

## Affinity 221

Chapter 221 - Breakthrough!

Grey and the others soon got to the Qilin empire's camp. There were different tents and Klaus asked if the group could get a private tent. A guard took them to a tent that wasn't far from the Overlord Plane expert's tent.

The guards felt the people from the Azure empire might still try to kill them, they even went as far as stationing three guards at the front of the tent.

"Let me take a look at the cat." The lady said gently.

She realized speaking to Grey in an authoritative way wouldn't yield any results.

"Thank you for your concern, but it isn't needed. He'll be fine." Grey spoke in the same emotionless manner.

He could tell that the way the lady was looking at Void was strange, so he didn't want to hand him over to her. Since he had the healing tonic from the Blooming Vipers, he would use one on him.

"Hmm, okay. Take this, it should help." The lady took out a tonic from the small bag she was wearing.

She felt curious about Void, but since Grey didn't even want to let anyone else take him, then there was no use in disturbing him about it.

Grey took the tonic from her and went into the tent.

"Thank you, my friend is just sad because his pet is injured. He's usually not like this." Alice thanked the lady before going in.

Klaus and Reynolds also thanked her before going in, they knew the reason Grey didn't thank her was that he was still annoyed, but mostly worried about Void.

After entering the tent.

"What are you doing?" Klaus asked when he saw Grey busying himself around the tent.

The tent wasn't that large, around fifteen square meters. There was a cotton that separated it into two. Grey was currently on the other side of the tent, moving from one spot to the other.

"Array, those old guys are snooping around in here. I think they are curious about Void." Grey spoke hurriedly.

Presently, he knew his life was in danger given his previous performance, so bringing out this as well would put him in more danger. There's also the problem of him making the healing tonic appear out of nowhere.

"Do you have some stones?" He asked looking at the trio.

He had studied Chris' array books, so he knew of an array that could block the senses of those in a higher Plane from snooping. Although, he wasn't really confident in it since he had not done it before.

They gave him the stones that they had in their bags, after placing them in the needed lines, the lines lit up before fading.

"Give me your bag." He stretched out his hand to Klaus.

There was a chance of the array not working, so he wanted to act like he took the tonic out of his bag.

Klaus passes his bag over to Grey who quickly placed his hand inside like he was taking something out. The hand he placed inside was the one the spatial ring was on.

He brought out the tonic and quickly poured it into the mouth of Void.

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"Looks like the brat has a way of healing his pet." The old man said while closely monitoring Grey's actions.

He knew he wasn't the only one who was watching Grey. Grey's performance was just too eye-catching that he had the idea of luring him to their empire. If the Azure empire could nurture a talent like him, he could single-handedly defeat an entire army once he grows to his peak.

Grey not heeding to the lady's orders even made him more convinced that he could bring him over to their empire. Luckily, he wasn't that old yet, so there's still the chance of brainwashing him. All they needed to do was provide him with all he wanted, and he would slowly start becoming loyal to them.

The old man knew a thing or two about the Qilin empire, and he knew the Lunar Academy was not on good terms with the Royals because of a certain man called Chris.

"He's proficient in arrays as well, such a talent." praised the old man.

It was only now he recalled the inscriptions he saw during the battle. This further made him want to make Grey a part of their empire.

"Huh!" He exclaimed slightly when he realized what Grey was doing.

"Cunning brat." He complained after he couldn't sense anything happening anymore.

He was forced to come out of his tent and ascend into the sky, but to his surprise, he wasn't the only one who appeared mid-air. This time, it was all four Overlord Plane experts from all camps.

"Why are you all looking at my camp?" The lady asked.

"Don't act like you also don't want to know what the boy is doing?" said the old man.

"Hmph! What he's doing is none of my business." The lady snorted coldly.

Yes, she was curious, but she couldn't give these old guys the chance to pry into her empire's genius' secret.

"Why don't we go and check?" The old man from the Azure empire insisted.

The other two men from the two empires looked at him but didn't reply, after looking in Grey's tent direction once more, they went back to their tents.

"Not everyone is as stupid as you are, old man." The lady laughed seeing the others ditching him.

"Hmph!" The old man snorted coldly before going back to his tent.

He wanted to convince the other two to force their way into the Qilin empire's camp but looks like his plan was unsuccessful.

'I'll take the boy, one way, or another.' He thought.

The lady looked at Grey's tent for some time, "\*Sigh\* This is going to be difficult."

She couldn't control Grey, nor his friends. And from the looks of it, neither can the empire. As it stands, the relationship between the Lunar Academy and the Royals was heated, and there were a lot of rumors going around about a possible fight against them.

Three hours went by, and Grey and his friends stayed inside their tent without coming out.

Just like Void said, the healing tonic was very impressive. Void wasn't awake yet, but he was already looking good.

Grey was sitting close to him stroking his fur, a slight smile was on his face.

'Void is going to freak out if he finds out we soaked him in water for over two hours.' He thought jokingly.

Later that night.

"Hello."

A voice came from outside Grey's tent.

Alice and the others walked out, but Grey was currently sitting in a meditative state. He was extremely tired from the prolonged battle with Aetonth, adding this intense battle and the emotional stress, he couldn't stay awake.

On going out, Alice and the others saw the lady standing outside.

"We'll be leaving first thing in the morning, we can't afford to let you stay here any further." said the lady.

"Okay, thank you for your help." Alice bowed to show her gratitude.

Klaus and Reynolds quickly bowed, well, after being dragged by Alice.

The lady left and the trio walked back into the tent.

They were speaking of today's event when they suddenly sensed a power surge from the motionless Grey.

Boom!

The tent rippled as the energy wave spread in all directions.

Klaus and Reynolds looked at Grey, and they were surprised to actually see the elemental particles around him.

"This...this..." Klaus couldn't complete what he was saying.

Five different elemental particles were around Grey, red, silver, blue, brown, and green. This represented five elements, fire, lightning, water, earth, and wind.

"How's this possible?" Alice opened her mouth in shock.

"He's having a breakthrough." Reynolds said with surprise.

"We know that, but he only has three elements, this doesn't make any sense." Klaus said.

An Elementalist can only absorb the elements that he has an affinity to, so how can Grey absorb five different elements.

"Quickly..." Alice looked at Klaus in panic.

Klaus had already made a move, creating an ice sphere that covered Grey completely. After the first shockwave that spread out, Klaus quickly sealed Grey inside his ice sphere, this stopped the aura from spreading out.

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In the Qilin empire's camp.

The guards sensed a strong energy wave that quickly disappeared.

"What's that?" One of the guards asked.

"Go over to their tent, make sure nothing happens to them." The leader ordered.

He felt it might be an assassin who wanted to kill Grey and his friends, but accidentally released some of his aura.

