

Demonic 2001

Chapter 2001 Prisonern

Entering the island felt mandatory. The sole fact that Heaven and Earth had done so much just to keep the area hidden made it too interesting to ignore. Still, the barrier was an issue that the trio had to approach carefully, and the dragons' violent uproar was another problem that required proper planning.

The pack of dragons didn't worry the three experts. Noah and King Elbas could hold their ground against liquid stage cultivators, and they even had Sepunia on their side now. The fauna there only featured four rank 9 magical beasts, with the strongest in the middle tier. Victory would most likely arrive in case of a battle, but the trio didn't know whether fighting was the correct approach.

Noah and King Elbas wanted to study those creatures due to their uniqueness, but that same reason also made them hesitate. The dragons held a special place among the magical beasts, and the species inside the island probably had something to do with the battle that Heaven and Earth were waging since their rise to power.

Those dragons could be important allies, but their mental state was clearly unstable. The three experts could guess that the light had already reset their creatures' minds multiple times, which could explain the recent outburst. Yet, that event could still be the result of their natural aggression...

"Let's capture one of them," Noah eventually suggested. "Let's bring out and heal a powerful specimen. It's pointless to hesitate in front of a risky choice when we have the chance to find answers."

"Can we really do that without crossing the barrier?" Sepunia asked, and her two companions showed blank expressions at her statement.

"Did you even understand your new world?" King Elbas asked.

"I got used to it," Sepunia proudly exclaimed. "It's amazing. I've never felt so free."

"Then open a passage without triggering defenses," Noah ordered. "Elbas will take care of keeping it stable while I pull the dragon out."

"How would I eve-," Sepunia started to complain, but a long ooh escaped her mouth when she thought about her current abilities.

Sepunia had yet to master her new world. She didn't fight nor felt forced to bring her power to the limit. She had grown used to her state during the travel, but her mind still struggled to accept the change at times. That prevented her from realizing what she could do.

"I think I can do it now that I think about it," Sepunia announced. "I only need a bit to expand my world. It would be easier if I had energy all around me."

Noah expanded the dark world without giving any warning. A dark sea engulfed the three experts before part of its dark matter began to rotate around Sepunia.

"How much do you need to make a door?" Noah asked.

"I don't need much," Sepunia explained as she stretched her arms to experience those soft currents with her fingers. "I'm not creating a door. A version of the passage that has a door already exists in my mind. I only need the world to see it as reality."

The explanation left Noah and King Elbas slightly surprised. They had guessed the nature of Sepunia's world when they created it, but they didn't know how deeply her ability to affect the world would go. It was amazing that she could transform matter and defenses at will as long as her influence affected them.

"We only need to attract a powerful specimen now," King Elbas reminded before glancing at Noah.

"Take care of opening the passage," Noah said in a tone that carried firm confidence. "A leader will come to greet me."

That answer was enough for King Elbas. Sepunia wanted to hear more about that, but she moved toward the island when she saw that her companions had already started the mission.

Noah and King Elbas picked a spot on the barrier far above the surface. The dragons would have to pass near the crack, so they betted that only the rank 9 specimens wouldn't hesitate to reach them. Sepunia quickly joined the duo, and Noah surrounded her with dark matter that didn't oppose the spreading of her influence.

The dark matter never seeped past the barrier unless Sepunia wanted that. Noah let her gain almost complete control of that energy so that she could gain some confidence with her ability.

Sepunia had her eyes closed as she sat cross-legged among the dark matter. She floated beside the barrier as her influence spread and started changing the very nature of that defensive structure.

The change wasn't as immediate as her companions desired, but no one complained. Actually, Noah and King Elbas didn't hesitate to focus on Sepunia when her ability started the transformation of the barrier.

Patches of energy that replicated the void materialized right above the barrier before fusing with its fabric. They became holes that didn't affect the defense at all.

