

Affinity 311

Chapter 311 - Lenz Organization

Everyone watched on as the silhouette of a man could be seen walking in the direction of the pavilion from the right. The figure walked softly and elegantly, his steady steps resonated across the quiet pavilion.

Grey stared intently as the figure soon came into view, in front of him stood a man who looked to be in his fifties, broad-shouldered, and stood around six foot two. From his facial appearance, he looked only to be older than Klaus' father by a few years or at most ten years. The only thing that truly showed his old age was his grey hair and beard.

'Is he really over eight hundred years old?' He couldn't help but ask himself.

'Be careful, he's an Overlord Plane expert, above the mid-stages.' Void warned Grey as soon as the man walked in.

Even though he knew the man didn't have anything against Grey and would most likely not even speak to him, he felt he should at least warn him.

'Oh, I didn't think he would be in the late stages.' Grey said before reassuring Void, 'Don't worry, I'm not here to cause trouble. If anyone needs to be careful, then it's you.'

'Hmph! I'm not that stupid to cause a problem here,' Void snorted coldly.

'Oh really? If I remember correctly, you stole the treasure of a dragon that I think is over five hundred years old without even thinking. I think when you see anything shiny that catches your eye, your brain turns off.' Grey replied with a sneer.

There's no way he would believe Void would sit still if he sees something shiny, luckily he was here. And besides, if he couldn't stop him, it's not his problem since they weren't together.

"That's old man Gerald, he's the owner of this pavilion. He's not affiliated with any of the big families here, rather, he's the regional leader of the Lenz's organization. Even the head of the big families shows him maximum respect." Aldreda explained to Grey as the old man took his seat.

"You said regional leader, does that mean there are other regional leaders?" Grey asked, a little perplexed.

"Yes, actually, the Lenz's conglomerate has a long history, it's even older than the Qilin empire. According to the history books, they started when the continent was still united, since they're a merchant organization, they don't get involved with the battles for power. They currently have branches in each of the empires." Elda chimed in on the conversation to tell Grey what she knew about the organization.

Aldreda glared at her sister for stealing her opportunity to impress Grey with this information. Elda smiled before staring at Grey. She shook her head softly when she saw how his attention was currently on Gerald.

"Wow! That old? They should have powerful figures since they can perfectly operate in each empire without being controlled by any." Grey exclaimed softly as he shifted his attention back to Gerald.

Given the tension between the empires right now, Grey found it amazing that an organization could perfectly operate, moving things and personnel between them without being interrupted by either of the empires.

Clink! Clink! Clink!

"Welcome everyone, this old one is Gerald Lenz, I'm grateful to see so many of you coming here for my birthday celebration once again. It only felt like yesterday when I celebrated my eight hundredth birthday, but now, it's already been ten years..." Gerald spoke slowly and coolly while appreciating his audience.

He didn't say much, after greeting his audience, he quickly started the birthday party off before taking a seat.

'Wow! Eight hundred and ten, now that's old! Grey, what's the lifespan of humans in the Overlord Plane?' Void asked.

'Around one thousand to one thousand two hundred years,' Grey replied after a while.

The ceremony continued for about two hours, entertainment was going on from the people who were playing the instruments. Some moments ago, a few ladies approached Grey asking him for a dance, actually, they weren't the first. This caused him to draw attention from most of the young men in the big families since even some of the ladies they liked were all looking at Grey with heated eyes.

After one lady summoned the courage to ask him for a dance, it was almost like the others took it as a challenge upon themselves to make sure he danced with at least one of them.

On the front table.

This was the table Gerald Lenz was sitting at. Five people were seated at this table, Gerald himself, and four others. One young lady who looked to be in her late twenties, an older looking lady who had the same features as the young lady, and two old men.

"Who is that young man?' Gerald couldn't help but ask.

Seeing the attention Grey was drawing to himself amused him, hence he felt curious about him.

"His name's Zeke Hoover, he came with the Earl family. I think he's a friend of the youngsters." A young lady by his right replied.

"Hoover, I don't think I've heard of that family name before, do you know of it?" Gerald asked while rubbing his beard.

"No, I don't think he's from this city," The young lady shook her head.

"Hmm, well, he's going to have a hell of a time when 'that' segment starts,' The older lady said gently.

"It should be about time now, I think," The young lady said before giving Grey a pitiful glance.

Ten more minutes went by and a middle-aged man walked forward, he announced that it was time for presenting gifts to Gerald Lenz.

'Crap! I forgot about this,' Grey's face twitched a little.

This was the first time he was attending a birthday ceremony of this caliber. He had followed Klaus to one of the ones he forced him to at Lunar City, but it was for a young man, and he didn't stay long.

He immediately started going through his spatial ring if he could find anything good to offer to Gerald as a birthday gift. After going through his storage ring, he decided against it. The only thing he had in abundance was elemental weapons, but those weren't something someone of Gerald's status would see any value in since he could get them at any time.

Other than that, he had some extremely valuable treasure, like the liquid extracted from the blooming viper which had amazing healing capabilities, but bringing out any of such treasures would instantly put him in danger since he wasn't from any of the big families here.

Grey stayed in his seat while the Earl girls went over to offer their gifts, even Randel brought a gift. After drawing so much attention previously, most people stared at him, waiting for him to stand up, but to their surprise, he didn't move an inch.

Chapter 312 - Not Interested!

"Heh! He's just a poser, he didn't even bring a gift for old man Gerald."

A few of the young men started poking fun at Grey when they realized he didn't bring a gift. He wasn't the only one who didn't bring a gift, but after drawing so much attention, he was the one who stood out the most.

Sasha looked at Grey, amused by his current situation. However, she was left disappointed when she realized he wasn't the least bit fazed by it. He was even eating what was left of his food, not bothering to look at the people speaking.

'A foodie?' She thought to herself.

This was the second time she was encountering Grey, and from what she has deduced, he was a lover of food.

At the front table.

"He doesn't seem to be bothered by the hate he's currently getting," Gerald chuckled softly while looking at Grey who was almost taking all the attention on his birthday.

"He wouldn't be so unconcerned soon," The older lady said.

"Hehe," Gerald laughed but didn't say any further.

He knew Grey had nothing to worry about. He's more curious how Grey planned on handling being public enemy number one.

The Earl sisters came back along with Randel after giving their gifts.

