

## Affinity 301

### Chapter 301 - He's My Friend

Grey stood in the same position, holding his sword casually. The attack he used against the two young ladies was very simple, explosive speed.

'My physical strength should be around the Fifth or Sixth stage now.' He thought to himself while looking at the dumbfounded group of three.??

The group looked at him with dread, with a hint of fear appearing in their eyes. Grey's capabilities scared them. Having such speed meant that it was almost impossible for their attacks to hit him since he could easily dodge it.

"Wait, he's also a Lightning Elementalist!" The second young man in the group exclaimed.

When Grey used inscriptions the first time, he attacked with the fire element, but his blade was coated with the lightning element. This explained his explosive speed, but to a certain extent. After all, he wasn't the only Lightning Elementalist in the world, but the group hadn't seen anyone that's as fast as him.

Grey's speed is almost double the speed of a Lightning Elementalist in the same Plane as himself, if not even over.

The leader of the group as well as Johanne only realized this fact after the young man pointed it out to them. This increased the feeling of dread in their hearts once again.

"Mister, we don't know why the Crowned Prince wants this man, but we were sent by him to bring this young man with us," The leader immediately changed his approach back to the first way.

Grey's show of strength petrified him, he wanted to get as far away from him as possible. He wasn't part of the group that would willingly chase after death just because he didn't want to disappoint the Crowned Prince. He had a family waiting for him at home and would be getting married soon. It would be a shame to die for someone else's cause.

"Oh, that's a shame. I really want to know why," Grey replied with a shake of his head.

He almost lost interest in them, he thought this was a group of die-hard loyal people that the Crowned Prince, or whoever assigned them picked, who would've thought they were just like normal people and would bend at the sight of seeing someone far more powerful?

"Mister, we were only given orders, we know nothing else. I know you have no relations with this young man here, so there's no need in getting involved with the Crowned Prince's matter." The leader said once again.

He was scared of Grey, but thinking that there isn't any relationship between Grey and Reynolds, he thought he might as well try to speak to him so he could let them take Reynolds. There wasn't really any reason for someone to offend the Crowned Prince over a stranger.

Grey chuckled when he heard what the leader said before replying, "But the Crowned Prince wouldn't know if you don't tell him, right?"

"I swear on my life, none of us will speak of you killing some of our party. I'll tell the..."

"I don't think you get what I'm trying to say here," Grey cut short the leader who was already swearing with his life on the line.

"Huh!"

"I mean, if none of you leave here, who would tell the Crowned Prince of our encounter?" Grey said while giving off a calm aura like he wasn't speaking about the lives of a group of people.

"No one,"

"Exactly," Grey said pointing at Johanne who was the only one confident enough to answer his question.

The leader of the group, as well as Johanne's pupils, dilated, while fear could be visibly seen on the face of the other young man.

Grey is probably the only Origin Plane Elementalist in the world who could make a group of three who he was only ahead of two with a single stage, and on the same stage as one feel like they were fighting against someone who is a whole Plane ahead of them. The strength gap between them was horrifying.

"Mister, isn't this a little too excessive? We didn't offend you in any way, killing us just because of a stranger, why?" The leader asked, not willing to accept the fact that they might die here.

"Simple, he's my friend," Grey laughed before taking off the hood that was covering over half of his face, leaving the group stunned.

Since Grey appeared, he had been shocking them, but this revelation seems to top it all. Seeing a seemingly flawless young face appear behind the hood shocked the group no less than when they saw him kill two of their comrades. They couldn't associate the beautiful-looking young man in front of them with the ruthless killer they envisioned.

Grey was a complete contrast of what they imagined the man would be, and looking at him, it was easy to see he was slightly younger than Reynolds.

"Friend? That means you're the one the Emperor wants!" The leader exclaimed in sheer disbelief.

Most of the people in the empire's forces knew of the Emperor's hunt for a certain young man. Although they didn't know the details, they knew he was an Inscriber and had a powerful Teacher behind him.

When this group was given the order to bring Reynolds, they found out he was friends with that mysterious young man.

'And here I was, feeling honored that the Crowned Prince was searching for me," Reynolds said jokingly while walking closer to Grey.

"Heh! You're still an amateur. I'm wanted by the entire empire, do you think you can beat that?" Grey replied with scorn.

His facial expression threw Reynolds in a fit of laughter, "I've missed you bud, but on a more serious note, what did you do to the Emperor?"

"I have no idea, I tried asking some of the new Instructors at the Academy, but none of them knew why they were sent to capture me," Grey replied with a thoughtful expression.

The duo completely disregarded the group who were standing a few meters away from them, but the group was too shocked to even try escaping.

'What sort of man is his Teacher to train such a monster?'

This was the question revolving around their heads. They also thought of the trial land since they've heard about it from their superiors, but they didn't want to believe it was the reason for his monstrous strength. He wasn't the only one who entered the place, so there's no way he would be the only one showing such insane levels of strength.

While the group was still looking at Grey and Reynolds speaking, they got the scare of their lives. a pitch-black cat suddenly appeared out of thin air and laid on Grey's shoulder.

"How?" The leader asked.

He suddenly sensed a feeling of mystery clouding this young man before him. He was in the Fifth stage of the Origin Plane, even though he wasn't as strong as Grey, his strength was evident. He was focused on Grey and Reynolds, so if something came in at high speed, he would definitely sense it. But he didn't even sense any energy until Void appeared.

"Now, time to care of these guys," Grey said while releasing a massive killing intent. He didn't plan on allowing any of them to leave this place.

Chapter 302 - The Blue Vest's Capabilities

Reynolds took a few steps back when he realized Grey had gotten serious with the group, he was fine with watching from the sidelines.

'I don't need your help with these guys, I can deal with them on my own,' Grey said to Void which doused his already raging fighting intent.??

Void instantly regretted not joining the fight the first time, but there was nothing he could do about it. At that time, he truly needed the rest, or he might hurt himself.

'Fine,' He replied grumpily before disappearing from Grey's shoulder to Reynolds' shoulder.

"What type of cat is that?" Johanne asked her group while pointing at Void in sheer curiosity.

