

Affinity 441

Chapter 441 - You Think You Can Escape?

"Stop," The old man said calmly with hands behind his back.

The flaming snake that was rushing towards the old man stopped a few inches away from him.

The fiery-looking man who attacked took a step back in horror. What the old man just showcased was an ability only those in the Overlord Plane could have.

"You..." He tried to speak, but he didn't know what to say.

The others in the group stared at the old man and the flaming snake which was floating docilely in front of him.

"The thing about people is that they tend to do desperate things when in difficult situations. Struggling is futile, you all should submit calmly and your deaths will be peaceful," The old man stroked the flaming snake.

With a simple wave of his hand, the snake turned around, the fire intensifying as it charged towards the fiery man who created it.

The speed and power of the attack were more than five times stronger than when the fiery-looking man used it to attack. It was almost like it wasn't the same attack.

The fiery man hastily retreated, while setting up a series of defenses to counter the flaming snake that was coming towards him.

A huge fire wall rose up in front of him, while he created a second fire snake, hoping to use it to stop the first one the old man took control of.

Boom!

The fire snake that was controlled by the old man slammed into the fire wall, causing a large explosion. The second fire snake also charged into the explosion, trying to stop the first one.

The energy caused by the explosion caused waves to appear on the lava pool around the temple. The others in the group retreated, not to be caught by the force of the attack.

When the lava pool was disturbed by the force, if any of them looked at the lava under the entrance to the cave, they would see a blue fire orb around the two meters big. The figure of a person could be seen from inside the orb. Although it only appeared once, it was soon covered by the lava again, disappearing from view.

Neither the group nor the old man caught sight of this since none of them expected there would be something like that there.

....

Grey, who was hiding in the fire orb couldn't help but wipe the sweat off his head.

'Luckily I reacted quickly, or else I would've been toast. This old man is clearly a very powerful Overlord Plane expert, I don't care what he's doing, neither do I want to stay here any longer.' He thought inside, worriedly.

He was tempted by the floating origin bead, but he didn't dare to go out. If someone in the Origin Plane could sense him, there's a chance this old man could as well. Not just that, the main reason he wasn't showing too much interest in the bead was that he felt it was contaminated due to the amount of blood it had absorbed.

Although he absorbed the lightning orb from below the lightning tree which was basically the same thing as this one. The intensity of blood in this one was far stronger, and he could even sense a feeling of bloodlust from it. There's a chance that this thing might change him, so he wasn't willing to take that chance.

Grey watched the battle as it went on, he couldn't care less what happened to the group. He had already prepared himself to enter the Fusion State, so when he sees things have gotten out of hand, he would immediately enter the Fusion State and flee as far as he possibly could.

Of course running away from a powerful Overlord Plane expert was not going to be easy, the space element would help him greatly in that aspect.

....

Back at the temple.

The fiery-looking man smirked when he noticed the attack of the old man didn't seem to be going through, but his expression soon changed when he noticed an even stronger fire building up.

"I don't know if to call you smart or dumb, even after knowing I can easily take control of your attack, you still use it so confidently. Haha, let's see how you'll defend against this attack after you've fueled it to be even stronger," The old man laughed while shaking his head.

"What are you people standing there for? Are you just going to watch him kill me?!" The fiery man called out to the others.

He was a hundred percent sure he couldn't block the current attack the old man sent towards him. And once he's dead, the old man would obviously go after the others.

"Ah!..."

An extended scream which was filled with pain and horror rang out.

The old man smiled and turned to look at the bead, a man could be seen in flames, he was trying to hold onto the bead, but the intensity of the flames consumed him.

Boom! Bang!

While the others were distracted by the man who was being consumed by the flames, an explosion followed by a shriek of pain.

"Ah!"

The others turned around, and the fiery man had been consumed by his flames.

Of the group of eight, three of them were already dead within a short span of time, yet the old man was perfectly fine.

"Hehe, another one down," The old man laughed.

"Kill him," One of the ladies immediately attacked.

Compared to the fiery man, she was not a Fire Elementalist, so there was no way the old man could take control over her attacks.

The others attacked as well, except for the last Fire Elementalist. Since attacking was no different from empowering the old man, there was no use. He turned around and fled towards the entrance of the cave.

"You four should kill him!" He yelled after getting to the entrance.

"Heh! You think you can escape?" The old man smirked.

Boom!

"Ah!"

A lava pool shot out from the ground, covering the man who just landed on the ground at the entrance of the cave.

Chapter 442 - How Rude!

"Another one down, four more to go. No wait, five, if I add that guy who escaped as soon as they got here," The old man muttered to himself.

The bead was spinning continuously while absorbing all the blood that was coming from the people who died. Although all of them died from flames, the old man controlled the flames so well that they didn't burn the blood.

An Elementalist's control of their elements improves significantly after they get to the Overlord Plane. Breaking through to the Overlord Plane is like shedding to Elementalists, that's when they get a deeper and more profound understanding of the elements. This is one of the reasons an Overlord Plane Elementalist could easily seize control of the attacks of those in the Origin Plane.

The old man waved his hand, and a wall made entirely of lava appeared, blocking all the attacks of the group who attacked him.

All the attacks came to a halt, not moving an inch forward.

"If there were even fifty of you, I'd still kill you all with the utmost ease," The old man said.

He took a step forward and lava appeared around the four people, attacking from all corners.

Boom! Bam!

The four of them tried to defend against the attack, but the power of the attack was overwhelming.

Within a few seconds, all four individuals succumbed to the attack, screaming in pain as they died from the attack.

....

Grey who was watching from below the lava pool felt a chill run down his spine.

'So, this is the true power of an Overlord Plane powerhouse?' He asked himself, in awe of the overpowering strength the old man just displayed.

