

## Affinity 271

### Chapter 271 - Wood Fanatic

Three days passed with Grey following the same routine, after his morning exercise, he would head back home to continue his research on the wooden objects, later in the day, he would hang out with Klaus and the others. He got around twenty of the wooden objects from Quinn, Alice used one of them the last time leaving him with just nineteen. He took the two that were with Klaus and Reynolds when he spoke with them previously about modifying the wooden objects.

It took him three days to completely draw out each array drawn on the nineteen wooden objects, he not only had to study them, but he also had to study the basics of arrays he got from Chris when he became his student. After he started getting the basic idea of the arrays, he went on to the next phase, crushing the wooden objects.

'This process is going to be harder than I thought.' thought Grey as he studied the wooden object while slowly crushing it.

While crushing it, he noticed how the arrays on it converge to a particular point before giving out an almost untraceable aura. The only reason he managed to sense it was because he was focused on it. After the crushed wooden object gave off the aura, Grey quickly took out two of the wooden objects from his spatial ring to see how it would react to it. He initially felt since each wooden object has a different array set up, the reactions will be different, but his conjecture was wrong.

The objects all showed the same reactions, with three major arrays in each wooden object lighting up that allowed the wooden objects to float. Once the wooden objects flew mid-air, two more major arrays lit up as well, but quickly died down before the wooden object's light dimmed as well.

'Why didn't it last as long as it usually does?' Grey asked himself with his hand rubbing his chin.

Without this stage, there was no way for him to modify it. But due to the short time it reacted, he couldn't continue with his research. He didn't hurry and carelessly crush another one, rather, he slowly started drawing out how the lines moved when he was crushing the wooden object. Before long, his table was filled up with multiple arrays carefully drawn out in different sheets of paper. Three big books were on arrays; he got two of them from Chris, while the last one was from the Academy's library.

Void who was sitting on one of the chairs curiously appeared on Grey's shoulder to view what he was working on, the different confusing lines almost threw him off his feet. He was not proficient in arrays, and seeing these lines made him less interested in it.

'Isn't it time to go out yet?' He asked Grey who was in thoughts while looking at the papers laid out in front of him.

Just as Grey was about to answer the question, he paused and looked in the direction of the door. He could sense that someone was walking towards his compound, and the aura was also a familiar one. It was none other than Klaus.

"Hey, I was just about to head over to your place," Grey said right after Klaus opened the door.

Void stared at Grey with a bewildered look, he was the one who was trying to get Grey to go out a few seconds ago, yet, Grey was lying about wanting to head over to Klaus' place? How Shameless!

"There's no need, I'm here now," Klaus said while walking over to take a seat. After taking his seat, he looked at the table that was stacked with papers that had different weird lines drawn on them, "How's your research going?"

"Good. I'm getting increasingly closer to figuring out how they did it." Grey replied while arranging his research papers.

An idea struck Grey just as he was keeping the papers, "Do you know anywhere I can get wood that's like this?"

Grey took one of the wooden objects, showing it to Klaus who was still seated.

Klaus took the wooden object to inspect it, but he couldn't find the difference between it and normal wood. He knew of some special woods, but the one he was currently holding in his hands was not among the few he knew of.

"Isn't it just like ordinary wood?" He asked while passing it back to Grey.

Grey kept the wooden object before shaking his head, "No, it's a type of special wood called Spiracotanue."

"Spira what now?" asked a confused Klaus.

"Spiracotanue." Grey said before taking out the wooden object once again, "You see these black spiral lines on the side of the wood?"

Klaus nodded while looking at the black spiral lines Grey was pointing at.

"Apparently, that's where the wood got its name from..." Grey explained.

The wood is not the rarest type of wood out there, and because most people didn't know its uses, they don't attach much importance to it. Before Grey started his research on the wooden objects, he had zero knowledge of there being such a wood. He only got to know about the wood due to his meticulous nature, since he was researching the wooden object, he thought he might as well find out what type of wood it was. He got to know about the wood in the Academy's library.

"Hmm, I'm sure yet since this is the first time I'm hearing about it. But, I think there might be someone I know in the city who might be able to have it." Klaus answered with a smile.

"Oh, that's great!" Grey replied happily.

## Chapter 272: Not Your Normal Hidden Room

Grey and Klaus headed for the southern part of the city after going in, Void was standing on Grey's shoulder like he usually does. He was curiously looking around, this was the first time he was coming to this part of the city, so he wanted to see every part of it. He wasn't the only one looking, even Grey was curiously staring at the place, this was also his first time here.

This part of the city was a little lackluster when compared to the other parts of the city Grey had been to. The trio attracted a lot of attention from the people around, firstly, Grey and Klaus were two

handsome-looking young men who were nicely dressed, compared to the people who were around the place. Secondly, Void's pitch-black fur has always been eye-catching.

"How did you know someone living in this part of the city?" Grey couldn't help but ask when he saw the looks they were getting from the people around, especially some well-built men.

For someone of Klaus' status, he never really thought he would know people in this area of the city. Grey had nothing against the people, after all, the city he came from was far from this part of the city in terms of the environment.

"Who says people with high social status shouldn't mingle with those in these rural areas. To be sincere, I trust the people I know here more than those two-faced rich people I know in this city." Klaus replied with a smile.

"I have nothing against people living here, I'm just surprised the person you were speaking of was staying in this part of the city," Grey said with a shrug.

"I got to know him one time when I went to an auction held in the city four years ago. There was a piece of wood I wanted to acquire, but he was hell-bent on getting it, even after knowing that he was competing with the son of the mayor." Klaus chuckled as he explained.

"Did he get it?" Grey asked, he could tell from Klaus' smile that he didn't allow the wood fanatic to acquire the wood easily.

"Haha, of course not. I'm the son of the mayor, there's no way some wood-loving weirdo would be richer than me." Klaus laughed out which caused Grey to roll his eyes.

"I expected nothing less from you, given your character." Grey sneered.

"After seeing how devastated he was when he didn't obtain it, I felt compelled to give it to him, besides, I didn't have any relevant use for it." Klaus said, still smiling, before adding with a sigh, "If only I knew he didn't have any use for it other than studying it. I mean, who would waste their time doing something that boring?"

“There’s probably a reason for it,” replied Grey.