#### Chapter 222 - Questions

Grey whose eyes were closed was totally oblivious to what was happening outside. This was not the first time he was breaking through, so he didn't really think much about his breakthrough here. It wasn't like he had ever caused a ruckus before when breaking through.

Moreover, he was currently in a state that even he didn't understand. He felt relieved! Breaking through might relieve one physically, but not mentally. Yet, he felt relieved both physically and mentally, it was like his previous mental state was also going through a breakthrough. He didn't feel annoyed anymore, nor did he even think about the leader of the guards from the Azure empire who hurt Void.

He continued his breakthrough without a care in the world, extremely relaxed. He even had a satisfied smile on his face!

Klaus, Reynolds, and Alice watched his every movement from outside the ice sphere.

"Should this be possible?" Reynolds asked, shifting his gaze to the other two.

"No!" Klaus answered firmly, before adding, "Unless, he initially had all five elements."

"That's impossible, he was tested before coming to the Academy, and even after entering the Academy. His results showed he had only two elements at that time." Alice explained.

They all knew of Grey's story, and Klaus even confirmed it since his father was close to Chris. Not just that, but they also knew it was impossible to gain a new element. They didn't find it weird when he displayed his fire element since they thought it was the expert's legacy, but now, they couldn't think of an explanation for the two new elements.

"But...but...how's he doing that?" Reynolds pointed at Grey who was absorbing the elemental particles of five different elements.

"We don't know, but being able to absorb them means he has an affinity with them." Klaus placed his hand on his temple, gently massaging it.

For some reason, he suddenly had a headache from the multiple questions that were running through his head.

How's this possible? If people were to find out about it, wouldn't that put him in danger? Why the f.u.c.k didn't he tell me about this? Should I beat him up for not trusting me? What would a soup made with the healing tonic taste like? Will I ever find true love? Why is Trisha's b\*\*bs so small? I still don't see what Pharrell has that I don't? Do al beasts date? Or do they just skip to the main part?

Klaus' mind soon wandered from Grey's secret to different weird things.

'\*Sigh\* I really need to keep my thoughts to myself, the day I'll think out loud will be the end of me.' He sighed wryly.

"Huh! Someone's coming." Alice turned to look at the entrance to the tent.

"They must have sensed the first energy wave, let's head out to make sure Grey isn't disturbed or seen." Klaus suggested.

If Grey is seen in this state, it would spell danger for him. Being the wielder of five elements wouldn't be a blessing, rather, it was a curse. Even the Qilin empire wouldn't allow someone who has five elements to keep growing, especially with how powerful his fire element was.



The guards who were sent to check on them got to the tent, but they realized the three guards stationed there were still there.

"What are you doing outside, did you check on them?" One of the newly arrived guards asked the trio who was stationed there.

"Is something wrong?" The first guard stationed there asked hastily.

The guards stationed here surprisingly didn't sense the energy wave that Grey gave off, even with how close they were to him.

"You didn't sense that strange aura? Quickly, let's go in." The newly arrived guard who spoke previously hurriedly rushed towards the tent.

Just as they were about to go in, Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds rushed out.

"What's going on? Did something happen?" Klaus asked two questions in quick succession.

"Where's the last one?" The newly arrived guard asked when he saw that only the three of them came out, instead of four.

"Our friend is very tired, he's already asleep." answered Alice.

"I'll check on him just to be sure." The guard said.

"You going inside would disturb his rest, we're his friends, we naturally aren't stupid enough to say he's fine if he isn't." Klaus said coldly.

He knew if he spoke to the guard softly, the guard would insist on going in.

Even after saying this, the guard still insisted on seeing him. It was only after a combined effort from, Klaus and the others did he finally decide to stay outside.

"Okay, we'll stay out here. Yell if there are any issues." The guard said before standing around the tent.

Klaus hated being monitored, but their current situation warranted it.

In the Overlord Plane expert's tent.

"Hmm, this aura." She muttered softly, trying to find where the aura was coming from.

It disappeared almost as soon as it appeared, making it difficult to sense it out.

'I'll have to make sure to watch the kids, there's a high chance of that old man being responsible for this.'

She stood up, walked out of her tent and took to the sky. The safety of Grey and his friends was just too important to her. She had even prepared a letter that had a report of what happened here.

Back inside the cave.

"Wouldn't the Overlord Plane experts be able to trace the aura here?" Reynolds asked worriedly.

"Klaus acted quickly, but their senses are sharper than Origin Plane Elementalists. Hopefully, Grey's array should be able to keep them out." Alice looked at Grey.

Today had been stressful for her to say the least.

"What's taking him so long? He needs to end this soon." Reynolds said worriedly.

Crack!

"Shit! The energy wave is intense." Klaus complained.

This ice sphere could withstand an all-out attack of a Third stage Origin Plane Elementalist, yet, it was breaking under the impact of Grey's energy wave.

Klaus hastily created another sphere, before the first one breaks down.

Chapter 223 - Finding Out

Thirty minutes later.

Grey's breakthrough was already finished, but he still had both eyes closed, not showing any signs of moving from his sitting position. Now, he was a Fifth stage Origin Plane Elementalist, the Overlord Plane was just a few stages away.

"Hmm, looks like his array worked." Alice looked around.

The lady didn't show up, which meant that she couldn't trace the aura here. There's also the possibility of the lady not wanting to alert them of her being aware of what happened tonight.

"Yeah, probably. So, do you think he knows about this?" Klaus asked the other two.

The two looked at him without replying.

"Like, you know. Maybe he doesn't know he has an affinity with the wind and water element?" He explained.

"Since he's absorbing it, he should be aware of them. How else would he absorb them if he doesn't attract them to himself?" Alice looked at Klaus.

"I'm just saying, there's a chance this might be a new development he doesn't know of." Klaus shrugged.

"We'll find out when he's awake." Alice said.

"Find out about what?" He asked with a confused expression.

The trio was slightly surprised that he had finally woken up.

"Did you notice anything strange when you were breaking through just now?" Klaus asked strangely.

"Strange when I was breaking through? Did something strange happen?" Grey wore a baffled face.

Since when does something strange happen when he is breaking through?

"Not really, only that you were able to absorb five different elements instead of three." Alice took charge of the questioning.

"Huh! How did you know that?" Grey asked in shock, before realizing he shouldn't have asked that question.

'Damn it! I should've acted like I didn't know what they were talking about.' He complained internally.

The trio's expression took a change when they heard what he said.

"Does that mean that you have five elements?" asked Reynolds.

"Yes." Grey could only helplessly nod.

The cat was out of the bag anyway, so there's no way he could deny it.