Grey sensed someone approaching him, he raised his head to see an elegant young man walking towards him with a smirk. He shook his head before looking away.

'I didn't even do anything to them, yet they're all hating me,' He complained internally.

He noticed he had been getting hate glares from some of the young men at the ceremony. Without being told, he could tell the young man walking in his direction is one of his haters.

"What do you want?" Grey asked while still looking in the Earl sisters' direction.

The young man who stood behind Grey felt disrespected because Grey didn't even bother to look at him when speaking.

He swallowed his anger before asking, "How useless can you be to come to a birthday party without even bringing a gift for the celebrant?"

The young man raised his voice to ensure he got the attention of everyone. His plan was to disgrace Grey in the presence of everyone, as well as make him look bad in front of old man Gerald and the girls.

"Is this your birthday party?" Grey asked unperturbed by the unwanted attention the young man was bringing his way.

"N..." The young man almost choked on his answer. But he summoned the courage to answer, "No,"

"Then why are you here clamoring for gifts?" Grey asked while taking a sip of the wine on the table, still not giving the young man a glance.

"You... you're disgracing the Earl family with this attitude," The young man said pointing at Grey.

"Are you from the Earl family?" Grey asked with a sneer.

The young man was currently at a loss for words hearing Grey's question. The answer to this question was also no, if he says no then Grey would just say it was none of his business.

All his plans were ruined by a simple question from Grey. Now everyone was looking at him as if he was a fool. It would have been okay if he was able to disgrace Grey, but having the outcome turned on him the moment he went there made things worse for him.

"Go back to your seat, stop disgracing yourself," Grey continued when he saw that the young man couldn't speak any further.

The young man looked around with a long face, "How... how can you come here with the Earl family and disgrace them?"

Grey stopped answering him entirely and focused on his wine, savoring the taste with eyes closed.

"He's not from this city and knew nothing of the birthday celebration. We only invited him when we saw him a few days ago," Aldreda spoke up when she saw the young man planning on continuing his taunts which Grey clearly wasn't bothered with.

"How could you bring a stranger to..."

"Are you really that desperate?" Grey interrupted the young man when he saw how far he was taking it.

After asking the question. He glanced at the young man from the side of his eyes.

The young man stood rooted when he saw Grey's stare, it was like he was looking at a grim reaper waving at him. He gulped before unconsciously retreating to steps.

Gerald and everyone else was watching the scene attentively. They didn't miss the part where a single glance from Grey sent the young man retreating in fear.

Gerald looked at Grey again before looking at the middle-aged man who was in charge of announcing the events in the ceremony. He nodded to give him the go-ahead to continue with the ceremony.

The middle-aged man quickly stepped forward and coughed twice to draw the attention of the crowd, "It's gotten to 'that' part of the ceremony once again. This time, we made sure to make a bigger platform to ensure everyone can use their full abilities,"

Grey gave the girls an inquisitive look. Aldreda quickly explained what the middle-aged man meant by 'that part of the ceremony'. Apparently, old man Gerald enjoyed watching youngsters spar, so whenever he celebrates his birthday, he would always have this segment at the end of the celebration.

The young man who was trying to disgrace Grey had long disappeared.

While Aldreda was explaining to Grey, the crowd all stood up and moved to the western part of the villa. There was a space that spanned at least four hundred square meters. A two hundred meter platform was placed in the center.

'A jade platform, damn!' Grey exclaimed inside when he saw the platform.

Jade might not be the hardest type of stone, but it was extremely difficult to destroy. Only an Earth Elementalist in the Overlord Plane could easily make jade. Grey was already very close to being able to make jade.

The crowd all took their seats around the platform, before the middle-aged man climbed onto the platform.

"I presume most of you know the rules, but since some of you are new, I'll go over it again..."

The rules of the battles were simple, anyone who first stepped onto the platform could challenge anyone they wanted. During the battle, as soon as one party is unable to continue or admits defeat, the battle is stopped.

Death was not allowed in the battle, and although there are mistakes since it's a battle after all. If the judges find out that the act of killing the opponent was deliberate, then the other party would be punished according to the rules.

"Interesting, this should be entertaining," Grey mumbled.

He could already almost foresee the number of challenges he would get. It wasn't hard to guess given the number of people who were currently looking at him with fiery eyes. The young man who previously walked up to him was staring at him with killing intent.

'If looks could kill, then you'd be dead by now,' Void snickered at Grey's misfortune.

'Being handsome is such a headache,' Grey replied with a shrug.

As soon as the middle-aged man announced for the battles to start, the young man who previously walked up to Grey was the first to get to the platform. Everyone naturally expected this, and most of the people wanted to see Grey's strength hence they let this guy go first.

"I challenge Zeke Hoover," The young man announced loudly.

The crowd turned to Grey's location, only to see him staring at the young man with an amused smile.

"Not interested"

Chapter 313 - I'll Be Back!

"What?!" The young man exclaimed with eyes almost bulging out.

"I'm not interested. What's so hard about understanding that?" Grey said with a wave of his hand.

He rested his back on his seat before raising his leg and putting it on the empty seat by his side. After he got into a comfortable position, he started picking his nose.

His nonchalant attitude about the challenge sent the young man hysteria, he almost pulled his hair out from frustration. Just when he thought he was about to have his revenge, Grey rejected the challenge without a second thought.

"You... you... you coward!" He stuttered while pointing at Grey.

Grey removed his finger from his nose, after looking at it, he flicked it repeatedly before looking at the young man on the platform.

"I'm not interested, go play with someone else." He repeated.

The young man looked at Grey speechless. The crowd was just as surprised as he was, not expecting Grey to ignore the young man so blatantly.

Sasha, the Earl sisters as well as Randel looked at him in shock. Of all the people here, they were the ones who could say they had come in contact with him, and he didn't show such an attitude.

Gerald chuckled seeing how Grey was handling the issue, "He's doing better than I thought,"

"He's literally doing nothing," The young lady who was previously accompanying him at the pavilion said.

"Well, what did you expect him to do? You see, I also feel his choice of not fighting is the correct one." Gerald stated calmly.

"Huh! Why do you say so?" The young lady asked, a little confused.

"Do you think this will be the only battle he would fight if he agrees?" Gerald asked.

