

## Affinity 321

Chapter 321 - New Ability!

Frost City.

Reiss family villa.

A carriage could be seen entering the compound through the front gate. Donald and Grey were sitting inside the carriage.

The atmosphere in the carriage was a little tense. On the way here, none of them had spoken a word.

Back at Gerald's office, Grey took the risk of telling Donald the name of the treasure since Donald said if he didn't tell him, he wouldn't tell him where Alice is.

'How are things there?' Grey asked Void who was still watching over Gerald.

'Okay, his daughter seems to have a bad impression of you though. All she does is complain about you, should I... you know, take her out?' Void asked.

'No need. If things work out well, then I'll be out of here later today. I've already gotten some ideas on how to make the communication device, all I need to do is make it as I head over to Alice.' Grey rejected the idea of Void killing Gerald's daughter.

He couldn't say he liked her, but he didn't really hate her to the extent of killing her. He naturally knew not everyone would like him, so he wasn't bothered by her hate.

A few minutes later, they got to the building.

Grey and Donald highlighted the carriage. Coming out of the carriage, Grey was greeted by a familiar face.

"Zeke Hoover, I didn't think the next time we'd meet would be in my family compound." Sasha said with a smile.

"Hello, are you sure you're not stalking me?" Grey asked with a smirk.

"It's my family compound, I should be the one saying this," Sasha replied.

"Well, given how you're the one who always comes to me, I doubt that." Grey replied with a shrug.

"Dad, what's he even doing here?" Sasha turned to her father.

"He's the reason the Emperor is searching for Sasha," Donald pointed at Grey before walking into the building.

"That's an odd way to introduce someone," Grey complained quietly.

"Huh! You're Grey, Alice's friend?" Sasha asked in surprise.

Grey nodded before following behind Donald.

"Wait, then why did you say your name was Zeke Hoover?" Sasha asked as she chased after them.

Grey raised his shoulders as if saying 'I have no idea what you're talking about'.

"So you came here because of Alice, sorry to burst your bubble but she isn't in the city," Sasha said with a smirk when she saw him not responding to her.

"Why do you think I'm here?" Grey tilted his head to the side and asked.

Donald took Grey to an office before taking a seat. Sasha followed them into the office as well.

"Dad, you want to tell him where Alice is? You even refused to tell me." Sasha asked.

"Since you're here, I'll tell you as well." Donald said while looking at Grey and Sasha.

"Alice is in the building," He said in a low voice.

Grey raised a brow in suspicion, while Sasha looked at her father in confusion.

"But, but I saw her leave before the Emperor's people came," Sasha stood up from the couch.

"I got the intel that the Emperor would be sending people over, so I made a ruse so everyone would think she really left the city. Only I and your uncle know she's in this building," Donald explained.

The reason why Alice's light dot was in the building suddenly dawned on Grey.

"She's hidden somewhere in the building, no wonder," He muttered to himself.

"Yes, there's an underground room in the building. This is known only by a few people, people I know would rather die than to say anything about this to just enemies." Donald looked at Grey and Sasha with a serious expression.

"Can I see her?" Grey asked.

"No. I only told you I'll tell you where she is, I didn't say I'd allow you to see her. The only reason I agreed to tell you was because you took the risk of telling me what I wanted to know." Donald refused.

"If you wouldn't let me see her, then why did you tell me she's here?" questioned Grey.

"Firstly, because I promised to tell you where she is. Secondly, where is it?" Donald looked in Grey's direction with cold eyes.

Grey looked at his cold eyes before smirking, "I don't have it. I only acquired four, and I distributed it between myself and my friends."

"I don't think you understand the weight of your current situation. Now, let me rephrase myself, hand it over, or die," Donald placed his right hand on the table before he started tapping it repeatedly.

The sudden change in Donald's attitude stunned Sasha. She was just about to ask him to take them to Alice when he suddenly started threatening Grey.

"Like I initially said, I don't have it. Moreover, do you think I'd be stupid enough to take something like that with me wherever I'm going?" Grey replied with a calm expression.

Donald squinted his eyes, before unleashing the pressure of his cultivation Plane in Grey's direction.

The close distance between them made Grey feel the pressure firsthand. It was completely different from the one the woman from the Smith family sent his way.

But in the face of the chaos orb which he had absorbed, it was nothing. As soon as the pressure came his way, Grey noticed his elemental beads would revolve on their own, before sending out an aura that only he could sense.

Once the pressure comes in contact with the aura, it fades instantly, and passes through him. It was like he was never there.

He didn't notice this when the woman from the Smith family did this to him, maybe it was because she was only in the First stage of the Overlord Plane.

'Hmm, an ability to negate pressure from those in higher Planes than me. This is new,' He thought to himself with a smile.

Donald looked at him with a weird expression, not expecting he would be smiling when he unleashed his pressure on him.

'It must be because of the treasure, nothing else can make someone in a lower Plane feel so calm against my pressure,' He thought as greed flashed through his eyes.

Chapter 322 - Donald's Greed

"Dad, what are you doing?" Sasha yelled in terror. ;

"Stay out of this, Sasha. What he has can take our family to the top of the empire, no, the world." Donald replied before standing up. ;

"He's Alice's friend. And he said he gave it to her as well, wouldn't that mean that Alice can help us?" Sasha tried to stop her father from doing what he wanted to do. ;

"Sasha, what if he's lying? Then what? This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, we can not let it go," Donald explained. ;

"He's friends with Alice, you can't just make him an enemy when you can turn him into a friend," Sasha stood in front of Grey who was still sitting down. ;

'Oh, drama, how entertaining. To think the child is more pragmatic than the parent.' Grey thought to himself. ;

He wasn't the least bit bothered Donald would try to kill him. First of all, Donald needed the treasure, and only he knew where it was. Secondly, he already had a plan against this before coming. ;

"Sasha, you don't understand what's happening. The family isn't what it used to be. Why do you think we placed so much hope on Alice? If what he said is true, then Alice should already have the legendary violet elemental grade. What do you think would happen if she refines another one of the treasures?" Donald explained to Sasha. ;

