This is where Lila (AKA Lilicious) story ends. She may still appear in other arcs in earlier years, but this story includes her life.

[Legends arc][Magnificent end][9889]

Rev 2.1 (Last edited: May 11, 2020)

Recommended story to read before this: <a>[Legends arc] <a>[Freedom colony] <a>[8489]

Year of 9889,

Lila had noticed that her power started to degrade recently. It was the first sign of ESP's impending death. Having lived fifteen hundred years eclipsing Masu's lifespan by almost 40%, she did not have much attachments left. In other words, she didn't fear that the end was nigh.

In fact, she was sort of glad that the end was near because she was tired of the concept of living itself.

Meanwhile, she started to prepare to step down and retire as well. The last thing she wanted was create chaos upon her death among the ranks by being unprepared. The next candidate to take over her position was Reed whom she trusted enough to have passed everything to. She was confident that he would be able to resume her duty perfectly. She also had a certain degree of trust in Ashuta whose raw abilities weren't impressive but had impressive diplomatic abilities.

And those two men would be supported by the brilliant Masu Jr. So, yes, Lila was happy that everything was in place even if she literally dropped dead today.

Then it happened.

She was working overnight as usual. At one point, a guest visited her from shadow. She immediately identified the guest as he bore her family emblem.

"You know," She turned around to face this unexpected guest. "I haven't seen that for such a long time.

The guest was wearing a hooded robe to hide his skin as much as possible.

"Lady Lilicious, I have come to deliver you an urgent message from the Natvil family."

Lila sneered. "I thought I was banned from the family and I've abandoned my birthday for hundreds of years."

She didn't mean any sarcasm. She simply stated the truth.

"Yes, you were," He responded indifferently. "And that was a long time ago. Let us admit that it is just a past."

She narrowed her eyes. "You sound as if they are letting me come back."

He nodded firmly and confirmed her assumption. "Yes, they want you to come back. Not only that, they want you to be the next headman of the clan."

She was struck back. It was such unexpected news. Not once had she thought of going back or being able to go back to her family. At one point, she simply gave up, and even lingering attachment was faded by flowing time.

For all she knew, the dust had settled and it was just a piece of past that she had decided to forget. After all, it had been more than a thousand years since.

And he was telling her that they want her to become the next headman. She'd be lying if she wasn't shaken a bit by the sudden news.

It also meant that something dire had occurred within the clan. Otherwise, they would not seek her out. She firmly believed she'd be their last choice for their next headman.

"What has happened to the clan?" Lila asked gravely.

Sighing deeply, the man in hood replied, "Our headman passed away recently, and we have no candidate. The only one we could think of, desperately mind you, was you who, we do know, was banned."

"No candidate? How can that be?"

"We have young candidates. Their ages are in a single digit. They are not capable of running a clan. We need someone to fill the gap."

She thought that he was awfully being too honest.

"For how long?" She inquired regardless.

"That is classified information. Only if you accept our proposal, we will tell you."

Lila sighed. She didn't need this, she felt. She was ready to retire and withdraw from the society. She was ready to die in peace.

"There is more if you choose to accept our proposal."

"I am listening."

"We have prepared a list of those who were directly involved with the hunt."

She felt suddenly shock flowing down from back of her head to her spine. The hunt he referred was a short chase for Lila and her engaged man back in 8489. Lila and he eloped, but it didn't last long. After only few days, they were captured and Lila's boyfriend was brutally murdered by the family. It was called "the hunt" by the family members. They hunted him down because the family disapproved her boyfriend.

It was one of lingering attachments left for her in this world. Though it was no longer as strong as before. Still, she sensed faint of anger growing inside of her. However, she had lived long enough to know that he was using it as a bait.

She remarked with a grin, "Pretty desperate, they are, huh."

Realizing that she didn't bite the bait, he went straight to his point.

"Choose what you want to believe. The fact is that the family needs you now. Past is only past. I will come back to you after exactly three days. I would like you to be prepared to give me your final answer by then."

He disappeared into shadows immediately after.

There was nothing to consider in truth. She wanted to go back. She was banned from her family against her will. With her power starting to degrade, she didn't have much time left although "much time" was probably a lot more than how it was worded. She guessed about 10 years before she'd die.

She immediately called Reed to her private quarter. It was already past midnight.

As Reed entered her quarter, he saw her packing.

"What are you doing? Are you going somewhere?"

Lila explained her situation to him, and Reed was understanding.

"I see. I can't say I didn't see this coming."

"Really, I thought you didn't know my past."

"I do a little. Niak talked a lot about you when he was tipsy, you know."

"Is that so..."

Reed inhaled deeply before he asked a question.

