

Cheat. A 631

Chapter 631. Stealing Spotlight

"Have I said anything wrong?" Myne asked Amy, scratching his head in confusion.

"Can't you see he was trying to behave well because of Ocea? He's probably jealous, thinking she might become your favourite," Amy explained with a helpless sigh. She was genuinely worried about Myne's low emotional intelligence. It was still hard for her to understand how a person like him could seduce so many women.

"I see, but good for him. At least he'll pretend to be a good boy for the next few days, and make less trouble... By the way, why are you two just standing here? Go and fight! Weren't you insisting on exploring the dungeon at moment ago?" Myne, who had been casually observing, suddenly changed his expression, scolding Amy and Ocea off.

As always, Amy took advantage of the huge amount of mana provided by her elven bloodline and started using Unique Magic: Tree without worrying about consumption.

Perhaps because they were inside a tree or the World Tree was providing Amy with a power buff, Myne, watching giant tree roots coming out from the ground like tentacles and measuring Mandragoras like ants, felt that she was now twice as powerful as usual.

Ocea, on the other hand, out of Myne's expectations, wasn't a noob like Waffle. Cetus wasn't exaggerating when she said that Ocea could fight well and could take care of herself. The various types of water magic spells she showed left Myne dumbfounded.

Especially when she used "Water Jet," a stream of water erupting from her mouth like a laser, slicing seven Mandragora in half. It reinforced Myne's suspicion that Waffle might

not be Fenrir's biological son. Despite their physical resemblance and Waffle's possession of weaker versions of Fenrir's skills, he lacked the innate talent that Ocea possessed or a divine beast's descendant should have.

"As expected, daughters are more adorable and hardworking than sons," Myne remarked, giving Ocea a thumbs-up in approval, who was looking at him expectantly, seemingly seeking his praise.

Encouraged by Myne's positive feedback, Ocea became even more determined to clear the Mandragora. She took a deep breath, her stomach retracting slightly, then unleashed a massive torrent of water from her mouth, like a dam bursting. The force of the water blast sent the Mandragora flying everywhere.

"Did I have a hidden talent for motivating people to this extent?" Myne wondered, avoiding the spray of water and observing the scene with a thoughtful expression.

Opposite to his nonsensical thoughts, Amy and Waffle, however, were stunned by Ocea's display of power. They couldn't comprehend how such a small creature could unleash such a formidable attack. But compared to Amy's serious shock, Waffle, whose IQ was questionable at best, was trying to figure out how she stored so much water in her tiny stomach.

Despite his bewilderment, Waffle didn't stand idly by for too long. Fearing that Ocea might overshadow him, he joined the fray, attacking Mandragoras who were trying to get back on their feet or crawling in the water.

"Myne! Behind you!"

Just when Myne was wondering whether he should take out his chair and some snacks to watch them fight while fully enjoying the show, Amy's warning startled him.

He first looked at her and saw she had a horrified expression, then without thinking, he ducked forward to create some distance before looking back, only to find a large group of crayfish-like creatures, about a meter in size, with brownish bodies like tree trunks, hurling their scissor-like claws towards him. Their small black eyes stared at him as if he were already a dead man, not taking him seriously at all.

The leading crayfish's big scissors slipped through his body and pierced the ground, making a bang sound. Clearly, their power was not weak.

"Where did those weird creatures in such a large group come from?" Myne looked behind the group of crayfish to where he and the others had come from and was dumbfounded. He clearly remembered that there wasn't even a single hole in the entire passage, so where had so many big guys come from?

CLANG!

"F*ck, so hard. How can their claws be so hard? And why are they so smart that not only do they know how to work in groups, but were also using their brains to fight? Sigh, as expected of a high-level dungeon. Nothing here is simple. If the monsters at the beginning of the dungeon are so smart and powerful, God knows what kind of guy could be the final boss of this type of dungeon," Myne complained, seeing that his wind blade was easily blocked by the leader crayfish, who now gave him a not-so-friendly glare.