The way he moved was intriguing. Neither she nor the rest of the group could fathom how he did it which piqued their curiosity, but unfortunately, they had other things to worry about.

"I know that you're stronger than either of us here, but don't think you can kill us so easily." The leader said seriously.

After finding out that Grey and Reynolds were friends, he had already given up the idea of begging, and he knew escaping wasn't going to be easy either. But since they already know of Grey's explosive speed, they will be able to defend against it. His only issue now was that for them to hit Grey was going to be difficult because of his speed.

"Heh! I know I won't be able to easily kill all of you, but I'm confident in killing you all at the end of the battle," Grey said confidently.

"Hmph! We'll see about that," The leader snorted coldly before attacking with his inscription.

Ice arrows formed in the air and shot in Grey's direction. The arrows covered almost a fifteen square meters range.

The other young man who was an Earth Elementalist also made a move at the same time. He made four twenty meters tall earth walls which were each three meters thick to block Grey's escape routes from the leader's attack. Johanne on the other hand created multiple fireballs, waiting for where Grey might appear so she would attack him, in case he dodges the leader's attack.

Just before the attacks struck Grey, he smirked and raised his hand. A thin ice shield appeared on top of him, blocking any potential arrows that might get to him.

Boom!

The ice arrows continuously slammed into the ground, since the leader didn't see Grey leave the place, he didn't stop his attacks.

After almost a minute of continuous attacks, the leader finally stopped attacking. He nodded to the second young man to remove the walls, so they could see if their attacks did anything to Grey since he didn't make any moves.

Rumble!

The earth walls made a rumbling sound as they sank into the ground.

While Grey was inside the walls, his ice shield managed to hold off the attacks for about twenty seconds before breaking apart, but just as it broke apart, a blue light appeared around him, covering a one and a half meter radius around him.

'Oh, it works perfectly,' He thought with an embarrassed smile.

Although he had already tested the capability of the blue vest before, he was still quite reluctant to use it. His cautious mindset made him feel as if it might not truly hold up. This was why he first made an ice shield before preparing himself. Had the vest not managed to block the attacks, he already had a second plan waiting in order to block the attacks, but luckily, it managed to stop them.

He stood casually in the place while waiting for the attacks to die down, his inscriptions were still mid-air. After waiting for a few more seconds, the leader stopped attacking. He knew they would take down the walls to check if he was there since he hid his aura from them.

As soon as he saw the walls shaking while going down, he made a lightning bow, the arrow was a combination of both the fire and lightning elements. The body of the arrow was made of lightning, while the arrowhead was made of the fire element, he also prepared his inscriptions for his attacks.

When the walls sank down to where his head appeared, the arrow which was notched was released, he also used the wind element to boost the speed of the attack.

Grey used three different elements in a single attack. This was something unheard of in the Qilin empire.

He had a smile on when his attack was released, but his face was soon covered by a surprised expression when he realized the leader of the group managed to sense him on time and made sufficient preparations.

Boom!

Grey's arrow was the first to connect with the ice shield the leader made in front of them. It exploded on impact, instantly spreading cracks around the ice shield.

Crack!

The ice shield was destroyed within a second. The leader nor Grey's inscription attacks had gotten to the opponents yet before this arrow showed such destructive force.

Johanne was a little slow to react, but she attacked just after Grey's ice arrow hit the leader's shield.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Grey and the leader's inscription attacks arrived at almost the same time, while Johanne's fireballs attacks arrived a little later.

The group was pushed back by Grey's attacks. The leader was the one who suffered the brunt of the attack since he was closer to the ice shield. After the shield broke apart, they faced the onslaught of Grey's inscription attacks.

The other young man managed to make an earth wall to block the attack, while also making an earth armor for himself. The earth wall was quickly destroyed by Grey's attack.

While the group was panicking on how to block the attack, Grey was casually strolling forward in the midst of their attacks.

'Hehe, this thing is a true treasure, I don't need to bother too much about being attacked.' He thought with a smile.

When he was making the device and comprehending the darkness element, he made time to give the vest as much elemental essence as possible. It took him almost three days before it stopped accepting any more essence. He tested out the defense again to find out just how much it could block. The result of his test was terrific, the vest had no problems with blocking his all-out attack, which was something that was almost the same as an Eight stage Origin Plane Elementalist's attack. The thing he didn't test out was if it could block his chaos orb.

With the addition of his darkness element, he was certain that the power of his chaos orb was well above the Origin Plane. But he didn't know if it could rival an Overlord Plane Elementalist's attacks. He hadn't fought or seen an Overlord Plane attacking before so he couldn't gauge it.

After moving out of the area of the attacks, Grey attacked the group once again.

Both sides exchanged moves in an intense battle, but it was evident to all that Grey was gaining the upper hand as the battle progressed.

Chapter 303 - Gotten More Powerful!

Boom!



An explosion rang out in the canyon with a human figure flying out of the dust in the explosion.???

Bang!

The figure crashed into the wall by the side. The figure belonged to the leader of the group whom Grey was fighting against.

Just as the leader struck the wall, Grey shot out of the area of the explosion, heading straight for the leader whose back was just hitting the wall.

'Damn it! How can such a young man have such battle experience? It's almost unbelievable!' The leader cursed inside, but still reacted accordingly on seeing Grey coming towards him.

He created an ice wall in front of him, before attacking Grey with his inscription which was mid-air.

Bam!

Grey punched the ice wall with his b.a.r.e fist when he got close to it, which caused the wall to slowly start cracking.

As soon as his fist hit the ice wall, lightning danced around his body as he disappeared from the spot.

Bang!

Multiple ice shards struck where Grey was previously standing, missing him by a few milliseconds.

Grey appeared a few meters away from the ice wall before looking at the leader of the group with a serious expression.

'This guy's a pest. His battle experience is amazing.' Grey cursed and praised the leader at the same time.

"You do know you're only delaying the inevitable, right?" Grey asked while looking at Johanne and the other young man who was running towards where the leader was standing.

He didn't do anything to stop them since he knew he couldn't divert his attention from their leader. There had been times during the battle that he wanted to focus on this duo, but this gave the leader a chance to attack him sneakily, luckily, he was wearing the blue vest.