“He’s a pretty decent guy though, but only when he’s not speaking about woods,” Klaus said while taking a right turn.

They continued on the path before making two more turns, they soon got to a shabby-looking house. Klaus knocked on the door, and after waiting for a few seconds, footsteps could be heard from inside the house.

Click!

The door was opened slightly, and the face of a young man could be seen peeking from inside the house. His hair was messy, and he had a scrawny appearance with scanty beards. His brown eyes matched his messy hair, giving him a strange glow.

“Oh, it’s you! Come in!” The young man said with a hint of excitement when he saw Klaus, before opening the door for him to come in.

When Grey was about to go in, he looked at him with curious eyes but didn’t stop him from going in.

“I haven’t seen you for a while now, young lord.” He said after closing the door.

Klaus was already seated, but since it was Grey’s first time, he wasn’t as comfortable as Klaus was.

“I traveled for training,” Klaus said, not going deep into details.

“Okay.” The wood fanatic was wise enough not to ask about it, “So, who’s your friend?”

“Hugh, this is Grey, Grey, Hugh.” Klaus introduced the duo to each other.

“It’s nice making your acquaintance,” Grey said, stretching out a hand.

“It’s a pleasure knowing anyone who’s friends with the young lord.” Hugh shook Grey’s hand gently as if afraid shaking it too much would harm him.

“My friend is looking for a particular type of wood, and you’re the only one I know who could help.” Klaus explained why he brought Grey over.

“You came to the right guy. What can I help you with, young master?” Hugh turned to Grey again after hearing what Klaus said.

“I’m searching for this, do you by chance have any of these?” Grey put his hand in his pocket before bringing out one of the wooden objects.

Hugh hurriedly took the wood before inspecting it, he even went as far as licking it, “Do you know what type of wood this is?”

Grey nodded when he saw Hugh looking at him.

“Hmm, I don’t mean to intrude, but can you tell me what you want to use it for?” Hugh asked softly, still studying the wood closely.

Grey glanced at Klaus and saw him nodding his head, it was only after that did he tell Hugh what he wanted the wood for.

“Actually, this is only one of eight types of wood that can be used for something like that...” Hugh told Grey about what he knew about the wood.

According to him, each of the eight kinds of wood that were used for making such a tracking device had one exact characteristic, they were all amongst the hardest type of wood, yet, once the arrays were drawn in them, they would become very fragile, only when being crushed. They also had straight spaces in the wood, it was naturally made and Elementalists still haven’t been able to figure out how it was possible.

One would think the spaces in the wood would make them soft, but they were almost metal-like in terms of hardness. The Spiracotanue was the fourth wood if they were ranked according to hardness. Hugh explained more things about making the devices. The hardness of the wood could help in the creation of the device, it was just like how using different grades of materials determines the grade of an item a blacksmith would craft.

“Do you have it with you?” Klaus stopped Hugh before he drifted off completely.

He knew if left alone, then Hugh would continue speaking of woods from now till the end of the day, he wouldn't even have any problems speaking about woods for a week.

“Yes, young lord.” Hugh nodded before adding, “Come with me.”

Hugh motioned to Grey and Klaus before walking deeper into the house. There was surprisingly a hidden door in the house which led to a small room.

Void who was on Grey's shoulder looked around curiously, ‘But seriously, what's with you people and hidden door?’

‘Lack of spatial rings, I think. Given how they cherish their things, they wouldn't want others to easily access them. Of course, there's also the possibility of the place being a lab.’ Grey explained.

Some of the things people make hidden rooms for are things they could easily keep in a spatial ring.

Grey followed behind Hugh and Klaus before entering a huge room. It was like he walked into a forest, different trees could be seen planted on the ground, although they weren't that long, they still measured over fifteen meters.

‘This is not your usual hidden room.’

Chapter 273: Why Are They Glowing?

Grey, Klaus, and Void stared at the mini forest, dumbfounded by the fact that someone would actually create something like this in their house. They didn't stay that way for too long since they had to follow behind Hugh.

'Is this guy normal?' asked a stunned Void.

'Probably,' Grey replied with uncertainty. He was just as shocked as Void so he couldn't really conclude if Hugh was normal or not.

Hugh took them to the middle of the small forest while explaining, "I shattered my prized trees all over the forest, there are only two in the middle."

Grey didn't say anything and followed behind without saying anything, Klaus had always felt Hugh was obsessed with trees, but he didn't think it was up to this point.

They stopped in front of a tree that had dark red color, its leaves were almost identical to that of a teak tree.

"This is the tree where you can get the Spiracotanue wood, but I personally feel you could use the other woods since you know, they're better." Hugh pointed at the tree before them before saying.

"I'm still learning, there's no need to waste your precious woods." Grey refused the idea of using any other wood.

It was not that he didn't trust Hugh or anything, but he's learning with an already made item. Maybe after he had modified it, he would come back for a better wood.

"Okay, young master." Hugh didn't hassle over it.

He gently cut out an almost one-meter branch for Grey, "This should be enough for you to make at least twenty of those things."



“Yes, thank you.” Grey nodded while taking the tree branch.

He studied it properly and was left amazed by the neat straight open spaces in it. It was almost like a creature opened it in it, but according to research and Hugh, it was naturally made.

Grey asked for a sample of the three other trees Hugh said was better than the Spiracotanue, which Hugh gladly obliged to. After getting them, they left the small forest and went back to the house.

Just as Grey and Klaus were about to leave, “Why do you study trees?”

Seeing Hugh’s small forest made Grey all the more curious as to why he loved trees this much.

“I believe trees are just like all other elements, something Elementalists can control at will.” Hugh explained.

Grey let out a small ‘Oh!’ sound but didn’t ask any further, Hugh’s reply was more than enough for him to understand. Hugh was trying to find or probably create a wood element or something like that. Although, he felt it was something impossible since trees were something that was actually living, unlike the other elements.

He wished him good luck in his endeavors before he left the house along with Klaus. If someday Hugh was able to fulfill his dream, he would feel honored to get to know someone who created a new style.

‘Hey, what are the probabilities of there already being a wood element?’ Void asked Grey as they headed out of this part of the city.

‘I have no idea, but I’m not sure there is.’ Grey replied.

‘You were also not aware of the space element until meeting me, so there’s a chance of there being a wood element,’ said Void after speculating for some time.

