

Affinity 731

Chapter 731 - A Gamble II

"What?!" The young lady exclaimed in shock, she didn't think Klaus would call such an amount.

She might be from a well-off family, but she couldn't afford something like this. Even if she managed to find a way to get it, it would mean emptying her savings and also borrowing from people as well.

"You can't take part in a free gamble now, can you?" Klaus asked with an evil grin, "Two of my friends might lose their chances of gaining the number one spot, while only her would lose her chance. That doesn't seem fair in my honest opinion."

"We'll pay it." The young lady who was still part of the competition said coolly.

"I..." The young lady eliminated wanted to speak but the other one whispered to her.

"Do you think we would both lose against a single person?" The young lady who was part of the competition asked in a soft voice.

The young lady who was eliminated shook her head, now she understood why her partner didn't think much about it. They would win anyway, so there was no use in thinking about the stones.

The truth was, normally, one of them could hold their own against a Seventh stage Overlord Plane Elementalist, much less now that they were combining their strength. To them, they had already won the battle.

After getting confirmation from them, Klaus gave out a mischievous smile.

"Bud, it's up to you now. Those stones are all yours. You know you'll be doing a lot of traveling once you leave here." Klaus whispered to Grey.

Grey was taken aback when he realized the reason Klaus agreed to this gamble was just so he could get him essence stones. They've seen the cost of traveling, so they all knew it was extremely expensive.

Grey had the idea of selling some of the items he had but now he wouldn't need to.

Klaus walked to the front of the place, facing everyone. Being someone who had gone to a lot of parties with his father, and even hosted a few, he was very good with this. He greeted everyone present before asking them to bear witness to the wager.

With these geniuses from the top Factions here, the young ladies would be unable to renege from it.

The crowd agreed to it. They would get to watch a free battle. Not just that, but they've been waiting to see how powerful Grey or Klaus was. Since Alice and Reynolds were already this powerful, then the other two would be even more powerful. If they were not more powerful, they shouldn't be weaker.

This was what the crowd felt.

Joyner agreed with the battle and called one of the guards in the Sage Plane to set up a platform for them, and also raise a force field to ensure that none of the battle ripples spread out.

In no time, the platform was set.

The young ladies were the first to step onto the platform, they were eager to defeat Grey.

The young lady who was eliminated by Reynolds would not be able to join the competition again, but she wanted to make sure Reynolds didn't get the first or second position he desired. This might be petty, but she was annoyed by her defeat.

Grey calmly walked to the platform. All eyes were on him. His facial features were well shown by the moonlight, and it was breathtaking.

Klaus was handsome, but he paled in comparison with Grey. There were a few ladies who inadvertently started supporting Grey.

Some were speaking about Grey's appearance. Being already used to this, Grey didn't let it distract him.

This was one of the reasons he preferred wearing a mask. Keeping his face hidden would save him some trouble.

Klaus still got glances from ladies, and since Klaus wasn't as cold towards strangers as Grey, things were easy for him.

Grey didn't speak when he entered the platform, there was nothing to say to these ladies. Although, he had to say he pitied them since they fell into Klaus' evil hands, but he needed the stones, so there was no going back.

Joyner was the one in charge of the battle. He walked into the platform, "There's still time to back away from the bet. Once I call for the start of the battle, then it's certain."

The platform remained silent, none of the people there spoke about stopping the bet. Since they wanted this, he had no right to stop it.

"Begin!" He called for the start of the battle and left the platform. He didn't forget to warn them about endangering each other's lives.

It was normal that in battles like this, people get hurt, but if any of them actively tried to kill anyone, then they would be punished accordingly.

Kyle had seen Grey fight before, so he knew he was a powerful Elementalist, but he still felt a little pessimistic about his chances of winning easily.

"Are you two sure about this?" Kyle asked Alice and Reynolds.

"Of course, Grey needs the stones. Besides, they can't defeat him." Alice said with a confident smile.

Kyle looked at them, he felt the same confidence as the time they said Reynolds would win.

'Could he really defeat these two?' He asked himself.

Grey was powerful, this was something he didn't dare to doubt, but the fact that he was fighting against two powerful geniuses made him question his ability.

Of the two ladies, one was a Multi Elementalist, while the other was a Dual Elementalist. Both surprisingly had the darkness element.

The Multi Elementalist was the one Reynolds defeated while the other was the one who was still in the competition.

The Dual Elementalist had the darkness and fire element. She was the first to attack Grey, giving the Multi Elementalist the chance to create the darkness ball she used to weaken Reynolds.

Grey saw this and smiled. He naturally couldn't be affected by this. For someone who stayed in a poison miasma for days, this was a joke to him. He didn't even bother with stopping her.

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Chapter 732 - Two On One Battle

Boom!

The Dual Elementalist's fire attack was blocked easily by Grey who didn't give her any other chance to attack him.

With a flicker, he disappeared from his current spot, appearing behind the Multi Elementalist who just finished completing her darkness orb attack.

"Are you done?" Grey's indifferent voice came from behind her, and before she could turn around to see what was happening, Grey unleashed a fireball at her.

The Multi Elementalist managed to set up a windscreen in time, but she was sent flying by the impact of the attack.

"A Space Elementalist, and he also has a special fire. This will be difficult." The Dual Elementalist rushed over and used her hand to support the Multi Elementalist from falling.

Her current expression was one of distrust. The space element was known for its tricky nature. Grey could fight against the duo with this since he could easily move his location.

Grey's space element was not their only issue, the strength of his fire elemental attack was not something a regular Seventh stage Overlord Plane Elementalist should wield. For a second, she started to doubt their strength.

"It will only take a matter of time before he's unable to use them. Don't worry, victory is ours." The Multi Elementalist said, confident in the skill she just used.

"Hmm." The Dual Elementalist nodded, this wasn't the time to feel disheartened.

'How could I lose confidence so easily? He's just one person.' She motivated herself before attacking once again.