"But...how's that possible?" Klaus looked at Grey in awe, he also felt like Grey was more freakish compared to Reynolds who was a high-grade summoner.

"That...I'll explain later. First of all, tell me how you found out about this, what happened when I was breaking through?" Grey asked seriously.

He felt something must have happened when he was breaking through that made his friends realize he didn't have three elements, but five.

Klaus went on to tell him about the commotion he caused when breaking through, he also told him about the manifestation of the elemental particles which led to them figuring out about him being able to use five elements.

"Wait, you mean the elemental particles were actually visible?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

He had just been told this, but he found it extremely shocking to believe. This wasn't the first time he had broken through, even when he was breaking through to the Origin Plane, he didn't cause any ruckus other than the time he wanted to refine his body.

"Yes, all five elemental particles were visible. Luckily, we were here, else you might have been in danger given the fact that there are no records of anyone ever having four elements, much less five." Alice said.

"Also, how the hell did you have five elements? I recalled your test only showed two." Klaus looked at him seriously.

Grey sighed before saying, "\*Sigh\* I planned to tell you all anyway, so there's no use if I tell you now, or later. I can comprehend new elements."

"Wait, what?!" Klaus and Reynolds exclaimed simultaneously, but their mouths were quickly closed by Alice.

"I mean, I can gain new elements. I originally had only the lightning element, but I comprehended the earth element before my test." Grey explained.

Gasps!

The trio gasped in shock, well, Klaus and Reynolds tried to, but with Alice's hands covering their mouths, it wasn't easy.

"Meaning you can..." Alice looked at the sleeping Void.

"Yes, but it's not as easy as it sounds. The two elements I comprehended here were due to external factors. The space element is much more complex to comprehend than the other elements, I haven't even been able to start studying it properly yet." Grey continued.

"Yuu yuu yuu." Klaus tried speaking but with Alice covering his mouth, all they heard were mumblings.

Grey, Alice, and Reynolds looked at him.

"Oh, sorry." Alice hastily removed her hands from the duo's mouths.

"Thank you, you mean you already have one more element before coming here?" asked Klaus.

"Yeah, I awoke my wind element when I went out on a mission." Grey smiled.

"You only left the Academy once." Reynolds said.

"Yeah, that was the time." Grey affirmed.

"Wow! That's so insane. Is there a reason for this?" Reynolds asked, but quickly shut his mouth.

This was a great secret, it must have taken a lot from Grey just to tell them this. Yet, he wanted to know more.

Grey acted like he didn't hear the question before smiling at his friends, "There's one more thing though."

"Oh, what's that?" They looked at him curiously.

"I can increase my elemental grade." Grey said with a mysterious smile.

Even though he couldn't tell them of the pearl, telling them of his ability to gain new elements and increasing his elemental grade wasn't that bad. Since there's a chance they might also find out someday.

"What?!" This time, Klaus and Reynolds weren't the only ones who exclaimed, even Alice exclaimed in shock.

They all looked at Grey in disbelief. They previously felt being able to comprehend and gain new elements was insane, but hearing about being able to improve his grade, they didn't know what to think anymore.

Was there anyone more amazing than the young man who was sitting before them? The answer is most likely, No!

Chapter 224 - The Dawson Family

The next morning.

When Grey and his friends came out, the lady was surprised when she noticed Grey had already broken through to the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane.

'Could it be he was the one who released that aura yesterday?' She asked herself.

The timing of Grey's breakthrough and the release of that aura was just too coincidental. She knew during the previous day, Grey was still only at the Fourth stage.

'No, it shouldn't, the aura I sensed wasn't something a Fifth stage Origin Plane Elementalist should have.' She contemplated.

The aura she felt was stronger than even what a Sixth stage Origin Plane Elementalist has, so she couldn't link Grey's breakthrough with the aura.

"You broke through yesterday." She said.

"Yeah, I was already close to breaking through before I left the trial land." Grey replied.

"That's good, the empire needs more people like you." The lady nodded repeatedly while studying Grey.

"Thank you for yesterday." Grey bowed slightly.

"It's nothing. Oh! How's your pet?" The lady asked when she saw Void on Grey's hand.

Void currently had his eyes closed. He woke up the previous night while Grey and his friends were speaking, but since they couldn't show the others he was already fine, he had to pretend he was asleep.

"He's better now, but it'll take a while before he wakes up." Grey smiled softly.

"What element does your cat have?" The lady asked curiously.

"Wind." Grey said offhandedly.

"Hmm, it's quite fast for a Wind Elementalist." The lady continued looking at Void.



'Looks like the Overlord Plane experts saw him when he helped me, but luckily, they have no knowledge of the space element. No wonder she wanted to take Void, she planned on studying him.' thought Grey.

Grey smiled without responding any further, he had already told her Void was a Wind Elementalist, there's no reason for him to keep answering her questions.

Seeing no more response from Grey, the lady sensibly stopped asking about Void.

"Are you all going back to your Academy, or are you willing to join the empire's forces?" She asked.

Once a citizen of the empire breaks through to the Origin Plane, they can freely join the empire's forces. They would all be given positions according to their stages, as well as their potentials. The lady felt with Grey's talent, his position wouldn't be meager.

"We haven't decided yet." Alice answered.

Of all of them, only Grey and Reynolds didn't really have a prominent background. Given Reynolds background, the chances of him joining the army is very high since it would increase his family's background. Grey on the other hand, didn't seem like someone who cared about the empire or joining any forces. Just like Klaus and Alice, he didn't want to get involved in anything.

"Hmm, okay. They'll drop you off at the Capital." said the lady.

"You don't need to worry much about us, just drop us off at the borders of the empire." Klaus waved, rejecting the lady's idea of taking them to the capital.

"No, it's not safe letting you four wander around the empire, especially after what happened yesterday." The lady immediately rejected their suggestion.

Leaving the four alone would probably mean their deaths. She felt the Azure empire hadn't given up on their attempt to kill Grey. So they would most likely send people after them.

"Fine, take us to Red City." Klaus said after getting a nod from Grey.

The lady looked at them before helplessly nodding. She knew she couldn't change their minds, so she could only agree to get them to Red City, after all, it was deep in the empire. Although it was a small city, it was relatively safe.

"These will be the guards accompanying you all, they are all in the Eighth stage of the Origin Plane." The lady introduced them to five young men.

The young men all looked to be in their late twenties. According to the lady, after they left the Academy, they joined the empire's forces. The reason they were already in the Eighth stage was because of the items provided by the empire for their growth.

Grey and the others naturally knew she was only saying this to try to lure them into joining the empire's forces. Other than smiling, they didn't show any signs of even giving it a thought, except for Reynolds.

'Maybe they're from great backgrounds.' She thought.

"I forgot to ask, what are your names?" The lady asked.

