

Mother of All Explosions

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(CW: MILF Transformation, Corruption, Age Progression, Chuunification, Brainwashing, Femboy TF, Breast Expansion, Ass Expansion, Hypnotized Dom, Semitwinning, Willing Sub, Hypnotic Object, and *Explosions!*)

“Aa-aahh-aachhoo!” Aqua let out a sneeze, sniffing at the air positively riddled with dust. “Kazumaaaa! [Yep, *that’s my name.*]” The blue-haired high priestess, dressed in an attractive blue and white dress with tall dark blue knee-high boots, complained to their party’s leader. “This place is so dusty that I can barely breathe!”

“Well... Have you tried not breathing?” The leader in question, Satou Kazuma, snarkily replied. A brown haired thief in green, Kazuma who was the sole male member of the party. He was also a man of many, *many* thoughts. Which would be represented li- [*An active mind is a sign of intelligence, you know.*] ...Like so.

With a lit torch in hand, he was taking point and scouting ahead as he always did. This was owed more to his absolutely insanely high luck stat, than any kind of scouting or trap disarming skills. If something bad was going to happen, it was best he be the one to set it off, because it’d probably go best for him. That’s not to say he wasn’t a competent thief, because he was an incredibly talented one in the most literal sense of the word, that is: his ability to steal.

“Very funny.” Aqua replied to his quip, thoroughly unamused, as she let out a dramatic sigh and lamented, “Ooooh, this is no way for a goddess to have to live, skulking around rotted, moldy ruins like so-huh-ah-ahhh-**achoo!** [*Gesundheit.*]” She ended up sneezing yet again, the sound of her expulsion echoing down the aged halls of the decrepit castle they’d been sent towards for their latest quest.

The adventuring party consisted of four members. Kazuma, who as stated, was the party’s leader and thief, and was also a reincarnated young NEET from modern Japan. Aqua, who acted as the party’s cleric with a specialty for healing magic, and who in reality was the descended Goddess of Water worshipped by a large proportion of the world’s population.

Darkness, a blonde haired and blue eyed crusader in shining armor who fulfilled the party’s need for a frontline fighter. If “Darkness” seemed like a strange name for a holy warrior, that’s because it wasn’t her real name. Her real name was Lalatina, though she hated being called that. It was one of the only things that made her genuinely uncomfortable, as she was an utterly incorrigible masochist and pervert.

And finally, Megumin, a young mage in red, with brown hair and red eyes, wearing a brown conical hat with the visage of a face sewn and buttoned onto it, alongside a flowing brown cape that ran down her back. She was arguably the party’s most intelligent member, which made

sense considering her class. She had the potential to be the most competent as well, were it not for two quirks of her own.

The first was that she was an Explosion Mage. That wasn't a problem in and of itself, in fact, it was a testament to her aptitude for magic, as explosion magic was one of the most difficult to master. Where it became a problem was that she didn't merely specialize in explosion magic so much as she *hyperfixated* on it. She was obsessed with it to the point that it was literally the only magic that she was able, or willing, to cast... Everything else just seemed beneath her notice or talent, and there was no problem that she couldn't rationalize explosions being the solution to!

Which led right into her second issue, despite often being the most clearheaded member of the party: between Kazuma's shortsightedness, Aqua's idiocy, and Darkness's rampant gluttony for punishment; she was just as liable to fall prey to her own inner demons. And "Demons" was truly the most applicable word here, because she suffered from immature delusions of grandeur that would be identified back where Kazuma came from as "Chuunibyou."

Megumin would proudly and boastfully introduce herself as a "Crimson Demon" and the pre-eminent authority on Explosion Magic. She had a total blind spot in her reasoning when it came to the importance of diversifying her skills and spells. Her obsession with Explosion magic had led her to dedicate pretty much every point she had ever earned into mastering the art of Explosions.

While she'd succeeded through incredibly hard work and dedication, it came at the cost of the rest of her stats (particularly her mana pool) being so low that she could only cast Explosion once before profoundly exhausting herself and turning into dead weight until she recovered.

"Remind me what we're doing in another dusty old place?" Aqua asked, having been too hungover to fully understand the instructions from the quest giver.

Kazuma rolled his eyes and muttered, "Useless goddess..." before explaining, "Wiz said this place used to be some kinda magical academy or something. Apparently there's still some magical amulet somewhere inside of this place."

Wiz was a mage who ran a magical item shop in the city of Axel. She also just so happened to be a lich and a retired general in the Devil King's army, but that's a long story. Despite her shop almost constantly running at a loss, somehow she always managed to find the money to continue making terrible business decisions. In this case, expanding her already bloated stock.

In this instance, she'd entrusted Kazuma and his party to tracking down an amulet that she'd scryed the approximate location of: the "Amulet of Mana Maturity..." She wasn't able to determine its exact location, or effects, from the magic she used to locate it; but just going off of its name and the power she'd been able to gleam radiating from it she could infer that it would increase the wearer's magical potential.

Finding it was going to be easier said than done. The castle was modestly sized but still a daunting task to comb over for a party of four. Not to mention the fact that the place looked like it'd been utterly ransacked already.

"Ugh, it's gonna take forever to search this place." Kazuma groaned as he came to a three way fork past the entrance hall. "This is going to be like trying to find a needle in a haystack!"

"I guess we'll just have to start looking then! [*Oh really? Never would've figured that one out.*]" Darkness stated cavalierly, though her face quickly took on a familiar shade of pink as her warm smile shifted in tone. "But, uh, wh-when we do find it, be sure to um, let me examine it first..." She requested. "J-just in case it's cursed. I- I wouldn't want any of you to be subjected to the potentially horrifying, agonizing effects that such an accursed object may contain, hehe..."

"Riiight, of course." Kazuma sighed, nodding along, he'd long since gotten used to this by now.

The next several hours were spent by the party, or rather, by Kazuma and Darkness, digging through the academy's various rooms searching for any sign of the amulet. It was grueling work, it could've been anywhere, so they had no choice but to be thorough, digging through pile after pile of broken stone and splintered wood on their hands and knees. Even so, they'd only managed to clear out a couple of rooms so far.

It might've gone faster if they had four pairs of hands instead of just two. But Aqua and Megumin were both standing by and watching the other two party members work as they contributed nothing in the way of help.

"So this place was a magical academy, huh?" Megumin mused as she looked around the remains of a common room. "What do you think happened to it? [*it closed.*]"

Darkness wiped the sweat off her brow and began to explain, her voice grave and devoid of any trace of her usual lustful attitude. "Mages are some of the most powerful soldiers in mankind's battle against the Demon King. So institutions where magic is taught, like this one was, are some of the highest priority targets for the Demon King's army. Haven't you ever wondered why most magical schools are *castles*?"