"Your defensive tool will soon be out of energy, by then, we'll see who will have the last laugh," The leader replied with a sneer.

He had taken notice of Grey's defensive tool, he didn't know what it was, but he knew Grey was wearing a defensive tool. All the times he had managed to get a clean strike on Grey, a faint blue light would always cover him just when the strike was about to land. He had been watching it and noticed the light had slowly started diminishing. With a few more attacks, it would surely run out of energy.

Grey showed an indifferent expression when he heard this, but deep down, he was a little shocked by the leader's observation ability.

A smirk appeared on Grey's face before he gave a reply, "You do know I'm not the only one here, right?"

When they heard Grey's question, they looked at the side and remembered Reynolds and the mysterious black cat was still there. They didn't attach much importance to Void, but they were wary of Reynolds' Elemental Warrior. If it were to be added to Grey's overwhelming strength, then they have no hopes of winning this.

The group's expression turned sour when they thought of it. At least previously, they still had a slim chance of escaping once Grey's defensive tool ran out of energy. But now, that hope has plunged down the drain.

Grey burst out laughing when he saw their expressions. The easiest person to kill is someone who has given up any hopes of surviving, this is why he's playing the psychological game with them. If he is successful, then the group would put on less resistance against his attacks.

"Heh! Looks like you also know your fates are sealed," He said with a smirk.

The leader looked at his downcast party before taking a step forward, of the entire group, he was the most experienced, this was why he was made the leader of the group.

"I know what you're trying to do, and to be honest, you were almost successful. But I know your friend still needs more time before he can summon his Elemental Warrior, this is why you're trying to delay us. Although you're stronger than each of us, you know you can not kill us," The leader said confidently while staring straight at Grey.

He noticed Grey's body language changed when he said this, which increased his confidence in his conjecture.

"Don't be afraid, he's almost at the end of his rope," The leader whispered to Johanne and the other young man with sheer confidence. It was almost like he could already see Grey's downfall.

Grey on the other hand was laughing inside, he purposely did the change in his body language to trick the leader. And from the looks of the confident smile on the leader's face, he could tell he was successful.

'Hmm, I can't depend on the blue vest any longer, it's already almost out of energy. Damn it! How can it use so much energy for those few strikes?' He cursed at the high consumption of the blue vest.

Given how long it takes to fill it up, he expected it to last longer. But he couldn't say he was disappointed in it since it has helped him greatly during this battle.

With a renewed vigor, the group attacked him first. The leader used his inscription to keep him busy, while the young man who was an Earth Elementalist focused mainly on blocking the attacks of Grey. Johanne and the leader attacked Grey simultaneously, making it hard to dodge. Had this group been

fighting against someone else, then they would've been able to win, but against Grey, their chances of surviving are almost zero.

"Wow! Grey's gotten more powerful!" Reynolds exclaimed when he saw them restart the battle.

The battle was currently at its climax, seeing Grey move from one place to another easily dodging the group's attacks before attacking, he was awed by his show of strength.

Chapter 304 - Gamble

Crash!

"Ah!"??

The Earth Elementalist yelled in pain as he crashed hard into the wall by the side, almost half of his body was crushed by the impact. He was currently bleeding from the side of his blonde hair, shaking from the pain.

"Erwin!" Johanne and the leader yelled out at the same time while looking at the pain gripped Erwin.

"You... you monster! I'll kill you!" The leader yelled with his eyes almost bulging out as he stared at Grey.

In the group, Erwin was the one he was closest to, seeing him in such a state sent him hysteria.

Just as he was about to charge at Grey who was looking at them from a distance, he was held back by Johanne.

"Carlos, stop! This is what he wants. His defensive tool is already out, we just need to hang on a little more, and we can defeat him," Johanne said while holding onto the enraged Carlos.

Carlos looked at Grey before moving his gaze to the shaking Erwin who was moaning in pain. He clenched his fists while trying to calm his emotion. Even though the injury looks severe, as long as Erwin doesn't die, he can recover. He nodded at Johanne before taking a step in front of her.

Johanne understood his intent and quickly went to feed Erwin a healing tonic to stop the bleeding as soon as possible.

Grey on the other hand stared at them without much emotion. He couldn't say he really felt anything for them, after all, they are enemies. But he didn't really like these senseless killings.

'Who is wrong and who is right? It doesn't matter, what truly matters is whose side you're on. Tsk! Crazy people.' He thought with a shake of his head while looking at them.

His defensive tool was out of energy and he had been stuck once, luckily, he prepared an earth armor as well. The group thought it was the defensive tool when it blocked one of their strikes.

"This is a battle I'm bound to win," Grey declared as he started slowly approaching Carlos and Johanne.

Carlos looked at Johanne who was feeding Erwin a healing tonic, before looking at Grey once again. He had tried accessing Grey's strength since the beginning of the battle, but he had been unable to find out his true strength, or come up with a plan to deal with him.

'He not only has explosive speed, but his attacks are explosive as well. To think he could last this long? Normally, when an Elementalist uses explosive speed or attacks, the consumption is insane. We've been fighting for almost five minutes now, and he still has two inscriptions up. Guess we'll have to go with a battle of attrition tactic, if we can defeat him, then we wouldn't need to worry about dying.' Carlos' brain went into overdrive trying to come up with an escape plan.

"Don't attack him carelessly, focus on defending," He whispered to Johanne.

Johanne nodded when she heard his order.

Grey slowly picked up speed before lightning flashed across his body and he disappeared from sight.

Buzz! Swoosh!

A bolt of lightning could be seen moving across the area of the battle scene while releasing attacks simultaneously.

Carlos and Johanne focused on defending during this battle, while Carlos would occasionally attack with his inscription whenever Grey presented an opportunity for him. But most of his strikes missed because Grey's speed was not something his attack speed could match.

Another three minutes went by with the lightning bolt moving almost throughout the time. After not being able to get any strike at them, Grey was forced to stop.

'Dammit! Taking down this guy is harder than I thought.' Grey cursed while looking at Carlos and Johanne.

They were both breathing heavily, but so was Grey. Compared to them who had their backs against each other trying to defend against Grey's onslaught, Grey had been moving almost nonstop.

