

There are not many stories that center around Lila (Lilicious) but she does appear in a fair amount of stories as a side character and whatnot. She is an important character but just doesn't have the presence to have her own arc.

This story is about her; how she started out and so on. And this is one of very few stories that cover Aedy Freedom.

Because this story recalls events in the past, it will have quite a bit of related stories. They MUST be read prior reading this.

[Legends arc] [Freedom colony] [8489]

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Related stories (Should / must be read prior)

[Masu arc] [1] [Dandelion] [8618]

[Masu arc] [4] [Remorse] [8739]

[Ashuta arc] [7] [Nano circulation unit] [9631] (Page 28, Rev 1.0)

Lilicious opened her eyes slowly and found herself in a barren room where there was no furniture at all. Slowly she moved her head to look her surroundings.

There were bars in the only window and the door lock was digitally locked which emitted red light.

Tears immediately started to fill her eyes. She knew what this meant; she failed.

Failed to elope.

Lilicious Natvil was her full name and she was a class S ESP specialized in transmutation. Her specialization enabled her to be able to turn a material into something entirely different. Her ability was literally alchemy's wet dream of turning worthless lead into gold which she was in fact capable of.

Her clan was located on New Earth and her birth meant the clan could actually have ambitions of perhaps becoming the dominant clan on the planet.

Or so they thought.

Lilicious wasn't an offensive ESP and she loathed conflicts as well as being on top of others. In other words, her personality and powers were the exact opposite of what her clan wanted from her. Even so, the tag of "class S ESP" alone was good enough to threaten other clans and her clan wanted her to be a spearhead figure in their quest to clan warfare.

She rejected her clan's request for conquest and clearly informed her clan that her dream was to become a man's wife and spend her life in peace.

Of course, her clan did not listen and continued to push their agenda onto her.

She had a boyfriend for a fairly long time, 5 years to be exact, and she planned to marry him which the boyfriend was fully aware of. He was willing to tie the knot with her as well. But there was just one problem. Lilicious' clan did not approve the marriage because the man was just an ordinary white collar worker. Her clan saw absolutely no benefit in the marriage.

She fiercely argued with her clan that her life was her own and it was her decision to marry him. She repeatedly told them to leave her out of their agenda which fell into deaf ears as her clan actively sought an arranged marriage for her.

Being livid by such blatant actions, she secretly planned to elope with her boyfriend and when she actually eloped, or tried, she was immediately hunted down by her own clan. The couple were unable to even escape their city before being caught.

Lilicious slowly raised her upper body. Tears that still remained her eyes quickly flew down through her cheeks which she quickly wiped off. She looked over the only, barred, window which was when the red light on door knob turned bright green and a person entered.

"I am sorry that this happened," The man said with a tint of sorrow in his voice just as he entered the room. He quickly added as Lilicious continued to stare at the window and incoming sunlight. "Although you would have known this would happen."

After a moment of silence, it was Lilicious who broke the uneasy silence.

“What happened to him?” She quietly and calmly inquired to which the man remained silent. She turned her attention to him and asked again, “What happened to him?”

Still, he chose not to answer. And then suddenly he started to choke as he was lifted up in the air. His hands attempted to free him which was futile. There was no physical presence that was lifting him up. Lilicious may not have been an offensive ESP but she was nevertheless a class S ESP. She certainly had the powers to make others suffer if she desired.

He started to bubble and his eyes rolled, still she showed no sign of stopping. She stood up, glared at him, who was near his death, for a moment, and walked past him and left the room at which point there was a loud cracking sound in his neck as he started to urinate.

Her clan showed no efforts in stopping her at this point and she left the planet shortly later.

Her clan expected her to return eventually after her ire cooled. However, she did not return. That was how Lilicious’ relationship with her clan broken down. Her clan’s plan for conquest was dead even before it could begin.

She was twenty-six years old at that time.

When she got off New Earth by a public ferry, she planned to go to Solar system. She was thinking of visiting Earth to start her life afresh. When she finally arrived on Moon to obtain a permit to fly to Earth, she was firmly denied.

“Denied? How come?”

She was at a ticket booth section of Moon shuttleport. There was a fairly long line behind her, some of whom were glaring at her for holding up the line.

The ticket seller who was visibly annoyed sighed and seemed to be in thoughts. It looked almost as if she was trying to come up with an excuse.

