

My Demon Girl

Chapter 1

There was a young adventurer who, at a young age of eighteen, earned the title of "**Grand Swordmaster**". Having granted this title means the world has recognized you as one of the most powerful swordsmen and, back then there were only twenty title holders in all of the world. As one of only a few chosen ones bearing the title of a grand swordmaster, this adventurer became rather popular. He was not only a grand swordmaster, he was literally the youngest among all the grand masters. Whether it be grand sages, grand sorcerers, grand bowmasters, grand oracles, this young swordsman was the youngest of them all. His name is Zerocrane Ulki.

He was eighteen when he was recognized as one of the strongest swordsmen in the world and, due to him being the youngest among all the grand title holders, he became rather popular. He attracted the attention of Emperors and Kings, military commanders, co-adventurers and even civilians. He was suddenly surrounded by many people with their surging attention which has never happened before in his entire life but, even as he is not yet used to it, he had no choice but to live with it. Party requests from adventurers are coming left and right. Military offers from so many countries, countless invitations from different factions and guilds, everything was so confusing for him. At first, he didn't really know what to do but, soon he resolved to refuse all guild and military offers. As for the party requests, he decided to divide his time and lend his hands on whichever party is needing him the most.

Everything seemed like they will last forever for this young adventurer but soon, he will be stripped of everything he has. The wealth that he was promised, the title that was bestowed upon him, the party requests and guild offers, even those who looked up to him denied him in the end. Everything went downhill after a certain incident which earned him the title of "**Cursed Being**".

Two years after, the young adventurer is now at the age of twenty. While the masses are wary of the existence of the "Cursed Being", he somehow managed to remain an adventurer even though a low profile. He isn't earning as much as he used to but he still earns enough to get by on a daily basis. One night when he is on his way home from solo questing, he noticed a child who seems to have been abandoned in the street.

At first, he wasn't really interested because it isn't rare to see children sleeping in the streets specially for an adventurer who's been traveling for quite a while. Seeing this kind of thing isn't rare at all but, one thing made him want to take a peek. For Zerocrane, this child feels very different from the ones he had already seen in the past at least as far as he can remember. At first glance, the child appears to be your everyday street child that one would usually see. Wearing tattered clothes and a hood covering the

child's head, It's difficult to make out the face of the child. Add to that the fact that it is a time in the middle of the night. but as an adventurer, Zerocrane has a keen sense to his surroundings. Sensing that something is different with this child, the thought of peeking crossed his mind. Have you ever experienced having a strong curiosity to the point that you are willing to do almost anything? Zerocrane is experiencing something similar to that. He was a few feet away from the child when he sensed something strange and unusual but, without even realizing it, his feet had already brought him in front of the child. The child is sleeping on top of an old table that was probably abandoned by its owner. Zerocrane gulped down his own saliva and murmured to himself,

"What am i even doing? Well, won't hurt to take a quick peek. Just a quick peek."

Zerocrane looked left and right after talking to himself to ensure that no one besides him is there. He then shifted his sight onto the child in front of him, lowered his head and lightly touched the child's hood. It is dark considering the time so it is not unnatural that Zerocrane is having a hard time seeing the face under the hood. He did take a quick peek but unsatisfied for being unable to see what he wanted to see, he decided to go all out with it.

"Arrghh! I said just a quick peek but, nevermind! Forgive me kiddo."

He closed his eyes momentarily as he takes off the hood hindering his vision of the child's image. This time, Zerocrane could clearly make out the face of the child. It appears the child is a girl about 14 years of age. Zerocrane panicked when the child suddenly muttered the word "papa" but, what surprised him the most to the point that he even doubted his own eyes and sanity was the child's eyes. When the child muttered the word "papa", her eyes opened for a brief moment. The part of the eyes that is supposed to be white were black. Her irises are yellowish and her pupils, also black. The black sclera is what surprised him although the slightly shiny, yellowish iris is a tad bit rare too.

"H-hey!, is this for real?!"

Zerocrane spoke with a hint of doubt in his voice and expression. Sweat started forming on Zerocrane's face and his hands became shaky. Being too focused on the child's facial features, Zero is yet to look at the child's head. Still refusing in his mind what he just saw, he slowly shifted his eyes onto the girl's head. This time, the evidence screams right in front of his eyes to ignore.

"A.... demon!"

Zerocrane let out a pretty loud voice as his brain began processing the information. Zerocrane noticed his accidental shouting and covered his mouth with his right hand as a defense mechanism. Still having a hard time believing what he just saw, he started muttering to himself,

"Black eyes with yellow irises, 2 small, black colored horns on both sides of her head with white

colored tips, long, white hair extending down to her toes, sharp fingernails very similar to a claw, sharp fangs capable of tearing apart muscles down to bones..... No doubt, she is a demon."

Zerocrane, fascinated of the demon in front him, couldn't help but touch the child's face. It is only when he touched the girl's face that he noticed.

"Hot!"

