

Affinity 721

Chapter 721 - Human Nature

"Her opponent isn't going to go down easily." Klaus commented as he watched Alice's battle.

"Well, does it matter? He'll lose in the end." Grey stated.

No matter how long it took, the result was the most important thing. This is one of the reasons people do whatever they can to get the results they want. Nobody would ask how they did all, all people found interest in was the result.

"I agree with you. Winning here would make her a member of the Asterope Faction. Once she gets there, her strength is bound to increase. Especially if she manages to make enough contributions and enters one of those realms." Kyle complied with Grey's reasoning.

The battle on the platform raged on. Alice was an aggressive attacker, while the young man was a calm defender. Seeing that his space element was only able to stump Alice the first time, he didn't rush into making decisions.

Fighting against someone like Alice, a single slip up would be detrimental to him since Alice would most likely take full advantage of it.

Boom! Bang!

Lightning attacks raged on, accompanied with fire, ice, and wind.

'I never thought this little fellow had the wind element as well. She did well to hide it from everyone the first time.' The young man complained internally.

Although he was astounded by the fact that this was a Dual Elemental Seelie, this wasn't the best time to marvel at it. If he manages to survive first, then he would speak about it.

The audience had already taken note of the Seelie and the crowd was shaken. Getting a Seelie was already extremely difficult given their rarity, but not only did Alice manage to get and merge with one, but it was also a Dual Elemental Seelie. Her luck was insane!

They looked at Reynolds who had already called out his Elemental Warrior, and then at Alice whose Seelie had two elements, and sighed in depression. It was like they got all the blessings in the world.

Everyone knew they were friends, which made them even more envious. How could two friends be freaks?

They couldn't help but take a peek at the trio sitting in the crowd. Whenever Alice and Reynolds finished fighting, they would sit with those three.

Is it possible that they were also freaks as well?

This was the question going through the head of the crowd. Having someone like Alice or Reynolds in a friend circle could already be counted as a blessing, having both was luck, but if there was someone else special among their group, then they were an impressive bunch.

If Klaus knew what people were thinking, he would be joyous. He wouldn't mind answering most of their questions as well. Alas, it was impossible.

Buzz! Crash! Bang!

The young man managed to dodge a lightning bolt by a hair's breadth, but he was met with a wind blade that he was forced to block with his lightning element.

Alice continued her attacks, while the young man occasionally countered. There were a few times when he managed to get a chance to unleash a powerful strike which put Alice off, giving him the chance to get a small advantage for a short while.

Just like Reynolds, Alice relied on the Seelie to suppress her opponent. It was only a matter of time before she took back the initiative.

The young man was hard-pressed to fight against her.

Before long.

Thud!

He fell on one knee, breathing heavily. Alice had literally been attacking him for over five minutes straight without giving him any chance to catch his breath. His entire clothes were soaked with sweat.

"I admit defeat." He said while taking long breaths. There was no use in fighting anymore, he knew his Faction was satisfied with his and Alice's performance. Even if they weren't, he couldn't continue any longer.

When he was sent forward, it was without the knowledge of Alice's Seelie having the wind element. This disrupted their plan because the speed of the Seelie was astonishing. Alice also used her lightning element to boost it as well, making things difficult for the young man.

After the young man admitted defeat, Alice stopped attacking.

"Thank you for letting me win." She said with a smile.

"How I wish I did." The young man replied with a self-deprecating chuckle.

He wasn't sad that he lost. It was normal in the life of geniuses to lose. From every loss, he had learned a lesson that has helped him grow stronger. This was why he didn't take a loss to be something detrimental to himself.

The young man left the platform, and Alice was declared the winner. She looked around, feeling slightly proud of her achievement. It was not an easy feat, but she managed to defeat someone who had far superior battle techniques.

Alice was the first person to end her battle, and looking to the side, she realized Reynolds had already started assaulting his opponent with the aid of his Elemental Warrior. It was only a matter of time before he achieved victory as well.

On the other six platforms, only two people seemed to have the chance of obtaining victory from how the current battle looked, but Alice knew not to come to a conclusion so soon since a simple thing could change the outcome of a battle.

She walked back to her seat with multiple eyes fixated on her. Making it into one of the strongest lightning Factions meant that she just acquired a powerful backer. If manages to show exceptional talent, then it would be difficult for anyone to come close to her.

A few people around Grey and his friend's seat started to throw smiles their way, hoping to create a good impression and maybe become friends.

Grey had zero interest in these petty people who only came close to you because of success. This was one of the reasons he didn't like people to begin with.

They would celebrate with you, but they would never be around to help you weather your storms.

'It was human nature.'

Chapter 722 - Top One Hundred

Some minutes later, Reynolds won his battle as well, becoming a member of the Faction he picked.

Surprisingly, Grey was the first to come here, however, from how things were progressing, his friends would join a Faction before he did.

"Nice performance!" Klaus gave the duo a thumbs up before they sat down.

"We only wanted to ensure that we became members of a Faction, we didn't do it for you." Reynolds said.

"It doesn't matter, at least now we have all the attention in this place. What's next is for you two to go out there and claim the first and second place. This would make us even more dominant!" Klaus urged.

"I plan to." Alice said with confidence.

"You'll have to go through me, Hehehe." Reynolds chuckled cheekily.

"I've always wanted to see the strength of your Elemental Warrior, it seems the time has finally come." Alice replied.

Kyle looked at the duo speaking confident, and if not for something, he would've thought there were no other participants here. These two were speaking like they already had the first and second place in the bag, all they had to do was to battle it out and see who would come out on top.

While the group was discussing, a young lady, accompanied by a young man walked up to them. The young lady was dressed in a purple dress, and on her back was a golden lightning insignia, it was none other than the symbol of the Asterope Faction. The young man was dressed in blue, and on his back was a purple lightning insignia shaped like a human wearing a hat. This was the symbol of the Raiden Faction.