Grey looked back at the side they were coming from, trying to etch the route to his head. He felt maybe he might come back to have a conversation with Hugh about his theories.

They went back to the Academy and Grey headed straight for his house, since he already had the material, he wanted to start his experiments immediately.

Klaus headed over to meet up with Reynolds and Alice, accompanied by Void who Grey asked him to take along. That day came to an end.

The next day.

This was the fifth day in a row that Grey hadn't slept, but he was still very much active. Over the night, he tried creating the arrays in the wood but failed on all his tries. With each failure, he learned something new that increased the chances of successfully forming it the next time. The sun had already risen, but Grey didn't go for his usual morning physical training, he felt he was already very close to making the array.

Two hours later, he was able to successfully replicate one of the arrays drawn in one of the wooden objects, and as soon as he drew the last line, the other one he used in drawing it lit up. This was the first time Grey saw the wooden object having this type of reaction.

'Hmm, why are they glowing?' He asked himself curiously.

He got his answer a few seconds later, the two wooden objects flew closer to each other and connected. Then, it started releasing an intense heatwave that scared the hell out of Grey.

'Shit! No wonder none of them has the same array drawn on it.' Grey cursed out before using his earth element to create a sphere that covered up the two wooden objects which had already started to merge mid-air. This managed to seal the heatwave as well as the energy it was releasing.

He sighed when he noticed this, but his pupils dilated and his expression changed once again when he noticed the strength of the wooden objects was on the rise, if it continued at this rate, then it would blow up his house.

"Oh no." Grey pointed in the direction of the forest, but he knew the chances of it reaching the Academy walls was fleeting, much less going over to the forest.

He ran in the other direction while the earth sphere was sent in another direction. When he opened his door, he saw Klaus, Alice, and Reynolds walking into the compound.

The trio was stunned when they saw Grey running out of his house with a panicked expression, but being friends with him, Klaus was the first to immediately turn around to make a break for it, Reynolds and Alice were a few seconds late.

Just as Grey got to the small gate that led out of the compound.

BOOM!

Chapter 274 - Homeless!

BOOM!

A deafening explosion rang out behind Grey's house frightening the hell out of Klaus and Reynolds, even Void who was with Alice was stunned by the explosion.

'What did you do?' Void asked Grey who was still running.

'Nothing, it exploded on its own.' Grey said while looking behind him to see the range of the blast.

The explosion covered from his backyard to his house, completely demolishing it. It also destroyed the Academy fence that was behind his house. Luckily, the space of each compound was huge, so it didn't get to the other houses by the side

"My house!" Grey yelled in dejection.

Klaus and Reynolds walked closer to him when they saw that the explosion wasn't spreading anymore. Alice and Void also came closer to him. They were all looking at him with suspicious gazes.

"What happened, did someone sneak into your house or something?" Klaus asked while taking a glance at Grey's burning house after the explosion started dying down.

"No, it was those wooden objects," replied Grey who currently had a sour face.

The explosion was bound to draw attention to him, especially given the size of it. He couldn't tell everyone what he was working on. But Instructor Blake and the principal were exceptions though.

It didn't take long before the students around started flocking around Grey's house. Some Instructors had also rushed to the scene as well, Instructor Blake was the first to arrive amongst the Instructors, he was standing with Grey and his friends.

"So, you're saying that two wooden objects were the cause of this?" Blake asked a little confused.

"Yes." Grey nodded.

"Normal woods?" Blake asked again.

"They are not entirely normal," Grey said, stressing the last parts of the statement.

Grey told Instructor Blake what the wooden objects were, and what he was trying to do, of course, he didn't tell him about everything, only some parts of it.

Blake cleared the area after getting to know what happened. It was an accident, and he didn't want to unsettle the students. He made up an excuse but made sure to tell them it was an accident and not an enemy attack.

"You four, come to my office." Blake said before flying to his office.

Grey looked at the trio with a wry smile before heading to the Lightning Hall, he knew Instructor Blake was not going to let this go easily.

At Blake's office.

"Where did you get those?" Blake asked after Grey and the others walked into the office.

This was the first time he was seeing this device, he had heard of it, but had never seen it before. Finding out that Grey and his friends had some surprised him.

"In the trial land, we encountered a group who used it..." Grey told Instructor Blake about their encounter with Quinn.

Blake was thrilled by the story of them fighting against a Darkness Elementalist. Chris was the only one he had seen who had one of the two rarest elements which was the light element.

"You say they had a map of the place?" Blake asked.

"Yes, they seem to be searching for something over the past years they've gone in." Grey handed the map over to him.

Blake didn't miss the part where he took out a map from his seemingly previous empty-looking pocket. This discovery shocked him to no end. Given the size of the map, Grey's pocket was supposed to at least bulge out a little, but there was no difference even after taking out the map.

"This is beyond me, we'll have to go see Teacher." Blake said standing up from his seat.

He didn't know much about the trial land, other than the few things his Teacher told him about it, he knew nothing else, so having the map wasn't of any use to him.

Oliver was taking care of the few things remaining before he would officially leave the Academy when he sensed Blake walking towards his office with his son and his friends. As soon as he saw them coming, he knew they were definitely involved in the explosion that took place some minutes ago.

After hearing everything from Blake, he looked at Grey and his before taking the map.

"I heard a secret place opened up this time in the trial land, even an expert's legacy was inherited." He after looking at the map.

There was a spot crossed in the map, it indicated a treasure or something. And according to some people who came out of the trial land, two huge black doors opened up, and they were filled with treasures, as well as danger.

"Yes, we came across the first door. The people who had that map were the ones who discovered it." Klaus explained.

"What was inside?" Oliver asked with curiosity.

"The Great Earth Essence Liquid," Klaus said.

Oliver narrowed his eyes when he heard about it, he knew what it could do, so hearing that some of it was actually located in the trial land amazed him, but he quickly removed it from his mind.

"Okay, you shouldn't continue that research of yours in the Academy since it seems dangerous. Go to your Teacher's valley when next you plan to do it." Oliver said before dismissing them.

Grey was trying to make something he could use to contact his friends, so he didn't want to stop him. After sending the group out, Blake was the only one left in office.

"There's something about Senior Chris' student," Blake told him what happened in his office.

"No need to worry about him, he doesn't have any malicious intent towards Klaus." Oliver waved it off.

