

Affinity 1311

Chapter 1311 Is He Coming?

The man saw how the puppet fell apart little by little and shuddered at the thought of what might've happened to him if he were the one that was hit by the attack.

Grey's attacks were too powerful for someone who hadn't even gotten to the Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane yet. Once he got to the Peak, it was unknown just how powerful he would turn out to be.

'He must die.' The man finally came to this decision. At first, he wanted to recruit Grey into their ranks, but now that he knew there was no way Grey would join them, it was best to kill off the horrifying threat to his people.

Killing Grey would come with a big merit for him and it might be just what he needs to break through to the Sovereign Plane.

Grey saw the determination in the eyes of the man and couldn't help but chuckle, he knew the man wanted him dead now, and would do everything he could to kill him now.

'A shame he's only realizing it now.' He said to himself.

The reason he felt like this was that it was already too late for the man. He had been able to figure out how the link with the puppets worked, so even if the man had come to the decision of wanting to kill Grey, it was not going to be possible with his puppets out.

These puppets didn't show a visible link, rather, it was a connection of spiritual consciousness. All Grey needed to do at the moment was to attack the spiritual consciousness of the puppets and the man would also be affected. If he could destroy the consciousness that was placed inside, the man would be greatly affected and might weaken.

The man was about to attack when he saw Grey's eyes glow pale blue. Before he could speak another word, he held his head in pain, part of his consciousness had just been frozen solid. He couldn't explain how it happened, but he knew it was Grey's doing.

'Fuck!' He screamed internally, but there was nothing he could do, the pain of having his consciousness forcefully destroyed is something that no one could bear.

Grey drew closer and attacked, using the poison miasma in this attack. The man managed to dodge to the side.

Grey's attack grazed the right torso of the man, and a little bit of blood came out. The poison miasma didn't get the chance to get into the body of the man as the man used the water element to create a small protective shield in his body.

He had been wary of Grey's attacks, so even while he was down, he didn't dare to slack off. The gruesome death of his companion told him all he needed to know about Grey's attacks.

The man retreated hastily and hurriedly tried to call back his last Gnome puppet.

To his shock, the puppet was unable to move back to where he was. He turned to look at it and realized it was trapped in an ice dome.

He was at the Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane and had the ability to control the elements of anyone below him using the same element as himself. With a wave of his hand, the ice dome turned into water and the puppet was free.

Grey grunted before creating an earth dome. He forgot about this, but luckily, he reacted pretty fast, stopping the puppet from returning to its owner.

The man looked at Grey with cold eyes, he could already guess Grey's plans. Grey wanted to use the puppet against him while they were in the middle of a fight.

He is currently stuck in a dilemma, either he personally breaks off his connection with the puppet, or he gives Grey the opportunity he wants. These puppets were hard to groom and they consumed a large amount of resources, the thought of just leaving the last one like this was painful to even process. If he was given a chance, he would kill Grey this instant for incapacitating two of them.

Grey didn't feel bothered with the man's expression, he liked what the man was going through at the moment. He wanted to ensure he killed this man, and without any of the puppets, he was certain that he would be able to kill him.

The man took a glance at the puppet and without hesitation.

Boom!

Since Grey wanted the puppet so badly, he can have it.

The puppet self-destructed, causing a massive shockwave across the area. Since he was already prepared for this, the man was the first to retreat. Grey was a little slower than the man and was sent flying.

"Fuck!" Grey cursed out as his figure broke through the sky.

He could sense the aura of the man leaving the battleground.

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On Klaus and Reynolds' end.

The duo had been forced to come out again when they saw that after only two minutes of searching the group was giving up and about to continue their original journey.

When they came out, Reynolds was the one who attacked this time. He unleashed a powerful lightning bolt that struck one of the men. The man couldn't defend against it due to sensing it late. After being struck by the lightning bolt, the man fell to the ground, unconscious.

In the same manner, Klaus and Reynolds had managed to take out one of these people.

When they left the castle, there were eight, at the moment, there were only six of them with fighting abilities. Klaus directly killed one of them, and it was unknown if the one Reynolds attacked would gain consciousness anytime soon.

They were about to attack when the Second Prince stopped them.

"Don't you notice a pattern in what they are doing?" He asked the others.

The others had also noticed it, but they just couldn't let go of the fact that Klaus and Reynolds were killing their companions.

"If I'm correct, they don't want us to leave and are delaying us." The Second Prince looked around, his expression changed softly and he asked, "Could it be that he's coming?"

Chapter 1312 Taking Advantage Of The Situation

When the others heard the question of the Second Prince, their expressions changed slightly. If it's true, and Klaus and Reynolds were delaying them for Grey's arrival, then it spelled trouble for them. Klaus and Reynolds were already troublesome to deal with on their own, if Grey were to be added to the fray, then they would be in serious danger.

"We have to leave. I don't care if it's just me overthinking or whatnot, I can't take the chances of having to battle with him, especially when Elric isn't around." The Second Prince was not willing to be attacked by Grey.

Just like the Seventh Prince, the Second Prince has a phobia when it comes to Grey, he doesn't want anything to do with the freak of nature.

If Grey knew the Princes were this scared of him, he would be flattered, to say the least. It was quite satisfying to know that the mortal enemies of humans seem to have a deep fear for him. With this, he could walk with his head held up high.

The others looked at the reaction of the Second Prince, to be honest, they all agreed with how he reacted, none of them wanted to face Grey. Grey was too strong, and if he were to appear now, they would be in serious danger. Elric who was the strongest amongst them had drawn Grey away, but they

were all certain that there was no way he would be able to defeat Grey, so they all hoped he delayed for as long as possible so they could escape.

However, when they saw Klaus and Reynolds, they felt their luck was amazing, only for one of them to die at the start, killed by a Ninth stage Elemental Venerable. During the first time they crossed paths, Klaus used all he had to boost his strength, unleashing that attack that had the power of someone at the Peak of the Elemental Venerable. Unfortunately, he couldn't use it continuously.