Those small passages didn't transform the actual structure. They acted as patches placed above the barrier that the world temporarily took as its actual fabric. It was incredible how deeply Sepunia could affect techniques and other structures without even knowing their basic functioning.

Sepunia applied more holes on the barrier and stopped only when a wide passage took form. The island was free from its isolation now, but the dragons didn't notice that.

Noah nodded, and King Elbas stepped forward to set a series of formations right above the fake edges of the passage. He filled the circular hole with inscriptions that would activate as soon as a magical beast tried to reach the void before moving aside. Noah's turn had arrived, and King Elbas could already guess what he was about to witness.

Noah's pride skyrocketed as he roared inside the passage. His voice spread throughout the island and alerted every creature living there about an unusual event. Someone was challenging the leaders. That behavior was an instinctive part of the magical beasts that even Heaven and Earth's brainwash couldn't suppress.

A series of encouraging roars resounded inside the island as a rank 9 specimen shot in the sky and approached the passage. The dragon was a creature in the lower tier sent to probe Noah, and he couldn't wait to have a physical contest against it.

Noah made the dark matter around him enhance his presence to set the dragon on a direct path toward him. The creature stretched its tongue as the impact with its opponent drew near, but a series of golden lines suddenly fell on its body and restrained its hideous mouth.

The unstable substance filled Noah's body with power right before the dragon slammed on him. The impact didn't even manage to push him back, but he quickly shot to his left to leave the area filled with cracks.

The dragon wanted to fight, but Noah punched its head before dragging it away from the area with the cracks. Sepunia and King Elbas also left the island to chase after their companion. The hole vanished, and another uproar started inside the barrier, but white light descended before those creatures could even group up.

More inscriptions activated as Noah dragged the dragon away. The creature's physical prowess had left him disappointed, so he stopped caring about fighting it properly. The dark world expanded as golden lines forced the beast to fold its wings and tied its legs together. King Elbas' formations didn't spare the tail either.

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The dragon struggled and fought, but it couldn't do anything against King Elbas' inscriptions. Noah even punched it whenever it tried to roar in anger, but that still didn't manage to make it accept its situation.

The dragon was going mad. The mindset forced into its head by Heaven and Earth had vanished after it left the barrier. The creature went through countless memories now that it could finally think properly, and immense anger mixed with despair seeped into its suppressed growls.

Those emotions were so intense that King Elbas and Sepunia didn't need Noah to translate those roars. Failing to evaluate the dragon's mental state was impossible, so they didn't need to plan their next step. What they had to do was clear.

King Elbas took out a pill from his figure, and Noah pulled the dragon's mouth upward. Part of the inscriptions that sealed the open and spiked neck created a hole where the cultivator could place the drug and force the creature to eat it.

Sepunia couldn't do anything in that situation... Her world would only attract the dragons' hatred since it dealt with illusions, so she limited herself to watch as her companions did their best to calm down the creature.

The pill didn't only suppress the dragon's intense emotions. It also improved its awareness for a short time, allowing it to go over its many memories of the prison in seconds. Sadly, the creature didn't feel any better afterward. It could only rely on itself to accept that Heaven and Earth had kept it caged and had played with its mind for countless years.

King Elbas stepped back and made Sepunia follow him to leave Noah alone with the dragon. The magical beasts had always felt an innate hostility toward the humans, and that feature didn't change in the divine ranks. It was better to let a hybrid handle the matter.

A growl tried to come out of the dragon's sealed mouth as the effects of King Elbas' pill waned, but Noah promptly punched its head again. He wasn't using his full strength, but the situation was starting to annoy him.

Noah was a pack leader in front of an inferior specimen. A mere whiff of his aura could force the dragon to submit. Still, he didn't want to be so forceful toward a creature that had suffered so much. Still, he didn't want to wait years for the beast to calm either.

"Heaven and Earth kept you trapped for a long time," Noah growled. "I don't know exactly for how long, but try to get over it quickly. I have things to do."

