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## Chapter VI

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“Boost!” Aika yelled, swinging her staff at Izuku’s head. Izuku casually raised his finger and stopped the attack cold. “Ugh.” Aika groaned, throwing her Boosted Staff down to the ground in a fit of pique, “This is USELESS!” She yelled, before crouching down and sadly poking at the ground.

“What kind of Boosted Gear can’t even **Boost**?” Koneko deadpanned, before taking another lick of her lollipop.

“I don’t get it.” Rias was frowning. A week had passed since Aika had been reincarnated, and she had actually displayed a somewhat impressive rate of growth. She’d had a number of successful contracts and Rias judged her ready to begin some actual training. She had Izuku bring all of them to her summer retreat so that Aika could begin to learn how to use her Sacred Gear. Izuku had been impressed by how well everything had been repaired. All the signs of his and Sairaorg’s battle had been erased, and the mountainside woods were pristine once more. Perfect to get Aika’s feet wet. “It’s clearly and obviously a Sub-Species of the Boosted Gear. There’s nothing else it could be!”

And yet it was plain to see that Aika simply could not **Boost**. Her attacks didn’t grow any stronger, she didn’t move any faster...

“Maybe we’re looking at this the wrong way.” Akeno said diplomatically, and Aika raised her frustrated gaze to the busty miko, “It’s very clearly not a gauntlet the way the Boosted Gear is supposed to be. Maybe it’s not *meant* to be used in the same way?”

“It makes sense.” Kiba muttered, “Sub-Species do gain new abilities, right?”

“Yes, but they don’t generally *lose* them, either.” Rias grumbled tartly.

“No, I think Akeno has a point.” Izuku muttered, “Quarterstaves can be used for melee combat, but this doesn’t look like one of those. It’s more ostentatious and looks more like a *mage*’s staff. Maybe its abilities have more to do with magic and enhancing spells than the regular one does.”

“Hmm...” Rias rubbed her chin, “Kiryū-chan, what’s your favorite element?”

Aika blinked, before grinning sheepishly, “Is explosion an element?”

“Of course you would, boom-loli.” Koneko hid a smirk behind her lollipop.

“Hey, that was a great show!” Aika protested, which got a couple giggles.

Rias smirked indulgently, “It was enjoyable, but you’re not putting all your skill points into explosions.” She looked at Lavinia, “See if she has potential, would you, Lavi-chan?”

“Of course!” Lavinia hopped forward with a big smile, and Rias and Akeno both bit back snorts as they saw Izuku’s eyes follow her bouncing boobs like he was mesmerized. Ever since the Fallen, his lust had increased dramatically. Something Rias enjoyed *immensely*, seeing as how he and Akeno hadn’t even had a date yet and so had not crossed that line. “Okay Aika-chan, first you need to bring up your magical power.” Aika did so, and they all smiled. It was meager compared to *theirs*, of course, but Aika had already accumulated enough for a decent number of low-level spells. “Good, now, most magic, but Devil Magic *especially*, is based on imagination.”

Aika sputtered, “We’re all SpongeBob?!”

Rias couldn’t help it and nearly fell off her boulder laughing.

Lavinia got her giggles under control, “Uhh, sure. You Devils really have it easy, honestly. All you have to do is supply the power, imagine the effect, and then use your word of power to name the spell. For simpler effects, you don’t even need to name it, though it helps to focus on the spell. You could use a mnemonic action like snapping your fingers instead.”

“Wow, that’s cheating.” Aika grinned, and that perverted gleam started reflecting off her glasses. “So, if I were to do this?” Izuku got a vague feeling of dread right before she snapped her fingers, “**Dress Break!**”

And then Izuku’s clothes exploded off of him, leaving him completely in the buff. Koneko’s face, which normally was relatively unexpressive, went beet red. Her tail and ears even poofed out against her will. Lavinia took one look at him, flushed heavily, and then started to hide behind her hands. Izuku *swore* she was peeking between her fingers though. “Oh, mama…” Aika started to drool, while Akeno and Rias smirked smugly because yeah, that was *theirs*. Kiba was the only one who saw nothing, and that was because he whirled around the second the first word hit his ears. He was facepalming.

“Baka hentai!” Koneko picked up a small rock and threw it. It smashed into Aika’s face and she fell cartoonishly to the ground, twitching.

Izuku sighed and snapped his fingers, dressing himself again. “How did I *know* she was going to do that?” He asked rhetorically. More giggles met his ears, and he glared at Aika as she got up, “You do that in school, in public, or while I’m wearing something important like my Hero Costume-” he wasn’t sure if it *would* affect his suit or if he could maybe block it with Busōshoku, but did *not* want to chance it, “and you will NOT enjoy your punishment.”

“Yes daddy.” Aika said contritely.

Her grin completely ruined it. His left eye twitched. “Now if you could try an *actual* spell, please?”

“Okay.” She chirped, still grinning madly. She focused up, took a deep breath, gathered her magical power, and pointed her hand at a large boulder a dozen or so meters away, “**Explosion!**” A red-orange ball of what seemed to be fire shot out.

BOOM

The boulder went up in a small conflagration that shattered it. “Well done!” Rias clapped excitedly, and the rest joined her in applauding, “That’s not bad at all for someone who has only been a Devil for a week!”

“Thanks!” Aika smiled genuinely.

“Now, pick up the staff, and try to use the spell through it.” Lavinia instructed, having used a spell to simply create an exact replica of the boulder a couple meters away from where the small new crater sat.

Aika nodded and grabbed her Boosted Gear. She took another deep breath, and judged from her remaining magical power that she could probably do it twice more. She pointed her staff, “**Explosion!**” She yelled as she unleashed her new spell.

But this time, a new voice joined hers, coming from the green gem on the Boosted Gear. “**BOOST!**”

**BOOM!**

“Holy shit!” They shielded themselves as they were buffeted by the winds. Once it cleared up, they looked owlshly at the new crater.

Rias had a beaming grin on her face, “That doesn’t look like double.” Indeed, the crater looked *much* bigger. She squeed, “Oh, I’m so excited! Just think of what the possibilities are once you’ve trained a bit more and have made more spells!”

“I actually had an idea.” Aika grinned back, Rias’s cheer infectious. “I have enough magic for one more, I think. Come on now, Boosted Gear. I hope this works...” She stuck her tongue out in concentration and raised her staff. The orange ball formed at the tip.

But this time, the gem did not say ‘boost.’ Instead, it yelled, “**DOUBLE!**” And Aika fired *two* balls of explosive power out, *and* the balls themselves were twice as large. The resulting blast was smaller than the Boosted explosion, but it was still more than the sum of its parts.

“It worked!” Aika pumped her fist (and staff) in excitement. “Did you see that!”

Rias was still gaping, so Izuku grinned, “Now *that’s* an ability worthy of a Sub-Species.”

“Oooh, I think the possibilities for that are endless!” Rias snapped out of it, beaming. “Especially as a Devil, since your only limits in the kinds of spells you can make are your imagination!” She started almost getting into an Izuku-mutter herself. Even her glasses appeared out of nowhere and plopped onto her nose. She looked *adorable*. “I wonder, maybe since she can apparently not Boost her physicality, she can Boost more esoteric or conceptual abilities instead. Clearly she can boost attacks, but what about her magical capacity? The Boost seemed more powerful, probably because it was more limited! We need to test it!”

“But not today.” Izuku chuckled, ‘*So that’s what that feels like.*’ He thought to himself, “Aika is out of magic.”

“Yeah, I’m pooped.” Aika had sat on her own rock and laid her staff across her lap.

Rias smiled, "You did great, Kiryū-chan!" She smiled at her new Pawn, "I can't *wait* to see some of the things you'll come up with. There's never been a Boosted Gear Sub-Species before, and just those showcases already have me super excited!" She got up and stretched, drawing Izuku's gaze. "Well, that was good for today, I'd say. Unless anyone else would like to train before we head back?" She asked, looking around.

"Actually." Izuku said, "I'd like to do some training with Akeno." Akeno blinked, before smiling sultrily at him, "And I actually just thought of something." He smirked, "I think this is the perfect time to let Aika read the Devil Fruit Encyclopedia and see if anything catches her eye."