These guys went after them with the hopes of capturing them, but their efforts were futile. Even when they would strike the duo, the duo would still for some unknown reasons manage to continue running as if they weren't hit by any attack. This has been a source of worry for the group chasing after them. Thinking they would eventually catch them, they didn't give up on the chase, even after seeing all these things. Only now that they thought of Grey arriving did they start to think of other possibilities.

The Seventh Prince halted, no longer willing to give chase.

"We can't leave like that, the Water Elementalist is very dangerous." Someone at the Peak said.

If they wanted to escape, then they risked getting attacked by Klaus. An attack from Klaus was too dangerous, this was not something they wanted to bet their lives on.

"One of us will stay back to block them while the others leave. Either that or we all stay and risk getting killed." The Second Prince suggested.

The others exchanged glances, they all fell deep in thought. If one of them offered to stay back, the chances of getting killed by the combined effort of Klaus and Reynolds were pretty high. The duo could incapacitate two people while they were running from such a group, it was easy to imagine what they could do if they were fighting against just one person.

Seeing their faces, the Second Prince sighed, "Alright, this is what we will do. Everyone goes their separate ways, and after they pick their opponents, the rest of us can ambush them."

"This will give us an edge over them."

The others instantly agreed with the Prince's suggestion. If they were the ones who ambushed the duo, then the matter would be settled. Klaus and Reynolds were too weak to defend against the ambush of such a powerful group.

While the group were plotting, Klaus and Reynolds were sitting on a tree branch, waiting for them to chase after them.

"What's taking them so long?" Reynolds asked when he didn't sense any movements behind them.

"They're probably planning on how to deal with us." Klaus said with a chuckle, "Your last attack stunned them."

The duo laughed after Klaus' statement.

They were still speaking when Klaus sensed the auras of the Gnomes going in separate directions.

"Fuck it! They've seen through our plan." Klaus cursed out, he turned to Reynolds, "Rey, who do we attack?"

"The Second Prince." Reynolds didn't hesitate.

After they came to a decision, they rushed towards the direction the Second Prince took.

When the Second Prince sensed that he was the one they went after, he cursed out in annoyance. He didn't want to be the one who would have to act as bait. What if he was killed before the others came to his rescue?

He increased his speed, not daring to wait for the duo to catch up to him.

Klaus and Reynolds were chasing after him, both having a grin on their faces. They were finally the ones who were doing the chasing. This was what they were used to, and not the other way around.

"Do you think it's a trap?" Reynolds asked as they chased after the Second Prince.

"Haha, of course it is, but they will regret it." Klaus said matter-of-factly. He didn't even for one second think it wasn't a trap. Why would a group of six Peak Elemental Venerables go different ways if it wasn't in a bid to force them into chasing one person?

The only mistake in the plan of the Gnomes was that they had zero knowledge of the bunny leader being with the duo, so they could utilize it to their advantage. Before the others could get close, they would at least seriously injure the Second Prince and then escape.

"Rabbit, take us closer to him, not too close, but close enough so I can strike him down." Reynolds said. His body was fully covered by lightning.

The bunny leader appeared and the duo disappeared. Klaus could feel his heart racing at the thought of bullying the Prince of the Gnome race.

Chapter 1313 Taking Advantage Of The Situation II

The Second Prince was rushing through the woods, cursing the fact that he was the one the duo chose to go after. His expression changed when he saw Klaus unleashing an ice arrow at him.

He was still okay with blocking it, but when he saw the arrow multiply, his eyes nearly bulged out. The arrows became well over a hundred, shooting towards the Second Prince at a shocking speed.

The Prince waved his hand and blocked the attack with a simple fire wall. The flames burned down the ice arrows, making sure none of them got close to the Prince.

He brought out his puppet as he waited for Klaus and Reynolds. He knew there was no way he would be able to escape any longer, so he decided to fight it out with them. Besides, they were not Grey. They might be strong, but all he had to do was to delay them for a few minutes and the others would come to his aid.

A lightning bolt shot through the fire wall, heading straight for the head of the Prince. The puppet jumped in front of the attack, and it blocked it. The puppet was an Earth Elementalist, with the help of its earth element, it was able to block the attack that was heading in their direction.

Klaus and Reynolds soon appeared before the Second Prince and his puppet.

"You're slow, for someone who claims to be powerful." Klaus said as he arrived, he looked around, to be sure there was no one else present.

"You two don't know..."

Boom!

The Prince was cut short when Klaus suddenly used his domain. He didn't even give the Prince any time to say anything before attacking.

'Hehe, did you think I would wait for reinforcement to come? I'm not that stupid.' Klaus said to himself as he attacked.

With his domain present, his strength would see an increase. Inside the icy world that he created, a large moon hung high in the sky, covering the sun.

The Prince didn't know if he was still in the secret realm or he had been transported to another dimension. Klaus' domain looked very realistic, and with the help of the trees, it was as if he transported the Prince and himself into another world entirely.

For someone who was still at the Elemental Venerable Plane, Klaus' domain was already starting to show signs of someone close to the Peak of the Sovereign Plane. This just goes to show what sort of a genius he is.

Even Grey's domain was not on the same level as that of Klaus.

The Prince looked around, and seeing both Klaus and a lightning figure standing in front of him, he knew the duo had no plans of talking with him.

A large blade appeared on his hand, it was amber red and radiated intense heat. Even the area close to the Prince showed signs of burning up. The snow around him all melted the second he took out the sword.

"Alright, let's fight."

The puppet was standing beside him, and without another word, they both attacked.

Klaus and Reynolds didn't hold back, they rushed towards the Prince and his puppet, both attacking ruthlessly.

The Prince was at the Peak of the Elemental Venerable Plane, no matter how strong Klaus might be, he was still a little lacking when compared to the Prince standing before him.

Reynolds was in his merged form, making sure to use his abilities to the fullest. Klaus had a full moon shining behind him, with the domain active, the moon radiated another light unlike its usual form, a more intense light.

