

The First Legendary Beast Master #Chapter 71 Lean and Cut - Read The First Legendary Beast Master Chapter 71 Lean and Cut

Chapter 71 Lean and Cut

Karl looked down at his body, and noticed that while he was only a little more bulky, he was absolutely shredded. There wasn't an ounce of visible fat on his upper body, and he could feel the itchy feeling of a beard coming in on his face.

That was a new experience for him, as he never really grew more than a bit of a scraggly moustache before, but this felt like a full beard.

Karl judged his body, then his uniform, and put the shirt and jacket back on. They were a bit strained in the arms and chest, but they still closed.

"Oh, I see where this is going. Undo the top two buttons, and you'll get all the ladies with that physique." The mage joked.

Colonel Valerie gave a faint smile, then shook her head. "That fitment is not within academy regulations. We will get you a fresh uniform and a razor before you leave this room.

Daniel will help you shave if you haven't done it before, and I will take Alice to guard the door to prevent any curious eyes from seeing you before you are ready."

The uniform was brought in, and the two women left the room, while the warrior gave him an assessing look. "We should cut your hair as well. It got really shaggy with the rapid growth. Don't worry, I've got practice and I will keep you looking good for that little mage girl."

The sly wink that Daniel gave him made Karl blush, but the warrior was all business as he took out the electric shaver from an Academy bag and dug a set of clippers and scissors from his own kit.

It was a shorter process than Karl had expected, as the hand speed of an Elite was so much higher than his mother, who usually cut his hair. In fifteen minutes, he was dressed, the waste hair was in the trash and everything was cleaned to Daniel's satisfaction.

"Well, that's the best I can do, the rest is up to you. Good luck with the romance." The warrior laughed as he gave Karl one last twirl to make sure his haircut was perfect.

"Thanks. Honestly, this is overwhelming, everything is changing so fast that I don't even wear out clothes any more before they are discarded for a new size. Heck, I didn't even have that set long enough to launder them before outgrowing them." Karl laughed.

"You should be settled now. Well, close to it. The first advancement or two are the largest changes, now you've just got to grow into your body. You're powerfully built, but it's still immature. Give it a few more years of regular training, and all that fancy muscle will become much harder, and you will be able to apply it more effectively.

Old man strength is a real thing with the Elites." Daniel laughed.

"It's a real thing with the miners as well. Some of them are much stronger than they look." Karl agreed with a smile on his face at the memory of an old man from the third shift showing up a supervisor from the city who couldn't get a rusted gate open.

They left the room, and the three adults split off with a short nod toward Karl, who headed straight for the dining room.

It was filled with excited voices of students who had gained something from the day's treats, and the ones who had special training for the day because there wasn't a special advancement food for their skills. The first year mages in particular were freaking out, as four of them had mastered Golem in one class, while the rest of them were on the way to learning the spell. It was a huge moment for the mage trainees, and they had earned the right to gloat for one day.

The warrior classes mostly worked on improving basic skills with the food, and Karl wondered if Dana had gotten special treatment as well, as she already knew the Golem spell. She might have gotten the same food buff that the others did, to elevate her skill with the spell, but she had been in the special training with him on Saturday.

Then she came into the room, accompanied by one of the women from the Elite Development Department, who looked concerned that she would collapse.

"Are you alright?" Karl asked, walking over to take over the assistance needed to keep Dana on her feet.

"Yeah, we did a bunch of mental enhancement training, and it left her a bit dizzy. Not all the treatments went as expected." The older mage explained with a meaningful look at Karl.

That look meant 'don't discuss this in public' so Karl nodded and helped Dana through the line to get dinner, which the soldier Dana came in with carried to their table before sitting down to join them.

"It looks like the special training was much kinder on you. I expected you to be in worse shape." The woman commented.

"The last few lessons helped a lot and allowed me to focus. Not all of them worked, some of them were completely ineffective, but enough of them worked that the Colonel almost smiled." Karl replied.

The woman smiled. "Well, now that is a new one. She doesn't do that much. In fact, we all thought she had her sense of humour surgically removed when she got her oak leaves."

That was a reference to the rank insignia for the Lieutenant Colonel, one military rank below where Colonel Valerie was now.

"Jill, be nice. You know she will chew you out the way that she did Dave if she hears you." Dana whispered.

"She's too busy berating him to come back this fast. But I will see you soon. Probably tomorrow to get the updated notes on how you're doing. Karl, it is good to meet you. I will be taking over as Dana's personal tutor, so we will be seeing each other every morning." The petite blonde informed Karl with a smirk that made Dana blush.

It took a moment to register, then Karl was blushing as well. The mage knew that Dana usually slept in his room, and not knowing how Karl's room was laid out, had made the logical leap to the fact that rooms normally only had one bed in them.

72 Hawk's Concerns

Karl didn't let that little bit of judgment change his plans for the evening, though. Hawk wanted to show off to Dana now that he was so much bigger, and she wanted to get a decent night's sleep while the other students were going even more crazy with their training regimen.

