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ground.Feathers bloomed from her body and smashed all the skeletons around her. However, when she got back again, a rain of slashes from Pier fell upon her.Claclaclaclaclaclaclaclang!A precise combo attack leaves no gaps.In front of and behind Serene, who fled to the air to avoid the fierce attack, corpse spiders swung like pendulums at her. Seeing this, she swiftly fired feathers to shoot down the spiders, bringing herself higher into the air.As expected, it's not just about putting emotions on feathers. Simon, who was observing, bit his lip.'A Commander is in a different league after all, huh?' Serene waved her hand like a conductor. The body of feathers fluttering in the wind collapsed back into jet-black, which transformed into a magic circle.A multi-cast of more than twenty, a feat that even active Necromancers would find astonishing. For her, it was as easy as the wave of a hand.Each feather was a means of attack, a carrier of emotions, and a magic circle.She smiled as she raised twenty magic circles.Twenty dark flames erupted from the magic circles and turned the ground into a wasteland. The bodies of skeletons and corpse spiders alike were swept away by the overwhelming firepower, not standing a chance.Simon avoided a direct hit by a hair's breadth, but more than half of his Barrier Gauge was blown away.'.....That's all Dark Flare? That doesn't make any sense!The Special Admission No.2, Serene Aindark, was already far beyond the level of a student.It was then. Pier, who flew into the sky, appeared behind Serene's back.Her body crashed to the ground. Pier, moving fast enough to come down to the ground and wait for her to fall, swung his greatsword.Serene transformed a feather into a shield and blocked it, but Pier continued his fierce offense.Defending every attack at the sacrifice of many of her feathers, Serene stepped back and spread out her palms.The remaining feathers fluttering in the air turned into new dark magic circles surrounding Pier.The pure-white greatsword turned into a single line, leaving countless sword paths in the air. Soon, every last magic circle was torn apart.[Certainly, you have surpassed the level of a student!]Pier kicked off the ground and jumped.[But that's just the level of a student!]A pure-white sword came down with enough force to split Serene's head in two.The greatsword stopped a mere whisker away. Twenty feathers embedded themselves all over Pier's body."While inducing you to attack, I readied the feathers I set up on the ground beforehand."She approached Pier with light steps and tapped his skull with her finger.But Pier didn't in any way react."Twenty feathers of lethargy. Originally, my powers wouldn't have worked against the undead, but good thing that it's an ancient undead. Since it has existed for a long time, it's an existence that thinks and feels like a human being."She turned to look at Simon."Well-- Commander? Your best hand is now sealed off. Now....."Hearing Pier's laughter, Serene turned around.The feathers attached to Pier's body were falling off.[Certainly, emotions do exist on me, Sir! But my wish isn't that weak.]As though Pier's body was about to explode, dark-blue jet-black soared up.[To be shaken?! By this?!]Pier, who broke through Serene's power with his own will, held his greatsword in a firm grip.Serene quickly stepped back and sent out feathers to unfold a defensive magic circle.[I shall not go easy on you anymore! Die!]Pier's greatsword scattered light in all directions.The slash cut the world in half and caused a huge explosion. It was bigger than any of Pier's slashes that Simon had ever seen.Trees and plants were being blown away in the fierce blast.Simon looked straight ahead, covering his face with his arms.'.....Pier! We'll be in trouble if you really kill her! She's a successor of the Ivory Tower! [You're worrying over nothing.]Said Pier, carrying the greatsword on his shoulder.[It's more of a monster than you expect.]As Pier said, when the smoke cleared up, Serene appeared, standing.Simon was surprised. She had three wings on her left shoulder."It's been a long time since I revealed this form."It was only on one side, too. There were no wings on the right.This was the true identity of her abilities. You could feel the wave of the jet-black that was on a whole different level to a while ago.'Pier. Can you use that skill one more time?'If I get Serene's attention.....'Serene pointed behind herself."going to keep fighting like this?With Pier's slash just now, Serene's barrier had been broken. As the cracks started to run through the structure, the entire barrier began collapsing and cracking apart.That would be difficult. As the barrier began to break, they'd enter the observers' sight.Simon pulled the imaginary lever.The skeletons and corpse spiders of the Legion quickly returned to Simon's subspace.Perhaps Serene also thought that it wasn't a good idea to show her wings, so she hid them inside her body once more.