

## **Chapter 421: The Night We Met**

As the sad and tragic crying sobs of Ella transferred over the call, Virus began clenching one of his fists in dejection. He disliked hearing Ella cry very much, regrettably, he disliked lying even more. Thereupon, he decided to clarify something he, perhaps, should've done a long time ago, "Do you know why I never told you 'I love you' Ella?"

Sometimes after a deep silence, he added calmly, "That's because I still don't think I understand what love is exactly, at least not yet..."

Not stopping there, he went on, "But please don't get me wrong, I liked you very much... and I think I still might have some feelings for you. But..."

"You asked me why did I never come looking for you, right? Why didn't I just follow and run after you that day outside the police station?" Tilting his head down at this point, he proclaimed, "If I want to provide a plain and shallow answer, I might say that happened because you told me not to follow you and never contacted me again... and that might be true in a sense, but no, that wasn't the main cause. It's much more complicated than that."

"Hence, for me to give you the main and original reason behind it, let me go a bit back... to the night we first met."

"Do you remember the night we met, Ella?" He inquired, patiently awaiting Ella's response.

Noticing that Virus was expecting a reply, cleaning the teardrops from the corner of her eyes, Ella answered, "Y-Yes... we met at that party years ago."

"That's correct. But... why do you think we happened to meet one another that day?" He threw another crucial question at once.

"Hmm? Well, isn't that obviously because of a coincidence? We both happened to be at the party that day, therefore we encountered one another. It's clearly that... or in case you want to romanticize it, you could claim it was due to fate."

Letting out a weak sigh, Virus corrected her, "No, Ella, we chanced upon one another that night not because of some coincidence, and certainly not due to fate... to tell you the truth, we run into each other because I decided us to."

"W-What... do you mean?" Confused, and slightly shocked, Ella questioned.

“I mean exactly what I said, Ella, the reason I chose you that night was that you were the person I deemed the most compatible with me in the vicinity at the time, thus, I didn’t hesitate to pick you.”

Shaking his head briefly, he corrected, “In actuality, I didn’t come to magically deem you compatible with me that night as well and my search had begun much earlier than that. It was only that day when I was ready and thereupon pulled some strings here and there and manipulated someone in secret to arrange the party and through some other means made it so you would be also there.” {A/N: It’s a simple thing for Virus to manipulate various variables, like sending the parents of someone who likes to party to travel around which would cause the party to be held.}

By now, Ella’s eyes had long since turned wide open in utter disbelief as they were nearly about to pop out of their sockets any minutes now.

Nevertheless, Virus went on, “But that’s beside the point, the point here is that I thought you were compatible with me, and I had been indeed right... until...”

Not even noticing Ella was barely listening anymore, Virus picked the rest of his elaboration, “until that day outside the police precinct.”

“You said why didn’t I run after you and follow you that day, no? Why didn’t I seek you out even though a few years have passed? Well, that’s because I didn’t see the need to, because it hit me at the time, outside the police station, that we were no longer compatible.”

“For instance, Ella, I’ve noticed that you want a righteous and just companion, which couldn’t be far from who I am. If anything, I’m the exact opposite of that. One day, I might just wake up and decide to end the human population on the planet, would you be able to take that?” Evidently, the final part of his words was just a rhetorical question.

Following that, with no pause, he mouthed, “And the opposite of that is true as well, I don’t want a righteous, extremely moral, and law-abiding woman as my companion, I want myself and my ways to be the so-called justice for my woman. I want someone who would trust my justice even if she could not understand it at the time. And you, my dear, wouldn’t be able to take that. That’s just not you. Being a heroic Guardian suits you much more.”

Going ahead, he concluded, “Therefore, it couldn’t be more transparent that you and I will only continue hurting one another if we stay together and that’ll eventually lead us to even hate each other at some point in the future.”

“And that’s why I didn’t contact you or chase after you that day. Do you get what I’m saying?”

...

After disconnecting the line, Ella seemed to have turned into a motionless statue. She had been dealt with such a hard blow that she was feeling extremely lost now.

First, she was faced with the hard truth that everything between Aizen and her might have been completely fake and nothing more than a big lie.

Then, she came to realize that possibly, the only reason Aizen chose her was that he judged her to be suitable for him. And now that he thought otherwise, he wanted to end the relationship.

‘Did he even like me? Or was that a big lie as well? What... was real? And... what was fake between us?’

DRIP!

A single drop of tear rolled down from her left eye before she simply wiped it off before continuing to proceed toward her undetermined destination.

...

Simultaneously, within the private plane, Virus let out another barely audible sigh while thinking, ‘At least, knowing the whole truth might agonize you less and decrease your sadness a bit.’

Subsequently, he picked the rest of his previous deliberation which had been cut off by Ella’s call. The only difference this time was the fact that his mind was somewhat distracted and occupied. ‘Let’s see...’

## **Chapter 422: My Lovely Yuexin**

"So, among the three options I have, I'll be picking..."

Right as he was done murmuring that, a frown took shape on Virus' forehead as silence overtook the interior of his plane before it was broken again at last, "Ah, damn it. Let's go back home for now."

No longer being in the mood due to the call from Ella, now officially his ex-girlfriend, and the serious conversation they had, he opted to postpone making a vital decision regarding the three options he had available amongst 'reserving as many Rifts as possible', 'entering the Rifts', or his third alternative of 'going back to the Cultivation Earth' to hunt. "Let's just see how it goes."

Although he was truly excited and enthused about his newfound ability to be able to cultivate super fast by simply killing monstrous beasts and absorbing their energy, he had to admit the call he had just now had indeed killed the mood for the moment.

'This is my fourth and last Rift today. Hmm, I already have eight Red-Crystals ready for absorption.' Pondered Hu Yuexin to herself while counting the number of Red-Crystals she now had mentally.

Currently, she was in front of a two-star Rift standing alone, awaiting its high activation.

"Oh, there it is." She whispered, catching the sight of her reserved Rift's activity calmly.

She stood by the opening Rift for a couple of seconds, anticipating the incoming wave of monsters.

Unfortunately, the next instant, with no monsters at sight, the Rift started to close up by itself before it was no longer visible. "Crap, it was a dud."

Dud or Empty Rift. The phenomenon where a Rift activates but spawns no monsters whatsoever before closing down and disappearing by itself.

In the past couple of years, although the number of empty Rifts had been very few and far between initially, as time passed, their number increased until it had become a very frequent thing nowadays.

Alas, the number of Rifts had increased much more all around the globe compared to its duds. Thus, one couldn't really say the situation was getting better overall. On the contrary, it was getting worse.

"Whatever, I'll just go back and consume them for now." Being finally finished with her first round of monster hunting day, Hu Yuexin was extremely excited about the concept of absorbing the Red-Crystals' essence and awakening her own personal Trait.

'Hehe, I wonder what my Trait is. According to my investigations, every person seems to awaken their unique Trait depending on various variables such as their mentality, temper, bloodline, history, previous generations and ancestors, needs, views of themselves or the world, goals, dreams, emotions, and on and on.'

More accurately, anything in an individual's life and experiences could be a variable and deciding factor at what that person's Trait was going to be. And that was what made Traits so unique with infinite possibilities.