The two parties clashed, both fighting to ensure they were the victors.

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On another end.

Alice was still being overpowered by the Seventh Prince, and even with all her strength and tactics, she was still on the losing end. The Seventh Prince was just someone that was a little above her league. Only someone like Grey would be able to defeat him while being a stage weaker.

Alice had been trying her best to take down the Seventh Prince, but no matter what she tried, the Prince was still able to overpower her.

As the battle went on, she started to give up on the thought of defeating the Prince. She was not someone that would foolishly fight a losing battle, since she was already aware of the possible outcome, she didn't have any reason to stay there for too long.

'Fighting him for this long is already very beneficial to me.' She said to herself.

This statement was true in the sense that fighting against the Seventh Prince had pressured her to improve even more than she expected she would. She was certain that with a day or two of cultivating, she would be able to break through to the next stage. Getting to the Fifth stage of the Elemental Venerable Plane after just one tough battle against the Seventh Prince.

The Seventh Prince saw Alice's eyes and felt infuriated, she wasn't showing any signs of giving up which annoyed him. He had been beating her since the start of the battle, yet, she was not even showing any signs of defeat.

'Fine, since you're so foolish that you can't even see that you're not a match for me, I'll kill you.'

The Seventh Prince wanted to take advantage of the opportunity that presented itself and kill Alice. From their exchange, he knew that it would be almost impossible to capture Alice alive, so the best option was to kill her and turn her into a puppet. She would be a good puppet, and the second Grey sees her, he will definitely lose control of his emotions.

Alice didn't know what was going through the head of the Seventh Prince, but she suddenly sensed the murderous aura that filled the air all of a sudden.

'Is he planning to kill me?' She thought to herself, but there was no atom of fear in her eyes, she might be weaker than the Prince, but if he thinks he can kill her, then he was deceiving himself.

Chapter 1314 Surrounded

Alice's Seelie was overpowered by the puppet while the Seventh Prince was pushing Alice back as the time went on, there was no way she could fight against him without the help of the Seelie increasing her strength.

In the void.

Void was watching the battle casually, while also eating a big chunk of meat from the plate in front of him.

It was one of the meals he kept, and he didn't see a better time to eat than now. He knew there was no way the Seventh Prince would be able to kill Alice, and even if he were to get the chance to kill her, it wouldn't be that easy.

"She's getting stronger. Nice!" He commented when he saw Alice take a blow from the Seventh Prince.

When the battle started, Alice wouldn't have been able to take a blow of his power, but now, she managed to take it head-on and even stayed in the same position.

Void wasn't the only one seeing the sudden increase of Alice's strength, the Seventh Prince was seeing it too. He knew that as they battled, she was getting stronger.

'Why are all these humans suddenly freaks?' He was stunned beyond words.

He just came to the conclusion of killing Alice off, yet she had grown stronger as they battled, doesn't that mean it would become harder for him to kill her now?

The Seventh Prince's frustration increased even more and he attacked more aggressively.

His attacks kept easily destroying Alice's defense, and the impact kept forcing her back. Alice had been on the back foot since the start of the battle, and even with the Prince's increased pressure, she didn't fold. She knew an opportunity might present itself to her and she would take it without hesitation, even if it turned out to be very dangerous.

Alice was someone who enjoyed fighting, she was a battle freak, now being against someone that was stronger than she was, she didn't want to give up, not because she felt she could win, but because she knew that the longer she holds on, the stronger she could grow. There might also be a chance for her to take down the Prince. If that happens, then she would grow even further than what she would expect.

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On Grey's end.

Grey didn't opt to chase after the man, the reason for this was because he knew breaking the connection with the puppet would seriously harm the man. It would take the man a few months at the very least to recover from the injuries he sustained from the battle, and at least three to five years before he recovers from the connection break with these puppets.

These puppets were different from the normal ones. If the connection with a normal puppet was broken, it would only affect the person linked to it for a few seconds, but these ones have a long lasting effect. The man was still clearly suffering from the last one Grey cut off the link with, and now forcibly breaking the connection and also self-destructing it would make his mental injuries even worse.

"I won't be seeing any of him for a long time. I should go help out the others before they plan my death." Grey looked around and sensed the region Klaus and Reynolds were, he didn't bother too much with Alice. With Void keeping watch over her, he was sure nothing bad would happen to her. At most, she might sustain a few not so lethal injuries.

After getting the direction of Klaus and Reynolds, Grey went after them. The bunny leader was also there to help them out, but he knew it wouldn't be easy for it to take them out of there unscathed.

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On Klaus and Reynolds' end.

The duo were fighting with the Second Prince, the battle was just as they expected, but it was not going according to their plan. Yes, they were a tad stronger than the Second Prince and his puppet, but they hadn't been able to deal any serious injuries to the Prince.

The Prince focused more on defense, so even with the duo fighting with all their might, they were still not able to break the defense.

Klaus' domain was on the verge of falling apart after so many attacks. The Prince's blade was seething with flames.

Klaus was holding onto his thin sword as well. The sword he got from the secret realm that increases his ice abilities was what he was using to fight with the Second.

Both parties were holding swords that opposed the other person's elements.

Clank! Bang! Bam!

They attacked, each releasing powerful attacks with their swords.

Reynolds was the one who was fighting against the puppet. He was in his merged state and even with the puppet being at the Peak, it isn't strong enough to over Reynolds.

Reynolds and the puppet was fighting in close range, both using their fists and legs. Their battle was more brutish compared to Klaus'.

"You will die before anyone comes to save you." Klaus said as he attacked.

The Second Prince didn't say anything, he didn't expect Klaus had such a magnificent sword as well. His sword was powerful, and so was that of Klaus.

Klaus slashed at the Second Prince, but the Second Prince blocked it, using his fire element to force Klaus back.

While they were still fighting, Klaus sensed something and his expression changed.

"Haha, they're coming." The Second Prince laughed in delight.

