

Affinity 181

Chapter 181 - The Nutcracker!

"Hey bud, are you sure you're not in the mood to kill today?"

On hearing that voice, Alice smiled, since Klaus was speaking to someone else, it meant he didn't come alone.

When she raised her head to look at them, she was taken aback by seeing all three of them were present. Due to how big the trial land was, she naturally expected them to be alone. Even if they weren't alone, she thought only two of them would be together, but to her greatest surprise, all three of them were together.

The trio who surrounded Alice also turned to look at where the voice was coming from, when they looked behind them, they saw three young men, all emitting bone-chilling terrifying killing intent.

"Who the hell are they?" One of the twins asked.

"Look, if you also want to have fun with her, you'll have to wait your turn." The young man with the black mark said while waving his hands at them, telling them to leave, before turning his attention back to Alice.

The only reason he refrained from attacking instantly is that he was a little apprehensive of the group's strength. Had they been in the Third stage like them, he would have thought of fighting against them, but Grey was in the Fourth stage, which made things difficult.

So, he felt telling them to back off while he has his fun was the best thing to do, he even offered to also allow them to have fun with the girl. That should be enough, right?

"What should we do to him?" Klaus leaned closer to Grey and Reynolds and asked while staring at the trio coldly.

"Remember what you did to that youth at the first castle we entered?" Grey asked.

"Huh! No." Klaus shook his head.

He had done a lot of things, to a lot of people since entering the trial land, so he had forgotten about that youth from before.

"When we fought for the boxes." Grey said again, hoping Klaus would recall.

Klaus' expression first went blank as he tried recalling what Grey was talking about, soon, his eyes lit up and a smile formed across his face.

"You mean when I did 'the nutcracker'?" He asked happily.

"The nutcracker?" Grey and Reynolds asked in confusion.

They had no idea what 'the nutcracker' Klaus was talking about is.

"That's the name I gave the attack, 'the nutcracker'." Klaus announced proudly.

"From here, of course." Klaus pointed at his head laughing.

"Wait, there's something there? I thought it was an empty space." Reynolds chimed in, mocking Klaus in the process.

Klaus was about to retort, but when he sensed Grey's gaze, he recalled why they were here in the first place.

"Okay, we'll kill the other two first, and then, you'll use that move." Grey said.

"What move? Come on, say the name." Klaus urged with a grin.

"The Nutcracker." Grey said with a weird expression.

"See, the name is quite catchy right, 'the nutcracker'. Wanna know why I called it 'the nutcracker'?" Klaus asked as they approached the trio.

"Seriously, no." Grey refused.

Klaus was taken aback by Grey's refusal, but he still told them anyway. "It's because it can crack nuts!"

"I have a feeling his disease is contagious." Reynolds said.

"Yeah, me too." Grey nodded.

Sometimes, it was hard for them to take things seriously, especially when Klaus was around.

The young man with the mark found it odd that unlike before, Alice didn't have that look of despair, instead, he felt she was looking at him pitifully, and he even saw her shake her head a few times.

'What's wrong with her?' He asked himself.

He was about to grab hold of Alice when the twins suddenly yelled out.

"What are you people doing? Get out now!" They ordered when they saw the trio getting closer to them.

The cave was about one hundred meters wide, but it was only about fifteen meters tall. If a strong battle were to take place here, there was a possibility it may collapse on top of them. Even when they were battling with Alice previously, they also had to be careful.

The young man with the mark turned around on hearing the yells, "I already told you to wait your turn, what else do you want?"

"Hmph! Don't take me for a pushover, get lost now before I get angry." The young man with the mark snorted coldly.

"Or what?" Klaus asked mockingly.

"Huh?" The young man didn't expect Klaus to ask such a question.

"What will you do if we don't leave?" Reynolds was the one who spoke this time.

"I...I...I'll kill her." The young man with the mark pointed at Alice who was on the ground.

He was no fool, at first he thought maybe Grey and his friends didn't like what they wanted to do or something like that, that was why they were emitting the killing intent, but on seeing how they were prepared to kill them, it meant only one thing, they knew the young lady!

Since they were trying to force him, then he'll just have to threaten them with her life.

"Tsk, tsk, and how would you manage to do that?" Grey asked laughing.

"Uh!" The young man exclaimed in shock.

Doesn't that mean that he couldn't hold Alice hostage anymore?

'*Sigh* It's a good thing I'm very fast, added with the lightning and wind elements, it's almost impossible for them to keep up with me. Unfortunately, after this initial shock, they'll be able to defend against it.' Grey shook his head while standing in front of Alice.

"How's this possible?" The young man blurted out in shock while retreating to the other side of the cave, along with the twins.

"Klaus, Rey, head outside." Grey said while assisting Alice up.

He knew they couldn't fight here, that was why he didn't attack after getting behind Alice. He was an Earth Elementalist, and he had sensed the top of the cave wasn't stable, he guessed it was from when the trio battled with Alice previously.

With Alice in tow, he started walking out of the cave. Right now, killing the trio was easy, but like Klaus, he didn't want the young man with the mark to die easily.

"If I were you, I'd start walking, or else, you will all stay buried here." Grey said coldly as they went into the tunnel that led outside the cave.

The trio gulped in fear, losing Alice came as a big blow to the young man. After managing to trap her, those fools came and took her away just like that, what was worse was that he didn't even know if he could keep his life, given how strong the killing intent Grey and his friends were directing towards them.

Compared to the young man, the twins felt even more fearful, that was because they saw Grey and his friends laughing, yet, they still felt the terrifying killing intent.

That was the only question they were asking themselves.

"Come on, let's go. They can't defeat us." The young man encouraged and took the first step.

On getting outside, they saw Grey, Klaus, and Reynolds standing ahead of them, with Alice sitting in a crossed leg position. She even had her eyes closed, it was like she already knew the result of the battle.

"You too, how would you like to die?" Klaus asked the twins.

The twins' eyes went cold on hearing such a question.

What does he mean how do they want to die? He's crazy! His whole family's crazy!

They gritted their teeth and clenched their fists together, since Grey and his friends wanted to make things difficult, then they'll fight them to the end.

"Stop!" The young man with a mark stretched his hand out to stop the twins from attacking, before he continued, "Why don't we settle this amicably? As you can see, we didn't touch her, and she's already healing from her wounds. We can just go our separate ways and act like this never happened."

"Heh! You, shut your trap and wait at the side." Klaus scoffed before ordering.

Settle what amicably? From the time he had l.e.w.d thoughts about Alice, he had already signed his death warrant!

The young man's face turned sour, "I don't believe you can defeat us."

This time, he was the one who initiated an attack, he was a Wind Elementalist in the Third stage of the Origin Plane, he naturally had confidence in his abilities.

The twins also attacked, surprisingly, they had two opposing elements. One was a Fire Elementalist, while the other was a Water Elementalist.

"You don't need to call out that guy." Klaus said.

'Void, stay close to Alice, in case of any mishaps.' Grey sent Void over to Alice.

Although they were stronger, they shouldn't get too confident, after all, they weren't the only ones who can fight above stages.

Grey had encountered a few who were quite stronger than their stages, so he knew every opponent in the trial land must be taken seriously.

Chapter 182 - Klaus' Ice Ability

Boom!

The attacks of the three fighters collided and exploded on impact.

The shockwave spread out in all directions, but it was easily dismissed when it got close to any of the fighters.

When the battle started, Klaus took on the young man with the mark, while Grey and Reynolds went for the twins. Reynolds fought against the Water Elementalist, while Grey fought against the Fire Elementalist.

Grey initially wanted to fight against the young man with the mark, but Klaus opted to do it, and since the young man was the one who Klaus was going to use his 'special move' on, Grey didn't hassle over it. Besides, he felt the twins as well as the young man had the same level of strength, so it didn't really matter who fought who, what matters was that they should defeat their opponents.

"Hmph! You should have let him fight me." The young man snorted coldly.

He felt he was being looked down on by Grey and his friends, after all, the strongest should fight against the strongest, right?

"Hehe, you're not strong enough to make him fight against you. Although I'm not as powerful as he is, even if I close my eyes, I'll still be able to beat the hell out of you." Klaus laughed, not annoyed by the young man's statement.