"Before you go though, you should reveal the secret to me since I will be in charge."

The secret he meant was welfare of Aedy Freedom. No one had seen him for hundreds of years. Reed knew that only Lila knew the answer.

"Yes." She nodded in agreement. "I should. Follow me."

Lila took Reed to the deepest level of the facility. It was beyond restricted levels.

"It says it is B154... The facility only goes down to B100..." Reed mumbled.

There was no light or whatsoever, and even air was dense and unyielding.

"Yes, even the blueprint will show only B100. This area was built even before construction of this base," Lila explained.

She entered a series of passwords as she stood before a large gate. Then, they entered a cold chamber. Even though it was void of any light, both Lila and Reed were able to see due to them being an ESP and a hyper human respectively. A figure was in a wheelchair in middle. It was Aedy. It had to be.

The best way to describe Aedy was a skeleton with only skin on it. Even his eye sockets were empty.

"This is ... Aedy?" Reed's voice was in a shock. "Is he even alive?"

"He IS alive." Then she lowered her tone. "At least medically speaking, he is alive."

Aedy's heart was still beating and his brain was still active. Therefore, he was alive.

Reed inspected him briefly in the complete darkness and had to let out of a hopeless sigh. He did expect Aedy to be in a critical condition, but it was way beyond his wildest imagination.

"He used to be able to do minor tasks with ESP, but even that ability appears to be gone now," She explained, "Nowadays, he does nothing but sit here like this. He no longer answers me, either, via telepathy."

"What are you doing to do?" Reed shook his head in disgust. "No, what am I going to do?"

After Lila told her how Aedy had become like this. she attempted to pat Aedy's skinny forehead, but she stopped in fear of battering his skull.

"My last mission will be regarding Aedy," She added as she finished up her story.

"Your last mission?"

"Before...," She cleared her throat. "I take my leave, I will confront the crimson wizard."

"And what, like tell him to lift the curse on him?"

"Yes."

He had to laugh. "You think that'd work? I mean... we are talking about the wizard here. He listens to no one. Additionally, he has vanished from Venus. No one knows where he is right now."

"That is the only way. Over the years, I've tried what I can to lift it without any sort of success. As for his location, I think I know someone who might be able to get me in contact with him."

Reed was silent, staring down at Aedy.

"I will be alright," He told her, "Forget confronting the crimson wizard. The last thing I want to hear is you get killed by him. Just go to your family and live your last years with them."

After a moment of pause, he continued, "You deserve that at least."

Lila had tint of tears in her eyes when Reed told her. She was moved by his little speech. However, at the same time, she knew she had to confront the wizard. This and her family affair were two last lingering attachments in her life.

If..., if she could solve both, she'd be able to die in true peace, she felt, strongly.

Reed could not stop her and he didn't, for he knew that she was correct.

Confronting the wizard was the only way to lift the curse, it would seem.

Honestly, he didn't know what to do with Aedy. Therefore, he sincerely hoped that Lila would be able to get some sort of a result from this.

And soon enough, Lila visited Sae and told her everything that was currently unfolding.

"Are you serious?" Folding arms, Sae asked bluntly.

Lila's firm look in her eyes answered instead.

"I guess you are serious."

"Any advice on his location?"

The usual childish behavior wasn't seen from Sae at the moment.

"I do know where he is and I can even take you to him. But Reed is right. You really are risking your live over this. From what I can tell, he purposely spared your life before. Generally, Cecil doesn't grant a second chance. If you confront him now, you could very well end up dead."

"You know the history. How? Only few knows."

"Who do you think I am? I am Sae, the little witch. I know everything, mom."

Lila snickered. Good o' Sae, she thought.

"I guess you are leaving the colony once I leave?"

"Yes, I will go with you until you die."

Lila was surprised to hear that. "Are you sure?"

Pointing at Lila, Sae declared, "You are my mom. I will be with you until you pass. I value family values."

Normally, Lila would want to make Sae stay at the colony because she was a powerful ally to have around for Reed and Co. However, at the same time, she came to accept that all good things come to an end. She also knew that Sae stayed at the colony solely because of her.

"Thanks, I appreciate that," Lila responded to which Sae opened her eyes wildly and stared at for a short moment. She had never, once, thanked her like this.

Sae sighed and blinked her eyes few times, realizing that the end was truly near.

"When do you want to do this?" She asked Lila.

"Now, of course. Time is not on my side."

Lila and Sae were in an amusement park on Freedom colony. Sae had ice cream all over her face and was devouring what was left of it still. The park was relatively empty at the moment due to time which was about 4AM. It was bright as day however.

"My last time in an amusement park with my mom," She gleefully remarked.

"I've been meaning to ask. Why do you call me a mother?"

