

Chapter 11:

The Ones We Leave Behind

☆ Shadow Gale

Currently, Shadow Gale and Pfle were moving towards the Demon Lord's Castle shop, there, they stopped. Shadow Gale modified her Stun Gun and Scissors with her wrench, Pfle was watching her on top of the carpet.

Shadow Gale thought that Pfle didn't really understand what Shadow Gale was doing. It was impossible to understand the principle of how Shadow Gale remodeled machinery using her Magical Skill. Pfle was only pretending to watch Shadow Gale work, but was probably thinking of something else.

Shadow Gale had received a text from Pfle, it was soon after Shadow Gale had discovered Nokko-Chan.

"Meet me at the Demon Lord's Castle. Hurry. Don't contact me until you get there"

The text was concise. Whenever Pfle sends concise messages, it usually means that it's urgent. Shadow Gale recovered Nokko-Chan's Magical Phone, forcing her to leave behind the burnt remains, of which there was only a single hand.

Eventually, she stopped wondering why Nokko-Chan had left them, and only the thoughts of not being able to protect her remained. Shadow Gale moved her heavy feet with full power, until she finally arrived at the Demon Lord's Castle, and joined up with Pfle, who came soon.

She said what was stuck in her throat, "Nokko-Chan is dead," she reported, "Really?" asked Pfle on her Magic Carpet, "There's no mistaking it," said Shadow Gale, maintaining her psyche, "I see," replied Pfle, having no opinion.

When they finally reached the terrace of the Demon Lord's Castle, Pflé finally revealed what she's seen to Shadow Gale.

Pflé had been chasing Clantail's team, following the traces of battle, reaching beyond the collapsed buildings and destroyed craters, finally finding a huge open hole. And soon, Clantail emerged from that hole, while Pflé was hidden behind the buildings, looking at Clantail's state.

She came out from the hole. Her lower body was that of a gecko, the same one she had when she fought the Great Dragon, on her right arm was Pechika, on her left was Lazuline, and apparently a head on her waist, a dreadful appearance. Apparently, her whole body was wet, dripping down to the ground as she walked.

"I only saw her from a distance, It doesn't look like Pechika or Lazuline were alive. They were wounded, and it didn't seem like they were being treated. Also, about the head... I couldn't see the face from where I was, but from the hair color and hair style, and from what I think happened, that can't be anyone other than Melville."

Pflé concluded that basically, Clantail, Lazuline, and Pechika fought against Melville, and the only one that survived was Clantail.

Clantail's lower half changed to a horse, and walked towards the direction of the Town. Pflé was careful not to be found by her, and hurried back to the Demon Lord's Castle.

"I wonder if Clantail was heading to the streets of the Wasteland Town to bury the bodies? Well then, about our next move"

Pflé, who had finished revealing her information to Shadow Gale, took out her Magical Phone and pressed the *Help* button. The wind from the terrace was blowing on Pflé's hair, the edges of the Magic Carpet was also being blown. It's not that something was wrong because of that, but Shadow Gale felt that something was wrong.

"What did you call me for, Pon?"

"This game, its purpose is to collect and sanction the winners of Clamerry's previous tests, isn't it?"

Fal was silent for about two seconds.

“No, that’s wrong, Pon.”

He continued.

“If we wanted to collect and sanction the winners of Clamberry’s previous tests, then there are faster and easier methods than just this game, Pon. We collected the winners of Clamberry’s previous tests, and with this game, we wanted to see if they were truly qualified to continue as Magical Girls... Pon.”

“Hmm. I see... Then, what about Lazuline? Everyone’s memories have been returned, but she didn’t know anything about a Forest Musician Clamberry”

“Huh? Wait a minute, is that true, Pon?”

Fal had no facial expressions, so he couldn’t physically express any emotions. Only his high voice was the hint.

“Lazuline, she didn’t know anything about the Forest Musician, Clamberry, Pon?”

“Fal, is it possible that, the Master never verified who she was?”

Pfle was the only one who was calm. Her hands were in her hair, twisting it with her fingers, bringing it in front of her eyepatch, and being hit by the sun. Could she even see?

“You wanted to bring in the First Lazuline, but you brought in the current Lazuline instead, didn’t you?”

Pfle opened her fingers and released her hair, falling down in the position it was before.

“If someone were to know the participants by their faces, then surely they won’t make a mistake. However, if they weren’t in the same tests, and was an outsider, and simply looked at some name documents, then clearly they could make a mistake, couldn’t they?”

Shadow Gale was surprised. Lazuline, she wasn’t a Magical Girl related to Clamberry at all? It was unknown information. It seems Pfle guessed that Lazuline was the second generation Lazuline, and that she didn’t know anything about Clamberry.

"If I was a victim myself. If I had lost family within the Magical Girls of my tests, and gathered them up to tell them 'You will all become victims like the demons you are,' then there's that justification is rather hard to refute. I can understand if she was a Magical Girl like us, heartbroken after passing through a Clamberry test to become a Magical Girl. She wants to deny being directly involved, objectively speaking, she didn't do anything... However, if she mistakenly brought an innocent Magical Girl into this Death Game, what then? If that passes through, then there's no justice that can be argued in this game."

Pfle turned her palms up and looked towards Fal.

"Don't you think that's terrible!? What did Lazuline do!? She had no reason to participate in this game, right!? So there was no reason for her to be killed!"

Fal scattered more ribbons across his surroundings. Pfle's speech was getting more intense.

"If there's no justice in this game, then what's the meaning of it all!? Well!? Tell you Master that! End this game, and release us"

Fal's movements stopped. The ribbons that were scattered faded away, disappearing.

".....A new notice from the Master, Pon. Regarding Lapis Lazuline, she accepted that there had been an accident, Pon."

"Well, at least she's honest"

"But Master also said that she can't stop the game now, Pon. It's been set up so that the program will never end unless you clear the game, Pon."

"I'm not convinced"

Pfle spoke. Shadow Gale wasn't trying to follow her conversation. However, she was looking at Pfle, who was talking.

"The whole point of the game has been lost. Stopping the game or not stopping the game isn't even something we should be deciding anymore"

Fal didn't answer. Pfle continued.

“You’re involving Lazuline, an innocent Magical Girl. Yet, due to the rules, you say you can’t stop the game. Just like a bureaucrat. Even though we should stop, we’re still being forced to participate in the game”

Pfle’s words echoed in Shadow Gale’s head. She wanted to hold her head and collapse.

Pfle was trying to make Lazuline into a bargaining chip. When Lazuline revealed that she didn’t know anything about Clamberry, Pfle should be aware of Lazuline’s position within the game. What she explained to Fal now, what she explained to the Master using Fal, perhaps she didn’t expect Lazuline’s death to be a loss. Even if Pfle knew that, she didn’t do anything.