"I know, but his background is suspicious. Not just that, but if he's able to successfully create this thing, then he would be able to locate us at any time of his choice." Blake added.

"If he didn't trust you, do you think he would come clean with you?" Oliver asked with a smile.

Blake kept quiet for a few seconds, "I was only trying to be cautious. I can tell he wouldn't do anything to harm Klaus, but if he loses that thing after making it, then we would be in danger."

"Let me worry about that, okay." Oliver shook his head when he saw how cautious Blake was.

"Yes, Teacher." Blake bowed before leaving the office.

"I'll see if the little boy can successfully make that, if he can, then he's as much of a genius as his Teacher." Oliver muttered while looking through the window.

Chapter 275: Cowards?

"Haha, great! Now we're roommates." Klaus said as they walked back to his house.

Grey nodded, but still felt disgruntled inside. Although living with Klaus would be fun and all, he liked the privacy he previously had in his house. Each house in the Academy had only one room, so either he slept in the parlor, or he would sleep alongside Klaus in the room, none wasn't that bad since it was Klaus.

'I can't stay in Teacher's house since he's not around. I'll have to make a small shack like his that I can stay in whenever I go there.' thought Grey.

"Crap!" Grey suddenly stopped before muttering.

"What's wrong?" asked Reynolds.

"I just realized I'm currently clothless, Shit!" Grey rubbed his forehead a little depressed.

If he knew something like this would happen, he would've kept his clothes in his storage ring.

“You’ll get new ones, no need to worry about it.” Klaus shrugged before adding, “Have you forgotten about the coins we took from that mayor’s mansion?”

After hearing this, Grey recalled about it and nodded. He had forgotten about the coins they stole from the mayor’s villa.

‘It’s probably because I’m too worked up from what I was doing.’ thought Grey.

“Oh, and Grey.” Klaus suddenly called, after seeing Grey look at him, he said, “Please don’t do that in my house as well, or we’ll likely have to move to Reynolds’ house.”

Reynolds laughed out when he heard Klaus begging Grey not to cause his house to explode as he did to his.

“It was an accident,” Grey said with a long face.

“I know, I’m only begging you not to repeat it in my house.” Klaus with a chuckle, before adding, “You can totally do it in Reys house though, I don’t think he would mind.”

They continued messing around with Grey till they got to Klaus’ house. They stayed together till later in the day, and for the first time in three days, Grey took a long break from working. This break was much needed since other than spending a few hours with his friends during the past three days, he focused more on his work.

The next day, Grey went for his normal morning training, but didn’t come back to Klaus’ house, he went to his Teacher’s valley to continue his research. His friends would be leaving soon so he had to complete his work before they left the Academy. His small breakthrough from the previous helped shorten the time of his work since he was starting to get it. Now, all he wanted to do was find a way to create the little difference in the arrays on the wooden object he was working on.

One week later.

At the gate of the Lunar Academy.



The four friends could be seen standing just outside the gate with one of them carrying a backpack, from the looks of it, it seemed like the person was about to leave.

“Can’t you stay a little longer? I’m already almost done with them.” Grey asked Reynolds who held his backpack tightly.

“I’m sorry bud, but I can’t stay longer. Don’t worry you wouldn’t have any problems with locating me, just head to Hildrias City. My family can easily be found in the city.” Reynolds apologized to his friends.

“Okay, take this with you. Although you might not be able to locate me with it, I can find you once I’m done with the first one.” Grey handed one of the wooden objects he just finished making to him.

Reynolds took it before bidding his farewell to his friends, “We’ll see each other soon.”

With that, he decisively turned around and headed to Lunar City, he needed a horse since Hildrias City wasn’t close to Lunar City.

Grey and the others watched on as Reynolds’ shadow disappeared from view.

“\*Sigh\* We’re left with just us now.” Klaus sighed while looking at the duo left.

He too would be leaving soon as well, and unlike Reynolds, he wasn’t the one who was making the decision.

“Yeah, I’ll need to work faster. It’ll be a shame if I’m still not done with them yet when you guys are leaving as well.” Grey said with determination.

“No need to work yourself up bud, the worst-case scenario is that you’ll just give us a wooden object like the one you gave to Rey.” Klaus comforted Grey as they headed back inside the Academy.

“Yeah, take it one step at a time.” added Alice.

Grey nodded and looked around the Academy compound, in the end, he would be alone in here soon. He had always expected what he wanted to do to be difficult, so having to already make some progress was something he should be proud of. But seeing that his friends would most likely leave one by one before he was done annoyed him.

After going back to Klaus' house, he headed straight to his Teacher's valley, he left Void with Klaus so he could check on them with him since they could communicate from such a distance.

Three days went by when a piece of news spread across the Academy, the principal had resigned, as well as all the head Instructors in the Academy. Most of the highly ranked Instructors were leaving the Academy, sending the students into disarray.

Grey was left dumbstruck by the news, he didn't think most of the Instructors would be leaving as well. This made him feel there was something bigger going on behind the scenes. He had always felt the sudden resignation of the Principal, as well as his wanting to leave the city was strange, coupled with this news, he felt unsettled staying in the Academy. Even Instructor Blake was leaving as well.

Different rumors spread around the Academy regarding the sudden resignation of the Principal, the Head Instructors, and most of the highly ranked Instructors in the Academy. The one which spread around most was that their resignation had something to do with the upcoming war. According to it, the Principal is afraid of fighting against the Azure empire, and that he was a coward. He coerced the Head Instructors and the other Instructors into leaving the Academy as well.

No one knew where this rumor came from, but as soon as it came out, it spread over the Academy like wildfire, even the people in the city knew of it.

Chapter 276 - You Two Are More Than Enough!

In Oliver's office.

"Teacher, this must be the work of the Emperor, he wants to sully your name since you're leaving in such a way," Blake said in an annoyed tone.

"I know, but what's the use of fighting with them? That is exactly what they want. I think they're trying to see if Chris is around. Given his temperament, he would've killed a few people by now, heh!" Oliver chuckled at the end of his statement.

"Hmph! Underhanded tactics." Blake snorted coldly.

After finding out what the Emperor was trying to do some time ago, he hated them strongly, especially because he would most likely lose Delia because of this. Since she left the Academy the last time, she hadn't returned, even till now. He had even headed to her family's compound but she wasn't there.