[The problem here isn't about you getting caught! That woman's feather has the power to simply turn humans into cripples!]It's fine. I have an idea. Simon fiddled with the necklace artifact that Nefthis had given him, which he still wore around his neck.'I'll leave the subspace open. For now, please go in, and if ever I fall into danger, please come out.'Pier also entered the subspace.Serene's barrier disappeared completely. Perhaps because the surroundings were completely devastated, observers began to wander in the sky.Now, only Simon and Serene remained. Simon fixed up and straightened his tie."At this rate, the last option you mentioned is gone out the window, right?"The option of getting rid of Simon and hiding the Legion so that no one could obtain it was now impossible. After all, Kizen's eyes were wide open and observing them."That's true. Then how about something like this."Serene pulled out one of the feathers and put it to her cheek.'I'll play with you, bring you into a fit of rage, and then drive you out of the evaluation. Don't worry, I'll erase your memory."The wind blew. A feather fluttered in the air toward Simon and fell to his feet."You'll live a painful life in Kizen from now on."Her feather turned into a magic circle, and Simon could hear her voice."Unknown misfortunes will overlap. You'll fail the exam, screw up the performance assessment, and get expelled from Kizen, and when their protection ends, I'll come to visit you. What do you think? Don't you think it's a legal and clever way to persuade you?"Simon scoffed and put his hand on his waist."How persistent. You've been doing that to other students till now, haven't you?"She just blinked with a smile on her face as though she didn't understand.It was obvious. Making the talented people who seemed like they would become main pillars of Kizen drop out of the school, and secretly scouting the discouraged students into the Ivory Tower.Sneaking out talented people.Of course, it'd be a problem if she got caught, but she wouldn't care whether or not she got expelled from Kizen.According to Meilyn yesterday, Serene had to study here because of their pact with Kizen.Being a special admission was a huge privilege no matter what, but this situation was pretty awkward from a diplomatic point of view. A situation where a large organization like the Ivory Tower had to send its successor outside.To put it bluntly, it was like their prince or princess getting held hostage.Therefore, it was natural for her to dislike Kizen. Serene's goal was perhaps the complete independence of the Ivory Tower.'It feels like I got myself into something complicated.'Kizen wasn't just a school. It was an organization full of talented people who will dominate the Dark Alliance and the continent in the future.To lay the foundation for the continent, to draw a rough sketch for the future, various interests would be lurking in this school.He'd be swayed by many struggles for power as time went on.What would be a smart choice at those times? It was like Simon was once again given a new task."There are people who don't give in to that way of yours."Simon slowly took a stance."Your method only increases the number of your enemies.""Who do you think you're lecturing?"Serene raised her arm. Twenty feathers formed, fluttering in the wind, and gathered at the center.'I'm the next Tower Lord of the Ivory Tower, a person who will divide the continent into three and usher in a new era.'As she pointed her finger, her feathers flew like bullets.In that moment when Simon tried to avoid it by stepping on jet-black..The air distorted, and someone stepped in, appearing in front of Simon.All that person did was the simple motion of swinging their arm.With that alone, the feathers that had rushed in with force, objects that could tear anything into shreds, disappeared without a trace."I think I heard something interesting just now~"A feeling of intense pressure that would make one tremble just by hearing their voice."Who will get expelled from Kizen? Whose protection will end, again?"Black hair fluttering in the wind.Hair-raisingly red eyes, which were held wide open."I'll protect Simon, Dog of the Ivory Tower."A powerful candidate for the next president of Kizen, and a figure emerging as a new pillar of the Dark Alliance.Lorain had entered the battlefield.Page 26"Is it time for you to appear now?"Serene smiled softly. Lorain lightly ignored her and turned to Simon.Simon quickly came to his senses and answered."Ah, yes. The protective suit....."Not your body. How's your mind?"Lorain knew of Serene's unique ability."It's okay. The feathers