Soul Art Online

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Chapter 39: Reunion-1

- Arthas -

I looked at the girl in front of me closer.

Black hair in a ponytail, purple eyes and… buxom figure.

Sure the details matched quite closely. It was 95% sure to be her but not everything was set in stone. I however wanted to make 100% sure it was her before informing Veena, so as to not cause her any disappointment in case she was just someone with a different name. After all, from what we have heard from Elaine, there were probably hundreds of people inside this game searching for Veena and her family members. Someone using a similar name wasn't out of the question, so I probed.

"Are you from Japan, Miss Himejima?" I asked.

"Yes." She nodded with a smile.

"Oh where are you from in Japan? I have heard a lot about Japan and wanted to visit there sometimes. I have asked Shiroe about it and wanted to know another point of view." I made some small talk.

In fact, I wasn't lying.

Visiting Japan was something I indeed wanted to do.

It was a beautiful place.

"Ufufufufu yes I am from Japan. I was born there but shifted to Germany later. I am currently studying in a school in Japan again." She smiled and explained.

Germany?

Ah yes.

I remember that the backstory used for Rias was that she was the heir of an old noble house from Germany.

Technically she was still keeping up with the lie.

“Oh, are you a student? What year?” I asked.

“Well, I was just about to enter my third year of High School when this-” She looked around. “Whole mess happened.”

Yup, the ages matched too and so did the backstory.

No need to probe anymore.

“I see. Yeah, I can understand that. I was in the last year of my High School too. I am from Switzerland by the way.” I smiled and then shifted to others. “What about you all? Arthur?” “ asked, looking at the guy and then smiling. “What a coincidence? My real name is also Arthur. Arthur Strauss.”

“Arthur Strauss… Arthas. Ah, I get it. Very clever.” Marielle smiled.

“From Britain.” Arthur answered succinctly. Then continued further. “Arthur Strauss, are you perhaps related to the Strauss Enterprises based in Switzerland?” He asked.

“Yes. It belongs to my father. Have you heard of it?” No wonder he knew about my father’s company. We had plenty of business deals in Britain too and Elaine and Le Fay were related to Golden Dawn which was backing our industries.

“Hmm.” He nodded but didn’t say anything further so I didn’t enquire more.

“Still, people from all over the world are gathered together, eh.” Star said. “Oh, if I remember correctly, wasn’t Elaine also from Britain?” He added, making Arthur turn towards him sharply.

“Elaine?”

“Yes. She is the healer of our team.” Star replied nonchalantly, before concentrating on his food.

Arthur however was not letting the topic go. “Can you please tell me more about her. What does she look like?” He asked. Then he saw the looks on the faces of the rest of the team and added. “One of my… close friends is also named Elaine. I wanted to know if they are the same person.”

“Oh. Well, you are in the guild now. If you want you can talk to her directly. Check the Guild Chat. Elaine is one of the officers of the Guild. If I remember correctly, she also came inside this world with her friends and is searching for them. It would be great if you could meet them.” Shiroe replied.

Arthur quickly did that. A minute or two later, a hint of surprise and a smile came to his face. He got up and quickly gave us a courteous bow before going to the side of the room, probably to talk to Elaine.

“Well, would you look at that. Who would have thought that he would actually find her?” Star smiled.

“I am glad he did.” Marielle smiled too.

As this was happening, I noticed a sad look pass over Akeno’s face.

I exchanged a quick look with Rose and she too nodded, having already understood my probing from earlier.

Veena had told both of us a lot about them in hopes that we could keep an eye out for them.

Marielle also noticed the look that had come upon Akeno’s face and patted her back.

“Don’t worry, Akeno-chan. You will find your friends too.”

I took this as a chance to strike. “Oh, do you have someone you want to find in this world too, Miss Himejima?” I asked.

“Please just call me Akeno.” She smiled before nodding. “Yes. I came in with some friends of mine. I have been trying to find clues about them but haven’t gotten anywhere yet.” She said.

“I see. In that case, you could tell us. We might be able to lend a hand. In fact, this is not an uncommon situation in this world. Many people have gotten separated from their loved ones when coming here. Some have reunited, many haven’t.”

“Yeah. Some have reunited in… very dangerous situations too.” Star added, only making my eyes twitch. He really didn’t know when to speak what, did he?

“Hmm?”

“Don’t frighten them.” Shiroe shook his head. “It’s nothing. It was… it was just a coincidence but we found a friend of one of our Guild members-” He paused, thinking of a more harmless way to lay things down. “In quite an unpleasant situation. We obviously managed to save them on time. In fact, Rose was with her too and that’s how we met her.” He said pointing at Rose who nodded. “So don’t worry. We will help. We have managed to find a few of the separated friends of our Guild members already.”