Rias and Akeno sputtered, while the rest raised eyebrows in confusion, "Wait, why now?" Rias asked, "She's *just* been turned into a Devil. Shouldn't she?"

"That's *exactly* why it should be sooner rather than later." Izuku interrupted her, "For all of you, eating a fruit will not only be painful if *yours* was any indication, but it'll also lay you out for a while and mess up your control due to the increase in power you'll get. *Aika* has no control right now, so one of the disadvantages doesn't actually *matter*. If anything, it will help her instead, seeing as it'll likely give her a power boost."

"Huh..." Rias sat back down and crossed her legs, "I didn't actually think about that. That's genius!" She muttered, before turning to her Pawn, "What do you say, Kiryū-chan?"

"Don't they make it so you can't swim?" She asked, "I never really got too far into it when I tried it a few years ago. Was too boring."

"You need to *at least* get through the Arlong arc." Izuku and Rias said with one voice, "Arlong arc is where most fans get sold!"

Aika's lips twitched, "My question, Mr. and Mrs. Hyperfans?"

Izuku chuckled, "Yeah, but we figured out how to solve that problem. Rias is still working on her control, but she'll be back up to snuff and able to cast the spells soon enough."

"Hmm, might as well." Aika shrugged, "If I find something interesting I'll let you know."

Izuku nodded, "Okay, Rias, can you show her where it is? I'll send you guys back."

"Sure. I'll grab it for her." She walked up and kissed him deeply, before pulling away. "See you tonight!" She gave him a wicked grin as she sauntered through the portal Indra had made for them. Aika blew him a kiss as she retreated, and Lavinia waved cheerfully.

Once they were gone, Akeno smiled wickedly at him, "Oh my, it looks like you have me all alone and defenseless..." She trailed off teasingly, "Whatever will you do with me?" Izuku chuckled, before pulling her close and kissing her gently. She blushed lightly, before deepening the kiss and even raising her leg to wrap it behind him. "Mmmm..." She moaned into his lips as his hands found purchase on her ass and gave her a nice squeeze. When they finally pulled away, her blush was a little bit deeper, "My, my, if you wanted to get me all alone, you just had to ask, Izuku-kun."

Izuku chuckled, “No, I just wanted to do that.” He claimed her lips again for a short kiss, “Your lips are so kissable, after all.” She pecked him again, “But I still owe you a date. What do you want to do?”

Akeno beamed, “Karaoke.”

Izuku balked, “Why do you wish to torture yourself?”

Akeno giggled, “I’m sure you’re not *that* bad.” She kissed him again, “Besides, I love to sing... and I want to sing for you.” She fluttered her eyelashes as she looked up at him.

Izuku beamed, “Okay, karaoke it is. I apologize in advance for the crimes against your pretty ears that will be committed.”

She broke out into giggles. “Okay, so did you actually want to train or...?” She trailed off leadingly.

“I did, actually.” Izuku stepped away from her and summoned a light spear. “I was hoping... Akeno?”

Akeno had winced and turned around, “Ah...”

He allowed it to dissipate, “What’s wrong, darling?”

“You know I don’t...*like* that part of myself.” She whispered, hugging herself.

“I know.” Izuku hugged her from behind, pressing a few gentle kisses to the nape of her neck, “I know... but it *is* a part of you, Akeno. You can’t be rid of it, nor should you try to.”

A small tear leaked out, “It’s *his* power. I hate it!” She said heatedly.

“No Akeno, it’s *yours*. You don’t draw Light from him.” He said, “He doesn’t feel a pull on his Light when you use yours. It’s your power. It always has been.” She sniffled, but looked contemplative. He pursed his lips slightly. He didn’t want to pull this card, but maybe she needed it. “Rias told me about it, you know.” He said, and her eyebrows furrowed in confusion, “What her engagement would have resulted in when she refused to follow through.” She let out a sharp gasp, “A Rating Game. A trap. An illusion of choice, for the most part. With an incomplete Peerage and facing someone with a full one and years of experience, the result would have almost been a forgone conclusion. But with your Light, you would be her greatest weapon. Even against Riser Phenex’s regeneration, your Light would give Rias the edge she needed to have a decent shot at winning.” Akeno let out a shuddering gasp, “Would you have just let your best friend lose?” He *hated* the way her face scrunched up in despair.

“N-n-no.” Akeno let out a sob and he had to start holding her up as she almost collapsed, “But it wouldn’t have *mattered* because I wouldn’t even have *thought* of it. I’m an *awful* bes-”

“No, no, no. Darling...” He tightened his hug on her, “You were in a bad place, Akeno. And you never had an outlet for it, so it just stewed inside of you. But sometimes, you have to go through that place to get to this one. You *are* in a better place now, aren’t you?”

“...Yes...” She whispered, before swallowing heavily, “I have a family. I have my friends.” She turned in his arms, “I have you...” She whispered again, tucking her head under his chin. He kissed the top of her head a few times. “I...”

“You’re a strong woman, Akeno. Many people would have shattered completely with what you went through. One of my best friends almost did. He also hated his power. He also hated his father. And he was hurting himself, over and over, rather than accept that it was part of him. One more tragedy and he might have snapped.” His eyes glossed over slightly as he remembered Shōto. He had told the story in full to Rias, but he couldn’t help but realize now that Akeno could probably have used it more. “You could have become a bitter, vengeful bitch who only lived to torment others. Just like the Fallen I killed. You didn’t. You needed help, but everyone does. Needing help isn’t a weakness.”

She snorted lightly, “Tell that to the Japanese school system.”

“Ugh...” He groaned and chuckled at the same time. “Don’t fucking remind me. My world got rid of that nonsense over a century ago.”

“Lucky.” She smiled slightly, “You say I’m strong, but I don’t think so.” She mumbled, “I got lucky. It was only because Rias found me that-”

“You *are*.” He said, pulling back and gripping her cheeks and making her face him, “You *are* strong, no matter what you think of yourself. Something isn’t strong because it is invulnerable. Strength is the ability to take whatever the world throws at you and move past it. Sometimes, the world will try to beat you *bloody*. You just have to stand up and punch back. You say you were lucky, but what about me? A supervillain literally threw me across the multiverse with a suicide tactic. I lost *everything*. And *everyone*. Do I not deserve to be happy just because I was lucky enough to fall in Rias’s lap?”

“Of course not.” Akeno said immediately, affronted, “How could you even think-” She stopped, “...Oh.”

He chuckled, “Luck is a power all on its own, Akeno.” He kissed her again, and she melted against him.

She smiled when they pulled away, “You’re so good to me.” She whispered, before pulling away. She raised a trembling hand, and touched the part of her that she hadn’t tried to reach for in years. Light responded instantly as her mismatched wings popped into view. A thin, royal-purple spear formed in her hands, which she grabbed with shaky fingers.

“That’s my girl.” Izuku rumbled, and she almost keened at what that sound and his words did to her. He summoned his own spear of emerald light, “My beautiful, warrior goddess.” Another formed in his other hand.

She giggled, “I’m not much of a warrior.” She deadpanned, even as she touched the Knight aspect of her Queen Piece.

“But you are a goddess.” He shot back with a grin, and she blushed again, “So we’ll just have to fix that first part!” He charged, just fast enough that she could keep up as he began teaching her properly how to fight in close combat. Soon, they were in the air, living for the moment.

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“You know, my last attempt at Karaoke didn’t go so well.” Izuku nudged Akeno as they entered their room. This was one of the best establishments in Kuoh and they had paid for quite some time in their private room. The seats were well-upholstered and comfortable, and the room itself even had soundproofing so that the other rooms wouldn’t hear them. Soundproofing which Akeno was beefing up with some magic, apparently. He noticed a few other spells as well, but wasn’t sure what they did beyond the locking spell she put on the door. Eyeing his girlfriend, he couldn’t help but wonder just how much actual singing she planned on doing.

Akeno giggled, “Come now, karaoke is supposed to be fun! If you’re not making a fool of yourself you’re not trying!”

Izuku growled, “So says the amazing singer!” That just made Akeno smile wider.