Normally, Sae would evade such a question. She always had. This time, though, she replied with some sincerity. "Because you wanted to be a mother, you wanted a family, and you wanted a family life. Your dream was to be an ordinary house wife."

Lila beamed a tranquil grin. What Sae had just said was truth and the truth was that she couldn't achieve that simple dream of hers.

"You are not meant to be a mom," Sae said as if she read her mind, "You are meant to be someone of a far greater importance. The evidence is your existence now." She added, "Though I guess it isn't comforting."

Lila joked, "You sound so mature today."

"Whatever. Anyway, here he is."

A woman was approaching. She was in a gothic dress. How Lila remembered Cecil was a feminine man in a crimson robe. Therefore, she completely failed to grasp a fact that it was in fact Cecil who was approaching.

Instead, she was looking around to spot Cecil, ignoring the girl in a gothic dress who was standing a short distance away from her.

"No, mom, she is here. Right in front of you, in a dress or some sort," Sae said.

"What...."

She was flabbergasted. The girl in a gothic dress who had her hand on her waist was the crimson wizard?

"You've got to be kidding," She uttered.

"That's her or him, alright. Can't keep the same appearance if one's to live long, mom."

On a second glance, however, she spotted some unusual things from the girl in a gothic dress. Indeed, her aura was deep and her eyes were firm. It was certainly no ordinary girl. Additionally, the hair style was nearly identical along with facial features.

"I will be damned," Lila whispered.

"My current name is Arus although you may still call me Cecil in this case. I suppose you have the right," The gothic girl said indifferently.

"What the hell happened to you? What of Venus?"

"I cannot rule Venus forever. Sooner or later, the Hammers have to rule the planet. I passed my rule just as you are trying to pass yours."

Lila scoffed, "What, you sound as if you are going to live forever."

Both Arus and Sae glanced at each other at Lila's remark. Regardless, Arus was quick on topic.

"Sae has told me that this is regarding your husband," She said.

Lila narrowed her eyes with her mouth open. "What?" She exclaimed. "We were never married."

"Does it matter? To me, you two are a husband and a wife."

Feeling she was getting off topic, Lila decided to get back to the issue. "Listen, Cecil, I ask you to lift the curse on Aedy."

"The seal is still effective? That is interesting."

"Will you lift the curse or not?"

Arus sat next to Sae who was devouring ice cream. She crossed her legs and laid back all while Lila was watching with amused eyes, who was still having a hard time accepting a fact that this rather cute girl was the crimson wizard. In fact, her stiff aura and the gothic dress were a damn good match.

"I am sure you know that President Mirran asked of me to put a stop on Aedy,"
Arus explained. "The curse you are referring to is a seal which shouldn't have
lasted more than a hundred of years, let alone hundreds of years."

Lila twisted her head in confusion. "Excuse me?"

"What I am saying is that there is no curse to lift. The seal I placed should be long gone by now and I don't even sense it anymore. Whatever happened to your husband is his own doing."

"What does that supposed to mean?" Lila demanded.

"That's something you should ask Aedy. You should know that I am not lying here."

Now that she mentioned it, she did find it odd that Aedy quit communicating with her at one point. However, that still did not explain why he was literally a skeleton. When she brought that up to Arus, she replied to her.

"Honestly, I do not know. What I do know is that the seal is no more." Then she looked as if she realized something. "There is a chance that Aedy was able to study my seal and obtained something out of it."

At this point, Sae was done devouring her ice cream and went off to clean her hand and face, leaving just Lila and Arus in the scene.

"What could he have learned?"

Arus sagged her shoulders. "Who knows."

This very conversation would later lead to Cecil's massacre at Freedom colony about a hundred years later.

Lila returned to her quarter with Sae. Having learned nothing from Cecil, she felt down.

"That was a waste of time," She muttered to which Sae replied.

"I do think we learned something. It's that Aedy is up to something."

Inhaling deep breath, Lila calmly gave what Sae said a thought. She hated to admit but there was indeed a possibility that Aedy was scheming something, perhaps something sinister. However, at the same time, she refused to accept it as a fact.

"Mom, your job is done here. I realize that you wanted to get this done but this is as far as you can go. Well, I suppose there is one thing left for you to do...."

Lila quickly turned her attention to her. "What is it?"

"Take me to him. Let me see what is up."

That was indeed a way to assess the situation, she did feel. She was a class S hybrid after all.

When Lila led Sae to the chamber where Aedy was residing, Sae immediately went into a defensive pose.

"What are you doing that for?" Lila inquired.

"What, mom, you don't feel this murderous aura he is radiating?"

But Lila wasn't sensing any harmful aura from Aedy. At the same time, she was positive that Sae wasn't lying.