He could sense the aura of five others, coming from different directions. It was clear their motive was to ensure there was no way Klaus and Reynolds would be able to escape their encirclement.

Reynolds and Klaus attacked more aggressively, trying to make sure they at least harmed the Second Prince.

'Damn it! Why did they come so early?' He complained internally.

It hadn't been up to two minutes since they started fighting, and he didn't expect the others to rush here so soon. Even with delaying, it still wasn't enough.

Reynolds took a glance at Klaus, seeking what their next step would be.

Chapter 1315 Tricking Them

Reynolds stopped fighting with the puppet and moved closer to Klaus.

"What do we do?" Reynolds asked.

The bunny leader would be able to take them out of there if they asked it to, but Klaus seemed to be delaying a little longer.

"Wait, we'll try to see if we could kill him, if not, then we'll leave before they show up. It'll take a bit before they get here." Klaus didn't stop his battle, his sword was still moving while speaking. He didn't want to miss any chance.

The Second Prince was a good target for him to increase his strength, but with the puppet and the others coming there, there was no way he would be able to fight with him for a long time.

The Second Prince was more relaxed when he sensed the arrival of the other Peak Venerables coming over. He didn't even bother with Reynolds who left his puppet. He faced the duo and with his puppet by the side, they continued fighting.

Reynolds joined Klaus and made use of his lightning domain as well. Things were not as easy as they previously were, now they had to take out all their skills if they wanted to achieve their objectives.

A few seconds later the Prince was still there, unharmed.

"Crap, let's get out of here." Klaus shook his head and gave up on the Prince.

He knew there was no way they would be able to cause any injuries to him.

Just as they were about to leave, the Prince smiled and asked.

"What's the rush?"

He attacked with his sword, sending a blazing strike in their direction.

The spatial tunnel the bunny leader just created to take them out of the place shattered the second the fire blade touched it. With such a powerful attack, there was no way they could use the space element to leave the area.

"Stay, let's have some fun." The Prince smiled.

He was pleased with being able to stop the duo from leaving. After sensing the use of the space element, he didn't delay and attack almost instantaneously.

Klaus and Reynolds took a glance at him, their eyes turning cold.

"You don't want to keep us here." Klaus said coldly.

"Actually, I do." The Second Prince didn't finish his statement when the first person at the Peak arrived, beside the man was his puppet.

"It's time we kill you morons. There is no need to keep you two alive. The girl is enough bargaining chip." The man said when he arrived.

"I was just thinking the same." The Second Prince said.

They had no idea Alice was fighting with the Seventh Prince, and he was already thinking of how to turn her into a puppet. If they knew, they would value the lives of the duo in front of them a little higher.

Klaus and Reynolds stared at the two after hearing what they said.

The two smiled and moved closer to them.

Klaus didn't delay shooting out a needle he had been keeping for a while. He wanted to use it to kill the Prince when he was not watching, but his life was more important, so he used it against them now.

The duo dodged the needle with ease, but Klaus and Reynolds got the time they needed to run in another direction. They knew fighting with those two would do them no good.

The Second Prince and the man chased after them with a smile on their faces. They warned the duo dead, the Second Prince especially wanted it more.

As they were going after them, another person appeared, grouping up with the duo, their numbers increased.

Klaus cursed as they ran through the woods. They were both scared witless. Even the bunny leader isn't able to help them since there is no way to use the space element thanks to the Second Prince.

"What should we do?" Reynolds asked.

"Try to stay alive, I guess." Klaus replied.

The bunny leader was useless at the moment, because there was no way it could use the space element.

"I wonder where Grey is." Reynolds said as they ran through the woods.

"I need to see him..." Klaus said calmly, his eyes showed anger the next moment and he said, "So I can kill him myself!"

Reynolds smiled but didn't say anything.

Just as they were still running, they suddenly saw a figure coming towards them at full speed.

"Is that... Grey?" Reynolds asked loudly, one could hear the joy in his voice.

Klaus didn't say anything and spat something out of his mouth, aiming it at the figure coming towards them.

They couldn't see the face of the person properly, neither did they know who it was. Due to Grey always hiding his aura, it was very difficult to differentiate him from someone else. Well, that only applies to people he didn't know.

The figure rushing towards them suddenly screamed and to the surprise of everyone behind the duo, the figure fell from the sky.

"Haha, good work bud!" Klaus burst into laughter.

Even when being chased by so many people, he still didn't have any reservations.

The item he spat out was a needle. This needle was the strongest he had ever made, and thanks to using that weaker one as a way to deceive the others he couldn't create another, Reynolds tricked the person in front into believing he thought he was Grey.

This made the person lower his guard.

The eyes of the trio behind them turned even colder. They couldn't believe that even with them, Klaus still managed to kill someone.

"What sort of freaks are they?" One of the men with the Second Prince asked.

"Dead ones." The eyes of the Second Prince were slowly turning red.

He could accept this from Grey, but not anyone else. To him, Grey was the only human who was talented, now that he was seeing someone of Klaus and Reynolds' level, he was finding it hard to believe it.

Chapter 1316 Polite Klaus

Five, from eight, they were now five. They were fighting against two people who hadn't even gotten to the Ninth stage of the Elemental Venerable Plane, Reynolds was still at the Fifth stage, and his increased strength was all due to his Elemental Warrior. Yet, they had succeeded in killing two people, while incapacitating one of them.

This was something the Gnomes would not believe at the start, but to their surprise, it was happening right before their eyes and they couldn't even stop it.

"I want to skin them alive." The Prince said through gritted teeth.

The others all had the same thoughts, but deep down, the feeling of fear was starting to sprout. After seeing two of their comrades get killed by the supposed weak humans, they didn't have the same feeling of superiority over them. Even with their puppets, they still weren't as strong as the duo. It was a shocking discovery. The thing that made it even worse was the fact that the duo they were fighting wasn't even at the Peak. They were at least two stages below them, yet they were able to kill them.