Something is swirling inside of Shadow Gale’s chest. Something dark. The result of mixing several colors together. She was clouded. Shadow Gale couldn’t see through it.

“I *demand* it!”

Shadow Gale saw Pfle’s back. Due to her long hair, it was almost hidden. Her hair shakes with each gust of wind blowing out, she could only see her back slightly. It wasn’t wide, but her spine was straight. She was a person who thinks she was in the right.

“End this game *right now!*”

“Not even the Master can end this game now, Pon. If the Demon Lord is defeated, then the game will end, Pon. Please defeat the Demon Lord as soon as possible.”

Pfle turned off her Magical Phone, Fal disappeared. Shadow Gale’s face was distorted. The words that entered her mind were terrifying.

If the Demon Lord is defeated, then the game will end.

“Wait a minute. Don’t you think that’s a little weird? If the Demon Lord is defeated, then the game will end. The Demon Lord is one of the Magical Girls, and they’ve been messing with the game. They’ve been killing a lot of people. Melville’s been beheaded. My Lady, didn’t we do it? Why isn’t the game over?”

It really has been a long time since she's snapped at Pflē. Even if it's only a small snap, like a puppy, this was the first time since she's regained her memory that's Shadow Gale had argued against Pflē. While she noticed the errors in Pflē's words, Shadow Gale was also pleased that she could refute Pflē with facts.

"Did Melville really do all those things? Is Melville really the Demon Lord?"

"Melville *is* the Demon Lord... Or so I thought"

"So she *is* the Demon Lord? You're still saying that, aren't you, my Lady?"

"I believed that only the Demon Lord would conduct such actions to other players."

"No one else but the Demon Lord would do those things"

"Melville was the biggest Demon Lord candidate, but she wasn't the Demon Lord, it seems. If she was the Demon Lord, then the game would already be over. She wasn't the Demon Lord, just an ordinary player, but she also killed the other players. Why would she commit those actions, I can only speculate, but I think I understand her reasoning based on her outfit. In a way, she wanted the killings to happen."

"What....."

"Once we decided that Melville was the Demon Lord, there was no other room for anymore possibilities. Using her magic to camouflage, she wanted to kill Clantail I believe... but then, why did Nokko-Chan get burnt? I can't explain that."

Someone had silently burnt down Nokko-Chan and killed her. The weapon used to kill her was probably the weapon they got in the Demon Lord's Castle, the Flamethrower. There was no other weapon that can kill in such a way.

"What we should do next is prepare, anyone can be the Demon Lord."

"And what would you do if you were killed before we prepared?"

"Then we'll have countermeasures"

Pflē activated her Magical Phone.

“From a doll’s remains, a small girl resembling Rionetta appeared... Probably Rionetta’s real body. Do you remember a Magical Phone that rolled in the location where she died? If you looked inside of it, you’ll see many items. A non-combatant assigned to manage items, probably Pechika’s. Even if it’s Rionetta’s phone, it doesn’t matter. I’ve grabbed the Passes from the Phone. While I travelled to the Demon Lord’s Castle, I also confirmed the Pass amount. The only ones who have Passes are me and you, Mamori.”

“What about Clantail’s Pass?”

“Passes are shared among Party members, as they’re used on a per-party basis. Either Rionetta or Pechika could manage it together”

“And Nokko-Chan and Lazuline?”

“I have them”

“What about Melville’s Pass?”

“With the current Distribution number, she would have 0. Since Melville is just a head now, it’s safe to assume her body was destroyed in the battle, and her Magical Phone should be destroyed as well.”

Pfle called up the Item field, and showed it to Shadow Gale. There, it displayed the number of Passes.

10,000 (10,000)

It was an outrageous amount of numbers. The maximum amount was 10,000, and the amount that was distributed was also 10,000, meaning there’s no more left to distribute.

Pfle smiled fairly unfaithfully.

“I bought it all. The Passes, once you use them, it’ll be ineffective after a day, but if you don’t use them, they’ll never be exhausted. Now, no one other than us can move between Areas.”

In order to buy that many Passes, a huge amount of Magical Candies was required. That kind of amount couldn’t be earned even if they seriously hunted Monsters or

cleared events. It was Shadow Gale who was given the assignment of collecting candies. Among the candies that Shadow Gale earned, only a small part was used to buy the Passes, and the way she earned those candies was through repeated work.

When Masked Wonder's Miracle Coin was stolen, they had heard that "If the distributed event item is gone, the event will be reset". Pfler paid attention to that rule. She sold the Dragon Shield that she'd gotten by defeating the Great Dragon, and defeated the revived Great Dragon. By repeating this event, they were able to raise their Magical Candies.

If they fought fairly, one or two people couldn't possibly beat the Great Dragon, but a loophole-like strategy existed. Pfler was probably aware of it before the Dragon fight. During the Dragon fight, Shadow Gale noticed that Melville was attacking the Dragon from beyond the red line. If she attacked the Dragon from outside the red line, she could safely, one-sidedly, kill the dragon, right?

However, Clantail's spear and Melville's harpoon, Daisy's beam, the Samurai Magical Girl's slash, Lazuline's teleportation, neither Pfler nor Shadow Gale had any ranged weapons for attack. The Death Ray built-in to Pfler's wheelchair had already been destroyed.

Pfler, who had ordered Shadow Gale to repeatedly purchase the *R* items, got her to remodel the toy bow and arrow, creating a large-sized *Injection Device*. What it shot was a Dragon-Killing dagger. All she needed to do is hit it, and the Great Dragon would be defeated in one blow. If she somehow missed it, she can just dematerialize the device and put it back in her Magical Phone.

Among the Magical Candies that Shadow Gale saved, Pfler had spent some, and purchased some *R* items. Rare Items have lower appearance rates, but even the most common item, the *Map*, had an upper limit to its distribution number. Once the *Map* has reached its limit, it'll never appear again as a *R* item. Getting all of the items in the *R* Item list is a worthy way of using those Magical Candies.

The *R* items that Pfler gotten were basic daily necessities, none of them matched the Glasses that she had received, but Pfler looked at another angle. Even daily items can be used as weapons with Shadow Gale's remodeling. Just like how she turned the Toy Bow and Arrow into an *Injection Device*.

Pfle took out the daily items from her Magical Phone, and told Shadow Gale to remodel them.

“This is unreasonable”

“Unreasonable but possible. We don’t have much time left”

“But we have all the time in the world, right? No one else can use the Passes”

“No, we have exactly two days left. After that, there’s the Maintenance Period Event.”

Ah, Shadow Gale said out loud. During the Maintenance Period Event, the surviving Magical Girls would be forcibly called. With or without the presence of Passes, they had to face each other.

“The two of us are both *Non-Combat Magical Girls*. The Demon Lord is a *Combat Magical Girl*. We won’t be able to fight, we’ll be killed. However, if we can prepare our equipment here, we have a winning chance. With how you work, Mamori, I’m sure we can handle it. So first, finish up what you’re doing.”

