Affinity 231

| Chapter 231 - Multi-talented Klau |
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The group left the inn, with Klaus and Richard walking side by side, laughing on the way.

"Hey, do you know what's wrong with him?" Reynolds leaned closer to Grey and asked.

"No, but from the way he's smiling, it's nothing good for them." replied Grey.

"Hmm, I really wanna know." Reynolds said curiously.

Grey rubbed his chin before replying, "He'll tell us when we get there."

The group soon got to the carriage alongside Smith and Richard. It was all white, with the decorations painted gold drawn by four snow-white stallions. The carriage looked quite luxurious, but there was an issue, it was a little too small to fit all of them.

"One person would need to walk over to the mayor's villa." Richard said when he realized the problem.

Klaus looked around and a smile crept up his face, all he wanted to do was annoy these guys.

"How about this, Alice will walk over to the villa?" He pointed at Alice.

Grey and the others looked at him in shock, only to see him winking at them. He knew exactly what he was doing.

"No, it's ungentlemanly of us to allow such a kindhearted lady to walk to the villa when there's a carriage here." Richard quickly objected to it.

"Hmm, okay it's settled. You, you'll walk over to the mayor's villa, the rest, come in." Klaus pointed at Smith before going into the carriage, accompanied by Grey and Reynolds.

Grey and Reynolds realized what he wanted to do the moment he said that Smith should walk to the villa, so they quickly followed him inside the carriage without any delays.

Alice smiled softly but still climbed into the carriage, leaving Richard and Smith outside.

Richard and Smith stood outside shell-shocked, Smith actually had his mouth wide open because he could not believe what just happened.

Klaus knew that the only reason Richard and Smith approached them was because of Alice, if he had pointed at Grey or Reynolds, Richard might agree to it, but if he pointed at Alice, he would not. He also sensed that Smith was acting submissive towards Richard, even though it looked he had a high status in this city.

'What the hell?! That's my carriage!' He almost screamed out loud.

Richard's mouth twitched a couple of times before he whispered, "Don't worry, they will regret this."

Smith couldn't believe his ears, first Klaus acted like he was the owner of the carriage, and now, Richard was actually telling him not to worry? Doesn't that imply that he would have to walk to his father's villa?

A cold glint flashed through Richard's eyes before he climbed into the carriage leaving Smith all alone outside.

Smith stood outside, tears almost running down his eyes. And just when he thought things couldn't get worse, it's started raining.

"What?!" He exclaimed in surprise.

The sun was just about to set, and the weather was still fairly bright, there weren't even any signs of rain, so, how the f.u.c.k did it suddenly start raining?

Unfortunately, the carriage had already departed, and even if it was still there, he couldn't get in.

He almost wanted to cry, but his expression turned worse when the rain stopped after the carriage went out of sight.

Smith was an Earth Elementalist, but the surprise from Klaus' actions, and Richard actually agreeing for him to walk to the villa stunned him to the extent that he didn't form something like an umbrella to shield himself from the rain.

In the carriage.

Klaus and Richard were talking enthusiastically with Klaus telling him of their travels. Of course, he didn't speak of the trial land, or where they came from nor where they're headed. In short, he lied all through the conversation.

He even said they were kicked out of their Academy because they couldn't get to the target set by the Academy. Some of his stories are so enthralling that even his friends listened intently. There were times that they were shocked by what Klaus said they did.

Void looked at Klaus and couldn't help but praise him, 'This guy is amazing!'

'He's a good liar.' Grey replied.

'No, you saying he's a good liar is an understatement, he's a terrific liar. When were we robbed when coming?' Void took at Klaus who was still speaking.

'Or attacked?' Grey added.

'When did we even sleep in the forest? Okay, that might be true since we did sleep in a forest while we were in the trial land.'

If someone who wasn't with the group heard all of Klaus' bullshits, they would definitely believe it, just like how Richard was believing almost every word he was saying.

Five minutes later, the carriage got to the mayor's villa. When the carriage stopped, Grey and the others looked out the window, only to discover they were just at the gates of the villa. Two fully armed guards talked to the coachman, before inspecting inside, above, and below the carriage before letting them pass.

Once inside the gate, and beyond the high grey walls, the carriage slowed down, allowing Grey and his friends to take in the full villa view. The park around the manor extended over eight hundred meters. The air smelled of cut grass, flower beds, and finely trimmed bushes adorned the cobblestone paths that went across the whole park.

Halfway between the gate and the villa, there was a plaza, surrounded by benches. At the center, there was a huge pedestal with a marble statue of someone that the group assumed had to be either the first mayor or an Ancestor they were proud of. There's also the possibility that it was the current mayor as well.

The villa itself was bigger than the group imagined, it extended for at least three thousand square meters, divided into a main building, a left and a right wing forming a reversed U shape. It took almost three more minutes to actually get to the villa's entrance.

Grey sent out his spiritual sense to examine the area, and he easily noticed the guards that were hiding behind the bushes, watching them. It was only after they highlighted the carriage did the guards stop watching them.

'Void.' He called.

'On it.' Void replied.

His senses were sharper and covered a greater distance compared to Grey's, so he would be able to sense what Grey missed.

'Nothing to worry about, they're all in the Arcane Plane. There's one guy hidden inside that seems to be close to the Origin Plane, or maybe he's in the Origin Plane. I really can't tell, but the person isn't a problem, even Klaus can defeat him.' Void reported.

If Klaus were to hear Void's statement, he would definitely curse at him.

"We should wait for that guy." Klaus suggested.

He acted like he had forgotten Smith's name, when the truth was, he had also forgotten Richard's name as well. But since they were now 'friends', he didn't need to call Richard by his name, well, that was what he was telling himself.

Klaus' behavior was currently strange for the group, but knowing that he wasn't up to anything good, they decided to watch with folded arms.

They entered the carriage back to the plaza and sat on one of the benches around the plaza.

Richard had tried on multiple occasions to strike a conversation with Alice, but it had all been futile.

"Hey, do you like my friend?" Klaus asked Richard.

The duo was sitting on one bench, while Grey, Reynolds, and Alice were sitting on another bench.

"Yeah, I fell in love with her when I saw her helping that elderly man." Richard nodded with a soft smile.

