

## Affinity 241

Chapter 241 - Klaus And Reynolds' Regret

They decided to get the wine from Smith's room first, before heading over to the mayor's room.

Smith gave them a rough description of the villa, so they had some knowledge about where was where.

"How about him, what do we do to him?" Reynolds pointed at Richard.

"Alice." Grey looked at her.

She had the final decision on what would happen to Richard, if she took pity on him and decided they should let him go, then he should count himself lucky. But the group knew given Alice's personality, she probably wouldn't want him to live because of what he thought of doing to her.

"Kill him, keeping him alive doesn't change anything." Alice said decisively.

According to what Smith said, Richard didn't come with the important guests, which meant he wasn't of any use. The group planned to keep Smith alive since he could be used as leverage if by chance things didn't go as planned.

They didn't know the strength of the guests the mayor received. However, Grey was a little hopeful since Void said he only sensed a single person who should either be in the Origin Plane or close to it.

Klaus walked closer to the unconscious Richard before fl.i.c.k.i.n.g his hand. Multiple ice shards came from the ground, piercing Richard's body.

Richard died a quick death, he didn't even know what killed him. Klaus went on to further tap a finger on his body, freezing him entirely.

'\*Sigh\* If only my ice ability has gotten to that level, I would have been able to freeze him, then break him into smithereens, leaving no evidence behind.' He thought sadly.

He moved to the pond, touched it, taking it back to its previous state when it was filled with water. He looked around before finding a perfect spot.

"Grey, come here." He called Grey over.

When Grey got there, he told him what he wanted to do, and Grey agreed to it. He wanted to keep Richard's corpse hidden from the world. So he had Grey carve an opening inside the pond, on its walls. He calmly placed the frozen corpse in the pond, before manipulating the water to move it to the opening.

Grey sealed it up, and it was like Richard was never here.

"If only we could find a way to fix the garden, then we wouldn't need to be afraid of it alerting the guards here." Grey said thoughtfully.

"It doesn't matter, we should get to work now, and leave as soon as possible." suggested Klaus.

The others nodded before using the same back door Richard and Smith used when they went to get the wine for them. Reynolds was the one tasked with carrying the unconscious Smith on his shoulder which annoyed him but excited Klaus. It was almost like the duo found each others suffering funny, that was why they always laughed at each other whenever one of them was suffering.

Void was the one who the group sent ahead, he would alert them if there were any guards or servants around. After going through two halls, and three turns, they got to Smith's room within three minutes.

When they entered the room, Grey looked around to locate the place Smith said he hid the wine. The room spanned about fifteen square meters, with a large bed located in it, it surprisingly also had a table and chair that were positioned close to the window which was wide opened, with the curtains hanging on his side. Looking to the extreme left corner of the room, Grey found the place he could use in going into the bathroom.

'He said he kept it there.'

He cautiously walked towards it, entering the bathroom room, he saw a bathtub, as well as some towels and a closet where a large c.h.e.s.t was located.

Grey walked closer to inspect the c.h.e.s.t, it looked a little worn-out, which was strange given Smith's status.

"He's a strange one." Grey said as he pushed the c.h.e.s.t to the side.

He gently tapped on the spot where the c.h.e.s.t was previously on, he could tell it was hollow from the sound he heard, Smith only created a thin wall to block it. Being an Earth Elementalist, he tapped his finger on it once again, but this time, the outcome was different from the previous time when it only made a sound.

The thin wall Smith previously created moved to the side with little to no effort, and Grey was left speechless by the number of wine jugs he found in there. There were at least twenty in there.

'This guy sure does love his wines.' He thought internally while searching for the wine Smith brought out.

It took a while, but he finally found it after almost two minutes of tasting the different wines. He kept some that he found good, while he left the rest.

After keeping the wines, he left the bathroom. The others were waiting for him in the room . Reynolds placed Smith on the bed since carrying him constantly was uncomfortable. Klaus and Alice were sitting on the bed. They all looked in his direction when they heard his footsteps.

"We should..." Grey froze mid-sentence before continuing, "Hide, someone's coming."

He quickly went back to the bathroom, hiding in the closet.

Klaus and Reynolds hid under the bed, while Alice hid behind the curtain that was on the window. They left Smith on the bed, trying to make it seem like he was already asleep.

Tap! Tap! Creak!

The footsteps increased before a lady walked in, she looked to be around her late twenties, and from her clothes, it was easy to tell that she was a maid in the villa. She had deep brown long hair, a slender and well-curved body, a slightly average-looking oval face, and blue eyes.

"Young lord, are you asleep?" She asked while blinking her long eyelashes as she approached the bed.

Getting no response from the unconscious Smith, she walked over to the bathroom, "I'll go freshen up."

This wasn't the first time Smith was keeping her quiet, but whenever she gets on the bed, he would always hold her tight, as if afraid she would disappear the next moment.

Klaus and Reynolds who heard this looked at each other with regret deep in their eyes.

'Why didn't I hide in the bathroom?'

Chapter 242 - Klaus' Misery

Grey stood in the closet and created a wall that made it seem like he wasn't there. It would be hard for Smith who frequently used the bathroom to notice the small change, much less a maid who used it once in a while.

He created a hole for his eyes, so he could see the entire bathroom perfectly. He was a little stunned when he heard the voice of a lady saying she wanted to freshen up.

'It shouldn't be what I think it is.' He shook his head.

Unlike Klaus and Reynolds, he hadn't been with a lady before. He doesn't even think of it since he placed all his focus on getting stronger. Whenever he hung out with them, other than drinking wine, he did nothing else.

When the lady walked into the bathroom, she immediately started taking off her clothes, leaving Grey, and surprisingly Klaus and Reynolds who weren't here in despair. Grey felt despair because he didn't want to see what was currently happening in front of him, Klaus and Reynolds on the other hand wanted to very much see something like this. They wouldn't mind changing positions with him right now.