She created a large flaming bird that shot towards Grey. While the bird was going, the Multi Elementalist used the wind element to create whirlwinds, also using a powerful breeze to hasten the movement of the bird.

Grey didn't panic when he saw this, he motioned with his hand and an earth wall appeared in front of him, blocking the attack that was shooting at him.

Boom!

The wall shook, and cracks appeared on its body of it, but it didn't fall apart.

"He's also an Earth Elementalist." The Dual Elementalist was shocked by this discovery.

As if the space element wasn't enough, Grey was equipped with the earth element as well. This would make attacking him even more difficult.

The battle just started, but Grey showcased a dominant momentum that stumped the two ladies.

The crowd watching the battle was just as surprised. They never thought Grey would not only have more than one element, but he would wield three, also having the rare space element as well. His fire was also special which made him unique.

The crowd felt a little satisfied since they had been waiting to watch someone other than Reynolds and Alice battle in the group. If Grey was powerful, it meant the same could be said for Klaus and Kyle.

The geniuses from the top Factions all watched Grey with serious expressions. Those in the Seventh stage of the Overlord Plane were itching to get a chance to fight against him.

They knew that their chances of fighting against the two ladies alone were minimal, so they felt an urge to challenge Grey who seemed to be doing fine.

While the crowd was speaking animatedly about the battles, Grey was holding his own against the young ladies.

The Dual Elementalist was the main attacker while the Multi Elementalist acted as the support. The duo was surprisingly very good with their cooperation.

After the first time they panicked, they had slowly grown into the battle and since this was their first time fighting, they needed some time to get a bit of understanding about each other.

Swoosh! Boom! Bang! Bam!

They exchanged blows. Grey was repeatedly going from one spot to another, dodging the attacks of his opponents while also countering.

The girls once again regained hope when they started to hold Grey down. The Multi Elementalist was quite sensitive to the space element, so after the initial surprise she got from the first time Grey used the space element, she had been able to predict where he would appear.

Even though she could do this, it didn't mean she could stop or harm him when he did. The time needed was very short, and Grey seemed to be moving in a certain pattern. This made tracking him hard while getting to hold him down was difficult.

Bang! Bam!

Grey's attacks collided with the attack of the Dual Elementalist. Behind him, a darkness orb exploded.

He raised a wall behind him to block the attack, but the wall was broken. Grey wasn't shocked by this since he could also feel the darkness element in him slowly starting to get stronger than the first time he entered the platform.

'Such an amazing technique, however, it's not really beneficial to me.' Grey thought when he sensed the change in him.

The Dual Elementalist felt her darkness element getting stronger and her confidence was over the roof. Now, she was certain they would win.

Grey blocked their attacks, disappearing to safety whenever he couldn't block the attacks.

'Meteor Descent.' Grey's figure went airborne and the combination skill of the earth and fire element took place.

Seeing the large boulders covered by fire, the ladies prepared themselves to block the attack.

Bam! Bang! Boom!

The platform shook vigorously from the multiple explosions.

The Multi Elementalist was opportuned to sneak up on him and attack.

Grey sensed this on time and spread both hands together. He was covered with a powerful fire dome that shot in different directions.

The Multi Elementalist was forced to block. While Grey was dealing with the Multi Elementalist, The Dual Elementalist had started attacking Grey once again.

Their current method was something Reynolds was very familiar with. They were using their advantage in numbers to divide Grey's focus.

Even though Grey was powerful, there was no way he could defeat the duo so easily.

The only thing that the Multi Elementalist found odd was that Grey's strength didn't seem to be reducing.

Swoosh! Boom!

They continued fighting.

Grey was simultaneously blocking and countering their attacks.

To those watching the battle, Grey was doing something that he shouldn't be able to do.

Only a few of the Seventh stage Overlord Plane Elementalists here had the confidence in being able to defeat the young ladies.

Chapter 733 - Playing Around

Bang!

The Dual Elementalist was pushed back by Grey, but before Grey could capitalize on the situation, the Multi Elementalist moved in to block him.

Swoosh! Boom!

A powerful thunderbolt shot towards Grey.

Grey dodged it by a hair's breadth before using a large earth hammer to slam the Multi Elementalist from the side, sending her flying.

The Multi Elementalist managed to ensure she wasn't hurt by the attack, but the force of the attack still rocked her internal organs.

Grey never went easy on ladies, to him, every opponent is an enemy, whether male or female. He does not discriminate!

The Dual Elementalist stepped forward to block Grey while the Multi Elementalist tried to recover from the shake she got from the previous attack.

Grey didn't give them the chance to combine their strength. The small time they combined their strength, he felt a little pressured. It wasn't really something he couldn't deal with, but it was better he had them separated.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

Grey and the Dual Elementalist exchanged blows, but it was evident who was the stronger person. With every attack, Grey was able to push her back.

The Multi Elementalist rushed in a few seconds later, attacking Grey from behind.

Caught in a pincer attack, Grey didn't panic, with a flicker, he switched places with the Dual Elementalist, sending out his own attack as well.

The Dual Elementalist appeared in the middle of three attacks, she was able to change the direction of her attack, using it to block the attack of the Multi Elementalist, but Grey's attack had the freedom it needed to strike her cleanly.

The Multi Elementalist reacted quickly, sending out a gust of wind which pushed the Dual Elementalist away from the position.

Bam!

Grey's attack missed the Dual Elementalist. He was surprised by the quick reaction of the Dual Elementalist. Most people he had switched places with usually tend to be confused since their position was changed. This showed the high battle sense of the young lady.

The main reason he didn't switch places with the Multi Elementalist was because she had a high sensitivity to the space element.

The crowd on the other hand were going nuts when they witnessed Grey's switch skill. It was a unique technique that they had not seen before.

It was a tricky skill to defend against, and experiencing this once would make one wary of attacking.

The fact that Grey could easily switch places with his opponent made him almost undefeatable.

