

This story covers a minor character in Dr. Anna.

While not related plot wise to this story, it is recommended to read [Sae arc] [2] [Excessive Sleep Syndrome] [96xx].

[Masu arc] [8] [Dr Anna] [9611]

Rev 1.1

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A clone with different gender.

It started out as a joke.

When Anna was attending an annual meeting with her fellow doctors on Moon, it started out as a joke.

“A clone with different gender,” One of her fellow doctors spoke as he raised his index finger.

For any doctors who had deep interest in cloning, it was equivalent of alchemists’ wet dream of turning lead into gold.

It was deemed impossible. It was deemed a mere fantasy dream. But people had tendency to chase a fantasy rather than a realistic goal.

The fantasy, the unknown, made them excited.

“Would be nice, eh?” The doctor who started off made a weak laugh as he finished his sentence off.

Doctors in the era was boring. Other than emergency surgeries and researches, there were little they needed to do. Almost all major illnesses were dealt with.

Humans became genetically strong enough to fend off most known illnesses. If a wound was critical, one would simply enter diapause in a regeneration capsule.

The reality was that there were still terminal illnesses but the number who perished from such illnesses were so low to invest any form of capital, and without investments, there was no research.

Sae was a victim of the system. Her illness, Morosis AKA Excessive Sleep Syndrome, was so rare, just few hundreds died from it annually when the universe population exceeded 30 billion, that no medical research institute wished to invest any form of capital into it. There were researches made in small scales which obviously wasn't enough to combat the illness.

Cloning with different gender also belonged to such category of unnecessary research. There were small scale investments here and there but it wasn't simply big enough.

A clone with a different gender was a niche investment. There was no real world application for it. But the desire was there. With no one willing to sink credit into it though, it was a faraway dream.

Coming back from the meeting, Anna found herself in a lonely apartment on Moon. She worked in a research project at that time and her days were dull. She direly wanted fame like Dr. Cezary. Perhaps not as much as his but she wanted some sort of recognition. A doctor without any accomplishment in the era was basically no one.

A clone with a different gender, it kept being reminded in her head for next few days.

Eventually, she decided to gamble; she misused a research fund and conducted several cloning experiments. Her brief was that if results showed any bits of positive promise, she could use the results to buy her time and somehow convince her employers to work with her.

However, out of 17 experiments she performed in a season before having to report to her boss, there was nothing. Most clones she attempted to create with different gender from its original gender failed to even start cell division. Few specimens did go past initial cell division but they failed to become functional fetuses.

And with nothing to show for, she had to confess to her boss that the research fund, 7 million credit, had been drained.

What happened afterwards wasn't pretty for Anna. She was subsequently arrested for fraud and faced a long legal battle just to keep her doctor license. After four years of legal battles, the final verdict was that she was to leave Inner Sol if she wanted to keep her license to practice medicine.

The verdict basically meant that banishment. She fanatically negotiated to stay within Inner Sol because she knew that she wasn't coming back if she was forced out. Inner Sol was where the heart of culture was. If she was kicked out of there, her life as a doctor would never be the same.

After promising to pay half of the missing research fund in a hundred years, she was finally banished to Mars. Technically, she was within Inner Sol and she accepted the outcome with a relieved breather.

She opened a small clinic in Kamtaka on year 9381. Her life on Mars wasn't easy. Having to pay off the high debt didn't make it any easier but she comforted herself by reminding her that she wasn't kicked out of Inner Sol. Settling down on Saturn would have been worse, she knew.

"Could have been worse," She comforted herself.

Fast forward 20 years, whether it was fate or not, it happened. One day, a man visited her clinic. The moment she saw him, the very moment, her heart skipped a beat. He was, by far, the most handsome man she had ever seen in her life. It was basically love at the first sight.

The man claimed to have come from the Dietrich, the ruling clan on Mars and inquired a possibility of creating a clone from his DNA but with a different gender. He had apparently learned about her past record of conducting such an experiment which was why he sought her out.

Fate, it was. At least, she firmly believed so.

The man was Kan Dietrich.

Kan was willing to provide many millions in the project and stated clearly that failure wasn't an option. For Anna, the gravity of the project didn't bother her. She was going to complete the project one way or another. She even swore that she'd take her life if she failed.

"Second chance at last," She said to herself.

Years passed and, with over a hundred failed specimens, she started to doubt herself. She had already spent over a hundred million and there was nothing to show for it. She used top quality specimens and spent all of her efforts into carefully conducting the experiments. She feared failure.

But like Kan said before, failure wasn't an option.

In a desperate attempt to save some money, she started to use her own eggs but still it wasn't working.

Again, failure wasn't an option.

In the end, Anna paid a visit to Dr. Cezary.

And within a year, infant Roon Dietrich was in front of her eyes.