Of course, the Abnormal Associations around the world had come up with rough frames of various types of Traits one could awaken which were categorized into general classifications. Albeit, that was all they were, rough frames that could not include all prospects of today and tomorrow.

After Hu Yuexin returned to her wreck of a place which could hardly be called a room, she sat crossed legged before taking out a certain 'Resistance Pill' which was going to

temporarily grant her five hours of resistance, 90% resistance to be precise, to the toxicity and pain of the Red-Crystals.

'What an ingenious pill...' She wondered to herself in some amazement as she ate it.

The reason Hu Yuexin was taking a Resistance Pill was that even though she was quite confident she could tolerate the level of agony that was accompanied during the process of the absorption of the essence inside the crystal, she was aware her physique was extremely weak to poison and the likelihood of her surviving due to being poisoned was absolutely meager.

Therefore, obviously, she would not risk it.

A few minutes after swallowing the pill, Hu Yuexin abruptly grabbed a knife and cut the palm of her hand with no hesitation whatsoever.

Following that, as her blood began to drop on the ground, she seized her first Red-Crystal before putting it in direct contact with the wound in her palm.

Despite this method being proven to be much more lethal and painful, it was without a shadow of a doubt, the current most efficient way of absorbing the flame-like substance within the crystals compared to the other method of keeping it inside the mouth like a lollipop. Therefore, Hu Yuexin didn't even need to think about which method to utilize.

Seconds began to pass at once as she patiently endured and remained still without a single frown showing on her expression.

'Based on what I read over the internet, the chances of awakening after ingesting the first Red-Crystal was nearly non-existent... I just hope it would happen by the time I'm done with all of my eight cryst- wait...' This notion was just going through Hu Yuexin's mind when she sensed some changes within herself.

By the time the feeling of shift ended, a single minute had passed by as the crystal became empty and colorless while being covered in her blood now.

Although quite shocked, Hu Yuexin was certain she had just gone through an awakening. 'Seriously? On my first try, is this luck? Or talent?'

Of course, she did not have enough information regarding the workings of the Red-Crystal and how it affected a person to know the answer to that.

Nonetheless, putting aside her feeling of astonishment for the moment, Hu Yuexin shut both her eyes as she tried to control her newly awakened Trait in order to at least figure out what it was.

Unfortunately, however, no matter how hard she attempted, her Trait just wouldn't respond.

'Hmm? Why isn't my Trait reacting in any way?' While touching her chin with a finger, she started to contemplate the topic.

Sadly though, no matter how hard she made an effort to come up with a possible response, she just could not.

'I guess fighting is the quickest way to understand and unravel the mystery of my Trait.' As this thought showed up within Hu Yuexin's head, she didn't hesitate to open the Guardian app and reserve a Rift.

Currently standing in front of her reserved Rift, Hu Yuexin was patiently awaiting the inevitable triggering of the crevice on the fabric of space.

In the meantime, taking a quick glimpse of her watch, she muttered. "A few minutes more before monster discharge."

That line was just spouted by her lips when abruptly, a peal of wild laughter garnered her attention.

"HAHAHA! Well, would you look at this, if it isn't my lovely Yuexin!"

### **Chapter 423: Won't Ever**

Turning toward the source of laughter, a man and a woman Hu Yuexin did not recognize appeared before her eyes.

"Who are you?" She asked while furrowing her brows.

"Huh? Are you fucking kidding me right now? I'm the one you stabbed the other night, bitch!" Stated the man, his face already contorting in rage. Beside him, his companion remained silent as if she was a mere servant awaiting her master's orders.

On the other side, that response immediately brought back a memory to Hu Yuexin. The memory of the night where Virus narrated everything he knew about her current body's previous owner. And that clearly included the story of how Fan Tong had stolen the Red-Crystal that was supposed to save her son, tried to rape her, and nearly led her son to death that very night!

"Don't think it would just go away only because you pretend to forget what you did, you fucking whore!" He screamed in her direction. "The only reason I haven't reported you to the police already is that I still want to give you one last chance. It's because I took pity on you."

“Hmm, so you’re that Fan Tong.” She admitted her recognition while remaining expressionless for the moment.

“Hahaha, so you ‘do’ remember! Good, good, good!” Showing an evil grin, he went on. “Anyway, you don’t need to be afraid, I won’t report you as long as you do what I tell you to do.”

“Huuuu. And what is that?” Curious where he was going with this, Hu Yuexin questioned with a half-smile.

“It’s great you’re finally cooperating. Hahaha! You should’ve done this from the beginning. Anyway, all you need to do is be my personal bitch, let me hump you whenever I want. As I’m sure you know already, I’ve been dying to fuck your brains out. I mean look at how hard your cunt is making my cock throb! ” Grabbing his dick from over his pants, Fan Tong uttered without feeling an ounce of shame. Then, he went on wearing a disgusting grin. “Don’t worry, I will take good care of you.”

“Hehehe...” Listening to everything he had to say, Hu Yuexin couldn’t stop herself from falling into a burst of uncontrollable laughter.

“What are you laughing at?” A frown already covering his forehead, Fan Tong interrogated.

“...hehe.” Pausing her laughter, at last, she replied. “Ahh, I can’t stop laughing at your idiotic and wishful nonsense.” Pointing at her own mesmerizing body, she continued, “see this? Well, you won’t ‘ever’ be able to feel it even in your wildest dreams. So... trash! Know your place!” By the end of her sentence, Hu Yuexin’s expression had long gone dark in abhorrence.

In total disbelief at her courage of insulting and rejecting him, Fan Tong voiced. “What? Did I just hear you call me trash?”

“Of course! What else would you call trash, trash?”

“You!” Already filled with fury, Fan Tong started threatening. “Alright! If that’s how you wanna do this, sure! Just wait for me to throw you in jail. It’d be too late to even beg by then, bitch!”

“Hehehe, as expected of trash. Only capable of childish threats. Anyhow, do what you must. Now get the hell out of my sight already. The mere sight of you sickens me.” Of course, knowing how lenient the laws were nowadays against Guardians, Hu Yuexin wasn’t worried much. Furthermore, she was also quite certain he would have a hard time proving it was indeed her who had injured him without throwing himself under the bus too.



Fan Tong was so furious at this point that even the thought of attacking her right there was crossing his mind. However, taking a short glimpse of all the surveillance cameras everywhere instantly put that thought at rest for the moment. Regardless, hearing her last words, he began to smirk in triumph. "Actually, it's you who needs to get the hell out of my sight, bitch. Oh, you must not have checked your phone yet. Well, this Rift was already bought out by yours truly. So, get lost from the vicinity of my Rift already!"

This news made Hu Yuexin's face go a little grim as she took out her phone immediately and checked whether what he blabbered about was the truth or not.

And indeed, verifying the truth of what he said, she became somewhat agitated. Now she was feeling very annoyed by this trash which was wasting her valuable time.

Meanwhile, standing at some distance across her, an even broader grin sat on Fan Tong's mouth as he went on. "Right, this daddy's a Guardian now. But imagine my shock when I heard you're a Guardian too! I can only imagine in what possible positions you've been fucked over and over again for that rich kid to buy you enough Red-Crystals to awaken, you were a true bitch indeed!"