"Uh! That isn't in its right position." The young lady who had already removed her gown and u.n.d.e.r.w.e.a.r and was currently unclad walked closer to the closet.

Even though she only occasionally uses Smith's bathroom, she knew exactly how he always kept the c.h.e.s.t where he keeps his clothes. As soon as she got close to the c.h.e.s.t, the scent of wine wafted all around the closet.

"Looks like he's drunk again. I'll get a good rest then" She mumbled softly.

Smith shared some of his secrets with her, so she knew of his stash of wine under his c.h.e.s.t. Thinking this was the cause of it, she turned around and walked over to the bathtub.

'I need to get out of this place right now.' He thought inside.

The young lady poured the hot water she had previously prepared before Grey and the others came into the room into the bathtub before soaking in it, closing her eyes in the process. She was exhausted from the days' work, so finding out that Smith was asleep elated her.

While Grey was thinking of how he could leave the bathroom, Klaus and Reynolds were thinking of how they could get into the bathroom.

'Void!' Grey called on the only individual he knew could help him in his current strange predicament.

'What can I help you with?' Void was previously in the room, but he went out after the young lady walked in.

'I need your help, you need to knock her out. Wait for about a minute or two so it wouldn't look suspicious.' Grey said.

'Okay.' Void replied before appearing in the bathroom.

Given his small size, it was almost impossible for the young lady, or anyone else to notice him.

Two minutes quickly went by, and the young lady was just starting to feel extra relaxed in the bathtub.

Void soon appeared behind her and did what looked like a chop with his small paw. The young lady didn't even feel anything before passing out.

"\*Phew\* Thanks." Grey removed the wall that he used in hiding himself before breathing out a sigh of relief.

He quickly exited the bathroom, not wanting to see any more, but was stunned when he almost bumped into Klaus and Reynolds who seemed to be about to walk into the bathroom.

"What are you guys doing?" He asked suspiciously.

Knowing the duo, he was sure they were up to no good.

"Oh! You're out, you see, we wanted to come to save you." explained Klaus who for some reason continued sneaking towards the bathroom.

Reynolds on the other hand stood still since he wasn't as shameless as Klaus.

"I'm here now, why are you still walking over there?" Grey looked at Klaus speechlessly.

"I want to make sure you didn't leave any traces of your appearance there." Klaus said in a serious tone.

"Shameless pervert, if you take a step into the bathroom, I'll break your legs." Alice came out when she overheard the boys talking.

Klaus was currently standing at the entrance of the bathroom, he could already see the young lady's head and her hair which was floating on top of the water. If he walks a little bit further, he might be able to see the unclad lady who was currently unconscious. But Alice's threat wasn't something he could shrug off.

"It'll be a shame if we were found out because of Grey's carelessness, you know how careless he is. All I want to do is a quick sweep of the area, it wouldn't take more than a minute." Klaus tried persuading Alice, giving up when he was already this close wasn't something he could accept so easily.

"I'll not only break your legs, but I'll also break your hands as well." Alice said coldly.

"F.u.c.k! How unlucky." Klaus cursed out in frustration, but in the end, he could only take another glance at the head of the young lady before turning around.

"Good boy, now carry him." Alice patted his cheek before pointing at Smith.

"But...I thought it was Reynolds' job." Klaus protested.

"It was, but now it's yours. Have a problem with that?" Alice raised a brow while smiling.

Her smile sent goosebumps all over Klaus' body.

Reynolds laughed on seeing Klaus' misery, luckily, he wasn't as shameless as Klaus so he didn't follow him after they bumped into Grey.

Klaus reluctantly carried Smith on his shoulder with a long face, which caused Grey and Reynolds to start laughing at him.

"What are you laughing at? It'll soon get to your turn, we'll see who will be laughing then." Klaus snorted coldly before walking towards the door.

Alice was unsurprisingly the only one who could bully all three of them, and just as Klaus said, it would get to either of the laughing duo's turn soon.

## Chapter 243 - Treasury

The group soon left Smith's room, with Void taking the lead just like the first time. According to what Smith said, the mayor's room was located at the heart of the main building. Smith's room was in the right wing of the building, now, the group had to move from Smith's room to the mayor's room without being spotted by either the guards or the servants in the villa.

Even with Void leading the group, it still took them almost ten minutes to safely navigate from the right wing to the main building without being sensed or spotted. After sneaking into the main building, their speed decreased exponentially due to the dramatic increase of the guards there.

"I thought that guy said most of the guards were sent away?" Klaus couldn't help but ask in frustration when the group was stuck in a hallway for almost five minutes.

They were currently hiding behind a small tree-like decoration in a hallway, but moving forward or retreating was impossible because there was not only a guard ahead of them, but there was one behind them as well.

"Looks like he wasn't completely honest with the information he gave us." Grey furrowed his brow while communicating with Void who was ahead of them, trying to seek a better path for them.

Seeing the situation, Reynolds suggested, "Why don't we knock out the guards, instead of staying here for so long?"

"No. If a single guard goes missing, it will probably give us away." Grey said thoughtfully.

"Void should try distracting the guard ahead of us. The longer we stay here, the greater the chances of us being discovered. You all should know that a guard will eventually patrol through that garden, I don't need to tell you what would happen when they see the state of the garden." Alice said after a while.



Grey nodded before telling Void to find a way to distract the guard ahead of them, so they could continue advancing.

It took almost two minutes before Void managed to distract the guard that was ahead of them. As soon as Void told them it clear, they quickly dashed forward.

Ten minutes later, they were already only a few turns away from the mayor's room. And they noticed that the closer they got to the mayor's room, the lesser the guards were which was actually weird since it should be the closer they got to the mayor's room, the higher the guards there.