“Ma’am, you are not from here,” She explained. What she really meant was that she wasn’t from either Earth or Moon. “And there is no way of ensuring that you pose no threat to the Earthian society.”

“I don’t have any criminal records, do I?”

“Not in the database, no.”

Lilicious frowned. She did not like her tone. She felt as if she was being looked down for no apparent reason. Furthermore, she did not sound like she was believing her.

The ticket seller continued, “Ma’am, we need someone who can vouch for you. And that someone needs to have a firm background. Even then we can only issue a visitor’s permit.”

“But,” Lilicious attempted to get closer to the ticket seller. “But listen, I-” At which points nearby two guards intervened.

“Ma’am, this way please,” One of the guards gently grabbed her arm and pointed away from the ticket seller. And she was literally thrown out of the shuttleport with a caution.

Lilicious was a class S ESP but her clan, the Natvil, never registered her as a class S ESP. They were waiting for her to lead the clan prior making her class known. Alas, that never happened and she was never registered as a class S ESP. In the database, she was just a class B ESP.

Having been refused an entry to Earth, she felt powerless and heartbroken. Worse, she had no one to speak to. She had no connections and little saving she had was being quickly drained as she stayed for few weeks on Moon doing nothing. She thought about returning to her clan but she quickly kicked the idea out of her head. She did attempt to get a job on Moon, and her applications were refused. It didn’t take her long to realize that her root was the cause. She was “a colonist” and it became apparent to her that people of Sol system did not like “colonists”.

“Yeah, they hate colonists.”

A man’s voice rang through her ears. She was in a bar at the moment and snapped out of her thoughts as she looked for the source of the voice.

“My name is Azazzel, a hot woman. Yours?”

The man was in fine attire. His clothes didn't certainly belong to the cheap bar she was in.

“Who are you?”

He shrugged with a grin. “Told ya. Azaazel.”

“How did you know that I am a colonist?”

He cracked a short laughter. “You look like you've been rejected by whatever and your clothes are not of Sol style. Easy to tell, really. You wanted a job but couldn't and now you are here, lamenting or growling whatever.”

He was pretty much spot on.

“What is wrong with my suit?”

“Lady, you are wearing a dark brown, dirty, jumpsuit. No one wears a jumpsuit around here. It's not even showing your body line for freak's sake.”

“Pardon??”

He shrugged. “I can semi-understand if the jumpsuit was tight. But really that suit of yours cries that you are from a place where fashion matters little AKA Andromeda cluster.”

She remained silent for a second. He seemed to have a point. Fashion mattered little on New Earth. And, although she didn't realize until mentioned, she did notice that females on Moon had far more variance in wardrobe as well as revealing more skin in progress.

“Well, you’ve got that right, congrats. Now leave me alone please.”

However, he sat down at her table instead.

“Mister, I told you leave me alone,” She warned with a glare.

“Come on. Take it easy, miss. I am not your enemy.”

She was in no mood to be hit on and she wasn’t in mood to talk, either. Sighing, she just let him talk which actually proved to be helpful.

Azazzel revealed that he was from the O’ren clan. While Lilicious wasn’t practically bright in clan affairs, it was common knowledge that the O’ren clan was the second most powerful clan.

He would go on to babble about his stuff regarding his missions and supposedly hardships. She had no idea why he was telling her what seemed to be fairly sensitive subjects to a total stranger.

And when asked, he duly answered.

“Because you are not from here. Because you will leave here pretty soon.”

He said he just wanted to vent and he really did vent for a full hour. She did learn a fair amount from his mumbling meanwhile although it was mostly regarding the O’ren and the Bau. His missions appeared to be acting as a bridge between the clans and supposedly his ultimate task was to create a friendly, diplomatic, relationship between the two clans. It hadn’t quite worked out the way he hoped however.

After the hour, they exchanged e-mails and Azazel went on his merry way, leaving Lila quite amused by the weird event. It did, however, help her lift mood a little by making her realize a simple fact that the grass wasn't always greener on the other side. She didn't have to get a job on Moon or even in Sol system, she realized. More importantly, she didn't need to be where she wasn't wanted. Once coming to the conclusion, it was easy to make the decision to leave Moon and Sol system behind. The matter was which destination.