"What are you sensing from his aura?"

Sae groaned in her defense pose with her arms up to guard her face. "Hatred," She explained, "He is full of hatred. I am assuming his hatred is toward Cecil."

Lila focused on Aedy again. She wasn't really sensing anything. She, then, wondered. "Perhaps, my degradation in my powers has taken a toll in other aspects of ESP."

"That can't be it, mom. I think he is selectively doing this. I and Cecil share a lot and he has perhaps felt this."

Indeed, Sae had few drops of Cecil's blood which granted her virtual immortality in return, but it was something Lila wasn't aware of.

"His hatred toward Cecil is understandable, I assume." Lila defended Aedy.

"Well, I'd say so." And Sae agreed with her. However, she added, "But this aura of his... It feels dangerous, mom. He may no longer be himself."

It was this moment that materialization of Aedy's aura occurred. What looked like a half-transparent grim reaper appeared above his skeleton body and it dashed toward Sae, striking her with its giant scythe which Sae deflected and rolled sideways right after. Lila also jumped backwards to avoid the hit.

"What the hell?!" Lila uttered. Then looking at Aedy, she shouted, "Aedy! Aedy! Calm down!"

Hissing, Sae was on four with her hips upwards. She looked as if a cat was about to attack. The grim reaper proceed to swing its scythe at her which she evaded with ease. After the attack, she jumped like a cat with her right and left arm enveloped in white and black aura respectively. Then she clawed at the grim reaper with both of her arms. Her attacks were effective and the grim reaper was ripped into pieces which quickly vanished.

"I see what is going on now!" Sae uttered, "Mom, let's get the fuck outta here first!"

Once they were safely out of the zone, Lila demanded an explanation.

"One of Cecil's elements is death which is one of reasons why it's so hard to resist his attacks. You can't resist death after all," Sae explained, "I am guessing that Aedy found a way to adopt the elemental death and combined with his natural elemental, lightning."

She went on to explain further that, by adopting elemental death, Aedy was defying his own death. Its direct result was his undead-like appearance.

It was something Lila did not wish to believe but she had to. Sae wasn't someone who'd lie to her.

"Mom, he longer needs you or wants you. You should move on."

"What will happen to Aedy?"

Folding arms, Sae thought for a moment and eventually came up with an answer.

"No idea, mom. I am sure of one thing though. Cecil will pay him a visit eventually to finish him off. A copycat won't stand a chance against the real thing. Aedy is gonna die."

In other words, it was going to be another disaster. She still vividly recalled the day Cecil paid "a visit". When she was about to get a headache, Sae grabbed her hand which made her snap out of her swirling thoughts on how to either prepare and even prevent from happening.

"Mom, your part in this is over," Sae pleaded, "Let it go. Reed, Ashuta, and Masu Jr are in charge of the colony now and they are capable kids. Let them handle this."

Taking a deep breath, Lila cleared her mind. Sae was indeed correct. Her part was over. She had done enough over a thousand years. Whatever Aedy was trying to do, it was indeed beyond her now. It ended when he decided to cut the communication with her many years ago.

She inhaled and exhaled few times to clear her mind and grinned at Sae. "Yes, indeed, I do feel my part is over."

After informing Reed what happened earnestly, she warned him not to bother with Aedy. And that was her last act as the administrator of Freedom colony.

Hours later, she gathered staffs and declared her resignation in front of everyone,

explaining that she was too old to carry on and was going back to her clan for her final years.

She did not wish any farewell parties or whatsoever and asked everyone simply to carry on. She also appointed Reed as her successor which was no surprise to everyone. He was already pretty much acting as the administrator of the colony at this point with Lila acting more like an overseer.

It was year 9889 day 254.

Lila went to her clan on New Earth with Sae and became a temporary clan leader until she died of age 12 years later at 1412 years old. She never punished those who were involved in the hunt. She felt there was no point in doing that since no one directly involved in the hunt was alive. The Natvil council was willing to let her have her ways and punish descendants of those involved which Lila firmed rejected.

All in all, she ruled her clan fair and just with Sae acting as her bodyguard as well as adviser.

In fact, despite her relatively short regime, the Natvil reached a golden era under her rule. Her diverse expertise in many fields as well as deep experience meant that she was able to steer her clan to a new height in a relative short period. After her passing, the clan was under unanimous agreement that she should have become their clan leader far sooner and lamented that the fact that she got to rule for only 12 years.

"Farewell Lilicious"

Said Sae as she was leaving the Navil clan house on New Earth. The clan wanted to keep a hold of Sae but she wasn't going to stay. Her "mom" was dead after all.

"Where do I go now..," Sae muttered, "I am getting sick of living..."