"Welcome to the Asterope Faction, I was told to come and invite you over to your new seat." The young lady said to Alice with a friendly smile.

The young man on the side did the same to Reynolds, the only difference was the change in name of the Faction.

"Can we stay here a little longer, we plan to continue the contest." Alice said calmly.

The young lady was quite friendly, so she spoke to her in a friendly manner as well.

These Factions are very smart, they know the people they send out to receive people. Sending out a haughty person will ruin the image of the Faction, but sending out a person who was too friendly would make them seem desperate.

"I see, but a word of reminder, you're now part of the Asterope Faction, don't disappoint our name."
The young lady replied.

The meaning of her words was simple, if you know you're going to continue the competition, then you better come out with an exceptional rank. In fact, they expected her to win the competition.

The same thing went for Reynolds, since he was staying, then he had to make sure he won it as well, or at the very least, is part of the top three.

"Don't worry, I wouldn't give others the chance to look down on us." Alice reassured the young lady before she went back to her seat.

Reynolds also reassured the young man from the Raiden Faction as well. They didn't plan to go for the top ten anyway, their objective was to get first and second.

"You two are now part of a big Faction. All that's left now is for me to join the Moonlight Faction, and we'll be alright." Klaus said.

"What about Grey?" Reynolds asked.

"What about him?" Klaus asked in confusion.

"He still hasn't thought of joining any of them?" Reynolds asked.

"He has other plans." Klaus shook his head in pity. It would've been nice if they were all in the same Region.

While the duo was having this conversation, Grey, Alice, and Kyle were looking at the duo, all taken aback. The reason for this was because Grey was sitting right in front of the duo, yet they were speaking as if he wasn't.

Grey's eyelids twitched as he looked at them, he couldn't even bring himself to ask if they were normal, because the answer was easy for all of them, they weren't.

Thirty minutes later, the other battles stopped. Of all eight people that challenged members of a Faction, four people won. This was the highest number since the start of the competition. Half of the people who challenged a member of their desired Faction, won.

Alice and Reynolds used the time the other battles were still ongoing to try to recover some strength.

The other two people who qualified didn't continue the competition since their aim had been achieved. This removed two people from the list of participants, leaving a total of a hundred and ninety-eight people.

If they battled with the usual method, they would be short of one participant. The hosts decided to make the strongest loser the last person who would make up the top hundred. This meant that of the other ninety-nine people who would lose, one of them would be given the chance to advance as long as they showed sufficient strength.

When the crowd saw Alice and Reynolds were part of the participants fighting, they were excited.

How would the new members of these powerful lightning Factions fare?

There are a few people who might be able to give them some trouble, but the duo had the highest chance of grabbing the number one and two spots since their victory over the members of the Factions was very convincing.

Just like before, they would draw lots for their battles.

Alice's opponent was a Fire Elementalist in the Fifth stage, while Reynolds' opponent was a Dual Elementalist in the Sixth stage.

It was the duo's turn to fight, they didn't hide their strength like they had been doing all this while. Showcasing their full strength, they crushed their opponents in a swift battle.

Their opponents were quite unfortunate since they couldn't grab the last spot. They weren't even able to put up much of a fight against the duo.

The young lady who fought against Alice during the first round of the competition was dumbfounded. She didn't think this was the same person who could barely keep up with her.

If they were to have a rematch now, Alice would most definitely defeat her.

Chapter 723 - A Powerful Opponent

The top one hundred was decided later that day. With all the battles completed, it was time for them to draw lots once again in preparation for the next day.

Alice and Reynolds got opponents in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane. Their opponents wore long expressions when they found out who they had to fight in the next round.

From the start, the battle was as good as lost. They were not opponents who could fight against the two. Reynolds' opponent even thought of giving up instantly. He had seen the method Reynolds used in fighting, and to be honest, he didn't want to be subject to such torture. Yes, he felt it was torture.

Alice's opponent was even more disheartened. Alice wasn't someone who went easy on people, she gave them a complete trouncing even when they were weaker than her.

Alice and Reynolds were already favorites to grab the top spots.

Time went by and the next day came.

Getting to the arena, it was packed. Compared to the previous day, the number of people seemed to have increased. It was expected, qsince as the day goes by, more people flock to the city just because of this competition. There are a few who wanted to participate in it, but due to some unforeseen events, they didn't make it in time. All they could do now was to watch those fighting.

"You two have become famous." Klaus said as they walked into the arena.

The previous night, he went out with Reynolds, and he was shocked by the number of people that wanted to help them because of him. Reynolds was already part of a powerful Faction, so many people wouldn't want to offend him. Although he hadn't officially joined them, he was already regarded as one of them.

In the tavern they went to the previous night, they were given free drinks and food, which was kind of unexpected. But Klaus didn't mind and gobbled down everything, he even took some back home for Grey, Alice, and Kyle who refused to go out with them.

Alice shrugged, not bothered with it. Reynolds on the other hand smiled sheepishly.

Klaus poured cold water on Reynolds' mood with his next words, "Don't let it get to your head, focus on getting a good position."

Grey chuckled when he heard this.

"What do you plan to do once we've all successfully joined a Faction?" Klaus asked.

"I'll travel to the next Region, maybe that would be the place for me." Grey replied.

"And what if you don't like that place as well?" Klaus asked, "You'll keep traveling?"

"I didn't think about it that way, but I don't think so. There would definitely be a place for me there. If not, I'll just come back and join a Faction here." Grey replied after falling silent for a while.

"Alright, I believe you know what you're doing." Klaus said as they took their seats.

The group waited for the start of the battles. Alice and Reynolds' battles were the shortest ones so far; in the space of thirty seconds, their opponents gave up.

It's not that they didn't want to show some effort, but they were outright beaten out of the platform. Even they had a baffled look on their face when they realized they had lost.