"Does anyone else find this fishy?" Grey asked looking at the completely free passage ahead of them.

Void had scouted from their current location up to the mayor's room and he didn't find a single guard on the way. All the rooms along the way were also empty.

"Yeah. Do you think it has anything to do with the guests the mayor received?" Klaus nodded.

He initially wanted to rub his chin with his right hand, but he was carrying Smith on his right shoulder which made it extremely difficult for him to do. He couldn't help but glare at Alice while she wasn't looking at him.

"Possibly." replied Grey.

"Standing here and contemplating wouldn't change anything. Let's get those coins and be out of here." Reynolds urged.

The group cautiously advanced closer to the mayor's room.

After walking for almost one minute unhindered, they saw the mayor's room. Void had already scouted it, and there was no one inside. The mayor was most likely with his guests.

The group didn't delay and quickly entered the room. Compared to Smith's room, this one was almost twice its size, and it had more decorations, couches, and a table and chair. There was also a small bookshelf close to the table that was located close to the window. What looked like the fur of a bear-like animal was used as a center carpet in the room.

Klaus immediately dropped Smith on the center carpet since his shoulder was already starting to feel numb from carrying him for so long.

He located the switch to open the secret passage which was close to the bed, luckily, Smith didn't lie about it.

The secret passage opened up, but not in the room. Klaus followed the sound, and it was just like Smith said, it was on the wall in the bathroom. Since they were short on time, Grey and Klaus quickly went in while Void went outside to keep an eye out so someone wouldn't come in when the group was still inside.

After walking through the passageway for almost a minute, they got to the treasury. And it was just like it was called, a treasury. There were weapons, armors, herbs, some low leveled natural treasures, and so on.

Klaus looked around and quickly located the spot where the coins were kept.

"Gold or Silver?" He asked Grey.

Although there were copper coins, he didn't put them in his eyes.

"Is that a question? Step aside." Grey pushed him aside as he quickly started taking gold and silver coins.

The number of gold coins here was around five thousand to Seven thousand, Grey took just over four thousand, while for the silver coins that were over fifty thousand, he took around ten thousand.

"This is more than enough, we should get going." Grey turned around after keeping the coins.

The reason Klaus wanted to rob this place was so that they could afford horses, but seeing so many coins, Grey decided to take more. It doesn't really change anything if they took a few or if they took more, the mayor would still try to catch them and possibly kill them if he found out about it.

The duo left the treasury without touching anything else, it wasn't like they didn't want to, but the items there were too low leveled for them. They would only be effective on Elementalists below the Origin Plane.

After leaving the bathroom, the group left the mayor's room, preparing to escape from the villa without being spotted. So far, it has been quite successful since they haven't been spotted, nor had the guards been alarmed. But with that garden there, it was only a matter of time before someone finds out about their existence in the villa.

#### Chapter 244 - Shocking Discovery

They decided to pass through the same route they used in coming here. While the group got to the second turn, they were forced to use another route when they saw two guards discussing on the path. Void even tried distracting them, but only one left to check it out, so they couldn't pass through it.

The route they were currently using wasn't much different from the other one, they would occasionally hide for extended time periods before moving. They continued walking for almost five minutes before noticing a decrease in the number of guards.

Although the number of guards decreased, the stages of the guards that were patrolling the halls and hallways saw an increase. Even a fool would know that there was something important going on in this part of the villa.

With the absence of the mayor in his room, and the so-called important guests Smith talked about, the group was able to connect the dots. Unknown to the group, the part they were currently passing through would take them past the mayor's personal office in the villa. This office was different from the one the occupants of the city know about.

The group soon got close to the mayor's office, and two guards could be seen standing in front of the huge double door that led to the office. Of all the guards that the group had seen, they were the strongest, being in the Eighth stage of the Arcane Plane.

Grey and his friends were currently looking at them from where they were hiding.

Reynolds couldn't help but look at the door curiously, "What do you think is going on there?"

"Nothing that we should concern ourselves with, we should take another route and leave this place." Grey didn't want them to involve themselves in what wouldn't bring them any good.

Since he had collected the coins, all he wanted was to leave this place. Had they been outside the building, he would have already charged out of the villa. But running out now is a little complicated since they would have to face more guards.

"Crap! Why didn't think of this earlier?" Klaus smacked the back of Reynolds' head as he exclaimed softly.

"Why did you smack my head?" Reynolds asked with a long face.

"Cause I was just hit with an idea and if I don't smack my head, it wouldn't be dramatic. Unfortunately, I can't smack mine, and since you were standing right in front of me, I thought why not?" Klaus shrugged with a smirk, annoying Reynolds.

Reynolds glared at him but Klaus acted as nothing happened, he even threw him a challenging look, like he couldn't do anything to him.

"Stop this the two of you. Klaus, what brilliant idea do you have now?" Alice stopped the two before they started bickering.

"It's quite simple actually, instead of passing through so many twists and turns, why don't we just go through a window or something. There's an empty room right there, and passing through a window would take us directly outside." Klaus explained.

"Oh! That's simple and very fast." Grey nodded.

Unlike the first time where they needed to stay in the building to locate the mayor's room, now they didn't need to be inside, after all, they were trying to go outside. It doesn't matter how they went outside, be it the door or the window, it all gave them the same result.

"Of course, I'm brilliant, what else do you expect from me?" Klaus smiled while looking at Reynolds demeaningly. It was like he was asking him if he was smart enough to think of something like this.

Reynolds almost went crazy when he saw this, but he was reigned in by Grey who was standing close to him.

"Let's get out of this place." Alice said as the group silently went into the room that was close to them.

After going into the room, they went over the window, landing in the bushes behind the window. They stayed close to the walls and continued walking.

"Huh! Do you guys hear that?" Klaus looked at the others who were behind him

The group was currently standing close to a window, and they could hear voices from inside. If they guessed correctly, this was the mayor's office.