She pushed him onto the seat and then grabbed the provided laptop as she sat as close to him as she could without being in his lap, “Let’s see what they have, shall we?”

“Maybe I should stick to English so you would be unfamiliar with the songs.” Izuku mumbled, still grinning. More putting up an annoyed front. With Akeno practically molded to him, he couldn’t *not* be happy.

“Jokes on you.” She grinned, “I like American music perfectly fine.”

“Curses!” Izuku deadpanned, before leaning into her and pressing a kiss to her neck.

She let out a happy sigh and pecked him back, “Why not do a duet first?” She smiled at him, and pulled up the song list. She scrolled for a little bit, having half of an idea of which one she wanted already.

“Uhh, fair warning.” Izuku said, “Music wasn’t exactly... *the same* in my world. I probably won’t actually know most of these unless they were popular enough to have survived.”

“Oh, that’s right.” She frowned lightly, before shrugging, “Time to find some new favorites then!” She grabbed the microphone and held it between them. “Let’s do one together!” She said, and before Izuku could respond, she had chosen *Uchiage Hanabi* by DAOKO. “I’ll tap you when you are going to sing too.”

“Okay.” Izuku said, before letting out an appreciative noise as a piano came on, “Ooh I already like this!”

Akeno smiled and took a deep breath before singing softly, “*I can still remember the shore we saw that day. The words we wrote in the sand. The sight of you as you turned away!*” Izuku stared at her wide-eyed. Gods, her voice was positively angelic! “*The waves ebb and flow across my feet. Carrying something away. In the evening calm, twilight alone passes me by...*”

He felt her tap his leg, but was so enraptured by her singing that he almost missed his cue. “*We watched fireworks blooming in a flash of light! Surely this summer is far from over! And has unraveled our uncertain hearts, tying them together! I wanted this night to go on forever!*” They sang the chorus together. She gave him a smile, her eyes lit up in amusement. He wasn’t anywhere near as bad of a singer as he made himself out to be. They could definitely make this a regular thing and help him improve.

She closed her eyes as this next section was his only. “*I wonder how many times, I’ll be able to watch the same fireworks as you! What can I do for the sake of your smiling face?*” She was lightly bobbing her head and just feeling the beat. “*Feeling hurt, feeling happy, repetitive waves and regularities. Uneasiness and the sound of the evening’s last train. Again and again, I’ll put it into words, and call to you. Seeking the pause between waves, I’ll try once again. So that you’ll never have to feel sad again!*”

They continued on, with Akeno joining in on the next two parts. The two were rocking from side to side in their seats as they sang the chorus again. Her free hand found his and they laced their fingers together. Then came her favorite part, “*Fireworks, in flash of light (Fireworks, in flash of light)! He realized he was supposed to repeat the lyrics after her, “Bloomed in the night (Bloomed in the night)! They bloomed in the night (They bloomed in the night)! And disappeared silently (And disappeared silently)! Don’t let go (Don’t go away)! Just a little longer (Just a little longer)! Just a little longer, let us stay like this!*”

The piano came back, and Akeno grabbed the back of his neck for a kiss. This had been her best idea in *ages*. And her song choice had been utterly perfect. She pulled away to sing her last solo part before they sang the chorus one last time and vocalized to the outro. She smiled happily, “91%! And you said you couldn’t sing...” She trailed off at the burning desire in his gaze. She shuddered. Oh yes, she wanted those eyes looking at her like that for the rest of their lives.

“I couldn’t!” He chuckled, “That was WAY better than I ever could have done before!” He grinned slyly at her, “You sure you didn’t just spell me better?”

“That’s impossible.” Akeno giggled back, “But you *did* eat that Fallen. Maybe she had a great singing voice which brought you up to okay?” She teased him, and his face got a little affronted, which made her just laugh more.

“Yeah, yeah, I was just okay. You though? You’re incredible.” He growled lightly before they kissed again. Akeno clambered onto his lap and straddled him, grinding herself into his lap. His hands found her thighs before sliding up below her skirt. And then she pulled back, grinning impishly as she sat back down off his lap.

“Oh, is there something the matter, Izu?” She asked coyly, her eyes dancing in amusement. She didn’t have to look down to know his pants were bulging slightly. Less than it would have if he wore tighter clothes.

“Minx!” Izuku glared playfully at her as he adjusted himself. “We definitely need a beach and fireworks date.” He said, and Akeno beamed.

“Yes, we do.” She replied, “There should be a couple festivals soon. We could go. Just you, me, and Rias.” She licked her lips.

“Oh? No Aika?” He shot at her playfully, “Poor girl. You were helping and now you abandon her.”

She shrugged, “She’ll have to earn it.” Her eyes glittered, “Besides, I can’t wait to try making Rias as hot and bothered as you do.”

His pants started growing tighter again, and he very obviously changed the subject. “My turn to pick then. Want another duet?”

“No, go ahead and pick a solo song. I’ll do the same for my next choice.” She replied and handed him the laptop.

He looked through the list, and grinned. He picked the song and they both started to bop as a bass guitar came on, followed by a regular guitar. Apparently their duet had fueled him, because he definitely wasn’t as good with this louder and more powerful song. “*So what if you can see the darkest side of me? No one will ever change this animal I have become! Help me believe it’s not the real me! Somebody help me tame this animal! (This animal, this animal)!*”

She would definitely have some work to do to coach him, but he certainly had potential. She giggled as he finished, “76%. Not bad!” She picked her own American song, and Izuku let out a bark of laughter when he recognized it, “*I’m in the business of misery, let’s take it from the top. She’s got a body like an hourglass, it’s ticking like a clock! It’s a matter of time before we all run out!*”

“Your voice is unfair!” Izuku grumbled playfully as she finished and saw that she had gotten another score over ninety.

Akeno grinned as she got a *devilish* idea. “Hmm, why don’t we add a little game to our game?” Izuku felt a bead of sweat form on his neck at that grin. She snapped her fingers and a flaming score card of sorts appeared in the air near them, “Round one was a duet, and we got 91%. So we both get a point.” A flaming mark appeared underneath both of their names, “Round two I won, so I get a point.” Another flaming mark appeared underneath her first. Her smile grew, “Whoever has the least number of points at the end of our session loses, and has to pay the toll.”

“You just want me at your mercy, darling.” He grumbled, before getting a *devilish* idea of his own. “Okay, let’s play.” He hid his smirk.

“Oooh, brave of you, Izukun.” Her smile widened, “I look forward to it.” She lowered her tone, her smile full of sadistic amusement. “I think I’ll pick the next song this round.” She said, before starting to sing *Pop/Stars* by *K/DA*. Izuku was impressed by her flawless switching between English and Korean.

“Man, Devil Autotranslate is unfair. I had to actually *learn* English.” He grumbled, “Also, where was that from?”

“Oh, don’t be sour, Izukun.” She pecked his neck again, “I’m actually surprised it’s not working for you yet with the Devil and Fallen Angel you ate.” He both grimaced and twitched at that, thinking she had a point. “And it’s from League of Legends.” Akeno chuckled, “Love the song but never played. Koneko-chan has though.”

“Don’t know what that is either.” Izuku deadpanned.

“You don’t know *League of Legends?!?*” Akeno, very much *not* a gamer, still knew what that was. “Wait, was that one of the things that never made it to your future?”

“I guess not?” Izuku shrugged, “It might have, and I just don’t know about it. It would have been considered a classic at best if it did. Judging from your tone, I’m guessing it’s a very popular online game, which means that there’s a good chance it wouldn’t have survived. The ones that *did* were mostly the single-player games, because there were no servers to upkeep.”

“Well as Koneko-chan would say...” Akeno laughed, “You lucky son of a bitch!”

Izuku burst out laughing as well, “Oh, it was one of *those* games.” That got Akeno giggling even harder. “Anyway, I suppose it’s my turn again.” He rubbed his chin, before going for a classic, “Though before I start, I think I need my good luck charm.”

“Oh?” Akeno raised an eyebrow, “And what would that be?”