The young lady looked at the young man standing on the platform, then at the crowd. She could see there were a few who were eager to see the young man fight against Grey. If Grey were to accept this battle, it meant he was paving the way for the others to challenge him as well.

"He is such an interesting and calculative individual, only a few people his age can match that," Gerald praised.

The group who were accompanying him all nodded in approval of his remark towards Grey.

Grey on the other hand didn't think of anything when he rejected the young man's challenge, he just didn't want to go through the hassle of fighting him. Even if he didn't have any issues with the young man previously, he would've still rejected the challenge.

"You're not a man, how can a real man reject a challenge so easily?" The young man continued taunting, but this time, he was met with deaf ears.

Grey didn't even bother to spare him a glance anymore, rather, he changed his attention to the Earl sisters and started talking about something else. Elda felt a little awkward, but Aldreda immediately started speaking with him.

One minute went by with Grey not responding to the young man who was standing on the platform. With nothing left to do, the young man left the platform with his head dropped low. For the second time in little over five minutes, Grey had disgraced him once again.

The entire place fell into an awkward silence due to Grey not fighting.

The next challenger stepped onto the platform a few seconds later after the young man left and challenged someone from one of the three big families. They were both in the Ninth stage of the Arcane Plane.

After they fought for almost ten minutes, the young man from one of the big families won by a small margin. Their battle managed to quell the awkwardness that Grey's refusal to battle caused.

The next battle started immediately right after, with two people in the Early stages of the Origin Plane battling.

Grey watched all the battles with little to no interest, he spoke with Aldreda almost during the entire time these battles were going on.

Thirty minutes later.

"I challenge Zeke Hoover!" A young lady announced as she stepped on the platform.

Grey, who was in the middle of speaking with Aldreda totally forgot that was his name, so he continued speaking.

"I challenge Zeke Hoover!" The young lady said again, this time, heading in Grey's direction.

"Huh!" Grey exclaimed slightly when he saw someone standing in front of him.

He looked at the face of the young lady, she had flawless skin, fiery amber eyes, black hair that was tied in two ponytails. Looking at her, he felt she looked a little familiar, he just couldn't figure out where he saw her.

"Uhhh... can I help you?" He asked while looking around. He felt a little strange when he realized everyone was staring at him.

'Why are they staring?' He asked internally.

"I challenge Zeke Hoover," The lady said while staring straight into his eyes.

Grey thought after refusing the young man, no one else would challenge him, but to his surprise, he was challenged. The only thing he found good about it was that he wasn't challenged by a man, at least this showed the lady truly wanted to battle him and not because of any grudges.

"As much as I'd like to accept your challenge, I'll have to decline." He refused her politely.

"Fine, I challenge Aldreda Earl," The young lady shifted her gaze to Aldreda.

She was in the Early stages of the Origin Plane, just like Aldreda, but she is two stages above her.

Grey looked at her, before shifting his gaze to Aldreda. He had the intuition of not interfering, but he couldn't bring himself to allow Aldreda to fight against the young lady. The young lady was clearly targeting her because he refused to fight against her.

"I..." Aldreda tried speaking but was instantly cut short by the young lady.

"What? You want to refuse like this spineless guy right here?" The young lady jested while pointing at Grey, looking at him in disgust.

Grey shook his head wryly, if he were alone, he wouldn't be bothered with being called spineless. But letting it affect Aldreda was something he couldn't stand.

"You know what, I accept your challenge. But I have to warn you, I don't spar with people I don't like, I fight." He said coldly.

"What's the difference?" The young lady asked mockingly.

"It means one of us will most likely die" Grey slowly, with a cold smile on his face.

He was naturally unafraid of anyone here, except for those in the Overlord Plane. There were only eight people in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane, and three in the Seventh stage; these were all people he was confident he would be able to defeat easily one on one.

The young lady didn't back down when she heard, instead, she pushed on, "Just what I wanted,"

"If I may ask, do you have anything against me?" Grey asked.

Given the level of everyone here, they didn't have any problems overhearing Grey and the young lady's conversation. Grey agreeing to fight came as a surprise to them, but they were taken aback when he said one of them would die.

"She's the sister of William," Aldreda said to Grey who was about to head to the platform.

"William? Who's William?" Grey asked with a questioning look.

"The guy who challenged you,"

"Oh! No wonder I thought she looked so familiar." Grey nodded before adding, "I'll be back."

Chapter 314 - Twenty Seconds

Grey stood on the platform, staring at the young lady who was standing before him.

The young lady's brother who previously challenged Grey suddenly stepped forward, "You coward! You couldn't fight against me, but you agreed to fight against my sister who's weaker..."

"Oh, I was just about to call you over. Beating her wouldn't satisfy my current d?s?r?, why don't you join her?" Grey tilted his head to the side to look at the young man.

"Hmph! Do you think you can defeat me?" William snorted before stepping into the platform.

The middle-aged man who was in charge of the rules was about to step in, but Gerald stopped him. He wanted to see how Grey would be able to handle this issue.

William was among the few people who were in the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane, added to his sister who's in the Third stage, he didn't think Grey's chances of winning would be high. In fact, he believed Grey would most likely lose, miserably.

William is from the Smith family, being someone who's only twenty-five years old but already in the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane, it showed how hard he trained. Well, he couldn't compare him with Grey who didn't seem to be even twenty yet but was already in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane. But he still felt Grey would lose if he fought against the siblings.

"So much for being calculative," He muttered quietly.

On the platform, Grey was facing off against both siblings.

'*Phew* This better be worth it,' He thought internally.

Fighting here is almost the same as revealing his identity, since the Emperor's people were in Frost City, then they would obviously be here as well. While he was speaking with Aldreda previously, one of the topics they mostly spoke about was Gerald.

His current plan is simple, find a way to get Gerald behind him. He didn't know how long he would be staying in Frost City, and the longer he stays, the more dangerous it becomes. But if he could have ties with someone as powerful as Gerald, then he wouldn't need to worry about anything else and focus fully on finding Alice.

"Are you ready?" He asked the duo standing before him.

His confidence stunned the crowd as well as the duo in front of him. Other than those in the Overlord Plane, the rest thought he was a First stage Origin Plane Elementalist, so they didn't know where his confidence was coming from.

"I really want to see if you can continue talking in this manner in a few seconds' time," William snickered.