They knew they would lose from the start, but never did they think they wouldn't be able to even put up a fight. This was a disgrace for them. Even though they were guaranteed a chance to join a Faction since they managed to get into the top one hundred, this battle would reduce their ratings in the eyes of the top Factions. Now, only the weaker ones would take them in, and it might be unwilling since they couldn't let the duo not join a Faction after promising the top hundred a spot.

"You two are just evil." Kyle said as the duo came back.

"It's not my fault. He had already given up before the battle started." Alice sat down to look at the other battles taking place in the arena.

Just like Alice's opponent, Reynolds' opponent also gave up when he saw the lot the previous day, so defeating him was too easy.

After two hours, the top fifty spots were occupied. Now, it was time for the battle of the top twenty-five.

Of all the fighters left, one person had shocked the entire arena. It was none other than the best loser from the top one hundred battles. She was an Earth Elementalist in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane.

She lost by a small margin, and after careful deliberation by the hosts, they gave her the last spot. Her last battle was against a Dual Elementalist in the Sixth stage which she won convincingly.

From not being able to make it into the top hundred on her own, she fought her way into the top fifty. It was quite a remarkable thing.

Since there was still time, the battle for the top twenty-five would take place the next day. The participants were given two hours to recover their strength before they came out to draw lots once again.

Alice's opponent was ironically the young lady she fought against during the brawl. Reynolds' opponent is said to be one of the favorites to get into the top ten by a lot of people here.

From her previous battles, everyone could tell that she was well ahead of others at the same stage. If she were to challenge someone from the Faction she wished to join, her chances of winning were at least forty percent.

"Take care while fighting against her, her darkness element is not something you should take lightly." Grey warned.

Unlike his friends, he had been watching most of the battles, carefully picking out the top participants. One of the reasons he was doing this was to learn a thing or two from them, while the other was to warn his friends in case they encountered them.

"Alright." Reynolds nodded.

Chapter 724 - A Powerful Opponent II

Alice was the first among the duo to step forward.

"It's nice seeing you again." She said to the young lady.

"Yeah, not really for me." The young lady shook her head with a self-deprecating smile.

She knew she was no match for Alice, but it didn't mean she would give up before the battle even started.

Alice didn't reply since she knew what her opponent was thinking.

After getting confirmation from both participants, the man in charge gave them the go-ahead to start the battle.

"Use your full strength." The young lady said after the man called for the start of the battle.

"I plan to." Alice said as the Seelie came out of her, floating by her side.

"Thank you." The young lady said before attacking.

The attack was met with Alice's attack. While Alice blocked the attack, the Seelie attacked. The young lady instantly fell on the defensive, blocking the attacks of the Seelie, while making sure to be wary of Alice who was also attacking from the side.

They exchanged blows for some time with Alice being on top from the start of the battle.

Unlike her previous opponent, the young lady didn't give up, even after being in a passive situation since the start of the battle, she still tried to come up with a way to block and counter Alice and the Seelie.

Things got worse for her when the Seelie made a defensive ice wall in front of Alice. All her attacks made the ice retaliate, while she also had to block off Alice and the Seelie's attacks as well.

With a three-pronged attack, it was only a matter of time before she started to get hit by the attacks.

The young lady managed to hang on in this state for almost five minutes, but in the end, she was sent flying out of the platform after Alice saw an opening.

"Thank you for going all-out this time." The young lady said to Alice before walking away.

Alice nodded at her before walking back to her seat after being declared the winner. She has made it to the top twenty-five, a few more battles and she'll be in the top ten.

The group already expected her to win, but they still congratulated her when she came back to her seat. With her battle over, it was time for Reynolds to step into the platform. His opponent was a young lady who others felt had a great chance of making it to the top ten.

"Remember, don't get dragged into a close range battle. Also, be mindful of the platform." Grey advised.

"Don't worry, I'll be fine. With my Elemental Warrior, I will be able to keep a good distance away from her, and I'll observe the platform carefully." Reynolds nodded.

"Alright." Grey said before moving his gaze to the seat of the young lady, he saw her looking in their direction and their eyes clashed.

She moved her gaze away after only a second.

Reynolds walked up to the platform, waiting for his opponent. The young lady stepped in a few seconds after he entered.

"Hello." Reynolds waved.

"Hey." The young lady's voice was cold, just like her expression.

Reynolds originally wanted to start a conversation to lighten up the mood since the young lady was acting as if they were in a life and death battle, but the man in charge of their platform didn't have the time to wait. After confirming that the duo was ready, he called for the start of the battle.

The young lady was a Multi Elementalist, having the lightning, wind, and darkness elements. The element she seems to be proficient in was the darkness element.

When the battle started, she raised her hands and a small black orb made of black mass floated into the air, when it got to around fifteen meters into the air, it exploded and spread out little particles of dark matter across the entire platform. There was no way anyone on the platform would be able to dodge it.

When Reynolds saw this, he covered his body with a lightning coat. He listened closely to Grey's warnings, so he couldn't afford to let these things touch him.

The young lady didn't bother herself about this as she used another attack.

A large lightning bolt shot toward Reynolds, but it was blocked by a figure made of lightning. The Elemental Warrior attacked after it blocked the lightning bolt.

The young lady used the wind element to boost her speed as she moved to the left swiftly, dodging the attack of the Elemental Warrior.

Reynolds didn't give her a chance to rest, attacking her the second she stopped moving.

The young lady blocked the attack with a windscreen, before sending out multiple wind blades.

After sending out the wind blades, she made a bird made entirely of the darkness element and used the wind element to quicken its speed as it shot at Reynolds.

Reynolds let the Elemental Warrior deal with the darkness bird while he blocked the wind blades.

Boom! Bang! Bam!

The battle was just as the audience expected, thrilling right from the start.