Izuku grinned, before grabbing her and casually lifting his yelping girlfriend into his lap. He hugged her from behind, before pressing a kiss to the nape of her neck. She had that ‘grinning but trying not to’ look on her face as Izuku began to sing *Welcome to the Jungle* by *Guns N’ Roses*. She grinned impishly as she started to wiggle her bum in his lap in an attempt to distract him. She felt him hardening and smirked in satisfaction. His only sign of strain was that the arm wrapped around her belly tightened slightly. He kept singing, and grinned a little bit as his fingers lightly trailed along her sides and she very slightly twitched. Finally, he finished, “Ooof, some good luck charm.” She said in mock sympathy. “69%. Nice.” He chuckled, “I think I’ll stick to this band. *Sympathy For the Devil* is next.” She didn’t notice his eyes glittering in anticipation since she was in front of him. “*Please allow me to introduce myself... I’m a man of wealth and taste.*” She started to sing, but twitched when he brushed her hair off her neck and gave her a light kiss.

‘*So, that’s your game?*’ She thought to herself, squirming slightly as he started to caress her lightly. Feeling his fingers trailing lightly on her thighs felt like fire. He wasn’t even touching anywhere dangerous, just rubbing her thighs and stomach. She was much more acutely aware she was pressed tight against his chest, and the growing hardness beneath her. Sometimes she hated having such a lewd body. Everywhere he touched just felt **good**. “*Pleased to meet you, hope you guess my name! But what’s puzzling you is the nature of my game!*” She kept trying to focus on her singing, but it started growing difficult when he popped the first lower button of her uniform’s jacket. And then the next. And the next. Her breath hitched slightly when his hand sent a trail of fire across her belly through the much lighter material of her shirt. His fingers felt electric when he lightly rubbed right above her skirt line. “*-aw it was a t-time for a change. I k-killed the Czar aaand his ministers.*”

She was starting to breathe harder, loving every second of this torment. Her hips were starting to rock by themselves as her eyes grew lidded. And then her breath hitched as he drew his hand up, right below her left breast. She could already feel her nipples harden, and was certain her panties would be *ruined* by the end of the night. “-wATChed with gleEEE as your k-kings and q-queens f-fought for ten decaDES-”

The torment continued throughout the entire song, with Akeno growing more and more hot the longer it went by. Izuku didn't once become *overtly* sexual in his caresses. Didn't reach fully underneath her skirt, or even grab her breast through her shirt. He never actually touched her beyond the light caresses in 'safe' locations. And yet, by the end of it, Akeno was a *puddle* of nerves. “Ooooh, 62%. That's worse than mine.” He said smugly.

Akeno *refused* to give him the satisfaction. “I w-was a little off on that one. I suppose that means we're 3-2, my f-favor.” He continued to touch her, not letting her cool off at all even as he handed her an appreciated bottle of water. It was a long song.

They continued, and by the end of the next round, Akeno had lost her school uniform's jacket entirely and her shirt had been unbuttoned slightly, allowing her royal purple bra to peek through. Her cheeks were flushed, and she was sweating lightly. Izuku wasn't so cool himself. Akeno hadn't been as 'subtle' with her interference as he had been, and he was as hard as a rock. But they were now tied. Izuku had again eked out another point.

Akeno was flushed and breathing harder, and felt like her nipples could cut glass. And Izuku *still* hadn't touched her where she wanted. Her panties were already ruined, and she knew for a fact that if it weren't for cleaning spells they'd be getting banned from this establishment just from the smell in the room. She had returned fire much more vigorously during his turn, and he'd scored the first 50% of the night. All she had to do was beat that.

She selected another of her favorites, *Togameru Kage* by Momori, and tried to *force* herself to focus. “*Thick, thick, the fog that engulfed me. 'Where is this place, what have I done?' Deep, deep, the darkness I am alone in. Dragging along my heavy legs...*” She was surprised when Izuku didn't really escalate at all in his ministrations. If anything, he had slowed down. By the time she finished the first line, she was quite confused and starting to get disappointed. And then Izuku grabbed her shirt and tore it open completely. The buttons clattered all over the floor and table of their room as her eyes went wide in glee, “*ReALItYYYYY-*” She tried to sing as his hands finally found her breasts, massaging them through her purple bra. “*-is StaiNed with CRUEL-*” She squealed as his lips found the back of her neck and started to gently suck. He was giving her a hickey! “*EmoTiONs!*” Her tone and pitch were totally off, and she was starting and stopping too much.

Her thighs were rubbing together as she fought to get any sensation down below. “*P-P-people die, their SCREAMS-*” Izuku snapped her bra off in the middle and his fingers found her nipples. Her peaks were quite puffy, something she knew he enjoyed, and his fingers sought her nipples. He pinched them, *hard*. It hurt. It hurt *so damn good*. Akeno lost her mind, squeezing her thighs together as she peaked. He kept her from sliding down as he whispered sweet nothings into her ear, returning to gentle caresses as she quite literally shook in his grip.

Finally, she went slack, panting, the song forgotten. “The song, my beautiful Akeno.” He whispered in her ear, tracing light circles around her areola.

*‘Fuck the song!’* Was the general thought that went through Akeno’s head at that moment, but she shakily sat properly in his lap, “-saw it. *This scenery is about to be broken! Already locked within this wind!*” She finished the song a minute or two later, and almost chuckled when she saw her awful 39%. “This wasn’t the game I had in mind for tonight.” She smirked in satisfaction. She hadn’t planned on being *behind* at all.

“No, but you love every second of it.” Izuku countered, trying to adjust himself without her noticing. He failed. “I suppose it’s my turn.” Yes, *yes it was*. And she was done being patient. He wondered if there were any One Piece songs, and grinned when he found *Share the World*. Of course, that one would be on here. “*Until we reach-*” Akeno kneeled between his legs, grabbed his uniform’s pants, *tore them in half and flung both legs and his underwear to different corners of the room*, and had his cock buried in her throat before he even finished the third word, “Oh fuck, Akeno!” He almost kicked involuntarily as he stiffened up. By far, sexiest thing anyone had ever done to him. He almost laughed at her both paying him back for her shirt and escalating in the same breath, “*Come on, let’s go everybody, oh we share the music...*” He attempted to keep up with the song, but his firm grasp on the back of her head told her where his attention really was.

She raised her head about halfway before forcing herself back down, while also reaching up to his balls and playing with them gently with her right hand. She knew well enough that unlike her, he did not like pain play. Or at least not on his cock and balls. She rolled them and almost weighed them in her hands. She pulled off almost completely, focusing her tongue and lips entirely on his fat head while both her hands grasped his shaft and pumped. She was rewarded with a hiss of pleasure from him as she continuously licked the underside of the head. Finally, she audibly popped off of it and laid it down on her face from above. She took a deep, intoxicated breath as she continued to work him with her hands, dipping lower and taking both of his balls in her mouth and giving a few hard sucks.

“Akenoooo!” Izuku groaned, starting to rock his hips in time with her pumps. She popped off his sack again and traced her tongue from the base all the way to the tip before swallowing half his length again in one go. She continued to suck, rocking her head back and forth, before a gleam appeared in her eye and she backed off and even let go with her hands. She grabbed his hips and yanked him forward, leaving him in a bit of an awkward sitting position, but his eyes lit up as she leaned up and forward and engulfed him with her soft, pillowy breasts.

“Fuck my tits, Izukun!” She begged him, hugging herself to squeeze her breasts tighter. One of her arms dropped down between her legs as she tore her thong in half. She started to rub her clit and rock her hips to it, a puddle already starting to form beneath her.

“Fuck yees!” Izuku groaned as he dropped the mic, the song completely forgotten. It rolled off and neither of them paid it any attention as she drooled onto his dick for a bit as he continued to rock his hips. He was even big enough that she could engulf the head with her lips and pump her

breasts around him. It only took a few minutes more before he started getting a bit more erratic, and Akeno could feel another orgasm of her own fast approaching, “Akeno, I’m gonna-”

Akeno sprang off of his dick, and stood, surprising him from the sudden lack of titjob/blowjob. She straddled him and hilted him inside her pussy in one go. “FUCK!” They both screamed and came together. He pulled her closer and claimed her lips as they ground themselves against one another, her legs wrapping around his waist and squeezing tight to pull him as deep as possible.