Shadow Gale worked on creating weapons for two straight days. It doesn’t matter what was being used, Shadow Gale just moved according to Pfle’s instructions. Although she had no assistance and it was just her, she was being chased by time, and although this was easier compared to the time when she built the Tank, she was being plagued by her customer’s unreasonable orders, yet she was able to create several weapons.

The base of the weapons were the Stun Guns.

The Monster Picture Book contains 2 Bosses in the Demon Lord’s Castle, and it was able to stop both the Knight and the Robot. Even though there were no Monsters with the *Evil* Attribute, for some reason, the *Evil* Attribute enemies were weak to the Stun Gun and the Flamethrower, which was sold here.

“The end of the end, we made it all the way to the Demon Lord’s Castle and all they sell are joke items? It’s hard to think of why. However, if you think more carefully, what are the kinds of opponents you would use Stun Guns on? That’s right, it’s an interpersonal weapon. If it’s effective against enemies with the *Evil* Attribute, then the only enemy with an *Evil* Attribute is none other than a Magical Girl.”

Pfle considered such thoughts, and suggested that Shadow Gale should remodel the Stun Gun and Flamethrower. The Stun Gun was a self-defense weapon that neutralizes opponents, while the Flamethrower was a sneaky weapon good for launching surprise attacks. If either is used, the one that won't have any mental resistance would be the Stun Gun.

"That's correct. We've confirmed the Distribution numbers. One Flamethrower has already been sold. Since our enemy may not be as gentle as you, Mamori, you should keep that in mind."

Eventually, part of the Flamethrower was also being used.

Pfle gave her instructions, she received Pfle's requests, while she continued working, no unpleasant ideas came to mind, she was able to interact with Pfle naturally. Since Shadow Gale was so immersed in her work, she probably had no time to think about anything else.

The third day after the last Login. The day of the Logout event. The two of them in the Demon Lord's Castle's Terrace waited quietly for that time.

Not just Pfle, but even Shadow Gale was on the Magic Carpet. Not just sitting on it, but riding on it. Standing on her knees, on a position where she's ready to jump off anytime. Pfle was sitting as usual.

The two of them didn't move, there was no sound, just the occasional wind blowing past the Demon Lord's Castle, as time passed by. The scissors and wrench on Shadow Gale's waist were shaking, making a rattling noise. Other than that, there was no sound. Only a sense of tension.

Their Magical Phones broke that tension. It was a ringtone. Their surroundings were darkened.

"From now on, an event will occur. All players will be transported to the Wasteland Town"

The sweet white-colored scent of the Demon Lord's Castle became gray and earth-like colored, and furthermore, they were transported to the brown and khaki colored Town

Square. Their heads might hurt, but without any nausea, they casually moved, and suddenly they were in a different place.

The Wasteland Town's Square was only a name, it was as lonely as it was deserted.

No, it's different, thought Shadow Gale as she made a correction in her mind. In the first event, all the Magical Girls gathered together like this was a spectacular sight, is what she should've thought. The number of people has decreased, even during events, it was deserted, that was the correct thought. In the first event, there were 15 people, now there was only 3.

...3 people.

Pfle, Shadow Gale, and one more person.

They looked around. A Square surrounded by buildings. With 15 people it was cramped. With 3 people it was wide. There was no shelter. The mermaid statue fountain that was no longer functioning. Its fountain already dry. There is no water. It only deposited dirt and sand. Everywhere was the same as before. It will remain the same no matter how many times they come.

They looked around once more. There was no one other than the 3 of them.

They watched their detector at hand. They combined the thermometer they got from the *R* items with the Map App's Party Member Current Position function to create a *Super Thermometer*. About that name, it was due to Pfle, who named it nonsensically, but its function wasn't nonsense. Observing an object's surface temperature, and displayed it excellently on the screen. If they were totally wrong, and Melville lived, no matter how outrageous that would be, they built this device.

According to the display on the Super Thermometer, there were only 3 Magical Girls in this Square.

".....There's no one else"

Her voice sounded. No one responded. Pfle looked around without hesitation. A Magical Phone activated, a light shone, and a stereoscopic image appeared.

“Well then, this is a new event, but like one of the last events, this will be a Miracle Coin event once more.....”

“Hold on a moment”

Pfle called out.

“What is it, Pon?”

“I’ve heard it before, but can you confirm it. The Maintenance Event’s forced teleportation, it’s mandatory, and there’s no way to avoid it, right?”

“There’s no way, Pon. The Maintenance Event’s forced teleportation is mandatory, any Magical Girl who’s alive in the game will be gathered in this Square. Even if they can’t make it to the Square in time, they’ll be forcibly teleported, Pon.”

Fal’s face changed direction by 90 degrees, and came back. It seems that he was looking around.

“By the way, what are you doing, Pon?”

Shadow Gale was on a Magic Carpet. While Pfle and Shadow Gale were strengthening their weapons, they planned to trap the Demon Lord, who couldn’t move anymore, in the Square, and they considered that possibility. Explosives, electric shockers, all the traps can be made by Shadow Gale, and as much as digging pits were involved, anyone could do it.

Fal’s question wasn’t just about that, it was also about them arming themselves. Shadow Gale blamed the weapons.

“Oi, wait a minute... why is this happening, Pon? The Demon Lord’s Castle’s Stun Gun, was it sold in the final stage so that Magical Girls could fight each other, Pon? Setting it with the Flamethrower, not even resisting to use it, isn’t that a nasty idea, Pon? Doing things like that is what the Master *wants*, Pon!”

“Outsiders should be quiet”

Shadow Gale dropped the Magical Phone on the ground, stepping on it with her toes and turning it off. Fal's words rung in her chest. She was torn by suffering. She didn't want to hear such things.

"I want to ask you something"

Pfle went on. That's right. What Shadow Gale wanted to hear was something else.

"Are you the Demon Lord?"

She asked the Magical Girl standing across the fountain.

Today, she was a horse. Under the sunlight falling down the Square, you could see her strong muscles and beautiful coat even from a distance. Her upper body was a girl, holding a spear in her right hand, and a shield on her left. Her horse tail was shaking, occasionally hitting her behind.

"No"

Clantail's answer was short and concise, and also asked a short and concise question.

"What happened to Nokko-Chan?"

"She's dead. What happened to Pechika, Lazuline, and Melville?"

"Pechika and Lazuline were killed by Melville..."

Clantail was suddenly depressed.

"Melville is dead"

Suddenly, she raised her face and glared at Pfle. Pfle was silent.

"Melville is dead, is she? That's quite a big deal."

Clantail didn't respond. Pfle continued in a casual tone.

"Fal told us. Once the Demon Lord is dead, the game immediately ends."