Most of the Space Elementalist in the place were thinking deeply about how Grey managed to do the switch. They were also Space Elementalist like him, but they've never been able to think of this, much less try it.

Now they finally knew that this group of friends were not to be joked with. They previously thought Reynolds and Alice were freaks, Grey had only shown a sliver of his strength, but they already rated him higher than the other two. The reason for this was very simple, the strength he was displaying was uncommon. Not just that, but his battle strategy as well as his techniques made it an opponent no one wanted to fight.

A few of the Late stage Overlord Plane Elementalist who registered for the competition had looks of wariness. Encountering Grey early on in the competition would be a nightmare, especially for those in the Seventh and Eighth stages.

As things stand, they all knew that only those in the Ninth stage could keep up with him. From Alice and Reynolds' previous battles, they knew Grey hadn't shown his real strength yet he was still able to not only fight the ladies but was completely suppressing them as well.

What they were all wondering was why he wasn't having any reactions to the darkness particles on the platform.

The battle had been ongoing for over three minutes now, but Grey's strength didn't seem to reduce the slightest.

"How long do you think he'll keep playing?" Klaus asked Reynolds.

"One or two more minutes. He must be trying something out." Reynolds replied.

"Hmm, I think the same as well." Klaus nodded.

Alice joined in on the conversation as they spoke about the battle. They weren't the least bit bothered about Grey, he was clearly capable of taking care of himself against the young ladies.

Some of the people from the top Factions who were close to them were dumbstruck by their conversation. How could they say Grey was playing? He was obviously having an intense battle with the young ladies, yet his friends said he was playing?

Could this mean that he's even stronger than we think?

This was the question on their minds.

Everyone watching the battle were dumbfounded by how things were going. They originally thought Grey would no doubt lose, or even if he would win, it wouldn't be by a large margin. But the reality of things is a little different. Grey seemed to be strolling to victory, comfortably.

Bang! Boom! Bam!

Grey's figure flashed through the platform as he attacked repeatedly.

An earth pillar rose from the ground where the Multi Elementalist was standing, and before she could react to it, she was already over ten meters in the air, looking at her side, she saw Grey looking at her with a smile.

Her heart sank, and she tried to attack, but Grey's figure flickered and he was nowhere to be seen.

The Dual Elementalist, as well as the crowd, witnessed a jaw-dropping scene soon after.

Grey's figure flashed and it was as if he was five people, attacking at the same time from different positions. This was only an illusion due to how fast he was changing positions.

The Multi Elementalist was sandwiched by the attack, unable to block any attack.

"Ah..."

Her screams of pain reverberated across the place.

The Dual Elementalist wanted to retreat, she knew since the Multi Elementalist had been taken out, she stood no chance against Grey on her own.

"You... you tried to kill her." She said, trying to distract Grey.

"Heh! She's sleeping over there, you'll join her soon." Grey used his eyes to show the Dual Elementalist where the Multi Elementalist was located.

To her surprise, she didn't have any injuries on her body, and just as Grey said, she was only unconscious.

Chapter 734 - I Believe We Can Work Something Out!

Crash! Bang!

The Dual Elementalist was sent flying, and before she could get to the ground, Grey was already waiting for her.

With a wave of his hand, an earth pillar hit her, sending her into the air. After being hit by the first earth pillar, five more appeared in the sky, all creating a circle. She was hit by another earth pillar which sent her in the direction of another pillar.

This went on for a few seconds longer, and the crowd watched on in pity. Grey was merciless in his battle, and from what he was doing, everyone knew the reason he was doing this was that the young ladies troubled his friends. From the small time they had seen him, he rarely spoke with others.

"I never knew he was evil." Kyle said.

"You have no idea what he's capable of. He's not really evil like Klaus, but whenever someone close to him is threatened, he becomes this. If not for the fact that this was only a bet, things would've been worse for them. Honestly, I'd rather face Klaus than face an annoyed Grey." Alice clarified things to Kyle who was starting to look at Grey in a new light.

"Oh, the overprotective type." Kyle understood what Alice meant.

Grey was among the type of people who were very protective of their close friends and family.

The battle ended a few seconds later since Grey didn't want the young lady to suffer for too long. Although she was being hit by the earth pillars, they didn't really cause any physical injuries to her. Her innards might be rocked, but it was nothing serious.

Grey made sure she didn't pass out since someone had to honor the bet.

"Aren't you going to announce the winner?" He turned to Joyner.

Joyner still had his mouth wide open as he watched how Grey brutally beat up the young ladies. He gulped in fear, thinking of what Grey might do to someone if it was a true life and death battle. The fact that he could do this in a spar showed that he was a ruthless individual.

He walked over to the platform to declare Grey the winner. It wasn't as if everyone didn't know, but to make it seem official.

The young lady who was conscious looked at Grey with hatred, then his eyes turned to Klaus who was already on the platform, looking at him with a mischievous smile.

"The stones, hand them over." Klaus stretched out his hand.

The young lady was still in a kneeling position, trying to catch her breath. Klaus didn't even give her any time before he came to draw his debt.

Since they won the bet, it meant the stones were his, so he had every right to ask for them.

The stones weren't a problem for that young lady, she could afford them, but for some reason, she felt a knot in her heart. Losing to Grey was something she still couldn't believe actually happened. What she found more unbelievable was the manner of their loss. Grey beat them like they weren't even able to use their elements.

They were two geniuses, Grey was only a stage ahead of them, how did he do it?

"What are you?" She didn't answer Klaus' question, instead, she questioned Grey.

"I'm me." Grey said before stretching out his hand, "Now, pay up."

The young lady almost went crazy when she saw this. She thought Klaus was crazy, but it seemed like Grey was even crazier.

"I can't give up my chance in the competition." The young lady said through gritted teeth.

"Even better, come, I believe we can work something out." Klaus said with a friendly smile.