"Why did she do that?" Klaus asked curiously.

The darkness elemental particles in the platform were still too much.

"She's making the place more conducive for the darkness element while trying to weaken the elemental essence of the other elements." Void explained.

Of the group, he had the highest sensitivity, so he could sense what was happening around the platform better than the others.

"The longer the battle drags on, the greater her advantage." Grey added.

"Wouldn't that mean she might be able to defeat Rey?" Klaus asked.

"Not entirely, but her chances will be higher then. Reynolds will soon notice this and would try to end the battle quickly, if he gets close to her, then she would be able to do even more damage." Grey replied.

"She's powerful." Alice's gaze turned serious.

"And clever. If she had waited any longer before using the attack she first used, Reynolds would've been able to stop it." Kyle said.

Chapter 725 - A Powerful Opponent III

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Reynolds and the young lady continued their heated battle. As time went on, Reynolds started to notice a peculiarity, he was having difficulties with his lightning element.

Not just him, but even the strength of the Elemental Warrior seemed to have waned a little compared to the first time he summoned it.

'It must be these particles. I'll need to end the battle sooner than I thought.' He thought to himself.

Once he gets to a certain point, then no matter how powerful he or his Elemental Warrior was, they would ultimately be defeated since their strength would have reduced to the level where it wouldn't be able to threaten the young lady.

Reynolds rushed forward, using the attack, lightning rain.

With the lightning rain attacking a wide area, the Elemental Warrior moved closer to the young lady. Although Reynolds was in a haste, he didn't forget Grey's warning about getting close to the young lady.

After Grey warned him about her, he only planned on letting his Elemental Warrior get close to her while he would attack from a distance.

The young lady used the lightning and wind element to boost her speed as she hurriedly retreated from the Elemental Warrior. She couldn't afford to fight a close-range battle with it since it was not human.

Her darkness element might be able to affect it, but it wouldn't be on the same level as humans. Besides, the Elemental Warrior was a stage above her, making it even more difficult to deal with.

The Elemental Warrior didn't let her leave easily as it chased after her and attacked her. The young lady blocked as she retreated.

Reynolds used the opportunity to continue his assault. This was his usual strategy, letting the Elemental Warrior be in front while he attacked from behind. It might be underhanded for some people, but the Elemental Warrior was part of his strength, so he didn't really have to think about what they said.

The young lady tried countering, but the Elemental Warrior blocked every possible chance of that happening. If not for its strength reduction, it wouldn't have any problems with defeating the young lady.

Everyone soon started to notice what was taking place on the platform. Even those in the Origin Plane noticed the drop in strength of the Elemental Warrior. That was not the only thing that changed, the darkness elemental attacks of the young lady saw a spike, increasing to a new level.

This was the longest battle she had fought so far, so they haven't been able to see this part of her strength.

Gasps of shock resonated across the arena as they started to realize what was happening. Reynolds was on the verge of losing.

Presently, his Elemental Warrior could barely suppress the young lady. Reynolds was also having a difficult time manipulating his element. The darkness element had corroded the air, destroying any elemental essence that wasn't the darkness element.

The lightning coat Reynolds used in enveloping his body started to flicker, a sign that it would be fading away any time soon.

"Rey is in trouble." Alice said with a severe expression.

This was the first time any of them had been caught in such a difficult predicament since they were battling in the competition. Reynolds' opponent was not someone to be taken lightly, and they're seeing her in a different state.

Just like Reynolds, this was the young lady's most powerful opponent so far, and she planned to take him out. If she eliminated Reynolds, then she would solidify her position as being one of the favorites to win, not just that, but whichever Faction she joined, she would be able to get a good reputation before even joining.

"Yeah, this is troublesome. Unless Rey leaves the platform, it would be difficult for him to use the lightning element to its full strength." Grey said with a shake of the head.

But he didn't lose hope in his friend's chance of winning. He knew Reynolds would not give up so easily. Only when he knew there was no hope would he give up, but in this situation, he still had a chance of turning it around.

"He won't lose." Klaus said confidently.

"I know." Grey and Alice replied.

Kyle looked at the trio amazed, Reynolds was clearly on the verge of losing, yet these three were saying so confidently that he won't lose.

'Could it be that they're not seeing the current condition of the battle?'

This was the question he wanted to ask, but he refrained from doing so since he didn't want to offend them. Since they were so confident in their friend, he wanted to see the reason for their confidence.

Reynolds watched as the battle slowly started to get out of his hands. From having the initiative, he fell into a passive state. Luckily, the Elemental Warrior was able to take most of the pressure.

The young lady was no doubt very powerful. One has to know that fighting against Reynolds and his Elemental Warrior was almost the same as fighting against two people, one in the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane while the other in the Fourth stage, yet she was able to gain the upper hand.

This might not be the result if she fought two people at this stage, but since Reynolds was the only one operating both sides, it meant she was fighting against one brain.

Boom! Bang! Bam! UPDATE FROM FREEWEBNOVEL.COM.

She attacked ferociously with the lightning and wind element. The darkness element was mainly used for sneak attacks.

Boom!

One of the attacks hit Reynolds head-on, and he was sent flying.

He maneuvered and managed to stay on the platform, but his lightning coat was eroded. It flickered once and went off.

With the lightning coat out of the picture, he was standing unprotected against the darkness particles that were on the platform.

Within a matter of a few seconds, he started to feel the effects of them as they touched his body. If he had about seventy percent control over the lightning element before, present, he had only around fifty percent. And as time goes on, he would continue losing his ability to manipulate it.

Chapter 726 - Rumbling Thunder

Crash! Bang!

Reynolds was sent flying by another attack from the young lady once again. This time, crashing into his Elemental Warrior.

The light the Elemental Warrior gave was weaker than usual, this showed it would disappear soon.