She could not believe it. What she couldn't do, Cezary just ... simply did it. She was astonished by the sheer difference in talents. To make it worse for her, Cezary stated that he didn't care whether Anna took the full credit. It was almost as if it

was so trivial that he simply didn't care. She took a deep offense in his arrogance but nevertheless she decided to take the full credit and presented Roon to Kan.

Subsequently, she became employed by the Dietrich and became a clan family doctor. When Masu came back on year 9599, she didn't pay too much attention to his arrival. She was just a family doctor and believed she wouldn't run into him much.

However, the problem was that Masu was able to see that Roon Dietrich wasn't her creation. How he was able to figure it out, she had no idea. She deeply feared that he'd expose the little secret but he didn't.

And she didn't like it.

"You are doing fine."

Anna was checking up on Roon. However, in reality, she had never needed medical attentions. It was just for precaution which Kan insisted. But that was going to be soon over. Her contract with the Dietrich was running out in a season. There was no mention of contract renewal from the clan, meaning she was to be let go.

"Thank you, Doctor." Roon swiftly pulled down her sweater.

"I guess there is just one more check up left," Anna said with a bitter grin to which Roon dodged the question.

"You've been very good, ma'am."

Anna didn't realize at first but she had a suspicion that Roon may not be a clone with a different gender. And, when she conducted a blood test, her suspicion became a reality. Roon was in fact not Kan's clone. Her DNA was completely different. It wasn't even remotely identical to Kan's. She wondered whose DNA it was but knew she had no way of finding that out.

And quite frankly, it didn't matter. She no longer cared a great deal about the clone experiment anymore. As long as she could stay by Kan's side, she was happy enough. But with her contract running out, she would soon need to leave. When the reality started to sink in, she feared what to do. She did have a considerable amount of savings in her bank account but money was no longer the issue in her mind.

The problem was that she no longer had a goal to look forward to.

In her quarter, she sat quietly in front of her desk. There were two luggage cases by her bed. She had been packing her things.

She had been thinking of her future as in what to do next. She had already paid off her debt and even had few million in saving. She considered buying her way into Moon once again.

But it just didn't feel right. There wasn't anything she wanted to do. The cloning experiment interested her no more. And the general practice of medicine interested her no more. She had no desire to amass wealth, either.

There was nothing she wanted to push herself toward for.

Vacantly, she sat in front of her desk for hours. Nothing was going through her head. Rattling window frame due to raging sand storm outside was all she was hearing at this point. At one point, looking startled, she turned her head and looked fiercely at the rattling window. She'd narrow her eyes and focus on ... something.

At one point, she whispered, "I am not leaving here."

It was night. A guard rushed to a door and knocked it repeated in quick succession. As if that wasn't enough, he uttered, "Sir! Sir!"

With the door open, Masu appeared.

"What is it?"

“It’s fire, sir!”

“Fire?”

“Dr. Anna’s quarter on fire! We are attempting to put the fire out but we are unsure of the doctor’s safety.”

There was no urgency in Masu as he went back in and came back out with his robe. “Have you informed Kan?”

“No, sir. But I did inform Lady Roon.”

“Very well, lead me to the scene.”

Anna’s room was ablaze. The fire was so strong that aluminum door was starting to melt. Some guards with fire fighting equipment on their back were present but were unable to even proceed.

Roon was already present when Masu arrived.

“Lass,” Masu greeted her.

“Sir.” And Roon curtsied although, since she wasn’t wearing a skirt, her hands held air. She added, “They are unable to proceed into the room due to the strength of fire.”

Roon was a capable ESP. Although not a class S, she scored high in A range. She was certainly capable of suppressing the fire.

Masu glanced at the melting door where tint of fire was leaking around edges.

“This fire can’t be natural,” He claimed which Roon agreed with a nod.

Sighing weakly, he continued, “So, I assume this is her answer.”

Masu and Roon made sure the fire would not spread with their ESP and waited until it died. When the fire died after quarter of an hour, one third of the door was

molten. Peeking inside, the room was charred deeply in black and there was nothing that resembled anything. It wasn't even certain whether Anna was actually inside.

"She was here," Masu stated as he carefully walked inside of the room. "I can sense her lingering thoughts."

It was indeed her answer. From quickly fading thoughts Masu could sense, he was able to tell that Anna didn't want to leave and that her decision was to commit suicide.

Kan and Masu did have a brief conversation about Anna's contract renewal but both of them were not keen on renewing it. Kan saw no further need for her service which Masu agreed.

"Well, it's over," He concluded stoically. He actually didn't mind the way she ended herself. It didn't really matter. A part of him felt she ended herself in a graceful manner while another part of him felt it was a cowardly way to end one's life. But it didn't really matter, either way.

Exiting the charred room, he told Roon.

"Shall we leave?"

There was nothing more to see. Nodding, Roon turned around and left the scene.

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