“Hmm. Yes. In fact, we have been discussing making a dedicated team in the Guild solely focused on finding lost friends and family members of the Guild Members. We could post information about them in our Guild shops as we expand into other cities. It will make it easier to find clues about them.” I added. “Actually, if you can send a message to Veena or Bina. Veena is one of the founders of our Guild along with Shiroe and me. They are still working on a rough draft for the team and might be able to keep an eye out for your friends too.”

“Oh. Thank you. I will do that.” She nodded, her eyes looking more hopeful.

After that we all just ate our dinner while also sharing some stories about our adventures in this world with others.

Marielle, who insisted on us calling her Mari, introduced us to the kids in the other room too and Rose took this moment to add them to our Guild too.

It was quite late and those idiots from the cats and dogs union were still in town until next morning so I had the maids in the house prepare a room for the kids as well as the rest of the members in the City Lord’s Mansion.

The mansion was a large place so letting them stay for just a night didn’t matter.

When everyone was settled, Rose and I decided to go to my office to complete the last bit of work that was left.

The entire bullshit with Cardo had delayed the day's work.

On the way however, I did make a point to send a message to Veena and Bina, giving them a head's up about the message that they might receive from Akeno.

"Really? You think it's her?" She asked.

"Black hair, purple eyes, very… buxom figure. Lightning Priestess, Akeno Himejima, born in Japan and shifted to Germany, now studying in Japan again. Wasn't that the backstory you told me Rias was using in Kuoh Academy?" I asked. *"Oh and she was with Arthur Pendragon."* I added. *"So, I am pretty sure it's her."*

"Well yes, then it does sound like her. Thank you, Arthas. First Grayfia and then Gasper and now Akeno. You have really helped me out a lot. Don't worry, I will be sure to reward you to your heart's content when we get there in two days."

I felt my blood run to my lower regions at that last part about the reward.

"*Actually, since Rose was there too, a reward for her too."* She added, making the girl beside me blush as she was in the small party chat too.

We reached my office just as we completed talking with Veena.

Once inside the room, I hugged Rose from behind and kissed her neck.

"Eh!" She yelped lightly at the sudden move. "W-what are you doing?"

"Having dessert after my meal." I whispered into her ears before licking her earlobes.

We had barely gotten any free and alone time since that night back in Llyne and that reminder of a reward just made me hotter.

Now that I had some peace and quiet time with her, there was no way I was going to let it go.

- Akeno Himejima -

She looked around at the kids who had fallen asleep once more before quietly shutting the door.

“They fell asleep quite easily today.” Mari said.

“Hmm. They were quite tired. After all, a lot happened today.” She replied.

And indeed, a lot had happened that day.

They had really seen a complete turnover in their recent situation in just a few hours.

From being on the verge of getting robbed to gaining a safe place to live and a huge fortune on top of it… who could have thought.

Indeed, fate has a strange way of playing out.

“Let’s go. We should take a rest too.” Mari said and she nodded.

They hadn’t rested properly for a long time.

Both of them were sharing the same room as a large part of the City Lord’s Mansion was still being repaired and around half the rooms were still unavailable.

Shiroe and Arthas had told them that they had already seen and decided on the properties for the Guild Dorms which would probably be ready in a few weeks. Until then they could live with them as there were quite a few rooms free in the City Lord Mansion even now.

The kids had occupied four rooms.

Arthur and Naotsugu had taken a room, Shiroe and Star another while Shikazura-san and Rose were to share a room but Rose had to help Arthas with work.

Still, everyone was occupied comfortably.

Upon getting to the bedroom, Mari directly went to the bed.

Akeno on the other hand was about to sleep when she got a message on the private chat. She had tried the Guild’s chat function and she knew what that was like.

She checked the message and saw that it was from someone called Veena.

Wasn't she one of the founders Arthas had told her to contact.

It was late at night so she was thinking of contacting her the next day but who would have thought that she would contact her herself.

She opened the message.

"Hello, is this Akeno Himejima?" the message read.

"Yes." Akeno replied.

"Arthas just messaged me that you were searching for your friends who have come into this world with you and wanted help. Are you free to talk right now?"

"Yes."

"Good. In that case, would you mind if I asked you a few questions about your friends. That might help us get clues about them through our Guild's outlets."

"No, please ask."

"First of all, their names and general descriptions."

"Yes. I don't know their in-game names. Will that be a problem?"

"It's very common, dear. No need to worry." Veena reassured.

"Okay. The first one is Rias. She is around my age, eighteen years old. She has crimson red hair and blue eyes with a height or around five feet seven inches. I think she might be playing some kind of mage class as that was her original plan." She added after some thought.

