in secret, even Astrid was busy sometimes, for going to train William.

All to prepare him, who was a blessed and a Luxion agent into an excellent leader. he was already carrying a lot of expectations from the beginning.

I would say I pity him, but things always work out for him, so I don't worry about it.

"Look, in the light I'll just be one more of your close subordinates, and basically you'll always be in control. It's pure advantages it's a win-win. I'll only step in if you can't seem to handle it, or you ask me for help."

Yeah, it's not like I want to get involved in things all the time either. I'll only step in when necessary, which won't be too many times.

"Still, I don't know if I'm a good leader, Chris..."

I shouldn't even be trying to convince him to begin with. I should be doing things quietly.

But I just noticed that there was doubt in William. In my previous life he did it without hesitation. I guess now that I am strong and look like the leader of the group, he is having these thoughts.

Knowing him, if I don't make things clear, he will want me to be the leader, even though everyone expects him to be, just because I am stronger. But that's not all it takes.

That's why the instructors didn't care that I was the strongest, what mattered was the potential and what William represented.

In fact, I was called a few moments ago to advise me to make my own faction or go down William and in fact that was why I immediately initiated this meeting to make things clear beforehand, which I see was a good decision.

"Haaahh, well... just keep in mind that I will be no more than the leader among the shadows. There's still plenty of time for you to figure yourself out."

"Alright."

Anyway, it was only a matter of time before he became the leader. Besides, it's a long time away.

It's not as if upon arrival you could immediately found a faction, that would take a while. Now in this line we even arrived earlier, so that faction leader thing is still a long way off.

' But I'll be the shadow eminence from the start.~'

"Well, leaving that aside, and with my undisputed position already firm, I also gathered them to give them a little explanation of what awaits us."

As all this has been abrupt and provoked again by those damned demons, we have to take into account some things that await us.

Especially those related to the previous generation. The instructors will probably tell us some things before we arrive, but not everything.

So I'm going to explain to these idiots so they don't make fools of themselves and embarrass our group, I'm looking especially at Mike and Ivan.

"Wait, Chris, I've been thinking about it, but... you forgot again to invite Tharen right?" (Estepan)

"...??" "Who?"

"Chris, Cordelia's minion three." (Aurora)

"oh, yes, of course I know who he is."

"Because that's the only way you remember him." (Aurora)

"hey! it's his fault for having that legendary ability to be forgotten. But I didn't see him anyway, if I did I would have called him too, rather because you guys didn't bring him along."

"You're the only one who forgets him... but come to think of it, I didn't see him either." (Ivan)

"he must be around, before, when we were getting on the ship, he... he also went up.... or not?" (Mike).

"I...come to think of it when Chris said we were all together now, we immediately ran to the academy.... He at that moment... he was there, wasn't he?" (Esteban)

"Wait, I was sure we had all met!, at this time ." (Alexander)

"I-I don't think we saw Tharen today." (William).

"Wait!!... besides Tharen, where was Ciel?" (Aurora)

"Oh, Ciel is fine. As for Tharen, you all should remember, he has me under his ability and I can't remember much! I barely remembered that he exists. Don't ask me for more."

"Wait, this could be serious! I'll go to the dorms and ask the instructors." (William)

William, a bit aggrieved and worried, got up and went to look for Tharen, while the rest tried to remember what happened to him.

After all, it really is difficult to do so and not only because of his ability.

Yesterday, after learning of our hasty departure from Astrid, I decided to have a big farewell party for both boys and girls.

Shocking events and revelations at the girls' party aside, I took the men, plus Aurora, and Ciel, who became a party regular as well.

I introduced him as a younger cousin and took him with me often, due to Rosy asking me and saying it wasn't healthy to be on the dimensional stone all day.

I thought so too. The problem was that he didn't want to go out, but under pressure from me and Rosy, I managed to take him out, sometimes I took him to walk around the capital, together with Rosy, but also, I took him to my parties.

On the other hand, Rosy also went out and interacted with the girls, and joined the female parties as a friend of mine, of course both were always in disguise since their real appearance is delicate at the moment, for those who don't know.

The point is, since it was a special night, someone brought out liquor from the demonic world, which he brought back from his trip and was saving for a special occasion... and that same someone started a drinking competition, with the premise that the first one to die lost.

From then on, everything became a blur.

Without my blessing running that demonic world liquor, made for powerful beings, was not a game.

At some point I remember a little bit that we went from bar to bar and did some things, until I finally woke up in a Street gutters... without understanding anything.

Worst of all, William was with me, hugging me from behind in that narrow gutters .

At that moment I screamed out of sheer fear and cast a lightning spell that left him charred on the spot.

Then I calmed down and healed him, told him it was an incident, and we started to track the rest of the group.

William, in fact, remembered more than I did, although it wasn't much, we retraced our steps, trying to reconstruct what happened.

That's how we found Ban, tied to a tree, face down and half-naked, with all sorts of things carved into his body, in a nearby park already surrounded by people looking at him.

I must say there was one particularly funny one that was arrows pointing to his nipples that said 'pleasure buttons' I took a picture as a souvenir and then we took him down.

He, luckily, remembered Mike's location, which was buried up to his neck at the base of a construction site.

I really don't know how he ended up like that but if things went wrong and we didn't remember him, he would have been buried there for life.

After that, we had no more leads. We started checking nearby bars, hoping to find some other sign.

Coincidentally, as we were walking around and reminiscing, we saw Alexander coming out of an Mature woman's house.

The problem was that this woman appeared to be half giant: she was about six feet tall and three times as wide as Alexander.

I won't lie... despite that, she was beautiful. In fact, I felt a little envious; there was so much to hold on to.

But she seemed interested only in Alexander, even when I tried to talk to her.

Anyway, we kept looking all over the bars, including one that brought back bad memories for me: the "Eclectic Club". I don't know why we even went there, when I swore to myself never to go back... I didn't even want to go in. But I had to make sure.

Inside we saw the old man I met earlier in the year. We asked him if he knew anything about our friend or if we had any outstanding bills.

Apparently we didn't owe anything, but yes - indeed - Ivan was there. The old man went into the back, which looked like a residence, and brought him back.

My heart broke when I saw Ivan walking towards us limping slightly, and even more so when he came up to us and said:

["Guys... I'm glad to see you... What happened yesterday? I can't remember. Do you? Also, for some reason, my—"]

"Stop!!, it's all right now Ivan. It's all right, you're a strong man, you don't have to remember anything. Come on, we have to keep looking for the rest" o(T^T).]

I didn't want to listen anymore. I put my hand on his shoulder and cast a healing spell. It was better that way...nothing happened there, if he doesn't remember anything it's better to leave it at that .