[Name: Yggdrasil-Mud Crayfish

Race: Crustaceans (Hybrid)

Gender: Male

[Skill]

Support Magic • Direct Hit

Magic • Water (Underwater Breathing)

Magic • Earth (Underwarth Breathing)

[Ability]

Night Vision

Telekinesis

Steel Claw

Iron Defense

[Seed's Skill]

Water Seed

Earth Seed]

"A Crustacean... it's the first time seeing such a strange species, which seems to have characteristics of both earth and water-type creatures," Myne pondered, rubbing his chin.

[Support Magic • Direct Hit: Raises the hit ratio of the enemy or surrounding chosen people's attacks. Once used, it needs a cooldown time of 3 minutes.]

"Eh? Isn't this useless? Who in their right mind would even want to increase the enemy's hit rate? Isn't it the same as asking for death...? Wait a minute... Ahh... So it is like this, such an idiot I am! So it turns out this skill is for my allies, not enemies. Damn you, appraisal, almost managed to fool me!" Myne cursed, patting his forehead and letting out a chuckle.

Thinking this, Myne confirmed that the crayfish-like creatures weren't in a hurry to take action. He looked at the battlefield to find a test subject and saw Waffle, like a madman, showing off fire bullets on Mandragoras. Those poor souls were like ants on a frying pan, running around in fear, screaming and scouting, but were helpless against a flying opponent, and could only let him toy with their lives.

Nodding proudly at Waffle, who had grown quite a bit under his care, Myne quickly cast Support Magic • Direct Hit on him. Visibly, where the first eight out of ten of Waffle's fire bullets missed and only harmed the ground, only two hit the targets, now under the blessing of the skill, the ratio turned into five out of ten. This might not seem much more useful on such a small-scale area attack, but if it were cast by someone of Fenrir's level and she released her ultimate attack, then it would be a miracle if her enemy didn't curse Myne's entire family until his last breath.

"Myne, what have you done?" Waffle asked confusedly, feeling that he suddenly had a surprising level of control over his magic attack, was able to control many of the fire bullets just by thought after shooting them out. Unlike previously, he had just randomly shot out fire bullets nonstop with literally no control, only hoping to deal with enemies with quantity.

"Nothing, just testing my new skill. I will tell you details later," Myne, who was in a good mood, ignored Waffle, who was giving him an annoying glare and turned back to the bastards who tried to sneak attack him.

"Thank you for reminding me, Amy," He turned to Amy, who had rushed beside him to provide support, and thanked her with a smile while patting on her silver hair.

Amy, unlike him, was in a completely serious state and had no intention of chatting, she didn't even look at him who was messing with her hair. She just nodded and waved her hand, summoning five 10-meter giant roots: five from under the ground in the middle of the Crayfish group and the remaining one from the passage behind them so they couldn't escape.

What type of people you are surrounded by indeed affects a person's behaviour very deeply, Myne looked at Amy, who seemed angry because he was in danger and was now venting her anger.

He literally saw shadows of Aisha and Sylphy in her. They were also so protective towards him, especially the former, who had started giving him his mother's vibe, which to tell the truth a bit worrying. If not for the fact that he f*cked her every night, before going to bed, confirming that she was indeed his wife, and she not easily beat him, he almost thought his mother had returned in her younger form.

While Myne was lost in thought, Waffle and Ocea soon dealt with all the Mandragora and quickly came to support Amy. And under the crazy attacks of the trio, the Crayfish group, who God knows where they came from, was also sent to the west to accomplish their allies.

[Name: Myne Fortuna

LV: 143

Race: Hume

Gender: Male

Age: 15 years old

Occupation: The Hunter, Son-in-law of the Royal Augusta Family...

Divine Protection of The World Tree: Nature Blessings

Divine Beast's Sacred Protection (Telepathy): Fenrir, Jormungandr, Leviathor
Nightstalker, Ymir, Cetus

[Skills]

Support Magic • Direct Hit (New!)

Magic • Water (Basic Form: Colossal (Large), Underwater Breathing (Large) (New))
LV3 (389/500)

Magic • Earth (Basic Form: Rock Slash (Small), Earthquake (Medium), Underearth
Breathing (Large) (New)) LV2 (182/200)

Wide Range Sleep (Medium)

...

[Seed Skills]

Wind Seed (New)

Water Seed (New)

[Name: Amilia Eyllissithek (Amy)

LV: 55 → 69 Level Up!