"You still haven't seen your little girlfriend?" Oliver chuckled when he saw Blake's expression, it was like he could see through him.

"No, I've searched every possible place I can think of." Blake shook his head with a sad face.

"She's fine, don't worry too much. I believe she will show up before we leave." Oliver consoled him.

Blake nodded but didn't say anything else, just as he was about to leave, he asked, "When are we leaving?"

"Two days from now. Tell that little nuisance to be prepared." Oliver said.

"Yes, Teacher." Blake bowed before leaving the office.

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Alice's house.

Alice and Klaus could be seen sitting outside with serious expressions.

"Why isn't Grey here yet?" Alice asked while looking at Void who was lying leisurely on a chair.

"Void confirmed he asked him to come, right Void?" Klaus asked, looking at Void.

Void nodded when he saw them looking at him, he had told Grey to come over, it had been almost thirty minutes now, but he still wasn't here.

Alice and Klaus were just about to continue when Void looked in the direction of the small gate that led into the compound. Grey's figure could be seen walking towards them. He looked a little exhausted from working too much.

"Hey, what's up?" Grey asked as he walked into the compound.

"Haven't you been hearing about the rumors around the Academy?" Alice asked with a raised brow.

"I have, but why are you guys bothering about it? You should know this is the plan of some people to spoil the name of the Principal." Grey replied nonchalantly.

Although he wasn't close to the Principal, he knew he wasn't the type to shirk away from a fight. This must be a plot by some people.

"Why aren't you bothered?" Klaus asked.

"Because given what the Principal had done for the Academy and the City, the people wouldn't believe it. Of course, there would be people who would believe it nonetheless, but it doesn't really matter." Grey explained with a shrug.

The fact that all the Head Instructors and almost all the high ranked Instructors willingly resigned along with the Principal showed how united they were. How could someone who could build such a great Academy be someone who would run away because of a war? Grey didn't believe any word the people were saying.

"You're more relaxed than I am," Klaus said.

"I'm not, I'm exhausted. Worrying about the stupidity of people is not something I usually do. You and Rey are more than enough for me to think about, if I have to add every other person out there, I might die." Grey chuckled before taking a seat.

Alice burst out laughing when she heard Grey's comment, Klaus on the other hand snorted.

"How are things with your research?" asked Alice.

"Going well..." Grey paused mid-sentence before adding, "I think,"

"You must have blown up the place, right?" Klaus asked with a smirk.

Grey called him stupid a few moments ago, now that he had the chance to get back at him, of course he would!

Grey hesitated before replying, "No, no I did not,"

"Haha! You're lying. How many times did it blow up?" Klaus laughed when he saw Grey hesitating.

"Okay fine, they blew up, maybe once, or twice. But I'm increasingly getting closer to successfully making it." Grey replied truthfully.

After the last time the two wooden objects exploded, he made sure not to replicate any more arrays, but to his surprise, after he made his own set of arrays in the wooden object, it exploded. There was one time when it exploded while he was still working on it. If not for his quick reaction and his strong physical defense, he would've been injured.

Luckily for him, his Teacher's house was still intact. Apparently, his Teacher created a defensive array around his house, so even when the explosion goes close to it, it doesn't cause any damages. Grey still hasn't been able to find out the cause of the explosions, but he had been making improvements on it. His only concern was that he was running out of wood.

"Haha! Did you almost die?" Klaus asked in the middle of his laughter.

Grey glared at him, which made Alice giggle. She always enjoyed being with the boys, they are always fun to be with. They stayed in her place for a little while before heading to the city, Klaus took them to the underground fight club they visited before they left for the competition. Alice felt a little downcast because she couldn't fight due to her strength. This was the only thing she hated about being in the Origin Plane, not being able to fight like she usually does. Other than sparing with the boys, she doesn't fight as she previously did.

When they got back to the Academy, Alice told them she would be leaving the next day. Her father sent someone to come get her, she would've left if not for wanting to hang out with the boys one more time. She didn't know when next they would be able to hang out like this again.

Grey felt more pressure on his work, but the truth was, he was already trying his best, but he still hasn't been able to make it till now.

Chapter 277 - Where Did They Come From?

The next day.

Grey, Alice, and Klaus could be seen at the Academy's gate. A silver carriage could be seen waiting by the side.

"I'll miss you guys, hopefully, we'll see each other soon," Alice said while hugging the duo.

"We'll miss you too. Try to stay out of trouble, you know we aren't there to help." Klaus advised.

"I should be the one telling you that." Alice giggled after she replied.

Given Klaus' bad mouth, he was bound to offend people wherever he went.

"I'm awesome, people are just jealous they're not my friend, that's why they feel angered when I speak," Klaus said righteously.

"Haha, I'll keep that in mind." Alice laughed lightly before adding, "Bye guys."

"Goodbye." Klaus and Grey waved her off as he walked to the carriage waiting for her.

Grey made sure to give her one of the wooden objects, so he could track her after he was done making the perfect one. He planned to visit all of them before he headed out to search for his parents. The battle of the empires had nothing to do with him.

While they were going back to Klaus' house, Grey was met with more bad news. Klaus was leaving the next day. He decided to spend the rest of the day with him, it wasn't like he was going to successfully make it today. Besides, Reynolds and Alice took the normal type, it wouldn't change anything if Klaus took that type as well.

Later that day, news of the Twelfth Prince dying spread across the entire empire, according to what was said, the Twelfth Prince was killed by people from the Azure empire. This caused a spark in the empire, and a small brawl even broke out between both the Qilin empire's army and the Azure empire's army that was stationed at the border between both empires.

In the Silver Moon Restaurant, Klaus, Grey, and Void were eating when they overheard some people speaking of the battle between both empires and the Twelfth Prince's supposed death.

"Hmm, that's strange, I could swear I saw him when I was being chased by that Ice Dragon. He was heading for the exit, and other than the Dragon chasing after me, there were no other al beasts that could threaten his group from that area to the exit," said Grey.

"What if he was attacked by those guys when he came out?" Klaus speculated.

"Not likely, they only attack those in the Fourth stage of the Origin Plane and above." Grey shook his head.

He recalled the Twelfth Prince was either in the Second or Third stage of the Origin Plane, although he was not too sure about which of the two stages he was in, he was certain the Twelfth Prince was not in the Fourth stage.