Grey and the others nodded with serious expressions, this was something they didn't think they would hear.

Klaus peeked through the window, and he saw ten men and three women sitting inside, having a heated discussion. The man on the mayor's seat had a complicated look on his face.

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Inside the office.

"I've already kept over five thousand of your soldiers in the mountains, if more were to join them, it will certainly give us away." The middle-aged man in the mayor's seat said with a serious expression.

"This is a small city, your empire doesn't care about it. There's no way they would find out about this since they missed the first ones." One of the ladies who was sitting at the right side said.

"You're not understanding me, I'm taking a great risk doing this for you people. If I'm caught, my entire family risk annihilation. Hiding five thousand soldiers is my limit, any more and the increased activity might alert the empire." The mayor said.

"We offered you a price, and you accepted. Now, you'll do as we say." A younger-looking man said calmly.

"But..."

"There are no buts. The soldiers would be coming in a week's time, we do not want any mishaps." The young man interrupted the mayor.

"Fine, but you will have to increase the offer." The mayor said through gritted teeth.

"That's fine with us, but make sure to keep this tight. The war would begin soon, and these soldiers are who would take this empire down." An elderly man said.

Just as they were about to continue, the mayor's door was knocked quickly.

"My lord, there are intruders in the villa!" A yell came from outside.

Chapter 245 - Shocking Discovery II

"What?!" The mayor stood up in surprise.

The others who were in the office also stood up alongside the mayor.

"The garden on the right wing by young lord Smith's room was destroyed. It was presumably caused by a fire attack." The guard outside reported.

"And where is Smith?" The mayor asked angrily.

"He is nowhere to be found, neither is master Richard." replied the guard.

"They still haven't returned?" The mayor asked with a strange expression.

"They returned my lord, alongside four youngsters. But neither they nor the youngsters have been found." answered the guard.

"Could they have left the villa?" The mayor asked a little confused.

"No, my lord. The guards at the gates didn't see anyone leaving after they came in. This means they are still in the villa." The guard replied.

The mayor looked at his guests with a little concerned face, "Please stay here, I assure you, this isn't something to worry about. I'll settle it soon"

"Hmm, do we need to be worried?" One of the ladies asked the others with a thoughtful expression.

"No, they're just kids. Let's wait so we can finalize everything with the mayor. The longer we stay in this villa, the higher the chances of us getting found out." An elderly man said.

The others nodded before taking their seats, this wasn't something they should concern themselves over.

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Outside the building.

"Shit! Shit! Shit! They're people from the Azure empire!" Klaus whispered with a shocked expression.

He couldn't believe what he was hearing, nor seeing. What the hell are people from the Azure empire doing in the Qilin empire? And in a mayor's villa for that matter?!

"Looks like the coming war is inevitable. We need to get to the Academy and report this to the principal, he'll know what to do with such pieces of information." Alice suggested.

The others nodded before they started to sneak off once again. They've not only stolen from the treasury, but they've also found out about a shocking secret, the Azure empire was deploying soldiers into the Qilin empire in preparation for the war. This was insane!

Grey was the one leading the group now, with Klaus at the end of the group.

Due to the shock they got from this unexpected discovery, none of them realized that Smith had already gained consciousness. He sensibly kept his eyes shut, and regulated his breathing so he wouldn't be found out by the group.

Just as the group crossed the mayor's office window, he decided to take the risk of alerting the guards of their location. He took a peek at where they were, and he quickly recognized the mayor's window. He also realized that he could freely use his elemental essence once again which gave him a sense of relief.

'The guards close to father's office are always there. This is my chance to escape.' Smith thought to himself.

Even though he knew if those guards came to his rescue, they would most likely die since they were not Grey or his friends' match, but he hoped they would at least be able to distract them so he could escape.

Being an Earth Elementalist, it would be easier for him to cause a disturbance since all he needed to do was create a hole in the wall of the mayor's office, that would definitely attract attention. It will not only



attract attention, but it's stealthier, giving him more time before Grey or his friends finds out he was awake.

The group was just about to completely leave the mayor's office's area when Smith secretly tried to create a hole on the wall, hoping to directly expose the group to the people in the mayor's office.

"Huh!" Grey suddenly stopped when he sensed the sudden high activity of the earth particles around the area.

"What's wrong?" Alice asked.

"Oh no." Grey wore a serious expression when he saw the hole that was being created on the wall.

It was already over a meter wide, which had attracted the attention of the people in the office. Grey could see the people in the office standing, and looking at the hole with shocked expressions.

"Mayor! They're here." One of the ladies called on the mayor who was outside speaking to his guards.

"Crap! That bastard is awake." Grey cursed out before blocking the hole on the wall, as well as the window with an ice wall.

"What? But he's still...oh crap!" Klaus was about to say Smith was still asleep, but he quickly threw him off his shoulder before freezing his arms and legs to the wall.

"Who we wanted to use as leverage actually turned out to be bad luck. Shit! How unlucky can we get?" Reynolds said with a little remorse.

Grey instantly sent a lightning blade straight for Smith's heart. He wasn't useful anymore, so he wanted to get rid of him since he was the only one left who had a good look at their faces.

While Grey and the others were about to kill Smith. The mayor and his guards were already inside the office. Without any delays, they quickly attacked the ice wall.

But to their surprise, it didn't break instantly like what they expected. Some cracks ran across it, but it didn't fall apart, even after the second wave of attacks, it still didn't fall apart.

The mayor and his guards were all still in the Arcane Plane, although it was the Peak of it, they wouldn't be able to destroy Grey's ice so easily. Had Klaus being the one who created this ice, then it would have been almost impossible for them to break through it within one hour.

"Attack with me, we can't allow the news of you guys being here to spread out." The mayor begged the guests who were still in their seats.