"Just give up, the longer you stay here, the more you'll lose your strength. Unless you're a Darkness Elementalist, you're as good as defeated in here." The young lady said calmly.

She wasn't haughty, only speaking what she felt was the truth.

Reynolds raised his head to look at her, this wasn't the first time he was getting in a situation like this, and time and time again, he had been able to come out victorious, all he had to do was persevere for now, his chance would come sooner or later.

"You've not won, not yet." Reynolds replied as he stood up once again.

He could feel his strength slowly leaving his body. This wasn't how he planned things to go, but he was also aware things don't always go as planned. This was why there was a contingency plan.

'I've never heard of anyone doing this before, but it should be possible.' Reynolds thought to himself as he prepared himself for what was next.

The young lady snorted and attacked once again.

Reynolds sent the Elemental Warrior forward to fight against the young lady as he mapped out his plan in his head. If things work well, he would create a unique technique never before seen, if not, then he would lose without a doubt and might be harmed in that process as well.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

The Elemental Warrior was once again sent flying. This time, in Reynolds' direction.

Reynolds, seeing the Elemental Warrior coming his way, dodged to the left. Given the speed it was coming at, it was unknown if it wouldn't knock him out of the platform, so he couldn't take any chances.

He knew this would present a chance for the young lady to attack him, but he had no other options.

Just as he predicted, after dodging the attack, he saw the young lady approaching him with a dark orb in her hands. She created a tornado which she used to keep Reynolds in place as she approached.

Reynolds used the lightning element to the maximum, but because of the decrease in the lightning elemental essence on the platform, he was unable to bring forth seventy percent of his original strength.

The reason the young lady preferred close-range battle was all because of the speed of the darkness element. It was just too slow. She could boost its speed with the wind or lightning element, but due to the specialty of her attacks, it wouldn't be as powerful as when used alone. This was a strange method since getting a boost from other elements would usually increase the speed and even the attack power of the element.

Reynolds struggled as the young lady got within striking distance.

Buzz! Crash! Bang!

The young lady dodged to the right with a smirk on her face.

"I expected that." She chuckled before throwing the dark orb into the tornado.

Reynolds watched on as the dark orb got into the tornado and exploded. The tornado soon turned completely black and Reynolds' figure disappeared from view.

The young lady stood alone on the platform, looking at the black tornado rotating on the platform.

Everyone watched the tornado, waiting for her to stop it, or for Reynolds to somehow miraculously escape from it. They knew the chance of the latter was very minimal, but people enjoyed seeing the unexpected.

Grey and his friends exchanged views, while Kyle shook his head. He already knew this would be the result from the second the young lady took the upper hand.

"Rey is not defeated yet." Klaus clenched his fist.

"You should just for..." Kyle was in the middle of speaking when Grey interrupted him.

"He has not given up yet, we'll only accept his defeat when he has accepted it." Grey pointed at the black tornado, and signs of silver light were visible in the tornado. Although very faint, it was visible.

Grey wasn't the only one who noticed the silver lights, people gradually started to notice them around the arena, and they started pointing at them while speaking animatedly.

Some felt it was a last-ditch effort from Reynolds, while others felt Reynolds was about to do the impossible.

The silver lights started to move faster and started getting brighter. In the dark tornado, the light started to shine brightly.

The young lady seeing this raised her hand and a second darkness orb appeared on it, she sent it into the tornado.

With a second orb entering, the strength of the tornado almost multiplied. The silver lights which were running rampant a few moments ago slowly started to lose their light. At this point, other than Grey and his friends, no one else felt Reynolds had a chance of making a comeback.

The young lady didn't stop with one orb, she created two more and sent them into the tornado.

With the current boost the tornado got, its strength increased significantly. At this rate, it would even be able to trouble someone in the Ninth stage of the Overlord Plane.

The only reason this was possible was all because of the time the young lady was afforded. With her current strength, she naturally was no match for a Ninth stage Overlord Plane genius.

The man in charge of the platform was about to step in and announce the winner, but just as he was about to step into the platform...

Rumble!

The sound of heavy thunder reverberated across the entire arena.

Lightning clouds gathered above the platform, and the dark tornado once again had silver light shining in it. This time, it was brighter than the previous time.

"What?" The young lady, as well as the crowd, was shocked. They never thought Reynolds would not give up just yet, and from the sound of the thunder, they could all tell something was about to happen.

Chapter 727 - Rumbling Thunder II

Rumble!

The sound of the thunder increased as the platform shook vigorously from the sound of the thunder.

Inside the tornado, the silver light was getting brighter with time. It was as if a lightning storm was taking place inside the tornado.

The young lady couldn't let her victory slip away. Without caring for Reynolds' safety, she created more orbs and sent them into the tornado. In five seconds, she sent in over ten darkness orbs.

At this rate, this tornado would kill an Elementalist in the Ninth stage of the Overlord Plane easily. And even a Peak Overlord Plane Elementalist would think twice before entangling themselves with it.

To the dismay of the young lady, the lightning storm that seemed to be brewing inside the tornado didn't stop, instead, it increased, fighting against the darkness.

Everyone in the arena were off their seats as they watched the scene that was taking place. Reynolds was fighting back, against all odds, he was fighting back.

He would not take defeat so easily.

Grey and Klaus exchanged glances and a smile flashed across their faces. They knew Reynolds wouldn't lose so easily.

But deep down, they could both sense their nervousness after the young lady started adding darkness orbs to the tornado.

"I told you, he has not been defeated yet." Grey said to Kyle.

Now Kyle understood why the trio had so much confidence in him, even without seeing his figure, he could tell that the second Reynolds came out of the tornado, he would be a different person.

'Looks like he benefited from this.' Kyle thought to himself.

Rumble! Buzz! Crash!

The sound of the thunder reverberated one more time before a large bolt of lightning fell from the thundercloud above the platform, falling straight into the tornado.