"Violet grade?" Sasha said in shock. ;

"Yes, what he has can improve elemental grades. Why do you think Alice improved so much within such a short time? If she could improve it again, then wouldn't she grow stronger faster?" Donald continued speaking. ;

"A piece of advice, I don't think Alice would like the fact that you're threatening me," Grey suddenly spoke up. ;

He was tired of hearing Donald's justification. ;

'Greed will always have its way of manipulating people,' He thought to himself. ;

"I don't care if she hates me, I'll shoulder it all. But what I know is that she will not stand by and watch the family wither away." Donald continued speaking. ;

"No, I'm not in support of this idea of yours," Sasha stood in front of Grey, in a bid to protect him. ;

"No need to waste your time, he's already corrupted by greed," Grey held Sasha's shoulder before moving her to the side. ;After pushing her away, he added, "And besides, he wouldn't dare to kill me,"

"It's good you're cooperating," Donald said. ;

"Who said I'm cooperating? I'm only moving her away so I could look at you properly." Grey said, before adding, "I don't have the treasure, and on behalf of Alice, I'm disappointed in you," ;

Donald looked away when he heard Grey say he was disappointed in him on behalf of Alice. He knew Grey was right, doing this will most likely make Alice hate him forever, but this was a burden he was willing to bear for the family. ;

If Alice could be the strongest, they will not only go to the top, but they would even rule the world. A chance for his family to rule was not something he would allow a little hatred deter him from. Had Alice not absorbed the first one, then he would've absorbed them himself. ;

But since she had absorbed it, he felt it was more rational for her to use both. ;

"Sasha, go outside and lock the door." He ordered. ;

"Dad..."

"Sasha, now!" Donald ordered more authoritatively this time. ;

Sasha turned away from her father with disappointment in her eyes before heading out. She couldn't even look at Grey because she felt ashamed of her father. ;

Alice had told her of Grey and the others, so she was naturally looking forward to seeing one of Alice's friends. Never would she have expected it would turn out this way. Her father was threatening Grey's life for the benefit of her family. ;

Bang! ;

She slammed the door as she left, not bothering to lock it. ;

"Where did you keep it?" Donald asked. ;

"Like I said the first time, I don't have any more. Also, from what you said, I believe you should be building bridges, not burning them." Grey said coldly. ;

"I can not leave the future of my family in the hands of a stranger because he's my daughter's friend." Donald replied. ;

He naturally understood what Grey meant by what he said. But to him, he trusted his family more than outsiders. If anything were to happen, before anyone else would lend a hand, his family would be the one to fight first. ;

"I'll forget you threatened my life on account of my friendship with Alice. I do not have any more, and your daughter should know how highly I value my relationships."

"Would I take the risk of coming here if I didn't value her life? Think about it." Grey said a little annoyed by Donald's behavior. ;

"This is the last time I'm asking, where is it?" Donald didn't give in to his words. ;

"There's no more, you can ask your daughter if you think I'm lying." Grey replied with folded arms. ;

"Hmph! Then you're of no use," Donald snorted angrily before waving his hand.

Grey was sent flying by the force that was generated from that simple movement. ;

Bang! ;

He slammed into the wall of the office, creating a crevice in it. He didn't see Donald making use of any elements, yet just the force of his hands movement sent him flying. ;

'Is this the power of someone in the Overlord Plane?' He asked himself. ;

This was the first time he was being attacked by someone in the Overlord Plane, to think it would turn out to be his friend's father. ;

Donald looked at Grey a little surprised, he could tell Grey wasn't hurt by what he just did. The force he generated from that simple motion could kill a Peak Arcane Plane Elementalist, and wound an Origin Plane Elementalist. ;

"I really didn't hope it would get to this,"



## Chapter 323 - Did It For The Family

"I really didn't hope it would get to this," Grey said casually before turning towards the door, to the surprise of Donald.

"Where do you think you're going?" Donald asked with a long face.

"My ride's here, I'm heading back to old man's Gerald's villa," Grey replied before placing his hand on the doorknob.

Donald was about to attack to stop him from leaving before his expression suddenly changed and you looked outside.

Whoosh! Bang!

"Sorry, I had to destroy the window. Master Gerald will cover for the cost of the destruction," A middle-aged man said after flying through the window into the office.

The man stood between Grey and Donald as soon as he came in.

When Donald saw the man, his face turned darker.

"Diluc, what's the meaning of this?" He asked coldly.

"Nothing, I was sent to ensure his safety," Diluc shrugged before pointing at Grey.

"This is the Reiss family compound, do you really think only you can stop me?" Donald asked coldly.

"Of course not, I was only sent to show you how serious master Gerald is. For the safety of the boy, he doesn't mind going against a dying family," Diluc said nonchalantly.

Grey opened the door and walked out of the office to the dismay of Donald, he wanted to stop him, but he knew he couldn't since Diluc was there.

Diluc was regarded as one of the best geniuses Frost City had ever produced. He broke through to the Overlord Plane at the tender age of twenty-six, which was the youngest in the history of the entire city. He wasn't from any of the big families, rather, he was groomed by the Lenz organization, old man Gerald personally groomed him.

He could be said to be Gerald's greatest asset, sending him was a message to Donald. If anything happened to Grey, then he should prepare for a war he definitely cannot win.

Donald stared at the disappearing view of Grey, regret flashing through his eyes. He initially didn't think the relationship between Grey and Gerald would be this close. From his years of contact with Gerald, he didn't think he would take the risk of sheltering someone who the Emperor wanted to kill.

'For him to do this means the boy has someone terrifying behind him. Either that or the boy promised him something,' He thought to himself.

He just created an enemy out of greed, it was just as Grey said, this was time for building bridges, not burning them. But now he burned down a really important one.

'\*Sigh\* I hope Alice would understand, I only did it for the family,' Donald sighed before sitting down on his chair.

He seemed to have aged a bit just from the fear of who might be behind Grey, and how he would face his daughters again. Had his plan worked, he would've felt it was worth it, but now, he gained nothing from it.

Outside Donald's office.