Obviously, by 'rich kid' he meant Virus.

"I just had to do it and steal your Rift when I heard you're a Guardian going around reserving Rifts! Hahaha..."

"Well, whatever." No longer wanting to bother herself with this nonsense, and since this location was not a place to retaliate against him physically, Hu Yuexin merely turned around and started walking away. "It's your money, your loss."

"Hahaha, yes run away! Still, remember this, this is just the beginning. From now on, every Rift you reserve, I'll buy out! I won't let you live until you come under my crotch. See you around, bitch!" Absolutely in delight, staring at her departing figure, Fan Tong announced.

Stopping in her tracks abruptly, an extremely savage and dark expression covered Hu Yuexin's countenance. Afterward, without turning around, she merely declared. "You'll regret what you just said."

Then minding him no further, she left.

Even though Hu Yuexin had a plan to eventually pay back all the debt Fan Tong owed to the previous owner of her body someday if it turned out to be convenient, prior to this moment, that had been just a probable plan for the far future when she became strong enough to deal with any problem that was thrown in her way.

Moreover, her plan of payback wasn't anything extreme.



In fact, Hu Yuexin didn't even care about this little argument and the curses Fan Tong had thrown her way. She only felt like he was an extremely childish person that wasn't worth her time in the least.

However! Now that Fan Tong had announced he was going to interfere and block her path of getting stronger through the Rifts, she adjusted her plans at once.

'Looks like I have some trash to dispose of.'

## **Chapter 424: Who Can Stop Me!**

Leaving the area of the bought Rift, not having much else to do for the moment, Hu Yuexin took a taxi as she left to visit her sick son in the hospital.

On the way to the hospital, a deliberation passed through Hu Yuexin's mind. 'If only I was one stage higher than my present level of cultivation, I would've been able to cure my son already. Alas, that's going to take a while with my current speed of cultivation.'

After arriving in the hospital, while sitting beside her son's bed, she wasn't just idle as she took out her phone and registered herself on social media with fake information.

Next, she searched Fan Tong's name to see whether she would be lucky enough to find him.

And indeed, due to his rich family background, it was clear that Fan Tong was rather well-known with a good number of friends and followers.

Thus, having already found him, Hu Yuexin started checking Fan Tong's uploaded pictures one after another.

'Let's see... what do you do all day long? Where do you frequent? With what friends do you usually hang out with?' As these questions popped into her brain, Hu Yuexin carefully checked every post one by one while paying close attention to its various details such as locations, tags, texts, pictures, videos, etc.

"Hmm?" After a few minutes of active scanning and analysis, something attracted Hu Yuexin's mind to itself at last.

But just as she was about to continue, a childish voice abruptly distracted her.  
"Mommy? Are you listening?"

"Oww, my baby Xiao Wei, of course, mommy's listening, so you found a new friend in the hospital, huh? You must really like this friend of yours!"

"Yesh! And..." While keeping a little bit of her attention on her son's description of his new friend, Hu Yuexin analyzed her previous findings.

'Nearly every week in this very day, every Saturday, he uploads a photo of himself fooling around in this specific club... but where is it at?' Already having discovered a clue as to where her plan was going to be carried out, Hu Yuexin resumed checking all the photos uploaded every Saturday until finally, her eyes fell on the name of the nightclub which had been printed on a certain board behind the counter.

Afterward, it was very easy to find the address of the nightclub. All she needed to do was to search the name online.

'Looks like I'm going to be busy tonight.'

...

That night, at some distance from a certain club, inside a dark alley, a masked woman was standing still apparently waiting for something or someone to come her way.

What made this woman very distinct, however, was the fact that she was wearing a scary mask of a devil with two diabolical horns.

'I wonder if he's here tonight...'

At the same time, already having had a blast of drinking and dancing, with a woman in his arms, Fan Tong was exiting the club while reeling toward his sports car as he took out his car keys from his pocket. It was clear although he could barely walk, he still had every intention to drive.

'Oh, of course, he'll be here. How can that trash skip one night full of debauchery? I blame myself for even doubting that.' Hu Yuexin mused to herself while going into action.

"Let's go! Imma let yee experience a great night tonight! But you promised to act like that bitch Hu Yuexin! If you can't act like her... Imma throw you out! Let's g-" Just as he had unlocked the car door while continuing with his gibberish, an unknown masked person, obviously Hu Yuexin, grabbed him by the neck and started running toward the dark alley before she was gone in a mere second.

And deducing from the casual manner she had effortlessly grabbed and dragged him by the neck, it was plain to see that the concealed woman was an extremely strong person, obviously a Guardian.

Meanwhile, witnessing this horrifying scene of Fan Tong being kidnapped by who appeared to be a devil woman, the other girl who was tagging along with Fan Tong became scared shitless as she ran away. She was so horrified that she even forgot to report to the police. She was only grateful that she wasn't the one to be grabbed away.

Everything had transpired so fast that no one even realized a person had just been abducted and gone missing.

In the meantime, inside the alley, the first course of action Hu Yuexin took was to throw him at the wall very viciously.

Bang!

“Ahhh!” Immediately, Fan Tong screamed in pain. He was in such an affliction that all his drunkenness had gone away as he was completely awake and sober now!

“W-who are you?” He interrogated in some fear. “Do you know who I am?”

“Pffft! Hahaha! You just had to say that classic line, didn’t you?” Laughing her guts out, Hu Yuexin casually took off her mask, wiped away the tears on the corner of her eyes that had gathered due to her cry-laughing before talking again, “Do you know how many times I’ve heard that line?”

“Y-you! You bitch! You dare abduct me?” On the other side, witnessing the countenance of the culprit, a stupefied expression covered Fan Tong’s face.

“Hmm... why wouldn’t I dare?” Amused by his words, Hu Yuexin decided to tagalong for the moment.

Just as Hu Yuexin was done speaking, suddenly, both of Fan Tong’s hands started transforming.

This immediately made Hu Yuexin completely vigilant, that is until she witnessed what Fan Tong’s hands had transformed into.

“R-rice buckets?” Hu Yuexin was so dumbfounded she could barely utter what she witnessed.

Indeed, currently, both of Fan Tong’s hands had each transformed into a rice bucket.

“...” The silence dominated for a few seconds before, at last, a burst of hysterical laughter broke it away. “Hahaha...”

All of her wariness having disappeared already, she was chortling so hard tears were rolling down Hu Yuexin’s face.

“Y-you are truly Fan Tong, alright! Hahaha... a good for nothing indeed, hehe.” {A/N:? In Chinese Fan Tong in one sense just means ‘rice bucket’. But some people also use it to describe a certain type of person: a good-for-nothing! But in Fan Tong’s case, his Trait is to turn his hands into rice buckets which is a good-for-nothing Trait to have in Hu Yuexin’s opinion.}

Albeit, not bothering himself with her reaction, Fan Tong immediately charged at her while waving his rice buckets around.