"Hmm."

"The second one is named Koneko. She should be around sixteen years old by now. She has short white hair and golden eyes. She is a bit on the petite side and is normally

very quiet. She might be playing some kind of hand to hand close combat class as that was our plan before entering this world."

"Oh. That's quite a surprise. I have received similar descriptions about people to search for. Actually, there was even information about someone named Akeno Himejima, eighteen years old, black hair, purple eyes, Japanese origin and might be playing mage class specializing in lightning."

"What! Who? Who gave you the information?" She asked hurriedly.

"Before that, can I ask a question to verify your identity?" The other side asked.

"Yes."

"What is the name of your school and what club are you in at school?"

Akeno's heart thumped.

These questions.

"Kuoh Academy, Occult Research Club."

"Hmm, congratulations. Those are the correct answers."

"Please tell me, who is the one searching for me?"

There was a pause on the other side for a moment and Akeno's heart was beating faster in time, her anxiety rising with each passing moment.

Finally the reply came.

"That would be me, dear."

"Eh?"

"The one trying to find you, would be me."

"W-who are you?" She asked, suspiciously.

She didn't know anyone else other than her peerage members who had entered the game world.

"Really. Both you and Rias praise this game for days in front of me, even inviting me to play and now you ask who I am? Hah… and here I thought the girl I have raised as a daughter would at least recognise me." Veena messaged back, making Akeko freeze.

Veena…

"You… Lady Gremory?"

"Oh my! I thought you would call me Mama Gremory after hearing from me after such a long time. Why so distant, my dear?"

"Lady Gremory? Is that really you?" She questioned desperately, her mind still whirling at the sudden turn of events.

How was she inside this game? Did she really play that day?

She did remember that Rias had praised this game a lot in front of Lady Gremory and even she had joined in to support her king but to think she really would play…

Then came the guilt.

Did they drag her into this world too, endangering her life.

After joining the Gremory House, Lady Gremory had treated her no less than her own daughter, Rias.

For Akeno, she was just like her own mother and now…

The realization that it was her words that had dragged her in this danger made her feel as if someone had clutched her heart and ripped it out with bare hands as her eyes filled with water.

"I… I am sorry. I… you got caught in this… because of us." She apologised.

"There is no need to apologise dear. It wasn't your fault. Neither of us knew such a thing would happen. Fate is always unpredictable. Also, believe it or not, your suggestions weren't wrong. Despite the whole thing turning into a death game, I won't lie that I

haven’t come to enjoy the experience. It’s just that I could have done without my family being trapped in this game. So don’t go on blaming yourself. I will be very mad if I come there in two days and see you all depressed again. You don’t look cute like that at all.”

“Hmm.” She replied, glad that her cracking voice was not transmitted through the text messages to her.

“You don’t need to worry anymore. In fact, I was not the only one to enter this game that day. Grayfia entered with me too.” Lady Gremory said.

“What! Grayfia is here too?”

“Yes. We were able to find her a few months ago. The one called Bina in the Guild is Grayfia. And just two months ago, we even found Gasper. He is currently with us.”

“Gasper is found? That’s great. Now the only ones left are Rias and Koneko-chan.”

“Hmm. So don’t blame yourself for anything and get depressed. We will be arriving there in a few days. Until then, if you need anything, talk to Arthas. He and Rose know about everything. Others have no idea about the supernatural so don’t disclose that to them. Although, if it’s anything else, all of them are very trustworthy. You can trust them just like you trust me. None of them will ever do anything to harm you.”

“Umm. I understand.”

After that, both of them talked for a while after that.

She found that Elaine, Arthur Pendragon's maid and lover, was also in the Fairy Tail Guild and she had informed them about the situation outside.

The most surprising one was probably the information about Koneko’s sister, Kuroka. To think that SS Class Criminal was inside the game too and was the one who had protected Gasper for so long.

Her first instinct was to doubt her about having any ulterior motives. She had seen Koneko’s condition when she had first arrived. The girl still hadn’t recovered from that pain. Having experienced something similar in her past, Akeno greatly sympathized with Koneko and thus had no good feelings for Kuroka.

But Lady Gremory said that there was probably more to the matter than was exposed back then.

Kuroka had genuinely protected Gasper all this time and cared for him and they were quite close too.

Such a behaviour wasn't in line with what they knew about her.

Thus they doubted that there was something else going on but Kuroka refused to open up about the matter so things were still unclear.

Lady Gremory told her to treat her well and not get into a fight with her and she agreed.

When the messages ended, she even had a chat with Gasper and then Bina.