She wanted to tell the emperor about them, although her rank wasn't high, she could inform her superiors about them.

Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds told her their names, she easily recognized Klaus and Alice's family, but she didn't know a thing about Reynolds' family.

"What about you?" She looked at Grey.

"Grey." Grey said.

"Just Grey?" The lady couldn't help but ask.

Grey looked at her for a while, his last name was something he rarely said, even his mother rarely used it. He recalled it was Dawson, but since his father was gone for such a long time now, he didn't like talking about it since it always reminded him of his father.

"Dawson, Grey Dawson." He said gently.

'Hmm, I don't know about any Dawson Family from Red City.' She scanned her memories for a Dawson Family from Red City, but she didn't know of any.

She thought hard about it, but just like Reynolds' family, she knew nothing of it.

'Maybe they are a small family, this should increase the chances of him deciding to join the empire's forces.' She thought internally.

Of all Grey's friends, Grey was the one she wanted the most, Reynolds was the second, then Alice, before Klaus. She placed Klaus on the end of the list because she didn't see him make any move other than cheering animatedly on the sidelines, so she didn't know just how strong he was.

"Okay. They'll take you to Red City, just make sure to head to your Academy soon, the empire might summon all four of you." She said.

There's a chance the empire would summon them once they get the news of what happened here. Grey's talent and ruthlessness would make him a terrifying figure if placed on a battlefield.

Reynolds' Elemental Warrior was strong, Alice could not be removed from the picture as well. But Klaus, there was nothing she could say about him.

The group soon left the camp, heading for Red City. The journey would take the group at least a day and a half, which was on the premise that they traveled without rest. But since the beasts couldn't fly continuously for such a long time, they would naturally have to rest while on the journey.

Two days later.

The sun was just about to set when two huge birds landed on a forest.

These were the birds that carried Grey and his friends from the border of the al beast forest. The journey was surprisingly safe. The young men guarding the group didn't believe it would be this peaceful, according to what the lady told them, they thought they will be attacked while taking Grey and his friends here, but not even a al beast attacked them.

"Thank you, we'll be going now." Grey said as he leads the group out of the forest.

This was the same forest he first saw Brown, he still couldn't help but look at the area where Chris left Brown feeling a little nostalgic.

"Is this the city you came from?" Klaus asked while looking at the city gates.

This was the smallest city gate he had ever seen.

Alice and Reynolds looked at the city walls curiously as well. Although Reynolds wasn't from a big family, the city he came from was bigger than Red City, even the mayor was in the Origin Plane.

"Yeah, I spent fifteen years of my life here." Grey nodded with a soft smile.

He couldn't say he was overly attached to this city, after all, his memories here weren't that fun. Other than his mother, he didn't really have any other friends here.

"Come on, let's go check it out. I'll show you where I stayed." He walked through the city gates, heading into the city.

The guards at the gates were all in the Fusion Plane. Unlike the gates of big cities like Lunar City, and the rest, Red City wasn't bustling. The activity was minimal since merchants rarely came here.

The group walked in, Klaus and Reynolds were particularly looking around curiously. Alice would occasionally take a glance around, but would then focus on their journey.

Grey soon got to the building he used to stay. He looked at it, and it was just like the way he left it, only, he still felt there was something missing, his mother.

He stood on the roadside looking at it, "This is where I grew up."

The others had already guessed it seeing that he stood here looking at the building for some time.

"It's nice." Alice smiled softly.

Klaus and Reynolds looked at the building for some time.

"So, what did you usually do for fun here?" Klaus asked.

Chapter 225 - You're No Fun

"Does training count?" Grey asked after thinking for a while.

Unlike Lunar City, Red City was too small, so there are almost zero places where one could have fun. Of course, there were taverns and inns, but not on the same level as Lunar City. There were also a few places with women just like the Jade Water Paradise Klaus and Reynolds usually goes to in the Capital.

"Since when have training been fun?" Klaus asked while looking at him weirdly.

Even Reynolds had an odd expression.

"Oh, then nothing. No, wait, there are some times I follow my mother to the market to buy things for cooking, it's pretty fun. Does that count?" Grey looked at the duo.

"Okay, you're a no fun guy, we get it." Klaus stopped him from speaking.

How could going to the market with your mother be fun? It's exhausting!

Klaus didn't get the chance to go with his mother though, since she died early. He rarely knew her, but his father did a nice job training him, so he doesn't usually remember the fact that he didn't have a mother.

Reynolds looked around, but there was nothing interesting around here.

Of the group, Alice and Void were the more composed ones. Alice looked around curiously, while Void looked around enthusiastically. During the journey here, he had to pretend he was still asleep, but as soon as they left the guards who brought them here, he instantly stood up.

'So this is where he grew up, lame.' He thought arrogantly.

There weren't any shiny things even in the streets, how could someone grow up here? The houses didn't even look classy, they all looked old. Almost like the ones in the trial land.

"Wait here, I'll be right back." Grey said to the others before walking to the building on the left side of the one he previously lived in.

This building was occupied by a family of four, an old lady, a middle-aged man and woman, and finally, a little boy. Although, the boy might not be so little anymore since it has been a while Grey last saw him.

Grey knocked on the door of the building, after waiting for a while, he heard footsteps from inside.

The door opened, and he saw a young boy who looked to be around ten years old or so. The boy had a short hair, just like Grey, only, his hair was blonde while Grey's was black. He still had baby fat which made his face look chubby, he had an enchanting sapphire colored eyes, and a pointed nose.

When Grey came with Chris the last time, they weren't around.

'Wow! He's already so big? It hasn't even been up to three years I left.' He exclaimed inside.

The young boy who opened the door for him was called, Athan. When Grey went for his first test, Athan was still only four years old or so, after his result was announced, Athan's parents, his father to be precise, stopped him from speaking to Grey. But whenever his father was not around, he would sneak off to Grey's place.

Grey stopped him from coming when his father found out about it. According to his mother, Athan's father beat him up even though he was still only four years old. But the little boy didn't stop coming, it was only after he was beaten for a third time did Grey decide to stop him from coming, so his father wouldn't beat him anymore. He always took him as a younger brother.

"Grey!" Athan exclaimed happily on seeing him.

Grey didn't change much, although he was taller now, his facial appearance was still the same.

"Athan, how are you doing?" Grey ruffled Athan's hair while smiling happily.

"Fine." Athan said while pushing Grey's hand away from his hair while trying to arrange it back to the way it previously was.

"Come in." He invited Grey in while holding his hand, trying to drag him in.

"I can't come in, I came with some friends." Grey smiled as he saw the Athan's expression.