He naturally knew who was stronger in their group and who was weaker, even though he could be said to be the weakest, that was in the midst of his ridiculously strong friends. When placed amongst all the geniuses who entered the trial land, only a few could beat him one on one, and none of those people are in the Third stage of the Origin Plane.

"I'd like to see you say that after I'm done with you. Ha!" The young man yelled and a tornado formed around him.

It slowly increased, two meters, three meters, four meters, and it went all the way to ten meters before stopping. The tornado was drawing in everything in the surrounding, trees, rocks, dirt. It even tried to draw in the people there.

Void was currently laying close to Alice, he raised his head, and the attraction force of the tornado seemed to disappear from their area. It was like the place where Alice was sitting was covered with a strong wall, nothing could go in.

Grey and the Fire Elementalist were able to easily break loose of the attraction force of the tornado, likewise Reynolds and the Water Elementalist.

"Stupid, I'll beat you into a pighead!" Klaus cursed and formed a ten meters radius water dome around himself.

Klaus stretched out his hands and head-sized water balls started shooting out of the water dome at the tornado.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The water balls disappeared into the tornado immediately after contact.

The young man who was currently standing at the center of the tornado, pointed at Klaus, and all the items that were drawn into the tornado shot straight at Klaus.

Klaus smiled on seeing this and immediately solidified the water dome, now, it turned into an ice dome, perfectly protecting the individual inside.

Bang! Bam! Boom!

The trees and rocks continuously slammed into the ice dome, but the ice was too thick, so they couldn't break it.

With the defense Klaus currently has set up, it was almost impossible to break it in a short period of time, especially for people who were in the same stage as himself. The only way to quickly break it was when the attacker was at least two stages ahead of him.

Klaus stood in the ice dome with his hands crossed.

"Tsk, he thought he was my opponent." He shook his head with a smile.

Soon, the items stopped smashing into the ice, but it was unable to break it, there were a few places which formed small three inches deep pits on the dome, but that was all.

With a smile still plastered on his face, the pits on the ice dome slowly started filling up, and soon, the ice dome returned to its previous state, without a single scratch.

"My turn." Klaus said and ice arrows soon started protruding out of the ice dome.

Swoosh!

Multiple ice arrows shot towards the center of the tornado at the same time.

The young man tried using the tornado to block them, but a few passed through. He instantly used wind blades to destroy the few that got close to him.

'Hmm, he's strong.' He couldn't help but change his view of Klaus.

At this rate, it would be impossible for him to break through Klaus' defense. Although the earth element is always regarded as the best defensive element, one shouldn't take ice out of the picture, a Water Elementalist can create a thick ice wall, it is almost impenetrable.

In regards to creating ice, not all Water Elementalists can create thick ice, the thickness of the ice has to do with the individual as well as the grade of the element. Klaus wasn't particularly the best when it came to ice, but that was in the past. After he acquired the technique 'Sub-Zero', his ice ability increased by leaps and bounds, added to the increase of his grade when he refined the Great Earth Essence Liquid, there are a few Water Elementalist who can say their ice ability is as strong as Klaus'.

"You're stronger than I thought." He said sincerely before adding, "But, I was only warming up, now, the real fun begins."

Infusing himself with the wind element, he launched forward while a huge wind crossbow appeared mid-air, the arrow notched on top of it shot straight at Klaus' ice dome.

A smirk formed across his face.

"This attack will surely destroy that ice barrier of yours!" He yelled as the arrow made its way towards the ice dome.

Whoosh!

Klaus did reply, he just stood in the same spot, staring at the arrow. He could feel the power behind it, but he was still confident that it will not be able to break through his ice. If the young man was a stage ahead of him, then there might be a small chance it would break it, but currently, Klaus didn't feel the attack was strong enough to break it on the first attempt.

Boom!

After hitting the ice dome, the wind arrow dispersed with a 'whoosh' sound. Looking closer, the arrow was only able to create a pit that was one-fourth the thickness of the ice dome.

The result of the attack left the young man standing with mouth agape, while Klaus nodded in satisfaction.

"Your attack is just so so." Klaus said moving his hand in a way the young man perceived to be very annoying.

"You're belittling my attack! I'll end you, this time." The young man yelled angrily.

Just as he was about to attack...

"Wait!" Klaus suddenly yelled out.

And for some weird reason, the young man truly stopped his attack. He looked at Klaus attentively, waiting for what he wanted to say.

"You've already attacked." Klaus said and a grin formed on his face, "My turn."

Waves of water suddenly gushed out of the ice dome heading straight at the young man. Klaus also decided it was time to stop hiding in his shell, or else the young man might think he was scared of him.

After exiting the ice dome, the ice dome slowly started breaking before turning into multiple ice spears floating in the sky.

"Let's see how long you can survive my onslaught." Klaus smiled as the spears shot at the young man.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

The young man couldn't believe his eyes, he could take it when he couldn't beat Alice alone, after all, she was a Dual Elementalist. But just like him, Klaus was also a Single Elementalist.

'Why was he this strong? Or, am I the one too weak?'

Multiple questions ran through the young man's head, but he didn't have an answer to them. The only thing he knew was that if things continued like this, it was only a matter of time before he would be defeated.

He looked at the other battles, hoping that maybe one of his companions would be able to overpower either one of Klaus' friends. But his expression changed on seeing the sorry state of the Fire Elementalist that was fighting against Grey. He could tell Grey didn't want to kill him quickly, else, given how badly beaten the Water Elementalist was, he should have been able to kill him already.

Looking on the side of Reynolds' battle, he heaved a sigh because he saw that both fighters seemed to be on the same level, it even looked like the Water Elementalist had the upper hand.

"You should focus on your battle." Klaus approached the young man and once again started attacking.

They exchanged moves once again, and a minute later, they heard a scream which forced them to stop fighting.

When they looked in the direction, they saw a lightning blade piercing out of the back of the Fire Elementalist who was fighting against Grey.

Grey looked at the Fire Elementalist, before diverting his gaze to the other battles. He shook his head and went to sit in a corner, he didn't plan on interfering with the battle of his friends.

Chapter 183 - The Nutcracker II

'Grey's already done with his opponent, I should end mine as well.' Reynolds thought when he saw Grey disposing of his opponent.

The Water Elementalist's eyes turned red when he saw his twin brother lying lifeless on the ground.

"Ah!" He roared angrily and immediately charged towards Grey.

The only thing in his head right now was how to kill Grey, but just as he was dashing towards Grey, a human figure blocked his path.

"Looks like you've forgotten about my existence." Reynolds chuckled lightly.

"I'll kill you all!" The Water Elementalist yelled at the top of his lungs.

He was going crazy, how could he accept the fact that his brother, who had been with him since the day he was born, no, in fact, his brother had been with him since they were in the w.o.m.b, but now he had been killed right before his eyes. It was unacceptable, although he was seeing it, he didn't want to believe it.

"No need to yell, you'll be seeing him soon." Reynolds said coldly, preparing to summon his Elemental Warrior.

The reason he's summoning it now was that he had already tested his strength, although he could kill the Water Elementalist without it, it would take some time, and he could already see that Klaus was overpowering the young man with the mark.

"None of you deserve to live!" The Water Elementalist roared.

"Die!" The Water Elementalist yelled and a water snake appeared and shot towards Reynolds.

"It's time." Reynolds muttered under his breath and spread both hands apart.

Soon, his Elemental Warrior quickly started forming, the legs were the first to appear, before it moved upwards to the head, although it seemed long, the time it took in appearing completely didn't take up to two seconds. As soon as the Elemental Warrior appeared, it sent a blow at the water snake that was coming in their direction.

Boom!

The water snake exploded and evaporated into mist.

Because his view was impeded by the water snake, the Water Elementalist didn't see the Elemental Warrior appear. It was only after a few seconds when the mist slowly started fading away that he saw the shape of a figure standing mid-air.

Even though he was slightly taken aback by this, his anger clouded his judgment. He sent out an attack at the figure that was mid-air before the mist faded away completely.

This time, the Elemental Warrior didn't wait for the attack to get to it, instead, it took the initiative to go towards it.

Bam!

Seeing the figure made of lightning coming his way, the Water Elementalist was left dumbstruck, but he quickly attacked again, this time, he used ice spears that aimed at the Elemental Warrior from different angles.