Lady Gremory had instructed her to use their in-game names only in front of others.

It was only after she had finished talking to both of them that she finally relaxed. It was as if a large part of weight on her shoulders was lifted that day.

When all was done, she surprisingly found herself wide awake, the emotions having driven away all she had felt a while back.

Mari was also asleep so she decided to take a walk outside for a while.

She walked outside for a while, sitting in the lawn outside and watching the moonlight.

It looked a bit different from the moon back on the Earth, not that it looked any less magnificent though.

Venelana-sama was right about that.

This world… was kinda beautiful.

Had it not been for the life and death crisis, she could genuinely see herself loving this world. Especially since she had found good friends like Mari-chan and the rest in this place as well.

After spending some time outside, she got up and began walking back to her room.

This time she took another path through the garden and from behind the mansion instead of the previous one.

While on her way, she paused as she saw light coming out of the window of a room.

It was already quite late at night.

Was someone else still awake?

She walked forward but suddenly paused as she heard a sound, a whisper like hum. Was that a girl's voice? For a moment, she thought she had imagined things but the next moment another sound was heard. This time a bit louder. A blush came to her face as she realised what that sound was.

Moaning.

Someone was…

Now, any normal person would have turned around and walked away at that moment. But… Akeno had never claimed to be normal.

So without even realising, she found her steps slowly slipping towards the window's corner. As she reached near, she realised which room it was.

The City Lord's Office.

A moment later she recalled who had decided to finish the work in the City Lord's office that night.

Rose and Arthas.

A blush formed on her face as she realised the situation. Rose did offer to stay with Arthas to help him complete the leftover work.

Was it those two?

She inched forward and looked from a thin gap between the curtains of the room, catching the glimpse of a man's muscular back and a head full of dark blue hair.

Yes.

That was Arthas.

He was currently holding Rose from behind, his strong hands wrapped around her as he kissed her neck while she was caressing his hair and moaning.

Akeno found her breath hiking.

They looked quite comfortable with each other.

Were they together?

It hadn't seemed like that before.

At least no one seemed to know about them.

A Secret Romance? How exciting!

Just imagining the situation sent a sense of thrill through her.

She stepped silently towards the curtain again, looking more closely.

Rose was caressing his hair, her eyes half closed, almost dazed.

A moment later, he paused and pulled back, turning her around. Akeno finally saw Rose more clearly.

She was in a set of white lingerie.

They had lingerie in this world too?

All she had managed to find until now were those baggy undergarments from the medieval age. The ones Rose was wearing however looked much better.

She will have to ask her where she got them.

Unaware of her thoughts, both of them continued their lovemaking.

They looked at each other for a moment and jumped at each other, their lips seeking the other's fiercely, their bodies pressed closely almost seeming to merge into one.

It was so hot.

Akeno found her hand going to her own chest, grabbing a hold of her breast while she rubbed her thighs lightly as the heat between her legs rose.

Their kiss lasted for minutes after which Arthas pulled back but when he did, he had her bra in his hands.

He had taken it off during the kiss, revealing a gorgeous pair of breasts.

Rose was pretty.

Akeno had seen many beautiful women in her life.

Rias was beautiful and so was Lady Venelana and Grayfia. She herself wasn't half bad. In fact, most Devil females were enchanting to look at, and Rose… she was comparable to them.

That long white hair looked a bit like Grayfia's. Her blue eyes however, different from Grayfia's red, had so much innocence in them that it tingled the sadistic part inside Akeno. She wanted to tease her so bad.

Apparently Arthas agreed with her thoughts as a smirk appeared on his face.

"Turn around and put your hands on the table." He placed a hand on the bundle of files and documents on the table as they disappeared, probably stored in the inventory as he pointed towards the table.

Rose looked confused but nodded, walking up to the table, placing both her hands on it.

"Now bend over."

"Eh!"

"Bend over. Show me your ass." He commanded again, this time in a more deep voice.

Although she was faced away from Akeno, Akeno could see the deep red blush reaching her ears.

That said, she followed, slowly bending over.

“More. Push your ass out more.” Arthas commanded as he walked towards her.

She obeyed, pointing her ass towards him.

Her panties were visible. Akeno was even able to see a dark patch of wetness among them. Ara Ara, someone was feeling hot.

As she was watching, her own hands hadn’t been free either.

One of them had slipped under her skirt and into her panties, teasing her own lower lips which she was sure was no less wet than Rose’s lips.

“Good girl.” Arthas praised.

Rose turned around and Akeno could see a pleased expression on her face as if happy by the praise.

So adorable.

He stepped forward and leaned, placing a kiss on her cheeks, probably thinking the same too.