“.....I also heard that”

Shadow Gale was reminded of when Pfler tried to use Lazuline as a bargaining chip, Shadow Gale's chest hurt with pain. She'd been working in the Demon Lord's Castle for two days, she remembered what she had forgotten in a long time.

“Melville is dead, so why isn't the game over?”

Clantail's irritated voice echoed. Pfler was calm, but answered with a stern voice.

“It seems Melville wasn't the Demon Lord”

“Then which one of you is the Demon Lord?”

“None of us are the Demon Lord. Meaning, *you*, Clantail, are the Demon Lord.”

With the fountain in between them, the shouting that happened over 15 meters away was stopped. Clantail raised her hooves, and stomped them to the ground. The momentum was so severe that the entire Square could feel it.

“I'm not the Demon Lord”

“Of course the Demon Lord would say that”

“All the Passes are sold out, why can't I buy any of it?”

“Because we bought it all. It's troubling if the Demon Lord would come to our area, isn't it?”

“How did you even get that many Candies? Buying all of those Passes would take 50,000 Candies”

“The reason our candies are abundant is because of our legitimate in-game efforts.”

“Is it because you're the Demon Lord?”

“You don't even have a clue”

Clantail jumped. Her horse's feet were folded, gaining power and moved. Shaken off by her hooves, the head of the statue flew off. Shadow Gale blocked the vigorously flying head with her Dragon Shield, Clantail was already close at hand.

Shadow Gale and Pfler diffused to the left and right. Shadow Gale jumped sideways and swung her wrench, from the bottom, a shield pushed up her wrench, and sent it flying behind her. Shadow Gale's hand was numb. Somehow, she managed to stop Clantail's follow-up hoof attack with her Dragon Shield. Even with the +12 Shield, her body became unsteady. Fortunately, due to her shield, her hand didn't become numb.

Pfler thrust her Stun Gun from behind. Modifying the Stun Gun with a bamboo stick, its reach is much longer than the original Stun Gun, making it better. That blow was difficult to avoid, Clantail successfully changed her lower body into a snake, making her tail like a whip and lashing Pfler. Pfler blocked it with her shield, though she couldn't completely stop the shock, as she fell off her carpet and rolled on the ground.

Just like Pfler said, the difference between a *Combat Magical Girl* and a *Non-Combat Magical Girl* is clearly visible. Even with two people fighting recklessly, Clantail was still strong.

Clantail's lower body deformed. Tan and brown patterns. Legs long enough to block the sun..... A giraffe. Clantail thrust her spear, Shadow Gale tried to stop it with her shield, fear ran up her spine. The tip of Clantail's spear, with a length that reached the sky, reflected the shining sun. Shadow Gale looked up,

Argh, this is no good, said her intuition, dropping the shield, Shadow Gale jumped sideways.

Clantail swung her spear down, at the same time, the giraffe transformed into a tiger, adding to her attack power. One blow of her spear cut the ground deeply, causing an earthquake. It was supposed to just be a +7 Weapon, but if Clantail swung it, Shadow Gale was sure her +12 Shield couldn't block it. Their fighting difference was a wall, standing solemnly.

Against Pfler, who jumped on the carpet and chased her from behind, Clantail turned around and slashed horizontally. Pfler lowered the height of her carpet, and she crawled down and avoided it. Part of her hair was cut off, golden curly hair scattered around.

Clantail showed her back to Shadow Gale for the first time. It was a wide and respectable back. She had a reliable back, and was different from Pfle's back. When Shadow Gale saw her back, something inside of her whispered.

The Demon Lord's back is the kind of back that carried darkness, so why was hers so dignified? Was Clantail really the Demon Lord?

Shadow Gale shook off those whispers, and threw a net. It was a combination of the Rope they got from the *R* items and the Stun Gun, an electromagnetic net that covers a wide range. If she could hit her from behind, then even if it's Clantail, she'll find it difficult to avoid.

Clantail was caught in the net, soon after she struggled, an electric shock was transmitted through the net. The Stun Gun was able to knock out a Magical Girl in one blow. With her knee on the ground, her neck began to strain. This should be the end, thought Shadow Gale carelessly, as a stone spear thrust towards her.

She thrust the handle behind her without looking, Shadow Gale's right arm was grazed. Even if it wasn't a direct hit, the meat on her right arm was torn, she was bleeding, and her bones made a horrible sound. She screamed, holding down her right arm. Clantail turned around.

Her eyes were burning with anger. A necklace on her chest shone brightly. One of the Amulets sold at the shop..... *The Stone Amulet*. Its effects were resistance to electric-based attacks.

She understood why the electromagnetic net didn't work. If she looked at the Item Picture Book, she'd know that the Stun Guns have been purchased in high quantity. Thus, Clantail prepared equipment to counter Stun Guns. Clantail had equipped the *Stone Amulet*.

Faster than Clantail could swing her spear, Pfle attacked from behind, Clantail guarded with her shield. They continued to attack each other, avoiding each other.

The whispers inside of Shadow Gale's chest. She saw Clantail's eyes just now. It wasn't just anger. There was sorrow. It wasn't the eyes of someone fighting because they knew they were the Demon Lord.

Shadow Gale objected to the voices in her chest. There were only 3 people left, herself, Pflē, and Clantail. So the Demon Lord couldn't be anyone other than Clantail.

While she was objecting to them, even the inside of her chest was clouded. There was doubt. Her suspicions weren't cleared. Clamberry's tests would never leave her head. If it's Pflē, could she easily deceive Shadow Gale? Tempting Shadow Gale, the two of them killing Clantail, then, once she was of no use, she would take care of Shadow Gale, leaving only Pflē in the end.

"Mamori!"

Pflē was yelling at her. Pflē was being pressed. Pflē took out her flamethrower and attacked. Clantail blocked it with her shield, or she would attack with her spear, skillfully avoiding a direct hit from the flames. Shadow Gale picked up the wrench and approached Clantail, and Clantail turned into a crocodile, waving her tail, warning her not to approach.

However, the position of her upper body had fallen. Pflē casually got off her carpet. Clantail's movements stopped for a moment. Up till now, Pflē had never stood up before. She was either riding her Wheelchair, riding her carpet, or piggybacking Shadow Gale, but Shadow Gale knew. Pflē can walk and run normally. However, she tried to show as little of that to anyone as possible. So that when the time comes, she could easily defeat her stunned enemies by suddenly running.

Pflē didn't miss the opening that Clantail gave. She kicked the ground, grappling with the shield. Clantail violently shook the shield left and right, trying to shake off Pflē. Together with the shield, Pflē was thrown, rotating in the air, landing with both her feet and hands in the ground.

Clantail's forehead began to sweat. Her left hand holding her own shield was trembling. Her ring and little finger was bent in the wrong direction. In which case, and so, the shield dropped through.