The Elemental Warrior expertly evaded the ice spears that were sent towards it while also using his sword to destroy the ones that were too close to it.

Bam! Bang!

The Water Elementalist went on a rampage sending out attacks nonstop without even trying to defend, it was evident he had already lost his sense of reasoning due to hate and anger.

It didn't take up to a minute before the Elemental Warrior shortened the distance between them and got within its range of attack. As soon as it got there, it instantly started attacking the Water Elementalist who wasn't even trying to defend himself.

The wounds on his body soon reached severe conditions, and the bone on his right hand could be seen after his flesh had been cut off by the Elemental Warrior.

A minute later, he fell, with multiple serious wounds on his body as well as a missing arm. Yet, even after his death, his eyes were still opened, filled with hatred and anger.

'The pain of losing a loved one, I hope I never go through it.' Reynolds shook his head sadly before turning to look at the situation over at Klaus' end.

Just like the last time, Klaus was still clearly overpowering his opponent, and it wouldn't take long before he defeats him. After staring at Klaus, he shifted his attention to Grey and then Alice.

After standing deep in thoughts for some time, he walked to a corner and sat in a crossed leg position leaving Klaus to his battle.

On Klaus' side of the battle.

"Don't worry, they won't join in." Klaus said when he saw the young man throwing a glance at Grey and Reynolds from time to time.

The young man settled down a little, but one could still see his wariness.

Klaus found his behavior quite amusing, the reason for this was that he was clearly on the verge of beating him up, yet, the young man was acting as if Grey and Reynolds were the reason he wasn't fighting properly.

"If you can defeat me, you can leave, they won't stop you." Klaus said again.

The fight was starting to bore him since the young man wasn't as focused as he was during the first time the fight started. Now he only defended without attacking, making it seem like they were practicing or something.

"Are you sure?" The young man asked, not expecting Klaus to say something like that.

"Of course, we are a set of honorable people, or, haven't you seen that even after defeating their opponents, none of them came to lend me a hand?" Klaus said.

'He's right, I don't think they'll attack me, if they wanted to, they'd have done it since the start. So now, all I need to do is defeat this guy.' The young man thought to himself.

Although he didn't fully believe Klaus' word, he felt since Grey and Reynolds didn't attack him, he might be right.

With newfound hope, the young man instantly attacked.

A bird made of the wind element appeared and instantly charged at Klaus.

"Haha, good!" Klaus laughed excitedly and blocked it.

Both fighters exchanged moves for some time before Klaus finally got the chance to send him flying with an attack.

Bang! Crash!

The young man crashed into the ground, sliding over a distance of about six meters before stopping.

He managed to stand up, but Klaus sent a water ball at him which exploded on impact sending him flying once again. If not for the fact that Klaus didn't want to kill him instantly, he would already be dead.

"Guys, I'm about to do it!" Klaus yelled to his friends while waving at them.

Grey and Reynolds who sat crossed leg facing his direction immediately shivered at the thought of what Klaus was about to do.

"Just go ahead!" Grey said, before mumbling, "Thinking about it gives me chills, I don't think I want to see it."

With that, he turned in the other direction, making sure he wouldn't be able to get a sight of Klaus. Not just him, even Reynolds turned as well. With the duo turning, the only person who was staring at Klaus in anticipation was Void. He wanted to see what Klaus wanted to do, he only heard about the name, but he had not seen the attack before.

The young man was taken aback by Klaus' conversation with his friends.

'What is he about to do?' He asked himself.

He tried to stand, and seeing that Klaus was looking at his friends, he tried to escape. But he was already too weak, and even though he was a Wind Elementalist, he couldn't run quickly.

After he managed to run a distance of ten meters, he felt a chill on his leg. When he looked down, he noticed Klaus had frozen his leg to the ground, this meant that he can't run even if he wants to.

Klaus had a huge grin on his face as he walked closer to him.

"Don't worry, it won't hurt." Klaus said as he flicked his hand, making the ice spread open the legs of the young man.

"This is a special move I named, 'The Nutcracker'" Klaus said as he ran towards the young man.

Crack!

"Ah!!"

A grief-stricken roar echoed in the area.

Chapter 184 - Advantages Of Being A Lady In A Boys Group!

'Oh, that's got to be painful.' Void thought on hearing the scream of the young man with the mark.

He was initially stunned when he saw Klaus spreading apart the legs of the young man, but on seeing the attack, and how quickly it knocked him out, he couldn't help but feel that the attack was simple and very effective.

'I'll keep note of this, if the opportunity presents itself, I don't mind using it in the future.' He thought to himself.

Grey and Reynolds on the other hand were unknowingly sweating, they couldn't help but get goosebumps when they heard the shout of pain from the young man. They shivered and their hands uncontrollably went over to their crotch region, covering it.

Even Alice who was recovering opened her eyes to take a peek at the situation. Previously when the twins died, although they screamed, it was totally different from the shout of the young man. If one wanted to compare them, it was like the difference in sounds made by a cat when purring, and a lion when roaring, the difference was just too vast.

Klaus currently had a satisfied smile on his face as he stared at the presently white-eyed young man who had drool coming out of his opened mouth.

The young man wasn't dead, but from the pain he felt before he fainted, he wished he were.

"Hey buds, what are you doing over there? Come on, let's wake him up." Klaus called out to Grey and Reynolds while waving at them.

There was almost a one hundred meters distance between them, he could swear they were within fifty meters before he delivered the kick.

'How did they move so fast? And what's with their hands?' He couldn't help but ask himself.

Grey and Reynolds looked at each other before finally deciding to walk over to Klaus' location.

"So I can kick him again." Klaus said laughing evilly.

"Shit!" Grey and Reynolds exclaimed simultaneously and instantly turned tails and ran back to where they were coming from.

"Do it yourself!" Grey's voice was heard from the distance.

"Tsk, what's so scary about this?" Klaus muttered to himself before creating water which he splashed on the face of the young man.

Splash!

The young man jolted up and his previously white eyes regained their usual visage. But just after he woke up, he almost fainted from the pain that ran from his crotch region straight to his brain.

"Ah!" He screamed again, this time, even louder and longer than the first time.

With both hands in his crotch region, he rolled on the floor in pain.

Klaus didn't bother to waste any more time, he quickly removed the young man's hands from the target, made sure to spread the legs apart once again, only this time, the young man was lying flat on his back.

Crack!

"Ah!"

For the second time within five minutes, the young man went through the same pain all over again, but he surprisingly didn't pass out this time. But if one looks closer, one would realize he isn't far from it.

"That should do it." Klaus said while dusting his hands.

The reason he kicked him again was that when he kicked him the first time, he only heard one crack, which meant the other nut was still fine. Yes, he wanted to kill the young man, but making him go through the pain first felt better, especially this type of pain.

While the young man was wheezing on the ground from the pain, Klaus nonchalantly waved his hand and over twenty ice shards appeared mid-air.

He pointed at the young man, and the ice shards all shot straight at him. The young man had his eyes wide open as the shards pierced into his body. Because of the numbers, the young man didn't have time to plead before he died instantly after three of the shards pierced through his heart, and four pierced into his head.

'This is what you get for attempting to do 'that' to our friend.' Klaus thought as he walked over to Grey and Reynolds.

"All done?" Grey asked as he noticed Klaus walking towards them.

"Okay, we need to get out of here then." Grey said.

Since the group is complete once again, it was time for them to exit the trial land, after all, they had stayed in here for so long already, and the rewards had been unimaginable.

"So guys, do you think it will be wise to check our elemental grades again? Just to be sure it increased." Alice asked as she walked closer to them.

Although they trusted the Great Earth Essence Liquid, without seeing it, they wouldn't be too sure. There was also Klaus who's elemental grade was purple, and Grey who was a Dual Elementalist with purple and pink grades.

"No, there's no need. Doing that would only put our lives at risk." Grey immediately rejected the idea.

There was no way he would agree to this, the others could check theirs, but not him. When he was admitted into the Lunar Academy, he had only two elements, with Lightning being purple grade, and

Earth being ping grade. Now, he had five elements, with one even being cyan grade, a grade he had never heard of.