To him, Grey was dead. He already planned to kill him after they left this villa, but since Grey had presented him the chance to put him through pain, then he didn't mind taking it.

Grey smirked before taking a step forward, as soon as his foot touched the ground, his cultivation stage increased by one. He took another step, and his cultivation stage increased by one again. After taking the fifth step, his stage had increased by five, putting him in the Sixth stage of the Origin Plane.

"What?!"

Sasha, the Earl sisters, Randel, and every other individual in the Origin Plane exclaimed in shock. Only a few who had been informed beforehand about Grey's real cultivation stage didn't feel surprised.

"Is this where..." William who was about to speak stopped mid-way, his pupils dilated as his hairs stood on end.

Without delay, he immediately retreated three steps back and stood on his sister's left-hand side, raising his left hand before him, a lightning wall appeared before him.

Bam! Bang!

The sound of something making contact rang out, followed by an explosion.

Grey used the wind element to stabilize himself mid-air before doing a flip and landing on his feet.

"A Lightning Elementalist, he's pretty fast," He muttered to himself.

This was the first time his surprise attack failed, but he didn't dwell in it.

William was able to control himself, so just like Grey, he landed on his feet. His sister on the other hand was a little less fortunate, she had a slower reaction speed, so before she could comprehend what was going on, she was sent flying by the force of the explosion.

She landed on her back, before bouncing a few times. Had the platform been only fifty meters long, then she might've bounced out of it.

"So fast!"

Everyone sucked in a cold breath of air. Just like William's sister, people with lower stages couldn't comprehend what just happened. All they saw was Grey taking a step, and the next thing was that he appeared some distance away accompanied by a loud explosion. Other than that, they also saw William's sister crashing on the platform.

Gerald squinted his eyes and started reaccessing Grey once again, from his single attack, he noticed him using two different elements.

What caused the explosion was Grey covering his hand with his fire element when he saw the lightning wall blocking his path. Then he also used the wind element to stabilize himself so he could land properly after being sent flying by the aftereffect of the explosion.

William reacted quickly just like the first time, but this time, his face was covered in horror.

A large fire snake was currently making its way towards him very quickly, while multiple fire arrows shot towards his sister who was still trying to stand up from the ground.

Boom! Bam!

The lightning wall William made in front of him couldn't block Grey's fire snake, so it exploded once again. The impact sent him flying, his sister who was struck by the fire arrows shot straight out of the platform, slamming into the empty seats by the side.

William crashed into the ground, and just as his body bounced up, Grey appeared before him and delivered a kick to his midsection that sent him flying in his sister's direction.

Bang!

William slammed onto the empty seats as well, just two meters away from his sister.

Twenty seconds, all it took was twenty seconds and Grey completely dominated the siblings. One has to recall that although William's sister was weak, William himself was by no means weak, not even those in the Seventh stage could beat him this easily.

"He won the battle with the first strike, unbelievable," Gerald said, shocked.

This wasn't the outcome he predicted, no one expected this to happen. Grey literally just manhandled the siblings, and they couldn't even fight back. They weren't even able to defend, much less fighting back.

"What... what just happened?" Aldreda asked with a stunned expression.

But she was met with no reply, her sisters, as well as Randel, were looking at Grey in a dumbfounded state. They were not the only ones not speaking, the entire place was deathly quiet that one could even hear a pin drop.

Grey looked at the location where both siblings landed, before shaking his head. Although he warned he would kill them, he didn't actually kill them.

"Anyone else?" He asked while looking at the crowd.

His question was met by the same deathly silence. Everyone was staring at him, but no one could say a word.

Chapter 315 - Ruthless!

Grey stood at the platform for fifteen more seconds, with no one else stepping up for his challenge, he decided it was time to leave and allowed others to continue fighting.

Before leaving, he glanced in Gerald's direction. Seeing the stunned expression on his face, he smiled before walking out of the platform.

As soon as he left the platform, he suddenly sensed a strong aura launching in his direction, but he made no efforts to dodge or even look in the direction of the aura.

"Hmph! This is not the Smith family villa, know your position," Gerald snorted coldly before exploding out with his own terrifying aura.

The figure that was launching towards Grey stopped a few meters away from him, cowering in fear, knowing fully well that the Lenz organization was not something their family could fight against. They stood zero chances against them.

The figure turned out to be a middle-aged woman, who quickly apologized, "I'm? sorry for my misconduct,"

When she was done apologizing, she looked at Grey, "Cherish the time you have left boy, it's not going to last."

"Heh!" Grey scoffed as a response before taking his seat. After taking his seat, "You should hurry while they're still alive, it would be a shame if they died with you here."

Gerald's intervention currently shows his plan was going accordingly, if things fall through, this section of the ceremony would end soon.

"Hmph!" The woman snorted coldly before flying in the direction of William and his sister, on getting there, her pupils dilated and she instantly turned to look at Grey who had a devilish smile on his face.

The current condition of the duo was not very good, each of their elemental beads was cracked, and essence was slowly sipping through. Healing the crack on the beads is something that has been seen as almost impossible. With the crack on their elemental beads, their cultivation stage will slowly start receding, before finally taking them back to the Arcane Plane.

In the history of the entire continent, there have been only two cases of people who have been able to mend their cracked elemental bead.

According to what was written on the records, what they used to heal it was a rare natural treasure. Presently, this treasure hasn't been found in over three thousand years. The duo found it by accident at that time, but as things stand, the Smith siblings have no way of mending it.

"You bastard!" The woman couldn't contain her anger and exploded out with a pressure she sent towards Grey's position.

"If I recall correctly, I remember saying I don't spar with people, not killing them was the best I could do," Grey said casually.

It was almost like the pressure the woman sent his way was nothing. This once again shocked all the Overlord Plane experts in the ceremony.

'Crap! I'm going all in, if this guy doesn't reach out to me, I'm doomed.' He thought worriedly inside, but he still kept his calm and collected outward expressions. He couldn't afford to show any signs of fear in this state.

Since they were previously in the Origin Plane, they might get lucky to get a bonus fifty years, but that's it.

A normal human can live within eighty to one hundred years, those who are extremely healthy could live as much as one hundred and fifty. Well, this is for those few who fail to awaken their elements. As soon as one awakens their elements, their body becomes naturally healthier, this means even without cultivating, they can get to one hundred and fifty years.