One day, she overheard stories of a strange trade outpost apparently in middle of nowhere. She overheard a short conversation about it at a bar. It was located in the vast sea of nothingness that existed between Sol and Andromeda system. Its exact location was apparently unknown but one could track it down by following freighters.

She decided to give it a shot. After inquiring merchants around on Moon, she met a man who was apparently heading to the illusive trade outpost. He agreed to let her tag along as long as she had no criminal records. She was clean, and it was a done deal.

She did kill a man but it was an internal clan affair. In general, internal clan affairs were never reported to authorities. While a murder was a serious offense, the clan could simply report his death as an accident, and authorities were powerless to launch an investigation.

“Welcome to my humble home.” A man dressed in a wornout leather jacket and faded blue jeans greeted her casually in a public docking bay on Moon. His freighter, which was a small cargoship meant for small-time independent traders, had clear signs of wear and tear on its hull. There were tens of other ships on the docking bay, ranging from navy frigates to big freighters.

Lilicious nodded as she responded to his greeting. But she quickly realized...

“Did you just say this was your home?”

“Yes, ma’am. I live out of that ship.”

“You can’t be serious?”

“Nothing wrong with living out of a spaceship in this day and age. It has two rooms, one bath, and a living room with a personalized bar. You may use the spare room.”

She had a quick glance at the man. She was somewhat skeptical of the man’s motives because there was a possibility that he could be luring her into a trap although she wasn’t terribly concerned. As a class S ESP, she could even survive in space without a spacesuit with ease.

The man perhaps noticed her glance and responded promptly. “Ms., I am an honest trader. I am simply letting you tag along. You are free to reject my offer if you think I am a bad man or something.”

Using her ESP, she quickly scanned the man; she did not sense any ill intention from his words as well as thoughts. Therefore, she decided to tag along.

Despite of her initial concerns, her journey was surprisingly subtle. The trader, who later revealed that his name was Krett, was an eighty-seven years old man who spent most of his life as a small-time trader.

“You get sick of Moon’s dull life style,” He claimed on his sofa which replaced a captain’s chair on his bridge. The ship’s bridge was turned into a large bed room where he had everything he needed. He had a sealed pack full of liquor in his hand and was drinking through a straw.

Lilicious sat on edge of bridge window. Her attention was fixed at outside.

“You go to work. Get back home. Go to work, get back home...” He swirled the sealed pack as he spoke which let out few droplets of its content.

“Don’t seem too different from this life style,” She responded with slight sarcasm.

“Hah!” He let out of a short laughter. “Perhaps, at least the view is nice and I get to dictate flow of my life.” Then he started sucking his liquor pack.

She could see his point. At least he had the control of his life as well as income. She had a desk job prior the elopement incident and she could agree with him on how boring a white collar desk job could be. At the same time, she could also see how dangerous this life style could be.

“How about pirates?” She asked. “You could lose everything suddenly, you know.”

Krett’s rhythm came to a sudden end as if Lilicious’ words brought him bad memories. Subsequently, he frowned weakly although his rhythm soon returned and his mellowed face started to grin once more.

“Stuff happen,” He said rather merrily, “You go with flow and live another day.”

She wondered if such was possible for her. Going with flow meant yielding to her clan’s demands. She would gain nothing in return. Well, she could gain political powers but it wasn’t something she wanted.

“No use thinking about what-ifs,” Fairly tipsy at this point, Krett spoke with a loose tongue. “Just go with the flow...” Then he started to snore and the loose liquor pack started to float around in air.

Lilicious sighed once and left the bridge.

It took the freighter 28 weeks to reach the rumored trade outpost. During that time, she spent her time mostly meditating, sometimes cleaning mess Krett left after his routine drinking.

By time the trader landed down on a docking bay platform, the ship was almost out of fuel as well as food supplies. The only food supply that still had plenty to go with was his sealed liquor pack crates.

“Thanks for the ride.” Lilicious was about to bid farewell to Krett who was unloading crates out of his cargobay by hand. Due to zero gravity, it was possible for him to lift and throw crates that weighted half a ton under Earth gravity as long as he took it slowly.

“No problem, lady!” He bellowed as he lifted yet another crate. “It’s sometimes good to have a company!”

Nodding along, she finally understood why he let her tag along. He was simply feeling lonely. And having looked at his life style, she could see why. Spending years alone in space journeys wasn't exactly good for mental health unless one preferred being alone. Even such loners may have a hard time spending such a prolonged period in complete isolation.