If all humans were like Grey and his friends, then they didn't want to invade the human world any longer. A Peak Elemental Venerable human might be able to kill them with ease. If Klaus and Reynolds were at the Peak, they couldn't help but think about what might happen in this battle.

The Prince was the first to chase after them, he didn't even spare the man who was killed by Klaus' attack any glance, his eyes were bloodshot, set on the running duo.

While the Prince and his group were chasing after the duo, Klaus and Reynolds couldn't believe their luck.

They have managed to kill two Peak Elemental Venerables, although it was mainly due to tricks and the fact that they didn't defend against their attacks, it still didn't change the fact that they had achieved such a feat. Klaus was the one with a proud smile on his face, he was the one who killed the duo, so he felt most of the credit belonged to him.

Reynolds couldn't be bothered if he was the one who got the credit, as long as the number of people chasing them reduced, he was okay.

The duo continued rushing through the woods.

"I can't go any further, I need some rest." Klaus said, his smile not one of ecstasy anymore, he was genuinely tired of this cat and mouse chase.

"Rabbit, take us away." He said.

However, the bunny leader he was waiting for didn't show up.

He looked around, but there was nothing in view. A strange coldness went through his body and he took another glance around before calling for the bunny leader. Just like his first attempt, his calls fell on deaf ears.

"Damn it! I thought Grey said this rabbit would help us whenever we called?" Klaus cursed out.

"It has been helping us since, what suddenly happened?" Reynolds' words reminded Klaus of the bunny leader's role in them still being alive and also being able to kill two Peak Elemental Venerables.

"Did something happen to it?" Reynolds asked as they rushed through the woods.

They noticed the speed of the Prince and the others chasing after them suddenly increased.

A few puppets seemed to be burning as they were chasing after them, an effect of going more than what they could handle. Seeing this, they knew the group of five all had the same thoughts; kill the duo.

The duo felt a chill run down their spines.

"Fuck! Why did something have to happen to it now?" Klaus was almost losing his mind.

It would've been fine if the bunny leader didn't respond when they were chasing after the Prince, at that time, they would've known what to do, but now, the bunny leader wasn't responding, and the duo were almost at their end.

The full moon behind Klaus had already reduced to a half moon, and at the pace it was reducing, it would only take at most a minute before it completely faded off. His strength would fall back to the Seventh stage, this was not in his plans.

Reynolds was no better, his Elemental Warrior was fading off slowly, and to make it last longer, he had even stopped using any form of energy from it, this is one of the reasons his speed reduced, just like Klaus.

The Prince and the other Peak Elemental Venerables that were with him already sensed the reduced speed of the duo and knew that whatever technique they were using to increase their strengths was starting to wear off.

"Haha, I'll see if you can survive any longer." The Prince laughed maniacally. He was on the verge of going mad. Presently, his hate for Klaus and Reynolds was superior to the one he had for Grey. Although he was afraid of Grey, he wasn't tormented in such a manner by him.

Klaus and Reynolds on the other hand made him feel like his existence was meaningless. He had never felt this way about himself before.

"I must kill them." He whispered through gritted teeth.

Klaus and Reynolds had no idea the amount of hate they just caused for themselves. All they wanted at the moment was for the bunny leader to answer them, Klaus was literally close to crying.

His speed was reducing at a very fast rate, the same could be said for Reynolds. They were both tired of the constant running.

Before long, the Prince was the first to catch up to them, alongside his puppet.

"I want to see just how powerful you two are." The Prince's voice was cold, sending chills across the area.

The other four soon caught up, their puppets flying beside them.

Klaus and Reynolds stopped running, they knew turning their backs to them would only put them in danger.

"We've already killed two of you, and the other can't fight. Why don't you wait for an hour?" Klaus asked politely.

The Prince didn't even give them any chance and attacked without hesitation.

The expression of Klaus and Reynolds changed drastically, they knew they couldn't block this attack.

Boom!

Chapter 1317 Get To Know Each Other

Boom!

"Shit! Hide your puppets!"

A scream came from the side of the Gnomes, and Klaus and Reynolds who subconsciously had their eyes closed opened them to see a familiar figure standing before them, one of his hands in front of him.

"I'm sorry I took so long."

Grey's voice sounded in their ears.

Klaus was the first to heave a sigh of relief. He quickly sat down on a tree. He knew with Grey here, he didn't have to worry about anything else.

Reynolds was just like Klaus, tired. He didn't even care to bother with how Grey planned on dealing with the Gnomes in front of them, he sat down cross-legged and said, "Please, be as quiet as possible."

Grey's mouth twitched slightly, but when he thought about what they had to go through, he didn't complain. He counted the people present and noticed three Gnomes were missing.

He shook his head at the missed opportunity when he realized that he couldn't kill the Gnome he cut off his link with his puppet. Due to having to save the duo, he only cut off the link to distract them and make sure they didn't leave before blocking the attack, he wasn't even able to send out an attack.

Grey smiled when he saw the duo and took a glance at the Prince and the others.

"Did you miss me?" He asked with a grin on his face.

The faces of the Prince and the other Gnomes were livid. They thought they would be able to kill Klaus and Reynolds, but with Grey present, their chances of achieving that were almost zero.

"Damn it!" The Prince cursed out.

He was irate with the presence of Grey. If Grey had delayed for a minute, then they would've killed the duo before he arrived, but unfortunately for them, he came at the perfect time, they weren't even able to cause any serious harm to them.

"What are you doing here?" The Prince asked with a cold voice.

"What? You thought that guy could hold me back?" Grey asked mockingly, "Well, he's seriously injured."

The Prince was about to speak when Grey suddenly recalled something and said, "Oh right, I didn't know you guys also used Gnomes as puppets. They're very tricky to deal with, but thanks to that guy, I can just about handle them."

The eyes of the others changed when they heard this.

"What?!"

They all exclaimed.

"Wait... you didn't know?" Grey asked with a look of surprise.

He knew for a fact that they didn't know about it, he just wanted to pass on the news and leave them disorganized.

The Prince couldn't respond, and neither could the others. They all knew that doing something like that was an abomination in their realm.

