

Contract

—— 《 Tales of Tarsylia 》

吴淼作品

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Tarsylia's first century was known as the Age of Chaos. Demons and other creatures of the material realm all fought to collect human souls.



All I need to do is put my fingerprint here?



Yes, and then your father will recover from his deathbed.



When will you take my soul?



No, you've got it all wrong, child. I won't be taking your soul.



It'll only belong to me once you've passed away.



What are you going to do with it?



That's a good question. If we collect enough souls...



...then those of us on Earth can wield power far greater than those in heaven.



It's all pretty complicated, but you won't need to worry about it.



I just want Papa to get better.



Alright then, child...



This contract will take effect starting now.



Does this mean my
dad is better now?

Not so fast. His fever will break by
tomorrow morning, and he should be
walking around the
day after.

Actually....
how do I put this?...

This contract is
valid but...

Mister, are you
going to back out
of the contract?

Of course not! Keeping our
word is more important to us
than anything else..

but I'm afraid that once you die,
those scoundrels up in Heaven
will do everything
they can
.....

...to snatch you right out
of our hands!

Why?

Why? Well here's the excuse
they use...

"Oh, this innocent little lamb just
made the wrong choice for the purest
of reasons."

"Let's help this poor soul out."

It's like humans don't know how to
make their own decisions!

And then without any rhyme or
reason, they void all our contracts.

But why don't the angels help
us while we're alive?

Why don't they save my dad?



Well said. You know what? I have a marvelous idea.



You and me - our relationship goes beyond a sheet of paper.



I like you.



Listen, I'll make another contract with you.



But I don't have anything left to give.



You don't need to give me anything.
This can be a term in our original contract.



This addendum will give you as much power and strength as you want.



You can become a hero from legend,
a wizard without equal, or a
righteous king.



With a single thought, you can
become whoever you want to be.



And all you need to do is promise
me one thing.



Promise what?



Once you've signed the contract, you
will no longer fall in love.



As soon as you fall in love, the power
and strength you once had will
instantly disappear.



And then this second contract will
immediately terminate.



I don't think I get it...



You don't need to understand. It's all empty words. The only useful part on here is this:



Once anyone signs this contract, they declare themselves at odds with those guys up in Heaven.



Then they won't have a reason to help the signer and ruin the contract. Get it?



What about my dad? And my little brother and sister?

.....



I see what you're saying. Don't worry, I won't count anybody you've loved before you sign the contract.



Even after, you can continue to love and care for them.



Outside of any obligations for work, we are actually quite humane.



If I had this power, would my dad still have to pay taxes to the duke?



If you don't want that to happen, it won't, as long as you don't fall in love.



So if I never fall in love with anyone, my family will always live comfortably?



Hang on child, you're getting too caught up in this.



Like I said, this contract is just a formality.



There have been people who have gone insane from this contract. They all believed they could control their emotions.



In the end, they all live with harsh regret and endless suffering.



I want to make clear that this isn't
our intentional at all!



To have nothing can be painful, but
having everything and then losing it all
can be even worse.
.....



I can still always love my family
though...



Listen! Your impoverished childhood may
have made you many times more
mature than your peers



But you're still just a child! Your life
has only just begun.



There are still so many beautiful
things in this world you haven't
experienced yet.



The most wondrous yet most
dangerous among those is love, a fate
no one can escape.



Even the most callous, the most
insane people bow down before it.



My mom wants me to become strong,
so I can take care of my family.



Believe me, you already are!



But it's still not enough



We respect those who are brave
enough to sacrifice something and
change their fate.



They deserve happiness far more than
those who sit around all day praying to
be rescued.



So I want you to have a fulfilled life.



Remember, use the power we give
you prudently.



This will save you from greater losses
in the future.



Your family will suffer through some
hard times, and then one day you
will grow up!



You'll meet a girl that will change
your life.



You will lose the power, but just
remember that it wasn't yours to
begin with.



And that power's worthless when
compared to love!



I'll give you this sword. If you ever
need help, you can use it to summon
me.



But mister, you said the contracts
were only for the powerful.



What happens if I really can do it?



I originally thought...



That you would be different
from the rest...



You want to take a miserable, lonely
path? Alright, if you can!



You will achieve everything you want
in life to the utmost.



Because you will have a soul that's
never been tainted by love



You will become even more powerful.
We will welcome you into the ranks of
the immortals.



You will even become a being more powerful than me. Are you satisfied?



In these kinds of contracts, the harsher the conditions, the better the rewards.



I was actually obligated to share all that, but for whatever reason I actually didn't want to tell you.



Thank you mister. I'll sign both parts of the contract.



You are the first person who's been willing to help us. Thank you.



I know what I need to do now...



That's that. I wish you all the best.



Goodbye!



Okay...



the contract...



is starting...



to take effect...



Open...



the dimensional portal!





The demons got a new Lord of the 7th Abyss, as well as an amendment to the rules for contracts: "Regarding Soul Contract 46542 Condition 21 for children, the danger is inestimable. Effective immediately and without exception, halt all usage indefinitely."

In what now remains of the Jesper empire, there are still people secretly studying the ancient demon contracts. They form a magical faction whose members rarely reveal their identities. Yet the faction has been clear in its refusal to join the Rainbow City Alliance...

After the Age of Chaos, the gods worked with the Jesper Empire to establish Tarsyllia's second age: the Age of the Gods. Few people have encountered any demons since.