Shadow Gale remembered the Clamberry test. At that time, Pflē fought the same way. She didn't use her feet, fool the weak, and if it comes to it, she'll stand up and attack. Her opponent couldn't react, and just like Clantail now, Pflē would attack them.

That's right, Clamberry's test. It's the same as back then. Something black inside of Shadow Gale was swirling. It was hot, it was cloudy, and little by little, it was increasing.

Was Clantail really the Demon Lord?

Was Pfle really not the Demon Lord?

Earlier, Pfle said that if she and Shadow Gale weren't the Demon Lord, then by process of elimination, she declared Clantail to be the Demon Lord. Why did she decide that Shadow Gale wasn't the Demon Lord? Did she accidentally leak out the viewpoint that she knew Shadow Gale wasn't a Demon Lord? If Pfle was the Demon Lord, then she knows that Shadow Gale couldn't be the Demon Lord.

Pfle burned the flames further, and Clantail transformed into a panther, quickly avoiding it. In the direction she avoided, was the Dragon Shield that Shadow Gale dropped. Clantail quickly picked it up, bending her index finger, middle finger, and grasping it with her thumb.

This was also part of the strategy. Before the battle, Shadow Gale had thrown away her Magical Phone. By this, she had materialized all of the items, they wouldn't return to her Magical Phone, the items are in a state ready to be stolen. A Shield with a +12 modification was a worthy item to steal.

Pfle removed a remote control from the cuffs, and pushed a button, and from inside of the Dragon shield, **flames exploded**. Clantail screamed out a voice that wasn't her own, she threw away the shield in agony. Her lower body was transparent and huge, and had turned into a jellyfish, wrapping up the blazing upper body. Shadow Gale has heard that a jellyfish's body mostly contains moisture. She turned off the fires as it vaporized into steam, yet Clantail still had horrible burns. She was getting weaker and was groaning.

It's a sight that Shadow Gale has seen over and over in Clamberry's test. Pfle's measures, her traps, her frauds, all well done, exposing a number of Magical Girls' corpses.

Even in the game, she announced the death of Masked Wonder out in the open, and was also the head of the Great Dragon extermination group, all to see how the other Magical Girls would react, causing great confusion, even if any victims resulted from it, Pfle didn't regret anything.

The one that told Shadow Gale that Nokko-Chan ran away, only Pfle knew that. That was unnatural, she didn't know why she was dead. Is it possible that Pfle killed her? Normally, that's impossible, but, this is Pfle.

Shadow Gale picked up the wrench with her left hand, kicking the ground powerfully. The dark burning stream was swirling around her chest in the same place. She had to do it. This was her only chance. As she ran, her momentum became faster, her temperature rises, it kept increasing, it kept getting blacker. As Shadow Gale ran towards Pfle, she swung her wrench towards her face.

Pfle, who was watching Clantail struggling would never dreamed of being attacked from the side. Without even dodging or blocking, the wrench directly hit her. The response was enough. The sound of bones breaking, she felt it, everything inside her chest had told her that Pfle did it. Pfle was blown away, from the Town Square, landing all the way in the back alleys, rolling over and over, her body dragging in the ground, until she finally stopped.

Shadow Gale looked at Pfle. Her wrench was shaking, she had been staring at Pfle until the moment she hit her face. If Pfle was the Demon Lord, she would show some kind of reaction. Anger, becoming upset, an attempt to deceive her. She had to figure it out. Well, what kind of reaction is she going to have, now? Shadow Gale won't be fooled anymore.

Pfle was laying facedown. Her fingers were twitching, it twitched twice, then stopped again. The feeling inside of Shadow Gale, instead of a black torrent, it turned into euphoria.

Why did she ever think of Clantail as the Demon Lord? What reasoning did Pfle have to think that Shadow Gale would blindly trust her? Pfle's behavior was suspicious. Watching over people, or so it was said, it may have been convenient to leave Melville untouched. For the Demon Lord, it was a gift to have someone arbitrarily kill the others, right?

Shadow Gale looked at her left hand, the hand holding her wrench was trembling.

She looked at Pfle. She didn't even twitch. A chill passed through Shadow Gale's spine.

It can't be. Did that attack?

What was I doing?

Did I hit Pflē? Did I kill her? Why? Why did I do that?

Mamori's name means protection, given so that she could protect her Lady... she recalled her parents saying that.

Her feet collapsed. She couldn't stand. She killed her. She killed her. But..... The game didn't end. The game still didn't end.

Her feet had lost all force, the fallen Shadow Gale was supported from behind. Her collar was grabbed, and she was lifted.

"Are you..... The Demon Lord?"

It was Clantail. She still had burn marks around her, but most of them have healed. The left arm that grabbed Shadow Gale didn't seem to have any injuries left. She must've used Healing Medicine.

"Are you.....?"

Shadow Gale wanted to deny it, but her voice couldn't come out. She wasn't afraid of Clantail. She was afraid of herself, who blew away Pflē because of her doubts.



Tears began streaming down.

Clantail gripped her spear with her right hand.

“Lazuline and Pechika saved me..... I am *not* dying here”

I am not dying here, so I'm sorry, but I have to kill you, is what she's saying. Clantail was going to kill Shadow Gale. Pfler is dead, only Clantail and Shadow Gale was left, the Demon Lord had to be Clantail.

Shadow Gale's wrench slipped out from Shadow Gale's hand. She had no power left. She didn't like the feel of her wrench. She still felt the feeling of Pfler's bones breaking.

Everything inside Shadow Gale, all faded away rapidly.

I don't care what happens anymore.

“Now I get it!”

A familiar voice came out, Shadow Gale was hesitating. Clantail was also upset. She looked to the alley where Pfler had fallen. The source of the voice had already awakened.

“I see. Now I understand what's happening. Such a terrifying Magical Skill.”

Pfler began to stand up. Shadow Gale, and Clantail both looked at her. Pfler's nose was broken, her face painted in blood, even among Magical Girls, her beauty was ruined. However, the light in her eyes wasn't lost. Was it the power of her eyes that was breathtaking? Clantail walked back halfway.

“When we were wondering who the Demon Lord was, I excluded the possibility of Mamori. I was confident, but wasn't convinced. If Mamori was the Demon Lord, I still wouldn't mind. To me, if Mamori is the Demon Lord, then as long as things went favorably for Mamori, then I'm okay with that. Whether you're a normal player or a Demon Lord, Mamori, as long as you survive, I'm okay with that. If you were the Demon Lord, I would've helped you kill the other players.”

Clantail let go of Shadow Gale, Shadow Gale landed with her butt on the ground, crying out with pain. Pflé continued on.