The lifespan of a Collection Plane Elementalist is two hundred years, once the Elementalists breakthrough to the Fusion Plane, it increases by one hundred years more, another breakthrough in Plane bumps it to four hundred years. But as soon as the Elementalist gets to the Origin Plane, it increases by three hundred years, raising it to seven hundred years in total. Getting to the Overlord Plane almost doubles that figure, only going short by two hundred years.

Grey watched on as the lady took the siblings out of the villa, he couldn't say he regretted what he did. One of the reasons he was this ruthless was because he knew William would definitely attack him when he leaves this place, the second reason was that the Smith and Reiss family weren't on good terms. He might not be part of the Reiss family, but since Alice was there, that was enough.

Just like Grey predicted, the ceremony came to an abrupt end thirty minutes after the Smith family left.

"You shouldn't have done that," Elda said as the group walked towards the exit of the villa.

Grey noticed there was a change in her tone, it wasn't as friendly as it used to be. He also noticed she stopped Aldreda from speaking to him on multiple occasions since he came back from the platform.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing. Also, I totally understand the change in your attitude," He said, not trying to explain himself.

While the group was still walking, Sasha walked up to them, "Zeke Hoover, the last time I saw you, you were munching away in my Inn. Now, here you are, making an enemy of the Smith family,"

"I think it should be the other way around," Grey replied with a chuckle.

"For someone who hid his appearance, you seem very confident," Sasha said while wearing a curious expression.

"For someone who sent people after me, you seem very carefree," Grey replied with a slight smile.

Sasha was about to reply when the middle-aged man who was in charge of the ceremony approached them.

"Zeke Hoover, master Gerald would like to see you," The middle-aged man said as soon as he got there.

"Guess this is where I bid you farewell. We shall meet again, Zeke Hoover," Sasha turned and walked back to her group before exiting the villa.

"You can leave, I'll be fine. I hope we meet again," Grey said to the Earl sisters before turning to the man.

Aldreda wanted to speak, but Elda held her hand before shaking her head. With that, the Earl sisters left the villa.

"Shall we,"

Chapter 316 - Threat To All

Grey was led by the middle-aged man into the main building in the villa. It had a very simple but exquisite decoration, but he didn't have time to appreciate it, his mind was currently filled with what to say to Gerald.

He needed his help, but he knew this was no way Gerald was just going to help him.

'How can I convince him?' He thought as the middle-aged man stopped in front of a golden double door.

Knock! Knock!

The middle-aged man knocked twice before opening the door for Grey to head in. Grey exhaled before stepping through the door.

On walking into the room, he was surprised to see three people there instead of one. He recalled seeing the other two faces at the ceremony, they sat close to Gerald during the entire ceremony. It was both ladies who were with him at the ceremony.

Gerald was seated on the chair behind the desk, the older lady was seated opposite him, while the younger one was seated on the couch in the office.

"Welcome, Zeke Hoover, or should I say Grey Dawson," Gerald said after Grey stepped into the room.

Grey was taken aback but he didn't show any change in his expression, "You seem to be very well informed,"

"For someone my age, I make sure to investigate the background of everyone who seeks my attention," Gerald said while pointing at the couch in the office.

Grey took his seat while giving the young lady a quick glance, "Since you know who I am, no need to beat around the bush, I need your help,"

"With what?" Gerald asked curiously.

"The Emperor is searching for me, and seeing how desperate he is, I don't think it will turn out to be anything good for me. If he were only searching for me, then I wouldn't be too bothered, but apparently, he's searching for my friends as well."

"I was able to get to one of my friends before his people got to him. Since you've done your research, then you should know why I'm here in Frost City," Grey explained.

"You're searching for the little lass from the Reiss family, I presume?" asked Gerald.

Grey nodded with a serious expression.

"Hmm, why do you think I will help you?" Gerald looked at Grey curiously, waiting for a reasonable reply.

"Well, to be honest, I'm not a hundred percent sure you will. This is me taking a risk for my friend. It's either I take the risk of coming to you, or sneaking into the Reiss family compound." Grey said.

"From my point of view, sneaking into the Reiss family compound seems to be a better option than coming here, at least you could be protected by the fact that you're friends with the little lass. But here, you have nothing to hide behind,"

"Two reasons, firstly, an opportunity to create ties with such a big organization, secondly, mutual benefits," explained Grey.

"Huh?" The young lady by the side looked at Grey with a questioning look.

"What can I benefit from you?" He asked Grey.

"If my presumption is correct, the reason the Emperor is searching for me and my friends is because he sees us as a threat. I can't say I'm one hundred percent sure, but I'm at least forty percent sure. For someone the Emperor sees as a threat, I don't think I need to explain any further, do I?" Grey asked calmly.

While he was speaking with the Earl sisters, he found out from Aldreda that the reason the Lenz organization was so powerful and feared was because of the ties they had with some terrifying individuals. The organization creates ties with people they see have the potential to be great, and in turn, gets them to be on their side.

"And if your presumption isn't correct?" Gerald answered with a question of his own.

"It doesn't change anything, I don't need your help with going against the Emperor, I only need to find my friend and make sure she's alright. This is a deal where you have nothing to lose, and I'll owe you a favor. Well, that's on the premise we aren't friends," Grey replied with a smile.

"You do have the potential to be great, but do you think the Emperor will allow you to grow? From what I know, the Qilin empire isn't the only one searching for you," Gerald said.

"What?" For the first time, there was a visible change in Grey's expression.

"All four empires are searching for you, some of them have even come to us for information regarding you. So, why do you feel I wouldn't hand you over to them right now?" Gerald asked while pressuring Grey with his full Late-stage Overlord Plane cultivation.

Grey looked at him, lost for words. He didn't know what to say, because this had gone beyond his expectations.

'Why are the other empires searching for me? Could it be that they also found out about the Great Earth Essence Liquid?' He asked himself in shock.

"I assume you know why they're searching for you?" Gerald asked Grey.

Grey shook his head, he could guess it was because of the Great Earth Essence Liquid, but he wanted to see if Gerald knew why.

"You found something that will make you a threat not just to the Qilin empire, but all four empires. But it seems only the Qilin empire is searching for your friends, the others are only looking for you." Gerald explained while taking a sip of the tea on his table.