Reynolds and Alice looked at the young lady with pity, whenever Klaus made such a face, he was about to rip someone off.

This was Klaus' plan from the start. The five hundred thousand essence stones were only the appetizers. Requesting for this would show the young lady that he was a greedy or money-hungry type, which meant she would try to buy her way back into the competition.

Since she made the bet with Klaus and his friends, they could naturally change the stakes as long as both parties agreed to it.

Grey shook his head and let Klaus take care of things there. He went back to their seat. He was barely exhausted from the battle.

"Just how strong are you?" Kyle asked.

Some youths from the Raiden and Asterope Faction were currently seated close to them.

"I'm not sure." Grey replied.

This was the truth, his strength couldn't be estimated with these types of battles. Only when he's using all eight elements would he be able to show his full strength. At the moment, he was unaware of his real strength.

'I can't wait till I get to a stage where I wouldn't need to fear showing all my elements. That will be the time I'll be at my peak.' Grey sighed internally.

Sometimes, he thought of ways to show all his elements. But he hasn't been able to come up with a good excuse yet. He planned to start using five elements soon enough.

Since four elements were the rarity here, there must've been times in history when someone would come out with five elements. He wasn't sure if there were any people with five elements currently, but he planned to use them.

This would give him more versatility when fighting, and he could use more elements as well, increasing his strength.

The youths from the Factions felt Grey was arrogant with his words. Everyone knew the extent of their strength, so saying this only made it look as if he wanted to look mysterious.

Kyle also felt maybe Grey didn't want to tell him how powerful he is, so he didn't ask about it any longer.

Klaus and the young lady walked back some minutes later, and to the shock of everyone, she apologized. Not just her, but the Multi Elementalist had regained consciousness and also accompanied them.

The discussion between Klaus and the young lady was unknown to the others, but she didn't seem to be as angry as she used to be. Of course, there was a pained expression which meant Klaus had ripped her off of essence stones.

Chapter 735 - Just A Few Words Of Advice

Grey's battle opened the ceremony and others started to spar as well. There were a few rival Factions around, so they took this opportunity to show which Faction was stronger.

The party lasted till midnight before everyone went back to their places. Joyner invited Grey and his friends to sleep over at the Mayor's manor, but Klaus surprisingly turned him down. It was unexpected since Klaus had always been the one who preferred comfort.

Staying in the Mayor's manor is obviously more comfortable than staying in an Inn. When Reynolds asked Klaus why he refused, he said something along the lines of, 'People aren't always what they seem. It's best not to let them get too comfortable with you.'

The next day came soon enough, and the news of Grey's battle had naturally spread across the city. When the group arrived at the arena, they got all the attention once again. This time, Klaus and Grey who hadn't fought any battles were the ones who were getting all the spotlight.

Reynolds and Alice might be strong, but they were undoubtedly weaker than Klaus and Grey. In times of danger, the duo would be the ones who would shoulder the burden.

They went to the special seating area since Klaus felt returning to their previous seats would look strange.

Time went by and it was Reynolds' turn to fight. Of the duo, he was the first person called up.

His opponent was a young lady in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane. She knew she wasn't his opponent, but she still tried her best.

Reynolds wasn't forced to the extent of merging with his Elemental Warrior, but the young lady managed to put up a good fight.

After defeating her, Reynolds secured a spot in the top ten. This didn't surprise the crowd since they felt other than Alice and at most two others, he didn't have anyone who could force his hand any longer.

Alice was called up a few minutes later, and just like Reynolds, she won her battle convincingly. Her opponent couldn't last up to five minutes on the platform. She showcased her ferocious fighting style once again.

Only those who watched Grey's battle the previous night felt Alice was actually very lenient. Grey literally played a game with a human, hitting the young lady from one side to another. That was just pure evil.

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The most anticipated battle of this round was none other than the three-way battle. Although it was a three-way battle, everyone knew that the young lady Grey fought against the previous night would be ganged up on. She was the favorite to win a singles battle, but against two people, unless she went above her limit, or came up with an ingenious fighting strategy, it would be difficult for her to win.

When the battle started, she didn't give her opponents the chance they needed, attacking straight away. Fighting against Grey the previous day opened her eyes to new things, and surprisingly she made a small advancement after her defeat.

Grey was the first to notice the increase in her strength. The others also managed to sense it a few moments later.

The young lady shocked the entire arena when she defeated one of her opponents in the opening exchange. Unlike what others expected, she went all-out, catching the young man by surprise. Before the young man managed to regain himself, the young lady had already sent him out of the platform.

There were a few people who found it strange, but those powerful individuals knew this was all the young lady's doing. Everyone expected her to stay on the defensive once the battle started, her

opponents included. But she took the initiative, and it benefited her since her opponent was caught unaware by her aggressiveness.

With one person eliminated, her victory was as good as certain. The overall battle lasted just over five minutes, but she won comfortably.

She surprisingly looked at Klaus and mouthed the words, 'Thank you'. Only a few people caught sight of it, Grey and his friends part of them.

"What did you tell her?" Alice asked curiously.

"Just a few words of advice." Klaus said with a mysterious smile.

"Are you sure she didn't do this because she felt like killing someone and you're not available?" Grey joked.

"Possibly, but she learned some things from her battle with you. So I did contribute to her victory. Also, I told her the best way to win against her opponents who had already seen her show her weakness during the battle last night was to take the initiative and eliminate one of the duo as soon as the fight started." Klaus chuckled before explaining, he also added, "Had she missed her chance, things wouldn't be this smooth."

"Is that all?" Reynolds asked with a cunning smile.

"Of course not. I told her the only way to get married to Grey was if she took the first place. So, be prepared, she will be coming for the first position with her life." Klaus winked at Grey.

Grey's eyes twitched a few times when he heard this, while those around burst out laughing. Klaus was a fun person to be with, and it was already evident.

Kyle had already started to miss Klaus even though he hadn't joined a Faction yet.