Easily dodging the swinging rice buckets, Hu Yuexin fell into a giggle once more. “Ah, there is no way you can get a Guardian License with such pathetic movements and Trait, which could only mean you got it through the backdoor by pulling some strings. Well, that explains why you had brought another Guardian with you earlier. Yep, I expected nothing more of such funny good for nothing trash.”

Suddenly kicking Fan Tong in the stomach, she sent him flying into the wall again.

Bam!

URGH~

“Y-you’re dead! You’re seriously dead this time! When I go back and report this to my grandfather you are going to disappear for good, I’m not even joking!” Replied Fan Tong gravely, trying his best to frighten Hu Yuexin.

“Huh? What are you talking about? Who said you’re going back?” Putting on a confused look, Hu Yuexin questioned. There were no traces of fear to be found anywhere on her face.

‘Shit!’ On the opposite side, realizing his mistake after hearing her chilly response, Fan Tong promptly knew maybe threatening her wasn’t the best course of action.

“I-I was just joking. Just let me go, okay? I was wrong. I won’t tell a soul about this...”

“One second you say you’re not joking, the next moment you say you ‘were’ joking...” throwing a kick right at his mouth, she went on. “Make up your mind already!”

Understanding that didn’t work as well, Fan Tong began to curse in hatred. “You fucking bitch! You’re a cunt! A whore! Just wait for me to go back! I’ll kill you a thousand times over! Even if I don’t go back, my grandfather will-“

Before he could even finish, however, a knife slit through Fan Tong’s throat. “Uh, what a fan tong life you led...”

Gurgh~ Gurkha!

A gurgling noise was all that came out of Fan Tong’s mouth as blood flowed down his neck in massive amounts.

Still, even until the very last moment, he didn’t stop staring at her with dreadful eyes of despise, sorrow, regret, and hatred.

“Don’t look at me like that, I told you you would regret it. Blame yourself for being such trash. You should have never threatened my path of power.”

At long last, drawing his final breath, Fan Tong was no more.

“So it’s over.” Looking at Fan Tong’s lifeless corpse one last time, she turned around, about to leave.

Yet before she could even start moving, she sensed something within herself.

‘My Trait is reacting!’

Feeling absolutely thrilled, Hu Yuexin turned back again in order to see what exactly was causing her Trait to react.

Nonetheless, what she saw next dumbfounded her very much.

Currently, all of the dead Fan Tong’s blood was in motion as they all left his corpse before flowing toward Hu Yuexin’s feet before disappearing into her body.

And the following second, she felt a sharp rise in her cultivation!

‘Ah!’ Sensing the swift increase in the level of her cultivation, Hu Yuexin felt as if she had been thunderstruck as she remained speechless for a while before finally bursting into a peal of maniacal laughter. “Who would’ve thought my Trait to be this! Hahaha! It fits me the best indeed!”

‘Now... let’s just see who can stop me!’

## **Chapter 425: Hunger**

After returning to 4 Times Square’s highest floor, Virus started to feel hungry. However, not wanting to disturb the golden beauty who was in seclusion giving her all these days in order to increase her cultivation power, Virus decided to go brew some tea for himself.

When he was done, he returned with a cup of tea as he sat on the couch, turned the television on, and enjoyed his tea while watching it.

“These days, the number of Empty Rifts has been increasing in great quantities! It makes us wonder, where are those monsters disappearing to? Are some of them simply choosing not to cross over to our side? What is...”

As Virus was casually watching the current running program, he sensed someone attempting to directly call him. So, checking who it was, he determined the caller to be Amara.

“Hmm, hey, what’s up?” Accepting the call, Virus stated.

“U-uh, hi, I still can’t get used to talking to you in my head.” Was Amara’s immediate answer.

“Then please don’t. Just call my phone. You know I have one of those, right?” Said Virus before receiving Amara’s next response. “Ahh... Nah, how do I say it... this feels closer and more intimate, so I like it better, even if I haven’t gotten used to it just yet. Yep!”

“Sigh... anyway, why did you call me?”

“Ah, actually, I’m super bored right now, so I thought we should go out and have some fun. How about that? Bring Bells over too.”

“Don’t you have a company to run or something?” He said back.

“Not really. Not for the rest of the night. So what do you say? Yes?!” She asked again. Virus could feel the anticipation from her tone. Still, that didn’t stop him from rejecting her invitation. “No, forget it. I’m not in the mood.”

“Uh... is that so? I see... guess it can’t be helped then. Hehe...” Kind of downcast now, Amara’s disappointed and depressed voice came over.

On the other side, listening to her awkward and clearly saddened reaction, an idea popped into Virus’ head. So, letting out a helpless sigh, he talked. “Do you know how to cook?”

“Hmm?” The fire of life returning to her eyes at once, they began to burn in hope as Amara agreed in a rush. “YES! Yes, I do! Actually, I’m amazing at it, not to brag or anything. But why?”

“Come over then. I still haven’t tried that Two-meters Squirrel beast meat I bought at the auction house the other day so I want you to cook it for me.” Since he was feeling hungry anyway, Virus decided to just use her as his personal chef since apparently, she was also happy to be used that way.

“Ah, but can’t Bells cook that for you? Isn’t she with you?”

“She can but she’s busy with some other stuff right now. Let’s just forget it if you don’t want-“

“No, no, no, no! I’m already on my way! Wait for me! Half an hour! No, twenty minutes! I’ll be there in twenty minutes!”

“Okay, okay! Calm down, you don’t need to rush. Just drive safely. See you soon.” Hanging up the call without even listening to her following words, some notions started to occupy Virus’ mind.

Hence, picking up his phone, he called the Island ugly who picked up at the very first beep.

“Yes, master!”

“Uh, yes. You picked up fast. Anyhow, I want you to prepare some stuff. First, finish this C.E.L.L Project I just transmitted over to your mind. Then put it in my Transportation Spaceship together with a Shape-Shifter Technology. Oh, also, put some Water of Life and the best quality tea you can find on the market there.”

“Yes! Understood, master! Are you going somewhere?”

“I don’t know yet. Just do what I ordered you to do.”

“Understood, sir!”

“Alright, go do your thing then.” He was just about to hang up the call when the Island ugly mentioned. “Ah, master. I also wanted to report that I’ve finished the process of making another Transportation Spaceship, it’s in the same level of technology as your spaceship, however, it’s much bigger.”

“Hmm, I see, well done. Talk later.” Still not being in the mood, Virus directly hung up the line.

Exactly thirty-three minutes later, the door to the elevator opened up as a panting enchantress run out of it!

“Damn, you came really quick. Come, sit and rest for a bit.”

“Heee... haaah. Y-yeah, okay. I just... didn’t want to leave you hungry for long.”

After some time of catching her breath, she suddenly rose to her feet, rolled up her sleeves, tied her long blonde hair, and said with great enthusiasm. “So where is the kitchen?”

...

A while later, grilled meat prepared from the most tender parts of the Two-meters Squirrel was placed in front of him by a fey femme fatale of ocean blue eyes and pale blonde hair who uttered with a grin, “enjoy!”



"I will, thank you." Grabbing a fork and knife, Virus cut a piece and put it in his mouth. The moment the meat touched his tongue, it almost started to melt by itself.

Subsequently, a rich taste, almost unbelievable, was experienced by Virus.