Those growls made the dragon fall prey to its anger again, but Noah expected that. He let the creature struggle until it eventually accepted that its physical strength wouldn't get it out of that situation.

"Free me!" The dragon roared.

"I will if you behave," Noah responded.

"I didn't escape the cage to become a prisoner again!" The dragon continued.

"You didn't escape," Noah explained. "I opened a path and baited you outside. I've even stopped you from charging right back in while you were prey to your anger."

The dragon roared, but it fell silent afterward. Noah had spoken the truth, but it didn't want to submit so easily. Its pack was still inside the cage, so it couldn't become someone else's underling.

"Let's talk for a bit," Noah growled while crossing his legs. "I will set your entire pack free if you help me."

"Set it free first!" The dragon roared, but intense fear filled its body when Noah glared at it with his reptilian eyes.

The dragon was still angry, but its instincts didn't allow it to forget its position in the food chain. Noah only had the aspect of a rank 8 existence. His eyes were enough to reveal the monster contained in that small figure.

"Do you have more orders for me?" Noah asked in a chilling tone.

The dragon remained silent while lowering its head. Its survival instincts prevented it from making any sound.

"Good," Noah exclaimed. "Let's start from the beginning. How did you end up inside the barrier?"

"My memories are messy," The dragon admitted.

"Tell me what you can," Noah ordered.

The dragon gazed at the island before pointing its eyes at the white cracks among the void. The creature remained silent for a few seconds, but a description soon began. "I remember a life among the light before one of Heaven and Earth's humans attacked my pack. Then, I recall pain. I felt my flesh ripped away from my scales and my throat splitting. I woke up in that land when that suffering ended."

Noah frowned. He expected a far different story, something that involved the appearance of the metal meant to oppose the sky. He could even feel that the dragon wasn't lying, so he felt forced to reevaluate his previous hypotheses about the island.

"I can't say much about the life in those lands," The dragon continued. "I see the light every time I try to remember details. I know that I've lived there for many years and that I've fed on others like me, but everything feels off."

'Heaven and Earth have probably tampered with the important memories,' Noah guessed in his mind.

"Only one detail is clear," The dragon announced. "My first thought when I woke up in those lands would reappear every time I recalled where I was."

The dragon stretched its front legs forward and inspected them. Noah saw confusion in the creature's eyes, and the latter left him speechless with the revelation that followed that gesture. "I recall thinking that these weren't my legs."

Noah's eyes widened as most of his hypotheses crumbled to leave only one unexpected guess intact. It seemed that the dragon's current appearance didn't match its memories. Heaven and Earth had transformed it before sending it to the island.

"I'll go get some of your companions," Noah quickly uttered before moving toward his friends in the distance. "I'll come back soon."

"Wait!" The dragon roared. "Free me of these restrictions!"

Noah ignored the dragon, but a powerful aura suddenly seeped out of it. Noah turned to inspect the creature and noticed that a pitch-black liquid was flowing out of the spikes at its mouth's sides.

King Elbas' formations were forcing the dragon to keep its neck closed, but the spikes there also released that liquid. Noah could see how the golden radiance of the expert's lines dimmed as that substance accumulated on their other side before flowing out of its head.

The sole fact that the dragon had the power to affect King Elbas' inscriptions made Noah shoot back to the creature. The liquid coming out of the beast's mouth was so dark that even the blackness of the void couldn't hide it, but Noah ignored that feature. His focus was on the faint trust that his instincts felt toward the aura that accompanied the substance.

'What is this?' Noah wondered before holding the dragon's head still with a hand and stretching his free arm toward the liquid.

A single drop landed on the back of his hand while he was approaching the tiny waterfall. His mind rejoiced, but his skin started to melt without causing any pain, and that effect spread quickly to the rest of his arm.

Noah couldn't stop what he didn't feel. Even the black hole couldn't understand what was happening, so he quickly drew the Cursed Sword and severed his arm. The corrosion stopped for him, but his limb vanished before it could start to float among the void.