Grey sat still, looking at Gerald. This discovery was out of his expectations, never would he have thought that the other empires would be searching for him.

'But how? Other than the Darkness Elementalist, no one else knew of me taking the Great Earth Essence Liquid,' He thought worriedly.

He didn't think the group from the Blue Wind empire who assisted Quinn and his group knew the Great Earth Essence Liquid was with him, the only time he said he had it was when he killed Quinn.

"Could someone have heard me?" He muttered quietly to himself.

"You still haven't answered my question, why do you feel I wouldn't hand you over to them right now?" Gerald asked once again.

Chapter 317 - Scared!

"If you wanted to, I won't be sitting here," Grey replied.

He felt fearful when he heard all four empires were looking for him, but he could tell Gerald didn't plan on handing him over.

"You're calmer than I expected, but you're not wrong. If I wanted to hand you over, then I'd have done that after finding out about you," Gerald chuckled, impressed by Grey's cool-headedness.

Others would freak out if they found out that not one, but four empires sees them as a threat.

"Is there a reason for that?" Grey asked curiously.

Gerald's decision of not handing him over showed him there was some hope in creating ties with him, he could also sense he didn't have any malicious intentions towards him.

"Do you really want to know?" Gerald asked with a straight expression.

Grey nodded.

'If I don't want to know, then why would I bother asking?' He thought to himself but refrained from speaking it out.

"I'm scared," Gerald shook his head with a wry smile.

"Huh!"

Grey and the two ladies in the room looked at Gerald in surprise.

"This wasn't the answer you expected, right?" Gerald asked before standing up from his chair, walking towards the window.

"Let me tell you a story, fifty-five years ago..." He started speaking while looking out the window with both hands behind his back.

On one of his journeys, he encountered a man at an old ruin. They clicked so they were together through most of the exploration. There were others there as well, and all of them were Overlord Plane Elementalists, all eighteen people there. The person with the lowest stage among them turned out to be the man, he was also the youngest.

The man refused to hand the book over since he nearly died in a trap while trying to obtain the book. A scuffle broke out between the man and the other sixteen people. Gerald didn't fight against him nor did he assist him, rather, he walked to the side. According to him, that was the best choice to make.

But when the fight started, he got the greatest scare of his life. The man who was in the Fourth stage of the Overlord Plane went toe-to-toe against sixteen people. Each of these sixteen people was at least a stage above, yet he went toe-to-toe with them.

That was the first time Gerald saw a Light Elementalist. The man in his story was none other than Grey's Teacher, Chris.

Chris not only fought against them being in a lower stage, but he also defeated them, killing all of his opponents. Among the sixteen people, there was one in the Eighth stage of the Overlord Plane, but he didn't stand a chance against the rampaging Chris.

Gerald watched in terror as Chris killed every single one of his opponents. When he was done fighting, he looked in his direction, and he stumbled in fright when he saw his eyes.

Chris approached him, and he immediately started explaining his reason for not helping out. To his surprise, Chris didn't even bother with him and went to sit by the side to recover. After that exploration, he managed to create ties with Chris.

Since then, he had been the one giving Chris most of the information he needed, especially for his explorations.

"Now you see why I said I'm scared? If Chris were to find out I handed his precious student to the Emperor, I'd most likely be the first one he kills. I don't think even the organization can stop him from killing me." Gerald said after telling them the story.

"Dad, he might be strong, but I don't believe he can go against the organization," The young lady who was sitting on the couch with Grey stood up and said.

"Hehe, you do not know him, child. I've seen him almost wipe out one of the oldest families in the Qilin empire because of a piece of roasted rabbit. Apparently, one the heir of the family smacked the rabbit out of his hand into the water," Gerald shook in terror as he recalled the bloody scene.

'Damn! Thank God Teacher's temper is better now.' Grey said to himself with his back soaking in sweat when he recalled the day he stole Chris' roasted rabbit.

"He almost wiped out an entire family all because of a rabbit?" The young lady asked, not wanting to believe what her father was saying.

"A very small piece, his temper is very unpredictable. The Emperor sent people after him, but he killed them as well. After killing a few high-ranked individuals in the empire, the Emperor decided to let the matter slide after he apologized." Gerald stroked his beard as he said.

"Isn't that a bit too excessive, also, how come I don't know of this?" The young lady asked.

"Simple, the Emperor kept it under wraps. Of course, Chris was punished, he also had to compensate the rest of the family," Gerald shook his head in pity.

The status the family enjoyed was reduced all due to the arrogant nature of a young lady. Chris' temper also had a role to play, but the family actually tried killing Chris after he killed the youth, hence his retaliation.

"Although Chris has a fiery temper, I've never seen him actually start a fight. All the killings he had done were all due to retaliation." Gerald explained to the trio in the office.

Grey who was hearing about his Teacher's deeds almost left his mouth wide open because of shock. This was the first time he was hearing about his Teacher's past, Chris never told him anything about himself, even after staying with him in the valley for most of the time.

Chapter 318 - Two Requests

"Does this mean you'll help me?" Grey asked hopefully.

When he first came here, he came with the confidence that things would go according to his plan. It was only after meeting up with Gerald did he know things weren't as they seem.

'Looks like even till now I still need to depend on Teacher. It's nice having such an amazing Teacher though,' He thought to himself while awaiting Gerald's response.

"Yes and no," Gerald replied.

Grey gave Gerald a questioning look when he heard his reply. The reply wasn't as straightforward as he wanted.

"Even though the Emperor doesn't want to offend us, it doesn't mean that I can actively go against him in his own empire. Doing that would incite rage among the other empires."

"All I can promise you is this, I can help you with information, as well as protect you while you're in Frost City, but that's it," Gerald explained.

"That's already more than I expected, thank you," Grey was elated when he heard this and instantly showed his gratitude.

At least with Gerald behind him, he could walk freely in Frost City. He didn't really plan on staying in Frost City anyway, as soon as he finds Alice, he would immediately leave this place.

Now his focus is handing the devices to his friends, once he's done with that, then he would focus on increasing his strength as he searches for his parents.

When the thought of his parents came into his mind, he suddenly had an idea. With the vast resources the Lenz organization has, they could help him with that. The fact that Gerald was able to quickly get information about him within the short space of half an hour showed this. Since he could do that, then he might be able to help him locate his parents while he's still here in Frost City.