What was more alarming was that the old man didn't even seem to be putting in any effort. It was like a simple walk in the park for him.

'I wonder if he's more powerful than Teacher.' He suddenly recalled his Teacher.

From the few things he has heard about his Teacher, he could assume that even amongst Overlord Plane experts, he stood at the very peak. He should be able to single handedly defeat multiple people in the same stage as himself.

Doesn't that mean that his Teacher could kill over two hundred Peak Origin Plane Elementalists on his own?

'This isn't the time to be thinking about that, I need to get out of here. The best time to leave this place should be when he's absorbing his origin bead back.' He planned his escape, still watching the movements of the old man.

'To think he's this powerful even without his origin bead.' Grey thought.

The disparity in strength between an Overlord Plane expert and an Origin Plane expert shocked Grey greatly.

Since fighting against that beast in the Overlord Plane, he had increased his view of those in the Overlord Plane, but it seems like he needed to increase it further.

But after thinking about it properly, he felt it was normal since this man looks like he was in the Late stages of the Overlord Plane, compared to that beast that was in the Early stages.

....

The old man walked closer to the bead.

"Hmm, where could that guy have gone? I can't seem to sense him anywhere in the tunnels. It's impossible for him to escape this quickly. Although he's quite suspicious, I don't think he can escape this quickly," The old man muttered to himself.

After waiting for a few more minutes, he finally gave up.

"Forget about it, I'll absorb the bead now, I can always kill more people later in the future if this isn't enough," He said before sitting below the bead.

The bead slowly descended into his palm, after getting to his palm, he closed his eyes and the bead slowly started to merge with him.

....

'It's almost time, once it's halfway through, I'll jump out and run away as fast as I can,' Grey thought while staring at the old man.

He immediately started to complete the merging process which he stopped midway. Now was the time to get into the Fusion State and escape.

On seeing that the merging process was halfway through, he jumped out of the lava pool.

....

The old man who had his eyes closed opened it instantly when he noticed a strange movement in the pool, to his surprise, he saw a figure covered in flames bursting out of the lava pool.

"You were here all this time? No wonder I..." The old man stared wide-eyed as Grey disappeared from view after appearing.

He was in the middle of saying a few words to Grey, but he suddenly disappeared.

"How rude, hmph!" The old man snorted before standing up.

'Hmm, this will be a challenge since I'm still in the process of merging with the bead. This person is smart, but it wouldn't be that easy to escape from this place.' The old man thought before sitting down again.

'Is he on the Overlord Plane?' He asked himself, he soon shook his head.

'No, I can't sense the aura of an Overlord from him. But how can he fly then? Is it a special technique that gives him the ability of flight?' The old man asked again.

The more he thought about Grey, the more interest he seemed to have towards him. It was rare to see an Origin Plane Elementalist who can fly.

Although there are some techniques that help with that, they are very rare, and only Wind Elementalist get that privilege.

'But that speed, it's not something someone in the Origin Plane should have.' He thought about how quickly Grey disappeared from the spot.

....

Grey disappeared from the cave entirely, appearing outside it. After appearing there, he brought out the plaque, looked at the direction Ellis was located and charged towards that side at his fastest speed.

....

The old man who was expecting to at least attack him while he was trying to escape was stunned when he didn't sense him in the cave.

Chapter 443 - Ellis' Departure

"He's gone?" The old man asked himself, stunned.

"How could someone just disappear without a trace?" He looked around.

He kept searching for Grey in the cave, but to his surprise, he couldn't find him anywhere. Originally, he thought maybe he hid somewhere just like when he hid in the lava pool, but he couldn't find him.

After looking around for a few more minutes, he gave up. There was no use in making sure he killed Grey. Other than being curious about him, he didn't really have any other interest in him. Well, he did want to kill him, but that isn't all that important since he had already killed everyone who entered the cave.

....

One hundred and twenty kilometers away from the cave.

Grey's figure could be seen coming out of a space tunnel. After looking around, he quickly burrowed into the ground, making a small cave underground and hiding.

He could sense some terrifying presence around this place, and he didn't dare to cause any disturbances. The beasts were all around the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane. A single one of them could single-handedly kill him, much less two or more.

Even if he stayed in the Fusion state, he wasn't confident in escaping from all of them at the same time. The reason he escaped easily from the old man was that he couldn't move due to being stuck in the middle of the absorption process.

He exited the Fusion State while sitting down crossed legs to calm himself. He brought out the wooden plaque and looked at Ellis' position again, and he could see he was still a good distance away from him.

The deeper he goes into the forest, the stronger the beasts he encounters. Ellis was still around ten the distance he just covered away from him, he couldn't help but wonder what sort of beasts were in that area.

If the ones here were already out of his league, it's no use speaking about those ones in the area Ellis was located.

'I think it's best that I do not keep going further. I can barely keep myself alive now, if I were to meet one of these beasts in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane, then I wouldn't make it out of here alive.' He came to a conclusion.

If he kept on going deeper, then it was no different than seeking death. Although the rewards he would see are better the deeper he goes, he still cherished his life.

'*Sigh* If only Void could wake up on his own. I still don't know where to find that thing, and even with the help of Ellis who should at least be at the Peak of the Overlord Plane, I still haven't found the pond yet.' He contemplated.

The day would soon be over, and according to Ellis, he would be leaving the next day. Grey wasn't planning on leaving with him now, but he would follow him so that he could show him the array he wanted to use to leave this place.

He stayed in the cave he made for the rest of the day, replenishing his essence while also cultivating. The essence here was purer compared to the one on the outer parts of the forest.

The next day.

Grey brought out the glowing device from his storage ring, Ellis looked completely worn out even though he wasn't seeing him physically.