After Grey left, he saw Sasha running towards the office hurriedly, almost bumping into him.

"You.. you're okay?" Sasha asked in surprise when she saw Grey walking out.

"Yeah, shouldn't I be?" Grey looked at her strangely.

"But... but my dad," Sasha looked behind him, trying to catch a glimpse of the office before the door shut completely.

"He let me go, I said it earlier, he wouldn't dare kill me," Grey waved it off.

"He just let you go?" Sasha asked again, surprise and confusion were very evident in her face.

"Yup, after speaking to him for a while, he decided to let me go," Grey nodded with a smile.

"That's strange, my dad isn't one who would easily change his decision," Sasha said in doubt.

She knew her father all too well, changing his mind was something she had never seen occur before. Once he's made up his mind to do something, especially one that he thinks is for the good of the family, he would never go against it, no matter what.

"I'm a very capable talker, although it was a little difficult, I was able to convince him in the end," Grey beat his chest in confidence.

"That... that has never happened before," Sasha still had some doubts about Grey's claim. She was finding it very difficult to believe.

"What if what I offered would greatly benefit him and your family, do you think he wouldn't change his mind?" Grey said with a curious smile.

"Well, if it would benefit the family, he would change his mind," Sasha nodded thoughtfully.

If it was just as Grey said, then her father would change his mind.

"I'm sorry for how he treated you earlier," She said after a while with her head hung low.

"Even if you managed to convince my father, he wouldn't apologize for what he did," She added.

Grey looked at Sasha before shaking his head wryly, if only Sasha knew he was lying. He could tell she was greatly disappointed in her father, this was why he said this. This was Alice's family after all, he didn't want to be the cause of a conflict between them.

"Don't let Alice know of what happened today, okay, given her fiery temper, I don't know what she would do," He said with a wry smile.

"If she were strong enough, she would attack our father," Sasha said with certainty to Grey's surprise.

"What?!" Grey exclaimed, he didn't think Alice would do that but seeing how certain Sasha looked, he felt she might be right.

"Has she attacked him before?" He couldn't help but ask before he continued walking.

The only reason he stood close to Donald's office while speaking with Sasha a few moments ago was to let him know he didn't really want anything bad for the family. He would get revenge later in the future, well, that all depends on how things pan out.

If Donald continued being the dickhead he currently was, then he wouldn't mind teaching him a thing or two when he had grown stronger than him. But if he changed, maybe, just maybe he might let him go.

Donald's office.

Donald and Diluc heard Grey and Sasha's conversation. Donald's hand was currently shaking from disappointment, he looked at his shaking hands in surprise.

"Thank you," He muttered quietly.

"To think you attacked him earlier," Diluc said before heading towards the window, "Goodbye, I'll send people over to fix the door."

Chapter 324 - Fight!

"Wait, why did she attack him again?" Grey asked stunned as he exited the building with Sasha.

"Because he refused to tell her a story," Sasha replied with a chuckle.

"If I remember correctly, you said she was only five at the time, right?" Grey asked in shock.

Sasha laughed out when she saw the expression on Grey's face, before nodding.

'Looks like she has been this way since she was young,' Grey thought as he shook his head on hearing about Alice's antics while she was younger.

They soon walked to the villa gate.

"Well, I'll have to go now before your dad snaps again. It was nice speaking to you, also, no need to ask, he didn't agree to let me see Alice," Grey said when he saw the questioning look on Sasha's face.

He waltzed out of the villa, stepping into the carriage Gerald sent to get him outside the Reiss family compound.

"How did you know he would attack you?" Gerald asked as soon as Grey stepped into the carriage.

"Simple, I've been doing my research on the Reiss family since I came here, and acquainting myself with the Earl sisters helped a lot," Grey replied.

Before leaving Gerald's office, he notified Gerald to get another device he could use to contact him. That way, if things went south, he could quickly contact him.

He found out from Void that Gerald was truly scared of his Teacher, so he knew he could count on him if his life were in danger. Seeing how quickly he reacted, he couldn't help but feel impressed. Fear truly is a powerful tool.

"Did you get what you wanted?" asked Gerald.

Grey nodded but didn't speak any further. He couldn't take the risk of telling Gerald. He might trust him with his life because of his Teacher, but not with Alice's.

"Good, how long will you be staying in the city?" Gerald asked.

"I need to stay a little longer, as soon as I'm done with my research, I'll leave," replied Grey.

"Okay, but I believe the Emperor will already be aware of your presence in the city. The mayor here is one of his lackeys," Gerald said.

"I know, I have a plan that will solve that," Grey said before telling Gerald his plan.

It wasn't really his plan per se, rather, it was Donald's plan. He would pretend to leave the city just like Alice, before sneaking back in.

"That's a brilliant idea," Gerald praised when he heard of his plan.

"Yeah, I need to be carefree while I'm working, so that's the best thing to do," Grey said.

"Okay, we'll go ahead with your plan, just inform me when you're ready," Gerald said after a while.

"I'll leave as soon as we get back to the villa," Grey said.

He wanted to stay behind for two reasons. Firstly, to make the communication device, the second reason made him feel more excited than the first reason, it was because he could feel he was very close to comprehending the space element.

Even till now, a place for the space element hasn't appeared in the chaos space, unlike the darkness element. He felt a little enthusiastic about the prospect of using the space element.

Once he comprehends it, he would try to see if he could sneak into the Reiss villa, with Void as his teacher, he would be able to quickly grasp the element once he comprehends it.

When they got to the villa, Grey left the carriage and headed straight to the hotel he previously stayed in. He wanted to retrieve his horse, before heading out.

Twenty minutes later.

Grey could be seen leaving Frost City riding on his horse. He soon disappeared into the horizon.

One hour later.

"Hmm, looks like they followed me all the way here," Grey, who was currently sitting under a tree, muttered quietly.

"Come out, I know you're here," He said.

Five men walked out of the bushes. Looking at them, he recognized one of them because of the scar under his eyes. They were the group who followed him after he spoke with Sasha the first time.

"Why are you following me?" Grey asked nonchalantly.