They had all gotten a bump in power and skills today and that had renewed their flagging faith that they would be able to progress to Awakened before the end of semester exams when the ranks would all be reviewed.

As soon as they were back on the balcony, Hawk popped out of his space and landed on the table, being careful not to damage it with his claws. "Holy crap, is that Hawk? What happened to you, buddy? You're massive." Dana gasped before pulling the bird into a hug.

"One of the treatments caused an extreme growth reaction. It took him a lot of food to recover, and he's still working on filling in the muscles, but he's definitely an impressive beast now." Karl explained.

"Well, now he's going to need a lot more food, but I'm sure that the Academy can keep his belly full." Dana laughed.

That would be another issue after he graduated, Karl realized. The Elites got a stipend, but he would be spending a massive amount on food if he couldn't regularly hunt for powerful monsters to keep Hawk fed.

Then there would likely be a second monster as well, since the Beast Space had split. That meant two ravenous beasts looking for sustenance, and it would have to be suitable to their rank, which would not be easy once they were much more powerful. It wasn't like any grocery store actually had Overlord Rank meat in stock, or even Commander Rank for that matter. Once you got past Ascended Rank, the monsters became incredibly dangerous to even larger towns, so their population was controlled in the inhabited regions, meaning that Karl would have to go looking for them if his energy wasn't enough to sustain his team.

Hawk squawked happily as he tried to explain the new things that he had learned, so Karl translated for him, while the bird had a deep conversation with the mage. "I also got plenty of gains, though not in quite the same way. Look at this." Dana announced, then cast the Golem spell, which created two copies of the stone Golem, both as impressive as the first had been.

"One of the treatments gave me the insight to multicast spells that I know. So, two Golems, or six magic missiles. It doesn't do much for Fog unless I want to make two layers, but it's really powerful, even if it is a bit hard on mana.

I have more of it now, and I recover much faster as well. Those pills were a miracle." She sighed.

"We went through a round of pills as well, then there were injections of physical enhancement potions. The idea was that I needed the mental abilities for Hawk's space, and the strength to actually fight. There might be a second beast coming soon as well, but I'm not sure when the Academy is going to set that up. I will be holding out for something good, a beast that can fight and get along with Hawk." Karl informed her.

"That shouldn't be too hard. Hawk is easy to get along with."

The bird flapped his wings in annoyance, and Dana began to laugh. "Oh, I see the problem, you don't want to share, is that it?"

Hawk nodded and took a piece of meat out of the Beast Space. He threw it in the air and swallowed it whole, trying to explain the issue to Dana in a way she would understand.

"Oh, they might try to steal your food. Yes, that would be annoying." She agreed.

They both sat and meditated for a few hours before turning in for the night. They knew that they would be getting up early, but when the knock sounded at the door promptly as the sun came up, neither of them was ready.

Karl slid his pants on and answered the door, finding Jill and Rita both waiting outside.

"Give me a few minutes to freshen up and eat, then I will be ready. Isn't it a bit early?" He asked.

"It is. But we have a big day again today, and this is Dana's first day with Jill as her personal tutor. She is here, right?" Rita asked.

"Yeah, in the hammock on the balcony, probably still sleeping, since the area is soundproof. Jill can go wake her up, but be careful, Hawk and a Golem or two are likely both active in there." Jill laughed. She was a Commander Rank mage, she wasn't particularly concerned about the Golem, but Hawk could be an issue if he didn't want to let her near Dana. She couldn't afford to hurt the bird, but even with a magical shield protecting her, it would be challenging to get around an angry Hawk.

She came out a few minutes later, laughing and cursing with her hair all messed up.

"Did you know that Hawk is completely miserable if you wake him up? But what did they do to him? That bird is massive." She asked.

Sergeant Rita gave Karl a curious look. She had gotten the brief summary from Daniel and Alice, but they had been on their way out and hadn't filled in the official report yet.

"One of the treatments made him grow." Karl explained as Hawk waddled into the room, barely able to fit through the patio door unless he tucked his wings tight to his body.

"Are we sure that's even still a Windspeed Hawk? I doubt that there is a mouse that could feed his appetite any more, he will be hunting deer and wolves soon enough." Rita asked.

Hawk panicked for a moment, then remembered something that he had seen Karl reading.

[There are the Giant Swamp Rats, the size of dogs. They are a kind of mice.] He suggested, hopefully.

"Hawk says Giant Swamp Rats still count." Karl relayed, while the women laughed.

The Giant Swamp Rats were an Awakened Rank monster, so he could hunt them already, but Rita was more excited to see if his power had grown proportionally to his body. If either his stamina or raw power had levelled up by a significant amount, he would be a menace in combat at the Awakened Rank. If it were both, he would be pushing the limits of what could be called an Awakened Monster.

Chapter 73 Annoyed Rita

Sergeant Rita led Karl to the morning training, where there was a new face waiting for them. Alice, the mage who had been in the room for Karl's treatments yesterday, was sitting in a chair by the door, and waved happily as Karl walked in.