After leaving this place, he rarely thought of this boy who seemed to like him to no end. He thought maybe Athan would've forgotten about him, but who would've thought he still had the same love for him.

"Oh, will you stay for a while?" asked Athan.

"Unfortunately, no. I need to get back to the Academy soon." Grey said gently.

"Oh." Athan said with a sad expression.

While looking around, he saw Void who was in Alice's hand.

"Wow! Such a strange cat." He pointed at Void.

"He's my friend, his name's Void." said Grey.

"Your friend? Isn't it just a cat?" Athan asked in confusion.

Humans should have only human friends, while beasts should have beasts friends. When a human has a beast, it was usually as a pet.

"No, he's my friend. More than that actually... Is your mother at home?" Grey asked.

"No, she went to the forge to see dad." Athan replied.

Athan's father was one of the few blacksmiths in Red City, so he was quite popular in the city since he made some of the weapons in the city.

"Okay, is your grandma inside?" Grey asked again.

Athan was still too young when his mother left, so he wouldn't know if she left any messages for him or not.

"Grandma died last year." Athan's expression turned even sadder when Grey asked of his grandmother.

"Oh, sorry about that." Grey tapped him on his shoulder.

"I'll be taking my test soon, I want to be like you." Athan suddenly said.



"Soon? But you're only ten." Grey said.

"No, I'm already eleven." Athan stood straight as he announced his age.

'Shit! I forgot about his age.' Grey cursed.

He couldn't be blamed since he focused more on training after he stopped seeing Athan. There are times he even forgets about his age, much less the age of someone.

"Oh, that's true. Did my mom leave anything for me when she was leaving?" He asked the question that originally brought him here.

Chapter 226 - Unknown Danger

"No." Athan replied.

"Hmm, okay." Grey nodded.

'Where did you go to?' Grey looked at the place he used to stay with a complex emotion.

It has been over two years now, yet he hadn't heard anything from his mother. This was exactly how his father left, now it was his mother's turn. He could accept losing his father, but he couldn't take it if he lost his mother.

"I'll be going now, make sure to take care of yourself." Grey smiled softly to Athan.

"I will come find you at the Lunar Academy." Athan said.

Grey chuckled but didn't say anything, he knew the chances of Athan joining the Lunar Academy was slim. Athan needed to have at least a purple elemental grade to be accepted into the Lunar Academy. But he couldn't discourage him, so he could only smile to him.

"I'll be waiting for you." He turned around to walk over to the others who were standing on the pavement at the side of the road.

"Hey guys, there's nothing about my mom here. We should head back to the Academy, there's no use staying here any further." Grey said to the others.

They headed to the city gate, Grey didn't forget to say goodbye to Athan before leaving.

"Which way?" Klaus asked immediately after the group walked past the gate.

"That way, I think." Grey pointed to the north with uncertainty.

They didn't have a map, and Grey who had traveled from here to the Academy didn't know the way. When he left for the Academy, he was carried by Brown. When he came here as well, Brown brought him here, and he could barely see, much less seeing the route they took.

Reynolds went over to ask one of the guards at the gate which way led to the Lunar Academy. The distance from here to the Lunar Academy wasn't by any means close, so the guard only pointed them in the general direction he could recall.

"It's already dark. Why don't we go back to the city?" Alice suggested.

When they came here, it was already almost sunset. But after they spent some time in the city, it was already dark.

Thinking of the possible dangers, Grey and the others agreed to Alice's suggestion. They went back into the city, heading straight for an inn.

The next morning, the group woke up feeling energized and started their journey to the Lunar Academy. This was the first time Grey would be personally going to the Lunar Academy from Red City, and he wasn't excited at all.

"How come we are unable to get a horse in your city?" Klaus asked sourly.

The thought of walking to the Lunar Academy was not something he could accept. He had been walking for so long in the trial land, and now that he left the trial land, he didn't want to walk for a long distance anymore.

"I've never really thought of it." Grey shrugged.

The only time he has left Red City was when Chris took him to the Academy, so he never really had any use for horses.

"Rey, you'll have to carry me." Klaus looked at Reynolds.

"In your dreams." Reynolds didn't even bother to look at him.

"Grey." Klaus looked at Grey hoping he would agree to carry him.

"I'll break your legs." Grey replied.

"Al..." Klaus didn't dare to complete his statement when he saw the look Alice gave him.

If he were to accidentally call her name, then she would most likely beat him up.

"We'll get a horse in the next city." He said.

The trio who were currently ahead of him didn't answer him.

The group walked along the path with Klaus complaining as they walked.

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A group of ten men who were dressed in black were closely watching the group as they started their journey.

"How come they managed to get here?" One of the men asked.

"I'm not sure, but looks like the other group missed them." Another one replied.

"They are only kids, according to the reports, only the one in the Fifth stage is a treat, the others aren't much of a challenge given our stages." A third guy said.

"Hmph! We should kill them now. The ladies at the tavern are still waiting for me, we've been here for three days now." A burly guy said with lust in his eyes.

"No, we need to make sure they're all alone." The fifth guy said.

They all stood in the forest looking at the group as they disappeared into the horizon.

"Let's go, we'll kill them once there's no one near." The fifth guy said.

Just as they were about to follow the group, a man appeared before them, making them unconsciously retreat.

"Who are you?" The burly guy asked after taking a step back.

"Death." The man said.

He was the man Grey's mother left to protect him. When Grey went into the trial land, he couldn't get in, even after trying on multiple occasions, he still couldn't go in. He almost fainted from fright. If anything happened to Grey while he was inside, he knew Martha would kill him.

She wouldn't even want to know why he was unable to save her son, she'd kill him instantly. He waited outside for the entire time Grey spent in the trial land, whenever the array lit up, he would always look at who was exiting it.

When he saw Grey come out, he was exhilarated. He didn't expect Grey to be sneak attacked by the leader of the guards from the Azure empire, but Grey's performance impressed him. He felt Grey's improvement during the time he spent in the trial land was massive. After all, Grey's reaction speed wasn't something others his age had.

Void's appearance also surprised him, he knew of the space element, so he wasn't too surprised about it using it. He only found Void's appearance strange.

He was the one who made sure Grey and his friends traveled here safely, and he planned on making sure they didn't face any problems from people until they got to the Lunar Academy.

Chapter 227 - Which Is Better?

Later that day.

Grey and his friends could be seen walking on a forest path, and Klaus was surprisingly carrying Reynolds on his back.

Grey still didn't know how Reynolds was able to convince Klaus to carry him on his back, he recalled Klaus was the one who was complaining at the start of the journey.

'Hey.' Void who was in Alice's arms glanced at Klaus and Reynolds with a weird look.

'Yeah.' Grey replied.

'I know I've said this a lot of times, but your friends are weird, except for Alice. Alice is nice.' said Void.