Race: High Elf

Gender: Female

Age: 135 y/o

Occupation: Eyllissithek Clan Head's Only Daughter

Divine Protection of The World Tree: Nature Blessings

Divine Beast's Sacred Protection (Telepathy): Fenrir, Ymir (New), Cetus (New)

Title: None

Status: Excited, Proud, Happy

[Skills]

Unique Magic: Tree

Magic • Recovery

Alchemy

Tenfold Experience Acquisition

Regeneration (New)

Support Magic • Direct Hit (New!)

Magic • Water: Underwater Breathing (Large) (New)

Earth • Water: Underearth Breathing (Large) (New)

[Name: Waffle]

LV: 39 → 55 Level Up!

Race: Divine Beast

Gender: Male

Age: 9 y/o

Divine Protection of The World Tree: Nature Blessings

Occupation: None

Title: None

Status: Tamed (Myne), Excited, Happy, Anxious

[Skills]

Divine Beast Twinstrike

Magic Eye of Gravity

Ultra Regeneration

Terror Bite

Abominable Roar

Concealment

Tenfold Experience Acquisition

Regeneration

Presence Erase (Medium)

Presence Erase (Small)

Magic • Fire

Magic • Earth

Magic • Water: Underwater Breathing (Large) (New)

Earth • Water: Underearth Breathing (Large) (New)

Iron Wall

Incitement

Body Enhancement (Small)

Fire Attribute • Resistance

Water Attribute • Resistance

Wind Attribute • Resistance

Earth Attribute • Resistance

Light Attribute • Resistance

Dark Attribute • Resistance

[Abilities]

Great Howl

Strong Legs

Bite

Slash

Flame Bullet

Flight

Night Vision (New)

Telekinesis (New)

Steel Claw (New)

Iron Defense (New)

[Name: Ocea

LV: 23 → 52 Level Up!

Race: Divine Beast

Gender: Female

Age: 13 y/o

Occupation: None

Title: None

Status: Excited, Curious, Happy

[Skills]

Divine Beast's Assault

Divine Beast's Defense

Magic • Water: Bubble Shower, Hydro Pump, Water Jet, Underwater Breathing (Large) (New)

Earth • Water: Underearth Breathing (Large) (New)

Water Attribute • Resistance LV (Max)

Ultra Regeneration (New)

Tenfold Experience Acquisition (New)

Support Magic • Direct Hit (New!)

[Abilities]

Dimensional Floating

Underwater Prison

Water Control

Tail Waves

Super Swimming

Night Vision (New)

Telekinesis (New)

Iron Defense (New)

Chapter 632. Dream Skill

Damn it, when did Waffle's skills and abilities increase so much? Even so, why does this idiot only use two abilities, Flight and Fire Bullet? He even started neglecting his original skills. If Fenrir knew about this, she would eat me alive... Well, not in the way I want... In the future, I should better only paste passive skills on him. I really can't be careless with this brat.

However, their levels increased quite a bit, which is reasonable since both the quantity and quality of the monsters in this dungeon are very high, Myne thought after checking all three of their statuses, while walking towards them.

As for why they all have extra skills like Regeneration or Tenfold Experience Acquisition? That's because he had pasted a lot of those skills on pebbles before and stored them in his inventory. When needed, he took out those pebbles and pasted the skills on them. After all, they are life-saving and time-saving skills, the more, the merrier.

By the way, because they were inside the dungeon, monsters also dropped loot after being killed. But sadly, Myne looked at them and found that, perhaps because they were just on the first floor, all of them were garbage and not even worth putting inside his inventory. And because of his "rich man aura," no one cared about them and they completely ignored the loot.

"After dealing with this floor boss, we'll head home, all right?" Myne said, attracting the trio's attention, who instantly started protecting him.

"Don't wanna! Let's leave after we clear the entire dungeon!" Waffle, whose fighting spirit was blazing, still felt he hadn't proven himself in front of Ocea enough and wanted to show her who the boss was. He flew before Myne, grabbed his cheeks with his front paws, and spoke, touching his forehead with Myne, looked into his eyes, his eyes wide open.