After that he took a step back and got on his knees behind Rose. He slowly pulled down her panties to reveal pink lips glistening with wetness under the light of the room. Akeno’s breath hitched as she understood what he was going to do next and sure enough, he dove indirectly into those delectable lips.

Having lived so long with beautiful women like Rias and others, Akeno knew how to appreciate female bodies, and as concluded before Rose was one of the better ones.

Rose yelped at the sudden attack but the next moment, her voice turned into a moan.

“MMmhh ahhh~”

Arthas continued working on that delectable looking ass with full concentration while Akeno’s hands moved on her own body in tandem, as she pinched her nipples and played with her clit.

Within minutes, her fingers were slopping wet. She was sure if she were to finger herself, wet sounds would certainly attract both the lovebirds inside the room.

But she continued.

The thrill of the situation… she had never felt something like this before. Even now, she couldn't remove her eyes from the scene in front of her.

Really… she was an unrepentant pervert.

As Arthas increased his speed, Rose desperately held onto the edge of the table, her legs quivering under the attack before suddenly buckling over as she let out a loud moan and a look of pure pleasure came over her face.

Moments later Arthas moved back and Rose, having lost the support behind her, crumbled to her knees, breathing heavily, eyes still hazed from the pleasure that she had just received.

Arthas on the other hand, stood up and undid the strings of his trousers, letting them fall to the ground.

The sight in front of her made Akeno freeze for a moment.

Despite her… perverted habits, this was the first time she had seen the real deal in front of her own eyes.

That thing… it looked bigger than the ones in the videos she had seen on Devil Net and the slightly curved shape covered with those thick veins gave it a brutal look, promising to ravage the one they worked on.

Oh how would that thick… hard thing feel if it went inside her.

It looked like it could rip her in two.

Akeno had to cover her mouth in fear that her breathing would attract the attention of the two. At this point, she was more worried about the show stopping rather than getting caught. After all, who knows when she would get such a show next time.

Rose also recovered from her pleasured daze and looked around but unlike the shocked and slightly apprehensive reaction from Akeno, she only had lust in her eyes.

She raised her hand, grabbing the thick rod with extreme care, jerking it with a slow speed as she looked up into Arthas' eyes.

He took a step forward, his veiny length touching her cheeks as Rose looked almost intoxicated, rubbing her face with it. Then he put a hand on her head, brushing her hair aside. Rose looked up again and as if understanding what the other side wanted, she gently placed a kiss on top of the purplish tip before opening her mouth.

Akeno pinched her clit, knowing full well what was going to happen next and sure enough, Rose opened her mouth and took the tip inside.

He let out a low moan, closing his eyes, savouring the pleasure.

Rose, as if emboldened by this, took him further into her mouth and moved her head, slowly but surely increasing her speed until a minute later, she was expertly bobbing her head over his length.

From the looks of it, these two had obviously done this a lot before today.

Arthas' hands on her hair tightened as he gripped a handful of her white locks. His hips started moving slowly too, thrusting with small motions of his waist. Every time he thrust, his length was disappearing into that small cute hole that was Rose's mouth which was devouring the entire length as if a miracle and when he pulled back a glistening length, shining from all the saliva came out.

"*Ghluck ghck ahhhh.*"

Moans echoed through the room.

Akeno noticed that Rose's hands had gone down between her legs, teasing her lower lips and she too moved, furiously playing with herself at the same time.

Time passed by in a haze.

Arthas' speed increased and suddenly he gripped her hair tighter and thrust hard.

Rose, although taken by surprise for a moment, knew what he wanted and relaxed accepting his thrusts.

After a dozen or so thrust, he too let out a moan and his body shivered. Akeno knew what had happened as she too had experienced the same thing at that very moment.

She barely continued her moans and her quivering legs, forcing herself from crumbling onto her knees like Rose before her, just so that she didn't miss what came next… and she wasn't disappointed.

He pulled out his length in full with a popping sound, making Akeno realise for the first time how hard Rose had been sucking. That twitching mass of meat was covered with Rose's saliva and his own jizz, still standing proud over the face of the girl in front of him. As he did so, a trail of white liquid dripped from the corner of Rose's mouth but she quickly closed her mouth and looked up at him, her eyes hazy and… she swallowed.

Akeno could see the movements of her mouth and neck as she gulped down all that man juice down her gullet.

Finally, she wiped that trail of white at the corner of her mouth and licked it clean too.

That scene… it was more erotic and hot than any videos or Rias' secret doujin that Akeno had read before this.

There was just something about this pure and innocent looking girl being ravaged by that monstrous looking thing that lit a fire in her own womb.

That said, Akeno knew that it was not over yet.

No, the real thing was just beginning.