“However, you see, something strange happened. Since when would I start to doubt you, Mamori? Why did I start thinking that I wouldn’t mind if you were the Demon Lord, Mamori? It was a mystery to me, I was doubting you Mamori..... until just before, when you hit me. After you hit me, after I bounced, after I rolled, the suspicions within my heart began to disappear.”

Shadow Gale’s hands were on the ground, and she retired further. She didn’t understand what Pflé was saying. She didn’t get it. Yet, her tears wouldn’t stop. Pflé slowly stood up.

“Isn’t it strange? While I had doubts about you, Mamori, you suddenly hit me and blew me away. If that happened, usually it wouldn’t be strange if you were the Demon Lord, but afterwards, all my doubts about you disappeared. I saw clearly, my mind was moving strangely. What caused this? As I looked up at the sky, I thought to myself. As my head was spinning, my doubts began to thin. That’s right, the Town Square. As I moved farther from the square, my doubts began to fade.”

Pflé was entering the Town Square from the back alleys.

“As I thought. My mind is getting cloudy again once I enter. My suspicions are increasing, I can’t think straight. I don’t think I care about the situation. I’m beginning to divert my eyes from what I originally thought. It’s not just one or two people, it’s everyone that comes in here. Mamori, you need to believe in Clantail, she *isn’t* the Demon Lord.”

Shadow Gale heard the whispers in her chest again.

Don’t listen to her. She’s a master of frauds. If you listen to her words, you’ll lose.

“Mamori! Don’t think about any unnecessary things!”

From Pflé’s broken nose, her nosebleed continued to flow like a waterfall. Yet, her voice still passed through. It passed through from the alleyways to the Town Square, piercing through Shadow Gale’s chest. The whispers began to scatter, the black torrent disappearing.

“Both of you, over here! Be careful!”

Pfle stood in front of the fountain. She met with Clantail’s face, both of them nodded. Shadow Gale held her Dragon Shield and her Stun Gun, Clantail transformed her lower body into a tiger. With the two of them surrounding it, she headed to the fountain.

“There’s sand gathered here. Get rid of it all. Be careful for any attacks.”

For now, they obeyed. The three of them scooped up all the sand from the fountain, and inside was empty.

“Well, is there anything unnatural at all?”

The bottom of the fountain was exposed. And sure enough, there were some unnatural cracks. About 1 meter in diameter, it was a circular crack.

“That crack there”

Clantail raised her front legs, and she stomped it down. Focused on the cracks, the bottom of the fountain tore open, debris fell. Below it, there was some space.

Shadow Gale soon looked into it carefully, peeping into the space inside. Inside was a roughly 2 meter square space, and inside, a girl with a Maid outfit was trembling while holding her right wrist.

☆ **Nokko-Chan**

In this game, your role is the Demon Lord.

That was the text that Nokko-Chan received in her Magical Phone. The next sentence that appeared was her victory condition, the elimination of all other players.

When viewing the series of incidents caused by Clamberry, Nokko-Chan wasn’t a victim, instead, she would be classified as a perpetrator. The leader of the Magical Girl group that Nokko-Chan once belonged to was a sympathizer of Clamberry. She would reward Nokko-Chan, and she’d cooperated many times in the tests. Nokko-Chan’s role, to provoke unwilling Magical Girls. Usually, she’d disguise herself as a normal human

being and approach the participants, anger, hatred, she would spread those emotions, and accelerate the tests.

She wasn't in a position to know the full picture. Yet, she still had some understanding of what she was doing. While she knew it wasn't a good thing, she continued because she wanted the rewards. Nokko-Chan was able to earn some money for her house now that her father's gone. She couldn't earn money doing normal Magical Girl related things, so she had no choice but to take on abnormal things.

Once her cooperation with Clamberry was revealed, her group leader was locked up, Nokko-Chan lost her source of income. However, the Land of Magic's reach never came to Nokko-Chan. Maybe her leader protected her. Nokko-Chan stroked her chest, she was sorry.

However, the Magical Girl Raising Project's Master, she knew what Nokko-Chan had done. The Master gave her a choice,

Expose everything she's ever done, or participate in the game, which would she choose?

Her former leader has gone missing. Her mother was stuck in one place, Nokko-Chan couldn't go anywhere. There was no other choice for Nokko-Chan.

However, once the game begun, she began to mingle with the players. She was surprised that everyone else's clear objective was to defeat the Demon Lord. Nokko-Chan wasn't given that kind of information. She was the only one with a different victory condition.

The game proceeded, with no one knowing that she was the Demon Lord. When it was revealed that death in the game links to real life, she was covered in deep despair. They were killed? If she didn't kill anyone, the game would never end?

She wondered if she would turn pale. If Nokko-Chan dies, then everyone else would be saved. But she couldn't do it. Her mother's face would always flicker in her head. While she was doubting herself, a Magical Girl died. Not an accident like Magical Daisy. Someone killed her.

Among the participants in this game, she saw several people that were participants of Clamberry's tests. Nokko-Chan, who had more information than the other players, understood the Master's intention a little. Those who were involved with Clamberry will be tested to see if their qualities were proper. The one on Clamberry's side, Nokko-Chan, had been given a last chance.

She had no choice but to take that chance.

During the events, if the other Magical Girls had some reason to suspect their friends, she would sow the seeds of discord. She had Detick Bell suspect Lazuline. She promoted the arguments between Rionetta and Nako. She agitated Melville, she caused Pechika to be scared, she made Shadow Gale suspicious of Pflé. However, she made sure no one had anger or hatred towards her, and paid close attention to that.

Even without their memories, the Magical Girls who passed their tests still had scars remaining. To such an opponent, Nokko-Chan's magic worked extremely well.

When Melville's crimes were discovered, Nokko-Chan, as the Demon Lord thought, *"If she didn't take action now, this will never stop"*. Using @NyanNyan's body and flamethrower, Nokko-Chan made it as if she had been killed.

I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, she cursed to herself as she continued to grill @NyanNyan's body, and she cut off her wrist, the pain and shock putting her into tears, and she burnt that as well.

Then, she waited for the event just before the Maintenance Period. She made a space with a shovel under the fountain, and lurked there and spread her emotions to the gathered Magical Girls. While making it so that they wouldn't suspect anyone to be hiding, doubt and hatred, anger, and negative feelings were all spread out. Once they all killed each other, she'd seed the deepest despair to the last one standing, and they would commit suicide.

There was no way for Nokko-Chan to be the last one standing. However, even now, she's failed, her last chance had been crushed. The 3 Magical Girls looked down at Nokko-Chan from outside of the hole.

The 3 Magical Girls were standing with the sun behind their backs. From their expressions, she couldn't see any feelings of superiority from winning, nor joy from clearing the game. Shadow Gale, Clantail, and even Pflé, all looked sad when they looked down at Nokko-Chan.

No, there was still a way. There was still something she could do. Her chance was still there.