"To kill you. Attack!" The man who was the youngest of the group said immediately, without even giving Grey time to prepare himself.

Unfortunately for them, he had already prepared himself before he called out to them.

Three symbols lit up in the sky before attacking the group.

Grey attacked with his fire element as well while moving at a terrifying speed to escape the attacks the group sent his way.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

One of the men was hit by Grey's attack, and was immediately sent flying.

This has always been one of Grey's specialties when fighting, taking out an opponent with the first strike. His explosive speed and strength is very hard to defend against, especially when his opponent knew nothing of him.

When the others from the group looked at the man who was sent flying, they were shocked to see a hole in his chest.

"Dead?" One of the men said in surprise.

The man with the scar immediately turned to look at Grey, "You bastard, I'll kill you,"

"What did you originally plan to do if not kill me?" Grey asked with a smirk before attacking once again.

After he broke through, he felt even more confident against the group. Although he knew he couldn't defeat them quickly, he was certain of being able to kill them all.

With the high amount of elemental essence he has in store, he wasn't scared of the group being able to defeat him in a battle of attrition. Added with the blue vest, he wasn't scared of being hit by any of their attacks.



Diluc followed behind him to ensure his safety, he initially wanted to attack the group, but Grey told him to stay put.

Grey made sure to use only two elements, the ones Gerald saw him using in the birthday ceremony.

The fight went on with Grey constantly being on the attack against the group.

Chapter 325 - [Bonus ] Seal!

Bang!

A figure crashed into the ground to form a crater.

"How... how is he this powerful?" The man with a scar under his eyes asked with dilated pupils.

He couldn't believe a youth of Grey's age would be this powerful. What was more shocking was that Grey was two stages below him, and he wasn't the only one in the Eighth stage of the Origin Plane.

Of the group of five, currently four, two were in the Eighth stage, while the other two were in the Sixth and Seventh stage respectively. The last man who Grey had already killed was in the Seventh stage as well.

They had heard of Grey's might when he battled against William at Gerald's birthday ceremony, but seeing his strength firsthand was shocking, to say the least.

"Escape, we have to escape and report this," The man with a scar quickly came to a decision.

They were all people who usually walked the line between life and death. The job they did require this, so they naturally knew they would die one day or another.

"Scatter!" The man with the scar said after raising an ice wall to block Grey's fire arrows.

Boom!

The fire arrows quickly made short work of the ice wall, easily melting it.

As soon as the wall was destroyed, the group who were on their feet quickly made a break for it, leaving the guy Grey's strike hit not too long ago behind.

"Heh! Like I'll let you leave," Grey scoffed before spreading out both hands.

Four symbols lit up in the air. The symbols were all positioned in four different locations, forming a large two hundred and fifty meters square in the sky.

"Seal!" Grey spat out and lines shot from the symbols into the ground.

The symbols were currently hanging at least two hundred meters in the sky, but it didn't take up to a second before the lines touched the ground.

After the four lines simultaneously touched the ground, they immediately started spreading towards the left and right. Before long, they completed a square, trapping Grey and his opponents before they were able to leave the area.

Bam! Boom!

Three attacks rang out from three different locations, but the results were the same. Not even a scratch could be seen on the barrier-like cube the light made.

Grey casually walked to the center of the square, not too far from where the fourth man was lying on the ground, injured.

"There's no escape for any of you, this thing can withstand an all-out attack of a Peak Origin Plane Elementalist. I don't think any of you can match that,"

His voice was gentle, but it managed to travel easily across the two hundred square meters.

During the past months when Grey was in his Teacher's valley trying to create the device, he was struck with an idea after working with so many arrays.

When the idea struck him, he immediately implemented it. He would make a trapping array, which would be fueled by his inscriptions that were mid-air. Being proficient in arrays, and also learning more about it from his research, he was able to quickly make some progress on it.

It took him all through the time he was in the valley, when he searched for Reynolds, and on his way to Frost City before he was able to successfully complete it.

After successfully making it, he naturally instantly tried out its defense. It didn't disappoint him as his all-out attack with the fire element was easily stopped by it. He attacked a few more times with it, but the seal held on and remained perfectly fine.

The three men who were trying to break it turned to look at him in fear. They had already given up on the idea of beating him, but yet, he still didn't want to let them escape.

"What... what do you want?" The injured man asked, stuttering.

"To kill you all, obviously," Grey replied nonchalantly.

He didn't really care about these people, although he looked emotionless because of how quickly he decides to kill his enemies, he never regrets his decision. Friends are friends, and enemies are meant to be killed, if not, they will come back and hurt you.

Grey stretched out his right hand, pointing his index finger at the man. Under the horrified gaze of the man, a small fire beam started forming at the front of his finger.

Swoosh!

The fire beam shot straight at the man, creating a small hole on his forehead.

Thud!

The man who was trying to stand up, collapsed on the ground, dead.

The trio who were still trying to break the sealing array were forced to group together once again.

"Let's fight till the end, he wouldn't be able to support this thing for too long. Added with the burden of fighting three of us together, he'll wear out soon," One of the men said after the group came together once again.

The other two nodded simultaneously, they felt his conjecture was right. Keeping something this powerful running would need a high amount of concentration and energy, and they don't think anyone would be able to keep it for a long time.

'Hehe, if it were others, then they would be right. But for me, hehe,' Grey chuckled inside.

He could keep this thing up for at least ten minutes, that was more than enough time he needed to deal with these guys. If they decided to attack the seal, on the other hand, it wouldn't be able to last three minutes. The danger of them attacking the seal however was that they would be open to his assault, so trying to break it didn't seem plausible.

Boom!

The man with a scar was the first to attack, ice spikes sprung out of the ground where Grey was standing, trying to impale him.

Grey immediately mobilized his wind element, maneuvering through the multiple ice spikes that were sprouting out of the ground by a hair's breadth.

While Grey was dodging the ice spikes, the other two men attacked as well. One was a Wind Elementalist, while the other was an Earth Elementalist. The Earth Elementalist followed the Water Elementalist's lead and also attacked with earth spikes, while the Wind Elementalist sent wind blades towards Grey who was currently trying to dodge both the ice and earth spikes.