Arthas snapped a finger and the next second, everything in the room was cleared. Was that some kind of spell?

Rose seemed to have already known about it as she got up and hugged him lightly as they kissed once more.

He picked her up and this time, placed her on the table taking a moment to spread her legs revealing pink lower lips with a tuft of white hair on the top.

Next he neared her, his length touching her lower lips. Rose grabbed it, guiding it to her entrance gently.

Akeno looked with anticipation and sure enough Arthas pushed forward. This time, he was very gentle unlike a minute ago when he was brutally ravaging her throat with that little monster of his.

Rose moaned lightly, looking slightly uncomfortable at first and he immediately slowed down and leaned forward and they kissed again, a slow passionate kiss. It looked as if she was melting in that kiss. The scene sent butterflies fluttering in Akeno's stomach as she watched.

He continued moving gently and slowly increased his speed, until he was thrusting into her rapidly again.

Rose had her arms around his neck, pulling him towards her, as she lay down on the table. Arthas too raised a leg, getting on the top of the table and on top of her. At this point, Akeno could also see the place they were connected at more clearly.

That thick, veiny meat rod was spreading Rose apart. It almost looked as if it would tear her in two and yet, every time he thrust, she was accepting him easily.

It was an enchanting scene so much so that she found it hard to move away from it. At the same time, her fingers had started working down on her lower lips again.

Sounds of slapping flesh, heavy breathing and kissing echoed in the room until Arthus increased his speed even further.

Rose's legs wrapped around him and her body arched as she let out a loud moan. Arthas paused and then thrusted into her with long and hard thrusts, creaking the table every time he did. A dozen or so thrusts later, his body quivered too and he let out a low guttural moan before he collapsed on top of her.

Drops of white cum seeped out of the corners of her lower lips.

Akeno too came at the same time and this time her knees couldn't support her weight as she gently crashed on the grass below.

Things passed by in a haze next.

Akeno somehow picked herself up with quivering legs and slowly walked away from the window and back into the mansion. She was going to the washroom but to her surprise, she saw Arthas waiting outside the room.

Memories of the whole incident flooded into her mind and she found her eyes going down towards his crotch. It took her a great deal of self-control to prevent herself rubbing her legs in front of him.

“You haven’t slept yet?” He asked.

“Hmm, no. I couldn’t sleep. I… Lady Gremory…”

“Veena.” He interrupted.

“Sorry. Veena. I talked to her. You… thank you.” She replied.

“You are welcome.” He nodded. “Veena is a member of my team, in fact, she is the first member of my team. We have been together since the beginners village. She has helped and supported me through a lot. It is only normal that I do the same.” He replied.

“Hmm, still… thank you. You don’t know how much this means to me.”

“You’re welcome. If you need anything else, feel free to talk to me or-” he looked at the door of the washroom.

“Rose.” She added, making him look at her. “La- Veena told me that she also knew. I was already planning to thank you for your help with everything here and now this…”

“You all are members of my team now. The members of the Fairy Tail Guild and I’m the Guild Master. It is only normal that I look out for you all.” Arthas replied.

“Ara ara, so responsible. Still, if you ever need anything from me, feel free to tell me. Really, I would love to help you out, Guild *Master*~” She teased.

Normally, most guys around her age melted when she used such a tone but to her surprise, he didn’t look the least bit bothered. Instead he rolled his eyes at this.

“Seriously… another one?”

“W-what?”

He turned towards her and actually walked closer.

Akeno found her breath hitching as the scenes from the City Lord's office flashed in her mind again.

He raised her hand but to her surprise, he just pinched her cheeks.

"This level of teasing… don't work on me."

He then turned around and walked to the door of the washroom.

Akeno found herself with her mouth open, trying to understand what had just happened and her face heated up with embarrassment when she realised what had just transpired but before she could say anything else, the door to the washroom opened and Rose came out.

She swallowed her words back, even as her face burned with embarrassment.

Rose looked around and was surprised to see her.

"She knows. Veena told her." Was all Arthas said before going inside the washroom.

Rose looked at her, slightly flushed, probably embarrassed due to the things both of them had done a while ago. Only after a moment did she speak.

"Hello. My name is Rossweisse but you can call me Rose."

Akeno nodded. "Hello Rose. So, you are a part of the supernatural too? Where are you from?" She asked, pushing away her earlier embarrassment.

"I am from Asgard, Valkyrie."

"A Valkyrie? That is amazing. I have never met one of those before." She replied.

She wasn't even lying.

This was her first time meeting a valkyrie from Asgard.

Both of them talked for a few moments before Arthas came out and all of them went to the City Lord's office.

The whole place was now clean, with no signs of the previous acts.