"He's lying to us, he wants us to hold a grudge with him." The Prince said to the others, as if seeing through Grey's ploy.

"Why would I take the effort of cooking up such a lie? Unlike you guys, I don't have time to waste on useless things." Grey sneered.

He didn't want to rush into battle, because he couldn't sense the bunny leader. It was okay if the bunny leader was around and didn't help the duo, but it not being around was a different story. Grey might not fully trust the bunny leader, but he felt it wouldn't leave in such a manner.

"Something's wrong." He muttered to himself.

The Prince looked at him, and seeing Grey's expression, a part of his mind was telling him that he wouldn't do such a thing, but another part of him didn't want to believe it. The act of using another Gnome as a puppet was forbidden, and if anyone was caught, they would be executed without exception, even the Emperor was not included from this. This goes to show how seriously the Gnomes take this rule, yet, there was someone who had the courage to do such an act?

"Even if you don't want to believe it, it has nothing to do with me, I just thought it was common among you guys." Grey said coolly before his gaze turned cold.

"Where are the others? I don't want to bully you guys." He added.

The Prince and the other four felt angered by his words, but when they thought about what happened the last time they encountered Grey, they didn't even know how to feel. When faced with nine Peak Elemental Venerables, Grey still managed to kill one of them, and leave when he wanted to without them being able to stop him.

Now, against five of them, the chances of him doing as he pleases was very high. Adding the fact that the strongest person wasn't even present made it worse.

Five Peak Elemental Venerables were worried about facing a single Ninth stage Elemental Venerables. If news of this went out, it would cause an uproar, especially when the five were Gnomes and the person they were afraid of was a human.

Grey took a step forward and the Gnomes felt a strong pressure mount up on them. And they subconsciously took a step back.

When the Gnomes realized what was happening, they all felt a sense of shame, and at the same time, anger.

They've always been superior to humans. Why should they be afraid of a single person now?

This was a question they couldn't answer, even if they were given a year or ten years, they still wouldn't be able to come up with why they were innately afraid of Grey. At the moment, it wasn't just a fear due to being able to cut off their links with their puppets, rather, it was another type of fear.

It was like the fear of Grey was deep-rooted in them and they couldn't dare to go against him.

Grey smiled when he saw their reactions, "Good boys. Now, let's get to know each other more."

After that statement, they couldn't find Grey's figure anymore.

"We have to leave."

Chapter 1318 One Versus Five

"We have to leave."

The person that made this statement wasn't the Prince, rather, it was one of the other four Peak Elemental Venerables.

They didn't feel confident in being able to keep Grey at bay, so they believed the best thing to do was to leave the woods and return to the castle. If possible, they didn't mind leaving the secret realm entirely.

Grey's figure appeared close to them, and without hesitation, he attacked. His fire domain spread out, covering a large area, he didn't use the normal flames, rather, he used his icy flames to slow them down.

The icy flames had the ability to slow down the thought process of anyone caught in it, so it was very effective against such a group. Especially given their current mental state.

Grey took advantage of this and attacked immediately he used his icy domain.

The five Gnomes' reaction was a little slower than it previously was. Grey's attack was able to get to them without them being able to dodge it.

With no other choice, they were forced to block the attack. Grey's attack was very powerful, and even those at the Peak would have to think twice before taking such an attack head-on.

All five figures were sent flying, all going in different directions. When the attack struck, the expressions of all five Gnomes changed.

One of them took a glance at the Prince, he was the strongest among the people present so he was able to fairly shake off Grey's attack.

He took another glance at the others.

"The Prince can not die here." He muttered to himself, with determination in his eyes, he stood in front of the Prince.

"Leave the realm, take your brother and leave. You can not die here." The man's words struck deep into the mind of the Prince.

From what the man was insinuating, they couldn't stop Grey, and although they didn't want to accept it, they all knew it was the truth. Grey was just too powerful for them to deal with. Since that was the case, they needed to make sure the lives of both Princes were safe.

The Prince closed his eyes, took a deep look at Grey, and turned around without hesitation. There was no need to die here, since these guys have offered to stop Grey from going after him, then he would leave.

Grey didn't try to stop them, he only took a glance at his friends and realized they were in no shape to chase after the Prince.

'I'll let him go. It wouldn't be too bad if two Princes are terrified of me.' He thought to himself with a smile.

The Prince's figure soon disappeared from view.

"Alright, I've given you guys enough time." Grey said and took a step forward, his icy domain speeding towards the four Gnomes.

"Surround him." The man who was the strongest took charge. He knew the others were afraid of Grey, and he couldn't blame them for it, he too is afraid of Grey.

With someone leading, the other three got their emotions together and did as commanded. If they were in the same place, Grey could use it to his advantage and focus the domain there, but once they were in different directions, the effect of the domain would be reduced since covering such a large area would mean Grey was exchanging quality for quantity.

Grey's figure blurred and he went after one of the men, since they were going to stand in separate areas, then he would just kill them one by one.

He was about to attack when one of the Gnomes attacked from the side. He blocked the attack, but that was enough time for the man he wanted to attack to not only retreat, but to also unleash a powerful strike.

Grey blocked the attack and took a step back, his eyes turned serious. He knew even though he was stronger than they were individually, killing all of them wouldn't be as easy as he initially thought.

'I forgot they are all at the Peak.' He had to change his thought process.

Due to seeing the fear in them, he underestimated them to a certain extent. Now, he wasn't going to underestimate them again.

Two inscriptions lit up in the sky and Grey's eyes turned pale blue, he was going all-out.

....

On Alice's side.

Alice has been the subject of a serious beating, she couldn't keep up with the Seventh Prince and the puppet. However, she was still standing, ready to fight with the Prince.

Since the start of the battle, she has been overpowered, but she still didn't have the thought of giving up. She could still stand, attack, and defend.

Not just that, but the real reason she didn't want to give up was because she could sense that the longer the battle goes, the stronger she was getting.