'After tonight, you'll all be dead.' thought Richard.

| "You saw her helping that old man that was pushed aside?" Klaus asked while wearing a surprised expression. |
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| Richard nodded, but his expression changed when he heard Klaus' next question. |
| "Why didn't you step out to help the old man, instead of allowing her to do it?" Klaus asked thoughtfully. |
| 'This guy deserves death! I'll make sure he suffers.' Richard gritted his teeth hatefully but did it secretly so Klaus wouldn't see it. |
| "You see, I was just about to walk out when she helped." He smiled awkwardly. |
| "Haha, I knew you were a noble person. Oh! Why did you guys also allow the guards to extort money from us?" Klaus laughed before asking. |
| 'I'll irritate you till you drop dead.' thought Klaus. |
| There's something only his friends knew about him, he was multi-talented! He could talk, annoy, and irritate someone all at the same time! |
| "Youseeactually" Richard was left short of words. |
| How could Klaus ask him such obvious questions? Of course, he didn't want to help, but he couldn't say that. Just as he was about to try explaining, Smith walked in. |
| "Ah! You're finally here!" Klaus stood up and swaggered towards him. |
| Smith tried to force out a smile, but his expression turned even sourer when he heard Klaus' next words. |
| "How was the weather?" |

Chapter 232 - Unlucky Smith

"How was the weather?" Klaus asked with a big grin.

"..."

Smith's eyes twitched when he recalled how he got soaked in the rain which for some reason fell only on the area he was standing at. He knew this was the handwork of Grey and his friends, but he didn't know which one, hearing Klaus' question pointed him to the culprit.

'I'll kill this guy.' He thought through gritted teeth.

This was the most humiliated he had ever been, what was worse was that he didn't actually see a horse, so he had to walk all the way from the inn to his father's villa.

"I think it's lovely, don't you think so too?" Grey actually joined in this time.

He sensed the increase in the water elemental particles at the inn when they were just about to enter the carriage, but he didn't know the reason. However, on hearing Klaus' question, it wasn't hard to figure out what happened. Klaus actually created a make-believe rain, how ingenious, and evil!

"Yeah, amazing." Reynolds nodded as well.

The trio continued speaking of how great the weather is, making Smith's expression turn even more sour. He felt like burying the trio alive.

"Why don't we go in?" Richard quickly tried to help him out.

He could sense there was something weird going on, but he didn't know, nor did he care. All he had his eyes on was Alice, that was what he wanted, nothing else mattered.

The group of six slowly walked over to the villa, heading in the direction of the right wing. It took the group over five minutes to walk there. One should remember that when the group previously came here, they used a carriage, and even though the horse was moving slowly, it was still faster than their current pace.

Klaus was surprisingly at the forefront of the group, chatting animatedly with Richard. Richard's expression showed how tired he was, yet for some reason, Klaus still didn't stop talking. When he noticed Richard wasn't speaking anymore, he turned his attention to Smith.

Veins could be seen on Smith's forehead, he gritted his teeth so hard that his gums started bleeding, but he refrained from attacking. He was wary of Klaus' strength, he didn't know his exact strength, but he knew he was at least in the Arcane Plane.

As soon as they entered the building, Smith took them straight to a hall on the left side of the building. An eight meters long, two meters wide table could be seen by the side of the building, with ten chairs arranged around it.

Grey, Alice, and Reynolds were sitting on the other side of the table, with Grey facing Klaus, Reynolds facing Smith, and Alice facing Richard.

Klaus was actually the one who told Grey and the others to sit this way, he initially wanted Grey to take the sit Reynolds was presently occupying, but then he recalled Reynolds was the only one in the group other than himself who could properly annoy someone.

After taking their seats, Smith called for the servants to bring in some food and wine for his visitors. Even though he didn't like Klaus and the boys, he still had to be a good host.

Klaus was exhilarated when he heard this, "Haha, I haven't had a good wine in a long time."

When the servants came back with different foods and also around four types of wine, Klaus was the first to pick up a wine bottle and helped himself with some. He poured some on one of the silver cups on the table, before emptying it in a single large gulp.

Richard and Smith took a glance at each other, a little surprised. They could see the same question in each other's eyes.

'Isn't he afraid it's poisoned? Also, we were his ethics?'

"Good wine! Here have some." He exclaimed before pouring some for Richard.

"Thank you." Richard smiled lightly before picking up the silver cup.

"Haha, cheers." Klaus laughed out happily.

Both glasses made a 'clink!' sound when they lightly tapped them on each other.

Klaus also went on to pour some for Smith and Reynolds as well, he winked at Reynolds while pouring it, "Here, you guys should try it as well."

Smith had an awkward expression on his face, normally, it was the duty of a host to pour his guests drink. Yet, Klaus was the one who was doing it.

'First, he acted like he was the owner of the carriage, now this? I can't stand this guy anymore.' Smith was on the verge of exploding.

Richard on the other hand just watched on without showing much interest, other than the first time he was shocked by Klaus being the first to drink, his attention was fully placed on Alice.

Smith reluctantly picked up the silver cup. And just like what Klaus did with everyone else, he wanted to lightly touch his cup with Smith while saying cheers. But just then...

"Cheers." He said but his voice reduced at the end of the word.

The reason for this was because he accidentally hit his cup too hard on Smith's cup, making both cups which were filled with wine to fall on Smith's body. And just when Smith was about to react to the wine falling on his body, the worst happened.

Pu...

Reynolds who just took a mouthful of wine spat it out, spraying the wine straight at Smith's face who was sitting opposite him.

Everyone's mouth opened unconsciously when this happened. It hadn't even been up to two seconds after Klaus 'accidentally' poured some wine on Smith's body, yet Reynolds spat the wine in his mouth into his face. This was the highest level of embarrassment!

"Sorry, it was an accident."

"Sorry, I didn't like the flavor."

Reynolds and Klaus apologized simultaneously.

Bang!

"Enough!" Smith yelled angrily, banging his hand on the table forcefully.

Chapter 233 - We're Robbing This Place!

This was the last straw, Smith was already on the verge of losing it, so having wine not only poured on his body but also sprayed on his face sent him hysterical.