Finally, they slumped, panting against one another, “You stole a creampie!” Izuku laughed, still shocked she had done that. Hell, he hadn’t even expected to have sex *after* the first date, much less *during*.

... He probably *should have* with her, honestly.

She yanked his hair back to expose his throat and assaulted his neck, giving him a big hickey before kissing him deeply again as she began to rock against him once more. She pulled away, a trail of saliva snapping between their lips. “It was *mine*.” She purred as she reached down and removed her skirt, throwing it with the rest of their clothes, “I worked hard for it.”

“Bad girl.” He raised his right hand and let it fall on her left asscheek with a loud and sharp CRACK. Her entire body went stiff as she instantly almost *peaked* again. He groaned as she squeezed him like a vice. He pulled her close and looked down, “God, I love seeing those milky-white cheeks red.”

“More, daddy!” Akeno begged, and Izuku obliged, raising his other hand, and giving her a matching red handprint on her other cheek.

“EEEEEEEEEE!!!” Akeno came *hard*, clenching again and even dragging her nails down his back. Izuku hissed slightly as she did, and lifted her up and laid her down on their seats. He grabbed her legs as he slowly pulled out of her tight, puffy pussy. She laid back, giving him a needy look as his cum slowly leaked out of her.

He smirked and pushed back in, getting a hiss of joy from her as he bottomed out. God, he *loved* these supernatural girls. Rumi back home hadn’t even come *close* to taking all of him. He pulled out completely again, getting a moan of disappointment from her. He could see his two handprints, and he moved one of her legs so that he was holding them both with only one of his hands. Her eyes lit in anticipation again as he swatted her ass again. She moaned, and started to squeak as he rained a few more spanks on her, to the point that she didn’t even notice him use a spell on her.

She *did* notice, however, when he pressed his cock to her ass. Her eyes sprang open, and she gasped, biting her lip when he *slowly* pushed his way in. “*Fuck!*” She squeaked out, doing her best to relax. Izuku went slow, watching her reactions as he remembered to take his shirt off and throw it with the rest of their clothes. The only things Akeno was wearing now were her torn panties around her waist, and her knee-high socks.

He wanted this to feel good for her, and knew that she was *elated* that he had decided to try this. She was holding her own legs up at this point and also spreading her ass for him, so he reached down and cupped her face. She turned slightly and sucked his thumb between her lips.

He slowly inched his way into his lover, and could see she had her eyes closed and was just muttering under her breath, lost in her own little world. Finally, he was all the way inside her, and let out a moan of his own. It was *so tight*, and felt completely different from anything he'd been inside before. "You okay, darling?"

"Yeeees!" Akeno cried out, "Ooooh, I *love you*, Izukuuuu!" He leaned forward as he began giving her short little thrusts. He claimed her lips again, and her arms found the back of his head again as she deepened their kiss. She began to rock back and forth with him before he backed away with a devious grin. "Oooh, what are you going to do to make this even better now, my love?"

"This." Izuku held up his middle finger with an evil grin, before lowering it down to her clit. Akeno squealed again as she felt his finger *vibrating* rapidly. "Oh, fuck, fuck, fuck!" She cried out as he started pumping harder, gripping her right thigh as their bodies started to audibly slap every time his pelvis hit her ass. His vibrating finger on her clit and his cock wrecking her ass had her entire body feeling like a coil that was squeezing tighter and tighter. The coil snapped, and she *gushed* out her release. It flew up like a fountain and splashed on his chest and her belly. She writhed, her legs trembling as Izuku continued to assault her ass and clit, prolonging her orgasm. Finally, he grabbed both of her thighs and hugged them, squeezing them together. He continued to pump for another minute before he slammed his hips against the back of her thighs and came.

Finally, he sat back, panting. Akeno's legs slumped and she lay sprawled there, one leg hanging off their sofa. She was covering her face with her arms as she moaned, breasts heaving. "Ohhhh, by the Burning Fields, this was the best idea I ever haaaad. We *have* to do this again."

"Why are you talking like we're done?" Izuku growled, and she squealed as he flipped her onto her belly. Before she could say a word, he was straddling her thighs with both of his around hers, and his cock was buried in her pussy again. His hand found her throat and gave a light squeeze as he pulled up so he could kiss her again.

Their moans once more filled the room, and they continued to pleasure each other for another few hours, trying every position they could think up. They had sex up until the landline called in to tell them that their time had expired.

They asked for an extension.

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"Come on, isn't this too cliché?" It was a few days after his *amazing* date with Akeno that Izuku grinned in amusement as they exited from the gaping void of his portal into a forested area. Aika had stayed in Kuoh, seeing as she was still too new to actually using her powers, much less being

in actual battle. The rest of Rias's peerage was with him, along with Lavinia. It was the dead of night, but the cloudless sky and the full moon provided ample light. "Dead of night? Full moon?"

Rias giggled lightly, "Well, that *is* the best time for catching prey with their pants down, is it not? It's cliché because it works."

"What's our goal here, Rias-chan, Akeno-chan?" Lavinia asked as they walked up the fairly well-hidden path. "I know we're here to punish them for attacking Akeno, but..."

"Waiting was good." Rias said, "I was ready to just burn this place to the ground after it first happened. My temper has cooled, thankfully."

Izuku nodded, "We're here to..." He paused, "*encourage* Suzaku Himejima's transition of power, shall we say. The current head of the household is the one causing problems for us. Him and his faction."

"Suzaku-nee-chan will fight us on this." Akeno said softly, "She'll be duty-bound to defend the rest of the family."

"I'll entertain her, then, while you and Rias go take care of Suou." Izuku said, "Let's try not to mess them up *too* badly."

"Aren't we taking them too lightly?" Kiba asked, his expression strained, "I mean, we're walking into their seat of power here. Overconfidence will just get us hurt, or worse."

"Not taking them lightly." Rias said, "I just have confidence in my family to overcome whatever they can throw at us." They all smiled at her words. "Plus..." She giggled and waved at Izuku, "We have this." She joked, and all of them snickered. Izuku shook his head with a bemused expression.

"We're here." Akeno declared, and stopped short of an invisible line in the ground, as it were.

"How do you know?" Izuku asked curiously.

Koneko tapped his arm and pointed, "Sensed them too." She said shortly. Izuku followed her arm, and let out an 'ah' of realization when he saw Ofuda high up in the trees.

"Good work, Koneko-chan." Izuku patted her hair, getting a pleased purr from the nekomata.

"Don't I get headpats too?" Akeno pouted, before she clapped her hands together and then made a few hand signs straight out of Naruto. She finished with an unfamiliar one, making two finger guns pressed against each other with the middle fingers crossed behind her pointers. She chanted in Japanese for a few seconds, and a massive, rippling, and fire-red barrier became visible before them. It was a massive sphere (the other half projecting even underground) that protected the entire compound, with this first layer being a series of spells designed to detect and deter intruders.

"I'm sure you want pats elsewhere." Rias deadpanned, which got Akeno to grin lustfully.

"Hmm... Shall we knock?" She asked innocently.

Izuku lifted Takeru and started using his Haki. “KNOCK, KNOCK!” He yelled, before smashing the kanabō into the barrier. Immediately, it flashed, before the entire barrier started to shatter. Parts of the forest before them vanished, revealing a much more unnatural set of features like a proper road, a series of torii gates, and a gated compound. A loud alarm started to blare coming from the compound, with an accompanying set of shouts.

Izuku dashed forward, kicking out at the massive, closed gate, and knocking it off its hinges. Several people who looked quite like Akeno stopped short, looking at him in shock, anger, and not a little bit of fear. More people were flooding out of classic Japanese homes, but they were frozen as they stared at him and could feel his power. He gave them all a disarming smile, “Good night! Do you have time to talk about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?”

Behind him, Rias, and Akeno both sputtered, spraying out spit and starting to laugh.

That got shouts of anger from several of the Himejima, who quickly started to cast fire spells at them. Pele rose up in front of him, grinning ominously as she started to eat all the fireballs. Izuku started to walk in, “I’m afraid you’ll have to do better than that. Pele is hungry.” He declared, seeing out of the corner of his eye that several of them had backed off and started making hand signs like Akeno.