#### Chapter 246 - Something's Wrong

The mayor couldn't believe Smith would bring people into the villa at a time like this when he was expecting important guests. Even after dismissing some of the guards to show everyone in the villa how important the guests were, his son still foolishly brought people in.

'I'll deal with him once this is over.' The mayor thought angrily.

The representatives from the Azure empire stood up and joined him in breaking the ice wall, when they noticed how hard it was, the younger man amongst them improvised and destroyed the earthen wall that was there all this while.

This allowed them to see Grey and his friends as he was about to kill Smith.

When Smith saw Grey's lightning blade coming towards him, he immediately created an earth wall, as well as an earth armor around his body to help block against the attack.

Bam!

The lightning blade easily passed through the earth wall and aimed at Smith's heart even with the earth armor there.

Despair was the only thing present in Smith's eyes as he watched the lightning blade slowly penetrating his earth armor.

"Stop!" The mayor who was still inside the building yelled loudly.

The lightning blade which had already penetrated through the earth armor and just started piercing into Smith's c.h.e.s.t, stopped.

Smith who had his eyes closed, seemingly waiting for death was surprised when he noticed he was still alive.

He slowly opened his eyes and realized that although the lightning blade was still there, it wasn't moving. Because of the fear of dying, he wasn't actually feeling the pain of the blade that had pierced a few centimeters into his c.h.e.s.t.

"Let us go and your son will live." Grey turned around to look at the mayor. His face was covered by an ice mask, which only left his eyes open.

The mayor was caught in a dilemma when he heard their requests, if he let Grey and his friends go, then there was a chance that not only would he die, but his son who he was trying to protect will die as well.

"Father, please save me." Smith begged when he saw that there was a possibility that he might be saved.

The mayor didn't think long before making his decision, "Attack!"

Some of the guards that were inside had moved outside while the mayor and the others were here trying to break through the wall. Not just that, but all the guards outside were running in this direction, a few were already hiding around, while some hadn't gotten to this place yet.

Hearing the mayor's order, the guards who were inside and outside attacked Grey and his friends instantly.

Smith was gripped by fear and shock when he heard his father's order. His father left him to die, he couldn't believe his father would do this to him.

"Your stupidity, as well as your father, was the cause of your death, remember that." Grey said as he drove the blade deeper into his c.h.e.s.t, piercing his heart.

Klaus, Alice, Reynolds, and Void blocked the attacks that the guards and the mayor sent their way as Grey killed Smith.

Smith stared at his father in shock as blood started flowing out of his mouth, he could see a slight pain in his father's eyes, but what was more present was fear.

"You're a smart man, this is the reason we made a deal with you in the first place." The young man from the Azure empire said as they all came out of the building, and attacked Grey and his friends as well.

"He's not my only son. Allowing these people to escape will cause the death of my other children as well, why not sacrifice one to save the others?" The mayor hid the pain in his heart and said.

Although his son was stupid, he was still his son. No parent would wish for their child to die, especially in front of them.

Grey and the others started defending as they moved towards the fence surrounding the villa, they planned to escape since they've acquired more than they originally planned for. Although facing so many attacks was a little pressurizing, they tried their best to keep calm and collected.

Boom!

Within a minute or so, the number of guards has increased to over twenty, added with the mayor and his guests who were all at the Peak of the Arcane Plane, it was getting a little hard to advance because of the numbers.

"No need to hold back. Go all out." Grey ordered.

Since all they needed to do was escape, so there was no use in reserving their strengths. A single attack from any of them is not something anyone among the mayor's guards could defend against.

They continued blocking the different elemental attacks coming towards them from the guards as well as the mayor, while also attacking to create an opening.

Buzz!

Lightning rumbled as Alice sent out a huge lightning attack, it was none other than lightning rain, but on a larger scale compared to the ones Grey and Reynolds have previously used.

Bang! Bam!

Over ten guards were caught by the attack, immobilizing a few, while killing some.

But even with this causality, the number of guards increased instead, more were rushing towards this place. The battle had been going on for almost two minutes, and Grey and his friends were already over halfway across the villa, it would take a minute or so for them to get to the fence.

Klaus did a large-scale attack ice attack, multiple ice shards appeared mid-air, before shooting straight at the guards who were gathered in a particular area. It was a massacre.

The group hadn't been touched by any of their opponents' attacks, yet they have killed over twenty guards with only two attacks.

Reynolds sent lightning arrows towards the mayor's group, but it was blocked.

'Something's wrong.' Void suddenly said to Grey.

Chapter 247 - Unexpected Change

Grey who was about to attack looked at Void a little puzzled, 'What's it?'

'Weren't those guys previously in the Arcane Plane?' Void appeared on Grey's shoulder, pointing his paw at the mayor's guests who were from the Azure empire.

'Yeah, did any... Oh crap!' Grey nodded, and just as he was about to ask what was wrong, he noticed it.

The mayor's guests who were previously in the Peak of the Arcane Plane were currently all in the First stage of the Origin Plane.

'How...how's this possible?!' Grey couldn't believe what was happening.

'It must be a special technique since I was unable to sense them. The technique should also have a disadvantage because if they were truly above the Arcane Plane, they would have been able to sense us when we were watching from the window earlier.' Void deduced.

'Hmm, this is bad. We need to leave immediately.'

"Rey, full power, there's trouble." Grey said when he noticed Reynolds didn't summon the Elemental Warrior.

"What's up?" Klaus asked after casually destroying an attack sent towards them.

"Those guys, they just went from the Peak of the Arcane Plane to the First stage of the Origin Plane in a matter of minutes, and from the looks of it, they haven't stopped increasing their stages yet." Grey explained to the others.

"What?! I thought Void said it was safe?" Klaus asked with a shocked expression, not forgetting to take a glance at the mayor's guests which shocked him even more because they had just gone from the First stage, to the Second stage of the Origin Plane.