Megumin's eyes widened, "Oh! Is that why? That makes a lot of sense. I guess I always just thought it was an aesthetic choice."

"We're fairly close to the outskirts of the Demon King's territory out here. At some point in the past, they must've sent a raiding party out and... killed everyone who couldn't escape." Darkness finished and folded her hands, "May the goddess have mercy on their souls."

Megumin looked down at the debris on the ground around her, her expression falling into one of sorrow as she picked up a scrap of a burned and torn spellbook. "That's horrible... So many potential explosion masters, their lives snuffed out before they ever had a chance to start." She

crumpled the scorched piece of parchment in her hands, "I swear an oath in blood as a Crimson Demon, I shall have vengeance for them all! [*Oh great, there she goes again...*] Their heartless butchers shall know retribution as they are swallowed within the brilliant flames of my *explo-!*"

"Megumin..." Kazuma raised his voice over the mage's melodramatic prose, "Can you tone it down a notch?"

"O-oh, sorry." Megumin apologized as she reigned herself in.

"Uugh, this is taking forever!" Aqua groused as she leaned back against a wall. "Can't you search any faster? In a couple of hours it's gonna be night time, and I don't wanna have to spend the night in a creepy place like this!"

Kazuma stopped dead in his tracks and dropped the pieces of rubble he was digging through to the ground with a dull, heavy clatter. He looked back over his shoulder at the whiny goddess of water, "Oh, I'm sorry. Are we taking too long? You know what might help us get this done a little faster?"

He stood up and walked briskly towards Aqua, who shrank back a bit uncomfortably, not expecting any pushback, "You using those delicate manicured hands of yours for lifting something other than bottles. You know, I usually call you useless, but your nonstop whining has actually slowed me and Darkness down. So you're being *less* than useless right now! Congratulations!"

Aqua stuck her nose up, pouting, "Why youuu-!? I- I am a goddess! I'm not gonna be reduced to digging through debris and garbage like some kind of rat! I have more dignity than that!" [*Oh yeah? Well, where are you hiding it?*]

"Dignity?" Kazuma balked as he put his hands on his hips, "Oooh yeah, you're sooo dignified when you're stumbling around black-out drunk with your panties around your ankles in the middle of the night."

"*Wha-!?* H-hey, that's-! *Hmmmnnngg-!*" Aqua couldn't muster up a good counter to that, so she just resorted to petulantly stomping her foot on the hard stone floor and snarling at Kazuma.

"That's not even getting into the biggest issue with your drinking, the tabs you've run up at every bar in Axel!" He leaned in towards Aqua, pointing his finger right at her nose. "That's part of the reason we keep having to take all these crappy quests in the first place!"

"Well, it's not *my* fault that the usual tricks are out of style right now... [*It is though*]" Aqua defended herself, muttering, "*They'll come back around eventually.*"

But Kazuma wasn't done, he'd already been fed up from having to dig through these ruins on his hands and knees for hours on end, looking for some trinket that might not be worth anything,

or even be here at all! And Aqua's last little bout of audacity had been the straw that broke the camel's back. He was on the warpath now, and he pointed over his shoulder at the holy warrior next. "Then there's the bill Darkness ran up for the repairs to her armor after she got stepped on by those giants!"

Darkness didn't seem particularly bothered by the attack though, "ooh, I'm just grateful that I was able to keep you all safe from those vicious brutes~! [*They were asleep...*]"

"They were asleep." [*Yeah, exactly.*] Megumin set the record straight. "You ran out and started screaming at them, then threw yourself on the ground in front of them."

Darkness pressed her hands against her cheeks, a lewd smile on her face as her cheeks flushed bright pink and she rubbed her legs together, "They were such cruel and relentless beasts, stomping on me like that, over and over and *over again...*"

Kazuma's accusing finger was levied right at the mage next, "Don't think I'm letting you off the hook, Megumin."

"W-what!? Me? What did I do!? I haven't done anything!" She yelped.

"Yeah, exactly, you haven't done anything!" Kazuma chastised her, "You've been sitting over here doing nothing, just like Aqua. Here I expect it from, but you?"

"That isn't fair! I have a perfectly good reason for not helping with the search." She claimed, before making herself look mysterious as she looked down with her eyes closed, holding her chin in her left hand while her right hand clutched at her left side. "I must conserve my strength and mana in the event that my incredible powers are needed...!"

"Incredible powers?" Kazuma scoffed, "Oooh, puh-lease! What possible use could we have for your explosion magic here? To make an even bigger pile of rubble for me and Darkness to have to pick through!?"

"W-well, I could, um..." Megumin scraped her shoe against the floor, trying to come up with something. "It would make it a lot easier to explore if everything was leveled to the ground!"

Kazuma blinked at her before facepalming, "You realized that easier to explore doesn't mean easier to search. Besides, it was you and your 'incredible powers' that are responsible for most of the debt we're in right now anyway. All those property damages we have to pay for thanks to that stunt you pulled back in town last month."

Megumin shook her head, "T-that was **not** my fault... I didn't do anything wrong!" She pressed the tips of her pointer fingers together and puffed up her cheeks, "they were gonna use a controlled explosion to demolish that building anyway. I- I performed a public service! How is it my fault that they couldn't appreciate how effective my magic is!"

“Effective? Close, I think the word you were looking for there was ‘excessive.’ Also, did you notice the difference between their explosion and *your* explosion? ‘Controlled.’” Kazuma snapped at her, marching over towards her and sounding it out irately, “*Con-ture-roll-duh!*” As in, just the one building they meant to blow up! Not that building, *plus* the neighboring buildings *and* then damaging every other building on the block.”

“Kazuma... I think you’ve made your point clear.” Darkness stepped in to stick up for her teammate, seeing that the thief was going a little too far.

“Hmm. No, y’know what? I don’t think I have.” Kazuma refused to back down, refusing to hold in his frustrations now that he’d started letting them out. “You and your *damn* explosions! I think I can count on one hand the number of times they’ve caused more good than harm. You walk up, wave your staff around and chant your ridiculous chuuni speak! Then you blow everything up and drop to the floor like a sack of rocks!”

As he continued, Megumin gripped her staff in both hands, her face appearing calm and stoic as she looked down lower and lower, unable to make eye contact with Kazuma and obscuring her face under the brim of her hat save for her flat, emotionless lips. “Then who gets stuck dealing with the aftermath? Me, that’s who. Every time, I’m used to having to carry this party on my back, but having to literally carry you on my back? That’s just going too far. You can do exactly one thing and you couldn’t have chosen something more helpful?”