Swoosh! Bang!

The tornado contracted before exploding out in all directions.

The force of the explosion sent the young lady flying, but she made sure to stay on the platform.

With the tornado gone, and the lightning bolt slowly fading away, a figure soon started to appear in the view of everyone.

"Where's his Elemental Warrior?" Grey asked after noticing only Reynolds was barely visible.

"I haven't seen it since it was sent flying." Klaus replied.

Grey turned to Alice and Kyle, but their response was a shake of their heads. They too had no idea where the Elemental Warrior was located.

As time went on, the lightning faded off completely, and the figure before them came into full view. It was a humanoid figure with lightning formed around the body like armor.

"I can see the Elemental Warrior, but where's Rey?" Klaus said.

"That is Rey." Void replied.

"Huh?"

Everyone around him, including Grey, turned to look at Void in shock.

"That is Rey. He seems to have merged with the Elemental Warrior." Void replied.

Just as Void said, after getting a good view of the figure, they realized it was Reynolds clothed with lightning armor. His present appearance was the same as the Elemental Warrior. The only difference was that he had facial features. Then there were a few places that didn't have lightning covering them, so the clothes he was previously wearing were visible.

"Is this even possible?" Alice asked, stunned.

"Shouldn't be, but as you can see with a lot of your friends, nothing is impossible." Void replied.

Alice looked at Grey and then at Klaus. Void was right, for her friends, nothing was impossible. Grey had a freakish ability to comprehend any element and even improve the elemental grade, while Klaus had virtually unreal luck.

Klaus' luck would make the entire continent envious. Even those sitting at the top would feel jealous of his luck. Now, Reynolds just did something that shouldn't be possible.

At the moment, she felt like the only normal person among these freaks.

If people in the arena could hear her thoughts, they would riot. If she was normal, then what were they?

At least she had a Seelie, what did they have? Just being friends with these people already made her abnormal to begin with!

Reynolds was currently floating in the air, laughing like a maniac which almost ruined the impressive image he just created in the eyes of everyone.

The truth was, no matter what he did, it would be difficult for those in the arena to forget this scene. Even if Reynolds were to go on and lose this battle, they would still remember this scene.

"It worked! Hahaha!" Reynolds laughed in delight in the sky with both hands spread apart.

When he had the idea of merging with the Elemental Warrior some time ago, he never thought it would be possible. He had been experimenting with it a few times while also playing out a few scenarios in his head, but he was a bit skeptical about it. Now that he tried it, he got the surprise of his life.

He had officially made something unique only to him. There might be other high-grade summoners, but none of them would be able to merge their bodies with that of their Elemental Warriors.

The young lady looked at the figure above her, almost losing hope in the battle.

The darkness particles she created on the platform were gone with the explosion of the tornado. This meant that for her to win, she had to start all over again.

And compared to the first time, Reynolds seemed stronger.

She gritted her teeth and since Reynolds was still distracted by his success, she created another darkness orb like the beginning of the battle and sent it up.

Reynolds noticed this, and before the darkness orb got over ten meters into the air, he created a lightning sword and cut it in two.

"It will not work against me for a second time, don't mistake me for a fool." Reynolds said coolly after destroying the darkness orb.

The young lady wore an annoyed expression when she saw that her plan was thwarted. She still didn't give up, after all, maybe all this was false bravado.

Chapter 728 - You Did Your Best

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Reynolds started his attack on the young lady.

The young lady blocked most of the attack as she countered as well.

Reynolds didn't let the attacks disturb him, with a few movements, he dodged most of her attacks while blocking the few he couldn't.

His current attack power seemed to be on the Eighth stage of the Overlord Plane.

The young lady stood no chance against the current him, and from the small interchange they had, she knew. But she didn't want to give up so easily.

She has already missed her chance on getting into the Faction of her choice, so the best way she could get into the Faction of her choice was by getting into the top ten, losing now means she wouldn't be able to get that.

"I can't lose, I won't lose." She encouraged herself as she persisted through the attacks.

Reynolds didn't hold back, after all, when the young lady was attacking a few minutes ago, she didn't give him a chance.

Bam! Bang!

The young lady was pushed back by Reynolds' attack, but she retaliated soon after she got her footing.

The audience shook their heads. They all thought the young lady would be victorious in this battle a few minutes ago, but presently, it was clear for all to see that Reynolds would defeat her.

She didn't want to give up, however, she was only delaying the inevitable. Against the current Reynolds, she would undoubtedly lose.

"Do you think she might create a miracle as well?" Klaus asked.

"Not a chance. She knows she has lost, she just doesn't want to accept it because it would mean losing the chance of getting into the Faction of her choice." Alice replied.

Everyone could read the young lady's intent. It was clear she had a specific Faction in mind, and the only way she could get in was by getting into the top ten.

However, there's a chance that she might still get her wish. Forgetting the fact that she was about to lose to Reynolds, she was a powerful figure. If she didn't encounter Reynolds, then she would have at least an eighty percent chance of getting into the top five.

There has been no participant that has been able to pull off such a performance other than Alice and Reynolds. The other two who did this refused to continue the competition.

Other than this young lady, there are a few others who might still be able to show such strength. But they hadn't gotten an opponent that made them go all-out yet.

"This is the disadvantage of not taking the chance the first time. Had she challenged the Faction she wanted, she had a good chance of getting into it." Kyle felt pity for the young lady who was giving her all on the platform.

Boom! Thud!

The young lady was sent flying once again by Reynolds, falling onto the platform with a loud sound. She struggled to get to her feet, unwilling to give up.

"You should give up, you can't win." Reynolds floated in the air as he looked down on his opponent.

The young lady raised her head to look at him defiantly, "I said these words to you previously, but you managed to turn it around."

"We're not the same." Reynolds said in a straightforward manner.