"Hey, I couldn't find that pond. And I have to leave now." Ellis said, clearly exhausted after two days of searching nonstop for the pond. He also fought some difficult battles, given how he looked.

"Thank you for your help. At least now I have a general idea of where not to look," Grey said.

He truly felt impressed by Ellis' dedication to helping him. Not many people would help someone they just met all because they wanted to be friends with that person.

"Yeah, where are you?" Ellis asked.

Grey told him about the wooden plaque he gave him and how it worked. On bringing out the plaque, a look of incredulity appeared on his face.

"Wow! You made this?" He couldn't help but ask.

From his shocked expression, Grey guessed he probably hadn't seen something like this before.

"Yeah," Grey nodded.

"This is amazing!" Ellis exclaimed in shock.

Even for someone like him who was from a better continent, he still felt intrigued and stunned by this.

"You don't have something like this in your continent?" Grey asked.

Ellis shook his head truthfully, he truly hadn't seen anything like this before.

Grey found it surprising, after seeing this orb, he thought they would have a better form of tracking their close ones or even other people.

Grey didn't speak further about it as Ellis soon started hurriedly moving in his direction.

He kept the orb and started to cultivate once again, it would take Ellis some time before he got there, so he wanted to continue cultivating in this area while he still had the chance.

One hour later.

Bang!

The cave Grey was sitting on shook furiously almost scaring the hell out of him. He hastily spread out his spiritual senses and realized the reason for this was because Ellis landed directly above him.

He stood up before calmly rising out of the cave, with the help of the wind element.

When he saw Ellis physically, he found out that his condition was far worse compared to how he looked in the orb. He had some scratches on his shoulder, although most of the wounds were almost healed up, some still looked fresh.

"You must have had a rough time out there?" Grey asked before bringing out a vial from his storage ring.

"Yeah, tell me about it," Ellis said with a depressed shrug.

"Take this, it should help with your wounds," Grey tossed the vial at him.

"My injuries can't be healed b... Oh... this should do," Ellis, who was about to reject the vial, changed his mind as soon as he sensed the content of the vial.

Chapter 444 - Ellis' Departure II

"Phew... This thing is amazing! I never thought I'd find it here," Ellis took a deep breath before breathing out in pleasure.

"Thanks for this, it's really very useful," Ellis said before giving Grey what was left in the vial.

Grey took the vial back, and looking at it, more than half of the healing tonic was left in the vial.

"Wait, that's enough?" He asked with a weird face.

"Of course! As much as a small drop should be enough to heal most injuries, if not because my injuries were affected by the elements of the beasts, I wouldn't dare to use that much," Ellis replied.

After speaking out, he realized Grey had a weird expression on his face, and he couldn't help but feel his heart sink.

"You use the entire bottle?" He asked with a small voice.

His feminine voice made the situation funny due to how serious his expression was.

"Actually, why don't we change the subject?" Grey asked.

Ellis tripped on seeing how Grey dodged the question, his face losing color.

"Such a valuable substance and you're wasting it?" He sat down on the ground in a dejected manner.

Even for someone like him, he wouldn't dare to use the tonic from a Blooming Viper in such a wasteful manner. Even his father wouldn't dare to use it in such a manner.

Seeing Ellis' expression, Grey couldn't help but wear an embarrassed smile. He couldn't be blamed for how they used the tonic since they didn't know how much would be enough. If not for Void, they wouldn't have gotten it, and even Void didn't know the quantity that would be enough to heal them.

"Forget about it, so, have you made up your mind about leaving this place with me?" Ellis asked with a depressed look.

"I can't leave with you. As much as I would like to go to that place, there are some things I really need to take care of here first," Grey replied.

"A shame," Ellis shook his head before adding, "We would've been able to get what you want so easily,"

Grey felt tempted when he heard this, but he decided he would focus on searching for his parents now, if he couldn't find them, then he would leave this place and head over to the continent Ellis spoke about.

"Can you show me where the array is located? There's a chance I might leave soon," He asked.

"Sure," Ellis nodded before taking flight and moving in one direction.

A few seconds later, Ellis appeared once again.

"Sorry, I forgot you were still in the Origin Plane," He scratched his head awkwardly.

He used an arm made of water to grab hold of Grey before shooting into the sky. They headed towards the deeper parts of the forest.

Grey could barely keep a good view of his surroundings. He couldn't help but wonder how powerful Ellis was. The speed they were currently moving at is faster than when he was using the Great Void technique while in the Fusion State. This confirmed his theory that it would be impossible for him to escape from the old man if he were not busy.

Twenty minutes later.

Ellis appeared in front of a mansion. Grey stared at the building in shock, he could feel a strong sense of dread from it, almost like the building could instantly kill him.

"There's an array here that will instantly attack beasts. Of course it's a different thing if the beast is with a person. There are naturally powerful beasts that can't be bothered with the array if they really want to step in here. Fortunately, there are no treasures in the building, so there's no use for them to step inside the building," Ellis explained.

"How did you know this if you only found out about it?" Grey asked suspiciously.

"Oh, it was written somewhere in the building, also, the array is so profound even for me. Please, no matter what you do, don't try to study it," Ellis warned.

He had seen how Grey acts whenever he comes in contact with a new array so he quickly warned before it was too late.

Grey suddenly froze when he heard this, the truth was, he had already spread out his spiritual senses, trying to decipher the array.

He quickly withdrew his spiritual senses before asking, "Do I look like someone who's that careless?"

"In other things, no, but in arrays you have no clue about, yes, yes you do," Ellis replied with a straight face.

Grey shrugged before looking around, he couldn't believe there was someone who would build something like this in such a place.