With the top ten people now confirmed, the remaining eight who hadn't gotten into a Faction of their choice were given the chance to choose a Faction before continuing the competition.

They refused, opting to wait after the competition ended or maybe when they were eliminated. The reason they did this was simple. Once they get into a Faction now, they will feel pressured to perform exceptionally well because they were part of a top Faction. Losing against Reynolds and Alice would then be slightly disappointing.

Since they've decided on doing it this way, they drew lots for the start of the next round. There was still time to not only decide the top five but probably the number one and two spots.

Chapter 736 - A Hidden Genius

The top ten participants stood on the platform, each staring at their would-be opponents.

Alice got a Dual Elementalist in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane, who just like her, had both the lightning and fire element. Reynolds' opponent was also in the Sixth stage, a Water Elementalist.

Presently, Reynolds and Alice were the only participants left that weren't in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane. Of the remaining eight people, one of them, in particular, seemed to be stopping himself from breaking through to the Seventh stage.

Other than Alice and Reynolds, he was the one who had the highest chance of getting the top spot. The young lady Grey beat up was just below him.

The participants were all given a two hours break to recover their strength.

None of the people in the arena left, rather, they stayed and spoke of the previous battles. What excited everyone was the fact that this wasn't the end of the competition, there was still the highly anticipated Late stage Overlord Plane battle that would start the next day.

There, they would see the geniuses at the top of the Overlord Plane. These were the people who had the highest attraction in the competition.

Two hours went by in the blink of an eye, and the competition continued.

Alice was the first person to step up. Being in the Fifth stage, she was slightly weaker than her opponent. Although, even without using the Seelie, her opponent couldn't guarantee defeating her.

Since there were only five battles taking place, the Factions felt it was better to watch them one at a time. This would let them focus on the person they want to.

When the battle started, Alice didn't immediately call upon her Seelie. She didn't want to always rely on it, so she preferred fighting on her own, then when things went beyond her, she would summon it.

Nevertheless, this didn't mean that she wasn't making use of the ice attribute of the Seelie. It was a great defensive element, not using it seemed like a waste.

When the fight started, Alice as usual took the initiative of attacking first. Knowing she would do this, her opponent didn't rush into attacking, wary of her troublesome ice.

He blocked the attack before countering. Alice evaded the attack before attacking.

They exchanged moves for a while, and no one seemed to have a clear advantage. But with time, the young man soon started to attack with more intensity.

Alice held on against the young man since she had a powerful defense. Breaking the ice was extremely difficult since it has self-healing properties. And the most troublesome thing about it was its ability to fight back. This almost made it an opponent since once it was attacked, it would fight back.

Alice used the ice to shield herself, balancing the battle. The young man couldn't take a clear advantage, while she wouldn't be defeated at this rate.

They continued fighting and after almost five minutes, Alice decided it was time to call out the Seelie. The young man was a tricky opponent, and he was extremely cautious.

When the Seelie came out, the young man suddenly exploded out with frightening attacks. It almost looked like he had been waiting for it to come out all this while.

He managed to break through the ice wall Alice used to protect herself from his attacks in the span of three seconds, not giving the ice any time to heal.

The crowd watched excitedly as the battle peaked. Alice brought out the Seelie, only to see another side of her opponent.

The young man managed to send her flying, but the Seelie made it impossible for him to capitalize on it. Alice almost fell off the platform, luckily, the Seelie created an ice wall that stopped her from moving.

The impact of the attack from the young man made her slam into the wall, causing cracks to form on it.

She looked at the young man, a little surprised by his present strength.

Grey and his friends watched the battle as usual. They guessed the young man was wary of the Seelie, so he waited until Alice called it out before trying to take her out with one swift blow.

His plan was almost successful. Unfortunately, Alice was able to reduce the impact of the attack just before it reached her.

Alice prepared herself for the young man's attacks. While fighting, she was surprisingly not able to get the advantage, even with her Seelie. This was the first time this young man was showing such strength. He had never been a favorite to win, but with the strength he was displaying, he was in no way weaker than those viewed highly by the others.

Alice and the young man continued fighting, she blocked, evaded, and countered. The young man also did the same.

The only reason he had been unable to defeat Alice was the Seelie. It had been able to help her fight against him. Not just that, but its attacks were very powerful, so he had to be extra careful when attacking.

"He hid well." Grey commented.

"Too well. To think there's someone this powerful among them." Kyle added.

Alice's opponent was slowly gaining the upper hand, even with the Seelie helping Alice.

Currently, it was unknown if Alice would be able to win this battle. If Alice won, it wouldn't bring down the young man since he showed great strength. If the young man were to win, it still wouldn't affect Alice's image.

The young man was very good, so losing to him was not unexpected.

"Who do you think would win?" Kyle asked.

"Alice." Grey and the other two replied before he even finished the question.

They were all very confident in themselves and their friends. If it was a battle they couldn't win, they had no qualms with admitting it, but this was not a battle Alice couldn't win.

The only thing was that her chances weren't as high as it would be if she were fighting against someone weaker than this young man.

Chapter 737 - Powerful Competition

Boom! Bang! Bam!

Alice's battle raged on. It was already over ten minutes now, and both fighters had gotten chances to end the fight, however, they always managed to find a way to escape.

The young man in particular had gotten more chances, but the Seelie made sure it was impossible for him to capitalize on it. The times he's gotten the chances were all when the Seelie was distracted with an attack.

Alice was not a weak opponent either, so she was able to hold her own against him.

Alice has had fewer chances to end the battle, but the young man was ingenious in his way of using the lightning element, this has helped him avoid catastrophe.

The battle went on for three more minutes and a great chance finally presented itself to the young man.

As usual, the Seelie was focused on an attack he sent out, Alice was also trying to evade an attack.

Before Alice started moving, he had already predicted the direction she would face, so after sending out an attack that would stop the Seelie from intervening once again, he rushed after Alice and started an onslaught of attacks.