If the young lady thought acting like him would give her the chance of turning the battle around, then she was a fool.

"I know." The young lady gritted her teeth angrily and a hand made of black mass rushed toward Reynolds.

'It's time to end this.' Reynolds thought to himself.

He looked at that hand coming his way, not a single fear in his eyes.

Buzz! Swoosh!

He shot past the hand, creating a gaping hole in it. After going through the hand, his next target was the young lady.

Boom! Bam!

He attacked continuously, and after almost thirty seconds, he once again sent the young lady flying.

This time, he didn't leave her alone like before, rather, he continued attacking.

The young lady didn't get the chance to stabilize herself before Reynolds came rushing in once again.

She was sent flying once again, crashing into the ground.

Rumble! Crash!

A powerful thunderbolt fell from the sky, striking the young lady who was on the ground of the platform.

The crowd looked at Reynolds, not expecting such brutality from him. They felt he would've been lenient with the young lady, but after thinking of how the young lady attacked him, they decided she deserved it.

The sorry figure of the young lady came into view once again. She had blood on the side of her mouth, however, she still refused to admit defeat.

"Fine, I'll send you out of the platform myself." Reynolds said coldly.

Attacking the young lady once again.

The young lady managed to put up a fight for a few more minutes, but she was ultimately knocked out of the platform, falling unconscious in the end after straining herself too much.

After defeating his opponent, Reynolds left his current form, and the lightning armor around his body faded off. He slowly fell to the ground, exhausted.

Merging with the Elemental Warrior was taxing. If he stayed in this form for too long, he might fall unconscious as well. Luckily, he managed to defeat the young lady in the space of around five minutes.

The man in charge of the platform walked forward to announce the winner, while a middle-aged man flew from the special seating area and enveloped the young lady with a white light. It was the use of the light element, aiding the healing of the young lady.

The young lady opened her eyes a few seconds later, disappointment visible in her eyes.

"No need to feel disappointed, you did your best." The middle-aged man smiled softly at her before going back to his seat.

His words were correct, the young lady indeed did her best, she was just unfortunate in encountering the likes of Reynolds who was a powerful opponent in his own right as well.

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Chapter 729 - Top Twenty-five

"Surprised?" Reynolds asked with a smirk when he got back to his seat.

"A little." Grey replied.

"What do you mean a little? He literally just merged with his Elemental Warrior, how could you not be mega surprised?" Klaus questioned.

The shocked expression when he found out Reynolds merged with the Elemental Warrior was out of this world. He was so happy for him that people would think he was the one who made such advancement.

"You're something else." Kyle complimented as he looked at Reynolds.

If Reynolds used this to fight against him, he wasn't confident he would be able to win.

When they fought at the competition the last time, he only gave up because he was getting frustrated by Reynolds' tactics, and wasting so much time because of a number one spot wasn't worth it. He was a carefree person who didn't really care about all these things.

"Thanks." Reynolds grinned before taking his seat.

This time, even more people flocked to their area. Reynolds' performance was outstanding, so he naturally made a lot of fans. There were a few ladies who wouldn't mind getting married to him right there and then.

Klaus acted like his manager, dealing with everything. In no time, he had arranged a party in one of the Inns in the city.

Kyle was once again astounded by Klaus' socializing ability. He was on another level.

While he was speaking, a young man walked forward. He was dressed luxuriously in ash and blue, and the air of a rich family was circulating around him. He was accompanied by a few others.

"Hello, I'm Joyner Crane." The young man introduced himself.

"I'm Klaus, this is Reynolds, Alice, Grey, and Kyle." Klaus was the one who stepped forward and spoke.

He hit it off with that young man and before long, the party was moved from an Inn to the garden at the Mayor's manor.

Surprise, Joyner was the son of the Mayor of this city. It wasn't unexpected that he came over to create ties with this group of geniuses.

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If he was having second thoughts before, Reynolds' last performance had shattered it.

Joyner introduced the people following him, and they were all from one of the big families in the city. Although most of the families were fighting hidden battles, in places like this, they had to show a unified front.

Grey and the group were moved over to a special sitting area, closer to the big families geniuses as well as the Factions as well.

When they got there, the young man from the Raiden Faction Reynolds fought against, as well as the one who came over to invite him approached them. The person from the Asterope Faction also came over.

Their sitting area was surprisingly the star of the place, and Klaus didn't let the chance go. A few of the ladies from the Moonlight Faction came over and he tried befriending them.

Being a handsome young man, as well as having a friendly and vibrant personality, he made friends with two of them in a jiffy.

This was one of the few times Grey had been in a situation like this. As much as he wanted to escape, he knew he couldn't. Luckily, he had been traveling with Klaus for some time, so he was able to speak with the people who came over.

The battle for that day ended and the top twenty-five were picked. Now, it was time for the difficult situation. With twenty-five people present, they could only have twelve battles, making it twenty-four fighters, which would leave one person without an opponent.

Even after they get this, there would be around twelve or thirteen people, meaning three would have to be eliminated for the top ten to be decided.

Lots were drawn, and contrary to everyone's assumption, the hosts did something different. Instead of having someone not fight and automatically advance, one of the battles will have three participants and only one would qualify.

This would leave twelve participants left on for the competition. The last three winners from the battles except for the three-way battle will fight against each other, and only one will advance to the next round. This means there's currently a time for all the fighters, if your battle takes too long, you stand a chance of being part of the three.

This might seem unfair for some, but not everyone could make it into the top ten. Only the very best can get to the top ten.

Most of the participants prayed that either Alice or Reynolds got to fight in the first three-way battle. The reason for this was that only the duo could fight against two people simultaneously easily.

Alice had her Seelie while Reynolds had his Elemental Warrior. This made the duo almost two.

There were a few people who were actually praying that both of them were part of the three-way battle so that one of them would be eliminated, or hopefully both of them.