On their way here, he was surprised they didn't really go too deep into that forest, rather, they headed more towards the east.

The beasts here were still in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane though, so journeying here on his own would be incredibly difficult.

"You said you've been here for a while now, are the beasts usually this powerful in this area?" Grey asked.

"Powerful? Not really, but from what I found out some days ago, something major is happening deep in the forest, this was why the weaker beasts had to move to the outer perimeters of the forest. It should end in a few days or so, the forest will return to its previous state," Ellis explained with his hand on his chin.

"That's better then, if the beasts are only in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, although it would be a little difficult, I wouldn't have any problems with getting here," Grey heaved a sigh of relief.

"Hmm, okay. Here's a map, I marked all the areas I've traveled searching for that pond.. I also marked areas where some slightly powerful beasts are located, of course they can kill you with a blink of their eyes, so no matter what you do, do not head in that direction," Ellis passed a map to Grey while telling him about all the places he marked.

Chapter 445 - A Small Problem

Grey took the map from Ellis while studying it properly.

Just as Ellis was about to continue speaking, he paused for a second and looked at the sky.

'Hmm, who's that, and why is this person following Grey?' He thought to himself.

He could sense that someone has been following him since he met Grey. He initially didn't think much about it, but now that he was about to leave and Grey wouldn't have anyone to protect him, it would be better to take care of the problem now.

"Hey, can you give me a minute, I want to go take care of a small problem," Ellis said.

Grey nodded, he didn't ask what the problem was, after all, if Ellis wanted to tell him, he would.

Ellis smiled before disappearing.

Boom!

An explosion rang out in the sky that drew Grey's attention. He couldn't help but wonder what this problem was. The possibility that this was the problem Ellis was speaking about was very high since the explosion occurred immediately after Ellis disappeared.

'Could it be that the old man was secretly following me?' Grey thought, a little frightened by the thought.

He stood no chance against the old man, so it was understandable why he felt apprehensive towards him. Encountering the old man showed him how weak he still was, now he knew if Alice's father wanted, he could've killed him. Then there was also the Smith family he took a huge risk with.

....

In the sky.

Boom!

After the explosion rang out, two figures shot towards the south at breakneck speed. It was so fast that Grey didn't even notice it.

"Stop right there, old man!" Ellis shouted while going after an old man.

The old man looked at Ellis, a little surprised by his strength. After moving a good distance away from where Grey was located, the old man stopped.

This was the man who Grey's mother told to watch him after she left three years ago. He naturally followed Grey into the Magical Beasts' forest to protect him.

When Grey escaped from that old man back at the cave, he was already prepared to kill the man if he decided to give chase or if Grey didn't have any way to escape. Fortunately, he's still able to keep his cover since Grey was quite special in these cases.

The old man had to admit it, when it came to escaping, he hadn't seen anyone who was at the level of Grey.

"What is a genius such as yourself doing in this place?" The old man asked calmly.

On seeing how the old man didn't seem to be bothered or worried, Ellis heaved a sigh of relief. From that exchange, even though the old man looked like someone who retreated, he knew the old man was stronger than he was.

"Accident. The real question is why someone like you will be following after Grey. If I'm correct, you're not from this small place, right?" Ellis asked.

"I'm not, the only reason I'm here is to keep watch over the young lord," The old man replied sincerely.

He could tell that Ellis had no ill will towards Grey from the duo's interactions all these while, so there was no use in hiding Grey's identity from him. Thanks to Ellis, Grey got to find out about the continent on his own, and he could tell Grey would leave this place soon enough.

"Young lord?" Ellis asked with a confused expression.

"Yes, there's no need in me telling you which family we're from. But he'll come to the continent with or without your intervention. I'm glad he could make a friend even before going," The old man said with a kind smile.

Even though he doesn't communicate with Grey, he was quite doting towards him. He had been with him for three years now, and given his relationship with his parents, it was normal for him to be doting towards Grey. The only thing he found unfortunate was that he couldn't speak with Grey much.

Although, during Grey's travels, he would encounter him as a weak old man who would speak with him whenever they met. He would always change his disguise, so Grey hadn't been able to figure out he has encountered the same old man multiple times now.

"Haha, such a coincidence. I knew such a genius couldn't be born from such a small place," Ellis laughed out.

"As much as I'd like to agree with your statement, unfortunately, I can't. If you've encountered his friends here, then you'd know that there are some exceptional geniuses here. If they were to grow in the Middle continent, then they would be at the top amongst others their age," The old man said.

He had seen Grey's friends and what they could do, and he felt impressed by them. There was also that young lady he killed back at the capital who wanted to assassinate Grey.

"Hmm, okay. I haven't really adventured much in the continent since this is the only place I've seen which piqued my interest," Ellis didn't refute the old man since he didn't know Grey's friends.

Grey was the only person he had met who was this powerful at such a young age in this place, so he felt maybe he was the only one or one of the few.

"I guess there's no use speaking with you anymore, I'm leaving now," Ellis turned around, preparing to leave.

"Don't tell him about me, he's not to know I exist, for now," The old man said.

"It's okay, I'm not a blabbermouth," Ellis replied before taking flight.

"Wait, which family are you from?" The old man chased after him and asked.

"The O'Brien family," Ellis replied.

The old man paused for a few seconds, staring at Ellis' back as he went further away from him.

"How could this be?" He muttered while staring in Grey's direction.

"Forget it, his parents will sort it out.. At most... *Sigh" Why did he have to be from that family?" He shook his head sadly.

Chapter 446 - I Messed Up!

Ellis soon returned to the mansion, he almost fell from the sky when he saw Grey sneakily trying to check out the array.

"Stop!" He yelled.