Alice felt immense pressure from the attacks, but she didn't let it get to her. The pressure made her push herself to go further.

Boom! Bam! Bang!

She was sent flying, but before the young man released another attack, she dished out an attack of her own.

The young man evaded the attack before he continued his attack on Alice who was mid-air.

Alice used the lightning element to its fullest, moving around on the platform. Behind her was the young man.

The exchange became very fast. To ensure that he had to fight only Alice, the young man occasionally attacked the Seelie before it broke through an attack.

Both fighters were moving at an insane speed. To those with lower levels, all they could see were two lightning streaks clashing with each other.

The Seelie wasn't held back for long, and it soon joined in on the attack. The young man had already placed his all on this particular attack, and he was pretty confident he would be able to deal with Alice before the Seelie was free. He never thought Alice would be able to hold on.

From the time he attacked the Seelie till now, it was only around twenty to thirty seconds, however, he had exchanged multiple blows with Alice. This was the chance he had to eliminate her, but he failed.

Alice, knowing that the Seelie was free once again and the young man would most likely try to think of a way to disengage, stopped running and rushed toward the young man.

She attacked him head-on. With no choice, the young man was forced to block the attack, making him pause for a second. The Seelie caught up with them at this time and attacked from behind.

Alice continued her frontal assault while the Seelie attacked from behind. A pincer attack.

The young man's opportunity turned into Alice's in the end. If not for her personal strength, then she would've lost the battle already.

Two minutes later.

The young man was unable to hold on any longer, and after getting repeatedly hit by Alice and the Seelie's attacks, he fell on one knee and gave up on the fight.

Fighting any longer was useless since he would only bring harm to himself.

With him admitting defeat, Alice stopped attacking and just like him, started gasping for air. The battle was on another level. It was one of the most intense battles so far. Reynolds' battle with that Multi Elemental was the best in the opinion of the crowd.

"You almost got me." Alice said as she looked at the young man.

"Almost, but you won in the end." The young man shook his head with a sigh of disappointment.

"I was lucky. Without my Seelie, you would win." Alice said. She was clearly relieved and happy by the fact that she won.

Fighting against powerful opponents like this made it entertaining. The pressure would be able to push her to grow stronger.

The young man smiled, turned to the special sitting area where the Elders from the top Factions were seated and announced the Faction he wanted to join.

It was a fire based Faction. Although he had two elements which were lightning and fire, his fire element was the strongest, so he naturally wanted to focus more on that.

Alice returned to her seat with a calm expression.

"Good thing you didn't lose." Klaus gave her a thumbs up.

"If I lost against someone as powerful as him, I don't think I'd feel bad about it." Alice said.

"No one would. It's just, I prefer that you won. This will make me get a better ranking in their eyes." Klaus said with a smile.

"All you think about is joining an all-girls Faction." Alice looked at him with disgust.

"Because they have the best ice skills in the Region." Klaus explained before continuing, "You two already joined the best Factions for the lightning element, why should I settle for less?"

"You do have a point. However, it would be extremely difficult to get into an all-girls Faction. There's a reason it's an all-girls Faction, and that's because they don't accept males." Alice took a seat as the next fighters got ready to enter the platform.

It was the young man who was on the verge of breaking through to the Seventh stage. His opponent was someone in the Sixth stage like him, but when the battle started, it took him only five minutes to dispatch his opponent.

"You two have a powerful competition." Klaus said with a grin.

Alice and Reynolds knew he was doing this to annoy them, so they tried not to think about it.

The young lady Grey beat the previous night was the next fighter. Her opponent was a Wind Elementalist, but he lost in the end.

Three battles were already fought and decided, now it was left for the remaining two battles, then the top five would be decided.

Chapter 738 - Go Easy On Me

According to the order of the lots drawn, Reynolds would be the last person to fight. The duo fighting before him were two ladies.

One was a Fire Elementalist while the other was a Light Elementalist. When the battle started, the Light Elementalist got the advantage in speed giving her a slight edge over her opponent. Her opponent however had greater destructive power.

After a hard-fought battle, the Light Elementalist won by a slight margin. With her victory, it was time for Reynolds' battle.

Reynolds' opponent was a Water Elementalist in the Sixth stage of the Overlord Plane.

Standing in front of the young man, Reynolds wore a calm expression. He didn't feel pressured in any way, nor did he show any proud expression.

"Go easy on me." The young man said with a smile.

Reynolds nodded and didn't reply. The young man's words actually made him cautious. There might be a reason behind his words, and from what he knew, people who say things like this tend to be very powerful later on.

'I'll beat the crap out of him from the start, just to be sure.' He thought to himself.

If the young man was going to show an unseen strength like Alice's opponent, he didn't want to give him the chance to. Beating him up as soon as the fight started was the best choice.

As soon as the man in charge called for the start of the battle.

Reynolds merged with his Elemental Warrior and attacked.

The young man was stunned. Not just him, but everyone around the arena as well. Reynolds had only merged with the Elemental Warrior once. Since then, he hasn't done it again. The reason was because he hadn't encountered anyone that could force him to that length.

What he had been doing since was to call out the Elemental Warrior and attack with it. Even at those times, he would first test out his strength, only after seeing the difference in strength would he call out his Elemental Warrior.

This battle was different, he not only called out the Elemental Warrior right off the bat, but he even merged with it, entering his most powerful state.

Isn't this bullying?

The young man screamed in his heart. His face was twitching from the shock he was receiving, literally.

Reynolds was a Lightning Elementalist, so his attacks packed quite a punch. It also have a high chance of electrocuting his opponents. The young man was unfortunate to be subject to multiple lightning attacks in the space of a few seconds.

The battle ended even before it started. The shortest battle ever recorded in the history of the competition. It took Reynolds less than a minute to defeat the young man. That was beyond embarrassing. This was someone who made it into the top ten, yet he couldn't last a minute.