She has been in multiple battles, but this was the first time she was fighting someone of the Seventh Prince's level, and with the Seventh Prince adamant on wanting to kill her, he wasn't holding back.

Alice has been fighting for her life since the start, and this was making her stronger. It was like she was tapping into an energy she never knew existed, and the feeling was captivating.

The Seventh Prince has also noticed that the more they fought, the stronger Alice was getting.

"What's wrong with all of them?" He felt there was something they didn't know about the current generation of humans.

They had seen and heard all about humans, and none of their stories mentioned people behaving in such a manner.

First it was Grey, and now he came in with three friends who were almost as freakish as he was. To a certain extent, a few of them were showing shocking levels of abilities.

Grey had multiple elements, so some of his abilities could be attributed to that, but the others only had a single element, yet they were doing things others couldn't.

Alice could sense the frustration in the body of the Seventh Prince. She didn't feel any sense of accomplishment from this, yes, it was good to see that the Prince was getting frustrated, but with her strength, she felt she should be able to at least put up a good fight against the Prince and not get run over.

The Prince calmed himself before attacking once again. He was not going to let her rest. Since she was still standing, he would kill her from exhaustion. He was certain that there was no way she would be able to escape from him, so he decided to take his time on her.

"I'll break you apart piece by piece."

Alice wasn't flustered, she took all the attacks that came her way. The ones she could dodge, she would, while the others she took head-on.

The impact of the attacks was starting to physically affect her, but with her strong mental fortitude, she wasn't going to let her physical exhaustion affect her.

The Prince didn't stop his attacks when he saw this, rather, he continued at a certain pace, not giving Alice any chance to catch her breath. The puppet made it easier for him since it blocked the As time went on, she started taking more hits. Her reaction speed had reduced significantly after being hit by the shockwave of the attacks and the exhaustion was starting to show.

"It can only get you this far. In the end, you're still a weak human." The Prince mocked when he saw Alice's state.

Alice wanted to speak, but she decided against it. Presently, she needed all the energy she could use and speaking in such a state took a great deal of strength, one she wasn't willing to waste.

The Prince saw her expression and laughed, he continued attacking, this time, his attack speed was faster. He didn't need to hold back any longer, there was no need for his systematic attacks, now, he could go all out against an already defeated opponent.

Alice kept blocking the attacks coming her way, but she was getting hit more and more. She knew if she took more hits at this rate, she truly might get killed here.

Recalling what Grey told her before leaving, she knew she could not die.

She was in a merged state with her Seelie, yet they were still oppressed by the Seventh Prince and his puppet.

The Seelie soon vanished, making Alice show a weaker front compared to a few minutes ago when she first arrived.

The Prince didn't smile when he saw Alice in such a state, to a certain extent, he felt embarrassed that it took him this long before he could take down such a weak human.

"Your kind should be nothing but slaves and puppets."

"But you, you don't deserve to exist. I originally wanted to turn you into a puppet, but I've decided against it... die..."

Chapter 1319 Always Thoughtful

The Seventh Prince attacked after saying this.

Alice was in a state where she couldn't block any attack coming her way. She tried to drag her body out of the way, but she was too exhausted to do anything. Even though she wanted to leave, she realized she couldn't. Her body was completely worn out, there was nothing she could do to stop the attack from hitting her.

The Seelie which had originally disappeared reappeared and stood in front of her. It had bonded with Alice and knew that if she was hit by this attack, she would die, which was also bad for it.

But it was different if it was the one hit by the attack.

The Prince watched on coldly when the attack made contact, giving off a powerful explosion. His eyes were cold as he looked at the place the attack struck.

His lips curved upwards, he was about to break into a smile when he noticed something wasn't right.

"Why does it feel like the attack didn't hit them?" He muttered and squinted his eyes, staring into the flames from the explosion.

He waved his hand, forcing the smoke and flames from the explosion away. His pupils enlarged when he noticed there was no one there. Alice and the Seelie were nowhere to be seen.

He spread out his spiritual senses, but he still wasn't able to locate the duo. The thought that the duo vanished without a trace angered the Prince.

"Impossible!"

He was fuming. While he was still searching for them, he turned to look behind him.

He seemed to catch the glimpse of a small black figure, but he wasn't certain what it was since it was very fast. But the reason he turned around wasn't because of the black figure, rather, it was because he could sense his brother's aura rushing towards him.

"Why's he coming back?" He was surprised.

There were seven other Peak Elemental Venerables with his brother, and the strongest person was holding Grey back.

When he saw Alice, he already knew the plan of Grey and his friends. So he guessed his brother's group would also be attacked. However, he wasn't too bothered about it given their numbers and strength.

"Why are you still here?" The Second Prince appeared close to his brother, when he took a glance his eyes turned cold.

He could tell a battle took place here, and seeing the current state of his brother, he knew his brother was the one who got the better of his opponent.

Alice was the only one he didn't see, so he could already guess what happened here. However, he couldn't help but feel a certain way.

He was in a sorry state, and his younger brother was able to deal with the person sent after him.

"Did you guys get attacked too?" The Seventh Prince asked.

"We're leaving. Staying here is too dangerous. We have to get father to increase the bounty on his head. He's too dangerous." The Second Prince said, and took flight after finishing his statement.

The Seventh Prince didn't need any explanation, he could already tell who his elder brother was talking about. From his elder brother's manner, it was clear that he was terrified of Grey.

"Don't tell me he killed the others..." The Seventh Prince looked in the direction the Second Prince was coming from and he couldn't sense anyone coming from that angle.

"He defeated all of them."

This realization scared the crap out of him. If Grey defeated them and forced his elder brother who was very prideful to run in such a manner, it meant that he was even more of a freak than he thought.

Grey chased after the strongest among them and still managed to go back and attack the Second Prince's group. It was shocking just thinking about it.

If Grey was able to catch up to them so early, it meant that he had already dealt with the man who was supposed to hold him back.

"It hasn't even been up to twenty minutes..."