Did he use that magic again?

It seemed quite convenient.

Arthas went and took the chair of the City Lord and picked up a pen as he began inspecting the papers again. His actions were so natural that had she not seen everything that had happened here just minutes ago, she wouldn't have believed it even if someone told her.

Rose, on the other hand, was blushing.

It seemed that unlike him, she was more embarrassed.

Akeno took this opportunity to talk to them.

"So, Rose told me that she was a valkyrie. What about you, Arthas?"

"Seraph." He spoke nonchalantly.

Suddenly Akeno found herself frozen in shock as she looked at the guy.

"You are lying." An automatic reply came from her mouth.

He smirked. "Oh my. What makes you so sure? You do know that the three factions have sent many people inside this world, right? So why not a Seraph?"

Akneo wanted to say that there was no way a Seraph could… do what he did, but there was no way she could do that.

"I know all the Seraphs and none of them match your description. This game reverts everyone to their original form. It's impossible for anyone to hide."

"Okay, fair point. Still… you should look at your face. You looked as if you were going to have a heart attack or something." He laughed.

"As would any devil after meeting one of them." She replied, unfazed.

"Hmm, I wouldn't know. After all, I was just a normal guy until I entered this world after all. You heard Arthur earlier, didn't you? My name is Arthur Strauss, the son of a

businessman from Switzerland.”

“Really? Normal?”

“Hmm. Veena was the one who introduced me to the supernatural side of things.” He replied as he concentrated on the papers below, writing something on it and passing it on to Rose. “Why? Disappointed?”

“Eh? Not really. Just surprised. The strongest player in the world is a normal human when there are possibly hundreds of supernatural beings in the world including the likes of Grayfia Lucifuge…”

“Bina.”

“My apologies, Bina. Knowing how the outside world is, can you blame me for being surprised?” She asked.

“No. It’s quite normal. Humans have a much lower starting point and peak than most supernatural beings so your thoughts are understandable. Still, when everyone is reduced to the same starting point and given the same potential, no one can predict who will be stronger and who will be weaker. You should shed that prejudice of yours as soon as possible or you will be in for a very rude awakening soon.” Arthas said, raising his head from the paperwork.

- Arthas -

I saw her quiet down for a moment and nod.

“I know. I have experienced being chased by humans who were after my life before. Trust me, I would be the last person to underestimate them.” She said solemnly.

I merely raised an eyebrow and asked. “Do you dislike humans?”

“Dislike? No, not really. I was half human myself after all. My mother was a human and I loved her. I study in a human school and interact regularly with humans. My teammates are all humans and I love them all.” She explained. “I just dislike certain humans, not all.” She spoke with a shrug.

I was actually quite surprised that she was able to speak so much.

Normally, from what I knew and what Veena had told me, she always avoided such topics whenever it came up.

It looks like she had done some soul searching and growth in this world too.

Good for her.

Veena will be happy too.

“Understandble. Don’t we all do that.” I replied in understanding.

After all, I would probably hate someone who kills my mother and chases me around to kill me as a kid too. I was not Naruto Uzumaki.

“Still, you must be something to reach such a level.” She said appreciatively.

I merely shrugged. “Things happened. Some luck, some work.”

There was a moment of quiet after which she spoke up again. “Do you need help with that?” She asked Rose, pointing at the paperwork.

“I… I am fine. I used to do this before too.”

“Oh! Weren’t you a valkyrie?”

“Yes. I was the bodyguard of Lord Odin. So I often had to organise his paperwork.” She replied politely.

It’s just that the words made Akeno freeze for a moment.

“The bodyguard of the Godking of Asgard?”

“Hmm.”

“But didn’t you say that you were around our age? Ah, you didn’t know about our identities back then.” She finished, as if concluding herself.

In a way it was understandable too.

After all, Rose's talents were just that surprising. No one would expect such a young person to get selected as the bodyguard of a God like Odin.

"Rose is a supergenius. She is indeed around our age. She is the youngest person in history to receive her position. Kinda cool, isn't it?" I praised as Rose blushed at the words.

"That's… "Akeno paused for a moment before continuing. "Amazing!"

We talked about ourselves a bit, normal stuff like how and where I lived. Our school lives. It was quite interesting to get such different points of views from people living completely different lives.

The life of a valkyrie trainee school student like Rose was quite different from my normal school life and the same was the case with Akeno who was staying there for her King and making contracts with humans.

By the end of the hour, we were talking quite freely.

She was even helping Rose with the work.

Rose seemed to enjoy getting someone close to her age as a friend after Kuroka.

It's just that both her new friends were similar people who enjoyed teasing her.