“**Tasty.**” Pele’s voice was gleeful. “**Give me more!**”

Koneko leapt towards the chanting group, appearing in midair above them and rocketing downward. “No.” She said softly, punching the ground and causing a small, localized earthquake. The Himejima yelped, stunned as they were thrown back, but they only had minor injuries.

And then night turned to day. Their attention was drawn by a small bird that was racing towards the ground in front of them. Lavinia’s eyes widened, and she quickly waved her wand, drawing a set of runes in the air to cast a powerful barrier spell before them. The small, shining bird hit the ground, and detonated with the force of an *extremely* powerful bomb. The barrier cracked but did not shatter, although the conflagration could be felt even through Lavinia’s defense.

The sea of fire parted, allowing a beautiful woman who could have been Akeno’s red-eyed, equally *busty* twin to walk towards them. She was wearing a black yukata with pink flowers on it, and looked every inch the noble Yamato Nadeshiko. “You will regret attacking our home.” She declared as the barrier vanished and Pele began to eat up the fire, “Leave now and we...” She stopped, “will...” Her jaw lowered, “...Akeno-chan?” She breathed out in shock.

Akeno stepped forward with a smile on her face, “It’s good to see you again, Suzaku-nee-chan.”

Suzaku teared up slightly as she heard the rest of the Himejima start to mutter over their attacker *obviously* being a Himejima herself. “What is this, Akeno-chan? Why are you here?! Why have you attacked our home?!”

“Bad business, I’m afraid, Suzaku-san.” Rias stepped forward.

“You must be Rias Gremory.” Suzaku’s gaze sharpened as she looked at the redhead, who smiled and gave her a little bow. She bowed back as she mentally reviewed through what words Rias had used, and then closed her eyes, feeling a headache coming on. ‘*Uncle you damned fool.*’ She thought to herself, fairly certain she knew what had caused this. “And what is this bad business, Gremory-san?” She asked when she straightened up.

“A few weeks ago, a massive number of Stray Devils found themselves in Kuoh at the same time.” Rias explained, “All in different parts of town, necessitating my Peerage and even my co-owner Sōna’s Peerage to divide and conquer. Everything went well...” She said, “Except for Akeno’s part of the mission. You see, once she was finished with the Stray, nearly twenty men and woman surrounded her and attempted to murder her. Are you seeing what I’m getting at here?”

Suzaku’s jaw clenched, “I... *presume* that they all looked very much like myself and Akeno?”

“Indeed.” Akeno replied, “Izuku here just barely managed to save me.” She said, “And there were no survivors.”

“Wait!” A middle-aged woman stepped forward, looking like she was going to cry, “No, you’re not—” Tears started to leak from her eyes, “My Akira!” She said desperately, “He’s been missing for weeks! So has his fiancé! You’re not saying...”

“That was one of the names I remember, yes.” Akeno replied, and the woman let out a heartfelt wail of grief as she fell to her knees and sobbed into her hands. Others followed, “All on the orders of Himejima Suou.”

Suzaku was stone-faced, trying not to give anything away. Rias spoke again, “Your clan head not only attacked one of mine, but he also broke an agreement with my father, the Duke Gremory. And that’s not even mentioning that he either worked with or coerced/convinced Stray Devils into attacking my territory and eating my people as a distraction so that his assault squad could try to kill my Queen. You understand what has to happen now, don’t you Suzaku-san?”

Suzaku took a deep, sorrowful breath. “I do.” She said softly, and straightened up, looking at them with tired eyes. “All the same, I can’t let you just kill my uncle, bastard that he is. I am honor and duty bound to protect my clan.”

“We thought you might say that.” Izuku smiled and stepped forward, “So I suppose I’ll have to distract you.” She eyed him curiously, “Midoriya Izuku, at your service, Suzaku-san. Shall we dance?” He slammed the head of his kanabō on the ground.

“I’d rather *actually* dance with you, Midoriya-kun.” Suzaku gave him a kind smile, “Though I suppose that’s out of the question.”

Rias grumbled, ‘*Why does **everyone** have to start flirting with my man?*’ She and Akeno started to walk forward, “Anyone who does not wish to fight, please just leave. We’re not here to hurt the Himejima, only the one responsible for the reprehensible attack on my Queen.”

“Fuck you, bitch!” A younger boy came forward with a katana, “My brother has been missing too! I won’t forgive any of you for this!” He sobbed in full wrath as he raced towards Rias.

She caught the blade between her index and middle fingers, making the boy gasp. “Not an intelligent move.” She flicked her wrist, and the sword went flying, burying itself in the wall surrounding the compound. “Sleep.” She poked him on the forehead with a glowing finger, and he collapsed like a marionette with its strings cut.

The boy’s mother, who had been too far away to stop him, sighed in relief as she realized her boy was alright. She quickly gathered him up and fled inside.

Izuku sighed, “I suppose I better keep more people from getting hurt.” His pupils dilated and Haōshoku roared out. Suzaku’s spine stiffened and she began to tremble as *something* started to assault her psyche. She looked around and saw most of the members of her clan falling unconscious. Some managed to stay awake, but sank to their knees.

Each and every one of them felt just as terrified as she did. “What *was* that?”

“They’re fine, by the by.” Izuku said as his eyes returned to normal. “Just making sure that they’re out of the way, as it were. They’ll be fine in a couple hours.”

“That doesn’t answer the question!” She had cold sweat all over her body.

“No, I suppose it didn’t.” Izuku grinned, and Suzaku was flabbergasted to see that Rias and the rest of their group was completely unaffected by the monstrous presence that had just pressed down on them.

The two passed by Suzaku, who wasn’t sure what to do. She knew she couldn’t stop all of them. Just that barrier proved how strong their opponents were. It was so frustrating that she would not be able to resolve this without blood. All because of her stupid *moron* of an uncle. *She* had been chosen as the host of the Vermillion Bird, after several generations of their totem refusing to choose anyone! She was talented, yes, but she wasn’t the *most* talented Himejima in several generations! You’d think that would mean the old farts would get a clue and realize her ideals were the right ones, but noOoOo!

Allowing the two ladies to pass her unmolested was apparently the wrong move in her remaining clansmen’s eyes, “This is why Suou has refused to abdicate to you!” One of the elder men spat at her, “You’re too soft! Too weak! You don’t deserve the Vermillion Bird’s favor!” He yelled, before turning wild eyes to Izuku, “I’LL KILL ALL THESE HEATHENS MYSELF!” He raised his hands, and it was like a miniature sun was born over his head. Again, night turned into day.

Suzaku’s eyes widened, “No Keiji, stop!” She yelled, but was ignored.

Keiji threw the sun at them, and Pele floated forward, leaving a burning trail on the ground. She grabbed the ball of fire and inhaled, quickly eating it. The glow from within her brightened, and several of the Himejima pissed themselves at the terrifying, glowing smile on her face, “**Delicious.**” Steam erupted from her mouth. “**Can I have some more?**” She asked teasingly, a tongue of flame erupting from her maw and wagging.

Their eyes were wide as Keiji took a step back, “What are you?!” he gaped.

Izuku chuckled, “Wouldn’t you like to know?” He patted her head of flames, and she crooned, “I’m afraid you’ll find that fire isn’t the greatest weapon against me.” He glared at the man, “Now I suggest you stop fighting. This doesn’t have to get any nastier.”

The man clenched his fists, “If fire doesn’t work, then use other attacks! Get them!”

“No!” Suzaku yelled, “Don’t turn this into a bigger mess than it already is! Get the rest of our men and women to safety!”

“Coward!” The roar came from several of the men and women. Others quickly followed her orders, grabbing the unconscious Himejima members and levitating them away via magic.

“Well, I suppose this will make it easy to figure out who else are just Suou’s stooges.” Izuku rolled his eyes and nodded at Koneko, Kiba, and Lavinia. Lavinia stepped forward, expression turning cold, and they all gasped as a massive, crystalline doll made of ice who looked vaguely like a woman appeared behind her. And then there was *snow*. An instant blizzard kicked up, darkening the sky, and blotting out the moon with black clouds. Lavinia waved her hand, and an eruption of ice raced forward, engulfing Keiji and others. He tried to defend himself with fire, but it barely melted any of it before he was picked up and smashed against one of the main castle’s walls and stuck there.