The demon child's temperature is high and she's shaking accompanied by cold sweat and in addition to these, she also seem to be having a nightmare. She's making a really painful and sad expression while trying her best to speak a single word. The word "Papa". Zerocrane, seeing the miserable state in which the child is in, he wants to ease the pain of this child even if only a little. So he cast a magic to take away the nightmare and give the child a rejuvenating sleep. It is a success. The child's expression lightened up. Her sweating has lessened but since the magic that Zerocrane casted was just to ease the child's mind, it didn't really help with the fever. Still, seeing the child in a peaceful state, Zerocrane felt a little warm inside.

"I guess it's time i go home now. The night is getting deeper. Well, it's not like i have anyone waiting for me at home but still, i would like to sleep early."

He then whispered to the girl an oral good luck charm,

"May the Gods guide you on your path to happiness."

But as he is just about to walk away from the child, her tiny hands devoid of strength did its best to squeeze whatever little strength is left of it and clung to his clothes as if she's telling him to not leave her alone.

"Papa, stay..... with me. Don't..... leave."

Zerocrane is taken aback by the child's reaction and, even though the child's words wasn't really meant for him, he can't help but stay for just a bit. He wanted to comfort the suffering child in front of him. He wanted to say something even though the child in front of him probably won't hear it but, he can't think of anything. Nothing comes to mind. The only thing he can do is to stay by her side.

"I am not your father you know."

Zerocrane uttered this words quietly while keeping his eyes on the hand that is tightly locked onto the hems of his clothes. As he continued observing the child, he let out a bitter smile. The kind of smile

belonging to a person who knew solitude. The kind of smile that knew very well what "loneliness" is like.

"Ha ha. Why am i getting all emotional now...."

Zerocrane said this as he takes the hand that was holding onto him. He held with both hands the hand that was holding him tightly while locking his sight onto the child.

"I wonder how and why you got here. I just hope your parents didn't abandon you because that would make us similar.... Except that it was the whole world that abandoned me."

He spoke to the sleeping child. Of course the child cannot really hear him but still, Zerocrane felt like saying something.

"I wonder if it would be okay to bring you with me...."

Finally, Zerocrane, driven by his emotions, carried the child with him home.

"I just hope no one sees me. I don't want my reputation to get worse than what it already is."

After a few minutes of walking, he arrived at his home. His home is neither impressive nor big. In fact, it is very small and underwhelming. Constructed mostly of woods and having only a single room and a bathroom, his home gives off an aura of poverty. Then again, he is earning just enough to get by on a daily basis. This is mostly because he has lost the motivation to live though.

He laid down the demon girl on his small and a tad bit hard bed while he, instead of sleeping right after coming home like the usual, prepared water and a towel meant for easing the demon girl's fever. He will replace the towel every few minutes and he continued doing this for about 3 hours.

"What am i doing, aren't i doing a great deed right now? If those retarded Gods are watching then they better bring me some good luck."

Zerocrane will soon fall asleep and the night will come to pass.

The sun has shown itself, it is already morning. Zerocrane fell asleep sitting on a corner with his back lying on the wall. The condition of the girl seemed to have gotten better.

"I.... fell asleep?"

Zerocrane who noticed that he fell asleep, slowly got up to check the time and, as he verified that it is already morning, went to the girl. He laid his palm on the girl's forehead and, noticing the condition of the girl has gotten better and her fever nearly gone, he let out a sigh of relief and after that, a smile filled with satisfaction.

"I am glad you are looking a lot more peaceful now compared to yesterday."

The demon girl who was asleep just now seemed to have been awoken by Zerocrane's external monologue. Demons have great senses after all. Zerocrane who had his hands laid on the girl's forehead immediately withdrew his hand and, as if observing the girl and preparing for whatever she is gonna throw at him, he stood there with his sight locked on her.

"Where... am i?"

The half asleep girl asked but even before Zerocrane could answer, she began panicking as she realize the person in front of him isn't a demon but a human.

"Aahh!! im sorry! I am not an evil demon so please, dont hurt me! Forgive me! Forgive me! Forgive me!"

she said as she cried not knowing Zerocrane took care of her all night long. Noticing Zerocrane's hands moving towards her direction, she stopped mindlessly apologizing and shut her eyes as if preparing to accept the pain the person in front of her will inflict. Zerocrane intends to just put his hands on top of her head and pat her a little though.

"I won't hurt you so, you can stop crying now. You don't need to worry anymore. It has been tough on you too, right?"

Zerocrane spoke in a gentle voice as he pat the girl on the head while the girl quickly realized and understood the words spoken by the person in front of her.

"Too? It has been..... tough on you too?"

She asked as she wipe her tears away.

"Well yeah, but im used to it. I too, used to cry all the time but now, i have gotten used to it. So what if

the world has turned its back on me? So what if humanity shunned me? I am still the same old me and that will never change. So, no matter what happens. Be the you that you want to be. It doesn't matter how difficult it may get. If you believe in yourself then you will definitely overcome any trials. Of course it won't be easy."