The Seventh Prince didn't know how to feel about Grey. At first, he believed he would be the one to kill Grey, but after meeting Grey for the second time, he knew his dream was not possible in any way.

Grey was advancing too quickly, and in a matter of months, he would get to the Sovereign Plane. If someone like Grey were to reach the Peak of the human world before the war breaks out, they would be in trouble.

The Seventh Prince didn't dare to stay there any longer, he chased after his elder brother, their destination was the portal. They had to leave this place as soon as possible.

....

Alice opened her eyes to total darkness. She didn't understand what happened, one moment she was about to be hit by a life-threatening attack, the next moment she was in a dark place.

She tried to look around, but she couldn't see any light.

"Don't worry, you're safe here."

A small voice resounded in her ears, she didn't need to ask who it was. She had been with Void for too long not to recognize his voice.

"So Grey sent you to make sure I don't die." She asked.

"Just a precautionary measure. The bunny is with the other two as well." Void replied, for some reason, he could sense a hint of sadness in Alice's voice.

It was as if she was sad with the fact that Grey didn't believe she was strong enough to defeat the Prince on her own. But when she thought deeply about it, her sadness disappeared. She knew what she was capable of, and so did Grey.

The Seventh Prince was someone Grey had fought with before and to a certain extent, it could be said that he knew what he was capable of. Since he sent Void, it meant that he didn't want anything to happen to Alice if by chance she wasn't able to defeat the Prince or escape.

"He's always so thoughtful." She said with a soft smile.

Chapter 1320 Seeking Treasures

Alice and Void spoke for a while before she asked Void to take her to the others.

Void didn't disagree with it since he too wanted to go back to Void and rest. Watching over someone was exhausting, he didn't know when to jump in and on a few occasions, he wanted to come out and beat up the Prince for a while before letting Alice deal with him. But now, he understood why Grey didn't want him to interfere. Unlike Klaus and Reynolds who were both shameless, Alice would feel Grey was looking down on her hence the reason he sent Void to help her.

Even though she knew Grey was only worried about her well-being, she still felt if Grey believed in her abilities, there was no need to send someone to watch over her.

Void didn't think too much about it as he shuttled through space, rushing towards Grey's direction at lightning fast speed.

....

On Grey's end.

He had finally sensed where the bunny leader was, and he didn't know how to react to it.

Someone or something blocked the bunny leader from using the space element. From its tired voice, he was certain it got into a fight and somehow managed to come out on top, hence the reason it was able to come out from the place he was confined in.

Grey was relieved when he heard its voice once again. Having such a powerful and somewhat knowledgeable bunny by his side was quite enjoyable. It would've been a shame to lose it.

Klaus and Reynolds were still resting, trying to recover their strength.

The four Gnomes were all seriously wounded by him. Two had lost both their arms, while the other two had holes in their bodies.

It hadn't been more than three minutes since the Second Prince left, yet Grey had already done so much damage to them.

All four of them knew they were going to die, unless someone came to help them.

Grey paused his attack because of the bunny leader, but now that he had clarified everything with it, there was no use keeping these guys alive.

He attacked with even more ferocity. His figure was going from one place to another without a quarter of a second. Before long, all four Gnomes who were all mentally and physically exhausted were killed by Grey.

Void and Alice arrived immediately Grey killed off the last Gnome.

Alice took a glance at Klaus and Reynolds who were resting and knew the duo were exhausted given the fact that they didn't even bother to open their eyes to see who came.

She decided to do the same, jumping onto a tree branch, she shut her eyes and started meditating.

Void jumped on Grey's shoulder.

"There's something in the space here. Very powerful." Void said to Grey.

"It caught the bunny, but it managed to escape from it." Grey looked around, this strange creature interested him.

He wouldn't mind having another powerful Space Elementalist among his ranks. The bunny leader and Void had been so helpful.

"Don't even think about it. You can't control it, neither can I. Its bloodline is quite high." As if he could see through Grey's mind, he warned him against having any thoughts on the creature.

Grey gave a stiff smile before taking a look at Alice. He could see that she was in a bad state. Now that he was no longer fighting, he raised his hands in the direction of his friends and a golden light shot towards them. He wanted to use the light element to help them recover.

A few hours later.

The group was well rested. To be fair, if not for Grey using the light element, it would've taken longer than it did.

"What now?" Klaus asked.

They've defeated the top Gnomes, and he was sure they wouldn't bother them anytime soon.

"The Princes are gone. They will not stay here since it's too dangerous. We're free to explore now." Grey said coolly, "Thanks to them wanting to take us out in such a hurry, we've dealt with them."

"The only issue now should be the Giant race. I would've gone over to intimidate them, but that wouldn't be good for us. We're already enemies with the Gnome race, adding the Giant race to it will only make life more difficult."

"Yes, now that we have nothing to fear, I say we should go out to seek opportunities." Reynolds had been waiting for this for a while now, "You two are already close to the Peak of the Venerable Plane, we're lacking behind. We need to increase our strength too."

"War is coming, we all need to increase our strength." Klaus said.

"Since the Gnomes are gone, it's best we go separate ways." Grey suggested.

Whenever they enter places like this which are filled with opportunities, the best thing to do is to go separate ways, they can obtain more things this way. But staying together was the safer option.

The others didn't see anything wrong with Grey's statement. Staying together would be good for their safety, but with the top Gnomes gone, and the rare conflict with the Giant race, they were actually very safe. So they didn't have to worry about getting killed by someone from the Gnome race.

The bunny leader was the first to leave, it was in the process of building an army before Grey called it over, now, it wanted to continue its work.

Grey and his friends stayed together for a little longer before they started to leave one by one.

In no time, Grey was the only one left, well, Void was still on his shoulder so he had a companion. Klaus and Reynolds paired together, as usual.

Alice went on her own, she had her Seelie with her. It has not completely recovered, but they should be fine against anyone below the Late stages of the Elemental Venerable Plane.

"I wonder what sort of treasure would make them need my help." Grey whispered.