He waved one of the unlit torches in the party’s pack below her face. “Like, you’d think that you could at least light one of these damn torches for me! I mean, fire magic right, that’s like a mini-explosion when you think about it, but *noooo!* You can’t even do *that*. I have to light every fire myself!”

“Out of every single school of magic in the world, did you really need to choose the flashiest, most impractical one to specialize in?” Megumin’s lips were starting to quiver as her hands shook, tightly clenching around her staff, “Explosions, what a load of absolute sh-”

“**Shut up!**” Megumin suddenly lashed out, shoving Kazuma with her staff and catching him off guard as she knocked him back and caused him to trip on a piece of rock, landing flat on his ass. “You...! I- I thought you understood! I-!” She exclaimed, her voice heavy with a sense of betrayal, bitter tears streaming down her face “Kazuma, you- you *jerk!*” [*Wha-? Me? Hey, what’d I do...?*]

Kazuma just looked up at her in shock, while Darkness tried again to play peacemaker and Aqua just watched, unsure how to handle the situation, “Megumin, hey. It’s okay, you don’t-”

“No, it’s not okay!” Megumin shook her head so hard her hat almost fell off, “None of you appreciate the phenomenal power I share with you! You constantly underestimate the Crimson Demon, and I- I won’t stand for it anymore!” She spun on her heel and ran out of the room, “I

won't, you hear me!? I'll show you what I'm truly capable of, and when I do! Y-you'll all bow down to me and kiss my boots! You'll see!"

"M-megumin, wait!" Darkness tried to call out to her, but she obviously wasn't coming back. The room was deadly quiet except for the sound of Megumin's footsteps echoing down the halls.

Kazuma blinked a couple of times, coming out of his state of shocked surprise. He looked around the room, locking eyes in Aqua, who was staring daggers at him with a disdainful sneer on her face. "What?" He asked defensively, "Oh, c'mon, *what?*"

Aqua took a deep breath through her nose, having long since acclimated to the dusty air, "You know, Kazuma. I can't help but think that there's something you forgot to mention while you were busy blaming us for all of the party's woes... Like, maybe, I dunno? **Your** tab at the Succubus Brothel! [*Oh, damnit...*]" She loudly called him out.

Kazuma simply pulled himself up off the ground and officiously retorted, "I did not *forget* to mention that! I omitted it deliberately in the hopes that none of you would remember and call me out on it!"

"Wow..." Aqua just shook her head, "Megumin was right, Kazuma. You really *are* a jerk."

"*Ugh...*" Kazuma groaned exasperatedly, "I wasn't trying to- I just-..." He tapped his foot on the ground and pursed his lips, eventually forced to accept his behavior was inexcusable. "O-okay, maybe I went a little too hard on her." Aqua's continued sneering and Darkness's critical sidelong wincing at him forced him to further concede, "Alright, fine, I definitely went *way* too hard on her, I shouldn't have said..." He gestured with his hand in a circular motion, "all of that."

"Or to me!" Aqua insisted, fishing for an apology. [*Oh, you are really pushing your luck.*]

"Can you not start with this right now?" Kazuma was quick to start bickering with her again, but Darkness stepped in to remind them both of who actually mattered in this situation.

"I'm worried about Megumin, all alone in this old, dilapidated castle... Who knows what kinds of dangers could be lurking in these halls. Just laying, waiting, *prowling*, waiting for their chance to strike on an unsuspecting, innocent victim." [*Okay, settle down there, pervert.*] She pressed her hands to her heart, letting a bit too much of her "enthusiasm" out, perhaps, but it got the point across. They really needed to stick together here.

"She's probably fine, I'm sure she'll come right back after she's gotten it out of her system." Kazuma initially tried to downplay it, but that only lasted about two seconds before he added, "But she also might not... Fine, you're right, we should try and go find her." He decided, as the three adventurers headed out into the ruins of the academy after their missing mage.

Megumin ran through the halls, wiping her tears on her sleeve. She didn't know where she was going, she wanted to put as much distance between herself and the rest of the party as she could. Eventually, she found a relatively intact door in the back of the castle, and slipped inside, careful not to slam it and give the others a clue to where she was. Once she felt like she was alone, she slid down against it to the floor to let her emotions out in peace.

Pulling her knees up against her chest and wrapping her arms around them, she quietly sobbed. Of course, she was upset about her magic not being properly appreciated by the people she called her friends, but there was more to it than that. Kazuma calling her out on only being able to cast Explosion once a day just struck a nerve. She *hated* that she could only cast one.

Explosions were so awesome, she wanted to share their brilliance with the world as much as possible, once a day just seemed like far too few, especially when so few mages bothered mastering explosion magic. Maybe if explosions were more commonplace, people would learn to see what she saw in them. If only she could cast, like, **two** explosions a day, or better yet, if only she could convince her teammates to join her in her pursuit of the most amazing magic there was!

"If only..." Megumin sadly thought aloud, sniffing and letting out a brief hiccup, "If only I-"

"Could reach your full potential~?" Suddenly, a gentle voice spoke to her from across the room. Soft and gentle as a spring breeze and sweet as honey, Megumin shuddered as she felt something like an invisible caress brush against her cheek.

"W-who's there!? What manner of sorcery is this?" She looked around frantically, rising to her feet and holding her staff out in front of her with her legs spread wide, "I should warn you, you're trifling with no mere neophyte! I am Megumin, Crimson Devil and Master of Explosion Magic! Incur my wrath at your own..." She lowered her staff as she looked around the room, realizing for the first time how it was in remarkably good shape relative to the other rooms she'd seen. "Peril...?"

Aside from my minor dust build up and smudges on the massive stained glass windows in the back of the room, it was extremely well preserved. A long red carpet led to a mahogany desk with two chairs in front of it and a larger chair, practically fit to be called a throne, behind it. What caught her attention most of all however was the pink glow radiating from atop the desk. *"Ara, Ara~! Such an adorable thing... Come closer, my little sweetheart... Do not be afraid."*

Megumin felt herself being disarmed by the gentle, matronly tone of the mysterious disembodied voice. She could feel magic in the air, *powerful* magic, and it was coming from whatever was glowing on the desk. She started to walk towards it, a feeling of warmth growing inside of her as she got closer, almost like she was being pulled into a warm embrace from all sides. *"That's it, darling~! Good girl..."*

The young mage in red let out a gasp as the object came into focus. It was an amulet, a golden necklace with a lovely heart shaped pink gemstone as its centerpiece. This must've been the Amulet of Mana Maturity that they'd been looking for! This was perfect! All those hours of searching and she'd found it without even trying in a matter of minutes! Why, once she took it back to the others, they'd have to acknowledge her!