Nokko-Chan took out her Magical Phone while trembling, and got out. Since she's abandoned her own Magical Phone, she's dug up and retrieved @NyanNyan's Magical Phone instead.

She grabbed the shovel with her left hand. It was sharp, sharp enough to cut the ground with its edge, helping her cut to the bottom of the fountain. The shovel that Clantail had given her, its blade had not dulled even now.

Nokko-Chan smiled at the 3 Magical Girls. She couldn't stop the tremors on her body, but was she trying to make a fearless smile?

"I'm not going to resist, but..... would you be willing to make a deal?"

Master's Side

Final Part

One corner of the cube puzzle changed color. The game has ended. As if she was waiting for it, Snow White opened her mouth.

"I'd like you to tell me something"

For the first time since she entered the room, Snow White spoke something. No doubt the girl's proposal had moved her, thought the girl as she smiled.

"I heard that one of these girls was an unrelated Magical Girl."

“Hm? Are you talking about Lazuline? Aw, she was just a messy mistake. I wouldn’t say she’s *unrelated*. Well, you don’t think I’m gonna deny that I accidentally made a mistake and made her join, do you? Still, she was taught by a Magical Girl that was one of the *Children*, right? That makes her a quasi-participant, right~? She fought faintly, and then somehow died, so it’s not a problem anymore”

The girl laughed and smiled. Snow White narrowed her eyes.

“You see, I don’t *care* about those things. I want to work together with you, Snow White. There’s still *plenty* of Children of Clamerry out there! We can take care of them ourselves, just the two of us. If it’s you and me, Snow White, *surely* we can accomplish anything! We can create a world with only proper Magical Girls!”

The girl sat on top of her desk, she took Snow White’s hand. Snow White quietly nodded, the girl gave such a big smile she looked like she was about to fall down.

“The Children of Clamerry are dangerous. I understand that”

“*Right!?* They *are*! I knew *you* would understand, Snow White!”

“Magical Girls chosen from Death Games, they’re selfish. If they don’t get what they want, they solve it with violence. To do what they think is correct, they would go against the Land of Magic..... I’m like that too.”

“What!?”

The girl grasped Snow White’s hands tighter.

“You’re *different*, Snow White! You didn’t kill *anyone*, crushing Clamerry’s purpose! Without you, Clamerry might still be doing her Death Games even now!”

“I didn’t kill Clamerry”

“No, but you were *there*, it’s because of *you*!”

The girl swung her hands up and down, when the two of their hands hit the desk, the cup and its saucer rattled. Snow White turned her face towards the girl.

“Other than Clamerry...”

“Hm?”

“Other than Clamberry, the test administrators that conducted Death Games, they’re her *Children*, are they?”

“Of *course*, Clamberry’s Children will get the same treatment, if they’re a proper Magical Girl, they’d be forgiven. If not, they’re completely unforgivable!”

“And if those *Children* killed someone else?”

“Then it’s absolutely unforgivable. They don’t even deserve to be called Magical Girls. We’ll take care of them without unnecessary tests.”

Snow White tried to let go of the girl’s hand. However, the girl won’t let go of her hand, Snow White shoved away the girl’s hand with strength.

“You know, my Magical Skill..... it’s changed a bit since I first got it”

“Oh? That’s because you’re growing, aren’t you, Snow White?”

“In the past, it was hearing the voices of people in distress. Even now, the fundamentals haven’t changed, but someone’s subconsciousness, their reflexes, as long as they *think*, I can hear all of their voices without them realizing it.”

“Ah, that’s true! I can feel some of that during your fight with Flame Flamey!”

“*I’ll trip you, but I hope you don’t avoid it*” is what she was thinking while she wasn’t attacking anyone. Snow White’s defenses, attacks, it looked like she’d already read Flame Flamey’s reflexes beforehand.

“But I can’t read any erased memories. So I had to investigate myself. Your mentor, do you remember her name?”

“Of course I remember her! She was a respectable Magical Girl. My mentor’s name is...”

Her index finger stood up. Her mouth was half-open, the girl looked hollow. Dust was dancing. She was standing in the same posture for over 30 seconds.

“.....Huh?”

She was a worthy and proper Magical Girl. She was cool, cute, and refreshing, what was that Magical Girl's name? She tightened her body for justice, would always shed tears for others. The girl adored her, even now she wanted to be like her. Yet, she didn't remember her mentor's name.

Not only her name, her face was also blurred. Even though she adored her, it was strange that she had no clue what she looked like. Before Snow White, it's natural to partner up with her mentor first, right? Why did she have no idea who her mentor was?

The girl thought, but the answer didn't come. Her mentor's name didn't come out.

Snow White placed her hands inside the bag that she brought with her waist, from inside the bag was about 200 sheets of A4 paper, all clipped together. They seemed to be documents.

“Your mentor's name is Pythie. She was influenced by Clamberry, she was a Magical Girl who allowed her students to kill each other under her supervision. She was the first Magical Girl that I caught. All of these documents... Contain information on everything she's done.”

“.....Huh!?”

Pythie. Pythie. She's heard that name somewhere. The girl placed both her hands on her forehead, as if she was trying to push it. She was having a headache. She refused, her chair collapsed, the girl fell to her back. Her glasses fell. The sound of her chair falling, followed by the sound of her chair hitting a monitor.

“You told me you were like *God* here, right? You could do *anything*, right? Try digging out your forgotten memories. If you read these documents, I'm sure you could.....
right?”

Her head hurts. Her head hurts. As if it was being pressed by a vise, her head hurts. On the walls of the room, the furniture, the air, all of them made loud noises.

“Magical Girls chosen from Death Games, they’re selfish. If they don’t get what they want, they solve it with violence. To do what they think is correct, they would go against the Land of Magic.....”

That’s wrong! That’s wrong! That couldn’t be! I should look at those documents. Using her powers, I’ll see, are there any mistakes in my memory? I’ll investigate to see if it’s been tampered with. My head hurts. My head hurts. My head hurts.

The dots on the ceiling were missing. The floor as well. The chipped off dots began to spread. She couldn’t keep her world in the same shape.

Snow White stood up, she picked up the Magical Phone on the floor and turned it on.

“Hope you don’t mind if I ask you for information”

“...I can tell you everything I know, Pon. But could I ask for one thing, Pon?”

“What?”

“Do you think you could change the settings on my word inflections, Pon?”

“I’ll think about it, kay?”

Snow White’s footsteps echoed from the floor to the girl’s body. The automatic door opened, and it closed. She wanted to call out, but the girl couldn’t speak. Everything in her world began to crumble. The girl’s ego was screaming. Her world was collapsing. The girl’s feet collapsed. She fell down to hell. There was no other trace of her.

Epilogue

The clerk came to pick up their orders, and had a friendly smile, though there was also some colors of suspicion. Maybe, it was because he was worried. It might be out of pure kindness, maybe it was a thought of saying, *don’t cause trouble where I work.*

Mamori can understand that worry very well. If these two were together, she’ll always worry.