What would happen when people find out that of his five elements, one was cyan, two were blue, and the other two were purple? He didn't even dare to imagine.

"It wouldn't be much of a hassle, my dad wouldn't have a problem with lending us the Academy's testing stone, he'll agree if we tell him the reason, also, there wouldn't be anyone there." Klaus interjected.

Of course, he wanted to see what his previous purple grade turned out to be, he felt he was lucky enough, so he should be able to get a double increase. Although he didn't say it, being in the presence of such amazing friends, he always wished he could be in the same elemental grade as them, his only consolation was that Grey also had a purple grade. And even though he was a Dual Elementalist, his second element was a pink grade.

On hearing Klaus' statement, the others all nodded. Grey wanted to refute, but he couldn't since he knew what Klaus was saying was right.

"Fine, we'll go with what you said." He couldn't help but agree.

'I'll find an excuse when the time comes, I can't carelessly allow anyone to know about this. I'll talk to Teacher.' Grey thought.

Keeping this secret was getting increasingly harder since a slight mistake and he'll be found out, obtaining new elements wouldn't be the most important thing people would want to know, but it's the secret to improving his elemental grades. That is even more important than acquiring more elements, although more elements increase the strength of an Elementalist, with a better grade, a Single Elementalist could easily kill a Dual or even a Multi Elementalist.

With the group agreeing on what to do after leaving the trial land, they started their journey to the exit of it.

"Did you guys hear about the pants thief?" Alice suddenly asked, looking at the boys suspiciously, Klaus in particular.

She felt if anyone among the boys could do such a thing, then it's definitely him. Given Klaus' personality, she felt he could do almost anything without fear, Grey was the one she found least suspicious.

"Yeah, I heard he walked around stealing pants from guys." Grey said with a small smile.

"Then after turning into a two-man team, they also stole from ladies as well." He added while looking at Klaus and Reynolds from the side of his eye.

Gulp!

Klaus and Reynolds swallowed simultaneously, and for some reason, they felt the journey to the exit wouldn't be as fun as they thought.

"Hey bud, why don't we dish them and head somewhere else?" Klaus leaned closer to Reynolds and whispered in his ear.

"Yeah, I'm having the same thoughts." Reynolds nodded his head repeatedly.

They could tell that Alice was already suspicious of them, if she were to find out, then they'd be dead. Even if they could beat her, they wouldn't dare to, or else they'll just quicken their deaths.

Initially, they thought now that they were either as strong as she was or in Grey and Reynolds' case, stronger, they felt she wouldn't be able to bully them anymore. But on seeing the current situation, they knew they were wrong, even if they became the emperor and were a Plane ahead of her, she'll always be able to bully them since they wouldn't dare to fight back.

And if any of them dares to fight back, then the others will gang up against that person. Given Grey's freakishness, they knew he would definitely always be ahead of them now that he had gotten the advantage, who would dare to fight back when Alice had him behind her?

Three days later.

In the trial land.

"We should be getting close to the array, right?" Reynolds asked while staring at the mountains before them.

He didn't recall passing through here, so he was getting a little confused.

"Yeah." Grey said as he took out the map he acquired from Quinn.

"We're currently here, so if we continue in this direction, we should get to the array in two to three days." He pointed at their current location on the map to the group, while also showing them the direction they would pass through to get to their destination.

In the past three days, their journey had been fun, to say the least. Alice had managed to find out that Klaus and Reynolds were the pants thief, and it unfortunately didn't end well for them. But since they couldn't fight back, they could only grumble inside. Grey who started it in the first place wasn't suspected at all, he couldn't help but thank his luck.

His situation can be compared to someone who always lies, even if the person said the truth, no one would believe it. Due to his usual moral and somewhat serious nature, the group felt he wouldn't do something like that. But in the case of Klaus and Reynolds, even Blake who wasn't in the trial land wouldn't believe them if they said they weren't the pants thief.

"I'll miss this place though, although it had been dangerous on some occasions, it has been mostly fun." Klaus said with a sigh.

He had already started missing the trial land even though they haven't left yet.

"I won't." Grey said with a long face.

Although he acquired some great things here, they almost caused his death. The only thing he remembered doing here was running, he was already tired of it, so naturally, he didn't even want to stay here for too long anymore. That was the reason he picked this route, it was shorter than the rest.

"No I haven't, I also haven't forgotten how many times I almost died, or had to run for my life." Grey said ironically.

"But you're alive, stronger than you were before, that shows the treasures you acquired helped you." Klaus continued, not agreeing with Grey's view.

"Not stronger, faster. I ran so much that my speed almost doubled." Grey corrected with a little hint of dejection.

The others didn't run as much as he did, that was why they thought it was a great experience, well, it wasn't.

"I'm a little curious what grade your fire element would be though." Reynolds said thoughtfully.

"Yeah, me too." Alice nodded as well.

They have witnessed the strength of the blue flames, so they were sure it would be at least blue grade or even higher. They couldn't wait to go out and check it out.

"Cy..." Grey unconsciously blurted out, but luckily, he stopped himself in time.

'*Phew* That was close.' He thought after breathing out in relief.

"Hey, what did you say?" Klaus asked.

"Nothing, we better get going, I really want to leave this place as soon as possible." Grey shivered to show his urge to leave the trial land.

"Okay."

The group continued their journey, and a day soon went by.

They were currently almost at the end of the mountain range, and after passing through here, all they have to do is go through three forests before they will reach the array.

'There's something close by.' Void suddenly spoke up.

Void had been relatively quiet lately, and although Grey speaks to him once in a while, he rarely spoke at all.

'Where?' Grey stopped and asked curiously.

Although he wanted to leave, he also knew that whatever Void senses had never been ordinary. If he could get something great just before leaving this place, it wouldn't be bad.

Reynolds who wasn't looking at his front while walking bumped into Grey who suddenly stopped.

"Why did you stop?" He asked grumpily while holding his nose which hit Grey's head.

Klaus and Alice also stared at him curiously, seeing how he was staring in a particular direction, they felt something was up.

"There's something here." Grey said to the group.

"Something like...?" Klaus asked.

"I don't know, but it's a treasure, a good one." Grey said seriously.

The trio stared at each other, before looking at Grey again. The only question in their minds was, how did he know there was a treasure here? And he could even tell it's a good one!

"Don't ask, are you guys interested, or should we continue on our journey?" Grey asked the trio.

"Well, if what you said is true, then of course I'm interested." Klaus said excitedly.

Alice nodded as well, with two agreeing, Grey, Alice, and Klaus started walking in the direction Grey was staring at.

"What about my opinion?" Reynolds was left stunned, he couldn't help but ask.

"Doesn't matter." Klaus laughed sarcastically.

"Come on, we know you'd also agree." Grey said as the group continued towards a huge tree.

'There's a passage underneath the tree.' Void directed.

'Hmm.' Grey nodded as he went closer to the tree.

Knock! Knock!

He knocked on the tree repeatedly to see if there were any spaces inside. It didn't take long before he knocked on a place that the sound was lighter than the rest part of the tree.

After locating his target, he brought out the dagger he got from Quinn and stabbed it into the tree. It entered easily, and he quickly dragged it downwards.

The tree was at least three meters wide in radius, so there weren't any problems for a human to pass through it.

The group jumped into the tree and fell straight down, Grey was the last to go in as he wanted to close the place he carved open on the body of the tree, so in case anyone accidentally passes through this place, they wouldn't see it.

"It's a tunnel." Alice said after she created a fireball that lit up the place.

"So, which way?" The group looked at Grey who just landed.

They could either head forward or backward. Since the Grey was the one who 'sensed' the treasure, it was naturally right for them to ask him where they were headed.

'Void.' Grey asked Void since he was the one who could sense it.

"Forward." He said after getting confirmation from Void.

The group walked for almost twenty minutes before stopping, they looked at Grey who was standing in front of them.

Ahead of the group, three paths could be seen.

"Shit!" Grey cursed out.

"What's wrong." Reynolds asked when he heard Grey cursing.

"I don't know which of the paths has the treasure." Grey said.

He didn't want to tell the others of Void's treasure-sensing ability yet.

"Well that's a bummer." Klaus said wryly.

While the group was thinking of which path to take, Grey, Reynolds, and Alice simultaneously turned to look at Klaus.