He wanted Klaus dead!

| Grey and Alice watched on in disbelief while Void seems to have stars in his eyes, he loved these guys. They were terrific people! He even felt Grey was starting to get a little too boring. |
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| "Calm down, it's probably an accident." Richard stood up trying to calm Smith down. |
| "They did it on purpose." Smith didn't want to let it go. |
| There was a limit to a person's patience, and Klaus had obviously not only pushed Smith to the limit, but he had also pushed it off the cliff. |
| Gasps! |
| Klaus gasped in shock, "How can you say that about us? We genuinely want to be your friends. Since we're not welcomed here then we'll be leaving. Thank you for your hospitality." |
| He wore a wronged expression, it almost looked like he was the one who was offended. Grey and the others stood up as well. |
| "There's no need for any of you to leave, sit. We'll be right back." Richard quickly stopped them. |
| He dragged Smith with him to the side of the hall. |
| |
| At the side of the hall. |
| "Why are you tolerating that piece of shit? Let me at him." Smith said angrily. |
| "Don't act like you aren't wary of their strength. I've grasped their stages, and they're only at the Fifth stage of the Arcane Plane, except for that one guy who talks a lot, that guy's in the Sixth stage." Richard said. |

At first, he didn't think much about checking the group's Plane since he felt people in such small cities couldn't grow to a high stage at their age. Take Smith for example, he was still in the Arcane Plane, while he had already broken through to the Origin Plane despite being two years younger than him.

But when they were still in the carriage, he decided to check them out. Although he was surprised when he noticed they were already in the Fifth stage of the Arcane Plane, he didn't think much about it since he should be around four or five years older than them. And he didn't think they would be able to break through to the Origin Plane when they get to his age. Well, that's if they get to his age, after all, he planned on killing them, except for Alice.

"Hmph! You can beat them all, why bother with all this?" Smith snorted coldly.

"It's already dark, prepare that special wine. They shouldn't be able to move after consuming it." Richard said with an evil grin.

Smith could only nod his head when he heard this, he still didn't know why Richard wanted to use such a long, stressful method when he could just bash Grey and his friends up.

Unknown to him, Richard couldn't be counted as a true Origin Plane Elementalist. He failed in the process of forming his essence bead, but his father used a method that helped him to form what looked like a patched-up bead. With this, he would be in the Origin Plane in terms of cultivation level, but his true strength was actually lower than an Eighth stage Arcane Plane Elementalist.

The only reason he wasn't scared was that no Arcane Plane Elementalist who is in his right mind would dare to fight against an Origin Plane Elementalist. Smith might even have a chance of defeating him, but because he couldn't dare to challenge him, he didn't know.

Back at the table.

After Richard dragged Smith away, Klaus and Reynolds started chuckling. They refrained from laughing out, so they wouldn't be caught.

| "I have to say Klaus, you're putting on an amazing show." Grey chuckled as well. |
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| "Of course, these morons are just plain stupid." Klaus laughed, "Oh! How did you know he would want to check our Planes?" |
| "I guessed, given his somewhat proud personality, he would want to confirm if we were small fries. I think he would have run away if he knew we were stronger than him." said Grey. |
| "Don't you find it strange he's wary of us even though he thinks we are weaker than him? I mean, if I were in his shoes, I'd have already killed Klaus by now." Reynolds said thoughtfully. |
| "You're crazy! You should've said I'd already kill Reynolds by now. But it's quite strange though." Klaus cursed before adding. |
| "It's simple, he's weak. He isn't a true Origin Plane Elementalist. Have any of you ever seen an Origin Plane Elementalist whose aura is this weak?" Alice asked. |
| The boys shook their heads, they've also thought of why his aura was that weak. An Arcane Plane Elementalist might not be able to sense it, but Origin Plane Elementalists have no problems with sensing this. |
| "That explains it." Reynolds said with enlightenment. |
| "Klaus, I'm still confused why you asked them to pay for our meal." Grey had thought about this while they had been in the carriage, but he couldn't think of the reason. |
| "How many coins do you think we have left?" Klaus asked. |
| "Uh" Grey was left stunned. |
| "Smart." The others praised Klaus' quick-wittedness. |



'I really like this guy.' He couldn't help but say to Grey.

'Yeah, me too.' Grey nodded as well.

Chapter 234 - It's A Gift!

"Since this is the mayor's villa, there should be a treasury somewhere, that's where we're going to rob." Klaus explained in a low voice.

The others were stunned by Klaus' boldness, even though they know that no one here could defeat them, this was still an offense against the empire since each mayor was placed here under the orders of the emperor.

"Isn't there usually a high leveled expert around?" asked Alice.

A small city just like this one should have an expert that should be at the very least at the Origin Plane, to stop anyone from robbing these cities, or else, most Origin Plane Elementalists would see them as ways to get free coins.

"There are, why do you think I'm telling this guy?" Klaus pointed at Void.

"No one knows of the space element, except for us. With that, he can sneak in and out of the mayor's treasury without being caught." He explained further.

"So what are you planning on stealing?" Grey asked.

"Everything." Klaus said with squinted and excited eyes.

He had never been able to do something like this before, and probably never would have thought of it, but with Void's appearance, the idea came. There are a lot of things in a mayor's treasury, he knows of this because he had been to one. But what they needed most were coins, lots and lots of coins.

"Aren't you being a little too greedy? I mean, all we need is to get a horse and quickly head over to Lunar City. Once we get there, we shouldn't have any problems with getting money." said Alice.

"I know, I just want to annoy these guys." Klaus waved his hand nonchalantly.

"No, I think Alice is right. If they notice everything missing, we'll be the first suspects. That's not good for us since this not only involves a city but the empire as well. Unless, we'd kill the expert stationed here. This city is too small for an Overlord Plane expert to be stationed here." Grey said thoughtfully.

They shouldn't carelessly invite trouble, the empire wouldn't take it lying if one of their mayor's treasury were to be robbed. This had to do with their pride, so they would want to get to the bottom of it, especially now that war seems to be looming over the entire empire.

"Fine, we'll steal only a few coins." Klaus said grumpily.

While the group was still speaking about their plan of robbing the treasury, Richard and Smith walked back to the table.

"I hope everything is alright?" Klaus stood up to ask in a concerned tone.

"Yes, everything is fine. He was just a little grumpy from what happened earlier today." Richard said before taking his seat.

"Okay. Once again, we're sorry for what happened. It was totally unintentionally on my path, I don't really know about his." Klaus said, saying the last part in a low voice.

"Don't worry, everything is fine now. I'm not a petty person." Smith waved it off, he wanted to end the conversation as quickly as possible.

The table fell into silence for a few seconds, but Klaus spoke up even before it got to a minute.

"Okay. So...can we start eating now?" He asked.

"Of course." Smith nodded.

He was just about to start eating since it was the norm for the host to taste the meals so the guests would know they weren't poisoned, but just like with the wines, Klaus was the first to start eating.

'Well isn't that brave, or is he just plain stupid?' He asked himself.

Everyone watched on as Klaus started devouring the meal like someone who hadn't eaten anything in months.