"How is it?" Leaning on the table while putting both her hands under her chin, she questioned happily.

"Hmm, it's great. It was true, the Two-meters Squirrel has one of the tastiest meats I've ever tried!"

Listening to him only complimenting the meat and not her cooking, she couldn't help but unconsciously roll down her lower lip while squinting a bit.

Seeing this reaction of hers, honestly tickled by it, Virus chuckled. "Hahaha... don't make that face. Of course, your cooking was amazing too, otherwise, raw meat alone is useless without a chef to cook it right. Thanks for the food, I'm truly enjoying it."

"Hehehe. Yay! I'm happy you like it. By the way, where is Bells, should I take some of the food to her as well?"

"She's busy, don't bother. She'll go eat some when she's free or hungry. Let's dive in."

"Ah, okay. Oh, right! Do you have some wine to drink? It would complement the meat and add to its richness."

"Yeah, wait a moment." Standing up, Virus swiftly went into a room and returned with two glasses and an opened bottle of wine. Next, after pouring some for both of them, he pushed one in front of her.

Following that, while they were dining, Amara's eyes fell on a certain painting installed on the wall. "Oh gosh! Is that the original painting you bought in Shanghai's Auction house, Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi?"

"Yeah..."

"Wow, the more you look at it, the more fascinating it gets, don't you think so?" Murmured Amara, unable to take her eyes off of it.

Seeing her lost in the painting, Virus' attention was also drawn to the painting as he deliberated, 'hmm, yeah, I wonder what's the mystery it's hiding.'

In truth, the day this painting was put on display and for sale in the auction house, Virus discovered that there were layers upon layers of paintings beneath the visible image of Christ.

Since then, Virus had every intention of uncovering the hidden secret and truth behind the painting at some point. Unfortunately, however, he hadn't had the time to put any of his time aside ever since he was back from China as he was occupied with various affairs such as taking the Guardian exam, reserving some Rifts, and cultivation per se.

Woefully, after having just broken up with Ella officially, although he has some free time available at the moment, he wasn't really inclined and eager to do so, at least not yet.

Drinking their fourth glass of wine, Amara was already feeling drunk as she made exaggerated movements with her hands while spluttering. "Yee know... you're always wearing this 'expressionless face', even now. Deadpan. Poker-faced. Hehehe..." giggling as if something was tickling her inside, she went on ahead while pointing a finger directly at him. "But! It's... usually 'I'm totally in control' type of expressionless face."

Standing up all of a sudden, she reeled over to Virus' side and sat beside him. "T-hic! Though right now, all I sense is 'I'm really sad' type of expressionless face..." her arm was on Virus' shoulder at this point as she gazed into Virus' eyes in absolute focus.

### **Chapter 426: Why Not?**

"Why is that? Why are you sad, Aizen?" Amara probed, feeling worried.

After gazing into those terrifyingly focused eyes for a while that seemed to see nothing but him, eyes which continued to remain at very close proximity to him, a palm abruptly covered her face, pushing it back.

"Stop bullshitting, you're drunk Amara." He said, still as expressionless as ever.

"Owah, nooo, I'm not drunk! I mean it, you should take a look at your own face!" Throwing a drunk tantrum, Amara insisted before suddenly jumping on to another subject entirely, "anyway, do you remember the first day we met?" Once again, in that apparently drunken state, she leaned closer and put her palm on his shoulder, awaiting his response while feeling lost in his casual gaze.

"Yes, I can't really forget it. You came over to me and said 'Hello, handsome...'" Virus responded, wanting to see where she was going with this.

Catching the first part of his response and misunderstanding them, Amara felt oddly jovial inside, nonetheless, she continued the conversation, "Ewww, I was so cringe back then! Hehehe, how could I just come over to a stranger and say 'Hello, handsome', damn! I must've lost my mind there!"

"Heh, yes, you were cringey indeed!" Letting out a giggle, Virus confirmed.

"I was so entranced by you back then I no longer even knew what I was blabbering about," she continued. "Anyway, your reaction back then was probably the coldest response I've ever received in my entire life, I mean, a beauty approaches you and utters such cringe-worthy words and all you had to say was," making her face similar to Virus out of nowhere at this point, wearing an icy cold countenance, she went on, " 'what is it?', I mean come on!"

Chuckling a bit, taking a sip of his wine, Virus added, "Haha, Yes, I recall, and then you started introducing yourself by saying your family owned the famous Aston Martin car company, like that was supposed to impress me."

Squinting at her, he continued. "You looked exactly like an arrogant young master back then, I mean you basically said 'Do you know who my father is?' only in a more innovative way."

Feeling extremely embarrassed, she rejected screamingly, "noooo! I so didn't mean it like that! I was just so desperate to impress you in any way I can that all I could remember about myself that 'always' impressed everyone else was only that, but clearly, it didn't work on you."

"Haha, that's what I call a generic arrogant young master, alright?"

Seeing his smiling expression, feeling content, she celebrated all of a sudden, "Yay! I made you laugh. Thank God..."

Pushing her forehead with his index finger, Virus grinned, "why wouldn't I laugh, you naughty girl? As I said, I'm not wearing an 'I'm really sad' type of expressionless face right now, okay? You're just being drunk."

That intimate gesture and smile, however, instantly froze Amara up, as she pondered stunned while realizing something important, 'I wonder since when this God of Ice has started warming up to me.'

On the other side, while staying in that close position to Amara, Virus was just musing to himself that her efforts of trying to change his mood were kind of cute when abruptly, a pair of lips sat on his.

Her passionate lips continued to cover his for around a dozen seconds as Virus' eyes remained open as he observed Amara's closed eyes without responding to her sensual lips. He could feel that Amara wanted to do even more passionate activities following the kiss.

Nonetheless, grabbing Amara's shoulders with each hand, pushing her away gently, he stated composedly, "come on Amara, you know we can't do this..."

Although expecting the rejection already, it didn't stop Amara's heart from aching in sorrow and misery. Outwardly, however, nothing but imperturbable tranquility displayed itself on her expression as she challenged, "Why not?"

"You know why..." after answering her this way, Virus noticed the questioning look still lingering in her flickering eyes. Therefore, he attached further, "well, because I don't have such feelings for you."

Afterward, silence remained in the room for what felt like a long time as none retracted their eyes from the other, until at last, a peal of laughter broke the equilibrium, "Pfft, hehehe, you're being a real dummy, you know that? Who says you have to have 'feelings' in order to do this?"

"..."

Facing more silence, unconsciously lowering her head in dejection, she solemnly proclaimed, "I know you don't... I really do... and I'm not expecting anything in return, I just want to help you relieve some of your stress tonight, so go on and use me... as I will be using you."

Listening to her permitting him to 'use' her, Virus' mind drifted back to the past. He recalled how he at first had agreed to go on a few dates with Amara because she wouldn't give up on pursuing and stalking him everywhere since she promised to give up after a couple of dates if he still didn't like her.

However, later on, he noticed detective Lock making an effort in order to get closer to Ella on purpose with bad intentions such as trying to dig up some dirt on him and later on even trying to kiss her and more, probably just to hurt him.