She could see it now, they really *would* be kissing her boots! Especially Kazuma. "Hehe~!" She grinned smugly as she imagined the scene playing out in her head, they'd never question her or her magic again! Maybe they'd even finally be inspired to accept her offer to make them her proteges. *"My~! What a precious little face you have, sweetie, and such magical prowess already. But you could be so much **more...**"*

She was shaken out of her fantasizing by the allure of the magical item. "So much... more?" Megumin repeated curiously as the amulet's glow shone brighter and seemed to fill her eyes. "What do you mean...?" It probably should've occurred to her how unusual it was that she was talking with an amulet, but she was in a mental state that made her uniquely vulnerable to its charms...

There were many things about this amulet that Wiz had not been able to determine from her scrying, but perhaps the most important was that the amulet was cursed... *"Ara~! Why don't you put me on and find out for yourself, you cute little firebrand."*

"I... I..." Megumin reached her hand out to take the amulet, but recoiled it back, looking aside with an uncertain expression on her face, "I shouldn't... A-after all, we have to take you back to Wiz to get our reward, we really do need the money, and-"

"Oooh, but is that what you really want, sweetie?" The amulet's gentle, pleading words crept into her ears, trying to coax her into opening up. *"I could hear you crying... Whatever was the matter? You can tell me anything."*

"W-well, I..." Megumin felt unusually vulnerable and safe in the amulet's presence. "I've put my heart and soul into mastering Explosion magic. It took me years of dedication and study and second degree burns, but I did it!" She exclaimed proudly, though that sense of pride almost instantly deflated into self-doubt, "But I still don't feel like I'm good enough yet. I- I know Explosions are the best magic in the world! But I don't know if I'm doing the best job that I can in making everyone see, e-especially my friends."

"Oooh darling, you mustn't be so hard on yourself... You're still a growing girl, you haven't truly bloomed into all that you're meant to be." The amulet doted on her, before its voice shifted from doting to tempting, *"But you **can** be~! If you wear me... I can bring out all of your potential, I can make you blossom, I can make you **mature...**"*

"M-matureeee..." Megumin shuddered as she once again reached out towards the amulet, this time picking it up and holding it in her palms. It felt heavier than it looked somehow, and the

gentle, pleasant heat she felt in her hands as she cradled it filled her with a desire to wear it. "M-maybe it wouldn't hurt to just... t-try it on."

"Of course it wouldn't, sweetheart... After all, you are the one who found me. Not your friends... All they did was underappreciate you and drive you away..." It cooed, as the contact with Megumin allowed it to see into her mind, *"But don't be mad at them, darling, they just don't know any better... Not like you do."*

"Yeah, th-they just don't understand, they don't see it like I do." Megumin repeated, feeling so validated from hearing the sentiment she felt so strongly in her heart seconded by another, even if it was a weird intelligent item. "I wish I could make them see..."

*"Ara, araaa~! You **can**, you can show them the light... The brilliant and shining light you want to share with the world. Wear me, my dear, wear me and you'll be able to do everything you dream of!"*

"Everything I dream of? You mean that I-?" Megumin excitedly brought the amulet up to her face, smiling ear to ear and eyes gleaming, "-could cast *two* Explosions a day!?"

*"Fufufu~! Oooh, by dear, you'll be able to do that and more, sooo much mooore... All you must do is wear me. **Wear me...**"* The motherly, intoxicating voice of the amulet grew more irresistible as its glow became brighter still and Megumin's eyes shifted from red to pink, her body feeling so warm and soft, like she was being cradled in her mother's arms.

"All I have to do... is wear y-you." Megumin repeated the instruction in a dazed voice, lifting the amulet up by its chain, wrapping it around the collar on her neck and securing the small clasp as she equipped her newly discovered magical item. As soon as she secured it and let it go, the strange glow radiating from it was pulled back inside of the gemstone, the voice she'd heard went completely quiet, and even the feeling of comfort in the air instantly faded away.

Megumin blinked and looked down at her hands, "Is this it? Did it work? I don't really *feel* like I have more mana, but..." She looked out through the stained glass windows behind the desk, at the pristine rolling hills covered in forest, which this castle was nestled within. She reached for her staff, an eager smirk on her face as she twirled it in her grip, "I suppose one way to know for sure is to try it out..."

She cleared her throat, *"Ahem-! From the brightest light and hottest flame that scorched the very foundations of the Heavens and- **Glich!**?"* Before she could get more than a single line into her customary chuuni spiel that she went off on every single time she used her Explosion magic, Megumin experienced a sensation of pins and needles surge through her entire body, forcing her to take a knee as she leaned on her staff for support. "Wh-what!? This *power*? C-could it be...?"

The amulet came to life once more, shining brilliantly as a glittering and voluptuous pink spectre of pure magical energy emerged from it and swirled around Megumin. Featureless but undeniably beautiful, it spiraled up around the mage before surging into her heart. A pink magical circle manifested around her as she felt her body being overwhelmed by pleasure, love, and experience. The warmth she'd felt earlier had returned stronger than ever, but now instead of feeling as though it was pressing in around her, it felt like she was being hugged from the inside out.

Megumin clutched at her chest as every muscle in her body started to pump and surge, something was growing inside of her, something that she couldn't contain! Her heart was racing, beating faster than should've been possible, as she felt changes beginning to occur all over. Her hair started to grow like a weed, running down her back all the way to her knees in long, lustrous, silky strands.

She struggled to stand back up, gritting her teeth as she was being stretched out both vertically and horizontally. Her legs were getting longer, as were her arms and torso, each second that went by added another inch to her height as her limbs and abdomen pulsed with soft fat and muscle filling out her gradually rising stature.

Her thin and lithe pelvis widened dramatically, well in excess of any other part of her body, curving supple and smoothly as they ran down to her increasingly plush thighs. Taken together, she was acquiring a set of properly child-bearing hips, a term that would've been absolutely unthinkable to apply to Megumin of all people not even a minute prior!

The increase in height helped balance out her lengthened hair, as by the time she'd finished rising, it ended just above her waist. The downright diminutive girl was now far and away the tallest member of the party, having risen from a height of about four and a half feet to six feet even! Her changes weren't nearly done though, and not a single part of her would be spared from the transformative, *maturing* magic coursing through her. This included her clothes, mercifully, as without the intervention of the magic they'd have started splitting into threads at this point.

Especially as she felt a pair of gigantic breasts practically *explode* out of her formerly flat chest, She gazed down in awe at the swelling DD-cups, once again relying on her staff to stay on her feet as the sudden weight on her back nearly made her topple over before her spine shifted to accommodate them.