Rita frowned as she realized who the woman was, then turned away, as if by ignoring her, the woman would go away. But Alice didn't make any move to get up, she just sat by the door as Karl took his position and called Hawk out.

"Goddess, what did you do to Hawk? He looks like he wants to eat us." One of the mages gasped.

"It's not a big deal, a treatment just made him grow to a giant size. He's only a little stronger than he was." Karl replied.

While that was reassuring, the fact that there was a giant monster in the sky above them was enough to intimidate all the students at least a little bit. It was an instinctive reaction to a large flying predator that could possibly carry away a full-grown person.

It wasn't likely, his actual body was only a little over a metre long, but with the wide wings and long tail feathers, he looked much more imposing in flight.

Their first few spells were a bit hesitant, but once they realized that Hawk was blocking them the same as always, they began to get back into the swing of things, and worked to overcome his increased number of attacks, which were travelling at a higher speed today than they remembered.

The mental improvements that both Karl and Hawk had gained were helping with both the targeting speed and the ability to rapidly form and send the Rend attacks at the target.

Karl heard Rita's voice as she talked to Alice and split a bit of his attention from the attacks.

"Don't you think this is a bit too easy? I mean, they're not even attacking the defenders, just the targets near them." Alice was asking.

"It is the safest way. We can't afford the sort of fatal incident that happened a few years ago. Even if you put a barrier on them, there is still too much of a risk." Rita replied.

"They're not going to break my barrier, and it would be better for the two of them if they had to actually avoid and block attacks, instead of this bodyguard scenario where the attackers are only concerned with the target behind them." Alice replied.

"Are you the tutor, or am I?"

Rita was definitely mad now, and Karl was tempted to continue listening as they lowered their voices to argue, but that would take too much of his attention from the task at hand.

The class paused at the half hour mark for their usual five-minute breather, and Karl grabbed a water bottle for himself and Hawk, squeezing it to spray water into the open mouth of the oversized bird, since he couldn't easily drink out of a bowl without making a mess.

"Alright, everyone back at it. But we are going to change things up a bit this time. Your skills are improving, so you will be aiming at moving targets. That means not only will you have to hit a moving target, but Karl and Hawk will have to defend moving targets." The professor in charge of the class instructed.

Karl couldn't tell if that meant that Rita or Alice had won their argument, but it would make the class more interesting. It was also going to be a real challenge for some of the students who had struggled with their aim at the start of the year.

They were better at hitting stationary targets, but Karl would have to make sure that he didn't get himself hit. He had the Academy's training armour, a long coat and helmet, but that was only a limited level of protection that should keep him from being seriously injured if he took a direct strike from one of these spells.

But then, they were mostly on the low side of Awakened, and his body was getting much stronger, so perhaps they wouldn't actually be too damaging through the coat. When he hit Tank with full force spells, it barely bruised him, but he was two ranks above Karl and Hawk.

The mages in the class were using limited power to extend their stamina, a quarter or less of their ability. That seemed safe enough.

The spells began to fly toward the targets, which were now much closer to the ground, and Karl moved to make interception easier. His presence between the mages and the moving targets frustrated many of the students, as even if Karl didn't successfully intercept the spells, they couldn't hit the target with him in the way.

But now that they were coming toward him instead of over his head, the attacks were easier to target and block. The vertical axis was nearly removed as a factor, and attacking straight forward would hit many more spells if he used a wide arc or the net technique of overlapping Rend attacks.

But that also put the mages in the line of fire, so he had to be careful about his range so that the abilities dissipated before they reached the attackers.

They weren't wearing armour, and asking the teacher to constantly intercept his counterattacks would probably put the older mage in a bad mood.

"Now, that's much better. See how much more combat effective this is?" Alice was asking Rita, letting Karl know that she had won that round of their exchange, at least for the most part.

The mages were still attacking targets behind him, but they were at least throwing spells in his direction, as the mage from the Bureau of Elite Development had wanted.

Karl tore a wide arc in the air, using full power, and stopped a dozen spells at once before the four streaks were finally dissipated and the air between the two groups was clear.

"Dammit, they really increased the difficulty level, didn't they? We're all attacking at the same height, so he can burn energy to intercept us all at once." One of the mages realized.

"But that burns his stamina as well, so he won't be able to do it all the time. He's just blocking the ones that are most likely to hit himself or the target. Everyone who messed up their aim might have a chance if you can bring it back on target once you're past him." One of the others commented.

But they had forgotten that Hawk was in the sky above them, attacking downward, so he could still hit the attacks that tried to correct their trajectory when they were past Karl.

"I told you that they had real promise. You didn't need to get involved so quickly." Karl heard Rita mutter as the class was ending, while Alice smiled back at her.

The two Elites were like oil and water. They both wanted the same thing, but they had very different ideas about how it should be done, and they simply seemed incompatible with each other. No matter what the goal was, Karl could see that they would have a hard time getting along.