The ultimate disgrace.

As the young man was leaving the platform, a question was repeatedly ringing in his head.

'What did I do to deserve this?'

He couldn't even pick a Faction due to the shame he felt. Being defeated in such a short time, even if the opponent is way more powerful than he is, was still embarrassing.

He was even two stages ahead of Reynolds. How could he raise his head in society again?

If the young man knew the reason behind Reynolds' action, he might probably challenge him to a battle to the death.

Who had a hidden strength?! I was only begging you not to beat me up too much! What underlying meaning was there? In fact, F**k You!

The young man left the arena entirely, eighty percent of the people here were certain he didn't even know how he left the stage. His eyes were listless, clearly still dazed from the incident.

The entire arena was deathly silent. They still couldn't believe what just happened. From when the man declared the start of the battle till when it ended was just too short. Some people didn't even manage to witness it because they were distracted by one thing or the other.

Reynolds on the other hand had an awkward expression on his face. He didn't think the young man wouldn't be able to fight back. When the young man made that statement, he thought maybe the young man was just like Alice's opponent, a hidden genius, he didn't know the young man had already shown all his cards to get into the top ten.

Now, he kind of felt sorry for him. No matter what, the young man would be unable to forget the incident of this day, especially given the fact that he was going to join a Faction because of it.

"I hope I didn't ruin his life." Reynolds muttered as he walked back to his seat.

"What happened?" Klaus couldn't help but ask.

Reynolds recounted what the young man said, and the underlying meaning he felt was behind his words.

"Hahaha, he might die of anger if he found out this was why you beat him up so quickly." Klaus was unable to hold back his laughter.

The incident was just too funny to him. Reynolds' reason was even funnier.

Grey smiled when he heard it as well. It was ultimately a misunderstanding, but it will take a lot before the young man would be able to get himself back together.

Losing in this manner is mind-shattering, especially for someone who regards himself as a genius. He even entered the top ten, which showed that he truly was a genius.

"You should've gone easy on him." Klaus said and started laughing once again.

"It's not funny." Reynolds said, making Klaus laugh even more.

After laughing to his full, he shook his head with a sigh. The sigh is clearly not of pity.

The man in charge of the battle finally managed to regain himself and stepped forward.

Since the top five had been decided, it was time to get the first and second person. There were five people present, and only two of them could get the first or second position.

Everyone waited patiently on how the last round would be fought.

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Chapter 739 - Two vs Three

The method of the last round was soon announced, and the crowd were taken by surprise. This was the best method they felt would be implemented. However, thinking about it, they felt it was actually the most plausible choice.

It had its disadvantages, but it wasn't without its advantages as well.

All five participants will be involved in a brawl. They would all be ranked by the first person eliminated to the last person standing.

The greatest disadvantage of this method was that two people could team up and take out the rest. In some cases, four people might team up to eliminate the strongest person.

No one objected to it anyway since there was nothing they could do. The only other method that was better than this would take too long, and the competition still had its last round where the Late stage Overlord Plane Elementalists started their fight.

The participants were given three hours to prepare for the final battle. As things stand, Alice and Reynolds had the advantage in it because they had been friends for some time now so their synergy was very high.

There's also a very good chance the other three would try to team up and take the duo out. This was what everyone expected from the fight to be precise.

Alice and Reynolds returned to their seats after the rules of the round were announced.

"That's not really nice. How do you guys plan to work things out?" Klaus asked. He glanced at the other participants and unsurprisingly, they were all speaking with each other.

This already showed their plan, first take out the two troublesome friends, then battle against each other.

"Fight together. Even if they team up, they won't have our level of understanding. Although they would have the advantage with higher numbers, we still have Alice's Seelie and my Elemental Warrior." Reynolds voiced his thoughts.

"Yes, and besides. I'm not afraid of fighting two against one." Alice said.

Grey and Klaus spoke with them during the three hours they got to rest. Klaus in particular was giving them ideas on how to fight against the three people. It wouldn't be an easy battle, but with a good plan, they would be able to come out on top.

The time of the battle finally came and all five participants climbed on the platform.

Given the size of the platform, it wasn't really an issue for them to fight there. But just to be on the safe side, the size of the platform was increased.

When the group of five walked onto the platform, they separated. Reynolds and Alice stood on one side, while the other three stood on one side. Two against three.

"No offense, but I'd really like you two to be eliminated first." The young lady Grey beat up said to the duo.

The Light Elementalist was the weakest in the group, so she would naturally be the target of Reynolds or Alice. However, just from the positioning of the trio, it was easy to see that the young lady and the young man noticed this as well.

The Light Elementalist would act solely as support in this battle. Once they eliminate Alice and Reynolds, she would naturally follow, leaving only the young man and the young lady to fight for first and second place.

Reynolds and Alice glanced at each other and they understood each other's intentions. Alice planned to hold back two of them while Reynolds quickly takes out the Light Elementalist.

Even though she wasn't a threat alone, she couldn't be neglected.

When the man in charge called for the start of the battle.

Alice, Reynolds, the young lady, and the young man all attacked simultaneously. The Light Elementalist stood behind, waiting for an opportunity to attack.

Reynolds summoned his Elemental Warrior from the start, the same went for Alice whose Seelie was floating by her side.

The young man who was suppressing his cultivation stage was a Dual Elementalist, having both the wind and earth elements.

Boom! Bang!

The battle started fiercely.

Alice was fighting against the young man, while Reynolds was fighting against the young lady. Other than the Light Elementalist, the others were currently locked in a heated battle.

Swoosh! Boom! Bang!

An opportunity presented itself and the Light Elementalist attacked Alice who was stuck in a stalemate with the young man.

The young man used the chance to pressure Alice, forcing her back.

Reynolds seeing this let the Elemental Warrior deal with the young lady and he rushed over to help fight against the young man.