"Do you have any idea how much risk we're taking by exploring this dungeon alone right now?" Myne calmly asked Waffle, who instantly showed a puzzled expression, wondering what he was talking about.

Seeing the others' reactions, Myne didn't wait for his reply and continued, "If Aisha and Sylphy find out that we were exploring the dungeon without them, tell me, what would they do? Are you willing to sleep empty stomach for a few days just to show off in front of Ocea? Don't forget, Aisha knows where you and Ted have hidden your snacks."

"What! How can this be? I asked her last time, and she said she didn't know," Waffle was shocked by Myne's information and retreated in horror.

Hearing Waffle's words, everyone let out a helpless sigh. Even Ocea, who didn't know the entire story, was no exception. She was now really worried about her cousin's IQ.

"It's all right, Waffle. I know I'm no match for you. You've already proven yourself. You can show me your other moves next time," Ocea said while coming to him, flapping her fins left and right, her tail wagging up and down. She coaxed Waffle gently, helping him reign in his spirit.

Seeing Ocea taking care of Waffle, Myne nodded with satisfaction and gestured for them to follow him. They all headed toward the first-floor boss room.

Along the way, they encountered two more groups of Crayfishes, but they were defeated instantly by the hyped Waffle and Amy. As he expected, all of them had the same skills, along with those seed skills, which were driving him nuts just by thinking about their use. He decided that after leaving here, he would instantly go to Fenrir and inquire about it; otherwise, he might not be able to sleep tonight.

"We're here! I hope the boss isn't too weak like its subordinates," Waffle said excitedly, full of fighting spirit, and looked at the huge door composed of complex vines and trees, eager to go in.

Similar to the Dungeon of Strength, they just had to touch the door, and they'd be sent inside.

"Then, before we head in, let's make some preparations," Myne gathered everyone by clapping and said.

"What kind of preparations?" Amy asked, confused. After all, they were only on the first floor, and the boss couldn't be too powerful to need any kind of plan to deal with it.

"It's about who is going to fight the boss first. By observing your fighting abilities, I've come to the conclusion that you three are too powerful to go together. So today, only one of you can shine while the rest watched with envy," Myne explained with a smile before taking a few steps back and gesturing for them to choose the candidate who would go first and show his or her might.

"Cough, Waffle, Ocea, I am the eldest among the three of us, and it can be dangerous for you two to fight an unknown monster. Let me test the boss's strength, and you can fight with it later..."

"If that's the case, then I am the youngest among us here, and you two should give me this opportunity so I can learn something from this," Waffle wasn't in the mood to step back at the last moment, especially when he was determined to show his strength in front of Ocea.

After throwing the remark, he didn't play the game according to the rules and flew towards the floor room at full speed, touching the door with his paw. The next second, a blue light enveloped his body, and he was teleported inside the room, leaving everyone dumbfounded.

"F*ck! How can this brat dare to cheat right under my nose? I will eat away all his snacks!" Myne cursed at Waffle's boldness and quickly rushed into the boss's room. Amy and Ocea also weren't behind and hurriedly followed him.

As they all came to the boss room, the fight had already started, and Waffle was surprisingly not doing well because his opponent turned out to be someone who had the perfect counter-attack for his biggest advantage.

[Name: Yggdrasil • Mega Beetle (Elite)

LV: 79

Race: Insect

Gender: Male

[Skill]

Driver Raid

Flight

Support Magic • Defence

[Ability]

Night Vision

Iron Legs

Speed Dodge

[Seed's Skill]

Wind Seed (New)]

"YES!!!"

"What the hell! Why are you scouting?"

Myne, after seeing the status of the boss, especially looking at a certain skill that he wanted for only God knows how long, couldn't control his emotions and exclaimed in joy. He ignored Amy's question, who was frightened to death by his sudden scouting, and quickly cut off all the boss skills and pasted them on himself before looking at their descriptions.

[Flight: A skill that can help anyone to leave the ground and soar into the sky by using mana as a medium. The speed and height depend on the mana input and body-withstanding capability.]

Finally, now I don't have to always waste a lot of time going anywhere on a horse and carriage, and I can now fly towards my destination! Myne, who was always jealous of Waffle's ability to fly, burst out into tears of joy, making Amy beside him even more confused, seeing him continuously changing his expression.