Furthermore, he was also aware how detective Lock was the main culprit behind the preposterous idea of him being behind the case of 'Ghost Theft' which the detective proposed to Amara's father who then passed it on to the criminal mobile phone CEOs.

With all these factors considered, Virus had determined that payback was inevitable and that karma was going to strike the detective. Therefore, he had finally made a resolution to 'use' Amara and bring about retribution on the annoying detective. That's also why he had actively sought to go on dinner with Amara and had even agreed to bring her with himself on the trip to Shanghai, all because of his grand plan for the detective that was yet to be conducted.

## **Chapter 427: Shyness**

However, now that he had the chance to finally carry out that plan, oddly enough, he couldn't bring himself to do it and possibly bring harm and damage to Amara.

He didn't understand why but from a certain point onwards, he had inadvertently accepted Amara as a precious friend. A friend he obviously would not hurt.

Thus, after some deliberation, he came up with an idea, "I don't think that would be appropriate Amara, however, since I can see you're trying so hard to make me feel happier and relieve some of my stress, I have a better proposal for you. Do you want to hear it? It would definitely help me feel much better, I guarantee it!" Chuckling a little, he awaited her answer. Indeed, even the mere notion of what he had in mind was already entertaining enough for him.

"Hmm? Sure, but let's hear it first." Staring intensely into his eyes, Amara responded full of curiosity, albeit a bit suspicious.

"Alright, so you see..."

...

Two hours later, detective Lock was currently sitting in his own house, drinking some beverages while watching the television when abruptly, he received a text.

So, taking a quick look at his phone, seeing it was actually from Amara, he jumped up as his eyes started shining in fervor and excitement.

Next, without any hesitation whatsoever, he opened it.

"Hey John, how have you been? And where are you? I've missed you dearly since we haven't seen each other in a long time. Um, and actually... I want to ask a favor of you. So, can you come to this hotel at the address below?"

Finished reading the text, anticipation began to build up within detective Lock's heart as he wondered, 'Why does she want to meet up in a hotel? In the middle of the night at that?' without noticing himself, a grin had crept up over his face as he assumed the obvious.

SLAP!

Slapping himself out of nowhere, he murmured, "Get a grip!"

Subsequently, with no further delay, he replied, "Hey! I've been good, but thanks to you I'm feeling great now. Anyway, I'm on my way, so wait for me."

Soon, he received another text, "Great! When you're here, introduce yourself to the reception, they'll give you the spare key card to my room's door lock."

Thereafter, quickly putting on his best attire in utter elation, he grabbed his car key before leaving the house to go to the hotel.

Forty minutes later, having already reached the hotel, he went to the reception and received the key card before moving to the elevator energetically.

At last, standing in front of the Royal suite's door, he had just unlocked the door when he received another message from Amara.

"Enjoy the view and be more careful who you go after and mess with next time. Sent by yours truly, Aizen Vee."

Reading the message, detective Lock felt confused about the message, nonetheless, putting aside the bad premonition he was getting temporarily, he pushed the already unlocked door open.

PUH- PUH- FWAP- PUH~

"Ah... ah... ahh... agh...."

Just as detective Lock pushed the door open, he witnessed a scene he would never forget for the rest of his life.

FWAP- SLAP- SLAP- SLAP~

"Ahh... Uhm... Uh.... hell y-yes Aizen..."

Currently, Amara's blushing face was adjusted in John's direction as she stood on four legs, letting out needy moans.

PUH- PUH- PUH- PUH~

"AAH, AHHH, Ahhh, YES! PLEASE AIZEN! YES! RIGHT THERE!"

In the meantime, grabbing her hair from behind, Virus was pounding hard and viciously into her in that doggy-style position as she released unrestrained and wanton screams of joy.

PUH- SLAP- PUH- SHPP...

"FUCK ME HARDER RIGHT THERE! AIZEEEN, Aaaaaaaaahm!"

Watching Amara's countenance who could not even see him due to her being busy making desperate, filthy noises while her eyeballs had rolled back and her tongue hanging begging for more, John felt like his entire world had come crashing into his head.

However, as his eyes made direct contact with Virus', he was faced with an evilly grinning man who had no intention of looking away while he waved Amara's phone at

him as he continued to pound into her while forcing her to gasp and groan, lost for breath, John experienced such rage, such hatred he had never even imagined he was capable of.

“Ah... A-Ah... Ow.... Hah... Aizen... Uhhmm!”

He watched as Virus carried on slamming it into her hard while simultaneously grasping her head before turning it toward himself very aggressively as he kissed her mouth as if it was the most delicious and alluring food in the whole world.

By this point, John’s eyes had already turned extremely red as he gritted his teeth standing there while blood was dripping from the palm of his fist.

Having had enough of it, wishing to be rather born blind than to see the scene he was witnessing, closing both his eyes, John turned around as he left the suite with no further ado.

...

Meanwhile, after being certain detective Lock was gone, Virus slapped her bare ass, telling her, “Stop acting already, he’s gone now.”

“AH... huh? He’s gone already? Okay...” Feeling very bashful as she was heating up in embarrassment, Amara sat in a more comfortable position as she began tidying her dress up and pushing her pants up. Virus also lifted his trousers up.

After hearing Virus’ proposal, although she was doubtful of some parts such as ‘why this little acting of theirs would truly hurt John?’, she was still down for it in the end as long as it would really please Aizen.

Hence, after Amara had accepted the proposal, the two had moved to this hotel.

However, Virus knew since John Lock was a very sharp and smart detective, their acting and little show had to be perfect. Therefore, he explained exactly how she had to act in order for it to be completely believable.

After that, he also worked on Amara’s positioning so detective Lock wouldn’t be able to see and doubt what was going on behind Amara while Virus was slamming it into her. All the detective could see was Amara and Virus’ expressions as he stood face to face toward the two.

Of course, some parts could still be seen such as whether Amara and Virus were still wearing their pants or not, thus, Amara just had to take her pants off so as did Virus, although she was still wearing her dress, and all they did to it was to mess it up a little.



In conclusion, although Virus had seen almost all her private body parts, the detective could not.

Anyway, after working on their positioning and acting for some time, they were ready as they sent a text to the detective. And now they were finished.

However, the reason why Amara was feeling so bashful as she was heating up at the moment was partly that that wild French kiss at the very end had been very much real despite it not being in their little script!

And the other part was due to her having just seen Virus's throbbing hard cock as she wondered in shyness, 'That was so big! And why was it so hard if we are only acting, could it be...'

## **Chapter 428: Mystery of the Layered Paintings**

"S-so, did that make you feel better?" Amara questioned, still a little red due to her still feeling shy.

"Haha, yes I am, seriously! I wanted to do that to that prick for some time now. But don't you feel bad for him since you are probably close to him?" Raising an eyebrow in question, Virus said.

Feeling somewhat doubtful of Virus' words, shaking her head, Amara denied it. "Ah, not really, we're not that close anyway, and what exactly should I feel bad about? It's not like John and I were couples or anything."

"Well, okay then." As a grin crept over his mouth, Virus added internally, 'though he won't be seeing it that way.'