'You're just coming from an inn, how could you be so hungry even after already eating?' Richard looked at him oddly.

"Aren't you guys going to eat?" Klaus asked with a mouthful of food.

The others could barely hear what he was saying through his full mouth, and the bits of food coming out every time he said something.

Grey and his friends soon dug in as well, only, not like him. Reynolds wanted to eat that way as well, but he wasn't as shameless as Klaus, so he ate with the proper etiquette.

They are for almost twenty minutes, and this was the worst twenty minutes in Smith's life. He didn't think there would be any other twenty minutes that would be as horrifying as this. The reason for this was simple, Klaus.

While they were eating, Klaus would only speak when his mouth was full, thereby spraying bits of food from his mouth. What made it annoying was that since Klaus was sitting close to him, he would occasionally look in his direction when speaking. This meant that the bits of food he sprays out mostly got on his body. There was even a time in accidentally entered his mouth.

'How can a single person be this annoying?' He wondered.

If Klaus were to hear this question, he would most likely say, 'It's a gift.'

Smith reigned in his temper so he wouldn't lose it for the second time. Once he gets his hands on Klaus after they've been given the special wine, he would get his revenge. He had so many evil things planned out for him that he couldn't even wait to start the torture.

Just after they finished eating, Klaus asked a question that surprised even his friends.

He first burped loudly without any manners before asking, "So what's for dessert?"

'Dessert? You've already eaten so much yet you're asking for dessert?' Smith felt like beating him up right there and then.

Hearing no response, Klaus explained thinking they didn't know what a dessert was while picking his teeth with his pinky finger, "Dessert follows right after a meal."

"I know what a dessert is." Smith said through gritted teeth.

"Then why are you here? Chop chop, come on go get the dessert." Klaus did a waving motion with both hands.

Chapter 235 - Strange Feeling

Smith called the servants over to serve them dessert, which consisted of cakes, pudding, milk and eggs, pastry, and fruits.

Klaus immediately started eating, but mostly focused on the cakes.

Void who hadn't tasted something that had this much sugar was left amazed by almost every single dessert that had sugar in them. He would occasionally take a bit from one, then go to another, there was even a time when he used his space element to cut off a small piece of the cake while taking a slurp from the pudding.

The taste was amazing, he was almost on cloud nine. 'I knew the outside world was amazing!' He exclaimed. 'I don't think too much sugar is good for you.' warned Grey. Grey almost always acted like an elder brother to Void. If others could hear their conversations sometimes, they would be shocked by how caring he was to this seemingly small cat who would almost always be ignored if not for its eye-catching pitch black fur. 'It's okay, I'll just take a few more drinks and bites, after that, I'm done.' Ten minutes later. Void could be seen lying on the table with both front paws on his now protruding stomach. He was lying close to Grey, who would occasionally shake his head whenever he takes a glance at Void. He would shake it even harder when he takes a glance at Klaus. Bits of cakes could be seen at the side of Klaus' mouth, if he remembered correctly, Klaus and Void were the ones who ate almost seventy percent of the desserts. Everyone except for Grey and Klaus looked at Void with shocked eyes, wondering how he managed to fit in so much into such a small body. Grey already knew he could eat much, while Klaus was too bothered about himself to think about Void. Klaus quickly circulated the elemental essence in his body to try to quickly digest the food and desserts he just ate. 'Crap! I ate too much.' He complained internally. 'Hey.' Void called out to Grey, he was getting a strange feeling inside.

| 'Yeah?' Grey looked at him. |
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| 'Why do I feel like what I just ate wants to come back out, but from my mouth?' Void asked a little confused. |
| This was the first time something like this was happening to him, he usually mostly digests almost everything whenever he eats. But this was the first time he was feeling this way. |
| 'That's called throwing up. I told you too much sugar wasn't good for you.' Grey said without showing any emotion. |
| 'What do I do now?' Void asked. |
| 'Seriously? Just through up.' Grey threw an apathetic glance at Void before looking in another direction. |
| 'No, I can't let them go. They're good.' Void refused. |
| "F.u.c.k!" Grey cursed out unintentionally which attracted everyone's attention. |
| How could someone refuse to throw up when the body wants to? Void's excuse was even crazier. Grey immediately decided to stop listening to him, but it was hard, especially when they were talking through a mind link. |
| 'Shit! Void just throw up already, it's not like having the cakes inside you would change anything.' Grey said after Void continued bugging him about it. |
| 'Butbut' |
| 'You're probably going to explode if you refuse to throw up.' Grey lied with a serious expression. |

'What?! I don't think that's possible.' Void who was previously lying on the table tried to stand up, after a couple of seconds, he managed to struggle up, but his feet were wobbly. He tried standing but staggered a few times.

Grey scoffed but didn't answer, he wanted to trick Void into throwing up, but he knew it wasn't going to easy. Although Void was smart, he still acts like a child in most situations, so Grey was a little confident his lie might be able to make him change his mind.

Alice looked over a little concerned, "What's wrong with him?"

"He ate too much." Grey explained.

"Oh, he's so cute." Alice said looking at Void with her round eyes.

"Yeah...he's not going to be cute soon." Grey said.

"Why's that?" Alice asked worriedly.

Grey went on to tell her about Void refusing to throw up even when his body wanted him to. Alice giggled on hearing that Void refused to throw up, she stretched her hand over to Void and gently c.a.r.e.s.sed his fur.

"Hey, you should do what he said." She whispered to Void.

While Alice and Grey were speaking, Klaus and Reynolds had seemed to become good friends with Smith, asking him all sorts of questions that mostly irritated the life out of him.

"Since we're done here, why don't we take some fresh air on the garden?" Richard suggested.

"Sure."

The others nodded before standing up, following behind him. But just like before, Klaus was at the forefront of the group, annoying Smith to no end.

Grey refused to carry Void because of the fear of him throwing up on his body, Alice on the other hand happily carried him as they walked over to the garden.

After going past two doors, they got to the garden. It was already dark when they came out since they spent almost an hour inside, but they didn't have a problem seeing the garden, besides, the moon was already out. There was a variety of flowers in the garden; roses, daisies, daffodils. Carved hedges depicted different al beasts, including a dragon, a griffin, a wolf, and many more. There was also a small pond in the center of the garden. The garden was around fifty to eighty square meters. Having a twenty meters space in the middle. Grey and his friends guessed the space must have been there because of training.

Even though it was quite small, it's enough for training. There were benches positioned on different parts of the garden.

Klaus was the one who led them to a bench on the eastern side of the garden.