'Damn, these guys are tough.'

Chapter 326 - What Do You Think?

Crash! Boom!

Grey occasionally destroys the spikes he couldn't dodge with his fire element.

Swoosh!

With a huge leap, he leapt out of the area where the Water and Earth Elementalist focused their attacks on, hoping to escape from their assault so he could start his.

"Just what I've been waiting for," The Water Elementalist smirked when Grey went airborne.

"Don't let him back on the ground," He commanded the others.

Grey might be powerful, but compared to these seasoned veterans, he still had a lot to learn in terms of battle experience.

The Wind Elementalist was the first to attack Grey while he was mid-air. He sent out multiple wind blades his way, before sending out a small tornado behind them.

The Water and Earth Elementalist attacked as well, the Earth Elementalist created what looked like a pillar that he swung in Grey's direction, trying to smack him with it, while the Water Elementalist created a water blob under Grey which shot out small droplets of water at Grey.

All three people attacked within the short time frame Grey leapt into the air, it didn't even take up to a second after the man with the scar commanded before they attacked.

"Shit!" Grey, who was still mid-air, immediately cursed out when he saw the pincer attack of the group.

He stretched out his left hand, and like a missile, it shot out a powerful air current that shot Grey out of the position he was currently taking mid-air. The force took him at least fifty meters away from the group's attack.

Just when he was about to land, he noticed multiple earth and ice spikes sprouting out of the ground.

Rip!

One of them tore through his pants, before putting a gash on his left thigh. With no other choice, he had to immediately go airborne again. With the wind element, he could stay airborne for a short period of time. But he was more versatile on the ground.

'Damn it! I forgot it was out of energy! If that guy didn't attack me, it would have still had some energy left,' He complained inside.

The reason he was able to take Alice's father's attack without so much as breaking a sweat was because of the blue vest. But the vest used up all the energy it had to block that attack. Although, the impact still sent him flying.

When the battle first started, he completely forgot about Alice's father attacking him. Luckily, he didn't dare to take any attacks head on, or else he might've been seriously wounded.

Seeing Grey getting injured before going mid-air again gave the group fighting against him hope. As soon as things keep going like this, they would be able to kill him.

They immediately employed the same tactics like the first time, using a pincer attack once again.

Just like the first time, Grey couldn't afford to get stuck in that attack, so he had to use the wind element to change his direction once again. When he was about to set foot on the ground, the Earth and Water Elementalists repeated what they did the first time.

The cycle continued for two more minutes, with Grey slowly getting more cuts from the spikes. One of them had even nearly pierced him on the chest.

'If only I didn't have to hide my... Crap! Why the hell am I even hiding my lightning element in the first place?' Grey almost faceplamed when he recalled that Gerald already knew about him.

The reason he was initially hiding his lightning element was because Diluc was watching him, so he didn't want Gerald to be aware of his lightning element since he had used two during the ceremony.

It was only after he was caught in this situation did he realize Gerald already knew everything about him.

Once he adds the lightning element to his arsenal, his speed would immediately go a notch higher, this will not only take the group fighting against him unaware, but it would also give him the opportunity he greatly needs right now.

After moving through the air, he slowly mobilized his lightning and wind elements simultaneously, while also constricting his leg muscles.

As soon as his foot touched the ground.

Bang! Whoosh!

He stomped heavily on the ground, before exploding out with a speed that was far superior to the one he was previously using.

Before the Earth and Water Elementalists could bring out the spikes, Grey was already no where to be seen.

Bam!

"Ah!"

The sound of flesh hitting flesh rang out, followed by an agonizing scream.

Grey soon appeared with a smirk on his face, and lightning dancing across his body.

The Wind Elementalist was the one who screamed in pain, his arms were currently crossed in front of his body, and blood could be seen gushing out of a wound on it.

"Tsk tsk, you're faster than I thought, but I still wouldn't change the end result," Grey tutted while shaking his head.

After escaping from the attack range of the Water and Earth Elementalists, the first person he targeted was the Wind Elementalist, he originally wanted to punch him on the chest, but he reacted quickly and raised his hands to block the attack.

Grey could tell the Wind Elementalist's hands were currently broken, so he wasn't really concerned about him anymore.

"A Multi Elementalist," The Water Elementalist muttered bitterly.

If Grey's third element were to be any other element, then he would feel they still had a chance, but since it was the lightning element, he almost didn't see any hopes for them.

Grey was already fast when he had only the wind element, now adding the lightning element was no different from making him untouchable.

Buzz! Buzz!



Lightning danced around Grey, before he disappeared.

Three minutes later.

"Oh, the Smith family," Grey said while looking at the bleeding Water Elementalist, he was currently the only one left alive.

"Yes, if we don't return, they will send more people after you. You've already offended them by damaging the elemental beads of William and his sister," The Water Elementalist said.

"If you let me go, I'll tell them that we've killed you, but the others died in battle, what do you think?" He continued.

"The Emperor is searching for me, and here I am perfectly healthy and walking freely, so, what do you think?" Grey's lip curved upwards to form a playful smile.

Thud!

The Water Elementalist collapsed on the ground a few seconds later.

"The Smith family won't be able to find me, and I believe the next time we see after I get out of here, they wouldn't dare to offend me," Grey said before burning the bodies of the men.

Chapter 327 - Time To Work!

"\*Aish\* That guy almost used my sealing array against me," Grey sighed before disabling the array.

The forest he was previously resting in was already in ruins.

"Damn it! Those morons killed my horse, do they know how much it cost me?!" He yelled in anger when he saw the bloodied horse.

From how it looked, he guessed it must have been pierced through by multiple spikes when the Water and Earth Elementalists were attacking him previously.

Whoosh!

"You're truly something," Diluc said as he appeared behind Grey.

Grey shrugged before opening up a hole on the ground and gently pushing the horse into it with his wind element.

"Such a shame you had to die because of me," He muttered after burying the horse.