"You never can tell, maybe they decided to attack him anyway," Klaus said, he didn't care if the Twelfth Prince was killed in the trial land, or outside the trial land, it was none of his business.

"Yeah. By the way, do you know where you're heading to?" Grey changed the topic. The Twelfth Prince was not someone he wanted to think about, if he didn't encounter him in the trial land, then he wouldn't even know there was a Twelfth Prince.

"Nope. How about you, where do you plan to start your search?" Klaus shook his head before asking.

"I haven't decided yet, but I'll visit Red City one more time before starting," replied Grey.

"I'll ask my dad if he could help out, they usually run background checks on each student," Klaus said while tapping his finger on the table.

"They do?" Grey asked with a bewildered expression.

"Of course, it's not like the Academy takes in that many students anyway," Klaus answered before he started eating.

Grey felt slightly hopeful, even if they couldn't tell him where his parents were, he might be able to get some clues if they could tell him where his parents came from.

After eating, Grey and Klaus headed for the Principal's house. It was already late, and according to Klaus, his father had stopped going to the office and had handed everything over to the next Principal, well, not exactly everything since he was still staying in the Principal's compound in the Academy.

At the Principal's house.

Grey and Klaus were obediently sitting, waiting for Klaus' father to come out. This was the first time Grey came to a house other than that of students, and he was flabbergasted by what he saw. The house of the Principal was exactly the same as that of the students, it was unexpected! He had always



expected the houses of the Instructors would be better than that of students, but seeing the Principal's house, he changed his mind.

Oliver walked in and Klaus told him the reason for their visit, "No need to check his files, there's nothing you can find about his background. The only reason he was allowed to stay in the Academy was because of Chris."

Grey and Klaus exchanged glances, not understanding what the Principal was saying.

"Sorry Sir, but I don't understand what you mean." Grey voiced out.

"There are no records of your parents, according to our intel, they appeared in Red City out of nowhere, at that time, your mother was already pregnant with you. Your dad rarely stayed at home before your birth, but after you were born, he stayed at home more frequently, before suddenly disappearing ten years ago," explained Oliver.

Grey couldn't refute a single word, since that was exactly what his neighbors also said when he asked about the origin of his parents, he initially thought they didn't want to tell him. He had asked his mother about it on some occasions as well, but she always told him the time wasn't right yet.

Different questions ran through his head after the Principal told him what he knew. It was like a layer of mystery was covering his origins and the whereabouts of his parents. Now, the only way he could locate them was if he knew where they originally came from before staying in Red City.

They left the Principal's house after getting the answer they came in search of.

'Where did they come from?' Grey asked himself the same question over and over again for the rest of the night.

Chapter 278 - Klaus, The Writer!

Grey was left bothered by the question for the rest of the day, but he made sure to have fun with Klaus while he was still here. The next day soon reached and it was time for Klaus to leave. Grey followed them to the Academy's gate.

"Why don't you come with us?" Oliver offered when he saw the sad expression of both boys.

"Thank you, Sir, but I'll have to decline. I'll come to visit when I'm done with my research." Grey smiled.

Oliver didn't say any more since he only asked him to come because of Klaus.

"Goodbye bud, hopefully, you can get a girlfriend before we meet again," Klaus said while patting Grey on the shoulder.

"I'm not interested in that, for now," Grey replied.

"The chances of you having a girlfriend without my help is basically zero anyway, I was just saying so it wouldn't look like I don't care." Klaus chuckled.

Just as they were about to leave, Klaus turned around while taking a small book out of his backpack, "Here, I almost forgot."

He tossed the book over to Grey who caught it, and looked at the cover curiously, on it was written 'The Ways Of Life'.

"What's this?" Grey was forced to ask when he saw the title of the book.

"The ways of life. It was written by me. It's not complete yet, but I felt you should have it since you need it." explained Klaus. He suddenly started rummaging through his backpack once again.

"Oh! There's also this, I think you actually need this more." Klaus said after taking out a second small book from his backpack.

When Grey caught it, he looked at the title, and couldn't help but smile awkwardly, on it was written 'How To Get And Handle A Woman Properly'.

He had always seen Klaus as a nutjob, but it seems like Klaus keeps surprising him every single time. What the hell does he want to use these books for?

"You see, you're not the only one who was working hard because of our departure. The reason I didn't give Rey any of these was that the first book wouldn't be able to help him, and unlike you, the second book isn't needed." Klaus explained which caused Grey to facepalm.

Oliver and Blake who were waiting for him curiously checked the titles of both books and couldn't help but shake their heads, Klaus always finds new ways to amaze them. How did he even come up with writing these things?

"I've always known you were not normal, but now it seems to call you crazy is a disrespect to crazy people." Grey looked at his friend with a smile.

"Haha! I'm the king of crazy." Klaus declared before turning around, he continued waving at Grey even though he wasn't facing him anymore.

Grey watched on as the group left, and it was like the last reason he was staying in the Lunar Academy was gone. He totally lost all interest in the Academy.

'\*Sigh\* A new era is about to begin in the once prestigious Lunar Academy, hopefully, it keeps the reputation the Principal built over the years.' Grey thought as he headed to his Teacher's valley.

Oliver, Blake, and Klaus were walking on the pathway when Klaus noticed Blake was putting on a sad face.

"Are you okay?" He asked as he went closer to Blake.

"No." Blake shook his head sadly.

"Haha, he's sad because he can't see his little girlfriend anymore." Oliver laughed out.

"Teacher!" Blake called out.

"Haha, I'll stop talking about it." Oliver laughed out again.

"Do you want my help? I might not be good at many things, but in matters concerning women, I can proudly call myself an expert." Klaus said while thumping his c.h.e.s.t.

Blake glared at Klaus, if not for the fact that they were still in the open he would've already started beating him up.

"You know, I even wrote a book about how to get and handle a woman, why don't I give you a copy, how does that sound?" Klaus asked.

"That's it!" Blake said before grabbing Klaus and spanking his b.u.t.t with a small lightning hand he created, which threw Oliver into a fit of laughter.

They had always had the relationship of a family, Blake became Oliver's student a few years after Klaus was born, they had always taken each other as brothers, with Blake being the responsible elder brother, and Klaus being the naughty younger brother who caused problems wherever he went.

