

Chapter 17. Invitation to Madness

Friday Monday relaxed in his leather covered seat with no little satisfaction. The Soldats had been totally blindsided by his plans. While they were chasing after the artifacts in Nafrece his agents had found what he really wanted. Granted the Nafrece operation had cost him quite a few men and a few resources there but overall the faint was a success.

It did amuse him that Margaret Burton and her family in their efforts became quite the unwitting partners in this operation. Though it did concern him to some degree that Douglas was planning some treachery; it didn't really bother him. He would put his subordinate in line soon enough.

A whistling kettle on a nearby hot plate grabbed his attention. He got up and turned off the hot plate just a flash of light appeared behind him.

"Well my dear, just in time. Then again time is your specialty." Friday said nonchalantly.

"Why thank you Grandfather. I hope you found everything to your satisfaction so far." A young woman's voice responded from behind.

"Quite, the key will be in my possession soon. But you all ready knew that. Care for some tea?" Friday said as he prepared himself a cup of tea.

"No thank you Grandfather, I won't be staying long."

Friday gave a slight amused chuckle.

"Hmmm...?" The woman asked.

"I still find it quite amusing though you are not biologically my granddaughter you still call me "Grandfather" among other things,"

"Even though I showed you proof that my father considered you the closest thing to a father he ever had. And since you created him when you spoke the words of Awakening to Poupee that would make you my Grandfather."

"Point taken. Your father proved a far better son than my own. Though I find his choice in a mate quite amusing for the irony alone." Friday said as he took a sip of tea.

"I'm sure you do Grandfather."

"You're devious as he is; you've made sure that my success hinged on your eventual existence."

"And this bothers you?"

"Quite the opposite actually. I admire that."

"Why thank you Grandfather. But I must be going; we're both going to be busy people in the next couple minutes."

"I see...you're still carrying out your plan?"

"Why yes...yes I am..."

"Very well..."

"Good bye Grandfather." The woman said as she disappeared in a flash of light.

He turned around to find that she was indeed gone. A light flashed on a nearby console. Friday pressed the light and then spoke. "Yes...?"

"Sir, the package has arrived." A male voice emanated from a speaker.

"Bring it down to me immediately."

"Yes Sir." Then the speaker went dead.

A few minutes later, a subordinate brought him a box no larger than the average bread box.

He carefully opened it and reached inside. As he looked upon the object in the box a very satisfied smile crossed his face. He pulled it out and took a closer look at it. Not a traditional key but then again the door it was supposed to unlock was untraditional; It was an odd looking jade statuette; a humanoid rabbit with a devilish smile on its face. Friday could feel the power from it; he reveled in the fact that he

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had in his possession something more powerful than the three books or the artifacts as felt the power flow through him.

He bent his will towards the key trying to bend it to his will. Then the world turned white...

Two miles away Elsa was watching with a pair of high tech binoculars Friday's Amazon base with great interest.

"Five..."

"Four..."

"Three..."

"Two..."

"One..."

Elsa closed her eyes as a bright flash of light engulfed the base. When the light subsided the base was gone. Elsa wickedly smiled.

"Bye bye Grandpa. Enjoy your trip into another universe. You were quite right; I am devious but I don't get my deviousness from my father. I get it from my mother...both of them. Did you honestly think I would actually let get your hands on an actual "cosmic key" or that I wouldn't see your attempted "double cross" to eliminate my parents. Too bad none of them were home." Elsa laughed to herself.

"Let's see here; now that Enfant's major hub has been taken out. It would take four hours, fifty six minutes to see that the base no longer exists. And six hours after that all hell will break loose."

Elsa put the binoculars away and pulled out another device after wiping her brow. "A bit warm today, I'm sure the evening won't be better. I better get going I have a couple of security systems to royally sabotage." Elsa cheerfully said to herself as she tilted her head and pressed a couple buttons. Then she disappeared in flash of light.