"When will we be heading back?" He turned his attention to Diluc.

"I could sneak you back to the city now, but I think waiting till it gets dark isn't a bad idea," Diluc replied.

"Hmm," Grey nodded gently before heading towards one of the few trees that was still intact in the area.

'Since it's not even noon yet, I have a lot of time before it gets dark. I'll focus on comprehending the space element while I'm here.' He thought.

While he was leaving the city, he told Void to go and check out the Reiss family compound again. Since Alice's father confirmed she was still in the compound, it meant she would be under the room Void tracked the light dot to.

Void never saw the device anyway, they just assumed she left it since she wasn't there.

'Hey, have you been able to find her?' He asked Void who was currently in the Reiss villa.

'Not yet, but I should be getting to the secret passage soon, I think,' Void replied.

'Okay, don't make contact with her when you find her. After I come back to the city, I'll write a letter to her explaining what happened.' Grey ordered.

'Okay,'

After passing on what he wanted to Void, he immediately started cultivating.

Diluc glanced at him, seeing that Grey immediately started cultivating as soon as he was free, he decided to let him be.

Later that night.

"It's time, let's go," Diluc walked up to Grey and said.

Grey's closed eyes snapped open, he stood up and held onto Diluc's left hand.

Whoosh!

Diluc flew into the sky, with Grey in tow. After getting to a proper height, he shot straight for Frost City.

'So this is the speed of an Overlord Plane expert when they're flying?' Grey thought to himself.

He could barely see anything since they were moving too fast. When Brown took him to Red City the last time, he thought it was fast, but the griffin is no match for Diluc's current speed.

A minute later, he was able to see the outline of Frost City from a distance, but to his surprise, the city became bigger within the quarter of a second.

Frost City, Lenz villa.

"I'm afraid you're going to have to stay here, keep the communication device with you so you can contact me if you need anything," Gerald said after opening the door to a small room.

After Grey got to the villa, Gerald quietly brought him to a secret room in the villa. Each family naturally has something to hide, so must would rather build these secret rooms.

The only people who knew Grey was in the villa were Gerald and Diluc. To make it seem real, Grey told him to try and make sure only a few people knew of his presence in the city.

"It's okay, I don't plan on going out anyway," Grey stepped into the small room.

The room was barely ten meters wide, but it would do.

"Okay, contact me when you need anything," Gerald replied before turning around and leaving Grey alone.

After watching Gerald leave, Grey walked out of the room. He wouldn't only be researching on the communication device, but he would also be trying to comprehend the space element. It would be dangerous if someone were to walk in accidentally when he comprehends the element and sees him using it.

Therefore, he decided to made a detecting array on stairs that leads to the room. Once any one walks through it, then he would be instantly alerted about it.

Creak, Slam!

He closed the wooden door after he was done with the array.

"Come on out, how did it go?" He looked at the empty bed on the room.

Void suddenly appeared on the bed after hearing Grey's question.

'I found her, and she's alright.' Void replied lazily.

"Oh, that's good. I'll start writing a letter for you to take to her now," Grey brought out ink and brush, and immediately started writing a letter to Alice.

He told her the reason why the Emperor was searching for them, as well as what happened during the time they left him in the Academy.

Not only that, but he also told her about Reynolds, as well as his encounter with her father. Of course, he left out the part where her father threatened him, he also told her not to let him know he contacted her since he refused to take him to see her.

"Since I've confirmed Alice is okay, I need to get to work on the communication device."

"Hmm, now I'll need to head back to where Reynolds is located so I can give him the device when I've made it."

Grey thought out loud after Void left with the letter for Alice.

"Guess it time to get to work, I need to make this as soon as possible. Luckily, I took enough wood from that guy,"

With that, Grey brought out all the papers he had previously drawn the arrays on. He initially didn't think he would get to keep the device with him for this long.

After preparing everything, he immediately started working on the arrays. Once he gets the catch of it, he would implement it on a wooden item.

He planned to add the communication array to the same wooden disc he was using to locate the others.

Chapter 328 - Communication Device, Acquired!

Two days later.

"Huh! Someone's coming," Grey, who was sitting before multiple papers which had different array lines on them, looked in the direction of the door.

With a wave of his hand, he kept all the papers in his storage ring.

Knock! Knock!

He soon heard knocking on the door.

Creak...

The wooden door made a creaking sound as it was opened.

"Master Gerald asked if you would like to see Donald?" Diluc asked after walking in.

Grey initially wanted to complain about how he entered the room without waiting for his response, but he decided to let it go when he heard what he said.

"Alice's father, how did he know I was here?" Grey asked.

He had been in contact with Alice during these past two days, and according to her, she didn't tell her father, nor anyone of their contact.

"He doesn't, he only came to ask if we knew of your whereabouts. Master Gerald told me to come ask you if you'd like to see him. Now answer, yes or no," Diluc said.

Grey thought about it for a bit before nodding, since Donald came looking for him, maybe it was because he had decided to let him see Alice. Although it wasn't really all that important now, he didn't mind seeing her.

"Here," Diluc threw a brown robe to him.

Grey didn't ask any questions and wore the robe.

They left the secret room, and headed for Gerald's office. They encountered Gerald's daughter, the young lady who didn't like Grey, but since she didn't see his face, she didn't even bother them.

After a few twists and turns, they got to the office.

Diluc opened the door, and the duo stepped in.

"I knew you'd decide to meet him," Gerald said after Grey stepped in.

Donald turned around, only to see Grey removing the part of the robe that covered his face.

"Huh! I thought he left?" He asked, a little taken aback.

"No, I only pretended to. Like I said, I'm not leaving until I see her," Grey replied calmly.

"It's good that you're here. First of all, I'd like to apologize for my actions the last time we saw each other, but my decision is the same, I will not allow you to see her." Donald said.

"Then why are you searching for me?" Grey asked, confused.

"I wanted to thank you for what you did when you spoke to Sasha after you left. I never thought you'd be that thoughtful for someone your age. Even after I offended you, you didn't want Sasha to look at me in disappointment, just because of your friend."