Although she wanted to ask what was going on, a sudden change in the battlefield attracted her attention.

The boss, a giant beetle about seven meters tall, its chitinous exoskeleton gleaming with an ethereal green light. Its massive, curving horns dominated its head, while its multifaceted eyes, like tiny jewels, reflected the ambient glow. The beetle's body was segmented, and its powerful legs, tipped with sharp claws, were poised for action. Its wings folded neatly along its back, swung crazily, trying to lift its giant body from the ground.

Which shouldn't be a problem as always, but just a moment ago, the beetle, which was flying in the sky and playing a cat-and-mouse game with Waffle, suddenly found that its wings couldn't support its body weight, and with a bang, it fell on the ground. This was, of course, Myne's doing, as he took away the boss's flight skill. Its fragile wings alone were far from enough to lift its giant body, so naturally, it fell to the ground.

Waffle, who finally had time to breathe, although didn't understand why this beetle suddenly fell on the ground, didn't want to miss such a good chance. He quickly flew on top of it and started shooting Fire Bullets bullets on its back. Which before hardly had much impact because of the other party's defensive skill, but now Waffle's attack gave considerable damage to it, making it scream out in pain.

The beetle, who seemed provoked by Waffle's attack, lifted its head at him, and suddenly its horns were surrounded by dense lightning, finally bringing Myne back to his senses, who found that this situation was completely out of his expectation.

Before this, whenever he stole anyone's skill and ability, most people or creatures became meat on a chopping board, but today was clearly a day of surprises, which didn't seem to have any intention of stopping.

KRAKKK!!!

A dense bolt of blue thunder shot from the boss's horns and flew towards Waffle with extremely fast speed, giving the other party no chance to dodge at all.

Just as Waffle was nervously watching the lightning bolt getting nearer and nearer to himself, he was about to taste the feeling of being electrocuted to the extreme. Suddenly, a portal appeared before him, which devoured all the lightning, and another one appeared on the back of the boss, which was obviously the other side of the portal. The lightning rushed out of it and hit hard on the boss's back, giving it a taste of its own medicine.

Chapter 633. Smart Enemy

"Roar!!!"

"Myne, thanks for the help... although I don't need it," Waffle wheezed out reluctantly, his words barely audible before flying high to hide his embarrassment and start attacking the boss crazily. But to his surprise, this time the boss completely ignored him, instead focusing on Myne, its eyes glowing with an eerie red light.

Since the boss could shoot lightning from its horn, it was unsurprising that it had a high resistance to lightning attacks, and his own powerful strikes didn't have much impact on him, except to push him into rage mode.

Myne raised an eyebrow, seeing the boss looking at him with a not-so-friendly expression. As for why it could release a skill despite not having any listed in the appraisal results, Myne figured it must be a bloodline skill, similar to the dragon he had fought earlier. The dragon could release fire breath, even though there was no mention of it in its appraisal.

Just as Myne wondered whether he should stop Waffle from messing around and quickly take this matter into his own hands, and deal with this boss, who seemed very abnormal

and had quite a few hidden tricks, the boss's body was enveloped in a crimson aura. It spread its thin, translucent wings wide, revealing a chilling sight.

The boss lifted its upper body with a strong push, crazily flapping its wings toward Myne and the others. To their utter shock, meter-long green blades, which Myne was very familiar with as one of his own attack methods, rained down upon them.

"F*ck! Why does this guy have so many tricks up its sleeve, huh? Is it really the boss of the beginner floor?" Myne groaned, eyes wide as he saw hundreds of wind blades flying toward him. He pulled Amy and Ocea into his arms and opened a large portal in front of them. All the wind blades rushed into it.

But this time, it seemed the boss had learned its lesson. After seeing the portal, it instantly stopped its attack and jumped aside. Just then, a portal appeared above it, and the wind blades gushed out crazily. The boss, displaying remarkable agility, and smartness; after avoiding the attack, rushed toward Myne and the others without hesitation, ignoring Waffle, who was attacking from the air.