“It’s become cold, recently”

While saying those words, the girl was wearing a short skirt and drinking iced tea out of a straw. Kanoe, who rarely drinks hot tea, had the impression of *“This warm tea served in the restaurant. I won’t drink it. No choice but to drink the cold ones”*. Furthermore, they were in an open terrace. Today was sunny, and the seats were filled, having almost no options for 2 people.

The other girl was silent and sipping hot cocoa, just the same as usual. Kanoe stood out. Her clothing and accessories... regardless of their price... it wasn’t really too flashy. Her makeup was also thin and elegant. However, she had a gorgeous appearance, like her rolled up hair and her well-organized face. Not to mention her tremendous attitude, it didn’t allow Kanoe to be buried in the crowd. Some people would say she emitted an aura. *I guess she was just that grand*, thought Mamori.

The other girl was extremely plain. She was short, her height is about elementary school age. Her braided hair dropped to the left and right, with glittering cellophane glasses, and no makeup or cosmetics. She had a skirt length that probably complied with school regulations. She looked like the kind of girl who you would call “Bookworm” or “Class President”, that kind of appearance.

Their types were totally different, there was no contact between the two of them. But there was no need to be suspicious. Today, the 3 of them were wearing school uniforms. Kanoe and Mamori had the same high school uniforms on. Only one girl was in a different uniform, probably a middle school student. Mamori wondered what kind of group they looked like from the side, probably nothing she could imagine.

Although it was cold this morning, or at least she thought dissatisfied while sitting on the open terrace of the cafe, as the day went on, it became more crowded. The guests being guided would obviously look this way, and obviously would think it was suspicious.

“You know, after the game ended, I’ve actually been investigating some things”

Because of that abrupt speech, Mamori choked a bit.

“I asked around for the organizer of the game. It seems that a negotiator from the Land of Magic has taken care of her.”

“Really? She managed to get rid of her?”

She was literally like God. In the game she also met strong Magical Girls..... there was actually plenty of strong Magical Girls, yet none of them could reach the Master. They were like ants before a giant, their sense of helplessness was like fighting against an earthquake or a typhoon, or some kind of other natural disaster.

“If she really got rid of her, it would’ve been good if she could’ve done it faster.”

Clantail... a serious and quiet middle school student, Nene Ono, nodded.

She wanted to be a zoologist. Every day she studied to realize her dreams, and recently, she said that she’s also picked up cooking. She wasn’t a bad girl, when they first met, Pfle, who was also known as Kanoe, had a look on her face that said, “Ah, I see”, on the other hand, Shadow Gale, also known as Mamori, had a concerned look that said, “Really?” on her face.

While Mamori drank her coffee, she recalled what happened at the end of the game.

The bottom of the fountain was exposed. They dragged out Nokko-Chan, who was hiding inside. Her mind had been manipulated, she was forced to kill each other, but for some reason, Shadow Gale didn’t feel like hating her. Seeing the girl trembling and shuddering in the heat wave made Shadow Gale feel disappointed for her.

Nokko-Chan was leaning against the shovel that was piercing the ground. Her face was pale, she was trembling, yet she was trying to behave in a calm manner.

Shadow Gale looked at Clantail. A little earlier, she had abandoned her expression of a *Combat Magical Girl*, she was biting her lip, dropping her shoulders, Nokko-Chan was looking downwards. Even though she was suffering burns, even if her fingers were broken, the rising Clantail didn’t approach Nokko-Chan.

Even Pfle seemed to have emotions of pity and sadness. She was looking into the eyes of Nokko-Chan, it was something that Shadow Gale, who had known her for a long time, had never seen. If they killed Nokko-Chan now, they know they’ll finish the game, but Pfle didn’t do anything, she seemed to be desperately thinking for another way.

Shadow Gale saw the scissors on her waist. If she wanted to, she could end the game right now..... but, she didn't think of doing it. She could understand what Clantail and Pflé were feeling.

Nokko-Chan spoke with a voice as if she still had vigor and spirit.

"The address and the name on that Magical Phone..... Do you remember it?"

"I remember it. I won't forget"

Nokko-Chan smiled. Small, faint, a smile that seemed to disappear, surprisingly, the impression remained.

"Thank you so much"

"Well then, what's the transaction?"

Nokko-Chan held the handle of the shovel, and pulled it out of the ground.

"From what I'm about to do now, I'd like you to give part of that reward to that address"

Nokko-Chan pointed the blade of the shovel to her throat.

Shadow Gale understood what she was about to do. It seems that Nokko-Chan didn't want the 3 of them to kill, that she'll do it herself. She didn't want them to dirty their hands, that she'll share the rewards with them.

Shadow Gale stretched out her hand to stop her, but she returned it. If she tried to stop her now, she'd be a hypocrite. It would be meaningless.

Shadow Gale deflected her eyes. Even though she looked away, Nokko-Chan's emotions were conveyed. Shadow Gale distorted her face and closed her eyes..... The game had ended.

They returned to the real world, although Kanoe seems honestly pleased, Mamori wasn't, on the contrary, she was the opposite of Kanoe, her mind was only occupied with apologies. Kanoe told her that she would be happy so long as Shadow Gale survived, and Shadow Gale was afraid that she was happy now only because of that.

Furthermore, what happened in the game, especially what Nokko-Chan felt in her last moments, had all sunk in. Then, she slept for a week, only waking up for her living necessities, making the people around her worry a lot. Then, through the Land of Magic, they could contact Clantail.

“In the end, that time”

Kanoe chuckled sadly.

“We were outwitted, weren’t we?”

Kanoe drank her cup without saying anything more.

Mamori wondered what Kanoe was saying, she vaguely understood. At that time, Clantail, who was a *Combat Magical Girl*, Pfler, who was a rationalist, didn’t do anything to Nokko-Chan. If Mamori thought back, did Nokko-Chan use her Magical Skill to manipulate their hearts? Even though they knew Nokko-Chan’s identity, she was still fighting alone. Against the 3 of them, she managed to negotiate the rewards with them in the place of her suicide.

Among Magical Girls, there are *Combat Magical Girls*, and *Non-Combat Magical Girls*. However, just because someone is a *Non-Combat Magical Girl*, that doesn’t mean they’re weak.

Nene placed down her cup. She had drank her cocoa. Kanoe’s tea was already gone. Mamori’s coffee as well.

“So, shall we go?”

“Understood, I brought the flowers”

“Do you have the rosary?”

“Do you think I’d forget?”

“Well then, let’s go”

They visited 12 graves. Last time, they finished the final 2, and the remaining 10. Among one of them, somehow they had the job of spreading money to the head of the houses. Everything was over, but it seemed like it'll still take a bit longer.