She tightened her grip around her staff as her fingernails lengthened, black and red paint coating them, as she almost started to grind on the long piece of wood. "I- I feel-! *Hnnng*-! I feel...!" She strained through her teeth, before her struggling expression shifted into a wide, proud smile. Her lips began to fill out, softer and more plump, coated in crimson red. "...*wonderful*~!" She purred, her voice lowering to a melodic and sultry tone as her face matured to that of an irresistible matron.

Megumin's cape lengthened all the way down to her ankles, as her gold and red dress turned into a long gown, skintight around her torso with an exposed boob window granting a full view of her new assets, while flowing beneath her waist, albeit with an inverted V cut down the length of the front and back allowing full mobility while also granting a peek at her lovely legs with every step she took.

Her stocking and bandages remained intact, though they'd appropriately grown to cover her longer legs as well. On her feet, her brown boots had been swapped for a pair of red and black high heel boots, which she was able to walk in effortlessly. Her fingerless gloves morphed into a pair of black, skintight opera gloves, as two golden earrings hung down from both of her ears, both decorated with a glittering, prismatic ornament evocative of the explosions she so very adored to create.

Her belt widened and shifted down to properly wrap around her waist, the only aspects of her previous attire left mostly unchanged being the collar around her neck and the hat atop her head.

As her body had been wracked by the physical changes, her mind was being beset by the magical force attempting to invade it. *"Suuuch potentiaa... Just waiting to be unleashed...!"* The tempting voice that'd seduced her into putting the amulet on in the first place now whispered to her much more covetously. *"Youuu are perfect... You shall make a perfect successor..."*

"Su... Successor...?" Megumin muttered in her newly acquired voice as her eyes once again shifted from crimson to pink.

*"Yessss, my dear~! You shall rebuild this academy... You **must**..."* The "Amulet of Mana Maturity," before it took on its current form, had belonged to the Headmistress of this castle, back when it was still an active magical school. She'd been truly passionate for the art of magical education. In fact, she had been *too* passionate; she had coddled and doted on her students more like they were her children than her alumni.

So much so that, like any mother, she was reluctant to allow her "darlings" to go out into the cruel, violent and dangerous world. The truth was that this academy had never been attacked by the Demon King's forces, but rather, when the first class of students graduated, she refused to let them leave, convinced they weren't truly ready to go off on their own, and so she gave them one final exam, and forced them to fight their way out...

The resulting battle got out of hand and tore the academy apart. The remaining faculty and student body fled during the chaos. In her attempt to ensure her students were as well equipped for the dangers of adventuring as she could possibly make them, she wound up expending so much mana that her body gave out on her... But though her spirit passed on, her regret at not having been able to continue protecting and training the mages of tomorrow lingered and

twisted her amulet into a powerful magical artifact... One that would seek to twist its wearer into carrying on her desires.

“Yes... Yes...!” Megumin moaned as she clutched the amulet resolutely, “I **must** rebuild this academy~! I- I must f-find my new students, a-and protect them like my precious little babies~!” She pressed her hands against her cheeks, sighing in delight as her legs shook with pleasure.

“Yesss! Yeeess! You must fiiind them, bring them heeere and show them all-”

“-the wonders of Explosion Magic, while I help them awaken to their true nature as Crimson Demons like their beautiful mother, *fufufu~!*” Megumin giggled as the pink glow in her eyes faded back to crimson.

“Yeee- Wait. W-wait, what? N-no, no... *That isn-?*” The spirit of the amulet was utterly confused, she should’ve been completely under its sway, her mind and spirit utterly molding to the desires of the one who created it, so what was she?

“Ara, ara~! Finally, I’ll make those silly little sweethearts understand what their mommy has been trying to make them see all this time... That there is only one worthy road for the children of the Arch Wizard Megumin, and that is to walk the path of explosion magic together as a family~!” Megumin wrapped her arms around herself, giddy at the thought, “Ooooh, it’ll be hard work, but it’ll all be worth it to see the looks on their faces when they finally cast their first explosion! Oh, that *amaazziing* feeling... Mommy will be so proud of theeem~!”

“What... What is happening!? I...!” The amulet’s spirit felt something it didn’t even know it could feel, *panic*. “*This cannot be, I... I’m being- o-overwhelmed!? This desire... Her desire...! It is even greater than-!*”

There was one thing that the amulet should’ve known before choosing Megumin as its host, it let itself be blinded by her magical potential, and failed to see the critical flaw in its plan for her... There was no higher calling, no force on Earth, nor in Heaven or Hell, that could supplant her love for Explosions!

Now, it was learning that the hard way, “*I am being... I- She’s assimilating meee...!? My powerrr... What have I doooooone...?*” It lamented as it felt itself and its magic being bound to and merging with Megumin’s soul. Rather than molding her into a worthy successor of her creator, it was the one being molded by its would-be victim; altered to serve only the desires of its *new* Mistress. “*Eh... Ex... p-plosions~... Haaa~!*” Perhaps the craziest part of all of this was that Megumin didn’t even have any idea she was doing this in the first place.

The lingering regrets and desires of the academy’s former headmistress to see her academy flourish and filled with a new generation of “her children” to adore mixed into Megumin’s obsession for Explosions to create an almost unstoppably powerful mage that wanted nothing more than to build the greater center of learning for Explosion Magic the world had ever seen!

“Now I *know* that three of my little black flames are around here somewhere~!” Megumin began to walk towards the door of the room that she now recognized as the headmistress’s office, that is to say, *her* office.

As she placed her ear on the door, she could faintly hear her name being called in the distance, her face turned pink with delight, “Awww, my darlings are looking for me~! Fret not, my little apprentices, mommy is on her way~!”

Despite her change in personality, Megumin’s tendency for bombast remained unchanged, she pinched her fingers around the brim on her hat and adjusted it, then kicked open the door, making her way out into the halls of the ruined academy. She walked with a seductive sway of her hips in every step she took as the hallways of the castle began to magically repair themselves in her wake. It was a function of the amulet’s magic, of course; since Megumin would never cast a spell that wasn’t Explosion.

“*Megumiiiiin!*” Kazuma shouted out for what felt like the hundredth time as he wandered down the halls alongside Darkness and Aqua.

“*Megumin!* Come out, come out, girl!” [*What, is she a dog or something?*] Darkness called to her, keeping a close eye out for any patches of red.

“*Megumiiiiin!*” Aqua shouted, her voice getting high and loud enough to crack glass as Kazuma cringed, “Please just come out already! Kazuma said he’ll let you cast Explosion on him as an apology!”

“That’s not true! I didn’t agree to that!”