Although he had been able to successfully hit them, the attacks didn't get to them with full power because most of the power was used in destroying Carlos' attacks.

Both sides went into a standoff once again. With Carlos focusing all their energy on defending, it was difficult for Grey to kill them.

"How can he have so much stamina?" Carlos asked in-between gasps.

He initially thought that Grey would already be out, but even after almost eight minutes of using such explosive attacks, he was still standing. Other than the sweat and his heavy breathing, he looked to be perfectly fine.

"It doesn't matter, it's almost ready. Johanne just a little more, and we'll be able to avenge everyone and kill this bastard." Carlos clenched his fists tightly.

He's currently planning on taking a gamble, if he's successful, then they will defeat Grey, but if he fails, they die.

'Phew! I have to say, this guy's more experienced in fighting than most of the people I've faced. With the position they took up, they can perfectly block my attacks, and although my fire element attack is far more powerful, that guy always nullifies them.' Grey thought while breathing out.

'One more time, if I can't, then I guess Void will have to join the battle, with his space element, they wouldn't know how they died.'

Lightning danced around Grey's body before he disappeared once again, this time, he wanted to end the battle with this round of attack. If he couldn't, then there's no harm in calling for Void's assistance.

"Get ready, he's coming!" Carlos yelled, "We'll end him with this move!"

Boom! Bam!

When Grey's fireball was about to hit them, Carlos set up an ice sphere that covered an area of almost twelve meters in radius with a spread of his hand. Twelve faint lights raced along with the sphere as it expanded from Carlos' position.

Boom! Bang! Crack!

The sphere managed to block five of the fireballs before cracks ran across it. Another hit and it exploded, sending bits of ice across the battlefield.

"Now!" Grey, who was biding his time from another location, shot straight into the twelve-meter range with a lightning sword in hand.

Just as he was about to attack, twelve lights flashed on the ground before rising into the sky. It formed a straight line up, almost twenty meters high, and shrunk to the area Grey was standing before trapping him.

Grey looked at the translucent shield-like array trapping him, "Oh, an array, how convenient."

Crack!

Chapter 305 - Frost City

Crack!

The shield-like array started cracking under Grey's touch, before finally.

Bang!

It exploded within a few seconds.

"He destroyed it, just like that?" Johanne couldn't believe that the array Carlos had been making during the course of Grey's last attack would be destroyed with a mere touch.

"Car..."

She turned around to speak, only to see a blade piercing through Carlos' head, his eyes were still wide open. He was dead.

Grey withdrew the sword from Carlos' head, and his body fell to the ground.

"Car... Carlos!" Johanne screamed with dilated pupils.

Within a second, Grey moved from where he was standing three meters away and appeared behind them.

"I must say, although he was smart when coming up with your defensive plan, trying to secretly create an array in front of me was the most stupid thing he did in his life," Grey said emotionlessly.



When he was fighting against them previously, at first, he found it weird how Carlos always attacked twelve specific spots. He would always wait for when he was in a particular spot before striking. After observing it a few more times, he realized he was actually trying to make an array, a killing array.

If the array traps him, then he wouldn't be able to move in the small space, neither will he be able to attack, but attacks from the outside could come in while also being bolstered by the array after they pass through it.

After figuring out the array, he quickly started thinking of the quickest way to break it, he had personally never created this array before, but being good at arrays, he was able to quickly find the weak point in it while Carlos was still in the process of making it. All he did when he tapped on it was using his darkness element to corrode the weak link, easily shattering it.

The reason he let Carlos complete the array was so that he could get a chance to go close to them since Carlos would be confident in his array trapping him.

Johanne looked at the body of Carlos, before switching her gaze to Erwin. Her eyes were currently filled with tears and hatred.

"All we were doing was following orders," She muttered under her breath.

Grey heard what she said before shaking his head, "And all I'm doing is trying to survive. Do you think the people who want me will keep me alive given how desperately they're trying to find me?"

"Now tell me, why are they searching for me?" He asked while approaching Johanne who had stopped moving altogether.

"I... I don't know. Make it quick, I don't want to suffer." Johanne said before closing her eyes with tears running down the side of her face.

She knew Grey would kill her no matter what, so all she could do was at least beg him to make it quick. She tried committing suicide, but she couldn't bring herself to do it, she didn't want to die.

Grey nodded before raising his hand, after dropping it, Johanne fell as well. A small hole could be seen on the middle of her forehead with blood flowing out of it.

Grey also made sure to kill Erwin as well, he couldn't afford to allow himself to let them go. If they won the battle, then he would've been the one to die, but since he won, he will continue living.

"This is a cruel world." He muttered while approaching Reynolds and Void who were waiting for him.

"Hey bud, I can see you've grown stronger," Reynolds said before hugging Grey.

Grey, who was lost in thoughts came back to himself when he felt Reynolds hugging him.

The duo went into the cave where Reynolds was previously sitting before the group came to rest. Reynolds recounted how they came to his city, and how he was chased by them for the past day.

"What do you plan on doing now?" Grey asked Reynolds after also telling him of how the new Mayor tried hunting him down.

"I still have some things to attend to here. How about you, where are you going?" Reynolds replied before asking.

"I'll be going to meet up with Alice, and then Klaus." Grey said before bringing out one of the disks, "Oh! Here."

He tossed it at Reynolds while also telling him how it works.

"I was unable to make the communication tool yet, but hopefully I'll be able to figure it out soon."

"It's okay. With this, we wouldn't have any problems with locating each other. What would be really convenient now is a spatial ring, if we could get one then traveling would be great."

"Yeah, but unfortunately I haven't comprehended the space element yet. So you guys are stuck with the conventional method."

The duo stayed the night in the cave before leaving and heading back to where they came from. Grey followed Reynolds to the town just before the canyon, after bidding farewell and telling him to take care, he left.

Reynolds knew the city Alice came from, so he showed him where it was located on the map, after cursing him for not knowing where his friends came from. He almost punched him in the face when he told him he followed the light here, that he also didn't know his city.

Grey followed the route Reynolds showed him on the map, heading to where Alice was. He also made sure to always look at the disk to make sure he was actually going in the right direction.

Twelve days later.