"Sir Gerald, I have two requests. Firstly, given your status, you should be able to send for the family head of the Reiss family. According to what I've gathered, when the Emperor's people came, he told them Alice was not in Frost City, with his help I should be able to find her quickly." Grey explained.

"Oh, I see you've been busy. Such devotion towards a friend is quite admirable. I'll send for him, he'll come first thing in the morning." Gerald replied casually.

Seeing that Gerald agreed so easily surprised Grey. He thought he might brood over the matter, but he agreed so quickly.

"What's your second request?" Gerald asked when he noticed Grey wasn't saying anything.

"I need your help with locating my parents," Grey said with a serious expression.

"Hmm, I'm sorry kid, but that I can't help with. Remember when I said I did thorough research on anyone who wants to see me, that included your parents as well."

"You see, from what I've gathered, your parents only appeared in Red City some months before you were born. No one knows where they came from, it was like they appeared out of nowhere."

"Some years after your birth, your father disappeared. Your mother disappeared after you joined the Lunar Academy, there are no records of them anywhere else. The only reason I agreed to see someone like you who had a mysterious background is because Chris is your Teacher." Gerald took his time to explain to Grey.

'Then where did they come from?' He asked himself. He recalled he had a similar answer when he went to see Klaus' father the last time as well.

"Sorry if I'm asking too much, but can you tell me how you were able to gather so much within such a short time. The only you can get to know so much is if you communicated with someone in Red City, as well as Lunar City. Given the distance, it's impossible, unless..." Grey's eyes widened when he thought of a possibility.

"A communication device,"

Grey and Gerald said at the same time.

"Oh, you've heard about them as well?" Gerald asked curiously.

This was something that was made not too long ago, they were able to acquire it due to their influence. The one they had was a better version when compared to the one the group from the Azure empire used when Grey and his friends visited Zivia City.

"No, actually, I've been planning to make something like this. I just haven't been able to figure out the necessary arrays." Grey shook his head as he explained.

"Chris truly is your Teacher, the fact that you can think of this is quite fascinating. Here, you can take a look," Gerald fished out a plaque-like item before throwing it Grey's way.

Grey caught the item before curiously inspecting it. What happened next came as a surprise to Gerald and the two ladies.

The previous impression the young lady had of him died totally when she saw him in this state. It was like she was looking at an obsessed student who wouldn't stop learning until he found out the reason for something.

Another ten minutes almost passed before Grey managed to come back to himself. He looked around, confused by the stares he was receiving from the trio. It was only after a few seconds did he recall what happened.

"I'm sorry, it's just I've been bothered with making this for a while now, so seeing this intrigued me." He explained as he scratched the back of his head awkwardly.

"It's okay. You'll stay in the villa until you leave the city." Gerald replied with a smile.

"Thank you," Grey bowed to Gerald to show his gratitude once again.

This was more than he hoped for so he was pretty happy.

"Take him to the room on the right-wing," Gerald said to the young lady before turning to Grey again, "You can study the item for the night,"

He could tell Grey wanted to ask him this.

Grey was all smiles as he left the room. The only thing he didn't get from this visit was the location of his parents, other than that, he pretty much gained a lot from this.

Chapter 319 - I Take It Back

"What do you have that is making four empires search for you?" The young lady asked as she was taking Grey to the room he was going to stay in.

"I have no idea," Grey replied with a shrug.

"Stop playing dumb, I could tell from your expression that you knew why," The young lady said a little aggressively.

"I'm asking for your father's help, not yours. Since your father didn't ask, I see no reason why you're asking," Grey replied coldly.

"Hmph! Don't think I'm scared of your Teacher. I don't believe my father's scared as well, he's only helping because they are friends," The young lady said.

Grey threw a glance at the young lady and decided against speaking any further.

'Heh! Friends my foot.' He thought inside.

He was smarter than that, so he obviously knew there was a catch to Gerald helping him. From the story Gerald told them, he could already figure out he was someone that wouldn't do something that won't benefit him, hence he didn't help his Teacher when the group wanted to fight against him.

Grey knew the only reason Gerald became friends with his Teacher was because of his insane strength. For someone who could kill people who are four stages ahead of him while also fighting against others, it was unimaginable what he could do when he reached the peak of this world.

'If not for the fact that I really needed his help, I'd be out of here by now.' thought Grey.

'Void, come back. Can you spy on that guy in the Late stages of the Overlord Plane?' He asked.

Void, who was on his way back to the Reiss family compound, instantly halted.

'What about Alice?' He asked.

'I already have a way to get to her. Apparently, old man Gerald decided to help. The thing is, I can't really say I trust him.' Grey explained, before telling him the story Gerald told them.

'It will be a little strenuous, but I can.' replied Void.

'Okay, good. Remember how I said you were not allowed to steal the Emperor's crown previously?' Grey asked.

'Yeah,' Void nodded.

'I take it back, once I comprehend the space element, we'll sneak into the castle,' said Grey.

'Haha, great! I've always wanted that!' Void exclaimed happily.

Grey had a smirk on his face as he followed behind the young lady.

'Since the Emperor wants to kill me, then I don't mind playing with them and going into hiding. Well, that's all on the premise that I comprehend the space element and breakthrough to the Overlord Plane.' He thought.

Although he currently hates the Emperor and his family, he wasn't stupid to just charge towards them while he's still in the Origin Plane. Doing that was no different from a death wish.

But after comprehending the space element, and breaking through to the Overlord Plane, he was confident in being able to escape.

Grey wasn't bothered with her and immediately inspected the room before going in, he had to make sure there were no trapping arrays in it that might trap him after he stepped in.

He only walked in after five minutes. While he was inspecting the room, he noticed the young lady didn't actually leave but was standing by the side.

Before he walked in, he turned to her before waving and walking inside. He shut the door the moment he walked in and immediately started studying the communication device. There wasn't much time to study it, so he had to understand it tonight.

Outside the room.

After Grey walked into the room, the young lady who was hiding by the side walked out with a cold expression.

"Hmph! I don't see why dad decided to entertain such an arrogant person," She snorted coldly before walking away.

She headed back to the office they were previously in to tell Gerald of how Grey didn't trust them and inspected the room before going in.

"Well, the truth is, neither does his Teacher," Gerald shrugged.

"Then why are you helping them?" The young lady asked in confusion.