"That, and, for your thoughtfulness, I can allow you to write a letter to her, but that's it." Donald said after a while.

Grey almost snapped when he heard this.

'Write a letter your head! I've been writing to her for the past two days, why would I need you to help me write a letter to her?' He complained inside.

Donald noticed the change in his expression, but he pretended like he saw nothing.

"I can not allow you to see her, doing that will only endanger her. I hope you understand," He said, trying to convince Grey.

"Fine, fine. Here, I already wrote a letter, you can hand this to her," Grey fished out a letter from his robe before handing it over to him.

"Thank you, I'll be going now, I never saw you," Donald took the letter and left.

"Hmph! Such strictness, he even told me he never saw me like we're committing a huge crime," Grey snorted after Donald left.

"Well, technically, you're a criminal in the eyes of the Emperor and his people. Otherwise you wouldn't be hiding here," Gerald chuckled.

"I'm going back to cultivate," Grey said before turning back to the room.

He didn't expect Alice's father would be this stubborn, even after he apologized to him, he still refused to allow him see Alice. This will change after he comprehends the space element though, so he wasn't too bothered.



After going back to his room, he focused mainly on the device. Whenever he was trapped in a difficult situation, he would start comprehending the space element to get his mind off arrays.

It worked wonders as within two weeks, he was able to make a breakthrough in making the device. He managed to make one separately; now, all he had to do is to add it to the already existing arrays on the disc.

This was what he found challenging since it would be difficult connecting them.

"Should I just make one like this, and forget about connecting them?" He asked himself.

This seemed to be the more rational decision since it would save time, but he wanted to make an improvement to the communication device.

"This will do for now, I'll improve it later. What's important now is that we can speak to each other. But I don't know the limit of the distance, I'll have to ask old man Gerald," He muttered.

Distance was going to be a very important factor of this device, if he doesn't know the limit of it, then it would be a wasted effort. If he could find out the distance, then he could work on improving it.

He already knew it could contact someone who's in Red City, that was thousands of miles away from here. But he didn't know exactly where Klaus currently was, so he couldn't guess the distance.

If the distance on the device turns out to be too short, then they would not be able to contact each other after he leaves Frost City.

He quickly contacted Gerald, and to his surprise, he didn't need to improve it since it could travel across two empires. That was a massive distance.

"How did they do it, impressive," He couldn't help but praise after finding out.

With that, he started working on three others. He wants to finish it, before focusing his full attention on the space element.

One week later, he was done with the devices.

"Void, take this to Alice, let's test it out," He handed one of the devices to Void.

'Okay,'

Chapter 329 - [Bonus ] One Month

Buzz!

The wooden device in Grey's hand vibrated, drawing his attention.

He looked at it, before sending his spiritual sense into the device.

'Grey, Grey, can you hear me?'

A voice rang out in Grey's head as soon as he sent his spiritual sense inside. It was a voice he was all too familiar with.

He shook his head with a smile before replying, 'Yes, I can hear you. You don't have to call my name twice, you know,'

'Ahh, it works! How wonderful! But seriously, how does this thing work anyway?' Alice's excited voice rang out in his head once again.

'It's very simple actually, the arrays that are drawn in the device connect with the spiritual energy of the world...' Grey explained.

Once a person uses their spiritual sense to activate it, they could speak through it, and it would travel as some sort of vibration. It would manifest into the voice of the person, after reaching the other device. One could speak out loud on it, or with a thought.

'Wow, amazing! You really outdid yourself this time, Grey,' Alice praised after Grey's explanation.

"Well, like I originally told you in my letters, others had already made it. I just copied their works. Although there are a few changes, it's not that much different," Grey scratched his head awkwardly.

Hearing Alice's voice again felt wonderful, if only he could see her, and the others.

'Oh, okay. But you still did good, I'm praising you, so accept it,' Alice yelled, almost making Grey drop the device from fright.

"Fine, fine, tsk. You don't have to be so aggressive about it," Grey complained.

'Hmm, now that you've made the device, I guess you'll be leaving soon,' Alice asked in a low voice.

"Yeah, I need to take this to Reynolds, and then Klaus. But before leaving, I'll come to see you," Grey answered.

'You know, I really miss you guys. Staying here is so boring, there's no one to beat around here,' Alice said.

When Grey heard the first part of her statement, he felt sentimental thinking how they had to hide, but on hearing the other part of the statement, he almost didn't want to go visit her after comprehending the space element.

"Alice, you're a lady, you shouldn't be beating people up so much," Grey said with his mouth twitching.

'What?! Who says a lady shouldn't beat people up?' Alice yelled, making the device shake repeatedly.

"I... I..."

'Repeat that and I'll break your legs!' Alice threatened.

Grey was scared shitless when he heard this, they hadn't seen for so long that he completely forgot how she acts.

'Luckily we're not together,' He thought gratefully.

They continued speaking for almost thirty minutes before Grey decided to stop their chat. From how enthusiastic Alice was, he could tell she must have been very bored in that place.

"Don't worry, all this will end soon. Then we will travel the continent freely," Grey said.

'I really hope so. Also, try to give Reynolds and Klaus theirs, it has been so long I spoke with them,' Alice said in a low voice.

"Yeah, but you do know you can talk to me any time, even if I'm busy, right?" Grey asked with a chuckle.

'Really?'

"Yeah, all you have to do is leave a message. Even if I don't reply instantly, I'll hear it and reply later," Grey smiled.

'Hmm, okay,'

"Okay, bye, I really need to get to work now," Grey waved, even though Alice wasn't there.

'Bye-bye, I'll talk to you whenever I'm bored,'

Grey smiled before keeping the device in his storage ring.

"\*Aish\* I miss the old days," He sighed.

Talking to Alice made him remember their time at the Academy, and the trial land.

"Stupid Emperor, it's not like I have any interest in challenging him, why the hell is he doing this to me? And according to old man Gerald, it's not just him, but the other empires are also after me. Damn it! I'll need to grow stronger faster, or else I'll be killed by these stupid people,"

Grey clenched his fist, as determination flashed across his eyes. The quickest way for him to improve his strength is if he comprehends another element. Once he comprehends the space element, he would be left with one more known element, the light element.