"This place is nice." He praised after taking a seat.

Smith smiled but didn't reply, the group stayed there for about thirty minutes, with Klaus and Reynolds being the most active people, followed by Richard. Grey managed to convince Void to throw up.

He didn't know if to cry or laugh because he had to actually beg Void to throw up. This was something that was for his benefit, yet he had to beg him because of his childishness.

"We would like to go to bed now, we still have a long journey ahead of us." Alice said, interrupting Klaus and Reynolds' storytelling.

"So soon? If that's the case, we'd like for you to taste this city's special wine before going to bed." Richard said sadly.

| "Is it better than the ones we drank inside?" asked Klaus. |
|--|
| "Of course." Richard nodded. |
| "If that's the case, then what are you waiting for?" said Reynolds. |
| Richard and Smith stood up going through the bag of the garden. |
| "Where's the antidote?" Richard asked while they were going inside. |
| "It's inside, we'll drink it before coming out." Smith said with ruthlessness in his eyes. |
| He wanted to make sure Klaus died a painful death. He hadn't hated anyone as much as he hated Klaus. If he were told he would hate someone this much, he would never believe it. |
| Chapter 236 - Immune To It |
| Back at the garden. |
| "Does anyone else find this suspicious?" Grey asked the group. |
| "I do." Klaus and Alice nodded. |
| Pounalds only nodded after a few seconds seemingly thinking of why the others find the cityation |
| Reynolds only nodded after a few seconds seemingly thinking of why the others find the situation suspicious. |

They all knew that Richard and Smith didn't approach them for anything good, and given how much they hate Klaus in particular, they would rather die than give him a special wine. They might agree to give the others, but giving Klaus was definitely out of the picture.

"Yeah, from how that guy hates me, I think he would want to kill me more than anything else in the world." Klaus said with a chuckle.

During their conversations, there had been times when he sensed a thick killing intent coming out from Smith's body, even Richard wasn't able to mask it sometimes. But he didn't give a shit what they were planning to do! In the face of overwhelming strength, schemes wouldn't save them. Each individual here could confidently say they would be able to one-shot either Richard or Smith.

Even Klaus could kill them without much of a hassle.

"Then what do we do?" Reynolds asked.

"Leave?" Grey raised a brow.

"No, we need those coins. There's no way I'm walking back to Lunar City." Klaus refused the idea of leaving.

'I could test it for you.' Void who was lying on Alice's I.a.p said to Grey.

'Wait, wouldn't you be hurt by the poison?' Grey asked curiously.

'Unless the poison can instantly kill a Peak Rank Six al beast, if not, I'm okay.' Void said confidently.

'Wow! Is your immunity to poison that high?' Grey asked in surprise.

'Of course, even a Rank Six venomous al beast can't kill me with their venom.' Void stood proudly, trying to show off.

'Well, that's something.' Grey was once again awed by Void's ability.

If he counts properly, then a Rank Six al beast should be on the Plane above the Overlord Plane, that was the Sage Plane! Void was only a Rank Four al beast, yet he wouldn't be affected by a Rank Six al beast's venom. That was awesome!

"Guys, Void would test it out." Grey was a hundred percent confident in Void, since Void said he could do it, then it meant he could.

After Void blocked that attack for him, his bond with him increased to an unimaginable level. If it were around seventy percent before, now, it was well over one hundred percent.

"That's great!" Klaus exclaimed.

"Is that safe?" Alice asked in concern.

Compared to Klaus, she cared about Void more than he did. If not for Void blocking the attack for Grey, then Klaus would barely have any sort of feelings for him.

"Yeah, he said he would be fine." Grey assured her.

"If that's the case, then okay." Alice c.a.r.e.s.sed Void's fur before adding, "If you know you can't do it then don't okay."

Void nodded his small head which made Alice giggle.

Grey and the other boys still didn't know what she always finds cute in whatever Void did.

'It's probably a ladies thing.' They thought.

"What happens if it's not something we can dismiss?" Reynolds suddenly asked an important question they all missed. If Void said the poison wasn't something they could purify if it enters their bodies, then that would be an issue since rejecting the wine would be odd. "We can always reject it, it's not like they can force us anyway." Klaus shrugged, not bothered by it. 'I can create a small space in your mouths that the wines would pass through then transfer them behind those flowers.' Void said. 'Is that possible?' Grey asked. 'Of course, I can even create it now.' Void said. 'Can you remove it any time?' asked Grey. 'Yup.' Void nodded. 'Okay, then do it now. Wait, can we talk when you do that?' Grey asked to clarify things. It would be strange if they were unable to speak. 'I don't know. Okay, we'll do this. When they bring the drinks over, if it's not something you guys can purify, I'll create a small space when you all open your mouths.' Void suggested. 'That's even better.' Grey quickly agreed to this idea. After that all agreed to that, they waited for Richard and Smith, with Klaus telling Void the plan. He didn't know where this city's treasury was, although he knew it was in the mayor's villa, he didn't know

the exact position.

| Richard was the one who personally poured for each person, just as he was about to sit down. |
|---|
| "You missed someone." Klaus suddenly spoke up. |
| "Huh!" |
| Richard and Smith looked around a little confused. They were clearly only six people here, and they only came with six silver cups, so how did they miss someone? |
| "No, I think you're mistaken, we're only six here." Smith said. |
| "You're forgetting that little guy." Klaus pointed at Void. |
| "Uh!" Richard was left speechless when he saw who Klaus was referring to. |
| 'A cat? How dare he say I pour drink for a cat?' Richard's lips twitched a couple of times. |
| "Isn't going back to get a cup for a cat a little too outrageous?" He asked after he managed to compose himself. |
| "I know, that's why he should do it." Klaus pointed at Smith. |
| Smith's eyes almost turned completely red from anger. Such disrespect! He couldn't take it anymore. |
| Klaus chuckled when he saw his reaction, he passed his cup to Void before grabbing the jug of wine, "I think this settles it." |
| "You're going to drink directly from the jug?" Richard asked in surprise. |

"Yes, is it bad?" Klaus raised a brow.

"No, it's perfect, actually." Richard smiled.

Klaus was the strongest of the group, so taking Klaus out first was even better.

Void took a sip of the wine, while the others waited curiously for the result of his test.

Chapter 237 - Let The Fun Begin!

Richard and Smith were a little taken aback when they saw that neither of them was drinking the wine. According to Klaus' previous behavior, he would usually instantly drink the wine as soon as he got hold of it.