She waved him good-bye as she walked out of the cargobay.

The trade outpost was unofficially called "Aedy's outpost". At this point, it was a very small outpost with a simple inhabitant module with a docking bay module connected together. It had a single large turret for self-defense. It had a capacity of a thousand people.

It was a small outpost but it was lively, very lively. The docking bay as well as inhabitant module were crowded.

A part in its success had to do with its location. The outpost was literally an oasis in middle of a desert. Freighters and other spaceships had a hard time ignoring the outpost while passing by. Considering a full travel from Sol system to Andromeda system took more than 70 weeks by slower ships, a place to interact, drink, and share stories was too good of a thing to just pass by.

And it wasn't hard for her to find a job because a job poster was everywhere in the outpost.

When she applied for the job, she received an almost instant reply to her inquiry. She was to meet with the outpost officials as soon as possible in a recruitment office. This was how Lilicious met Aedy Freedom.

“Lilicious Natvil?” Aedy Freedom, flanked by seemingly two hyper humans inspected her ID. Aedy donned a simple coat with a common space wardrobe which was iron thread embedded casual clothing. He was clean shaved and had a fairly long black hair for a man. He glanced at her ID as well as her face to confirm her identity. He did a quick background search on her from his desk as well.

“Class B ESP...,” He mumbled as he read through her information. “It says you already have a job at Heaven of Order.”

“I quit that job,” She answer promptly. But Aedy didn’t quite buy it and responded, “Does your clan know this?”

“I left my clan,” She, again, answered promptly and quickly added, “And I am not class B. I am class S.”

His eyes widened and the two guards behind him looked clearly surprised.

“Want me to prove?” to which Aedy gave her a slow nod.

She bit her index finger and made a small cut. A drop of blood emerged from the cut at which point she turned the blood drop into what appeared to be a metal. The drop of metal and then turned into water in a matter of seconds.

“Transmutation...!” Aedy uttered while trying to keep his voice low. Transmutation was something even a class S ESP had a hard time executing unless it was one’s

specialization. He stood up from his desk once and approached Lilicious to have a closer look at the water drop which was once her blood. She turned the drop of water into gold this time.

“Is that enough of a proof?”

Aedy burst into a loud laughter.

“What’s so funny?” Feeling offended, Lilicious demanded.

Aedy exclaimed, “Do you realize that this is a historical moment? There are four class S people here!” Aedy himself was also a class S ESP and his two bodyguards were Niak and Minghua, both of them were class S hyper humans.

Lilicious was pleasantly shocked as well. She had never heard of an instance where more than two class S people gathered in one place and there were four in this office.

Although, for the record, the Klisis house in this era had three class S ESPs in a single household. That would have been enough to completely vaporize a whole planet.

Lilicious altered her name to Lila from this point on and joined Aedy’s “Freedom colony project”.

And a decade passed, year was 8525.

Lila, flanked by Niak and Minghua, swaggered toward a group of pilots on a docking bay. The group of pilots whistled with excitement.

“Our favorite, Lila!” Who appeared to be a leader of the group exclaimed with his fist thrust upwards.

Undeterred by their aggressive and perverted behavior, she continued to swagger toward them until she was close enough. Placing one of her hand on her hip, she declared, “You should not be here. It is not the time yet.”

“Oh, come on! We are allies!” The leader exclaimed with a crooked smile on his face while checking her out.

“Informal allies,” Lila added quickly. She clicked her fingers and two cargo carriers with few loads of crates slowly drove toward them. Once the carriers were close enough, the drivers took off and simply dashed away from the scene as if they were running for their dear lives.

“All yours,” Lila claimed. “Take them ASAP and leave.”

Two pilots quickly ran to the carriers and got on.

Their leader continued on with his crooked smile. “Thank you, woman.” His tone was mockery toward Lila with him placing a strong accent on ‘woman’. Lila didn’t react to his passive provocation regardless.

The pilots were from the Nebula pirates. Ever since the formation of the outpost, Aedy Freedom maintained a rather fragile informal alliance with them. His reason for sticking with them was protection in the wilderness. Quite literally as long as the Nebula pirates were on his side, his outpost was safe. In return, the outpost

provided supplies if and when needed. Normally, they routinely came by once a season, but sometimes they came early for whatever reasons.