After going through multiple cities, towns, and villages, he finally got to the city Alice was from. Standing in front of the huge gate, the word Frost City was written boldly on it. Merchants could be seen escorting carriages into the city, while soldiers who were guarding the city gates were sitting by the side, watching every individual that goes into the city.

"Time to see Alice,"

Grey took a step into the city, walking through the bustling city gate, into the crowded street.

#### Chapter 306 - Reiss Family

After entering the city, Grey headed straight for the first tavern he could find. He bought a horse after leaving the canyon, so he kept it in the tavern's stable. He recalled Alice was from one of the three big families in Frost City, the Reiss family, so he might not even need the device to locate her.

Grey didn't immediately head there, he knew it wouldn't be easy to see Alice since he couldn't just swagger into the family compound. He planned to go over and check out the general situation of the

family first, after all, since the Emperor went after Reynolds, the chances of him going after Alice were also very high.

'Void, you'll be sneaking into Alice's compound tomorrow. When you find her, give her this letter.' He passed a letter over to Void.

He also gave Void one of the devices to give to her, the content of the letter didn't say much, it only said Alice should come to meet him if she could. But if she couldn't, she should reply to the letter so he'd know what to do.

He stayed in the room for some time before going out to get food for them, after getting their food, he immediately started cultivating. He was already very close to breaking through to the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane after he comprehended and improved the elemental grade of the darkness element, so he hoped to increase his strength while he was in Frost City.

The next day.

He headed into the city accompanied by Void, who was hiding in his cloak rather than lying on his shoulder like always. Void being on his shoulder is something the Emperor's people would probably already be aware of, so he didn't want to take the risk.

He walked through the busy streets of Frost City, heading for the Reiss family compound. It took him almost one hour to get to the compound which was located in the southern part of the city. Looking at the gates of the compound, it wasn't hard to figure it belonged to a big family. Grey estimated the compound was around eight hundred square meters, which he felt was quite small given how big the spaces big families in other smaller cities take.

An Inn was across the compound, so he headed there for a drink. If anything happened in the city, especially to the Reiss family, this was the best place to find out. With his cloak covering half of his face, he stepped into the inn.

He walked to an empty seat by the window on the right side of the Inn, from there he got a great view of the front gates of the family.

'I'm counting on you Void,' He said to Void after taking a seat.

After getting the go-ahead, Void disappeared. Grey gave him the device so he could easily find Alice.

He ordered a bottle of wine before looking across the inn, hoping to get something juicy from the conversations of the people who were sitting close to him. But unfortunately, even after almost twenty minutes, he didn't get any useful information from the people there, most of them were speaking about their personal lives.

'Hey, did you find her?' He asked.

After a few seconds of waiting, Void replied, 'No, the guards here are more than those at that Mayor's compound,'

'Which Mayor?' Grey asked, a little lost.

'The one you stole that wine from, you know, who was betraying the empire,' answered Void.

'Oh, that one. I totally forgot about him. But, why would there be so many guards in the compound? Something must definitely be going.'

'Well, I heard some guards speaking about the Emperor sending some people here some days back...'

Void told Grey all he heard from the conversing guards. According to the guards, Alice's father sent the people away, saying she wasn't in the compound. Being the head of such a big family, the Emperor's people didn't object much, rather they told him to send her to the Capital when she returned.

'That explains the high number of guards,'

'No, actually, just before the Emperor's people came, one of the Reiss' family members was almost assassinated, an Elder to be precise,'

'Well, there's that too. Did you use the device? Since it shows her light is here, it means she's obviously in the mansion,'

'Or maybe she dropped the wooden object before leaving,'

'Yeah, that too. Try to locate her quickly, you're a small black cat with the space element, getting past some many people shouldn't be difficult for you.'

'It's not, I only delayed because I saw something shiny,'

On hearing the reason Void hadn't gotten to Alice yet, Grey almost spat out the drink that he just took a sip of.

'Did you take it?' He asked a question which he knew would give him a very obvious answer. Since Void stopped because of something shiny, then of course he was going to take it.

'No,' Void replied hastily. His hasty reply only proved to Grey that he took it.

'You're lying, return it this instant. We do not steal things from our friends' house,' Grey reprimanded him immediately.

'But it's her father's house, not hers,' Void tried to justify himself.

After a few seconds of scolding, Void finally agreed to return it. Grey didn't think he would return it though, but there was no harm in trying. Had he been there, then there might've been some hope in Void returning it, but with Void being alone, the chances are low.

Grey waited for a few minutes before contacting Void again, to his surprise, Void said he was already at the place where Alice's light dot was on, but he couldn't find her. This probably meant that she left the wooden object in her room.

'Hmm, she should know this is the only way for me to reach her, so even when leaving, she would take it.' Grey thought while rubbing his head a little distressed by the missing Alice.

If he couldn't locate Alice within the next week, then he would take the risk of going to her family compound. He didn't plan on leaving this city until he was certain that Alice was safe. Void returned, and Grey went on to ask him about the situation in the house, and also if he returned what he took.

Void told him all he heard while he was inside the house, and other than the information he got the first time, there wasn't really anything more.

Chapter 307 - Sasha Reiss

Four days went by with Grey going to the same inn across the Reiss family compound every day, he would also send Void to sneak into the mansion to see if he could find anything useful, but all their endeavors have always almost ended the same way.

But Grey had been getting a general overview of the relationship between the three families in the city. The Reiss family is currently clashing against one of the other two families because of a newly discovered mine that was just between the boundaries of both family's property outside the city.

The Reiss family was the first to discover it, but they were unable to keep the Smith family from finding out about it. Neither family agreed to share the mine since it was something that was very valuable, especially to the Smith family which was a blacksmith family.

The third family in Frost City has been keeping a neutral ground on the matter, just like the Mayor's manor. They were both waiting to see the outcome of the struggle between the two families.

'Have you been able to see Alice's father during the times you have been going inside the mansion?' Grey asked Void who was about to sneak into the Reiss family once again.

'No, he's never been in the mansion whenever I go,' replied Void.

'That's strange, I've never seen him come out of the compound nor come back. Does this mean he went on a trip?' Grey asked while rubbing his chin.