'Damn! Could it be that they figured it out?' Smith asked himself with clenched fists.

He brought his cup closer to his mouth and took a sip, he wanted to use this to convey to them that the wine was safe to drink.

Even after taking a sip, he didn't see any reactions from the group. He took a glance at Richard, and just as he was about to ask the group why they weren't drinking, he saw them drinking simultaneously.

Klaus held the wine jug and drank directly from it, with some wine dripping from the side of his mouth.

"Haha, good wine." He praised after swallowing a mouthful.

Grey and the others were a little more relaxed as they savored the taste of the wine before gulping it down.

"Wow! It's great!" Even Grey was forced to praise the wine.

It was one of the best wines he had tasted, one has to know that he had drunk wine from one of the best places in the Capital, the Jade Water Paradise, and there was a good difference between both.

The taste of the wine was intense, yet elegant and full of fresh herbs, cherry, and multiple aromas and flavors. The sweet fruit notes persist from beginning to end, where the aftertaste is expansive. Terrific harmony and balance. Grey almost wanted to say, the wine was impeccable!

After Void tasted the wine, he said they wouldn't have any problems with it given their Planes, so he gave the others the nod to drink it, that was the only reason they drank it. And he had to say, he would have regretted not drinking this wine.

Richard and Smith smiled even wider when they heard the praises Grey and his friends showered on the wine, even Alice was no exception in throwing praises at it.

'Hehe, now all we have to do is wait till it kicks in.' Smith laughed evilly inside.

"I'm glad you all enjoyed it. This is the best wine our city has to offer, it is made in a special process, with a variety of fruits and herbs used as well. A lot of merchants come from far and wide to taste it.

Unfortunately, it can't be mass produced since the method of producing it is quite difficult, and the family who made the recipe refused to share their secrets." explained Smith.

Knowing that he would get what he wanted soon, he didn't mind explaining to them to pass up more time. What he placed in the wine would take at least ten minutes or so to start taking effect, that was when the real fun would begin.

"This wine is a treasure, I don't expect the family to let go of that recipe. If I were in their position, I would also do the same." Grey said while waiting for the effect of the poison.

He wanted to know what it was. He was a little anxious since he still hasn't been able to sense what the poison does. When he previously saw Richard and Smith take a mouthful of the wine, he thought there was a chance that the wine truly isn't poisoned. However, he also thought of the possibility of them already taking the antidote when they went in, after all, only one person could've brought out the wine and the cups.

Grey took another sip from the wine, this time, he closed his eyes to savor the taste more. The wine was so good that he didn't think he had a problem drinking it over, and over again.

They all continued to take small sips, and before they knew it, twenty minutes had gone by.

He decided to wait a little longer, 'Maybe they're slightly resistant to it.'

Five minutes went by before Grey started sensing something, he couldn't help but click his tongue.

'So that's what it does?' He thought calmly.

He noticed an unfamiliar energy circulating in his body, what it was doing was out of his expectations. Instead of poisoning, what it did was slowly corrode their elemental essence, thereby making them unable to wield any element. They would then be reduced to normal people, but stronger in terms of physique since their bodies grew stronger after every breakthrough.

Grey circulated his elemental essence to try to fight against it, and he noticed that doing that actually increased the speed, but after using his spiritual energy as well, he was able to isolate the energy that wanted to block his elemental essence.

He wasn't the only one who was sensing it, the others have sensed it as well and they were also trying to stop it from taking any effect. Just like Grey, they tried circulating their elemental essences but when they noticed it worsened the situation, they instantly stopped.

Alice was the first to use her spiritual energy, followed by Klaus and then Reynolds.

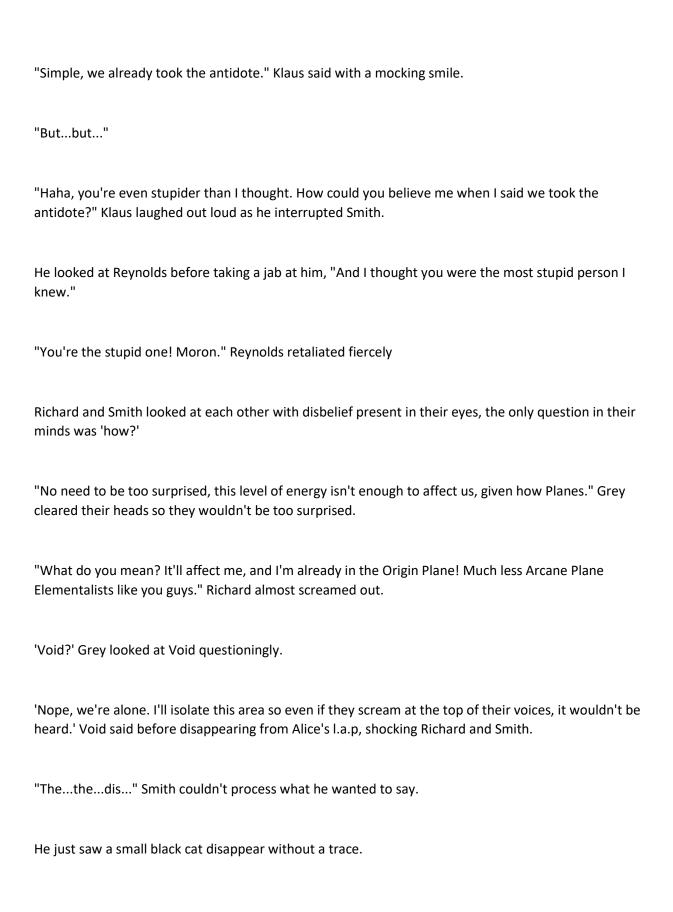
The group's extended quietness alerted Richard and Smith, and they both broke out into smiles. They knew what they mixed into the wine was starting to take effect. This was not their first time using it, so seeing the group's behavior, they were certain it had started working.

"Haha, finally I don't need to take their bullshit anymore." Smith stood up laughing happily.

Richard tried to stop him but he pushed his hand away, "There's no need, since they've already drunk the wine, then they would all become normal people. I can already see the wine is starting to take effect."