This was such an occasion.

Lila signed as she observed the pilots leave the docking bay.

“I don’t like them at all,” She said to herself.

Niak and Minghua remained silent. The couple, a homosexual couple to be exact, had what was called “Mind link” implants installed in their brains which was a two-way communication implants meant to communicate with only specific devices.

In their case, their implants were tuned to communicate to only to each other.

Turning around, Lila barked at the two who seemed pretty much motionless.

“Hey, I was talking to you. Quit using your mind link implants!”

Minghua responded indifferently, “We are just bodyguards. Don’t expect much from us. We have no opinions on the matter.”

Lila, looking amused and frustrated, shook her head in disappointment. Yes, they were class S hyper humans but she found them very inexperienced in actual battles.

“How I met them?”

Aedy seemed rather surprised to hear Lila's question. More importantly, it was a moment when he was drinking his soup through a straw in an employee-only cafeteria.

"Yes, how did you find them? I don't reckon you found them just on streets?"

He immediately coughed.

"Are you serious? You found them on streets?"

According to him, he found the couple literally on streets on New Earth. They were originally thugs for a bar but were kicked out after their sexual orientation was revealed.

"Why were they kicked out for that? Gay or not, it shouldn't matter," She talked back.

"It shouldn't," Aedy promptly responded, "But they weren't really working if you know what I mean."

"What?" And then she realized what he meant. "Oh..., I see."

"At that time, I was just browsing the streets and saw them being kicked out. So, I offered them a new job on the spot."

Just browsing... the streets?

She found Aedy just as suspicious as them but decided not to dig too deep. Aedy himself was full of mysteries. She never had a chance to find out his background and how he came to build the outpost and most importantly how he managed a fragile alliance with Nebula pirates.

It wasn't all that important for Lila. She finally found a place to be and that was what truly mattered to her.

For the past decade, the colony rapidly grew. What was a simple trade outpost with a capacity of mere a thousand became a proper space station with a hundred thousand capacity. The station was literally an oasis for many. Situated between Sol system and Andromeda cluster, the outpost provided a place to rest for freighters and a shelter to hide for those who were on run.

However, the rapid growth brought its own problems, mainly in public security. None of the residents were permanent, and therefore, not many really behaved which caused many harassment as well as considerable number of homicides.

"We need to set up a government," was what Aedy suggested in a conference meeting between him and Lila. Niak and Minghua never saw any interest in politics.

"A government? Trust me, I see where you stand, but a government in middle of nowhere with no permanent residents is asking for troubles," Lila responded back fiercely. "And I doubt United Sol will just stand by and let you set up a country."

"I am not talking about a government in the traditional sense, and we will get permanent residents. It's just a matter of setting up new inhabitant modules. And I don't think United Sol is going to care."

Aedy's idea of government was indeed different. He aimed to set an agency that functioned as an authority that would be a government. There would be no elections and there would be no codes of laws. The agency would simply do what would be best for the colony and incidents would be handled case by case.

"I don't think the residents would be happy with such a structure," She remarked as hearing what Aedy had in his mind. "It's literally a dictatorship."

"They can leave if they don't like it. This is my outpost and I will set the rules," Aedy stated firmly to which Lila honestly didn't have a problem with. The amount of money he had poured into this outpost was simply enormous. To be frank, she was actually suspicious of how he could have afforded to keep the outpost afloat. The money had to come from somewhere. The outpost had been making good profits but someone would have had to loan him the initial fund to start out.

But that was as much as Lila's suspicion went. She knew she could get more info if she dug around. It wasn't something she was willing to risk her place however. Besides, to her, it really didn't matter how Aedy managed to obtain the initial development fund.

"Well, like you say, it's your outpost. Do as you like," She responded with a shrug.

That was the end of the discussion.

When Aedy made the announcement, the people took it well. Rather actually, they didn't care. Many of them were just temporary residents who had no intention of staying put for a prolonged period. And those who were permanent

residents didn't pay too much attention, either, because they were doing fine prior. They reckoned they'd do fine with the vague rules Aedy announced to make. He did promise one thing to his presidents; it was that he and his team would not bother them unless absolutely necessary and that was pretty much what people wanted to hear from him. They understood the necessity of his announcement.

As the colony grew, there was another issue to consider, and it was a vital one.