The Seelie helped block most of the attacks. Reynolds was forced back when the Light Elementalist joined the young lady and they started harassing the Elemental Warrior.

Reynolds started fighting against the duo, with the help of his Elemental Warrior, he didn't feel too pressured by them.

Alice and the young man continued their fierce battle. The young man was one of the best earth users Alice had ever encountered. The wind element complemented his speed, so he had most of his weaknesses covered.

Boom! Bam! Crash! Buzz!

The fight was everything the crowd thought it would be.

Fierce, entertaining, and downright exciting.

They were all caught in a conversation. Some people felt Alice and Reynolds had a chance against the trio, while others felt they would be defeated.

"Who do you think would win this?" Kyle asked Grey.

"The battle is still in its early stages, it's difficult to predict. But I naturally want my friends to come out victorious." Grey replied.

For the first time, Grey didn't have full confidence his friends would win. If they were only fighting against two people, he would believe they had a chance, but the Light Elementalist who seemed meek was a very cunning figure.

She attacked ingeniously, making life hell for the duo. To the surprise of everyone, the figure who they felt wouldn't make much of an impact became the standout performer on that platform.

She was using her opportunity well, and with her around, it was almost impossible for Alice and Reynolds to win the trio.

Chapter 740 - A Mental Attack

Boom! Bam!

Reynolds was pushed back by the young lady. She was a tough opponent to begin with, having the Light Elementalist by her side made things worse for Reynolds.

Alice was having a slightly better time since the Light Elementalist had been focused on Reynolds' end of the battle.

She coordinated with the Seelie and managed to gain the upper hand. However, just as she was about to gain the advantage, the Light Elementalist rushed over to intervene.

When she arrived, Alice was forced to block her attacks. This gave the young man the chance he needed to regain himself. He had a natural good defensive ability just like Alice.

Alice had more elements which gave her the advantage when it came to attacking. The Seelie was slowly getting better after getting involved in so many battles over the past few days.

Previously, it mostly relied on Alice's orders, but now, it could actually make good decisions of its own.

It was only a child when Alice got it, and it hadn't really been a long time since she got it.

The Light Elementalist managed to distract Alice once again.

Now, Alice was fighting against two, while Reynolds was on his own. He was fighting with his Elemental Warrior, so he was able to gain the upper hand in the battle.

The young lady was by no means a weak opponent as well. Even though he had the upper hand, it would take him a while before he could defeat her. Merging with the Elemental Warrior would give him a boost in strength, but he still wouldn't be able to defeat the young lady in a short time.

Reynolds contemplated if he should merge with the Elemental Warrior now and try to eliminate the young lady or wait for the best time.

Since the Light Elementalist was not here, he might get the chance if he merged with it. The only issue was that, given the speed of the Light Elementalist, she would be able to return in the blink of an eye.

With this in mind, he decided against it and opted to wait for the best time. Taking out the Light Elementalist was still the plan, but since she didn't give them any chance to attack her, the thought of changing the plan came to mind.

Swoosh! Bam! Bang!

Lightning attacks flew around, with wind blades slashing at Alice.

The ice made by the Seelie blocked most of the attacks, but the attack power of the young man was above that of others, so he was able to destroy the ice wall with a few attacks.

After breaking the wall, light arrows shot straight past the ice wall that was still in the midst of falling down, rushing towards Alice.

Alice, seeing the attack, covered her legs with the lightning element and dodged to the right.

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

The light attacks hit the ground and a small dust cloud rose up.

Alice created a mixture of lightning and fire rain.

The young man raised an earthen wall that blocked the attack, while the Light Elementalist swiftly capitalized on her speed and ran out of the range of the attack.

The intensity of the battle was currently getting to its peak. It was only a matter of time before one person would be eliminated.

Whoever is eliminated first might determine the outcome of the battle. If Reynolds and Alice managed to eliminate one of the trio, then their chances of winning would be over fifty percent. But if any of them were to be eliminated, it was clear that the other would follow. This would put the duo in fourth and fifth place.

Reynolds focused on the young lady.

The young lady's eyes started to glow with red light as if a fire was burning in them. A small fire attack that was as thin as a needle shot out of her eyes and went straight for Reynolds.

Reynolds didn't see the attack on time, but his Elemental Warrior appeared in front of him.

The fire needles hit the empty face of the Elemental Warrior and for a second, it froze, incapable of moving.

Reynolds also felt some distress from what happened to the Elemental Warrior.

Grey was shaken when he saw this attack. It reminded him of a particular attack Sylvia used. She killed someone with nothing more than a look. Grey had always thought she used her powerful cultivation stage to pressure the man to death, only now did he know it wasn't.

"What was that?" He asked curiously.

"A mental attack. It's very rare since very few people can cultivate it. Also, as long as the opponent notices it before you use it, then he could be avoided." Kyle explained.

He already knew Grey and his friends weren't knowledgeable about the world, so whenever they inquired anything from him, as long as he knew what it was, he didn't mind telling them.

"A mental attack?" Klaus asked.

"Yes, basically, it's usually used to incapacitate opponents. But if cultivated to a very high level, then it would become a deadly hidden weapon. According to legends, there was an expert who cultivated it to the very peak, all she needed was a glance and an entire army would die." Kyle said.

"So powerful." Klaus sucked in a cold breath.

Grey had witnessed Sylvia use it, so he guessed she could kill an entire army with just a look. But he didn't know what it was then.

'A mental attack. I'll research about it later on.' He said to himself.

He had to be prepared for anything, in cases like this where they would be attacked by techniques they had no idea how to counter. If this were a life or death battle, Reynolds might lose his life due to his lack of knowledge.

Reynolds paused for only a few seconds, but the young lady didn't let the chance go to waste, attacking instantly.

Bam! Bang!

Reynolds' figure was sent flying, crashing into the ground.

When the crowd saw this, they felt Reynolds would be eliminated in this process. Even the Elemental Warrior was still frozen. It was unknown when it might be able to move again.