Sensing their gazes, Klaus shivered unknowingly and raised his head to meet their gazes.

"Why are you all staring at me? Is there something behind me?" He asked, not daring to look back.

"No." The trio answered.

Klaus felt relieved when he heard their answer, but seeing that they were still looking at him, he couldn't help but ask, "Then why are you all looking at me?"

"Your gut feeling." Grey said.

"What?" Klaus' face was instantly filled with confusion.

"Use your gut feeling." Reynolds said.

"F.u.c.k you! Do you think it's an ability or something? It can't be controlled, it just happens." Klaus explained, after cursing at them.

"Well, we need it now. It's better than randomly walking into any of the paths. Who knows, you might get it right." Grey persuaded.

Although relying on Klaus' gut feeling wasn't really the best decision, there had been multiple times where it had been correct, so, there was no harm in taking the risk.

Klaus naturally refused Grey's persuasion and Reynolds' as well. It was only after Alice decided to persuade him did he agree.

"The one on the left." He quickly blurted out before Alice got to him.

He knew how she persuaded people, and he didn't want something like that to happen to him.

"Good boy." Grey said mockingly before heading into the path on the left.

Chapter 186 - Blooming Viper

The group cautiously went into the tunnel, given Grey's experience, he was almost a hundred percent sure that there would be an obstacle of some sort here, or even worse, a creature.

'Hopefully, I'm just overthinking.' He thought to himself.

'Do you sense anything around?' He asked Void who was on his shoulder.

'No, nothing.' Void replied.

He knew what Grey was talking about, but other than the treasure, he couldn't sense anything else.

Fifteen minutes later.

The group got to the end of the tunnel, and at the end, they saw a door.

"Looks like your gut feeling was right." Grey said while throwing a glance at Klaus.

"Of course, when has my gut feeling ever been wrong?" Klaus asked smugly.

Grey, Reynolds, and Alice rolled their eyes on hearing Klaus' statement, being too lazy to talk any further, they all approached the door.

With Grey leading the group, he held the doorknob, while preparing himself in case of an attack. The others on the other hand, were all standing behind him, using him as what they call the human shield. Given Grey's physical defense, as well as his earth element, he was the only one who might be able to ward off any attacks that might come from the other side of the door.

Creak...

The door slowly opened with a creaking sound. Grey and the group immediately retreated, while also preparing their attacks. But after waiting for almost a minute, nothing came out through the door.

"Come on bud, go check it out." Klaus said while pushing Grey forward.

Grey glared at him, but he shamelessly continued speaking.

"What? You're the only one with great physical defense, as well as the earth element, you don't expect us to send Alice, do you?"

Grey shook his head, but he still went forward since he knew he was the one who had the best reaction among them, as well as the best defense.

With a flick of his wrist, a blue flame lit up ahead of him and floated through the door, slowly revealing what was past the door.

"*Phew* It's just a normal gigantic cave." Grey said sarcastically and cautiously advanced towards the cave.

Getting past the door, he was greeted by the sight of a hugely spacious cave, his flame couldn't light up the entire cave given how big it was. On the places he could see, there were moss and weed on some parts of the ground, and well as the walls and ceilings above him.

"Guys you can come in now." After making sure there wasn't any danger, Grey called on the trio waiting outside.

The trio soon entered after Grey's voice died down.

"Where's the treasure?" Klaus was the first to ask excitedly as he stepped inside.

"Well, given how wide this place is, we'll have to search for it." Grey said.

"Come on, make a bigger fire." Klaus urged.

Grey instantly increased the size of the flame, but on seeing what was around, he almost wished he didn't.

"Bud, I thought you said there was no danger?" Klaus walked closer to Grey and whispered.

"They're all in the Second stage of the Origin Plane, stop acting like they're a threat." Grey said while shoving Klaus away.

Although he was slightly taken aback by the snakes he saw lying randomly on the floor, he didn't feel much from it. The only thing that left him a little puzzled was that it was only after seeing them was he able to sense them.

'So, where's the treasure?' Grey asked Void since other than the snakes, he saw nothing else.

'You're looking at them.' Void said.

'Wait, the snakes?' Grey asked a little confused.

'Yeah, these are no ordinary snakes. They have a special gland on top of their heads that is a great healing tonic as much as it's a deadly poison.' Void explained.

'Wait, how do you know of this?' Grey was left speechless by Void's knowledge of the snakes.

'Memories.' Void said.

'But I thought you were just born? You know what, forget about it for now. But, how do you expect me to take something that is a double-edged sword?' Grey said.

Void said it was a healing tonic, and also a deadly poison. How does he expect him to collect something that might probably kill him if he's not careful?

'There's a way to extract the healing tonic alone...' Void went on to explain.

From his explanation, Grey found out that the snakes were known as the Blooming Viper, on top of their heads was something that looked like a budding flower. And according to Void, that's where the special gland was. If one extracted the entire bud, then it would only become a deadly poison.

The only way to extract the healing tonic is through a somewhat special and perilous way, s.u.c.k.i.n.g it out of a living Blooming Viper. If the snake was dead, the gland will automatically turn into a deadly poison.

After hearing the method from Void, Grey felt a little dejected. Coming here, he had high hopes for the treasure they will find, but now, not only did he have to deal with snakes, but he also had to suck a special healing tonic from the top of its head, while it's alive.

'I feel like this is a wasted journey.' Grey said shaking his head.

'Of course not, did I tell you this healing tonic can save a dying person as long as there's a breath left.' Void said.

Grey contemplated on the matter and felt having something like that wasn't bad, since they didn't know what awaited them in the future. There would always be times where their lives might be in danger, maybe this would be what will save them.

'Hmm, at least it's better than nothing.' Grey could only helplessly nod his head.

He went on to tell the others about the snake, as well as the process of extracting the healing tonic. There were only about fifteen snakes on the ground, and surprisingly, even after sensing the presence of humans, they didn't attack.

"Wait, so you're saying we have to suck out a healing tonic from the head of those snakes?" Klaus asked while pointing at the snake closest to them.

"Yup." Grey nodded.

"And there's also a deadly poison there as well?" Klaus asked another question.

"Yup."

"So how do we know if what we're s.u.c.k.i.n.g is the healing tonic or the poison?"

"If we don't die."

"Okay... I think Grey has gone mad." Klaus said after he was done with his questioning.

"Yup, me too." Reynolds said feeling maybe there was something wrong with Grey's head.

"Come on guys, do you think I'll take you through all this trouble just for fun?" Grey said trying to convince them.

"Well, I might, and since I might, there's a chance you might as well." Klaus said while strangely waving his hand.

Grey glared at him on seeing his antics, "I'm being serious."

"And I'm just joking. I know you wouldn't do all this for fun, but the thing is, why haven't we heard of this snake before?" Klaus asked.

He trusted Grey, but he hadn't seen or heard of a Blooming Viper before, so he naturally felt a little doubtful.

The others also felt Klaus' question was reasonable.

"Because they're very rare." Grey said.

"If they're rare, then how did you know of them?" Alice asked this time.

"Him." Grey said pointing at Void.

Knowing that they were about to ask how he knew through Void, he quickly explained to them that he could communicate with him and that he was also the one who sensed the treasure. He also didn't forget to warn them to keep it a secret, he warned Klaus to be precise.

The others were sensible enough to keep it a secret, but given how much Klaus talks, he wasn't too confident in his ability to keep a secret.

"I know, I might talk a lot, but it doesn't mean I'm a fool. I know what to divulge, and what not to." Klaus said angrily.

He felt upset due to the fact that Grey didn't trust him enough, he knew he talks a lot, but that doesn't mean he'll go ahead and tell others his friends' secrets.

Grey felt a little bad inside when he saw Klaus' angry look, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean it that way."

Klaus' face only brightened up after hearing Grey's apology.

"It's okay, I mean, I wouldn't trust me with a secret either." He said nonchalantly.

Grey felt the world spun around when he heard that statement.

"Haha, I'm joking." Klaus laughed on seeing Grey's face.

He had always been carefree so he knew Grey didn't mean to offend him, he also knew how massive of a secret Void's treasure-sensing ability was. If others heard that there was a special cat that could sense treasures, the fight for who would acquire him would have no end.