Then again, everyone enjoyed teasing a cutie like Rose.

"By the way, all of you are already at the level cap of T4. When do you guys want to do your Class Advancement Quests and what class are you planning to advance? I have heard from Veena that you are very good at lightning. Are you planning to go for the High Mage route like Bina?"

"Oh Bina took the High Mage route? Yes. I can see that. After all, she is one of the best Ice Magic users of the Underworld. But no. During our encounter with Archmage Antonidas and Princess Jaina, we talked about what classes I could take going forward. They told us about some more uncommon routes of Class Advancements."

"Uncommon routes?" I hadn't heard of anything like that from Vincent. Then again, I hadn't joined the Magic Tower so them not telling me their core secret classes was only

understandable. Maybe Veena and Shiroe could learn more about them later after joining the Magic Tower?

“Yes. I was planning to go for the Heretic Mage route. It is a T5 Class which requires a Level 40 Mage and a Level 40 Cleric to unlock. They can use both elemental magic and holy magic or healing magic. The attacks we had encountered on our way to Stratholme made me want to choose the Healer Route so that I could help the people around me but I didn’t want to give up the power of the Mage Class as we desperately needed that to protect ourselves. That’s when Archmage Antonidas informed us about the Heretic Mage Class.”

“Why isn’t this class known more?” I asked.

“Hmm, probably because of the unlocking condition. Normally, to unlock any classes which require two previous Tier Classes, you only need to get to max level 1 one class. For example, for unlocking Magic Knight, you can do it with a Level 40 Mage and Level 1 Knight or with a Level 40 Knight and a Level 1 Mage or anything in between. But Heretic Mage is different. For this, you need to first level up one of either Cleric or Mage Classes to Max level and then shift to another and max it too. You cannot choose any other magic based T5 Class before that or the option will not be available.” She explained briefly.

Damn… there was such a condition too?

It reminded me of the Lord Knight Class in a way.

But it was also because it reminded me of the Lord Knight Class that I wholly agreed with her going this route.

After all, if Lord Knights were anything to go by then this Heretic Mage Class was going to be powerful too.

In fact, in a way, the conditions were even more stringent than unlocking Lord Knight in a way that they had to follow a certain pattern of levelling up and level up both prerequisite classes to full level.

Still, if that is the case then its power would certainly be something to look forward to.

Unaware of my thoughts, Akeno continued.

“At first I was hesitant as Marielle was already the healer of the group so I wasn’t sure if I should waste my time and drag the rest of the team back when levelling up the Cleric Class but now, with everyone here, I am more inclined to give it a try.” She asked.

“Do it.” I replied, immediately. “Don’t let such concerns hold you back. Our Guild has bonuses for experience and we have a decent team for leveling too. You will catch up with everyone in a few months again. Moreover, don’t treat it as holding your team back for now, rather an investment for the future. I’d rather you all take more time and get better classes than hurry for a high level and end up with average classes later on. As for dragging the team back, don’t worry. We don’t really lack firepower.”

With Bina, Shiroe, Veena, Suikazura, Rose, Whisper, Star and me, we had more than enough firepower for the team.

Rose agreed too.

“Yes. We could always use the extra support. Our team is growing bigger and Elaine and Mari alone would have a hard time healing everyone. Getting one more healer, even of a hybrid class, would be a great help to the team.” Rose said.

“Thank you.” Akeno nodded with a smile.

By the time we were done, it was already morning. Without even realising, we stayed up all night again.

At least, with additional hands, we finally completed the paperwork.

Now, I can finally take a rest.

Too bad, we didn’t have the house to ourselves or I could have hugged Rose to sleep. Last night, although we had some fun, we had to stop only after a single round or we couldn’t have completed the work today. In a way, it was good that Akeno had come when she did or neither of us would have been able to keep our hands away from each other with just that much.

Finally, done with the work, we decided to get freshened up.

I washed my face and went for my daily exercises too.

Our time in Alverton was going to begin in earnest now.

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Beta Note: The advance chapters are in order of what is updated, a first Tier will not get 2 advanced chapters for every story, only the next two to be released.

Beta Reader: @LuluViBritania (FF.N, SB, WN and QQ)/-LuluViB|99th Britannian Emperor(Discord), and @Basilisk

Author's Note:

I am back with another chapter of 'Soul Art Online'.

A short chapter to cool down after the excitement of the whole Alverton incident.

We also got a short and semi-reunion for Akeno… and another steamy show as an unexpected reward for her.

She has had it hard.

This much was well deserved.

Anyways, we are going to explore more of Alverton City in the next chapter and have a proper reunion as well as start the next arc.

Enjoy the new chapter.

Good Day, Peace Out.