While Blake was still teaching Klaus a lesson, he suddenly jolted and looked ahead of them.

"Why are you bullying him?" A delicate voice was heard ahead of them as a young lady who covered part of her face leaving only her eyes visible appeared from the side of the bush on the pathway.

"Delia..." Blake muttered softly, letting go of Klaus who fell on the ground.

"Oh, she's back? I knew she would return, this was why I refused to give you the book." Klaus said loudly, making sure Delia heard him.

Blake tried closing Klaus' mouth as soon as he started speaking, but he was unfortunately too late. He knew whatever Klaus was going to say was nothing good. Being close to him since he was young, he knew Klaus would find a way to get back at him for beating him.

"What book?" Delia asked curiously as she approached the group.

Blake gave Klaus a death stare, but the only thing he saw in Klaus' eyes was a young fearless bastard. Oliver laughed when he realized Klaus was about to start one of his pranks again, and Blake was his unfortunate target.

"Bribe me, or else I'll spill everything," Klaus whispered in Blake's ear before Delia got close to them.

"I didn't even do anything!" Blake felt like crying, Klaus was someone who wouldn't admit defeat easily.

"She's already close. Well, your time is up." Klaus said before moving closer to Delia, Blake tried getting hold of his hand, but he quickly escaped.

"What book did he ask you to give to him?" Delia asked with her delicate and serene voice.

Klaus threw a wicked smile at Blake before saying, "It's a book titled 'How To Get And Handle A Woman Properly'."

"Oh!" Delia blinked and looked at Blake oddly.

'Hehe, this will teach him not to mess with me.' Klaus thought.

Since he knew he couldn't beat Blake physically, then he might as well torture him emotionally, or in this case, get Delia to do the dirty work for him.

"It's not what you think. He's saying rubbish, you can ask Teacher, he can vouch for me." Blake said nervously.

Oliver laughed as the group continued walking while Blake tried to settle the small chaos Klaus caused. Blake was finally able to settle things with Delia after some time, of course, Klaus would occasionally b.u.t.t in, but he gave them some time to talk since he could see how much Blake missed her.

"Teacher, did you know she would be here?" Blake approached Oliver and asked.

"Nope." Oliver shook his head with a smile.

"Oh really, then why were you so adamant that we should take this route?" Blake asked with a sneer.

"Because of my gut feelings," Oliver replied which made Klaus burst into laughter.

It had been a long time since he saw his father this carefree, it was almost like being the Principal and Mayor changed him. Thankfully, he had stepped down from both positions.

#### Chapter 279 - Changes

After Oliver, Blake, and Klaus left, the new Principal and Head Instructors were announced. They were all from Capital City, making some people speculate about the Emperor having a hand in the stepping down of the previous Principal.

All this though had nothing to do with Grey, he was currently cooked up in his Teacher's valley. Once he was done with his research, he planned to immediately leave the Academy. The only thing that made him feel a little down was that he hadn't completely learned about the basics of being a forgemaster.

'Guess, I'll have to buy books concerning it and learn for myself.' thought Grey.

Five days later.

Grey was about to come out of his Teacher's valley when Void suddenly told him to wait.

'What's it?' He asked curiously. He was already at the tunnel, a few more steps and he would come out of the place.

'There are people outside, they seem to be searching for something.' Void replied.

'Are they coming towards the rock?' asked Grey.

'No, I don't think they know what this rock is, but from how they are searching, it looks like they are searching for a hidden passage or something.' Void continued monitoring the people outside.

Grey's senses weren't as sharp as Void's, so he couldn't sense past the array his Teacher placed on the rock. He waited patiently with Void constantly giving updates. The people outside checked everything outside, including the rock, but didn't find any clues to where any hidden passages were. After they stayed for almost ten minutes, they finally left.

Grey sent Void outside to eavesdrop on their conversations while they were still there, and according to him, the people knew about his Teacher's hidden passage, but they didn't know the exact location of it. The reason they stayed for almost ten minutes was that they were discussing with the Instructor who took them here.

'Why are they searching so desperately for Teacher? Could it be that the resignation of Klaus' dad had something to do with him?' thought Grey.

While he was thinking about this, Void told him a piece of news that worried him, the people were looking for him as well, they said Grey always came towards this part of the forest and would stay for hours without leaving. There was one time the Instructor came in a few minutes after Grey entered the forest, but he was nowhere to be seen, it was like he disappeared into thin air.

The Instructor said if they could find Grey, then they might be able to locate the hidden passage since he felt Grey knew about it. The Instructor also said he saw Grey heading into the forest some days ago, but he didn't see him come out even till now.

'This is bad, I can't stay here for too long, or else I might be in danger. I may not know what is going on, but it definitely has something to do with Teacher, which has rubbed off on me.' Grey fell into deep thoughts.

This discovery made him feel threatened, it had only been five days since Klaus' father left the position, yet the Academy was no longer safe for him, a student.

'What do we do now?' Void asked after coming back to the tunnel. He could tell the issue wasn't as simple as it seems, there's a chance of them being captured if found.

'It's still too early for us to leave. I'm confident that no one would be able to get into the valley without my help. Since Teacher is gone and Instructor Blake and the Principal are also gone, I'm the only one who can come in here and go as I please.' Grey said while rubbing his chin.

'Okay, I have no problems with staying here.' Void shrugged.

'I'll need your help to navigate through the forest unnoticed, I'm out of wood, and I need to get more from that Hugh guy.' said Grey.

Void nodded before vanishing and appearing outside once again, he scouted the entire area, as well as outside the forest to know where the people were positioned. He came back thirty minutes later with more bad news for Grey.

'There's no way you can use the same route we used in coming here. People are positioned in every corner of the Academy, it will be hard to pass through them without being seen.' Void reported his findings to Grey which placed him in more thoughts.

'We'll take the longer route then, it's only an added four hours.' Grey quickly came to a decision.

This time, he would take as much wood as possible from Hugh, he was already very close to successfully making it, if he could get a few more array lines right, then he would be done with his project. The reason it's taking so long was that instead of using the one from the previous wooden object, he started making his own arrays because those ones always blew up even after he made some changes.

Since he started using his own set of arrays, the wooden objects rarely blew up, only that he hadn't been able to get what he wanted.