"The thing is this, we both have things to benefit from each other. Like Grey said the first time, mutual benefit. I don't need his trust, I only need his help when I want it." Gerald explained.

"Understand this, child. The reason we are so powerful is not that we have the trust of people, but favors. Of course, most of them trust us, but the really powerful ones know we're only using each other. As long as what I ask them to do doesn't go against what they want, they will help." He continued.

"I understand, father." The young lady replied with a lowered head.

"Also, I'm really scared of his Teacher. If the Emperor demands me to do something, I can chase him away, but Chris, that's another story. He is not someone I'd like to offend. The last time I saw him, he was already close to breaking through to the Sage Plane."

"For someone who can beat people while in the Mid-stages of the Overlord Plane, it's unimaginable what he could do after breaking through to the Sage Plane. He'll be unstoppable," Gerald said, a little fearful.

He couldn't deny the fact that he was dead scared of Chris.

Void had already made it back to the room before Gerald and his daughter started talking, so he heard everything.

'Wow, Grey's Teacher is a bigshot!' He exclaimed.

He didn't disturb Grey since he knew he was currently in his engrossed state, so speaking to him now would be a grave mistake.

Void stayed with them for the rest of the night, while Grey focused on trying to understand the array on the communication device.

Grey's room.

Pieces of papers could be seen across the table that was in the room, different array lines were drawn in all of them. Grey could be seen drawing some lines on a piece of paper in front of him.

"There, luckily, I managed to draw them all out,"

Chapter 320 - Donald Reiss

Knock! Knock!

Grey heard a knock on his door, and quickly kept the papers in his storage ring.

After keeping them, he walked towards the door and opened it.

"Well, you're early." He said with a smile.

"The Reiss family head is here," The young lady said blandly before turning around.

"How annoying," Grey muttered under his breath.

"What?" The young lady turned around and asked.

"Lead the way," Grey said before walking out of the room.

The young lady snorted coldly before turning around.

'Void, how did things go?' Grey inquired as he walked behind the young lady.

'Better than you think,' replied Void.

'Oh really, tell me about it.' Grey said.

'Looks like his fear for Teacher is genuine, at least that should guarantee my safety. Where's he now?' Grey asked.

'In an office, accompanied by Alice's father.' answered Void.

'How efficient, he was able to call him over this quickly.' Grey thought to himself.

A few minutes later, they got to the office after going through multiple hallways in the villa.

Creak!

The young lady opened the door to the office but didn't go in.

Grey entered the office and closed the door after entering, almost slamming it on the face of the young lady.

After entering, he looked around the office, Gerald was sitting on his chair as usual, and a middle-aged man could be seen sitting opposite him.

Both Gerald and the middle-aged man looked in his direction when they heard the door opening.

"You must be Grey?" Alice's father asked as Grey walked in.

He had a serious expression, with a deep voice that sounded just like his expression, serious. His blue eyes were the only thing Grey found he had in common with Alice.

"Yes," Grey nodded before walking closer.

He could see Alice's father was scrutinizing him as he stepped into the office.

"Old man Gerald said you wanted to see me because of Alice?" Alice's Father asked.

"Yes sir. I believe your daughter might be in danger, so I came to check on her to see if she's alright," Grey explained.

"Alice is not in the city. She left for a journey some weeks ago." Alice's father said gently.

"Sir, can you please tell me where she went? I know I shouldn't ask, but I need to make sure she's okay." Grey said.

Alice's father raised a brow when Grey asked this, his expression told Grey he was getting visibly angry with his question.

"Donald, cut him some slack. He came all the way to Frost City even though he knew the Emperor was searching for him, don't you think you should at least show him a bit of trust?" Gerald interrupted when he noticed the situation was going differently.

"No. From what I found out, he's the one who acquired the treasure. Why is the Emperor searching for my daughter then?" Donald replied.

"I don't know, but if my guess is correct, the Emperor must have guessed I shared it with my friends. I only have three friends, and your daughter is one of them." Grey answered his question before Gerald could reply.

"Hmph! What's this treasure that would make even the Emperor make a move?" Donald snorted.

"That's something I can't say," Grey shook his head.

"Then why should I trust you with my daughter's location? The thing is, I believe the Emperor would leave my daughter alone if I hand you over to him," Donald said while staring at Grey coldly.

Grey's expression changed when he heard this. He never expected Alice's father would be this difficult to get to.

"I'm not the enemy here, the Emperor is. Do you think the Emperor would let Alice go even if he gets me? He sees us as threats, threats to his supreme reign," Grey replied with a stubborn expression.

Gerald shook his head when he saw this, he already knew of Donald's stubbornness, especially when it has anything to do with Alice.

From Donald's point of view, telling Grey Alice's location would endanger her since they were also searching for her. That means if the Emperor were to capture Grey, then he could get Alice's location from him.

"I'm not going to tell you where she is, you should give up and leave Frost City while you still can," Donald said calmly.

"I'm not leaving this city until I find Alice, I don't care if you're her father or not," Grey said, looking straight at Donald.

There wasn't a bit of an atom of fear in his eyes, only stubbornness, and determination. He had made his stance clear. It's either you tell me where Alice is, or I find out myself.

Gerald looked at both parties before shaking his head, "Donald, stop playing with the boy's emotions. You can already see all he wants to do is to make sure his friend's safe."

"Please, can we have some privacy? I want to ask him some questions." Donald looked at Gerald.

"Fine, but make it quick. This is my office, after all," Gerald stood up and left the office.

After Gerald left, Donald focused his attention on Grey.

"What's the name of the treasure?" He asked again.

Grey looked at him but refrained from answering.

"If you want to know where Alice is, then I advise you to tell me. I've asked her this question as well, but she refused." Donald continued.

Two minutes later.

Donald and Grey could be seen walking out of Gerald's office. After going through the pros and cons, Grey decided to tell him the treasure.

He didn't tell him the number they acquired, and to his surprise, Donald didn't ask.

Donald had a look of incredulity on his face as he walked out, and Gerald guessed it must have something to do with the treasure.

"He'll be following me to my family compound," Donald said as they walked past Gerald.

Gerald nodded without any reply.

"Thank you for your help," Grey bowed to him when he walked close to him.

"It's nothing," Gerald waved it off.

He watched on as Grey left the villa with Donald.