"Myne, careful!" Waffle shouted, but even without the warning, Myne had already noticed the boss's movement with the help of his Presence Detect skill. He simply opened a portal beneath his feet and fell into it with Amy and Ocea, emerging on the other side of the room.

"You three, stay out of this. Now this bastard has made me angry, how dare he look down on me so much." Myne cracked his neck, black veins throbbing on his forehead, clearly showing his anger. He used the skill King's Intimidation, releasing a strong killing intent at the boss, making it stop just as it was about to launch another attack.

Snap!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

With a single snap, a dozen or so two-meter-long sharp spikes shot up from the ground beneath the boss. It noticed them and narrowly avoided most, but one of its legs was still wounded slightly.

Before the boss could even catch its breath, a giant red magic circle appeared beneath it, releasing a deadly red light that sent chills down its spine. The boss desperately flapped its wings and rushed out of the circle with all its might at the last moment.

"Tsk! AoE skills take too long to cast," Myne muttered, waving his hand. Hundreds of basketball-sized fireballs rained down upon the boss like meteors, leaving it no room to dodge. The boss let out a series of pained roars, indicating that fire was less effective than lightning.

"Let's see... since the boss lives inside a tree, it should be very happy to see water, right?" Myne joked. A one-meter-wide blue hexagram array appeared in front of his left palm, aimed at the boss, who was walking out of the smoke with an injured body. Surprisingly, it was still intact, with no sign of bleeding.

WHOOSH!

Suddenly, the hexagram array let out a low hum and a stream of water shot at the boss with such force that its seven-meter-tall body could only withstand it for two seconds before being pushed back like a ragdoll.

Bang!

"You three, back off. I am going to do something big. Also, Amy, stay away from the water, if possible create a barrier around you three," Myne warns in a loud voice, before increasing the water output from the magic array while slowly walking toward the boss.

The boss tried to resist the high-pressure water falling on its body but couldn't escape. As Myne moved closer, the pressure increased, making it even more difficult for the boss to move, let alone return to its feet, and make a comeback. Now it can only wait for Myne to stop, before trying to escape.

"Although you are a good punching bag, It's time to end this," Myne muttered softly as he low his hand and used his most powerful attack skill, which was still very hard for him to control.

"Unique Magic • Lightning!"

BOOM!

A loud thunderclap echoed through the room, accompanied by blinding blue and purple lightning.

The lightning surged from Myne's body and shot toward the sky. However, being in an enclosed room, it hit the ceiling made sound loud enough to force everyone to cover their ears, and spread everywhere like a spider web.

This was just excess energy from his uncontrolled mana, which didn't affect his plan. Myne was already surrounded by a sphere of lightning that was getting compressed with each passing second, on the verge of bursting like a volcano.

But because he had stopped the water magic, the boss, finally able to breathe, got back on its feet. Sensing the danger coming from the lightning surrounding Myne, it didn't hesitate at all, immediately flapped its wings crazily and started running away.

Despite Myne's early preparation, the lightning running through the water under its feet was still far from enough to bypass its high resistance to lightning and immobilise it.

Myne watched the boss running away like a coward, and his expression turned ugly as if he had caught his wife having fun with someone else. Unlike his other skills, for some reason, he had been never able to control this unique skill properly. So now he couldn't use his other skills or move much while surrounded by lightning to stop the boss, or else it would instantly get out of control and explode.

"Damn it, this is why I hate smart enemies the most," Myne cursed, letting the lightning go free.

BOOM!

For a moment, time seemed to stop, and everything went silent. Then a loud thunderous boom echoed, and countless thunderbolts erupted from Myne's centre, destroying everything in their path.

The boss, running desperately, suddenly stopped with its eyes wide in horror, its body twisting unnaturally, which was obviously the result of Myne's early preparation. The boss although tried its best, still couldn't outrun the lightning, especially with its feet in the water. It was electrocuted and surrounded by dense lightning bolts before it could recover.

"Is this even a power a hume can possess?" Amy looked at the purple lightning everywhere and began doubting herself.

Although she had lived for more than a century, she had never seen any creature, except divine beasts, exhibit this level of power. Even with her high elf bloodline granting her immense mana, she couldn't match Myne's mana reserves. She always wondered if Myne's skills were free to use, as she had never seen him run low on mana.