Grey stumbled when he heard Ellis' voice, "You scared me. There's no need to scream or to be afraid. I made a teleportation array some months back, I'm just trying to see how this one was made,"

"Wait, you made a teleportation array on your own without any prior knowledge of it?" Ellis asked, dumbstruck.

"Pretty much. Although I've seen something like this in the trial land, I didn't really get to study how the array worked, so it was extremely difficult for me to make it," Grey replied.

Ellis was awed by Grey's ability in arrays. Even if Grey wasn't a genius as an Elementalist, he would surely excel with the help of his array skills. It was difficult to find true prodigies in array making or any other arts.

"Just don't mess with it, okay?" Ellis said.

Grey nodded before following behind Ellis as he walked into the mansion.

After getting into the mansion, Ellis walked straight to the middle of the mansion, he took out some essence stones, tossing them at eight different positions. An array lit up below him, giving off a strong spatial undulation.

"The continent is divided into five, the Northern continent, Eastern continent, Western continent, Southwest continent, and the Middle continent. When you come there, head straight to the Southern continent, you will be able to find me there. On getting there, search for the O'Brien family. Although

the continent is large, you shouldn't have any problems with locating the O'Brien family," Ellis explained as the spatial undulations got stronger.

"From what I can tell, you can't predict which continent you will appear in after using it. No matter what happens, if you appear on the Eastern continent, never speak of the O'Brien family there." He warned.

"You know what, just don't speak of the O'Brien family in any other continent other than the Southern continent, alright?" He added.

Grey looked at Ellis weirdly, from the warnings, he could tell that the O'Brien family seems to have enemies all over the continent. He couldn't help but think of what might happen to him if he goes to the Southern continent.

What if people tried to kill him because he was friends with someone from the O'Brien family?

"No need to make that face, no one will kill you. You're a little more fortunate than I am, I think," Ellis said when he saw Grey's expression.

"What?" Grey asked, he didn't understand what Ellis meant by his statement.

"It's nothing, you'll understand after coming. Goodbye for now. I don't think the orb will work after I leave due to the distance, but I'll keep this wooden plaque of yours so you can track me with it. You wouldn't even need to search for the O'Brien family, all you need to do is find me," Ellis dodged Grey's question while cursing at himself for almost spilling the beans.

Luckily, he noticed quickly, stopping himself in time.

Grey looked at him, but since he didn't want to say anything, he didn't bother too much about it.

The array light continued increasing before Ellis soon disappeared into the bright light. After almost a minute, the light died down.

Grey looked at the array with a contemplative expression, he noticed the time it took for the array to start was longer than expected.

'Maybe distance plays a big role in the time it takes before teleporting an individual,' He thought.

With Ellis gone, he looked around the mansion. With nothing to do, he decided to explore the place. Who knows, maybe he might find something here.

Twenty minutes later.

Grey stepped out of the building, just as he expected, there was nothing in the building. However, he found out that the teleportation array was somehow built with the aid of the building. He still didn't know why it was done that way.

He left the building before his expression changed.

"Oh crap! Why didn't I tell him to take me back before leaving?" He complained.

This was the area occupied by the beasts in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane. It would be extremely difficult to escape from one in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane, much less one in the Mid stages.

'Shit! I messed up, I messed up real bad,' He thought with a long face.

This was the third day he was spending in the Magical Beasts' forest, and he couldn't help but say although it had been eventful, he had almost died countless times. What was worse was that he was currently in an area that might make that happen sooner than he would like.

He wanted a challenge, but this place was too much for him. He would prefer being in the side that only had beasts in the Early stages of the Overlord Plane since the pressure they would place him in while fighting against them would help him grow faster.

With no other option, Grey first started to study the array around the building. Although Ellis warned him not to, he couldn't stop himself. He wanted to take a peek at it before he started his long, dangerous journey back to the outer perimeters of the forest.

....

Three days later.

Boom!

An explosion rang out, but there was no movement after the explosion.

A six meters long Wolf walked out from the side, inspecting the place of the explosion. After looking at it properly, it left the area.

One hour later.

The rumbles in the place where the explosion occurred shook before the head of a human popped out.

The head belonged to none other than Grey. Since leaving the mansion three days ago, he had almost died twelve times. That was an average of almost dying four times a day. And this day wasn't even over yet, so there's a chance that he might face more life-threatening dangers before the day ends.

'I really messed up! Damn Ellis! Why was he in such a hurry to leave?!'

Chapter 447 - Insane Luck!

'*Sigh* I should've waited till the forest returned to normal before leaving,' Grey thought with a dejected look as he started walking away from the rubble.

He was exhausted from the three days of running away from beasts, and also the multiple heart-racing moments he had. He hasn't even been able to speak with his friends because he couldn't afford to split his attention.

Roar!

A loud roar encouraged Grey to move faster than he previously was. At first, he wanted to move slowly so that he could carefully evade all the beasts at the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane, but now, he couldn't even move slowly anymore.

....

Boom! Bang!

Grey encountered two beasts fighting while running away, beside them was something that felt so familiar he couldn't help but stare at it continuously.

'It's here! I can't believe there's some here. Although it's not that much, I must get it,' He looked at the liquid greedily.

It was the liquid he had been searching for all this while. He couldn't believe his luck. Ellis had passed through all these areas, but he didn't find it. Who would've thought that while he was escaping, he would come across two beasts fighting, and the liquid would be beside them?

He stared at what the liquid was stored in, and quickly concluded that it was done by a person.

It was kept in a flask, but its top was broken and some of the liquid had obviously spilled out. What was left in the flask shouldn't be up to half of what it originally contained.