“Heeey, what’re you doing? That was definitely going to work!” Aqua huffed, trying to stomp her foot down on Kazuma’s.

“*Ara~ Ara~!* I leave you three alone for just a couple of minutes, and here you are bickering...” An alluring voice called out to them from around the corner, it sounded very familiar, there were notes of Megumin’s voice in it, subtle cadences in her speech and yet... It sounded like it was coming from someone twice her age! “I suppose it’s to be expected, you *do* take after your mother, after all.”

“*Mother...?*”

“*Mother!?*”

“*Mommy!?*”

The three all exclaimed in unison, with Aqua and Kazuma’s confused faces both falling flat as they turned and stared at Darkness for her unsurprising choice of words, “*Ahem*, I- I didn’t mean to say that. [*Suuure you didn’t, pervert.*]

"I have to apologize, darlings, Mommy needed a few minutes to herself to commune with the eternal black flame." A positively stacked and mature woman carrying Megumin's staff stepped around the corner to greet them, [*Woah, hold on! Maybe Darkness had the right idea!*] the torn carpet lining the stone floor stitching itself together as she went. "But she's feeling much better no- *Oh my~!* You're all out of uniform!"

She gently shook her head and pressed the tips of her fingers over her lips, fondly sighing. "Aaah, you must all be in another one of those *rebellious* phases that children go through at this age. I remember my own... Very well, I suppose it's a mother's duty to put you all back on the proper path, towards becoming the masters of Explosion magic I know you can be!"

"W-who are you!? And what are you doing with Megumin's staff!? [*She seriously hasn't figured it out?*] What have you done to her!?" [*Of course she hasn't.*] Aqua shouted at the transformed mage.

"She didn't do anything to Megumin, she *is* Megumin!" Kazuma set her straight, pointing at her, "I mean, look, she's got the hair, the cape, the goofy hat, the crimson eyes, and the... W-wow." Kazuma found himself staring at her, his vision turning increasingly rosy and blurry as everything else seemed to fade away and the beautiful woman began to glow radiantly, like the brilliant, dazzling light of a perfectly cast Explosi- "*Hrrrrbrbr!*" He shook himself out of it, "Besides, who else do we know that'd talk about explosions that way!?"

"Guys, look! Around her neck!" Darkness pointed to the amulet, "I-is that the-?"

"The Amulet of Mana Maturity! It is! Well done, Megumin! [*Wow, you sure picked that up fast.*] Good job finding it!" Aqua smugly folded her arms and smirked at her Kazuma, "Gee, Kazuma how come you couldn't find it that fast. [*Why I oughta...!*] Now we can get out of this spooky, dusty castle and get paid!"

"Aqua, I've got a bad feeling that she's not gonna-"

"*Fufufu~!* Oooh, my silly little Aqua Ignis... Always saying such ridiculous things!" Megumin laughed at the goddess, gazing at her with a dominant, half-lidded grin, her eyes shining beneath the shadow of her hat, "You're not leaving... You still have so much to learn!"

"Th-the amulet!" Darkness shuddered, taking a step back, "It... It must be *cursed*, and it has poor Megumin trapped under its spell! [*Uh oh-*] *Kyaaaaahhh~!*" Darkness let out a wail as she wrapped her arms around herself and started to pant, "Oh, poor, innocent Megumin! She's been corrupted by the power of the amulet, it must've twisted her into this- this *lewd* form! An exaggerated mockery of the ideal of motherhood! I- I'm *sorry!* It should've been *meee!* I should've been there to save you from this horrible fate!"

"God, she's so predictable..."

"Kazuma, you should hurry up and steal that thing off her neck while Darkness has her distracted."

"Huh? Oh, yeah, I should."

"-And now she means to bend us to her will! Turning us into her servants, enslaving us with the vile magic of the amulet! Our souls, smothered in her intoxicating motherly influence, as our minds become her playthings, warped to whatever form her black heart desires! But we shall never give in to such temptation! I- I will stand strong, you'll never turn me into your loving daughter, kneeling before you and begging for your love! *Never!*"

"*Fufufu~!* Oooh, my precious little Darkness Everflame, always so eager!" Megumin folded her hands and pressed them against her cheek, "Mommy know how much you enjoy playing these little- *Ara?*" She paused, as she noticed Kazuma slinking up from her side. [*O-oh crap, she noticed me!*]

"Huuuh!? Kazuma! What are you doing over there!?"

"U-uhhh, uumm..." Kazuma stuttered, a shaky, bashful smile on his face, "Sorry, I just, they're just so... Big and bouncy." The "they" in question were Megumin's two "bombs" she was carrying on her chest, which were shaking and jiggling with every little motion that she made. "I just figured it'd be a shame not to get to feel them at least once before they're gone, y'know?" Unfortunately, staring at them had the secondary effect of essentially causing him to stare right into the amulet, drawing him under its hypnotic pull.

"You- You *horndog!* You're no better than Darkness is!" Aqua scolded him furiously, steam practically rising from her head. "Ugh! Whatever! Be a creep! Just as long as you grab that amulet and turn Megumin back!"

"T-turn her back, but...?" A combination of his own arousal to Megumin's increased charisma and the effects of the amulet left him paralyzed and unable to act, "S-she's so much hotter- I mean *stronger* this way. Maybe we should give her a chance."

"*Rnnngggg-! Kazumaaaa!*" [*Yup, that's my name... I think.*]

"*There* you are, my little sweet Kazuma of the Roaring Maelstrom. [*Is that really my chuuni name...?*] You shouldn't sneak up on Mommy like that." Megumin held her arms open as she leered down seductively at the thief, turning to face him as her chest bobbed mesmerizingly. [*Damn, Gainax couldn't make breasts move like that...!*] "If you want a hug, all you have to do is ask..."

Kazuma swallowed hard, "G-guh, yes, Mommy..." [*I regret nothing!*] Kazuma's eyes turned a soft pink as his body went almost slack, shambling forward and throwing itself into Megumin's

waiting arms as she slammed them shut with the speed and strength of a bear trap. Kazuma felt his body jerk forward like he'd just been in a car crash, and fortunately there were a pair of two lovely "airbags" waiting to soften the impact.

"That's my good boy..." Megumin purred into his ear as she cradled his head in one hand and pressed the other against his back, holding him tightly against her as she buried his head between her breasts. Kazuma felt his thoughts popping one by one, light miniature explosions in his psyche as he wrapped his arms around Megumin and embraced her in turn, savoring the feeling of her pillowy soft and smooth skin rubbing against every inch of him through his clothes... and judging by the damp stain that was rapidly growing on the front of his pants, it truly was *every inch* of his body being pleased.