Zerocrane gave in to his desire to run his mouth and at the end of his speech he let out a wide smile showing his teeth while the girl who carefully listened to his words understood what Zerocrane was speaking of.

"Is it.... really okay for me..... to live my life the way i want to?"

She made a painfully sad expression as she ask the person in front of her. She completely understood the meaning behind Zerocrane's words but, precisely because she understands that she asked.

"Why wouldn't it be okay?"

Asked the person who took care of her.

"I am....a demon."

The girl replied.

"So what?"

Zerocrane quickly responded in a rude way.

"Demons.... aren't accepted anywhere and.... I am different from the others too."

The girl answered but, her voice became inaudible right at the end.

"you are right. Demons generally aren't accepted anywhere. So, all we have to do is make you look more like a human. Easy enough, right?"

The girl, having difficulties grasping the meaning behind Zerocrane's words, frowned in silence. She understood everything that Zero has said so far but, this one is a bit beyond her. So Zerocrane continued speaking while the girl wholeheartedly lent her ears to the 'eager to explain' Zerocrane.

"First, close your eyes. Now, breathe in slowly. And breathe out at the same speed you inhaled. Do that 5 times."

Seeing the girl properly following his instruction, he continued,

"Now, imagine your whole body. Imagine the mana circulating within your whole body. Is your mana overflowing? From where do you see your mana overflowing? Is it from your head? From your arms? From your heart? From your legs? If you can see where your mana is overflowing, then that's good. If not, i will help you locate those parts."

Seeing that the girl is in full concentration and is not answering, he continued.

"I guess you can see your mana circulation now. So, imagine your **Mana Core**. It is located above your stomach and below your chest right at the very center. That is your mana core. Some people call that mana gate but whatever. Try to force your overflowing mana back to your mana core. Once you've succeeded, imagine your mana core having 5 locks. Those locks acts as limiters. Tighten the locks until the mana's flow is desirable. That's it. Congrats."

As Zerocrane ends his instruction, the girl who's still at full focus, showed signs of succeeding. Her horn started shrinking and will soon disappear completely. Her fangs and claws taking a more human-like appearance. And, when she opened her eyes, it is clear that the black area of her eyes has lost its color and turned white. Her irises remained yellowish though.

"I guess your iris is naturally yellow. Might scare the retards at night but, we can't do anything about that."

Zerocrane says this as he hold his chin in amazement.

"T-thank.... you."

The girl, who just finished examining herself, shyly expressed her gratitude to the one in front of her.

"i think you should thank yourself too. You are an incredibly fast learner. I honestly thought it would take atleast a week for you to learn that but you learned it right this instant."

Zerocrane replied with a big, satisfied and moronic smile on his face. The girl also get to finally make a joyous smile.

"Your.... name."

The girl mumbled and, as Zerocrane fails to understand her words, he asked the girl about what she was saying,

"What... is your name? I-i am.... Mythia. Mythia Eld-"

The girl intended to tell Zerocrane her full name but, for some reason, she stopped before she could tell him her family name. Zerocrane, being considerate of Mythia's feelings, decided not to ask her about her last name. Instead, Zerocrane replied by telling Mythia his full name.

"I am Zerocrane Ulki. Just call me Zero."

"I-is it really alright? To call you by your shortened name?"

Mythia asked Zero. It seems the demons has a different culture regarding names. Since the culture of humans and demons are so different, there tends to be misunderstanding but, basically, demons usually doesn't call someone they just met by their first names. Whats more, nicknames or shortened names. For a demon to allow another to call them by their first name, the other must be recognized as a close friend first. Otherwise they should be calling each other by just their family names. Zero understood and knew this very well but he doesn't intend to let Mythia call him by his last name.

"Of course. I have some knowledge of demon culture so i know you aren't used to it but, i would be happy if you can call me by name."

Zero encouraged Mythia then, he continued.

"Nice to meet you. Mythia"

Zero offered his hand for a hand shake and Mythia responded positively,

"Nice to meet you too. Umm... Z-Zero.."

Zero let out a wide moronic looking smile once more and asked if Mythia has anywhere to go. Zero interpreted Mythia's silence as 'No' and so, Zero offered her to stay with him until she finds somewhere to stay. Mythia, having doubts if it is really okay to accept Zero's good intent, asked.

"Is it really.... okay? I might be a bother to you. I don't want to..... trouble anyone anymore."

Hearing this, Zero couldn't help but smile. He gently laid his hands on top of Mythia's head and casually blurted out "It is lonely being alone. I don't mind being with a cute demon girl. He he." Mythia, taken by surprise at Zero's sudden response, blushed and shyly replied, "I'm... not cute" she pouted afterwards.

A brief of silence filled Zero's small home as the conversation between the two of them ended. Zero, feeling the need to eat, checked his pocket.

"Uwaa... only two silver coins and five copper coins left? This is just enough for 3 meals with the two of us."

Of course he didn't let Mythia hear those words. Mythia probably wouldn't want to eat if eating would punch a hole in Zero's pocket.

-----to be continued-----