"Okay, I don't think there's a need for our facade anymore." Richard smiled. "Let the fun begin!" He licked his lips lecherously as he approached Alice. Chapter 238 - Join The Queue! Grey was the first to get rid of the energy in his body, he looked at the others and realized it would take at least a few more seconds before they got rid of theirs. "What are you doing?" He asked Richard and Smith coolly. "Oh, to think you're still able to keep calm even after knowing you can't wield any element, truly praiseworthy." Richard chuckled. "Stupid." Klaus said mockingly. "What?!" Smith looked at Klaus in disbelief. When Grey spoke, he thought maybe Grey was pretending to still be normal. But Klaus also doing it meant that something was wrong. His expression changed a couple of times as he couldn't understand what was happening. Richard also had a shocked look when he saw Reynolds and Alice's calm expression, this wasn't an expression someone who couldn't wield any elements should have. "Why that face? I'm sorry I hurt your feelings when I called you stupid, I honestly thought you already knew!" Klaus continued mocking Smith. Smith almost spat out blood from anger. Klaus' taunts were annoying.

"How come it didn't work?" He asked in surprise.



Richard was more shocked compared to him, his stage was higher, but he still didn't catch a glimpse of how Void moved that quickly.

'If the cat is this powerful, doesn't that mean?' He looked at the youths in front of him in dread.

"We're not really at the Arcane Plane. Do you think we're stupid enough not to know you approached us with ill intent?" Grey asked before taking a sip of the wine in his hand.

Even after so long, he still hasn't finished his wine. He even almost had the urge of keeping it in his storage ring, but he had a better idea.

"But...but...I inspected your Planes, and it was only at the Arcane Plane. The strongest of you all is that guy who is in the Sixth stage." Richard stammered before pointing at Klaus.

"Heh! He wished." Reynolds scoffed.

"What do you mean I wish? I'm the strongest!" Klaus glared at Reynolds.

"Haha, yes, you're the strongest, from the back." Reynolds chuckled before mumbling the last part.

"What did you say?" asked Klaus.

"Nothing." Reynolds shook his head.

"Hmph! Better." Klaus snorted before looking in Richard and Smith's direction. When he realized they were staring at him weirdly, he asked angrily, "What are you bastards looking at?"

Reynolds and the others laughed at Klaus before focusing on the duo in front of them.

"I don't believe they're not in the Arcane Plane. First, they're too young to be in the Arcane Plane, secondly, why would geniuses in the Arcane Plane come to such a small city?" Richard refused to believe them.

"Yeah." Smith nodded.

"Guys, I think these guys have something wrong with their heads." Klaus said while staring at the duo.

"Forget about waiting for it to react, we can beat them even without it." Richard said while preparing to attack.

He was an Origin Plane Elementalist, although not as strong as a real one, he still had a bit of confidence in himself. If he couldn't defeat these wimps who were at the Fifth and Sixth stage of the Arcane Plane, then it was a disgrace to his name.

"Yes, I don't have any problems with beating them up either. Leave that annoying brat to me, you take care of the rest." Smith said.

He wanted to fight against Klaus, he couldn't give any other person the privilege of killing him.

"What? Do you hate me? Haha! Join the queue, you're not the first person to hate me this much." Klaus said while laughing in delight.

The number of people who hated Klaus was huge, with a mouth like his, added to his personality, it was hard for his enemies not to hate him.

Grey and the others nodded when they heard this, they've seen too many people who Klaus had driven crazy with his words. It's amazing how he's still alive given how much people hate him, some are even willing to pay a huge sacrifice just to kill him.

Grey, Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds all stayed in the same position without moving an inch. It's not that they didn't want to defend, but if they all made a move, then Richard and Smith would die within a second.

| "Klaus, why don't you take care of this?" Grey suggested. |
|---|
| "Nope, they're too weak. Reynolds should do it." Klaus said. |
| "Don't you want to beat that guy up?" Grey waved his hand and used the wind element to deflect the fire stream coming towards them. |
| "Fine, but next time, you're fighting." Klaus said before standing up. |
| Chapter 239 - Taking Care Of The Trash |
| Richard stood rooted to the ground, not expecting Grey was able to deflect his attack with nothing more than a wave of his hand. |
| "Impossible!" He refused to believe it. |
| Smith, on the other hand, was already shaking, he could already see the power difference between them, he's not as stupid as Richard and refuses to believe what was in front of him. |
| "Please, spare me." He instantly begged for mercy. |
| What was important now was keeping his life. Given how adamant he previously was to kill Klaus, he was sure Klaus wouldn't think twice before killing him. |
| Klaus who just stood up looked at him in disgust, "At least fight with pride." |
| Boom! |
| Richard attacked once again, this time, he sent out a huge fire stream, hoping to cover up the group with it. |

"Haha, I don't believe you guys are what you said you were!" He laughed after seeing that his attack wasn't blocked this time.

They waited for a few seconds and the fire slowly started dying down, looking closer, they didn't sense any movement from where the group was previously sitting.

"Haha, you see, they were only posers. I think there was something that made the effect of the wine not affect them." Richard broke into a fit of laughter.

Smith who was previously afraid looked around properly, after not sensing anything, he wanted to celebrate but he was still slightly optimistic. He decided to celebrate after the fire died down completely and was sure they had truly defeated Grey and the others.

Just as Richard was about to turn around, Klaus' voice could be heard from the flames.

"You think this would actually hurt us? Ha! Don't make me laugh." He said in amus.e.m.e.nt.

"Huh!" Richard turned around.

"Tsk tsk, such a shame, this was a good garden." Klaus shook his head as he removed the ice wall that was in front of them.

Grey and the others soon came into full view of Richard and Smith, and they noticed that they haven't even moved from their previous spot, Grey and Reynolds were even drinking and chatting casually, while Void had mysteriously appeared on Alice's I.a.p once again. The flowers around them had been destroyed, but the ones behind them were protected by the ice wall.

"I won't accept this, attack together." Richard ordered.

"Okay." Smith nodded after managing to gather some confidence.

"Let's end this quickly, I still need to get some sleep." Klaus said nonchalantly.

This wasn't a battle that would really bother him, all he wanted to do now was to rob the treasury of some coins before leaving. Once they've left this place, he would sleep peacefully in an Inn.

Richard sent a fireball towards Klaus while Smith caused an earth spike to come out of the ground, below Klaus.

"Hmph! Ants." Klaus snorted before making ice rise from the ground just as the earth spike was coming from the ground. Standing on top of the ice, he rose higher into the air.

Bang!

The ice pillar which rose along with Klaus was hit by the fireball that Richard sent over, but due to Klaus' high proficiency with ice, it couldn't break it.

Richard sent another fireball at Klaus who was standing on the ice mid-air, and Klaus casually moved the ice, dodging all the fireballs coming his way.

"Don't let them go, it'll notify others." Grey said before using his water element to stop the fireballs before they exploded in the air and drawing attention to them.