“The Ice Princess.” Suzaku held back a groan, before she burst into flames, summoning the massive Vermillion Bird to fight back the cold and ice.

“I’m your opponent, Suzaku-san!” Izuku flashed forward, getting a small shriek of surprise from the young woman as she rapidly formed a barrier around her. His *kanabō* thundered into it and there was an extremely loud sound like a gong ringing that made everyone flinch, but to his surprise, the barrier didn’t even crack.

She sweated lightly, “You’re... you’re strong, Midoriya-kun.” She sighed as she raised her hand and blasted him point-blank with flames. She wasn’t surprised at all when they still failed to hurt him, even with *Pele* not being there to absorb them. She *was* surprised that they seemed to just bend around him, however, before either being eaten by *Pele* or turned to ice by *Absolute Demise*.

“So are you.” Izuku smiled at her, and her cheeks pinked just a tad, “That was some barrier!”

She sighed, “I would have much preferred to settle this over tea. This is just going to breed grudges.”

“We know.” Izuku pursed his lips, “But there was no real good solution, and your uncle did not exactly leave us many options. We weren’t kidding when we said that Akeno almost died.” He swung the *kanabō* much harder, and was surprised to see it still did nothing to her barrier. “I just *barely* got there in time to save her.”

“I wanted to bring her back into the clan.” Suzaku held back a growl of frustration as she threw *Ofuda* on the ground around him, “My uncle knew this. He never agreed, but never gave any

indication that he would do something like *this*.” She hissed bitterly, and Izuku’s eyes widened as he found himself in a cube of glowing orange light. “You won’t be able to escape that trap, I’m afraid.” She dropped the hand signs she had made.

“Oooh, this is a really cool technique!” He praised, and she blushed again, “I wouldn’t say I can’t escape it, though.” He raised his hand and swung it like he was bitch-slapping the barrier. Suzaku eyed his black hand curiously, but gasped when the barrier trap shattered like glass.

She gaped, “H-How did you-?!”

“You’d need a much stronger barrier to trap me than that.” He chuckled, “You seem to be really good at them though!”

“Not sure how much I trust that praise when you can casually break them!” She tsukkomi’d, before sending a series of fireballs at him. She clicked her tongue in frustration when Pele immediately gobbled them up. “That’s really frustrating, you know!” She yelled out, “You’re a perfect counter for any fire user!”

Izuku chuckled, “I’m aware. That’s why I feel no combatant should ever be a one-trick pony.”

Her response was cut off by a loud crack. Several of the fighters flinched as a golden bolt of lightning seemed to burst out of the top of the main building, before another *much larger* bolt crashed down on the home of the clan head. The earth shook as if an earthquake had hit, before settling. Suzaku had almost fell over, and she was sweating heavily. That had been a *powerful* spell!

“Fire! The main building is on fire!” One of the Himejima gasped, running in to try to put it out. Several followed, though others continued to fight.

Suzaku clicked her teeth, ‘*Damn it! What can I do here?*’ She eyed Izuku, “I don’t suppose you want to let me go help put that fire out?”

“I think not.” He smirked, “Also, I wonder how your Vermillion Bird likes lava?”

“What?” She asked flatly as she watched him grab onto Pele, who flowed around him, “*What?!*” She repeated in growing panic as he reared back.

“**FUNKA!**” Izuku roared, and threw out a large fist made of lava.

She sank to her knees as she made hand signs, before slapping her hands on the dirt.

“**Ichishienjin!**” A massive purple barrier formed, blocking the way behind her and into the main castle of her family. Izuku’s technique smashed into it and made it flash, but settled almost immediately.

“See! I told you that you were great at those!” Izuku grinned as he saw it. “Careful! Rias might want to make you her Bishop!”

Suzaku let out a little laugh, “I’m sure she would. Not sure my partner would like that.” She eyed the Vermillion Bird, who let out a screech. She winced, wondering if her bird would be mad at her for trying a different element. Water was out. He’d just boil it away. Maybe she could take a

page out of her cousin's book. She raised her hand, "**Byakurai!**" She called, before her finger started to glow with lightning.

Izuku's grin widened as he drew his sword, and before Suzaku's astonished gaze, a **Kirin** appeared from the blade and devoured her attack. "What?! No fair!" She stomped her foot in frustration. She even puffed her cheeks out as the Vermillion Bird let out an annoyed screech at her using something other than fire to attack with and it didn't even *work*. She growled, "I don't see you helping! Go deal with Absolute Demise!" She shot at the phoenix. She glared at Izuku, "What, are you just immune to elements entirely?"

"No, I don't have any more elemental Homies." He said, before tapping his chin, "I probably should make another one or two honestly. Absolute Demise is so cool! Ba-dum." He laughed at his own cheesy joke while Suzaku nearly fell over from psychic damage.

"Ugh, you're really trying to kill me with puns like that." Suzaku muttered, before stiffening and looking behind her. Her eyes widened as she saw Rias and Akeno practically frog marching her fried and crispy-looking uncle out of the main building. "Already?!" She gasped, "How could you have defeated the head of our clan that quickly?!"

Akeno licked her lips sadistically, "Oh, his techniques weren't as good as he thought."

*Akeno casually broke another barrier with a counter technique that made the Ofuda burst into flames. They were close, she knew. She could sense a man inside the center room before the rice-paper doors.*

*Rias raised her hand, and annihilated the door with her Power of Destruction, before she and her Queen stepped into a large room where a single man sat seiza before them. He had the classic Himejima look to him, though faded. He was much older than Suzaku, and his black hair had already turned completely grey. "Half breeds and demons in **my** home." He sneered, not even bothering to open his eyes.*

*"We would have gladly stayed away if you hadn't pushed your luck, **uncle**." Akeno replied coldly.*

*"You had a deal with my father, Himejima Suou. A deal you broke with your unprovoked attack on my Queen." Rias glared at him, her magic making her eyes flicker with her clan's signature.*

*"Her entire **existence** is a provocation." Suou replied, opening his eyes, and glaring at his niece. "Sullyng our pure blood with her **filth**."*

*Once upon a time, this would have infuriated Akeno. She really did love Izuku for how much he helped her overcome it. "The only filth here is you." She replied, "A monster who would banish members of his own family for the crime of being born different. A monster who would try to kill his own niece, and have to be strongarmed not to. A monster who goes back on his word. A monster about to lose all of his power, and is doing anything he can to claw it back."*

*"You **dare**-" Suou seemed to lose some of his cool as he glared at her.*

*“I dare, because you’re a weak little man.” Akeno smirked nastily, “After all, the Vermillion Bird never chose **you**.”*

*He took a deep breath in rage, “**Gōka Mekkyaku!**” He roared as a veritable **sea** of flames erupted towards them.*

*Akeno and Rias started to hold hands, “**Nisekiyōjin!**” An extremely powerful red barrier sprang up before them, forming a wedge. The flames of Suou’s technique splashed against their barrier and parted like a curtain around them, igniting the wooden building in an inferno.*

*Rias laughed, “Burning your own home to the ground, Suou?” She raised her arms, “Look around you! This is going to be your legacy!”*

*“Hmmm, I’d rather not turn Suzaku-nee-chan’s home into cinders.” Akeno tapped her chin, “Shall we make this quick, Rias-sama?”*

*“Let’s!” Rias and her Queen raised their hands. Her Power of Destruction rose to her command with merely a whisper of the power it would once have taken, while Akeno’s lightning gleamed a vivid purple as their attacks raced forward.*

*“Arrogant bitches!” Suou roared as he took to his feet, “**Ma Koi Ryū •Renpa Han Shō Heki!**” A vivid green barrier rose around him in a full sphere, even lifting him off the floor. The two attacks smashed into him and did **nothing**. A cloud of smoke engulfed him, before parting as two dragon heads of flame made their way to a gaping Rias and Akeno.*

*Her Queen hurried to cast a water spell, which evaporated as it canceled out the two attacks. “Ara, that’s quite a barrier.” She said lightly.*