It was power. To elaborate, it was electricity. The colony started out in an era where Dr. Cezary's A.C.M. reactor was yet to be invented, and supply of consumer grade electricity was a cause for a concern.

Solar power wasn't an option because the colony was stationed in an area where there was no strong enough sun light from anywhere. Therefore, originally, the initial outpost used a single plasma reactor ,and Aedy purchased more reactors as he needed. But he and Lila eventually agreed that a more permanent solution was needed.

That was where Aedy's powers came in. He happened to be a class S ESP specialized in electricity, or lightning he referred to say. By placing Aedy himself in a capsule, the colony was able to draw electricity directly from himself. The technology required many years to fine-tune and, when it was fully complete, Aedy dedicated himself to be the colony's power source.

Nobody but few would see him since then.

Lila was placed in full authority, and people progressively cared less and less about Aedy's lack of public appearances.

Over a hundred years later, there were conspiracy theories regarding his disappearance but Lila didn't care and never responded to any of rumors and gossips.

On year 8627, Azazzel contacted her via e-mail. They had been exchanging emails from time to time but it was mostly chitchat related. But this e-mail was different. He asked Lila to take in a pair of runaways from the Bau. He vouched for them.

She had little reasons to refuse them. Niak and Minghua were virtually useless as agents and she was lacking in spare manpower after Aedy himself decided to become the colony's power generator.

There was only so much she could do and entrusting sensitive tasks to random mercenaries wasn't the most ideal way. While she wondered whether she could really trust Azazzal's backing in the runaways, when she met them, a young man and a woman, for the first time, she knew she could trust both of them.

They had clean aura around them, and thus whatever crimes they had committed mattered little to her at that point. Soon enough, she found out that they actually eloped from the Bau.

Their past strongly resonated with her own. She sincerely, from bottom of her heart, hoped that they would live peacefully. She felt that, if they could live happily after under her watch, her wounds from the past would heal.

But that didn't happen.

That did not happen. His wife died. Masu's wife was assassinated. The moment she teleported onto the scene, her heart shrank. She could feel her blood surging upwards. It felt worse, far far worse than her own past. She felt as if she was looking at her own past replayed right in front of her. She thought how cruel it was. She had only faint tears in her eyes at that time on surface, but internally she was wailing hard. She felt broken. She felt angered. She was engulfed in whirlwind of fierce emotions. Her head was violently spinning.

On that night, yes, on that night, she ... came onto Aedy. He was absolutely shocked that Lila behaved such a way but he did accept her, perhaps because of her condition at that time; her face was drenched with tears flowing out of her eyes. She was sobbing really bad and was seemingly out of her mind. She wanted a physical comfort and Aedy chose to provide her the shelter.

The colony had an hour of blackout on that particular night.

And on year 8735, Lila became a mom, apparently.

A girl was reportedly taken in and was marked as a runaway child. She was aboard a space ferry when she was found to be alone. She had no ID and no one from the ferry knew her.

Normally, docking securities wouldn't have bothered her but she rolled down stairs and started to laugh hysterically while running around like a headless chicken. They figured she was lost and probably mentally ill, thus they took her in and reported her to Lila.

At first glance of the report, Lila refused to see the girl.

"I am busy, you know," She scolded the staff who brought the report. "I can't see any lost kid you guys take in. You know what to do. Hold her for few days and, if her parents don't show up, mark her as an orphan and proceed accordingly."

It wasn't the first time that a kid was seemingly lost. Lila couldn't understand why but there had been parents who intentionally abandoned their children on the colony.

"Ma'am, we tried, but she wouldn't leave the detention hall."

Putting down the datapad which was displaying the report, she responded with a slight grunt, "Then force her to leave."

The staff replied hesitantly, "We couldn't, ma'am."

She narrowed her eyes. "Couldn't?"

Apparently, the girl knocked out several guards with her bare hands.

“We think she’s a hyper human and probably above class A,” The staff said.

That prompted Lila to meet this girl in person.

Her first impression of Sae was ... awkwardness. As soon as Sae spotted Lila, she yelled with her high-pitched voice.

“Mommy!”

Since there was no other female in the vicinity, Lila had to assume that the girl was referring to her. In addition, she did yell in her direction after all. She, then, would get off a sofa and dashed into her arms.

“I missed you, mommy!” She started to sob, hard. She was really crying.