On the other side, suddenly realizing something, Amara's face went a little pale as she started stuttering, "Uh! P-please don't misunderstand, Aizen! T-there is really nothing going on between us, I swear!"

"Haha, don't worry I know, I believe you. Also, thank you very much for accepting my proposal, it was very fun."

"Alright, it's time for me to go back to 4 Times Square now, Amara. You can either come with me or stay here since it's late at night already."

"I'll come with you." There was no delay nor hesitation as Amara answered.

"No problem, I've got plenty of empty rooms there for you to stay at tonight anyway, you can go back to your own company tomorrow." Nodding, Virus accepted.

...

The next morning, after Amara had left already, Virus was currently sitting on the couch, staring at Leonardo da Vinci's Salvator Mundi.

The painting before him depicted Christ in an anachronistic blue Renaissance dress, making the sign of the cross with his right hand, while holding a non-refracting, transparent crystal orb in his left hand, signaling his role as Salvator Mundi or Savior of the World and representing the 'celestial sphere' of the heavens.

{A/N: I'll attach the picture of the painting here.}

However, what attracted Virus' attention was none of that, it was in fact what his sense of awareness that could leave and spread around him was recreating within his mind.

Layers upon layers of paints had been added creating various legendary paintings by today's standards, alas, all of them except the one on the surface was to be hidden forever from the eyes of the world.

However, what was garnering Virus' sense of awareness was not what each of the paintings was depicting per se but rather the addition and accumulation of all paintings put together which created a 3D image inside him. Virus believed that to be some kind of mystery probably trying to relay a message or some other secret.

There were various small lines all around the 3D image, but none of it made much sense to Virus.

Unfortunately, no matter how hard he analyzed the magical colors of mystery, he could not make heads or tails of it.

'It looks like total gibberish.' He culminated in frustration after what had felt like an eternity of time by how fast Virus' calculation ability had been working. 'If I can't solve this, then no one can.'

'Which means this is either meant to be unsolvable or I might be looking at it the wrong way.' As Virus reached this conclusion, he added further, 'and assuming the latter, it could either be because it's not complete or that it's missing something essential.'

'Let's look at this in a different way for now.' Reaching this judgment, Virus began to study what was in front of him, the image of Christ.

'According to the data over the internet, the painting is perfect in all aspects except the orb in the left hand of Jesus and that is indeed true, that's just not how an orb works.' It was at this time of the day when footsteps were heard beside Virus as it was followed by a familiar voice of the golden beauty, "Good morning Ai!"

" ... "

Receiving no response in return, the golden beauty opened her mouth again, "What are you doing, master? What are you so lost in?"

Hearing that, Virus started to murmur unwittingly without taking his eyes off of the painting, "Apparently Leonardo da Vinci failed to paint the distortion that occurs when looking through a solid and clear crystal orb at objects that are not touching the orb itself," stopping briefly, he went ahead, "so, the dress of Christ should've been at least in a magnified inverted or reverse images. But Leonardo da Vinci painted it as if it were a hollow glass bubble that does not refract or distort the light passing through it."

"What?" Putting her forefinger on her lips, the golden beauty felt greatly confused as to what Virus was talking about.

"Oh, you're here, my Lil Belle, are you finished with your seclusion training already?" Finally gaining an awareness of the fact that the golden beauty was there, Virus inquired.

Shaking her head, however, the golden beauty denied, "Not really, I'm just out to eat something, then I'll go back inside."

"I see, then you prepare the breakfast today, we'll eat it together."

"Aye, master! Wait for a bit!" Feeling extremely jovial and cheerful today for some reason, the golden beauty accepted with a cute salute before rushing to the kitchen.

In the meantime, Virus continued muttering to himself, "but that's extremely unlikely since apparently, Leonardo da Vinci was doing optic studies that delved into 'how the eyes focus'... and that was around the same time he painted Salvator Mundi as well. That means Leonardo was well aware and absolutely would not make such a mistake," going quiet for a second, he completed the rest of his sentence, "at least not accidentally."

"So if he did it on purpose, why would he do it?" As this great question appeared in his head, he started connecting the dots as he arrived at a final conjecture, 'The mystery of the layered paintings and an error made on purpose!'

As gears had already started turning inside him, Virus promptly recreated a flawless crystal orb and made some adjustments to it before putting the 3D image behind it in a perfect way.

"!!!" What he saw next, however, instantly dumbfounded Virus to no ends!

## **Chapter 429: The Mystery**

At first, putting the 3D image behind the crystal orb, Virus realized that it didn't fit perfectly inside, therefore, after doing some adjustments to it so it became slightly

flattened on the sides to the point it was barely noticeable, the adjustment was perfected.

However, the moment he did so, being the quick AI he was, Virus noticed that the crystal orb now resembled the planet Earth to a frightening degree, to the point he could not find any dissimilarities between the size of the orb and the Earth itself, this astonished Virus to some point. Nonetheless, it was what he witnessed next within his mindscape, which startled him to a new degree altogether!

He could see all the small lines of the 3D image aligning together forming a nigh indistinguishable picture of the Earth with all its continents, oceans, mountains, and all of its other little details.

“This,” Somewhat speechless, Virus completed his sentence outwardly, “It’s a map!”

‘What a detailed map, it’s shocking how Leonardo made such a detailed map of Earth at that time after going through so many complicated processes!’ Virus was now very impressed by the person called Leonardo da Vinci.

‘In order to do this, first, he would have had to fully understand the accurate shape of the Earth which is not a perfect sphere. Then, he would need to know the most flawless 3D map of the Earth which was quite an infeasible feat at the time.’

‘Yes, they already long had the complete map of the planet at the time, however, it was not this accurate.’

‘Still, that is not the truly petrifying aspect of it all, the most terrifying fact is that he was able to paint in such great detail layer after layer, in a way it would perfectly align if put inside a similar sphere orb to Earth. He was a master of how crystal orbs work, so it’s foolish to even think he made an error on his painting by mistake. There was no mistaking it with this man.’

‘What a genius.’ He concluded, feeling galvanized by that particular person of the past.

‘But how could he get his hands on a perfect map at that time? Could it be there was another painting and he just copied it to a T after discovering the truth about it?’ Shaking his head at this point, he continued, ‘But that sounds even more impossible, how could the person before him possibly paint such a perfect painting and if so, how could Leonardo get to the bottom of it and understand the mystery of it? Hmm, or could it be the map was in another form before Leonardo and he just made it into a painting?’

Due to the lack of necessary information, Virus just could not get to a final conclusion regarding any of his vital questions such as, was Leonardo the first painter? Or did he merely imitate or transform the work of someone else before him?

How did he get his hands on the perfect map?

How did he, at that time, paint it layer after layer forming an ingenious 3D image if separated well but still be nonsense and total gibberish unless put behind a sphere orb of Earth?

In fact, the final question was the reason why Virus deemed Leonardo as a rare genius.

All of that, however, at the very end, was not of much importance to Virus.

What was frankly extremely intriguing and absorbing Virus to itself was the question of why was this map drawn? And why did the painter have to go through so much complexity, so many processes, just to paint a map?