"So, let's begin." Grey said after everything was sorted out.

The group went on to catch the first snake, it wasn't easy though since they had to make sure the poisonous fire it was spitting out didn't touch them.

Unlike most magical beasts, the snake was small, stretching only three meters long, and wasn't even up to four inches wide.

Reynolds was the one who caught the first snake, after catching it, he passed it over to Grey. He was a little scared of the extraction process, so he didn't dare to.

Grey collected it, gulped in fear, but since he trusted Void, he steeled his heart and brought the head of the wriggling snake closer to his mouth.

Just as he was about to suck on the bud.

'Wait!' Void yelled out.

Chapter 187 - Don't Swallow

Klaus and the others were puzzled on seeing that Grey stopped just as his mouth was about to touch the head of the snake.

'Is anything wrong?' Grey asked while moving the head of the snake away from his mouth.

He was a little frightened by the thought of if there was why mistake with Void's extraction process, and he accidentally sucks out the poison instead of the healing tonic, so when Void stopped him, he didn't hesitate in any way.

'Where would you put the healing tonic after s.u.c.k.i.n.g it out?' Void asked while staring at Grey strangely.

'Oh that, I forgot about that.' Grey said truthfully.

He checked his storage ring to see if there was anything inside that could be used to store the healing tonic, but he unfortunately had none. The few healing tonics he brought with him had been used, and the bottles had been discarded by him.

"Does anyone have bottles we can use for storing the healing tonic?" He asked the others.

"Oh, so that's why he stopped, I thought it was something else." Klaus mumbled under his breath.

"Well?" Grey asked on seeing that none of them was saying anything, and Klaus seemed to be mumbling to himself.

Klaus and Reynolds shook their heads, just like Grey, they've also discarded the bottles after using the tonic, and since they didn't bring much in the first place, they ran out about a month ago, luckily, they didn't get into any precarious situation since then.

"How many do you need?" She asked Grey while going through the bag.

"Fifteen." Grey said after counting the number of snakes present in the cave.

"Okay, here you go." Alice threw a bottle to Grey.

She initially wanted to give him her bag, but since some of her personal belongings were inside, she refrained from doing so, rather, she'll hand him one any time he needs it.

Grey caught it and looked at the empty bottle, it was unsurprisingly a bottle used for storing tonic.

'Why is she keeping the bottles after using them?' Grey asked himself, he was not the only one who thought of this, Klaus, Reynolds, and even Void thought of it.

"What?" Alice asked while glaring at the boys.

The expression in her eyes was clear, 'If you ask, I'll beat you up.'

"Nothing." The boys shook their heads while staring in different directions.

"Hmph!" Alice harrumphed, but left them alone since they didn't dare to ask.

Grey focused on the snake once again, and he was hit by a pungent smell. He couldn't help but close his nose.

Void who was previously on his shoulder immediately disappeared and appeared some distance away.

"What's that smell?" Alice asked while covering her nose.

"I think it's from the snake." Reynolds said while pointing at the rear of the snake.

The snake was currently wrapped around Grey's hands, and the tail was almost at his left shoulder. Presently, fluid could be seen coming out of the snake's tail and falling on Grey's hand.

He instinctively wanted to let go, but on sensing that other than the smell, it wasn't harmful, he held on.

Since the snake was long, it had wrapped its head with its body as well, covering it from sight, luckily, Grey held onto the neck tightly, so there was no way it could escape.

"That's like an ultimate weapon." Klaus said while staring at Grey in pity.

The smell coming from the feces of the snake was terrible, giving one the urge to throw up. The others were having a better time since they distanced themselves from Grey, while also covering their noses. But Grey who held it in his hands was having the worst time of his life, the smell was surprisingly stinging. It felt like tiny ants crawled into his eyes and started stinging him repeatedly.

Grey hurriedly used the hand he previously used in holding onto the body of the snake to try and free the head from the body the snake used in wrapping it up.

Although the snake was strong, given Grey's physical strength, it didn't take up to two seconds before he caught sight of the head of the snake once again. Without thinking, he brought the head closer to his mouth and s.u.c.k.e.d on the bud on the top of the snake.

The others held their breaths on seeing Grey suck on the bud at the top of the snake's head.

Grey who was currently s.u.c.k.i.n.g on the bud had completely forgotten about the possibility of there being a poison because all he wanted to do was be done with the snake and then throw it away. It was only after a thick liquid slowly entered his mouth did his mind clear off, and he almost panicked.

But he quickly calmed down after he noticed that the stinging in his eyes, as well as the urge to vomit, was completely gone. Even though the smell was still there, it wasn't as bad as before.

The liquid had a variety of tastes, Grey was only able to recognize five, but all in all, the liquid had a magnificent taste that he unconsciously wanted to swallow.

When everyone saw Grey's expression, they thought it was strange. How could someone make such an expression when his nose is being bombarded by that horrifying smell.

'Don't swallow!' Void hastily yelled to Grey when he saw his expression.

Void's voice came right on time, had he been a second late, then Grey was sure he would have swallowed it, even though he was stopped, he managed to swallow a little bit of it.

Just before he closed the lid on the bottle, a strong and sweet floral scent wafted out of it into the air. The scent was soothing and made one's mind clear after taking in a breath.

Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds all took in a deep breath when the scent passed them.

"I...feel...energized." Reynolds said slowly.

It was unbelievable that just the scent from the healing tonic could make one feel energized all of a sudden. If the scent was this powerful, how powerful would the liquid be then?

"Amazing, this truly is a treasure." Alice said with her eyes closed, still savoring the floral scent.

"Yeah, a true treasure." Klaus nodded.

His mind was exceptionally clear, and he felt since the snake could make something as sweet as this, then it had all the right in the world to also make that horrifying smell it released earlier.

Klaus had the urge to taste it, not just him, Alice and Reynolds felt the same way as well. But unlike the duo, Alice wasn't drooling.

Grey held the bottle close to his face and observed the liquid properly, it had a greenish and yellowish color, with what looked like tiny touches of red. The dots of red scattered all over the liquid like the stars in the night sky. The liquid had a clear and reflective surface.

Had it not been for something, Grey would have thought the scent could make one hallucinate when he saw the expressions of the trio.

"Can I taste it?" Klaus asked.

"No!" Grey refused.

Klaus felt a little dejected, but then an idea struck him.

"I'll extract the next one." He immediately said before anyone could say anything else.

"No!" Grey, Alice, and Reynolds said simultaneously.

"What do you mean no?" Klaus asked hastily.

"Because you'll swallow it." Grey said.

"Of course I won't."

"Yes, you would."

After arguing for a while, Klaus was still unable to convince the group to allow him to extract the next one.

"Fine, but I'll extract the one after this one." He said, not willing to let go of the opportunity.

"Till then."

The group went on to capture the next snake, which like the first one, defecated once it saw it couldn't break free from Grey's grasp.

But the smell didn't mean anything to him, although it was horrible, the reward outweighed the smell, so he braced himself and quickly s.u.c.k.e.d on the head of the snake.

Just like the first time, everything turned better after the liquid flowed into his mouth. After tasting it for the second time, a thought came to his head.

'How would it taste like if I were to cook with it?'

Grey threw the thought to the back of his head as soon as it came, but since the thought had successfully come to his mind, it was almost impossible to forget about it.

After storing the second one, they went on to catch the third snake, and Klaus finally got the chance to extract the liquid. Although, it was only after the group warned him repeatedly not to swallow it, they didn't only warn him, but they also threatened to beat him up if he dared to swallow it.

Even though he was warned repeatedly, Klaus still almost swallowed it the moment he tasted the liquid. The taste was just too sweet that he had to keep the liquid in his mouth for almost one minute before putting it in the bottle.

After Klaus s.u.c.k.e.d on the third one, Alice did the fourth one, and just like the previous two, she also almost swallowed the liquid after tasting it. Reynolds was the one who extracted the fifth one, and he too fell for the same thing, had it not been for the thought of being beaten if he swallowed it, then he would have swallowed it.

Chapter 188 - It's Not Lost If We Consume It!

"That's the last one." Grey said after watching Klaus extract the last healing tonic from the last snake that wasn't in an earthen cage.