Without wasting any time, Grey quickly came to a decision. He was going to use the Fusion State once again. It hadn't been up to a week since the last time he used it, but he couldn't afford to let this chance slip by. It's unknown when next he might be opportune to see this liquid again.

Sitting down crossed leg, he calmed his mind and slowly started to merge his elemental orbs. He didn't forget to watch the beasts that were fighting, to make sure he wasn't in danger if they decided to stop fighting and attack him.

A few minutes later.

The two beasts which were fighting were a black five meters tall bear, and a large snake. Each had different elements, the bear had the earth element while the snake had the water element.

As the battle was going on, Grey realized that the snake was slowly gaining the upper hand, and the body of the bear was slowly being inflicted with different wounds. The snake had tried constricting the bear on multiple occasions, but the brute strength of the bear made it impossible for it to do so.

Grey, who just finished merging his elemental orbs, took out a weapon he rarely used since acquiring it. The multi-elemental blade he obtained in the trial land.

Due to being in the Fusion State, he could use it to attack at least a few times before being sucked dry of his essence. Of course he didn't plan on doing that, he only wanted to wound the snake, giving the bear the chance to focus on killing it while he escapes with the liquid.

It was a win-win scenario for the duo since the bear would escape with its life, while he would run away with the liquid.

"Phew..." He breathed out heavily, while taking a fighting stance with the sword held with both hands.

Roar!

The bear roared in pain after the snake bit it on its neck. It was struggling to push the snake away, but the snake had smartly used its huge body to tie the hands, leaving the bear almost defenseless.

Even if the bear could still attack with the earth element, it would be difficult for it to escape from the snake. Despair covered its face as it knew its end was near.

The snake slowly started to constrict the upper body of the bear, gradually squeezing the life out of it.

Just when the bear had lost all hope, it saw a small figure flashing towards them with a black sword that seemed to be in flames, but the flames were black.

The figure was none other than Grey who had decided to jump to the rescue at the perfect time. His blade was fully covered with the darkness element, and the sword enhanced it, causing the black flames that were surrounding the sword.

Slash!

The blade cleanly cut into the body of the snake which was at the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane. It stopped after going through one-third of the body of the snake.

His attack was accurate, cutting the snake close to its head.

One has to know that even an attack from someone in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane will find it difficult to hurt the snake, much less injuring it. Yet, Grey who even with the help of the Fusion State isn't as powerful as someone in the Mid stages of the Overlord Plane managed to do just that.

"Wow! This sword is amazing!" Grey exclaimed unconsciously when he saw the damage it did.

The reason he used the darkness element for the attack was so that he would be able to do some damage to the snake, he never expected the damage would be this big.

Screech!

The snake let go of the bear, screeching in pain while wiggling its body.

The bear uses the opportunity to break loose from the snake's hold, using its claws to slap it away from its body. As soon as the bear got an opening, it launched at the snake again, not bothering with the human who helped it.

Grey was more than happy with its response and hastily flew towards the flask, after grabbing hold of it, he was shocked to find that a human body was covered under the flask.

He didn't even bother to dig it and find out who this person was or what else the person had.

"Thank you for finding this liquid," He bowed and blinked.

He couldn't stay there for long, in case the bear decides to leave the snake and focus its attention on him.

Chapter 448 - Repaying A Favour

The outer perimeters of the Magical Beasts' forest.

A figure suddenly appeared from what looked like a crack in the sky, crashing into the ground.

Bang!

The figure landed heavily on the ground, causing a small crater.

A group of five who entered the forest not too long ago stared at the figure in shock.

"Isn't that the guy who helped you previously?" A gentle voice asked.

A young man walked closer to the figure, looking at its haggard state.

The young man was none other than Jonas, and the lady who spoke was the one Grey saw with him when he came to Lapis City.

"What happened to him?" The lady asked, with hands covering her mouth.

"I don't know, we should take him to the camp, just to be safe," Jonas picked Grey up before hurrying to their camp.

He didn't know if Grey was being chased, but given his look, there was bound to be something or someone chasing him.

Grey's condition didn't look too good. Even Jonas couldn't help but look at Grey worriedly.

....

They soon got to their camp. Where they camped was under a big tree, but since the beasts in this area weren't too powerful, they didn't have much to worry about.

Jonas placed Grey on the ground, while bringing out the healing tonic they had with them. He fed it to Grey before moving out of the camp.

"We'll have to stay here until he wakes up," Jonas said.

"Who is he?" One of the three young men in the group asked.

"He's Gr..."

"He's a friend of mine who helped me some time back, I'm only repaying a favour," Jonas cut the young lady short before giving her a look of warning.

Due to the bad relationship between The Lunar and the Starlight Academy, some of the students from the Starlight Academy wouldn't think twice before killing a defenseless student from the Lunar Academy. Even though the management of the Lunar Academy has been changed, the feelings between the students of both Academies was still the same.

Of the three young men here, only one of them might consider not killing Grey. It was the one whom he wanted to save with the tonic Grey helped him to protect from that group back at the gate of Lapis City.

The other two would kill Grey the moment they find out who he is.

"You don't have many friends," One of the men said suspiciously.

"I don't see where it was written that before I make any friends, I should bring them to you for inspection," Jonas said coldly.

"That's not what I mean," The young man quickly stopped the argument.

Jonas was stronger than him, and even with the help of the other guy, they still didn't stand a chance against him. This was the reason why he was the one tasked with leading the group in the first place.

It was said even the Crown Prince had taken notice of Jonas' abilities, and it was rumored that he would be an important part of his team in the future. They couldn't afford to offend someone with such a future.

The young man looked at his counterpart, before leaving the area with the excuse of going to patrol the area. The second young man followed after him as well since staying with Jonas seemed a little uncomfortable.