barely grazed me."Lorain nodded and stared straight ahead with a cold expression. There stood Serene, leaning slightly to the side with her hands on her hips."What is the meaning of all this, Serene?"Oh, I'm just taking the assessment, you see."Lorain's expression became heavy as Serene calmly shrugged her shoulders.'If you're just taking the assessment, why did you block off the observer's eyes with a barrier?'Oh my, this is going too far."Are you interrogating me right now? With what right? We're both students here. You must be feeling like you're student president or something already."Stop changing the topic and answer the question."What if I don't want to?"Lorain lowered her stance."Just as you said you were doing, I'll have to take the assessment, too."Simon obediently retreated, feeling as though dozens of lives wouldn't be enough to survive getting involved in the fight between those two.Lorain spread her palms, and jet-black flew out before collating into four magic circles hovering in the air.Soon, dark arrows were fired from the magic circles. However, upon seeing that, Serene just giggled.[Jet-black arrows? How cute~ C'mon, let's not play between u--'Serene's eyes suddenly narrowed and turned to look behind her.In a flash, Lorain had appeared behind Serene, a fist being flung as hard as possible.A simple punch created a huge shock wave that spread out in all directions.A crater over several-dozen-meters wide formed around the point of impact.Serene flew into the air and smiled.As she smiled, her surroundings suddenly went dark, a shadow forming above her. And form above her it did, a giant rock thrown by Lorain hurtling toward Serene.With a simple gesture from Serene, the feathers around her moved.The rock broke apart into fragments and fell as the feathers drew countless gashes into its front.Serene clasped her hands behind her back and dodged the remains, flying freely through the fragments.Said Lorain while warming up her fists."I thought we were taking the assessment, you bastard.""Our dear noble-blood seems quite foul-mouthed."Said Lorain while looking back at Simon."I think I have to get my hands on her. Simon, go run far away for now."He was already planning on it. As Simon turned his back and went further away, Serene gave a sad smile.'Why are you sending him away like that? You have to let him see your 'awesomeness' from the side.'""That sarcastic way of speaking..."Jet-black began to pour from Lorain's body ferociously."Maybe you don't want to show your ugly side to someone you like....."Lorain's red eyes burned from within. A long line was drawn in the air before opening up like a jagged beast's mouth.The space inside was one of darkness, and countless red eyes gleamed from within.The eyes looked identical to Lorain's, as if there were dozens of her eyes."A power that unlocks the realm of the Devil. I wonder how topsy-turvy the world would get if they figured out what you people, the mother and daughter, are planning to~"Serene stopped talking and quickly flew up into the air. Countless red rays were fired from the mouth-shaped space.In an attempt to double, no, triple her rate of assent, Serene attached feathers to her body, each of them aiding her flight.Her body rotated, twisted, rose up to the air at high speed, and then went back down.Red rays of light were painted the sky in a destructive red.Lorain took out a skeleton horse from her subspace. As she infused it with jet-black, black-red mana covered it, and it changed form.The skeleton horse immediately kicked off the ground as Lorain rode it into the sky. Soon, the two met in the air.'I don't think it's a good idea for us to fight like this now."The feathers began to dance in the air as Serene stretched out her arms."We're destined to fight one day anyway, right? Since we'll be the rulers of Kizen and the Ivory Tower."If that happens, hundreds of millions of innocent lives will be wasted."Lorain roughly pulled the reins formed with jet-black."Therefore, it might be better to settle it up while we're still at the student level."Good grief. You and your mother are both disgusting hypocrites after all."Serene raised and crossed her arms.The pure-white feathers and crimson-red rays collided in the air.It was a natural disaster for the ordinary students taking the test on the central island.Everyone was frantically running from the remnants of the attack falling from the sky.Simon was no exception. When he looked up at the sky, he let out a feigned laugh.'.....What in the world is that fight?They were extraordinary monsters.They had already surpassed the level of the assessment and test. [Kuhehehe! There's no need to gawk at only that much!]Pier's clone opened its mouth and laughed.