'Heh! At least they're not that crazy.' Grey chuckled not feeling offended by Void's statement.

He didn't need anyone to tell him his friends were weird, he knew their personalities, but he loved them. Life wouldn't be the same anymore without them.

'Yeah, but I think they're not far from it.' Void added.

Klaus and Reynolds were currently arguing while Reynolds was still on Klaus' back.

Grey looked behind him and couldn't help but wonder where Reynolds' confidence came from. Reynolds was stronger than Klaus, which is well known by the group, but he was currently on Klaus' back. Given Klaus' personality, he would most likely slam him into the ground when their argument gets to a heated stage.

"Wait, what are you people arguing about again?" He asked, trying to stop the duo before it's too late.

"If al beasts ruled the world, who do you think would be the leader?" Klaus asked.

"Well, I think..."

"It's a hydra, right?" Reynolds interrupted Grey.

"Of course not, it's a peac.o.c.k with a multi-colored tail." Klaus said angrily.

"Wait, do peac.o.c.ks usually have a single colored tail?" Grey asked a little confused.

"Shut up Grey! Peac.o.c.ks are amazing al beasts, they're not only beautiful, but they're also strong when using any of the elements. Also, most peac.o.c.ks are at the very least Dual Elementalists." said Klaus.

"\*Pfft\* Grey, can you believe this guy? How can a peac.o.c.k be as strong as a hydra? Have you forgotten they have over three heads? And according to legends, each head not only uses one element, but it can also work separately from the others." Reynolds laughed out loudly.

Hydras were legendary creatures just like dragons, griffins, phoenix, and the rest. According to the legends, it was said that they were a type of dragon. They are said to have two heads from birth, but with time, they would start growing a third head that not only has a different element from the first two but can also operate on its own. There are very few records of hydras having only a single head, most of them had at least two heads.

It was also said that if one of a hydra's heads was cut off, it would grow two new ones from the wound, that's how it's said to grow multiple heads.

How could a colorful peac.o.c.k be stronger than that?

"I personally feel that dragons would be the leader." Grey said after finally getting the chance to speak.

"Can dragons regenerate heads?" Reynolds asked.

"No, I don't think so." Grey shook his head.

"Is the tail of a dragon as colorful as a peac.o.c.k's?" Klaus asked.

"Not really." Grey shook his head once again.

"Okay, now go over there, let the real men argue which al beast is better." Klaus pointed at a spot not too far from them in a mocking way.

Grey was left speechless seeing how the two chased him away, it was like they didn't even think of the strength of a dragon.

'Most people regard dragons as the rulers of the al beasts, how the hell does these idiots' thought process work?' He asked internally, of course, he didn't dare to continue arguing with the duo.

In regards to strength, he was the strongest. However, he knew Klaus and Reynolds wouldn't try to beat him up, rather, they'll team up and curse at him. He could barely face either of them one-on-one, much less when the duo ganged up on him.

They continued walking before what Grey predicted happened.

Bang!

Reynolds slammed into the ground hard after being thrown by Klaus. Not expecting it, he couldn't resist it.

"F.u.c.k you! Either you accept that peac.o.c.ks are the strongest, or you get out." Klaus pointed at Reynolds who was currently lying on the floor.

Grey and Alice looked at them but didn't try to stop them.

"Do you think Reynolds would beat him up?" Grey walked closer to Alice and asked softly.

"Yeah." Alice nodded.

"Damn you! Peac.o.c.ks are nothing, they wouldn't even last a second if confronted by a hydra." Reynolds stood up angrily and pointed at Klaus.

The duo soon got into a hand-to-hand brawl with Grey and Alice watching on from the side. With both boys using their fists, it was a battle filled with screams from both sides.

"\*Sigh\* I'll stop them." Grey shook his head as he walked over.

"What do you want?" Klaus whose head was locked between Reynolds' arms asked when he saw Grey approaching.



"Stop fighting, we need to get to the next city before it gets dark." Grey said but made sure to keep his distance from the duo.

"Damn you, I still want to beat him up." Klaus said.

"Me too." Reynolds raised one hand which Klaus capitalized on to escape.

Grey looked at the duo, feeling a little helpless. Sometimes, he felt like he was speaking to two kids. He walked back to where Alice was standing, just as she was about to take over, an idea struck him.

He quickly went back to where the duo was facing off against each other.

"How about this, we'll fight hand-to-hand without using any elements. If I beat any of you, we'll leave immediately, and you wouldn't delay us any further." Grey proposed.

"And if we beat you?" Reynolds asked curiously.

"Then you beat me, isn't that enough for you? But remember, we'll start the journey immediately after the fight." Grey said.

Klaus and Reynolds looked at each other, and the duo who were previously fighting against themselves drew nearer.

"Hey, do you think this is a trap?" Klaus whispered in Reynolds' ear.

"I think so, but beating him sounds good. Also, if he cheats, I'll summon my Elemental Warrior." Reynolds said thoughtfully.

"Hmm, deal. But remember, you are not allowed to take revenge after we're done beating you up." Klaus agreed to Grey's proposal, while also warning him.

"Of course, shall we?" Grey motioned as his lips curved upwards.

Alice by the side shook her head while staring at Klaus and Reynolds in pity. She still recalled Grey's insane physical strength, yet these two morons readily agreed to be beaten by him.

Gently c.a.r.e.s.sing Void, she watched as Grey prepared to pummel the duo.

'They've been too much of a headache lately, this should teach them a lesson.' She nodded at the thought of Grey beating them up.

Chapter 228 - Zivia City

Grey looked at the duo, he almost felt pity for them, well, almost.

"I'm coming." He declared.

Klaus and Reynolds prepared themselves, thinking they would beat Grey up. They've always wanted to beat him up, now that he presented the opportunity to them, they didn't want to miss it like the last time. According to their plan, they would've beaten Grey up after they left the trial land, but because of the sneak attack, they couldn't beat him up.

Their pupils dilated the next second.

"F.u.c.k you Grey! No cheating!" Klaus was the first to curse out.

"Who's cheating?" Grey asked as he appeared behind him.

Bam!

He threw a blow at Klaus' back that sent him flying.

"Ah... Grey, how could you be so cruel? I'm your friend!" Klaus yelled as he landed on the side of the forest path.

'Damn it! I forgot about his insane physical strength. It's all that bastard's fault.' Klaus complained while rubbing his back.

He didn't even try to stand up since Grey would just pummel him back down.

On seeing this, Reynolds immediately started retreating, praying that Grey would focus on Klaus so he could escape.

"And where are you going?" Grey asked with folded arms.

"Nowhere, I'm only creating some space between us so that I can beat you up properly." Reynolds replied, still retreating.