“The hell?” was Lila’s awkward response.

After the girl calmed down, she revealed herself to be Sae and explained that she had been looking for her mom.

“I am NOT your mom though,” Lila told her off.

“You ARE my mom,” Sae insisted with a giggle on her face.

Amused, Lila looked around where staffs shrugged whenever their eyes met hers. She never married anyone. She was never pregnant. And, therefore, obviously and logically, she had no child of her own. Or she thought.

“Again, I am not your mother,” She told her more sincerely.

Taking a notice of her seriousness, Sae responded, “Does it matter? You are my mom and that’s what matters.”

Lila eventually gave up on the seemingly impossible job of convincing Sae that she was not her mother, and from that point on, Sae hung around. She eventually realized that she was a class S hybrid which was an extremely rare case of ESP + Hyper human capabilities.

And it didn’t take her long to realize that Sae was the living definition of being erratic and cold-blooded. The manner she killed people was brutal; the way she acted and the way her thought progress worked were the definition of craziness. Regardless, she wasn’t about to turn a class S person away.

Therefore, she remained to be Sae’s mom.

Her relationship with Aedy Freedom was rather platonic. Neither Lila nor Aedy was overly passionate about their relationship. And Aedy’s special situation meant that it was mostly Lila who had to make a move first which she wasn’t all that happy about. Personally, she’d rather have her man make the move instead of her although she was aware of the situation, and therefore, she had little complaints.

Furthermore, she had plans to free Aedy Freedom from the chains he chose to impose on himself. She had been tirelessly working on a proper power delivery solution that wasn’t going to break a bank for them.

Aedy had always maintained that the colony would remain neutral and that he did not expect any formal ties with United Sol. What it meant in nutshell was that the colony had to be absolutely self-sufficient.

It was the primary reason he had chosen to produce electricity on his own to power the ever-growing colony.

However, all changed when Dr. Cezary's A.C.M. reactor was invented and introduced. Fuel for ACM reactors was any matter. In general, human and general wastes were used. It was a win-win situation for the colony, killing two birds with one stone. Fuel cost would be zero and there was more money to be saved from recycling wastes.

Lila was genuinely excited because ACM reactors would finally free Aedy Freedom. While she wasn't seeking a marriage, she was dreaming of her sweet days with a man she ended up having deep affections with.

It would be her second chance: her dream of having quiet breakfast with her man, her dream of going shopping with her guy. Those were ordinary dreams. Not for her however.

It was so close; she worked hard to implement entirely new grids for Freedom colony that'd work with ACM reactors. She spent decades on perfecting the new grid systems.

However...

Was it fate? Was it meant to be that she'd be unable to achieve her dream?

President Mirren feared that Freedom colony was growing a little too fast, and Cecil decided to do him a favor.

What happened when Cecil invaded Freedom colony was a fragment of memory Lila had forcefully buried from her own brain. It was also this event that she chose to create a barrier system for the colony.

She had heard of Cecil from distant gossips. She had heard that he was the most powerful ESP known to the mankind. Those were gossips and, rightfully so, she felt it was an exaggeration.

When Cecil did barge in..., she realized quickly enough that there was no exaggeration in the gossips. In fact, she felt the gossips were understated. Granted, she was not an offensive ESP but regardless she was a class S ESP. She should have been able to stand on her ground at least but there was absolutely nothing she could do to repeal or even stop Cecil. She could not even slow him down. Every attacks she threw at him was naturalized in an instant.

She was eventually knocked out. Niak and Minghua were also defeated. In other words, Cecil was able to defeat three class S people.

When she regained consciousness and got back to Aedy in a heart beat, she found him in a shattered capsule with his heart sealed. He could barely speak because

his sealed heart was beating only 5 times a minute. He was hanging on by his ESP alone. He'd be forced to spend most of his ESP just to hang on from his virtually non-functional heart.

And like that, her dream was once again shattered. This time though, she was able to get over quickly because a part of her deep down knew her dream might not become a reality. She had become pessimistic about her dream over the years.

To her credit, she did not finish Aedy Freedom. Instead, she devoted herself to nurse him. She could have easily finished him off and take the colony for herself, but she was not a politically ambitious woman.

She never was a politically ambitious woman.

All she wanted was becoming a man's wife.

In the end, she decided to devote rest of her life for the good of the colony. The colony became a child that she never had.

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