Thud!

"Phew, finally over. Tsk, trying to show off lightning power in front of me? Too naive," Myne taunted with a smug look as he glanced at the charred body of the boss. The body was slowly enveloped in blue light and exploded into particles, leaving behind various equipment and gold coins.

Among the few items dropped by the boss, the one that caught Myne's attention the most was a shiny brown shield with golden edges and a beetle-back-like pattern.

[Robust Shield: A shield made from a very hard material of a creature with an ancient bloodline. It has strong magic power, greatly attenuating damage from physical attacks, and high resistance to lightning attacks. It is weak against fire magic. Durability can be restored by feeding it mana.

Durability: 2000/2000]

Nice, I hope Sylphy likes it, Myne thought with a smile, placing the shield on the ground. He then threw a fireball at it to test how much damage his simple attack could cause.

Bang!

[Durability: 1950/2000]

He poured mana into the shield, and within ten seconds, the burn marks disappeared, returning the shield to its original state.

"Not bad. As expected of an elite monster of this calibre, the loot is very bountiful," Myne nodded with satisfaction, putting the shield into his inventory along with the other items. He then walked toward Amy and the others.

Chapter 634. The Spark of Jealousy

"Does anyone get hurt?" Myne asked as he saw Amy and the others emerge from the dome-shaped cover made of tree roots, which she created with her magic.

"Thankfully, no one," Amy replied, glancing at Waffle and Ocea with a complicated expression. Before this, she hadn't known about Myne's strength. Because of his playful and perverted nature, she had always taken him lightly. But now, seeing him release earth-shattering forbidden magic as casually as if he were drinking water, she didn't know how to treat him. After all, in the end, she still had to depend on him to save her race. However, the more strength he showed, the harder it would be for her to stand on equal footing with him.

"Nice, you did a good job, Amy," Myne gave Amy a thumbs up and waved his hand, opening a portal back home. "All right, everyone, time to go home," He clapped his hands and gestured for them to move into the portal.

"Cetus, can you hear me?" Myne called out to Cetus while watching everyone step into the portal. He wanted to say goodbye to her and, of course, remind her about their plan for tonight.

Bang!

"Yes, Myne, what's the matter?"

Just as Myne was daydreaming about eating a divine beast, a loud explosion sounded, cutting off her response. A second later, Cetus's hurried voice followed.

"Nothing. I just wanted to say that we've achieved our goal of testing the dungeon's strength and are now heading back home. So, I wanted to say goodbye and remind you about our date..."

Bang!

"B*tch! How dare you hit my eye!"

Whoosh!

Myne, who was happily speaking, was suddenly interrupted by another explosion in his head. What followed was Cetus's shrieks, her voice followed by the sound of rushing water.

"Sorry, Myne, I'm a bit busy with something. So, what were you saying?" A few moments later, Cetus returned her focus to their conversation and asked in an apologetic tone.

"I'm talking about our date—"

"B*tch! Can't you wait a minute? Can't you see I'm talking to someone!" Myne was interrupted again, making him very impatient. Now he wanted to disconnect the call, but part of him was also curious about the "b*tch" Cetus kept mentioning.

"Sigh. Our date, right? There's no change in the plan. Come to me at the time I told you. We'll talk then. Now I have to show this b*tch who's the boss." With that, Cetus cut off their telepathic link, leaving Myne speechless.

Great. I hope she doesn't forget her promise because of that b*tch. I wonder who she could be. Not everyone can make a divine beast go all out, Myne thought curiously as he walked into the portal and returned to his house.

...

"Welcome home!"

The one to greet him was Sylphy, who seemed to be done getting to know Ocea. Unlike Myne, Waffle, and Amy, she couldn't directly communicate with her she didn't have Cetus's blessing, so Amy was working as a communicator between them.

Myne nodded at her with a smile and looked toward the kitchen. There, Waffle was troubling Aisha, likely talking about his hidden place where he kept his snacks. Meanwhile, Ted was chasing Ocea around wherever she went, seemingly having found a new toy to play with for the next few days.

"Why does it seem as if you love children a bit too much? Did you kidnap another one from their family?" Sylphy joked as she watched Ocea and Ted playing a game of cat and mouse.