After the duo left, the third young man walked towards Jonas.

"Tell me the truth, who is he?" He asked.

"He's the reason you're alive and well," Jonas replied, his tone wasn't as cold as it was when he was speaking with the previous young man.

"You mean?" The young man pointed at the tent, looking at Jonas.

"Don't ask too much about it, he'll leave once he wakes up," Jonas said.

Even though he trusted his friend, he didn't feel too safe with disclosing Grey's identity to him. The young lady wouldn't want to do anything to offend him, so she wouldn't speak about it, but he didn't really know too much about his friend since he also had a deep hatred towards those from the Lunar Academy.

Grey could even be said to be the person he hated the most. The reason for this, his elder brother was the one Grey's Teacher slapped to death back at the Capital during the competition. It was unknown what he would do once he finds out about this.

The young lady sensibly shut her mouth, not speaking about Grey or where he came from.

....

The next morning.

Grey opened his eyes, looking at his strange surroundings. He hastily tried to stand up, while also getting into a defensive position. Unfortunately, he was unable to do so because of the pain that ran across his entire body as he tried to do so.

'Damn it! I not only stayed in the Fusion State for too long, but I also forced myself to continue escaping through the spatial tunnel. That stupid bear, even with my help it almost killed me,' He gritted his teeth angrily as he thought.

Just when he was about to successfully blink away from the place, the bear sneak attacked him, disrupting the spatial tunnel. Had he not been in the Fusion State, he would've lost control of the tunnel and would probably have died from it.

He couldn't help but hate the bear the more he thought about it.

"You're awake?"

A gentle voice asked.

Grey looked towards the entrance of the tent, and a young lady could be seen looking at him.

"Oh, it's you! Wait, how did I come here?" Grey couldn't help but ask.

"You fell from the sky, luckily, Jonas and I were nearby, so we brought you back here to recover," The young lady replied.

She turned outside the tent before saying, "Jonas, he's awake,"

"Oh,"

Grey heard a calm 'oh'.. He knew the voice belonged to Jonas, but he still perked up since he could sense there were other people around.

Chapter 449 - Will It Be Enough?

Jonas and the three young men outside walked into the tent.

Grey stared at them, he could sense animosity from two of the young men. This made him increase his vigilance, he prepared him, waiting to explode with a powerful attack if the two guys made any suspicious moves towards him.

"It's good to see you're fine," Jonas commented as he walked in.

"Yeah, I was lucky I crashed into you guys, if it were to be others, even if they didn't try to kill me, they'd leave me out there," Grey said.

"If he didn't recognize you, there was no way we would've helped a stranger who fell from the sky in such a strange way," The young man close to Jonas said while looking at Grey suspiciously.

What he found strange about Grey's appearance wasn't that he fell from the sky, but it was how he fell. He came out of what looked like a crack, a dark terrifying crack. Even if the crack didn't stay for long, they all saw it.

Grey squinted his eyes, looking at the young man with his listless eyes.

The young man who was about to speak again took a step back unconsciously. Grey's gaze terrified him, it was like he was staring at the death reaper.

Jonas looked at his friend before shaking his head. He couldn't hide the fact that he was curious about how Grey appeared but asking him immediately after he woke up wasn't the best choice, especially when two of them were showing such hostility. The duo wasn't even trying to hide it.

"So, when did you come to the Magical Beasts' forest?" Jonas asked, trying to calm the tension in the tent.

"The next day after we met," Grey replied, after a while, he asked, "How long was I out?"

"Not long, just a night," The young lady in the group replied.

"Hmm, okay," Grey nodded before keeping his mouth shut.

He had no more interest in speaking, especially with these two staring at him like predators. It was like they were waiting for him to make a small mistake so that they would be able to attack him with a valid reason.

"You should rest a little longer," Jonas said before turning around to leave.

His friend followed behind him, as well as the young lady.

The duo who were staring at Grey with hostility were the ones left in the tent, still staring at Grey.

"You look familiar," One of the duo spoke up while staring at Grey.

Grey's robe was destroyed, and because Jonas picked him up quickly when he crashed into them, they didn't get a good view of his face, but now that they saw him, they couldn't help but find him familiar.

"Oh really?" Grey asked, compared to his somewhat surprised words, his facial expression and tone remained as apathetic as ever.

"Yes, but... that's not what I'm really concerned about," The young man asked.

Grey looked at him, not even bothering to continue to speak with him. He felt if he answered him, then he was entertaining him to continue speaking. If he kept quiet, then the young man would know when to leave.

The young man looked unbothered with how Grey stopped speaking with him and asked, "What was that crack you fell from,"

"Huh?" For the first time, a different expression appeared on Grey's face, and it was one of confusion.

"You fell from a crack that suddenly appeared in the sky. There's no way you can deny it, every single one of us saw it," The young man said.

"A crack?" Grey asked, still wearing the same confused expression.

Of course he knew what they were talking about, but there was no way he would agree to it. He would rather argue with the duo than agree to it. If he were to agree to this, then word would definitely spread out. He was already in enough trouble from being hunted down by the emperor, if every single big family out there started to look for him because he could use an unknown form of movement, he didn't know how to respond to it.

"You fell from a crack in the sky!" The young man said, starting to get annoyed by Grey's feigned ignorance.

He felt Grey knew what he was talking about, but he wanted to make him look stupid.

"How does a crack appear in the sky?" Grey asked.

His question stunned and annoyed the young man at the same time. First of all, the only way they knew a crack could form in the sky is when the attack of an Elementalist is so powerful that even the void would be destroyed by it.

But the thing was, in the current era, there haven't been any cases of there being Elementalist powerful enough to cause a crack in the void.