He forgot Void isolated the area and acted unconsciously, it was only after destroying them did he recall it.

'It's not bad being a little too cautious.' He thought.

There's a chance that the fireball might draw attention to them, that was a chance he didn't want to take.

"Okay, boss." Klaus said sarcastically.

"Attack the pillar that's supporting him." Richard switched tactics.

| Since he couldn't hit Klaus while he was in the air, he would bring him down. |
|--|
| Smith made an earth sword that he sent towards the pillar supporting Klaus in the air. |
| Richard on the other hand sent a barrage of fire arrows towards it. |
| Klaus raised both hands into the air exaggerating and a water wall rose almost six meters into the air, easily blocking the attacks sent out by Richard. |
| Klaus stayed on the defensive for another minute, easily blocking the attacks of both Richard and Smith anytime they attacked. He was still mid-air, showing off his awesomeness. |
| "Time to end this." Klaus smirked. |
| The ice pillar he was standing on top suddenly sunk into the ground. |
| Boom! |
| Ice smoke spread across the space in the garden, barring the vision of both Richard and Smith. |
| Klaus casually moved around in the place, and before long, the smoke died down, with both Richard and Smith incapacitated, the pond at the center of the garden was also frozen solid. |
| They were currently unable to use their elements, and their feet were frozen to the ground. |
| "I initially planned to kill you, but you have a more important use." Klaus said while standing in front of Smith. |
| |

After saying that, he walked to where Richard was frozen, "You on the other hand are very useless, but killing you now is no fun."

Richard looked at him with hateful eyes, but said confidently, "You can't kill me, my father is an Overlord Plane expert. You can't afford to offend someone like him."

"Haha, you think you can threaten me with that? I'll kill you if I want to, even if your father was the emperor." Klaus laughed it off but didn't kill him yet.

He walked back to where Smith was standing, "Now, tell me, where is the mayor's treasury?"

Chapter 240 - Important Guests

"What?" Smith asked with a confused expression, not expecting Klaus to ask such a question.

"You heard me, where's the mayor's treasury?" Klaus looked at him coldly.

"It's in the villa." Smith said hurriedly.

"I know it's in the villa, I just need to know where?" Klaus had the urge of smacking him in the face.

"That...that...you see." Smith tried to look for a way to evade the question.

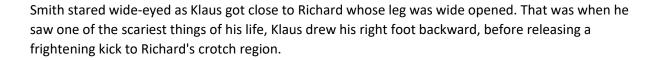
"Trying to avoid the question? The funny thing is that your life depends on the answer I get." Klaus shrugged.

He could guess the area where the mayor's treasury was located, but it would take a lot of time to pinpoint its actual location. Why go through that stress when he could just get the location from Smith?

Hearing the threat, Smith gulped and threw a glance at Richard, hoping that he might be able to say something that would save them.

"I see no reason why you're placing your hopes on someone who can't even save himself, much less, you." Klaus followed his gaze and realized he was staring at Richard. Smith refused to tell him the location of the mayor's treasury. "It's not even yours, why are you protecting it that much?" Klaus was left stumped by his stubbornness. 'I'll do that to the other guy, that should scare him.' he thought. "Hey Grey, hope there's no way for sounds to get out of this place?" He asked to confirm. He was planning on using his self-named technique, the nutcracker. It has been a while since he used it, but it looks like it's time to bring out the big guns once again. "Yeah, Void isolated the place." Grey nodded. When he saw Klaus' smile after getting confirmation, he immediately knew he was planning to do something evil. Seeing the position Richard was in, a chill went down his spine, 'Don't tell me he's about to use 'that'?' He got to affirmation when he saw Klaus preparing for a run-up, "Alice, you shouldn't watch this." Grey and Reynolds hastily turned around. Thinking about it always scares them, watching someone experience it scares them even more. Alice nodded and turned around as well. "If you don't speak, you'll be the next." Klaus said before running in Richard's direction. "Why are you coming towards me? Stay away!" Richard yelled.

He had a bad premonition about what Klaus was about to do to him.



Bam! Crack!

The sound of something cracking rang out in the garden.

Richard's premonition came to pass as an unbearable pain came from his crotch region. He didn't pass out immediately from the pain.

"Ah..." He screamed at the top of his lungs.

The shock and the pain he was feeling were what finally knocked him out. This was a pain that staying conscious made worse, so it was better if he passed out. He didn't even care if he was killed in the process, he just wanted the pain to stop.

"Heh! Never gets old." Klaus looked at Richard with a hint of amus.e.m.e.nt.

'Someday, this technique will be known all over the world.' thought Klaus.

"You see that? Now start talking." Klaus said pointing at Richard, when he saw Smith's expression, he added, "Also, unlike what he's currently going through, I'll make sure you don't pass out, and feel double the pain."

Smith almost fainted on the spot, if he hated Klaus previously, now, he dreaded him. Klaus was the most psychotic person he had ever seen. How would a guy do this to another guy when he fully knows how much it hurts?

Klaus slowly started approaching Smith, preparing to start his run-up.

"There's a secret passageway in my father's room. You'll find the treasury there." Smith blurted out everything he knew.

He told Klaus how to get to the mayor's room without being spotted. But since it was already late, the mayor would most likely be in his room.

When the group previously came to the villa, other than when they were inspected at the gate, and when the servants brought the food over, they didn't see others. They haven't encountered any other guards nor servants. They were quite surprised about this and couldn't help but ask Smith the reason for this.

The answer Smith gave to them was that most of them were dismissed by the mayor. According to him, the mayor seemed to be expecting some important guests, and having too many people in the villa wasn't a good thing.

"This seems suspicious." said Alice.

"Yes, we need to complete what we want to do and leave immediately." Grey said seriously.

He recalled how the guards checked the carriage properly before letting them in, making it all click. Since the mayor was being that thorough with the people who entered the villa, it was a testament to how important the guests were.

"Yeah." Klaus nodded.

"Who are these important guests?" Grey tried to see if Smith knew the people.

"I don't know." Smith answered.

From his response, Grey guessed he wasn't lying. He also thought of the possibility of him being a good liar as well.

"Okay, now that his question has been answered, I have one as well. Do you still have more of this wine?" Grey asked pointing at the wine jug.

"Yes, such an important item, to think I forgot about it. Well, do you?" Klaus lightly smacked his head when he heard this.

He also thought of asking for more of the wine, but the coins came first.

"Yes, I have one more jug in my room, and there should be others in the treasury." Smith nodded hastily.