"That's...that's... F.u.c.k!" He exclaimed with a look of panic.

At this rate, the mayor's guests would reach the Third stage in three or four minutes. There were ten of them! How the hell do they expect them to fight against that?! Especially when being bombarded by the mayor's guards.

"Rey, why haven't you summoned it yet?" Grey asked when he noticed Reynolds still haven't summoned his Elemental Warrior.

"Shit! It hasn't even been up to a minute." Reynolds complained, before quickly trying to summon the Elemental Warrior.

"We need to leave before this gets out of hand." Alice advised while sending out a barrage of lightning bolts towards the guards that were coming towards them.

Grey was well aware of this, but leaving wasn't easy since they had to first find a way to escape from these guards. When he saw the number of attacks sent towards them, he quickly created an earth wall, hoping to block it.

The young man amongst the group looked at Grey and his friends a little surprised by their strength, although he couldn't see their faces, he guessed they were above twenty-one years old yet. If he knew they were only around seventeen and eighteen, he would be extremely shocked.

"They should be killed, these are geniuses." He said casually as he launched a large wind blade at the earth wall that Grey set up to block the attacks that the guards sent their way.

Bam!

The wind blade cut the wall, but it didn't destroy it as the young man expected.

"Oh! They're even better than I thought." He said softly before preparing another attack.

Boom!

What followed was the complete destruction of the wall, but as soon as the wall was destroyed, Grey and his friends rained attacks at the guards.

Grey created a large fire blade that he slashed horizontally across the open ground, killing multiple guards, and wounding more. Klaus and Alice used aerial attacks, with both sending out ice shards and lightning arrows at the guards.

In a matter of seconds, their attacks had killed almost thirty guards. This was already almost half the number of guards that were here fighting against them.

Just when the guards thought it was over, a silver figure dashed into their midst, swinging a lightning spear left and right, harvesting more lives. It was none other than the Elemental Warrior! It was a one-sided massacre.

Void who was previously on Grey's shoulder is currently nowhere to be found, it was unknown when he disappeared, and where he was currently located.

The mayor was shocked when he saw how quickly the intruders managed to kill over half of the guards that were here. Some of these guards were people he was barely stronger than, doesn't that mean that he couldn't defend a single attack from any of these people?

"Hmm, things aren't as easy as it seems. There's a high-grade summoner amongst them. Since there are two Lightning Elementalists, it's unknown which of them is the summoner." The older lady amongst the three ladies said with narrowed eyes.

Of the three ladies, two had identical looks, only being separated by the colors of their eyes, they even had the same heights. They were obviously twins, the twins looked to be in their early thirties, with long waist-length blonde hairs, they stood at around five foot four inches with hourglass figures. The third lady was a little older with black hair mixed with hints of grey, she was taller than the twins, with a chubby figure, unlike the twins.

Of the ten men, three had grey hairs, four with black short hair, two with brown hairs, and the young man who had striking ember shoulder-length hair. He looked to be in his later twenties with an athletic figure, standing at a height of six foot three inches.



"We'll just kill them both and be done with it." The young man said nonchalantly.

To him, Grey and his friends were unimportant people, they might be talented, but since they were part of the enemies, they are regarded as enemies as well.

The young man opened his left palm, and a small wind orb the size of a fingernail appeared above it. It quickly started rotating and before long, it looked like a wheel with spikes at the end of it.

"Go." He ordered softly as the small spinning wheel left his palm, and headed straight for Grey and his friends.

Chapter 248 - Unexpected Change II

"Hmm," Grey looked at the spinning wheel that was coming in their direction.

The wheel was only around the size of a human head, having a greenish color.

"Shit! Klaus!" He called when he sensed the power that the wheel contained.

Klaus didn't need to ask any questions since he already understood Grey, without any delays, he spread out both arms in front of him, creating an ice sphere that he used to trap the spinning wheel.

Boom!

An explosion rang out from the sphere as multiple small wind blades could be seen trying to burst out from the sphere, but with the hardness of Klaus' ice ability, it was impossible given its current strength.

"Oh! They're good." The young man with ember hair said indifferently.

The twins attacked after Klaus blocked the young man's attack, they were both Water Elementalists. The one with blue eyes created a water storm that she sent towards Klaus, while the one with green eyes pointed forward and a water screen appeared mid-air. Water arrows came out of the water screen, shooting straight at Grey and his friends nonstop.

"Hmph!" Klaus snorted arrogantly when he saw the water storm coming towards them.

'Done.' Grey thought to himself as two symbols lit up in the sky.

Klaus was currently the one doing most of the defending against the mayor's guests, Grey, Alice, and Reynolds were trying to get rid of the guards. Individually, the guards weren't a problem, but collectively, Grey regarded them as threats.

If they could remove the guards from the scene, then escaping would be easier. Presently, after their last massacre, the guards numbered at about fifty now.

Void suddenly appeared on Grey's shoulder, 'No need to worry about reinforcements anymore, once this wave is whipped out, we are clear to go.'

Grey nodded and immediately attacked with his inscriptions. When he realized that the mayor's guests were progressively getting stronger than what they initially portrayed, he quickly devised a plan. Although the mayor and his guests were the strongest people among their opponents, they couldn't stop them with their current strength. But the guards though, could. Not because of their strength, but by their sheer numbers.

Grey could neglect their attacks given his insane physical abilities, but the others couldn't. This was why he sent Void to make sure no more guards came this way. If they wanted to escape, then the guards had to be removed first.

Bam! Bang!

Grey wasn't the only one attacking the remaining guards, Reynolds' Elemental Warrior was casually cutting them down, Alice's large-scale attacks were immobilizing them, while even Void who recently came back started killing them as well.