When they drew lots, Alice and Reynolds were not part of the three-way battle to the dismay of some people. Their opponents were powerful, but not on the level where they could trouble them.

As things stand, it was already certain that Reynolds and Alice would be able to occupy two spots in the top ten.

Those who wanted to join a particular Faction felt frustrated. It was normal, the reason for this was that both Alice and Reynolds already got into the Faction they wanted. Taking two spots in the top ten would be meaningless to them. But since they wanted to participate in the competition, there was nothing they could do.

A young lady who was one of the favorites was the one who unfortunately got into the three-way battle. Being one of the favorites meant that her opponents would most likely team up to take her out of the platform, giving themselves a chance.

The young lady felt hatred as she looked at Alice and Reynolds after they finished drawing lots. She couldn't hide her anger.

The others kept their distance, since they weren't the unfortunate ones, it had nothing to do with them.

Chapter 730 - A Gamble

Later that day.

Tallinn City's Mayor manor.

Joyner got permission from his father to host Grey and his friends, and since they were already here, the geniuses from all the Factions present were invited as well.

The participants who managed to get into the top one hundred were also invited. Given the current number of people present, the party was held on an open field.

Grey and his friends sat at the front, alongside members of the top Factions, while Joyner, being the host of the party, sat facing the crowd.

There was music, drinks, food, and other forms of entertainment and the place was lively as expected. This party was held with the sole purpose of creating ties with each other.

Everyone present were all well dressed. Grey wore a light blue overcoat with black trousers, Reynolds and Klaus both wore red and green overcoats respectively with black trousers as well. Alice wore white trousers with a peach long-sleeved shirt.

Kyle was dressed in a simple short-sleeved shirt and blue trousers.

The group was part of the focus of the show. A few geniuses came over to toast with them, while Klaus was very active, one minute he was here, the next he was somewhere else.

People didn't take it as him trying to bootlick them since all he did was share a glass of wine with them before leaving.

Unknown to them, the only reason Klaus even went to other tables was that he didn't want the girls from the Moonlight Faction to think they were his aim. That was the only table he wanted to go to, and following his plan, that was the last table he went to. He stayed there longer and managed to build some sort of relationship with the girls.

Not all the girls were welcoming, nor did he try to befriend all of them.

Going back to his seat, he realized a young lady was staring at Reynolds and Alice angrily.

"What's going on here?" He asked as he took his seat.

"Tell them to step down from the competition. They are already part of a Faction, doing this will only reduce the chances of others." The young lady said.

"Don't you think your request is a bit, I don't know, odd. It's none of your business if we decide to continue fighting or not." Alice replied coldly.

"Odd? You two are hoarding all the spots even after achieving your aim and you call my request odd?" The young lady said angrily.

She knew her battle the next day would be difficult, now she was looking for a way to vent her current anger. If she lost tomorrow, she would be incensed.

"Strength is all that matters, nothing else. Let your strength speak. If you're worth it, then the Faction you want will surely seek you. Doing this only shows that you're unsure of yourself." Grey spoke up.

"Say whatever you want, but what they are doing is pathetic." The young lady said.

The exchange between the young lady and Grey's group naturally caught the attention of those around. Some of the participants felt her claim was right. Alice and Reynolds had already gotten into a Faction of their choice, what was the use in taking part in the competition any longer.

One of the people who felt even more irritated with the duo was the young lady Reynolds eliminated. She walked over as well and joined the young lady to stir up trouble for the group.

The others watched on with interest, there was nothing as entertaining as watching two parties fight, especially when the battle had nothing to do with you nor would it affect you in any way.

"You said strength was all that matters, right?" The young lady Reynolds eliminated asked Grey.

"Correct." Grey didn't back away. It wasn't like they could beat him.

"Fine, then I have an offer for you, since you're friends with them, I believe you would be able to take the gamble." The young lady who was eliminated pointed at Grey.

"I'm not interested in gambling with desperate people." Grey didn't mince his words, and the young ladies were irritated even further.

"I thought you said strength was all that matters?" The young lady asked.

"It is." Grey nodded. NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON FREEWEBNOVEL.COM

"Then if you're not afraid, take the gamble." The young lady said.

"If I may ask, what's the gamble?" Klaus asked.

"He would fight against the two of us, if he manages to win, we won't speak of this issue again. But if we win, they would have to step down from the competition." The young lady said.

"Hahaha, you must be joking, right?" Klaus laughed in amusement.

"No, I'm not." The young lady said.

The young lady who was still in the competition thought about it and felt this was an achievable thing, so she supported the young lady Reynolds eliminated.

"You must be stupid if you think we would agree to your words." Klaus said.

The facial expression of the young ladies turned distorted, clearly infuriated with Klaus' words.

"You're placing a gamble that you will only gain and not lose, where have you seen something like that happening before?" Klaus asked with a mocking smile, before adding, "If you so much as dare to take a gamble, then you must be ready to lose as well."

Everyone listening to the conversation nodded in agreement with Klaus' words. There was no way they would gamble and not risk losing anything important.

The two young ladies exchanged glances, and the issue ultimately fell on the shoulders of the young lady who was still part of the competition. They all knew what Klaus wanted, since you want them to step down if you win, then you would step down as well. If you lose.

The young lady looked at Grey, thinking of her strength, then recalling how powerful the young lady Reynolds defeated was, she was over a hundred percent confident they would defeat Grey.

Reynolds and Alice might be powerful, but they couldn't fight the two ladies. They didn't want it to look like they were bullying them, this was why they picked Grey who had a higher cultivation stage.

"I'll step down from the competition if we lose." The young lady said decisively.

"Hahaha, they're two, only you can't match up to our offer." Klaus laughed, annoying the young ladies even more, "This is what will happen, she'll step down. Then since you've already been eliminated, you'll drop five hundred thousand high-grade essence stones as compensation."