Aqua facepalmed, "*Uggghhh!* Darkness, you-"

"*K-kazuma! Nooo!*" She moaned as she fell to her knees dramatically, her face cherry red as drool ran from her lips, "Another of my beloved teammates, falling before my very eyes as I'm powerless to intervene. Such cruel fate that I should be made to watch my friend fall into corruption as a result of my failure, k-knowing that I may be bound to share in his downfall... Or perhaps, perhaps it's a fitting punishment for a wretched, pathetic excuse for a crusader like me."

"Am I the only one here who can think with something above her pants!?" Aqua yelled as she ran over to Darkness and started trying to shake her by the shoulders, "Snap out of it!"

"*Hhmm, shooo warm 'n shoooffttt...*" Kazuma moaned into Megumin's chest as his body felt hotter by the second, like he was melting, "*Deeeefinitely made the riiight call...*" He let out a sigh as he unwittingly allowed the woman's corrupted magic to wash over his body and his mind, his eyes began to turn crimson red as his face softened in the smothering heat of Megumin's motherly love. His brown brown became softer and longer, straightening as it ran down onto his shoulders.

His height stayed the same, in fact if anything he lost an inch or two, and in exchange his hips widened, not quite to the extent of his "mother's," but certainly enough to be eye catching, especially in conjunction with his plumped up ass, straining against his pants as they tightened against his skin and morphed to a stretchier material. His boots lightened, taking on an uncanny resemblance to Megumin's old boots, as a matter of fact, while his green tunic grew longer and changed in color from green to red, covered in decals of orange, yellow and black flames as they grown all the way down to his ankles.

One particularly noteworthy change to his attire however was his belt. It turned into black leather and multiplied. He was now wearing two crossed belts around his thick waist, a belt across his left shoulder and right side, a smaller belts on his left arm, three on his right, and two each on both of his legs, all of them in different styles, widths, thickness, material and decoration, with the last one being a studded collar around his neck with a little tag that read "*Momma's Boy.*"

Megumin pulled Kazuma away from her chest, giving him a chance to breathe as he gasped for air, not that he would've minded staying there forever... He loved his mommy so much, after all. His brain had been utterly cooked, boiled in Megumin's chuunibyou and love for explosions, and as her child, he certainly took after his mother in that regard.

"Ahhh, thank you, mother~! I can feel my connections to the fell spirits being rejuvenated! Once again I can hear their dark secrets being whispered into my ears!" He expressed his gratitude to Megumin, striking a dramatic and ridiculous looking pose that suited his radical transformation. His voice sounded so effeminate that you'd be forgiven for mistaking him as a boy now, especially considering the makeup that was covering his soft girlish face.

"...Pfpftthahahaaaa!" Aqua couldn't help but bust out in laughter at the sight of what had become of Kazuma, "Haaaa! Oooh, I wish I could take a picture of this or something! Serves you right, NEET!"

"Hmph!" Kazuma pouted cutely and stuck out his wide hips, "I don't see who you're calling a NEET, Aqua, considering that I'm literally in education, learning how to master the most powerful, most difficult, most awesome school of magic in the world!"

"Hahaa-! Wait... What did you-? Oh no, no, no, no, wait, th-this is for real...!" It finally sank in for Aqua that Megumin had genuinely been brainwashed and aimed to do the same to her and Darkness. "Darkness, we've gotta-!" She looked away from Kazuma and back to where Darkness had been, expecting to see the crusader still perving out on her knees, but unfortunately...

"Take meee! Punish me for my failure~! Give me what I deserve!" She'd already crawled over toward Megumin and was grabbing at her robe, rubbing her face against her legs and practically kissing her heels.

"Ara~! Your mother will give you exactly what you deserve, my little Everflame!" Megumin knelt down and took Darkness's cheeks in her hands, lifting her back up to her feet as the golden haired crusader stared into her loving eyes with awe. "Every last little bit of it..." She promised in a soft and soothing voice before pressing her lips against Darkness's.

"Mmm-!?" Darkness's eyes went wide, then started to roll up into her head as she sank into the bliss, reaching up and wrapping her arms around Megumin's neck and sticking one of her steel toed feet up into the air behind her as she was enveloped in an aura of black and crimson flames.

"Awww, how come Darkness gets a kiss and I only got a hug?"

“Fufufu~!” Megumin giggled as she separated her lips from Darkness’s, “Because Darkness pays better attention during Mommy’s lessons. But don’t worry, I still love you both equally, same with *you*, my sweet Aqua Ignis.”

“Unbelievable! I guess it’s really up to me to stop this!” Aqua, entirely too late, realized what she had to do to stop all of this. If this was truly the result of a cursed magic item, she could just remove the curse, and that should turn Megumin right back. She’d known this to be the case all along; the problem was that dispelling a curse from a magical item often meant weakening or even destroying its magic entirely... and she *really* wanted to get paid.

“You idiots...! If we lose out on this money, I’ll never forgive any of you, especially not you, Kazumaaa!” Aqua shouted as she began to conjure her magic, for a goddess of such incredible divine power as her, unraveling a curse like this would be simple child’s play. She closed her eyes, focusing on the incantation, it would only take a few seconds and this mess would be over. Even a curse from another god wouldn’t stand against her- “**Bwuuh~!?**”

Suddenly, Aqua felt a sensation of unbearable ecstasy course through her heavenly essence, “There, there, Aqua...” Megumin assured her as she gently patted her blue hair. “There’s no need to throw a fit, sweetie, mommy won’t leave you out, but it’s Darkness’s turn right now. So be a good girl and wait patiently, okay?”

Aqua’s mind was utterly scrambled, she felt better and dizzier than she did whenever she got down to the bottom of her second bottle. “*Guuuh, waah-buhuhaaa...*” She started to sway and wobble in place, face blushy, eyelids drooping and mouth curled in a delirious smile as she replied, “*Yeesss, momma... I’ll be goood...*”

“That’s my girl, now watch Darkness undergo her reawakening with Mommy.” Megumin gripped her head and held it in place, locking her gaze on the masochistic paladin as her body continued to immolate.

“*Aaaah...! Ahahaaa!* I- I can feel it!” Darkness dragged her fingers down her cheeks, an almost psychotically wide toothy smile across her face as the flames lapped at her, “I can feel the unholy flames overtaking meee~! I can’t resist the wicked magiiic~! It’s scorching my soul, b-burning away every last trace of goodness within me, and leaving my heart as black as darkest midniiiight!” It was impossible to tell if her words were more driven by masochistic fantasies or her latent chuunification. It was more accurate to say that they were in perfect balance with each other, it shouldn’t have come as any surprise that she was taking to the “corruption” so well.