"Oh really? How about this, I'll let you attack first." Grey said motioning to him to give it his best shot.

"No, why don't you just let me go and beat up Klaus in my place." Reynolds said pointing at Klaus who was still on the ground.

Klaus jumped up when he heard this and started cursing at Reynolds' shamelessness.

Grey turned to look at Klaus, and to his surprise, Klaus fell back to the ground, pretending he never stood up. Reynolds continued retreating when he saw this opportunity. But just then, he sensed someone behind him.

"Huh!" He exclaimed in surprise when he realized Grey was no longer standing in front of him.

'Shit! How could I have forgotten? It's all Klaus' fault.' Reynolds complained inside.

"Since you don't want to attack, then I will." Grey's voice sounded out before his figure appeared at Reynolds' left-hand side.

Bam!

Just like Klaus, Reynolds was sent flying with a single punch.

"Ah..." He yelled before crashing into the ground, a few meters away from Klaus.

"\*Psst\* Don't lie so close to me, go the other way." Klaus whispered to Reynolds.

"This is bad, how do we escape now?" Reynolds whispered.

"Play dead, maybe he'll let us go if he sees we're hurt." Klaus said.

Just as Reynolds was about to speak, he heard Grey's footstep coming closer to them. Without any other choice, he yelped in pain, hoping Grey would take pity on him.

Grey smiled and stretched his arms, "I'm going to enjoy this."

Bam! Bang! Bam!

The sound of fist hitting flesh rang out on the forest path, accompanied by the screams of pain from both Klaus and Reynolds.

Alice who was watching from the side couldn't stop laughing, especially when Klaus and Reynolds started shouting like they were two ladies who were about to be r.a.p.ed.

Three minutes later.

"You bastard, I'll get you for this." Klaus muttered while raising a fist, of course, he was the only one who heard it.

He was already hurting all over, if Grey heard what he said, then Grey might probably continue beating him up.

"What did you say?" Grey who heard his mumblings but not the exact words turned around with his left brow raised.

"Nothing, I said nothing." Klaus quickly said.

"Hmm, I don't trust you." Grey squinted his eyes and stared at Klaus seriously.

"Come on, I win. Let's get going." He laughed before turning around.

He was a hundred percent confident that Klaus cursed at him, but the reason he made a deal with them was so that they could quickly get to the next town. There wasn't any need in delaying any further. Besides, he has had his fun, and knowing the duo, he knew they would most likely plot revenge against him.

"This is all your fault."

Klaus and Reynolds said simultaneously while looking at each other, with sparks flying everywhere. From the looks of things, they were about to start fighting again.

Alice couldn't help but place her hand on her forehead.

"These two are just crazy." She mumbled.

"You two better start walking, or else what Grey did to you would feel like heaven compared to what you're going to suffer in my hands." She looked at them with fiery eyes.

The duo stood up instantly, unlike Grey, Alice wasn't that lenient. And unlike Grey, they couldn't get revenge on her, so getting on her bad side was not a good idea.

Immediately the duo stood up, Klaus looked at Reynolds before saying, "It's your turn now."

"How do you expect me to carry you in this state?" Reynolds spread his arms.

"It's none of my business. Our deal was to switch, and we're switching now." Klaus demanded.

"Damn you! I'm not carrying you." Reynolds didn't give in.

He couldn't give in, he was exhausted just like Klaus.

Klaus and Reynolds continued quarreling as the group advanced in the forest path. They would occasionally encounter some people on the way. After two hours, they still haven't gotten to the next city and Klaus and Reynolds were already getting tired.

Grey was forced to stop the next person they encountered to ask if they were already getting close to the city. The person told them they were only an hour away from the city. The news invigorated the group, and they surprisingly saw the visage of the city within thirty minutes.

"Let's go, I need to eat." Grey said while patting his stomach.

## Chapter 229 - Trouble

Grey and his friends soon got to Zivia's City gate, this was their first time here, and they didn't plan on staying long. There were two queues at the gate, and they joined the one on the right.

Klaus suggested they skipped the line, they were already in the Origin Plane, in a city this small, the mayor shouldn't even be at the Peak of the Arcane Plane, much less the Origin Plane. Grey and the others opted to go with the queue, they didn't want anything that would draw attention to them, especially Grey.

After waiting for a while, it got to their turn.

The guard looked at them properly before saying, "Fifty silver coins per individual."

He had a cross-shaped scar just above his left eye, it was most likely caused by a sword. These guards were only in the Fusion Plane, so they still relied on their bodies and weapons for battles.

"Oh!" Grey exclaimed slightly, not expecting that it would be this expensive.

However, he didn't bother about it since it was something they could easily cover. Although when he previously went to the Capital he didn't pay a dime to go in, he didn't want to make an issue out of this.

Just as he was about to take out the coins to hand them over to the guard, he heard an elderly man quarreling with one of the other guards on the other queue.

"What do you mean twenty-five silver coins, since when was the charges this high?" The elderly man asked angrily.

"If you can't pay then move to the side, there are others who would like to enter." The guard said without any shred of pity.

"It has always been five silver coins, in only two months you people increased it to twenty-five silver coins." The elderly man argued.

"Move aside old man, if you don't want to go in then leave this queue." The guard shoved the elderly man away.

Grey and his friends gaze switched from the elderly man back to the guard in front of them.

"Twenty-five?" Reynolds whispered to Grey softly.

"Just forget it, we'll be out by tomorrow." Grey waved.

He couldn't help but glance at the old man who was pushed aside once again, the elderly man fell on the ground after he was pushed aside.

"Should we beat them up?" Klaus whispered to the group.

"No need to cause so much trouble, it's just fifty silver coins." Alice said nonchalantly.

'Yeah, your family is rich, it really isn't much.' Reynolds and Grey who wasn't as rich as the duo thought.

They looked at Klaus scornfully, how could he be so stingy? Although, they didn't really support the idea of also paying so much to enter a city, especially one this small. After all, this doesn't usually happen.

"Maybe it's just their rule, we'll pay and head in." Grey said to the others as he prepared to go in.

"Are we going to let them do that to the old man?" Alice asked a little taken aback.

Grey glanced at the old man but shook his head. He didn't want to get into an unnecessary situation because he wanted to act as a hero. Even though there shouldn't be anyone on a higher Plane than he currently was in this city, he didn't want to involve himself in something that isn't related to him.

"Let's go, he should be aware of the rules here. I don't think this is his first time." Grey and the boys were the first to hand their coins over and head in.

Alice was a little more concerned for the elderly man, so she walked over to where he was.

"Hello sir." She assisted the elderly man in standing back up.

"These people are increasingly getting greedier, it was usually five coins to enter the city, now they've increased it by so much." The elderly man said sadly.