Grey went out after getting a go-ahead from Void, with Void's help, he managed to come out from the forest from another side. He saw some people who were traveling towards Lunar City and joined them.

They soon got to the city before Grey separated from the group, they encountered something he had never seen before at the city gate, the guards were now collecting entry fees from each person coming into the city.

'Hmm, it has only been a few days since the handover, yet they've already started taking fees?' Grey thought after entering the city.

When in the city, he heard about the different changes that had not only started taking place in the city but the Academy as well. Most of the remaining Instructors were dropped, and in the past two days, more than half of the older students have left the Academy.

This outcome was in no way what the Emperor or the Crowned Prince hoped for. But this also showed how much the students liked the previous Principal and Instructors.

#### Chapter 280 - Getting Complicated

'They seem to have ramped up the security, that doesn't seem good.' Grey thought while he was heading over to Hugh's house.

He only thought the guards at the gate were the only ones increased, but now, he noticed even the ones patrolling the city were increased as well. There were even more groups this time.

When he got to the alley before Hugh's house, Void told him that there were guards hiding around the place.

'Damn it! What do they want me for?' Grey cursed out.

There is no way the guards were here because of Hugh, that leaves only one possibility, they were waiting for someone, and given how they have been searching for him, he felt he was probably the one. There's also the possibility that he wasn't the one though, but he wouldn't want to take that chance.

'Is there a way we can go inside undetected?' asked Grey.

'I can, but you can't.' replied Void.

'Shit! If only I've comprehended the space element, I wouldn't even bother with any of these people, I'd just go in and out as I wish.' Grey thought sadly.

Since meeting Void, and training with him in the trial land, he had been trying so hard to comprehend the space element. Currently, it was the most useful element he knew of, but it was harder than the other elements. Luckily for him, he not only had Void, but he also had a spatial ring, this had greatly improved his contact with the element.

But even after so long since discovering the space element, he still hasn't been able to sense it in the Chaos Space. He had tried comprehending the Great Void Technique but had been unable to. Although, he felt that he wasn't far from sensing it in the Chaos Space given how much he uses the spatial ring. Without the spatial ring, Void, and the Great Void Technique, it would probably take him months, if not even years before he would be able to make any progress with the space element.

'I'll have to disguise myself,' said Grey.

With a plan in mind, he walked back into the city. Since he was coming to this part of the city which was the slums of the city, he decided to dress like one of them. He even decided to put a scar on his face just in case those guards knew what he looked like.

Two hours later, Grey was back in the alley. Now, he was different from how he previously looked. He had a scar on one part of his face that slightly entered the other side, like that of someone who suffered from burns. The scar covered almost half his face and went past his nose to the other side of his face, ending just under his right eye, added with the clothes he was wearing, it was hard to associate him with the previous handsome-looking Grey. Now he was wearing casual plain-looking trousers with a loose shirt. He even found a way to make his skin look tanned, unlike his previous pale-like skin.

'They shouldn't be able to recognize me with these, right?' Grey asked Void.

Void nodded with a tired look, this was the ninth time Grey was asking this question. Grey was the most cautious person he had ever seen, even after disguising himself to the extreme, he was still scared of being recognized by people who might've only seen a drawing of him. Even those who had been with him for so long would have a hard time recognizing him, much less these people.

After getting confirmation from Void, Grey walked out of the alley and walked straight for Hugh's house. He told Void to go in on his own. He noticed different spiritual senses observing him when he was approaching Hugh's house, but he remained calm and collected.

'I really need to thank Teacher.' He thought.

He used a cloaking array that was able to perfectly hide his Plane from people, even those in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane. The guards around this place were only in the Mid stages of the Origin Plane, so he had no problem with his disguise. To them, he was only a Sixth stage Arcane Plane Elementalist.

Knock! Knock!

After a few seconds, he heard Hugh's footsteps. When Hugh opened the door, he was taken aback by the person who was standing outside his house, he didn't recall ever knowing or seeing this person.

Grey looked at him and said only one word, "Spiracotanue."

Hugh quickly connected the dots before welcoming him inside with a smile, he closed the door the moment Grey stepped in.

"I don't mean to pry young master, but did you offend the new Mayor?" Hugh asked as soon as he turned around.

"I don't even know him, but, why do you ask?" Grey answered before asking.

"Firstly, you're disguised, which means you're hiding from some people." Hugh said before taking a seat, "Secondly, the..."

According to Hugh, three days after the new Mayor took charge, he personally came to see him, asking him some questions about his relationship with Grey in particular. He asked what Grey wanted when he came to visit him the last time he visited him.

"Don't worry, I didn't tell him anything," Hugh said when he saw Grey's expression.

Grey sighed in relief but didn't say anything, he waited patiently so Hugh would continue speaking.

Hearing the amount the Mayor offered, Grey s.u.c.k.e.d in a cold breath. That was a lot of money, even some families wouldn't mind betraying a family member, much less someone they knew nothing about. Grey's impression of Hugh skyrocketed when he saw how loyal he was, it was just as Klaus said, these people were more trustworthy than those two-faced rich people he knew.

"So, what brings you here?" Hugh asked after he was done telling Grey about the guards that came looking for him.

"I'm out of wood. I need more, a little bigger than the one I took the last time." Grey went straight to the point.

"Okay, come with me." Hugh stood up before walking in the direction of where the secret passage was located in his house by the end of the passage after leaving the living room.

"Huh!" Hugh exclaimed softly when he saw Void on Grey's shoulder just before they entered the secret room. He didn't recall seeing Void with Grey when he opened the door for him to come inside.

"When did the cat come in?" He couldn't help but ask.

"I hid him," replied Grey.

"Oh I see, it'll be easy for people to recognize you since you're known for always having a small black cat on your shoulder, so you hid it," Hugh nodded in enlightenment before turning around to open the secret passage.

As soon as he turned around, Grey's expression changed, 'Shit! How did I forget about that?'

'Luckily, I wasn't on your shoulder when you came out of the alley,' said Void.

'Yes, but they must already be aware of me coming into the city. Why exactly are they looking for me?' Grey asked.

He felt Hugh wasn't the only one who the new Mayor must've visited, he might've gone to see the other few people he was acquainted with in the Academy. This was already past just because of his Teacher, for the Mayor to move personally meant it was more than what he thought.