As these queries bubbled up within his head, Virus was once again focused on the 3D sphere inside his mindscape. Unfortunately, once again, no matter how hard he contemplated the questions, he just could not arrive at an answer.

Virus understood that meant one of the two things, either that it was only an ordinary map or that he just did not have enough information and clues to get behind the secret of the map.

Of course, Virus had nigh utter faith that it was the latter since he did not believe someone would go to such lengths to draw something that probably wasn't going to be ever known.

The only way someone would go to such an extent was most likely because he was trying to hide something from everyone else while preserving it at the same time for a specific purpose.

'Not enough clues?' This suspicion of his once again drew Virus' attention to the painting of Salvator Mundi hanging on the wall as he wondered, 'maybe there's another clue on it that I missed.'

Immediately afterward, his sharp mind began to examine and study every inch of the painting until he once more reached the intentional error of Leonardo, the non-refracting, transparent crystal orb.

"!!!"

Promptly, as if a light bulb had turned on within his brain, Virus found the very possible clue he was missing.

'The three dots on the orb!'

With no delay, Virus placed the three dots on the imaginary 3D picture within his mindscape and after much deliberation, he reached a possible result.

'The three dots each represent width, length, and depth.'

Following that, Virus adjusted each of the dots according to their width, length, and depth. Subsequently, connecting them together, Virus discovered exactly where the map was pointing and pinning at.

"Oh! I found it! It's pointing at there!" Virus exclaimed out loud, feeling extremely jovial and triumphant as he had just gotten behind the possible truth of the mystery.

Woefully though, the following second, he felt as if a bucket of cold water had just been poured over his head as he realized something crucial, 'It's much too deep into the ground, there is just no way the current level of technology I have access to would be able to dive that deep.'

'Although I would be able to dive in that direction through a certain volcano using my spaceship, I would be long dead by the time I get there since both my spaceship and its shield would've melted away already by then.' Letting out a helpless sigh by the end of his thinking process, Virus could only shake his head in disappointment.

"Hmm..."

## **Chapter 430: Love**

Virus was quite aware that in order to be able to reach that point, he would need to first gain access to much more endurable pieces of material than available on Earth at the moment.

Furthermore, he would need to progress to the next level of technology which was beyond what his resources were capable of right now.

Unfortunately, however, doing that would require much more than a mere underground hidden island and an Island ugly.

In order to accomplish such a big advancement, he would at least need complete authority over an entire country if not the entire world!

And by that, Virus didn't mean simply becoming the President of a country, but rather being the absolute ruler of a huge population who would utterly follow all orders without an ounce of dissatisfaction. He required the constant and full working power of a large population.

And that was only considering the technology advancement aspect of it since the material required for what he needed was in all likelihood not available on Earth as well.

Other than those, there was also the issue of fast technology advancement on Earth which was definitely going to be a problem in the future from Virus' experience.

Virus was certain that assuming human nature and their rebellious history full of betrayal, it was in their nature to rise for freedom and more. Nothing was ever going to be enough for them.

That meant in case he started introducing extremely advanced pieces of technology by progressing at the fastest speed possible, there will come a day when humanity would rise against him using those very same pieces of technology he brought to the planet.

And that was something Virus wanted to avoid by all means since he did not wish to go through another defeat by the hand of mankind like the past in the future.

Therefore, that path was a big 'no!' to him.

Of course, he might release a few pieces of technology which were somewhat ahead of their days, but that was it as it was merely a means for him to slowly dominate the economy of the planet.

Still, Virus understood there was still a ray of light existing in all that darkness. And that had to do with a plan Virus had in mind for the far future, a plan that would also help him avoid the same repetition of his past that took place in the future.

In conclusion, even though he initially had no intention of applying that particular plan of his to work until years later, Virus promptly changed his mind after considering two important factors.

The first had to do with his immediate need for a more futuristic piece of technology to get to the bottom of this mystery that was presenting itself to him.

Virus was absolutely awestruck, intrigued, and even more suspicious by the fact that there was a mysterious anomaly existing that deep into the planet as he felt the urgency of the situation due to that as he was now adamant about unraveling and getting to its bottom as quickly as possible!

He was unambiguously put ill at ease at the mere notion of an unknown anomaly existing in his backyard, 'What could be there, trap or treasure? That is the question.'

And the second factor had to do with the appearance of the Rifts which had substantially increased the possibility of his death from the prior thirteen percent to much higher as it seemed to slightly jump higher and higher since the threatening variables were increasing by the day.

Thus, now, Virus was determined to push some of his plans forward both in order to secure his safety further and to sate his curiosity at the same time.

"Here's the breakfast, master!" Bringing a food platter over, the golden beauty placed it on the table.



Following that, as the two had just begun eating and drinking, Virus abruptly opened his mouth which grabbed the golden beauty's attention at once.

"So, I'll be probably heading over to the Cultivation Earth for a while sometime soon. But-" Getting to the final parts of his news, Virus was just about to tell the golden beauty that he was not going to take her with him this time around since first he was now strong enough to protect himself and second because he was not confident in being able to guarantee her safety and that was a risk Virus would definitely not take.

The golden beauty was simply too important to him.

However, beating him to it, the golden beauty interrupted the rest of his sentence as she proclaimed, "Umm, I won't be tagging along if that's okay with you, Ai."

"Hmm?" Virus felt surprised since he assumed she would insist on going with him, so he questioned, "Are you sure? Tell me your reason first."

Lowering her head unconsciously, the golden beauty started to clarify her mindset, "Yes. Well, it's simple, right now I'm going to be a big burden to master, a dead weight that's just going to hinder master's path, I don't want that." Raising her head suddenly, Virus spotted an unwavering determination shimmering in her eyes as she declared, "I'm too weak. Hence, until I'm strong enough, I'm against following you to dangerous places like an idiot person. If I follow you someday, that will be because I'm at least confident enough to protect myself and be of some help to you, Ai."

Virus' eyes went wide-open as he was amazed by the golden beauty's thoughts and resolution. All she thought about and considered, even now that she had entered a real physical body, was still Virus himself. He could not even trace an ounce of selfishness within her eyes, all there was in there was a selfless question of 'what was best for my master?'.

"So, I'm going to continue cultivating in seclusion with your permission."

By the end of her reasoning, even though Virus felt content and truly happy, a part of him could not help but be worried. Therefore, standing up, Virus went over to her side, dropped on one knee, and started hugging her small frame out of nowhere which greatly startled the golden beauty whose eyes were already long wide-open

Next, he announced, "My Lil Belle, you're the most precious and valuable person to me and all I want for you right now is to stay safe. That's why I'm boundlessly gratified by your understanding and decision. However, remember, it's okay for you to be selfish once in a while, you are allowed to do that even if others are not."

By the end of his words, the golden beauty's eyes were already red as one tear after another rolled down her face, wetting his shoulders as a result.

Proceeding that, while remaining in that condition, the golden beauty wrapped her arms around his neck and whispered while weeping, “m-master, I love you.”

Listening to her confession of love, Virus felt his heart warm up and melt away as he separated himself from her before kissing her on the forehead gently. Next, looking into her beautiful golden eyes, while wiping her tears away, he admitted smilingly, “I love you the same, my most precious creation.”