'No, the guards always say he leaves during the morning,' said Void.

'Fine, guess I'll have to sneak into the compound later tonight,' Grey quickly came to a decision.

He usually comes to this Inn almost as soon as it opens, the workers are already starting to look at him with suspicious gazes. But since no one has come to disturb him yet, he planned on leaving before that happens.

'If only I can find a spot to stay close by,' Grey thought while drinking the wine on his table.

While he was speaking with Void, he suddenly sensed someone approaching him. Raising his head, he saw a young lady who seemed to be around his age or maybe slightly older walking in his direction.? She had short black hair that was just barely below her ears, brown eyes with a beautiful face.

The young lady was five foot ten, with an hourglass figure. All eyes were on her as she approached Grey's table. Behind her was a small entourage of two young men and two more young ladies, but none were as beautiful as she was. The group of five were all dressed extravagantly in trousers and long shirts. The young lady at the front was wearing a silver shirt with gold embroidery designs on it, while on black pants.

Grey guessed they were most likely from an influential family in Frost City. He waited patiently for them to walk past him, but to his surprise, the young lady stopped in front of his table.

"If you don't mind, can I join you?" The young lady asked with a crisp and delicate voice.

"Oh, sure," Grey replied after looking around, before asking blandly, "And your friends?"

"You don't have to worry about them, they'll get their own seats," The young lady waved off her group before sitting on the chair across Grey.

The group of four headed to the table behind Grey's table and to his surprise, the couple sitting there left the moment they saw them coming.



"You must be new here?" The young lady asked while signaling for the waiter to come over.

Grey nodded before taking a sip of his wine. He hadn't sensed any form of malice from the young lady in front of him, so he decided to entertain her since he was bored anyway.

"Sorry to ask, but can I see your face?" The young lady asked with a curious expression.

"No," Grey replied in a straightforward manner.

The young lady gave Grey a strange look, not expecting he would be so straightforward with his reply.

"I'm Sasha Reiss, and you are?" The young lady extended her hand across the table for a handshake.

Grey was taken aback when he heard her say her name.

'She has the same last name as Alice, hmm, maybe she could help me.' He thought while stretching out his hand to shake hers.

"Zeke Hoover," replied Grey.

He didn't feel it was appropriate to tell this young lady his real name since he wasn't a hundred percent sure she was from the Reiss family.

"It's nice meeting you, Zeke," Sasha replied with a light smile.

Grey nodded before focusing on his drink, since he was still here, he decided to order a meal.

While Grey was waiting for his meal, he found out from Sasha that this place was actually owned by the Reiss family. They engaged in a casual conversation with Sasha being the one who spoke the most.

After she was done with her meal, Grey asked her the question he wanted to ask the moment she walked up to him.

"Why did you approach me?" He looked straight at the young lady.

"Nothing, I'm just curious why you've been coming here for the past four days, are you from the Smith family?" Sasha asked with a playful smile.

"Smith family? I have no idea who they are," Grey replied calmly without showing any reaction.

"Oh, that's nice then. But coming here every day seems a little bit suspicious, don't you think?" Sasha asked with the same expression.

"I like the wine here," answered Grey.

While Grey was speaking with the young lady the first time, he called Void over. Since she claimed she was from the Reiss family, maybe Void might've seen her in the mansion. The appearance of Sasha has changed his plan. Instead of sneaking into the Reiss family this night, he might as well have Void tail her.

"Okay, have a nice day Zeke," Sasha said before standing up.

She signaled the others in her group before saying to Grey, "I've taken care of your meal and wine, so you don't need to worry about it."

"Oh," Grey replied casually.

His casual reply irked the young ladies, as well as the young men from the group. They gave him a disgusted look before walking out of the Inn.

'Looks like I'll be keeping the money I was supposed to spend today,' Grey thought with a chuckle.

## Chapter 308 - Report Everything!

Sasha Reiss left the Inn accompanied by her group as she headed for the Reiss family compound.

"Why didn't you just throw him out of the Inn?" One of the young men asked, clearly irritated by Grey's behavior.

The other three nodded in approval of his suggestion. The brief encounter they had with Grey made them have a bad impression of him since he couldn't even appreciate Sasha's kindness.

"Why would I throw him out, did he do anything wrong in going to my Inn?" Sasha asked nonchalantly.

"He couldn't even say thank you. I think he's just a freeloader," One of the ladies replied with a cold snort.

"I'm not too bothered about that. Ezekiel, get someone to follow him, I want to know where he's staying in Frost City, and if possible, everything you can find out about Zeke Hoover," Sasha turned to one of the young men before ordering.

"Yes, my lady," With a bow, the young man called Ezekiel left the group, heading to the right side of the compound.

Void had been relaying everything that had been happening with Sasha and her group to Grey since they left the Inn, he even told him about everything they spoke about since Grey told him to report everything.

Grey was still drinking what was left of his wine when he heard Void's report. He wasn't surprised by this since he already knew Sasha would definitely get someone to follow him. The only thing he was thinking about was how he would be able to use Sasha to find out about Alice.

'Should I ask her directly?' He asked himself.

If Sasha was Alice's sister, which seems very likely right now, then she might know where she is. There's also the probability of her not having a good relationship with Alice because Grey had never heard Alice speaking of any of her siblings before.

He decided to see the outcome of Void following her, if she has any bad relationship with Alice, he might find out. His second option was to find someone who is working in the Reiss family compound to ask. This was all on the presumption that Void was unable to find out anything from Sasha while he's following her.

Thirty minutes later.

Grey stood up after finishing his drink, heading out of the Inn. After he chatted with Sasha, he noticed most of the people who were at the Inn at that time were all looking at him strangely, especially a group of four. He didn't bother about them and walked out of the Inn.

As soon as he stepped out of the Inn, four men stood up and walked out as well. When they got out, they looked in the direction Grey faced, before heading in the same direction.

Of the four men, only one looked to be in his twenties, the others looked to be around mid and late thirties. The man in his mid-twenties had a small scar that ran under his left eye. His brown eyes glowed with a murderous glint, and his huge figure scared most of the people who were in their way as they were walking.