The young man looked at Grey stunned because he couldn't answer Grey's question but annoyed because he knew what he saw.

Just as the young man was about to continue questioning Grey, Jonas walked back towards them, giving them a stern look.

"He needs to rest," He said emotionlessly.

The young man clenched his fists before turning around to leave. His companion looked at Jonas coldly before leaving with him.

"Your group is quite united," Grey said nonchalantly before sitting down crossed leg.

Jonas shrugged at his comment before leaving. He naturally knew the duo didn't like Grey, but he didn't think they would outright start questioning him.

After Jonas left, Grey hastily checked his storage ring to see if what almost got him killed was safe.

He heaved a sigh of relief when he found it sitting calmly in one corner of his storage ring.

'It's at least five times what that pendant contained. Will it be enough to heal him?' He thought to himself when he saw the liquid.

There was only one way to find out, and that was feeding it to Void. But since he was still here, he didn't think it was wise to try it given the eyes that were on him.

'I'll rest for a while then leave,'

Chapter 450 - Waiting For A Reaction

Two hours later.

Grey stepped out of the tent looking fresh. He didn't take out a new robe since Jonas' group would find it suspicious how he took out another robe when he didn't even have a bag.

Jonas was sitting under a tree, accompanied by his friend as well as the young lady. The duo who didn't like him was nowhere to be seen. He wasn't really too bothered about them. Even if they were to attack him, then they would just end up dying.

The trio who was sitting turned to look at him as he walked towards them.

"Looks like you're fine now," The young lady said.

"Yeah, almost as good as new," Grey nodded before taking a seat close to them.

Jonas looked at Grey, stunned. He knew how Grey's condition was since he was the one who carried him back to the tent, yet with just a night's rest he was fine.

'His recovery speed is insane! Could this be a product of some rare treasure?' He asked himself while looking at Grey.

Grey, who sensed an intense gaze couldn't help but look in the direction of the gaze, he made eye contact with Jonas who was still staring at him intensely.

"Uh... is anything wrong?" He asked.

Jonas snapped out of his dazed look with a shake of his head.

"No, I just recalled something," He replied.

Grey nodded before standing up, "I'll be leaving now, I have things to attend to. Thank you for your help,"

"It's nothing, I'm only repaying a favour from the lady time," Jonas replied.

Grey nodded and left. He didn't stay there for long, he was in a hurry to check if Void would wake up after taking the liquid, so he didn't have time to spare on other things.

A few minutes after Grey left.

The duo who weren't in the group hurried back.

"Where's he?" One of them asked.

"Gone. Is anything the matter?" Jonas asked when he saw the expressions of the duo.

"Yes, you betrayer. You were helping someone from the Lunar Academy, and to think it's a person whom we all hate," The young man pointed at Jonas while yelling angrily.

"First of all, not everyone hates him. Secondly, the next time you point your hands in my face again, you will lose it," Jonas replied coldly, not bothering to hide Grey's identity.

Since the duo already recognized him, what was the use of trying to hide it? Besides, Grey was already gone. If the duo were stupid enough to go after him, then they are only seeking death since Grey would kill them without even thinking twice.

"Wait, what are they saying, who is he?" The young man with Jonas asked.

"Do you remember the guy who caused the death of your elder brother?" One of the other two young men asked.

"I didn't get to see him since I didn't attend the competition," The young man replied.

"Well, that guy was the one. When I saw him the first time, I knew he was familiar, but I couldn't think of where I saw him, and with Jonas shielding him, I didn't pry any further. But after we left, I thought about it properly, and I recalled where I saw him," The young man explained.

The young man who was with Jonas and the young lady turned to look at Jonas with an enraged look.

"Did you know about this?" He asked angrily.

"Yes, but as I said, I was repaying a favour," Jonas replied casually.

"A favour?! He was the one who made that man kill my brother!" The young man yelled.

"And he's the one who made sure you got the tonic that healed you, it's best you do not offend him," Jonas said.

"Bullshit! Come, he went this way," The young man yelled at Jonas before charging towards the direction Grey went.

The duo glared at Jonas before following after the young man.

Jonas shook his head, not even moving an inch.

The young lady looked at Jonas, "Aren't you going to stop them?"

"They chose this, if they survive, they'll learn a much needed lesson," Jonas replied.

"And if they don't?" The young lady asked.

"*Sigh" So be it," Jonas looked at the sky, it was as if he was mourning the death of his friend.

If his friend couldn't let the person who saved his life go because of his anger, then it was his choice. Even though he accepted him as a friend, he wouldn't support such foolish actions.

He clearly told him of how even he couldn't bring the tonic since people wanted to forcibly collect it, yet the person who fought against that group and won, he wanted to fight against such a person.

The young lady knew just how powerful Grey was, so she couldn't help but feel fearful for the outcome of the battle.

"Hopefully, they don't find him," She said while looking in their direction.

....

A few kilometers away from where Jonas' camp was located.

Grey didn't leave the forest since he wanted to quickly feed the liquid to Void. He hurriedly found a cave, then went in, shutting the entrance to the cave with an earth wall. He didn't even set up an array.

After going in, he carefully brought Void out of his storage ring. He also brought out the liquid.

Slowly parting Void's mouth, he poured what was left in the flask inside his mouth. A soothing aura spread out from the liquid, calmly Grey's head.

His eyes were filled with hope as he emptied the flask completely.

"I hope it works this time," He muttered.

He waited patiently, hoping to see a reaction from Void.

Boom!

The earth wall he used to cover the entrance of the cave exploded. He saw three silhouettes charging straight into the cave.

"There he is! Kill him!" The young man who was with Jonas yelled when they entered the cave.

Grey, who was still waiting for a reaction from Void looked at the trio with infuriated eyes.