"Okay, I'll help you pay the entry fee." Alice smiled softly.

"Oh, thank you young lady." The elderly man almost bowed to her in gratitude, but she quickly stopped him.

Inside the carriage.

Two young men were closely watching the gates, they both looked to be around their early twenties, one of them had sharp eyes with a thick brow, and the other had a long face with short beards and long curly hair.

"What do you think of the girl?" The young man with sharp eyes asked his companion.

"Not bad. I don't think she would stay here for long." said the young man with curly hair.

"You can have her now, my father is the mayor here. And with your strength, she should feel honored." The young man with sharp eyes said fawningly.

"No, just find out where she's going." The young man with curly hair said calmly.

"Okay."

The young man with sharp eyes called a guard over to the carriage and told them to find out where Alice and his friends were heading towards.

Twenty minutes later, the guard sent someone to inform them about Alice's current whereabouts.

It wasn't really hard to locate them since as soon as Grey stepped into the city, the first thing he looked for was an Inn.

The group was currently eating on the ground floor, they were sitting at the table on the far end of the inn. There were few people in the inn other than the group.

Grey looked outside the inn with squinted eyes.

"We're being watched." He said calmly to the others.

A sharp glint flashed through the boys' eyes, while Alice smiled lightly.

"Stay, I don't think we need to go out." Grey held Klaus' hand just as he was about to stand up.

While the group was still eating, a carriage stopped at the front of the inn. Two young men stepped out of the carriage, walking elegantly into the inn.

As soon as the innkeeper saw them, he quickly ran over to them.

"What brings you here young lord?" He asked with a slight bow.

"Nothing, you can go now, we want to take care of something." The young man with sharp eyes patted the innkeeper's on the shoulder and threw a glance at Grey's table.

#### Chapter 230 - Klaus' Antics

Grey looked around when he saw people walking out, but he didn't bother about it and focused on his meal. He sent out his spiritual sense to inspect the young men who walked in. He was taken aback when he sensed that the young man with curly hair was in the Origin Plane, although it was only the First stage, it was not something you see every day, especially in such a small city.

The young man with sharp eyes was in the Late stages of the Arcane Plane. From the way he acted towards the young man with curly hair, it was easy to figure out he was trying to get on his good side.

Both young men approached the group who focused on their meals.

"Hello." The young man with sharp eyes said with a pleasant smile.

"..."

He was met with silence, neither Grey nor any of them turned to take as much as a look at him, much less replying him. Even Void didn't spare him a glance. That was what annoyed him even more.

His facial expression changed, not just him, the young man with curly hair as well as the innkeeper's expression changed as well. They couldn't believe Grey and his friends were this rude.

The young man before them was the son of Zivia's City mayor, such a big figure and he was given the cold shoulders by a group of brats!

The young man restrained himself from attacking before flashing a smile once again.

"Hello, can I have a moment please?" He asked still wearing the same smile.

"Can we help you with anything?" Reynolds stopped eating and looked at him.

"No, I noticed you're new here, and seeing how you were scammed at the gate, I decided to help you guys while you're staying here." The young man replied.

"Oh that, well, we didn't want to waste too much time there. It's just fifty silver coins anyway." Reynolds waved with a forced chuckle.

He didn't want to speak to him, but seeing him standing there with no one answering him, he opted to talk to him. Grey couldn't be bothered with answering the young man, Klaus would most likely curse at him if he were the one who answered, and Alice was the only one who might probably talk to him properly, but she didn't want to speak to him as well, so he was forced to do it.

"Well, in our city, we don't allow good people to be scammed." The young man proclaimed.

"What about bad people?" Klaus who hadn't spoken a word asked while still eating.

The young man who was about to speak almost choked on his words when he heard Klaus' question.

'Who's this moron?' He asked himself.

He chuckled awkwardly without replying.

The young man with curly hair cleared his throat.

"Ah... Where are my manners, I'm Smith, and this is Richard." He introduced himself as well as the young man with curly hair behind him.

Reynolds looked at Richard who was behind Smith. Seeing Reynolds' gaze, Richard nodded as a sign of greeting, which Reynolds reciprocated with a wave.

"Here are your coins back, the guard has been sent to the dungeon where he would be punished for his crimes." Smith placed the coins on the table.

Other than Reynolds, no one else was speaking to Smith. This made him feel extremely awkward, but mostly angry. If not for Richard telling him not to do things aggressively, he would have already summoned the guards to beat up these fools.

He didn't know what else to say since there was literally nothing for him to speak about. Richard slowly stepped in front of him, approaching Alice.

"Helping that old man was very nice of you." He stood before her.

"Oh, thank you." Alice finally raised her head to look at the young man who was standing before her.

She didn't see anything special about him, maybe it was because she was always with Grey and Reynolds which made her expect all guys to be just as handsome, or at the very least, at Reynolds' level. But, this guy was below Reynolds, making her feel somewhat totally uninterested.

"It's nice meeting you, I'm Richard." Richard stretched out his hands.

"Alice, those are Reynolds, Klaus, and the Grey." Alice introduced the others to them as well, but she refused to shake his hand.

Richard withdrew his hand but still wore a smile, "I'd like to invite over to stay at the mayor's villa. If that's okay with you?"

Alice was about to refuse when she saw Klaus nodding his head. Even Grey looked at Klaus a little surprised.

'Since when was this bastard so friendly?'

The trio who was familiar with him thought.

"Forgive me, I've been too hungry which made me a little angry. We'd love to go to the mayor's villa with you." Klaus stood up and shook Richard's hand.

"Haha, it's okay, I can understand how you feel." Richard chuckled while shaking Klaus' hand.

"It's good you understand, why don't we go now?" Klaus asked.

"Sure, if it's okay with your friends." Richard nodded.

"They're good with it. I feel a strong connection with you, it's like we're meant to be friends, can we be friends?" Klaus asked, leaving Grey and the others speechless.

"Of course." Richard replied.

He didn't care about Klaus or any of the other boys, but if it will bring Alice closer to him, he didn't mind befriending them, for now.

"Haha great! As my friend, why don't you help us with the bills for our meal? You see, we were robbed on the way here." Klaus laughed before saying the last part with a sad expression.

"Huh!"

Everyone around the table exclaimed, including Grey and his friends, but they quickly hid their expressions so it wouldn't look like Klaus was lying. Well, he was lying, but they didn't know what he was planning, so they had to play along.

Richard had an awkward expression when he heard this, but he quickly put on a forced smile.

"Of course, take this as my first gift to you." He laughed softly.

"Haha, great!" Klaus laughed, "Come on guys, let's go to the mayor's villa!"

'And cause some havoc.' He added to himself.