

Sitting there on the cold, hard, stone bench as I watched the clouds gather and darken outside of the small barred window set high in the wall of my cell, I sniffed the air. Smells like rain, which was fine by me. Complete apathy for my situation had already set in as I was held in a prison cell, awaiting whatever decision my superiors would make as they deliberated what to do with me. I tore my gaze away and looked down at my hands. The hands of a healer. I'd promised myself that I would do the best I could not to do any harm to others with my knowledge and gifts. However, three days ago that all changed. Three days ago, my beloved was taken from me right before my eyes.

The Garleans had attempted to push back our squad and gain ground on the outskirts of Gridania. Explosions made of chemicals and magic landed on both sides of the field, death and destruction raining down from every which direction. Myself, my love... Katsu, and a handful of others were ordered to go around the right flank and try to pick off enemies and retrieve any fallen comrades that still lived. My role was that of medic and ranged offense. Katsu was essentially my bodyguard, and the others were there to perform the actual retrieval. For the first couple of hours we managed to rescue several members of our unit, getting them sent back by chocobo carriages to the relative safety of the camps. However, at some point it was just Katsu and I, and we heard cries for help coming from the bottom of the hill. I begged Katsu not to go, to wait until the others got back so the person could be pulled out. He wouldn't listen, just pressed a reassuring kiss to my lips and then took off down the hill. I watched in horror as a full squad of Garleans poured out of the trees, descending on him with gunblades and murdering him and the other captive they'd used as bait.

Something inside of me broke. There was a loud ringing in my ears, or maybe it was my screams, I am not sure. Everything after that moment seems like a dream, well, a nightmare. Dropping my bow and taking up my staff, I charged down the hill towards them. As tears streamed down my face, I summoned magics that I didn't even know I possessed. No, that's not quite right. I used my knowledge of anatomy, aetherical manipulation, and my rage to inflict as much carnage as I could. They never stood a chance. The first of them that tried to fire upon me had their limbs ripped from their bodies, blood spraying everywhere, their screams drowning out the sounds of the battlefield. Before the others could react, I was there among them. Using heat to explode their eyeballs in the sockets of some, others that tried to subdue me were bent and twisted as I channeled my power into them, making them my personal meat puppets before tossing them aside. Finally, I came upon the commander of that unit. His eyes wide with terror as he fell to his knees, begging for mercy. With him, I went slow. Forced him to remove his armor and clothing. Carefully peeled the skin from his body, using my abilities to keep him alive. Cutting away extremities one by one. By the end, he was a quivering, gibbering pile of muscle, sinew, and bone. I left him like that, let him die in the knowledge of his mistake.

In a fugue-like state I walked over to the body of my beloved. His eyes wide open and face frozen in a look of surprise. I must've looked quite the sight, coated from head to toe in gore as I collapsed to my knees. I remember I wailed. A keening that can only come from the deepest of sorrows. I used more aether, drawing it from the air around me, channeling it into his body,

desperate to try and revive him despite some part of me knowing it was futile. Then suddenly everything went black.

From what I've been told, the Garleans fled because of the sight they saw when I went on my rampage. It turned the tide of the battle, and we were able to win. But, they can't ignore the extreme my retaliation went to. I was placed under arrest immediately. I've been in this cell for three days. I don't even know what happened to Katsu's body. I didn't even really get to say goodbye....