*Rias glared as a lance made of the Power of Destruction appeared in her hand, “**Extinguished Bolt!**” She threw it so fast Suou couldn’t even follow it if he were being honest. It didn’t matter. It splashed against his barrier and shattered, flowing around the sphere. “What in the Burning Fields is that technique?” She asked, glaring at the smug old man.*

*“Ha! Unlike that little half-bred bitch ape-ing her betters, true Himejima have a variety of techniques her whore of a mother would never have been able to teach her.” Akeno’s rage ignited and she threw her hand forward, unleashing a directional **El Thor** at her uncle. It took **quite** a bit of training with Izuku to be able to create the technique, seeing as the regular version picked up power by absorbing the electricity in the upper atmosphere. It drained quite a bit of magic, but again, it merely parted around the barrier. Suou chuckled despite the devastation the attack had wrought behind him. If he’d looked, he would have seen a perfectly round hole leading out of the compound behind him. “It’s useless. No demonic technique can pass this barrier. We developed it specifically to counter you abominations.”*

*Akeno stopped and considered the technique’s name. And then she smiled, “Ara, Ara, Izukun was right. Bad guys really **are** stupid when you get them talking.” She licked her lips, “I hope you’re ready, my dear uncle. I have over a **decade** of frustration to take out on you.”*

*“And what are you blathering about now, abomination?” Suou asked, squinting, and getting ready to fire a much stronger technique due to the energy his barrier had absorbed for him.*

*“Just this.” She had a look of rapture on her face as the lightning in her hands changed color to a pure gold. Rias gasped in amazement, and tears started to prickle her eyes in happiness for her Queen. “Raikō: El Thor!” Akeno’s Holy Lightning smashed into Suou from above and made the entire compound shake.*

*Himejima Suou screamed.*

Suzaku closed her eyes, “Akeno-chan, *please*.” She said, before staring at her cousin with a pleading gaze, “Don’t become a Kinslayer. Especially not before the rest of your family.”

Akeno’s eyes grow frosty and flinty, “Family?” She spat, “You’re the only member of this clan I have even a *single* fond memory of, Suzaku-nee-chan. And nearly two dozen of you tried to assassinate me weeks ago simply for the fact I was born. And you hunted me when I was younger, forcing Rias to save me. *She* is my family.”

Suzaku would not weep. She *would not*. That did not mean that there wasn’t a heavy lump in her throat.

The fighting was at an end, and it was clear who the victors were. Koneko sat on a pile of groaning Himejima with a lollipop in hand. Kiba was surrounded by swordsmen with various light cuts all around him. Lavinia had a man frozen in a snowball, and was sitting in midair on her broomstick, idly kicking her feet. Suzaku herself couldn’t believe just how *lacking* her family had found itself before this small group. She understood now why her uncle had run with his tail between his legs when Zeoticus Gremory had stood between him and Akeno all those years ago. And that was without getting into the most terrifying member of this assault squad, the one who had been basically *playing* with her the entire time. The one who could have those weird constructs literally *eat* her strongest attacks and nullify her elemental advantage.

Rias cleared her throat. “Himejima Suou.” She said coldly, “You stand accused of attempting to murder my Queen and also of breaking your pact with my father, the Duke Gremory, to never try to harm her again. How do you plead?” Let it not be said that Rias Gremory would not at least give the appearance of fairness with this trial.

Himejima Suou gathered himself and spat a bloody loogie at Rias. Rias’s glare sharpened as the wad of blood and spit evaporated without touching her. “I won’t be JUDGED IN MY OWN HOME BY ABOMINATIONS!” He spat at her.

“Guilty then.” Rias said flatly, and Suzaku felt defeat as she stared at the ground, “As the wronged party, I’ll let Akeno decide your fate.”

Akeno smiled, “I could make it quick.” She said, sashaying forward, “Or I could make it *hurt*.” Her eyes glittered, “Shall I make you *scream* before your entire clan, little piggy?” She held up a hand sparkling with lightning, and Suzaku’s breath caught in her throat. If she did that, she had little doubt the rest of her family might go down with the ship, fighting for blood they’d never get! She had to stop- “But I won’t do that.” Akeno smiled sadistically, “Oh no, I have a *much*

*better* plan for you, uncle. Izuku.” She looked at Izuku, who Suzaku was mollified to see looked at least a *bit* uncomfortable. She walked over to him and whispered in his ear. His eyes widened, before a small grin crossed his face.

Izuku stepped forward and then around the defeated clan head. Suzaku twitched and took a step forward as he drew his sword, but she was too late to do anything. Izuku rammed the hilt of his sword into the man’s back, and *something* seemed to pop out and land right in Akeno’s hand. No one got to see what it was as it quickly disappeared behind her back as Izuku cleared the area. Suzaku felt unease stirring.

Akeno smirked viciously, “You will abdicate your position to Suzaku-nee-chan.” She declared, “You will teach all of the techniques you know to her, and anyone she wishes you to teach. You will live in a cabin in these woods, forbidden from approaching any other Himejima unless approached first. You are stripped of the Himejima name, *uncle*, and are banished from this clan. I will have these punishments sworn as oaths here and now.”

An uproar rose up due to her words, with the rest of Suou’s remaining, ardent supporters yelling furiously. Suzaku was gaping slightly at her cousin, having expected her to give their uncle the death he apparently wanted via electrocution. Suou himself laughed, “And why should I do any of that?! You’re too soft, half-breed! You won’t-”

Akeno drew her hand from her back, and everyone fell silent as she revealed what lay in it. A heart.

Their uncle’s heart. Suou paled, “Wh-what?”

Akeno squeezed, and Suou started to scream, falling forward onto the floor and *writhing*. Akeno relaxed her hand, and Suou stopped screaming, though he was heavily covered in a cold sweat. Suzaku had both of her hands hiding her lips in shock. Akeno kneeled before the man who was still breathing into the dirt and grabbed him by his hair, hauling him up. She gave him a sadistic grin, “You’ll do as you’re told, my dear uncle, because I quite literally *hold your life in my hands*.” The heart was surrounded by a magical circle and disappeared. “I’m giving you a chance to live, only because Suzaku-nee-chan pleaded with me not to curse myself by becoming a Kinslayer. And you get *one* chance. ***Please waste it.***” She dropped him and stepped back. “Your oaths, here before the gods and the Vermillion Bird.”

Suou trembled as he got back onto his knees. A look of defeat on his face, “I, Himejima Suou, abdicate my position and name Himejima Suzaku the leader of our clan. I will leave this compound and approach no member of my family unless they approach me first. I will give my knowledge to our new clan leader and any who she declares worthy.” He stared at the ground, eyes glassy and unseeing.

“Good.” Rias clapped her hands, “Suzaku-san, I would have words with you soon.” She turned to the new clan leader, who looked shellshocked over the whole ordeal. “Though not tonight. I suppose everyone could do with some rest and a chance to get their affairs in order.”

Suzaku let out a shuddering breath, “This isn’t how I wanted to become the leader of my family.” She said tonelessly.

“And I am sorry for that.” Rias said conciliatorily, “And I truly wish this hadn’t been necessary. I would have preferred a much more amicable first meeting.”

Suzaku closed her eyes, and looked at Akeno, “Thank you for at least giving him a chance, Akeno-chan.”

“Only for you, Suzaku-nee-chan.” Akeno replied, “I...I missed you.” She said quietly, “You’re the only one I missed. Other than mom, of course.”

“Of course...” Suzaku gave her a weak smile, “I suppose we’ll be seeing much more of each other now, at least.” Akeno nodded, smiling much more honestly at her cousin than she had at Suou.

“I will send an invite for us to have tea, Suzaku-san.” Rias declared, “For now, we’ll take our leave. But first.” She raised her hand, and before the Himejima’s awed gazes, their compound seemed to *reverse*. All signs of damage were erased as if Rias was turning back the clock. Once the gate was back in place, she dropped her hand and let out a sigh. “A parting apology, for messing the compound up.” She said apologetically. “Until next time. If you would, Izu.”

Izuku cut a portal for them, and Suzaku stared at the empty air as it closed behind them. She sighed, “What a mess you made for us, uncle.” She said softly as Sakura petals floated in the air. Her uncle did not answer.

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