"So soon? I thought there were more?" Reynolds said with a hint of sadness.

He didn't expect the snakes weren't that many, given the sweetness of the liquid, as well as the feeling they get from breathing in the scent, he didn't mind doing this for another hour or so.

"Well, unless there's a way to make the previous ones create another healing tonic, that's all." Grey said after looking around to confirm there was none left.

"Wait, can't we just capture them and train them till they create another one." Klaus asked after letting go of the snake.

The snakes were relatively quite calm and only attacks whenever they were threatened, so it would be very easy to train them.

"I don't think that's possible, or is it?" Alice asked while looking in the direction of Void.

Since she knew Grey could communicate with Void without others knowing about it, she felt very intrigued by the black cat, added to Void's space element, she felt it was very unique.

They still had no idea Void had three other elements, and since Void rarely fought, they felt he was only attuned to the space element.

Grey also stared in Void's direction, along with the other boys.

'No, these snakes can only make one healing tonic their entire lives. Look at the head of the snakes, you'll see the bud on it is gone.' Void explained.

'Also, don't think of capturing it so you could breed them to acquire their offsprings, there are special conditions they must go through before they can acquire the healing tonic, and I don't think anyone knows of the conditions.' He added when he noticed that Grey didn't immediately give up.

'Oh!' Grey exclaimed lightly.

"No Klaus, we can't capture them..." Grey told him the reason for it.

"Well that's a bummer. What now?" Klaus asked.

"Going back to the Academy should be our next choice of action." Grey said.

He felt there wasn't anything left for him in the trial land, so getting out of here and going back to the Academy was the next possible thing to do. He also wanted to go back to Red City and search for the whereabouts of his mother, it had already been so long, and he didn't know what happened to her.

The others nodded to his suggestions and all turned to leave the cave.

While they were walking on the pathway before getting to the spot where they had to choose which path to take, Klaus suddenly came up with an interesting topic.

"Grey, if you were to cook with one of those liquids, it would be quite an unforgettable experience." He said while l.i.c.k.i.n.g his lips.

"You also thought of it, I thought I was the only one." Reynolds said in surprise.

When he tasted the liquid for the first time, he thought of Grey's cooking and his imagination ran wild, he even planned on telling Klaus so they would team up together to plead with Grey to use one of the liquids.

"What are you all talking about?" Alice looked at them weirdly, she knew Grey was a great cook and had gotten a taste of his food once, but it had been a while now.

"Great minds they say think alike." Klaus said with a laugh.

"So, are you?" Reynolds asked with an excited expression.

"I still don't know yet." Grey said with a hint of uncertainty, the truth was, the idea of cooking with it was quite tempting.

"Wait, you want to cook with one of the healing tonics which according to Void could save someone who's at the brink of death?" Alice asked feeling bewildered by the audacity of the boys.

Who would freaking think of using such a life-saving item to cook? Sometimes she felt the boys all had a screw loose or something, they've never seemed to amaze her with some of their weird ideas.

"Yeah, pretty much." The boys all nodded simultaneously.

"Are you mad?!" Alice felt like beating the boys to stupor just for this thought.

She's felt angrier by the fact that Grey who she thought was the more rational one among the boys also thought of it. Although there had been times where Grey showed his irrationality, but not in a scenario where they had to use such an item.

Boom!

An attack struck Klaus sending him crashing into the wall by the side.

Bang! Bang!

Klaus wasn't the only one who hit the wall, Grey and Reynolds also met with the same fate.

"It's a freaking miraculous healing tonic for God's sake! If you dare to say you want to cook with it again, you'll all be losing some teeth." Alice stomped her feet angrily and turned around to leave.

The boys were currently sprawled on the floor, aching on different parts of their bodies.

"We haven't even cooked with it yet and I'm already feeling pains all over my body, do you think it'll be worth it to lose a tooth or two just to have the chance of using the liquid to cook." Reynolds crawled over to Klaus and Grey who were closer to each other and asked.

"I don't know, but it might be." Klaus said while rubbing his stomach where Alice's previous attack hit.

Luckily, she was lenient on them, so they only felt pain from where they were struck, and also their backs which they used in slamming into the wall.

If they were going to do this, then they had to prepare for every possible thing. It would be embarrassing for them to go out if they were missing a few teeth.

"A week or so, I haven't really lost one before." Klaus speculated as the trio got to their feet.

"I have, it took two weeks at that time, but since we're already in the Origin Plane, it shouldn't take more than ten days." Reynolds said.

The speed of each Elementalist's recovery mostly depends on the Plane of the Elementalist, as well as the healing tonic used.

"Hmm, but we only have fifteen healing tonics, losing one wouldn't be nice though." Grey said seriously.

"We're not losing it if it's consumed." Klaus said.

"You do have a point there." Grey said while rubbing his chin.

Alice who was already walking forward turned around when she noticed the boys were not following behind her.

"What are you all still going?" She asked angrily.

The boys caught up to her and they all continued the journey out. On getting to the point where they had to choose which path to take, Grey suddenly stopped.

"What's up?" The others asked simultaneously.

"Void said there's still something here." Grey said with a serious look.

"Well that's great, looks like even if we picked any of the paths it wouldn't have made a difference." Reynolds said with ecstasy.

"Are you trying to say my gut feeling had nothing to do with us discovering the previous cave?" Klaus said with a long face.

"Of course not, I'm just saying it was quite useless in a situation like this." Reynolds mocked.

"How dare you? I can allow you to mock me, but not my gut feelings." Klaus said before pouncing on Reynolds.

"Sometimes I wonder how they're so close given how frequently they fight against each other." Alice said as she watched Klaus biting Reynolds' arm.

The duo who were fighting were not using any elemental attacks, rather, they were using their physical strengths which compared to Grey's, was like that of a newborn child.

But the next moment, his expression changed, not only him, but Alice and Klaus' as well.

"Haha, try me now." Reynolds laughed happily.

"Damn you! How dare you do something I would do if I were in your position?" Klaus yelled angrily as he ran towards Grey.

Behind him, Reynolds' Elemental Warrior could be seen chasing after him, with a whip made of fire surprisingly in its hand, it would occasionally lash out at Klaus, making him yell in pain every time the whip hit his b.u.t.t.

Grey quickly escaped from the range of their battle with a weird look on his face.

"It's not every day you see Klaus being bested by Reynolds." He said with a chuckle.

"Yeah." Alice nodded while laughing at Klaus' plight.

Chapter 189 - Touched!

Grey, Alice, and Void watched on as Reynolds beat Klaus up without showing any signs of stopping him, it was only after leaving him to suffer at the hands of the Elemental Warrior for about three minutes did they finally decide to stop it.

The moment they stopped them, Klaus was surprisingly the one who was still thrash talking.

"This isn't over, you think you can bully me? Just you wait and see, I'll beat you up so good..." Klaus went on a rant for almost two minutes, talking about how he would beat Reynolds up.

It still wasn't clear how he was going to beat him up given the fact that since Reynolds had the Elemental Warrior, even if Klaus was ahead of him in terms of stages, the Elemental Warrior would not only be stronger than him, it would also be ahead of Klaus in the aspect of stages as well.

"Come on Rey, apologize to him. Or, do you want to see him cry?" Grey urged Reynolds to apologize, before mocking Klaus in the process.

Klaus who just kept quiet exploded once again and this time, Grey was his target. Grey quickly apologized, along with Reynolds.

Only after the duo praised his handsomeness did Klaus decide to forgive them, although, he felt a little weird when Grey praised him since Grey was clearly more handsome, it felt strange.

"Can we go now?" Alice who had gotten tired of standing and watching the boys show said while tapping her left foot on the ground.

The boys nodded and quickly went towards the path on the right. When choosing a path previously, they followed Klaus' gut feeling and entered the path on the left, but since there was a chance each path might have a treasure, they didn't need to deliberate over which path to take anymore.

They followed the long path, but just like the first one, they were cautious. After fifteen minutes of walking, they got to the end of the path, but this path unfortunately didn't have a door which they could use in advance.

"A dead end?" Klaus asked.

"I think so." Reynolds responded.

Grey approached the wall and placed his right hand on it, since he's an Earth Elementalist, he could sense if it was truly a dead end or if there was a space inside.