Grey was walking casually on the busy street, fully aware of the fact that these men were following him. In fact, they were not the only ones following him, two more people were following him in the shadows.

'The ones in the shadows should be the ones sent by Sasha, these guys on the other hand should probably be her enemies.' He thought while walking.

Of the four men, two of them were in the Eighth stage of the Origin Plane, so Grey had no plans of finding out why they were following him. He could fight against one of them, but two was a little too much for him to handle.

He saw a shop that was selling clothes, looking at it interestingly from the outside, he walked inside. The shop wasn't too big, but it had a variety of clothes. There were over twelve rows in the shop, each row was filled with different types of clothes.

When Grey stepped in, a well-dressed young lady stepped forward to greet him with a friendly smile.

"Hello, sir, I'm Petra, is there anything in particular you're looking for?" Petra asked after a bow.

Grey was a little taken aback by her question, he rarely went shopping, especially in these kinds of shops. Most of the time he went to buy clothes, he would just get one from the roadside, or a small stall.

"Do you have something for a banquet?" He quickly recovered before asking.

"Yes sir, right this way," Petra showed him one of the rows in the shops.

Grey followed Petra to one of the rows, he looked at the clothes that she suggested while telling him about the designs as well as who made them. Most of them were made in Frost City, but some were brought from other cities.

While Grey was in the shop, he noticed none of the people following him entered the shop, but they all kept their spiritual senses locked on him.

'Looks like they can't cause a scene here,' Grey thought with a chuckle.

From the appearance of those men, he felt they would come in if this place was ordinary, but seeing how they waited outside, he knew this place was owned by an influential figure in the city.

Grey curiously asked Petra about the store and found out it was owned by a merchant organization. The discovery surprised him, he didn't think there would be a merchant organization that would be powerful enough to stop two Eighth stage Origin Plane Elementalists.

He was still thinking about the merchant organization when Void suddenly spoke to him.

'What's up?'

'She's heading into a room,' Void reported.

'And?'

'It's the same room Alice left her wooden object,'

'Oh, follow her, maybe she knows something,'

'I'm already in the room,'

Grey felt somewhat relieved when he heard this. Assuming that Alice and Sasha were to have a close relationship, then he wouldn't mind taking the risk of contacting her, after all, he had initially decided to take the risk of sneaking into the compound.

Just as Grey was looking at a blue shirt and pants Petra was showing him, he almost stumbled when he heard the next thing Void said.

'She's taking off her clothes, I think she wants to take a bath,'

'She has taken off her clothes and is headed to the bathtub now,'

'Shit Void! Don't tell me that!' Grey yelled at him angrily.

'But you said to report everything,' Void replied feeling wronged.

"Is everything alright, sir?" Petra asked when she saw Grey almost falling.

"Yes, I'll take this one, and the black one you showed me earlier," Grey replied gently after calming himself.

'Void, never tell me something like that again, okay?' He reprimanded.

'Yeah, but Klaus wouldn't mind me telling him,' Void replied cheekily.

'You know what, get out of the bathroom,'

'What if she uses a secret entrance?'

'Fine stay, but mind what you tell me.'

Grey continued speaking with Void while Petra packed up the two clothes he wanted. There were a lot of people in the shop, so he planned on changing into one of the clothes, and leaving the place with one of the people here, hopefully, a group.

He paid for the clothes before going into one of the changing rooms in the shop to put on one of his new clothes.

Ten minutes later, Grey walked out of the changing room, dressed in the blue shirt and pants Petra was previously showing him.

Petra who was standing outside the dressing room was left dumbstruck at the sight of Grey. She almost wanted to ask if Grey was the person who walked into the changing room just now, or if he was inside before. The cloak Grey previously wore covered at least half of his face, so she didn't know what he looked like.

"How do I look?" Grey asked while spreading out his hands.

"It... it looks good on you, young... sir,' Petra was flustered by Grey's handsome face that she was lost for words. Luckily, she managed to speak, although just barely.

Grey quickly caught the attention of some young ladies, as well as young men in the shop. Even the older ladies stared at him in awe, after all, it's not every day they get the chance to see such a handsome young man.

Grey, who was already used to being stared at by people, didn't really feel much from the gazes. He looked around, hoping to find a group he could tag along with when going out. While he was in the changing room, he made a small array on the clothes that was able to block out the spiritual senses of those watching him.

He planned on activating it when one of the groups in the shop is about to leave. That way, it would be difficult for the people outside to find him. The people outside didn't know how he looked, so he didn't have any fears about walking out.

"Guess I'll take some traveling wears as well," Grey spoke calmly to Petra with his hands placed behind his back.

Petra nodded before showing him in the direction of where the traveling wears were located. Due to being stunned by Grey's appearance, she forgot that he didn't come out with any of the bags he took into the changing room.

Grey stayed in the shop for another five minutes before noticing a group of eight who were planning to leave. The group consisted of five young men and three young ladies, and they were all well-dressed, not as extravagant as those who followed Sasha, but they would do.

Without any further delay, he tapped his right pocket, and the essence stone that he kept there lit up for a second before going out. Array lines on the inside of his clothes lit up at the same time as the essence stones before going off.

After successfully blocking out all prying senses, he regulated his stage with the help of the array as well, decreasing it to the First stage of the Origin Plane. If he took it lower than the Origin Plane, the group of four that were following him would find out since his control over hiding it wasn't strong enough to hide



it from them. But in the Origin Plane, he was certain that only those in the Overlord Plane would be able to notice he was hiding his stage.

Grey approached the group of eight with a friendly, even though his people skills aren't on the same level as Klaus, he didn't think he would have a problem with talking to the group. The group of eight was surprised when they saw him approaching them.

Just as they started heading out while talking, the man in his twenties from the group of four walked into the shop. He stared at the group suspiciously, after not recognizing any of them, he walked straight for where Grey was standing before he activated the array that hid him from them.

Grey smirked inside while leaving the shop with the group. The group invited him to join them for a birthday ceremony they'll be attending in two days' time, and he agreed since he wouldn't really be doing much with Void following Sasha now and he could hopefully get to find out the relationship between Alice and Sasha from this group as well.