Klaus was the one tasked with defending the attacks from the mayor's guests, given his superior defensive ability. His ice wall has currently grown stronger than Grey's earth wall.

"They're trying to remove the guards so they can escape." One of the elderly men said.

"Impressive strategy." The second elderly man praised.

If he was met with the same circumstances, he would choose to also flee instead of fighting, especially after seeing that the strength of his opponents was increasingly improving.

"Oh! An inscriber. These youths just keep on giving us reasons to make sure they don't escape." said one of the men with brown hair when he saw the symbols attacking.

"This Water Elementalist is different from the others I've seen. His ice ability is far superior to anyone I've ever seen." The chubby lady commented on Klaus' ice ability.

Thirteen Second stage Origin Plane Elementalists were simultaneously attacking, and yet, Klaus was single-handedly defending against them. Although they had destroyed his ice walls a couple of times, it was still very impressive, to say the least.

Bang!

The ice wall crumbled once again which forced Klaus to retreat, but he was stopped by a hand placed on his back.

Grey who was standing behind him looked at the attacks that were raining towards them after the ice wall was destroyed, he quickly created an earth wall but supported it with an ice wall since he knew his earth wall wouldn't be able to block the attacks.

"Aren't you guys done yet?" Klaus asked, he was the one facing the strongest attacks, so unlike the others, he was feeling pressured.

"Soon, try to hold them off for another minute." Grey said before turning back to continue attacking the guards.

Within a minute since he formed the inscriptions, they had already killed or injured at least thirty people. If they continued at that speed, then they should be done in a minute. The guards aren't even able to put up a fight against them, they couldn't even block a single attack.

"Damn it! We should've just left after taking the wine." Klaus complained, but once again started blocking the attacks of all thirteen people.

The mayor was currently standing behind his guests, there was nothing he could do in a battle like this.

Klaus who just started defending again cursed his bad luck when he noticed their attacks were getting stronger.

"Why are they getting stronger? Why the hell are they getting stronger?!" He almost wanted to start crying.

This wasn't how it was supposed to be, after stealing the coins, they would escape. Now, because they were nosy, they discovered something shocking and were being attacked because of it. Had they just left after obtaining the coins, none of this would have happened.

Grey took a peek at Klaus who was currently scrambling left and right to try to block the attacks from their opponents.

"You guys deal with this quickly, I'll help him." He turned around and started attacking the people from the Azure empire with his inscriptions, while also assisting Klaus to defend against their attacks.

Whoosh!

A huge wind blade cut through Grey's earth wall, slashing at the group.

"Shit! They've reached the Third stage."

## Chapter 249 - A Threat

Grey's expression turned serious, the battle was taking an unexpected change, and it wasn't in their favor. With the improvements the mayor's guests are making, the longer the battle is delayed, the higher their chances of losing it. He narrowed his eyes before sending a stream of flames to block the wind blade that was coming towards them.

Boom!

Both attacks clashed causing an explosion, his flame quickly overpowered the wind blade, after destroying it, it continued forward, heading straight for the young man who was a Wind Elementalist.

Seeing Grey's fire stream coming in his direction, the young man squinted his eyes when he sensed the power it possessed. He felt a sense of threat from this attack, unlike the rest.

"Huh! Multi Elementalist." He mumbled softly as he created a windshield, but it was destroyed but the fire stream that continued aggressively towards him.

"Help me." He asked the others for assistance.

They didn't delay and quickly offered their help, it took the combined effort of four Third stage Origin Plane Elementalists to stop a single attack from Grey.

"So he's the inscriber?" One of the elderly men said.

"Yes, he's also a Multi Elementalist, with special flames that are at least two stages more powerful than his stage." replied another man who was surprised by this.

What were the odds of meeting a rare Multi Elementalist with special flames, almost zero!

Other than the time Grey used his inscriptions, he hadn't used the fire element, this was why the people from the Azure empire were shocked knowing when they found out he was a rare Multi Elementalist. Since the battle started, they have seen him use three elements now, earth, water, and fire.

"He's more of a threat than the others." The young man said with squinted eyes.

The group from the Azure empire were still relatively calm, to them, it was only a matter of time before they would be able to overpower Grey and his friends, once they've done that, they would kill them.

After Grey sent out that attack, he continued attacking the group from the Azure empire with his inscriptions, but the remaining nine who didn't help the young man stop his flame, were able to block the attacks, after all, it was only two inscriptions. They also attacked, but most of their attacks were blocked by Klaus' water screen or ice shield.

'Shit! If only I could make ten or even better, twenty simultaneously, they would have been dead or injured by now.' Grey thought a little sad inside.

When he was in the Fusion State, he had no problems with making over ten inscriptions, but normally, his limit was three.

While he was attacking with those two, he hastily made the third one. His job right now was to stop the group from the Azure empire from getting closer to them. However, the only thing his attacks were doing was slightly delaying them. They were steadily getting closer to the group. Now he knew why Klaus was so pressured previously.

"Guys!" He called out to Alice and the others.

"All done, let's go." Alice reported.

"\*Phew\* You guys leave, I'll delay them." Grey said.

"Seriously? You must be crazy to think we'd leave you again." Alice looked at him as if saying they weren't going anywhere.

"You do know I'm faster than all of you right?" Grey couldn't help but say.

Although facing these people alone was dangerous, it would be easier for him to escape if he didn't think of the others. Given his current speed, even if the group from the Azure empire got to the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane, they still wouldn't be able to catch up to him.

"Yeah, you do have a point there." Klaus nodded thoughtfully.

"You see, now you guys retreat slowly while I and Void will try to stall them. Since they've just reached the Third stage, it'll take a while before they get to the Fourth, much like the Fifth stage, and even if they do, they still can't stop us." Grey said confidently.

He might not be confident if it were any other thing, but after spending almost six months of running in the trial land, he was fully certain that escaping wouldn't be a problem for him.