[The Ruler of Kizen? The Lord of the Ivory Tower? Hollow titles, the both of them! You're the Commander of the Legion! It won't take long for you to reach that sky!]Looks pretty distant for now."Replied Simon, grinning. In any case, after quickly escaping from the battlefield, Simon got lost in thought.'Let's focus on my work again. With this much sound and vibration...Simon reached the cliff of the canyon.The location gave an unobstructed view of the island. Simon began to emit jet-black in all directions.'If Big Krum reacted to this and made his way nearby.....'A smile crept its way up Simon's lips.Simon twisted out of the way as the ground rose up and a monster's arm wrapped in bandages popped out.Then, the whole body of the monster was revealed.Every millimetre of skin was covered in bandages, but his eye sockets were clearly visible.'He's smaller than when I first saw him.'Simon heard that Big Krum got bigger the angrier he was. When fighting with Meilyn, he was big enough to put his face on the canyon with both legs on the ground, but now, he was barely hanging on the edge of the cliff, swinging a leg over the top.He had to move first before he got attacked. Amassing all his might, Simon threw the object in his hand toward Big Krum's head.The object that Simon threw was Pier's clone. Big Krum also paused and looked at the clone.[It's me, the Marshall of the Legion, Pier!]Simon quickly turned his gaze upward. An observer was seen in the sky in the distance.'We should be fine for the next minute or two! The nearest observer isn't that close.'As Simon opened the subspace, Pier immediately jumped out.While hiding himself amongst the trees, avoiding the obserser's eye, Pier said.[What are you doing here, Big Krum?! The Legion has revived! Hurry up and join the Legion!Big Krum tilted his huge head.Big Krum's head started to grow bigger.[Le.....gion! Le.....gion!]Soon, it was not just his head, but his whole body had begun inflating like a balloon.As Big Krum grew bigger and bigger, Pier's clone fell from Big Krum. Simon quickly retrieved it and ran.[Legion! Hurts! Legion! Hurts! Legion! Hurts! Legion! Hurts!]What's wrong with him, Pier?!"Now I'm certain! He's not Big Krum!]Said Pier in a serious voice.[That's an elaborately crafted fake! It's a clone of Big Krum!]As Big Krum began to grow endlessly, the observers flying in the sky came closer to see the situation."Pier! Please get back inside for now!"[I hurtttttttttttsssssss!]Big Krum, who grew bigger and bigger, lowered his head and looked at Simon.A shiver went down Simon's spine.[It's Legion! Legion hurts! I hate pain!]The giant hit the ground with a large fist. The entire edge of the cliff fell with a thunderous bang!Simon rushed into the woods, blocking off Big Krum line of sight."But why is the clone attacking me?!"[How the hell would I know that?!]Big Krum looked around in an attempt to find Simon.[Gwooooooooooooooooooooh!]However, as Simon was nowhere to be seen, Big Krum began to smash at the ground blindly with his huge fists.Students could be heard screaming and shouting. Big Krum looked in the direction of the noise, lifted his huge leg up, and kicked.The entire area had collapsed, and you could see two students flying off.Fortunately, their teammates pulled them back with jet-black threads and got them out of there.Big Krum was getting bigger and bigger.[If you leave him like this, he'll just keep getting bigger!]Big Krum started in the opposite direction, away from the canyon.He was already out of control. And the whole island was still under the assessment.At this rate, someone could die.Simon turned his back and ran. He had to take action right away.Waiting for the professors to stop the assessment would take too long. He felt it before, during the cyclops assessment, but Kizen didn't want to get involved in the students' matters unless they really had to.[Where are you going, Boy?! You're going in the opposite direction to him, you know?!]I gotta persuade someone who can stop that!"The place that Simon immediately ran to was the battlefield. The place where Lorain and Serene were fighting. The place no one would dare to step foot in.Distracted by their intense battle, the two of them hadn't noticed what was happening around them.He didn't know if she could hear him while in the sky, but Lorain immediately stopped fighting and rode her skeleton horse down next to Simon."A super-large monster went berserk and is heading towards the students right now! We need to stop him!"Lorain's expression stiffened up."Toward the southern island. I'll guide you."Serene, arms crossed, came down from the sky."Who said I'd let her go?"She held a feather in her hand."Whether it's berserk or whatever, that's the organizers' problem. I won't let our fight to come to nothi--"Ah, right. Serene, you were here too."Simon smiled as if he was glad to see her."I'm sorry, but could you help us?"