After taking the invitation letter from the group, he left them and headed back to the tavern he was staying at. He made sure to wear his cloak before going into the tavern.

Later that night.

"Phew!" Grey breathed out heavily with a white mist leaving his mouth.

He opened his eyes to look at the full moon through the window.

"I'm finally in the Sixth stage, to think I'll advance this quickly," He muttered to himself while staring out the window.

After just four days of constant cultivating every night, he had finally broken through to the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane. Now, he was starting to see the advantages of awakening more elements. Awakening the darkness element greatly boosted his cultivation speed, but what made him break through this quickly was obviously the Great Earth Essence Liquid he absorbed when improving the elemental grade of his darkness element.

Grey brought out the disk and touched the middle, he looked at the positioning of everyone and noticed Reynolds and Klaus had moved a considerable distance from where they previously were. The only thing that made his face turn sour was Alice, whose light dot was still in the same position.

'Hopefully, I'll know where she's located soon.'

Chapter 310 - Such A Headache!

Frost City, Serene Villa.

Grey was currently standing outside the villa, dressed in a gold shirt and black pants. This was the place the group he spoke with at the shop told him to come for the ceremony. It was the birthday ceremony of an influential old man in Frost City. According to the group, the man was over eight hundred years old.

The sun would be setting in a few minutes' time. Grey was told to come just after sunset, but he felt coming earlier wouldn't do him any bad. He waited quietly at a corner, trying to attract as little attention as he possibly could. There were others who were standing outside the villa gate as well.

While he was waiting for the group to come, he watched as different people walked into the villa, both young and old. But most of them were around his age or in their mid-twenties. Apparently, only those who had invitations could go in, luckily, he didn't try to go in when he arrived, rather, he waited in a corner, observing the whole situation.

He suddenly sensed Void coming close to his location, raising his head, he saw Sasha Reiss, along with the group of four who followed her to the Inn two days back walking towards the villa.

'Oh, looks like she was invited as well,' He thought inside.

Void following Sasha these past two days hadn't gone without rewards. They haven't been able to locate Alice yet, but Void had gotten the chance to see her father, and also find out that Alice wasn't in the Reiss compound when the people sent by the Emperor got there.

Grey started a conversation with Void who didn't have any problems with sneaking into the villa along with Sasha who had an invitation.

Seven minutes later.

Grey finally saw the group he was waiting for, heading towards the villa gates. The group consisted of four, three young ladies and one young man. The three ladies are sisters, two were born from the same parents, while the other was their cousin. He recalled the ladies were called Marie, Aldreda, and Elda, they were from the Earl family, while the young man accompanying them was Randel Lankin

After getting to the gate, the group stopped and started looking around, seemingly searching for Grey.

"I don't think he's here yet," Elda said while looking around.

"We should wait a little longer, I believe he'll come," Aldreda said, trying to make sure the group waited for Grey.

Aldreda is the youngest amongst the group, she's the younger sister of Elda.

"Hehe," Elda laughed cheekily while giving Aldreda a playful glance, "You like him, don't you?"

Aldreda's cheeks turned red as she quickly looked at the ground, not wanting to make eye contact with any of them.

The group was still teasing Aldreda when Grey walked up to them.

"Hello," He said out loud to gain their attention.

He was already close to them when they were teasing Aldreda, so he overheard their conversation, but he didn't plan on letting her know she heard them, hence he acted as if he was just arriving.

Aldreda's cheeks burned up when she heard Grey's voice, and she became even more embarrassed, which prompted more laughter from her group.

"Hello, Zeke. We were just talking about you," Elda said while spying Aldreda from the side of her eyes.

"Oh really, what were you saying?" Grey said, feigning ignorance.

"I..."

Aldreda quickly hurried to close Elda's mouth before she spilled everything. She knew her sister, she just might say everything to see how Grey would react to it.

"Why don't we go in? The occasion has already started," She said after stopping Elda from speaking.

They showed the guards at the gate their invitation before the guards allowed the group inside.

Grey shook his head as he headed into the villa. He didn't know how to get past this situation, this was the first time he was facing something like this.

'\*Aish\* Being handsome is such a headache,' He thought dejectedly.

If other boys were to hear him, they would definitely beat him up. Reynolds wouldn't mind getting Klaus to rally the people who would beat him up.

After going through the door, Grey was greeted by a sight of a wide and spacious courtyard. There was a stone bridge, as well as a small man-made lake in the villa. The lake stretched across five hundred meters. A pavilion was just after the bridge with people already seated there.

'Where's Sasha sitting?' Grey asked Void as soon as he walked past the bridge.

'On the right part of the pavilion, the seats at the front.' replied Void.

When Grey got to the pavilion, he realized it was separated into two parts, one on the left, and one on the right. There was a small space in the middle, and he could see some silhouettes dancing to the music being played.

Grey was just about to suggest to the group that they should head to the right part of the pavilion, he noticed that someone came up to them, and after looking at their invitation, directed them to the left side of the pavilion, while also asking for his and Randel's name.

The man introduced the Earl family which consisted of the three ladies, Randel Lankin, and Zeke Hoover.

Grey almost facepalm when the man called his name, although he expected it when he asked for his name, he still didn't really want him to call out his name. He wasn't a fan of attracting attention. Not just that, but Sasha was here, and she knew this name since it was the name he told her.

As soon as Sasha heard his name, she immediately looked in the direction of the group as they were walking towards their seat.

After seeing the group, she instantly knew which of the two young men was Grey. This wasn't the first time she was attending an occasion with Randel, so he knew what he looked like.

"Wow, he's handsome," She blurted out unconsciously.

The two ladies who were sitting alongside her nodded with mouths wide open. They didn't know this was the same freeloader they saw two days back, only Sasha knew his name.

The group wasn't the only ones who stared at Grey in awe, most of the young people there stared at him for extended periods. Even after he took his seat, some people still occasionally stole glances at him.

Grey looked straight at Sasha before smiling slightly and giving a small nod as a form of greeting. They were seated two tables behind the first table on the left.

Sasha responded with a nod of her own before looking away from him, staring at her front. The celebrant was about to arrive, so everyone focused their attention on the front of the pavilion, where a special seat was placed.