After comprehending the space element, his cultivation speed will receive a significant boost. Not just that, but his stage will also see an increase. Although he might not instantly breakthrough to the Seventh stage of the Origin Plane, he wouldn't be far from it after he increases the elemental grade of the space element.

Grey waited for Void to return and immediately started working with him on comprehending the space element. He wanted to use the same way he used with the darkness element.

He would get Void to use the space element while studying it. Although he knew this wasn't going to be easy since he had tried it multiple times over the months, he didn't plan on giving up.

Furthermore, he could sense that he wasn't far from comprehending it. The feeling was almost like when he comprehended the darkness element, only, it wasn't as intense as it was at that time.

The day went by with Grey spending most of his attention on the space element. Unfortunately, he was unable to fully focus on it since Alice would reach out to him every two hours.

The days started slowly going by as he tried to comprehend the space element. Whenever he was not working on the space element, he would either be talking to Alice, or he would be cultivating to improve his elemental essence.

He didn't neglect his daily physical training, only, there was only so much he could do trapped in such a small place. But he focused on his training.

A month went by in this manner, and Alice had been in a more cheerful state since she could talk to Grey every day.

Grey was able to convince her to give him some time, so they made a scheduled time they would talk every day.

Chapter 330 - Sudden Enlightenment!

'It's been a month already, are you confident in being able to comprehend it?' Alice asked.

"Of course, I don't do things I'm not confident in," Grey replied with confidence.

'I know you're still here because you want to see me,' Alice said. After a while, she added, 'You know you can leave, right?'

"Yeah, I know," Grey replied with a wry smile.

Comprehending the space element has proved harder than he expected. He had told Alice he would be able to come to see her when he comprehends the space element, but even though he could feel he was close to it, he hasn't been able to yet.

"Congratulations on breaking through to the Fourth stage!" Grey changed the topic.

'Yeah, but I'm still no way near you. You're already in the Sixth stage, and that was over a month ago,' Alice replied.

"I have six elements with the lowest grade being purple grade, you shouldn't compare my speed with yours," Grey encouraged her.

'Yeah, I'm glad I've been able to talk to you lately. If only the others were around,' Alice replied sadly.

"Yeah, Reynolds would be the first I'll give this to, so you'll be able to talk to him soon. Klaus seems to be moving further away from me, so it would take a while to get to him," Grey said.

'Hey, I'd like to see you, but I think it's best for you to leave. I know you also want to go find your parents,' Alice said softly.

"Yeah, I'll stay for two more weeks. If I'm unable to comprehend it, then I'll head over to give Reynolds the device before heading over to give Klaus the other," Grey nodded.

He wasn't going to waste all his time on the space element. If he couldn't comprehend it now, he would be able to comprehend it later, there was no use bothering himself over it.

"I feel like I'm missing something, if I can get that, then I would be able to comprehend it," He added.

'Okay, good luck!' Alice cheered him on.

"Thank you, I'm also working on something else actually, and I might just be able to complete it within the next two weeks," Grey said with a proud smile.

'Oh, what's that?' Alice asked curiously.

"It's like a communication device, but unlike this current one, we will be able to see each other," Grey replied.

'How do you even think of all these? Is something like that even possible?' Alice almost couldn't believe what she was hearing.

"Actually, it shouldn't be too hard, I think. I've been doing some hypothesis for some time now, and I feel it's quite plausible," Grey replied.

'You have a crazy mind, always coming up with weird ideas,' Alice laughed as she replied.

"I also planned on making some type of teleportation array, just like what we used in going into the trial land. I feel if I'm able to integrate the space element into an array, it should work," Grey continued telling her of his other plans.

'You really need to get out of that room, the longer you stay there, the crazier you'll become,' Alice chuckled.

She knew what Grey said about the teleportation array was right, but she felt he had been thinking too much, which isn't necessarily good.

"Come on, think about it. Being able to move from one city to another in an instant, would be revolutionary. I think why no one has had this idea was because they didn't understand how the array on the trial land works."

"But after coming in contact with Void, and knowing of the space element, I know why," Grey explained.

'The array in the trial land?' Alice asked thoughtfully.

"Yeah, if my conjecture is right, the space element was integrated into it, making us travel through space to another place," Grey replied.

'Space element? I can't really say much about it since I know little about arrays and the space element,' Alice said.

"Yeah, do you remember the feeling of being sucked into..." Grey suddenly paused.



'Grey, are you there?' Alice asked when Grey suddenly went quiet.

"Haha, that's it! All I need to do is remember that feeling," Grey laughed out excitedly.

'Are you alright?' Alice asked worriedly.

"Yes, thank you!" Grey said happily.

'For what?' asked a confused Alice.

"For helping me find the missing piece," Grey replied.

'Uhhmm, you're welcome,' Alice replied with a little uncertainty.

"I have to go now, I'll talk to you later!" Grey said and tossed the device to the bed.

'Okay, good bye,' Alice said, unfortunately, Grey wouldn't be able to hear her, nor reply to her.

Grey was currently grinning from ear to ear.

'All I need to do is remember that feeling, once I do it, it'll all click.' He thought excitedly.

Who knew talking with someone would actually lead him to finding out what was missing. Although he was the one who spoke about it, if he never had this conversation with Alice, there was no way he would've been struck with this idea.

He had been thinking about this for a while now, but he never thought about it this way.

He quickly calmed his excited mind, now, he had to clear his head from all distractions so he could go back to the time when they were being pulled into the trial land.

That was a feeling he had felt multiple times, all of them were in the trial land. If he could properly recall the feeling, then he would be able to comprehend it.

He had been studying the space element for a while now, with Void's help, but it was different from the darkness element where all he had to do was a couple experiments. He had tried it with the space element, but he had been unable to do it.

After calming his mind, he tried to recall how he felt during all the times while he was being transported by the space element in the trial land.

If he's able to get the feeling, then he would be able to unlock the space element.

'This time, I'll definitely get it!'