“Forgive me, for I can’t withstand the call of the abyss! I want to fall deeper, deeper and deeper still!” Her armor began to turn black, the same black armor one would expect to see on one of the Demon King’s soldiers. The white feathery winged pauldron on her right shoulder was warped into a crimson bat wing, her golden hair shifting to a pure white at her scalp, then running through yellow, to orange and then red at the tips as it flared in the air like an

uncontrollable, “I- I am *ruined*~! Forgive me, for who could retain their purity in the face of such intoxicating power~?”

Megumin wiped a tear from her eye, “I’m so proud of her... She really has such a beautiful way with words~!” The fire continued to burn away at her, her cape and tunic having chaotic, flame-like patterns etched into them by the flames as their soft yellow color shifted to crimson red along with her blue eyes. A long scar was etched along her face, across her right eye. (Of course, it was actually just scar makeup that she applied daily, but it looked really authentic, and it was *definitely* super cool.)

Wrought iron spikes all across her armor completed her new look, as her mind subconsciously welcomed the changes the magic made to it, and perhaps slightly disappointingly for her, barely had anything it even needed to change! She was already practically perfect as it is, her masochism blended almost poetically with her newfound love of both her mother and of Explosion magic, and allowed her to fill a crucial role.

“It feels so *goood*~! The burning flames of Hell wrapped around me... *Ooooh*~! How I adore their beautiful sting, their loving bite...!” Her legs shook in carnal delight as she looked lovingly at Megumin, “Oh, thank you, Mother! Tell me, when is our next class so that I may once again feel the exquisite anguish of being at the epicenter of one of your beautiful explosions~?”

“Very soon, Darkness, I promise~! Just as soon as I set little Aqua here right once more, and remind her of the fire that burns inside of *her* soul, just as I’ve reignited it in you and Kazuma.”

“*Hehehe*~! Dark-chan’s such a *weeird-ooo*...” Kazuma teased his sister, in the playful way that siblings did, “But you’re really fun to practice explosions on, so I’ll let it slide.”

“*Heeh-hmmhmm- H-huh*!?” Aqua finally snapped out of the daze that Megumin’s headpat had put her under, though it didn’t do her much good, as she was still trapped in the matronly arch-mage’s grasp. “W-wait, lemme go! No! I’ve gotta fix this! I’ve gotta fi-*ehhh*...?”

“Shhhh, hush, my little darling, the only one who needs to fix anything is your mother.” Megumin once again rubbed her head, blasting away any thoughts that may have been trying to resurface in her head as she guided her over to a nearby bench and sat down upon it, resting Aqua’s head on her lap.

“B-buuuh? Buuh ahmm... I’m a... a *gooodessss*...” Aqua protested impotently as she laid on Megumin’s soft thighs, trying to cling to her divine identity. This shouldn’t have been possible, how could a literal higher being like her be defeated by something as simple as headpats?

“*Ara~ Ara*~! Yes, I know you are... Mommy’s little goddess of destruction.” The answer was surprisingly simple... Aqua was just extremely weak to being praised and coddled, the way that a doting mother like the one Megumin had been transformed into was wont to do. “My cute little maiden of antipodes, the place where water and fire meet...”

Streaks of crimson red started to creep through Aqua's hair, glowing red hot like the embers of a fire. "*Heehee... M-moommyyy...*" She drooled as she started to cuddle up to Megumin, curling her legs inward into an almost fetal position as she grinned. "Praise me *moore*."

"Of couurse, my sweet, your nature may seem contradictory at first, but that only serves to surprise others more when they see what you are truly capable of. Because what do you get when fire and water meet?"

"S-steeaaam?"

"That's right, sweetie, steam... And what do you get when lots of steam builds up in one place?" Megumin asked as the ruffles of Aqua's skirt were reshaped into little blue flames, a motif that was carried across her outfit, crimson and blue mixing in her boots and on her dress just as much as they did in her hair.

"An... um, uuhhh..." Aqua's eyes twitched, flickering between blue and crimson as her mind made some final, futile attempt to resist being completely overwhelmed by Megumin's influence.

"Come on, Mommy knows you can do it~!" Megumin encouraged her, and that was the last nail in her coffin, she knew that she couldn't let her Momma down.

"E-explosions?"

"Yes, that's right~! Great job, honey!" Megumin congratulated her, rewarding her with another round of head pats before pulling her up into a hug as any semblance of resistance she had left evaporated at that point.

"Hehe~! Aqua knew it! Of course she did, Aqua is sooo smart!" The goddess boasted childishly as she sank into her new identity as Megumin's most spoiled, and immature, daughter. "Tell Aqua again how *smart* she is, Mommy!"

"D'awww, of course, you're such a good, clever student, your mother loves you very, very much~!"

"Heh~! She's the biggest baby out of all of us." Kazuma noted as he grinned at Darkness.

"But also the strongest, remember..." Darkness clasped her hands together, "Haaah, the day that she masters explosion magic will be a truly great one indeed, hers might feel nearly as gloriously painful as Mommy's."

"Yeah right, nobody will ever cast better Explosions than Momma can!"

“Fufufu~! That’s right, Kazuma, you may, no, you *will* all become great Explosion Mages someday... But don’t ever forget.” Megumin’s expression regained some of its usual smugness as she tipped her hat once more, “No one will ever surpass the great Megumin...”

On cue, a series of bolts rained down from the heavens through the windows behind her, as massive, deafeningly loud, multi-colored explosions were set off all across the landscape, reducing the wilderness in their wake to ash and cinders. And she didn’t even bother looking at them, she was way too *cool* for that now.

“Wooow~! Mommy is so powerful!” Aqua gushed as Megumin stood up and began to walk down the main corridor of the academy, her three children in tow as her passing brought the derelict structure back into perfect order, a haven for the study of magic once more, as long as that magic was *Explosion* magic, of course!

“We’re so lucky to have you as our teacher!”

“Thank you for blessing us with your dark secrets of power, Mommy!”

Kazuma and Darkness heaped gratitude upon her as well, any ambitions or goals they may have had before utterly engulfed in Megumin’s contagious obsession and motherly love. “You’re very welcome, my darling little embers... Mommy loves you very much, and she’s happy to share her knowledge with you.”

“As she has so much more knowledge to share with so many others, and so much more love too.” She gazed out into the world beyond her little castle, a world she knew was full of so many more “children,” in need of her. She smiled at the thought of them all, all those young and eager souls filling her castle’s halls. Just *waiting* to be enlightened with the arcane secrets of the greatest form of magic in the world.

Just waiting to have their true potential unleashed.