It hadn't been long since Grey realized he could do something like this, he felt a little depressed when he noticed this because most of the time he spent on searching places if there were secret doors or paths, he would have been able to sense it with a touch.

Their return journey was faster, and within five minutes, they've gotten to the spot where the paths converged. Without wasting any time, they entered the middle path, with high hopes and expectations.

"Maybe we'll get something that can actually improve our stages this time, or even better, improve our elemental grades." Reynolds said a little excitedly.

"Don't get over yourself, acquiring the Great Earth Essence Liquid was pure luck." Grey shook his head at Reynolds high expectations.

But he couldn't deny it though, he too hoped they would acquire something great, just like the life-saving tonic they got from the previous path, or even better.

Speaking of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, Klaus and Alice turned to look at Grey.

"Do you still have them?" Alice inquired.

"What?" Grey asked with a confused look.

"The Great Earth Essence Liquid?" Klaus was the one who spoke up this time.

"Of course, other than the time we refined it previously, the rest are still intact." Grey said calmly.

"Can you please give one to my dad?" Klaus asked with a somewhat anxious look.

Grey was the one who acquired it, so they naturally didn't have the right to them. They were already feeling grateful to him for giving them one each, so asking for another one was a little too overboard from their point of view given the value of the item.

"Sure." Grey replied nonchalantly.

"Huh!" Klaus was left dumbstruck by Grey's answer.

Even though he wished Grey would give it to him, he didn't think he would agree so easily, he didn't even think about it! Klaus felt touched by Grey's kind gesture.

"You're a true friend." He said with a teardrop coming from the side of his eye while approaching Grey.

"What are you doing?" Grey asked as he saw Klaus coming towards him.

"From this day henceforth, I've decided to help you get any girl you finally fall in love with." Klaus declared in a low voice while hugging Grey.

"Get away from me, and what makes you feel I'll need your help then?" Grey said while pushing Klaus away from him.

"I think you've forgotten about this." Grey pointed at his face and flashed a smile.

"Wow, I'm impressed, but it's not all about being handsome, there are some criteria you'll need to fulfill." Klaus said with a grin.

"Hmm, so you're saying this isn't important?" Grey asked to be sure.

"Of course it's important, but it's not all about it." Klaus chuckled.

"Oh, tell me more." Grey said a little intrigued while wrapping his hand around Klaus' shoulder.

"Don't worry, we'll talk about it when the time comes." Klaus said while the duo continued walking forward.

Void has since discarded Grey's shoulder and was on Alice's, compared to Grey, she pets him a lot, which he likes.

"You two, are crazy." Alice said while staring at the duo oddly.

Some moments ago, Grey was pushing Klaus away, but in the next second, they had their hands wrapped around each other's shoulders. Because the duo spoke in a low voice, she didn't hear what they were talking about, neither did Reynolds, but Void heard it all, and he felt a little disappointed that Klaus didn't share his knowledge.

Chapter 190 - Is That What I Think It Is?

The group soon got to the end of the pathway, and just as expected, there was a door. But compared to the one they saw on the previous path, this one was huge.

"Wow, it's like a door to a huge castle." Klaus said in awe.

The door was surprisingly made of gold, and it lit up the moment the fire the group was using came close to it. It was so bright that everyone in the group instinctively closed their eyes, it was only after about five seconds went by did the light slowly disappeared.

"What was that?" Reynolds asked looking around.

"I don't know, but whatever is in there must be something great." Klaus jumped happily and approached the golden door.

"Stop!" Grey exclaimed on seeing that Klaus was heading towards the door.

"What?" Klaus asked with a confused face.

"Have the thought of obtaining a good treasure dulled your brain?" Grey facepalmed while shaking his head disappointedly.

"What?" Klaus asked still confused.

"There's always a risk before obtaining any rewards here, especially something that might be very good." Alice explained.

Although she hadn't been as lucky as Grey who managed to get to a lot of fortunate places, she has had her fair share of adventures in the trial land, so she knew about this.

"Oh that, I forgot." Klaus scratched his head awkwardly.

'How embarrassing.' He thought to himself while shaking his head in discontent.

Grey created an earthen staff, and sent it towards the door, he wanted to check if there might be anything on the golden door that might be harmful against them.

Bam!

The staff crashed into the door, but nothing happened.

Grey didn't head over immediately, he waited for over a minute before approaching it. When he got there, he held onto both parts of the door while standing in the middle, and pushed it forcefully.

But it unexpectedly didn't budge.

"That's strange." Grey muttered under his breath.

"Join me." He called on Klaus and Reynolds to assist him in opening the door.

The trio tried pushing the door, but it didn't budge, after trying multiple times, they started attacking it.

'Sometimes I really don't know which is smarter, and which is dumber.' Alice almost facepalmed while looking at the trio who were tiring themselves out trying to open the door.

Void on the other hand was staring at the trio with a playful smile on his lips. After staring at them for a while, he threw a glance at the writings on the side of the door.

Alice caught sight of Void staring at the writing on the door.

"You discovered it as well?" She asked a little surprised.

Void nodded after realizing what she meant, he didn't think she would have also seen it.

'Looks like the only girl in the group is the more intelligent one.' He thought to himself.

"Tsk, to think even a cat is smarter than them." Alice said while looking at the trio in contempt.

They had been trying different methods, but none seems to work, even after five minutes, none of them had seen the writing on the side of the door.

"Is it just me or do they become dumber when they group up." Alice mumbled.

The trio was currently panting while staring at the door with frustration.

"Why won't it open?" Reynolds asked angrily.

"Because you three are blockheads, that's why." Alice said with a playful smile.

Although they looked stupid, watching them tire themselves out was quite entertaining.

"What?" Klaus asked.

"Look over there." Alice pointed at the writings on the side of the door.

"Huh! There's something there!" Reynolds exclaimed before heading over.

Grey and Klaus followed behind him as well.

"Was this here before? I could've sworn I didn't see it here." Klaus said, placing his hand on his chin.

"Me too." Grey nodded.

"Seriously? You're still trying to cover up for your lack of observation?" Alice asked, not expecting Grey and Klaus they say that.

"There truly wasn't anything there before we tried opening it, maybe it appeared after we tried pushing it." Grey said.

Although he might be careless sometimes, he truly did look around, and this text wasn't there previously, it must have appeared after they started pushing it or something.

Alice didn't look around at first and only saw caught a glimpse of the text after the trio started pushing the door, so she didn't know if Grey was speaking the truth or not.

"Hmm, fine, let's ask Void." She suggested.

"Void, did you see the text before they started pushing the door?" She asked.

Void looked at Grey, smirked, before nodding his little head.

'Bastard! No food for you!' Grey said angrily.

Seeing Void's smirk, he knew Void was lying, which meant that the text appeared after they've started pushing the door, yet Void nodded just so Alice would yell at them.

Void's pupils shrunk when he heard Grey say no food for him and he immediately shook his head.

Alice was about to reprimand the boys when she suddenly saw Void shaking his head, "I'm confused, did you see it or not?"

She was forced to ask again, and this time, Void shook his head.

He witnessed the text appearing, and it was after Grey, Klaus, and Reynolds started pushing the door did it appear.

'Hmph! You're lucky.' Grey snorted and threw a glare at Void.

Void shivered at the thought of not having to eat Grey's dishes, he was already going through hell since the group reunited. That was because Grey hadn't been able to cook anything since they were in a hurry to leave this place.

"The text says only a Fire Elementalist could open the door, no wonder it had such a reaction when the flames came close to it." Klaus said thoughtfully.

Alice was the one whose flame was floating, so she sent it towards the door, making sure to make it as powerful as she could.

Rumble!

The door rumbled intensely, but it refused to open up.

"The strength of my flame is not enough, Grey, you do it." Alice said and withdrew her flame from the door.

Grey stepped forward, and with a flick of his wrist, his blue flames came to life, it turned into a large snake and shot straight into the door fiercely.

Rumble!

The door rumbled for some time before making a 'crack!' sound. After that, it slowly opened up.

Creak...

"Use your flames and you decided to perform a show." Klaus mocked as the door opened wide.

After the door opened up, the inside lit up and the shadow of a large creature could be seen from the light.

'Void, is that what I think it is?'