"Okay." Alice and Reynolds nodded.

'Void, why don't we play with them.' Grey said while retreating two steps back as an earth spike came out from the ground where he was previously standing.

Void nodded before vanishing from view, now that they didn't need to bother about the guards, it made things easier for them.

Bang!

Klaus' ice shield was destroyed once again, and multiple earth, lightning, fire, and water elements attacks rained down on the group.

"Damn it! Why don't you guys fight us four on four?" Klaus yelled out to the group from the Azure empire as he scrambled to block a few of the attacks.

He only managed to block three, but even then, he was sent flying after doing that.

Alice and Reynolds were Lightning Elementalists, so instead of defending, they quickly retreated out of the range of the attack, leaving only Grey to face off against them.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Some of the attacks missed their targets, striking the ground instead before exploding. Grey managed to set up three defenses before the attacks got to him, an earth wall, an ice wall, and lastly, a firewall.

The group from the Azure empire approached the location where Grey and his friends were previously standing even though the explosion hadn't died down.

They were forced to retreat because of the sudden attack that came out of nowhere. Looking around, they couldn't find who attacked them, they guessed it was probably the Elemental Warrior since it was a lightning attack.

"Mayor, where are your guards?" The young man asked when he sensed that no more guards were fighting against Grey's group.

The mayor who was a couple of meters away from them looked around, it was only now that he realized that there were no guards in the area. He couldn't reply since he didn't know what to say.

Why were no more guards coming?

Chapter 250 - I Just Want A Peaceful Life

"I...I...I..." The mayor tried to explain, but he had nothing. He didn't know why his guards weren't rushing here anymore.

He had over two hundred guards in the villa, and not even close to one hundred had shown up. So what the hell happened to the over one hundred guards that were in the villa?

"Hmph! We'll take care of everything ourselves." The young man said before turning to one of his companions and giving him a nod.



Boom!

Just as he was about to take a step to advance forward, an attack was launched at him once again. And like the first time, it came out of nowhere.

"Find out who's attacking us!" He ordered.

The explosion was just about to die down. Alice and Reynolds were already close to the villa fence, Klaus was just trying to stand up after he was sent flying by the attack. Grey was completely covered in blue flames. This confused the group from the Azure empire more, since the two times they have been attacked were accurate.

'Could it be that there's someone else helping them that we aren't aware of?'

This was the thought running through the heads of all the people from the Azure empire.

After sensing that the explosion had died down, Grey removed his fire to look at the group from the Azure empire, he still had his earth mask on, so the people had no way of seeing his face.

"Leave, I'll catch up with you all soon." He said to the others.

Klaus who was closer to him retreated to where Alice and Reynolds were standing, while Grey stood in his previous position, prepared to fight against all the people from the Azure empire.

"Are we really going to let him do this?" Reynolds asked a little concerned.

"He did escape from that dragon, this shouldn't be a problem for him." said Klaus.

"But we're going to beat him up." He added.

Because Grey was attacked when he left the trial land, they couldn't beat him up according to their original plan. Who knew Grey would give them another opportunity?

"We're not beating him up, this is different from the last time. And besides, he's doing it to help us." Alice looked at Klaus as if telling him to behave.

"But... Fine! Let's go." Klaus destroyed the fence before running into the city.

"Be careful." Alice advised before dashing out along with Reynolds leaving Grey and Void alone.

The people from the Azure empire didn't do anything to try to stop them, leaving the mayor dismayed.

"They are getting..." The mayor was about to speak of Alice's and the others' escape, but a cold look from the young man shut him up.

"Heh! You're trying to delay us so your friends can get away? How noble of you." The young man said calmly with a small smile.

Grey didn't reply and stood in the same position. Void was hiding behind a rock and given his color, and since it was dark, it was almost impossible for the people from the Azure empire to see him.

"You're a talented one, so I don't really want to kill you. Join us." The young man said while stretching out an open arm before adding, "Aren't you tired of all these wars? Of people dying because we're from different empires? We're all the same, people. But we chose to fight against ourselves because we believe some are better than the other."

"This continent is named the Azure continent for a reason, we were once united, but because of greed and the stupidity of one man, we were divided..."

The young man went on to continue preaching about why Grey should join them so they could unite the continent once again, and stop all the killings and sufferings.

'He's pretty good with words though, no wonder they managed to convince the mayor into doing their bidding.' Grey said to Klaus.

"If we can stop this..."

Bang!

The young man was about to take a step while still talking, but like before, Void attacked him, forcing him back.

"Even if the continent is united, it wouldn't stop this war. I might not know much, but I know the greed of people is insatiable. After unification, something else would start up a war. I don't want to be a hero, I just want to live a peaceful life, free from war and killing." Grey said.

'Well, they should've already gotten close to the city walls by now. Time for me to go.' He thought.

"You do not under..."

"After unification, who would rule?" Grey stopped the young man from continuing his speech.

He could trick others with his words, but not him. They say they want to unify the continent to stop the war, but the truth was, will the war ever end? Once the continent is unified, another battle would begin, a battle for the leading seat.

"The people." answered the young man.

"And you really believe that?" Grey looked at the young man weirdly.

"Even though it's hard, we can try." The young man continued trying to persuade him.

"If the people are not united on their free will, do you think they would accept this? The only way you can keep them is through fear, and I have no plans of doing something like that. Whoever wins this war has nothing to do with me." Grey said before tapping his foot on the ground softly.

"I'll be leaving now." He turned around and swaggered off.

The young man from the Azure empire as well as his companions tried to go after him, but they were left surprised when they realized they couldn't move. They didn't know when, but they were currently standing on mud.

Although this couldn't stop them from chasing him, it would give him the time he needs to leave.

"Why aren't you chasing after him?" The mayor asked almost hysterical.

"Did you think I said so much for nothing?"