"What do you mean by kidnapping? She was given to me by her mother because she trusted me. And now I'll take care of her. I'm serious and responsible, all right? Besides, most children like me a lot. One of my friends (Henaha), has a lot of children, and all of them love me dearly," Myne replied with a poker face at Sylphy's joke.

"By the way, I'm going to meet Fenrir. I want to discuss about Seed Skills with her. If Aisha asks, tell her about it," Myne quickly changed the subject. He couldn't wait to go to Fenrir and ask her about those Seed Skills.

"Seed Skills? What are they?" Hearing the unfamiliar term, Sylphy's interest was instantly piqued. But Myne replied that he didn't know, gave her a light kiss, and hurriedly walked into the portal.

...

"Sigh, you can't even sleep peacefully on holidays nowadays," Fenrir slowly opened her sleepy eyes and glared at the portal that suddenly appeared before her. She couldn't help but complain irritably.

"Hello, my dear Fenrir. What are you doing?" Myne walked out of the portal with a smiling face and greeted Fenrir, who gave him an eye roll.

"Trying to sleep, but now I can't do it because I'm sure you won't let me. What are you doing here? Didn't you go to the Elf Kingdom to explore the World Tree dungeon? Why did you suddenly pop up before me?"

Myne, who was used to Fenrir's tough-on-the-outside-but-soft-on-the-inside attitude, didn't take her words seriously. He sat down in front of her big face.

"Forget it. By the way, how did your meeting with Cetus go? I heard she even dumped her daughter on your head, and now you're her babysitter?"

Fenrir suddenly had a playful smile on her face as she stared at Myne as if she couldn't wait to see his ugly reaction. But, sadly for her, she didn't know that, unlike her, Cetus had given too much in exchange for him taking care of her daughter. Myne felt only excitement regarding the matter rather than a feeling of being taken advantage of.

"Yes, but how do you know about it? You didn't secretly eavesdrop on our conversation, right?" Myne, who had just come back to his senses, raised an eyebrow as he asked. However, he didn't think much about it and continued.

"Although it's indeed troublesome to take care of another brat, she's a very sensitive and smart girl. She always listens to my commands, so it shouldn't be a problem. At least, compared to Waffle, she's easy to raise."

Just as Myne finished, he suddenly felt a chill run down his spine and found Fenrir looking at him with an unfriendly expression.

"And whose fault is it that my little boy went astray and became so naughty? Bastard, if you dare question my parenting, you're done for!" Fenrir said angrily.

"Sorry, sorry, my bad! And I'm not talking about that. You're misunderstanding me! I just mean that girls are generally better-behaved than boys. You're a lady too, with a lot of brothers, so you should understand it better than me, right?" Seeing that things were getting out of hand, Myne realized he had stepped on Fenrir's sore nerve, and hurriedly apologized.

"Well, I have to admit that's true. I also wanted a girl, but..." Fenrir sighed, looking disappointed. "Forget it, it doesn't matter now." She then glared at him.

"Forget about me! We're talking about you! Why are you pulling me into this?" Seeing Myne giving her a pitiful look, Fenrir snapped back to reality and spoke angrily.

"Ah, about me... There's nothing much to talk about. Cetus seemed very impressed with your 'deed' of sending Waffle to me. So, as you said, after a casual introduction, she immediately got to the point and dumped Ocea on me before hurriedly kicking us out to finish her business."

"Huh? Why are you looking at me like that again? Did I say something wrong?" Myne, who had been explaining his meeting with Cetus, suddenly noticed Fenrir glaring at him with gritted teeth, as if she wanted to eat him alive. He quickly thought about it and found that he hadn't said anything that angered her, which made him even more confused.

"So, you even gave Cetus's daughter a name? And it's Ocea, huh? Quite a nice name, don't you think? At least it's a hundred times better than Waffle, which sounds like a dog's name..." Fenrir responded coldly.

Hearing the reason behind Fenrir's sudden change in mood, Myne broke out in a cold sweat. After all, it was a universal fact that if there was anything worse than an angry woman, it was surely a jealous woman.

Myne hadn't expected that the casual name he lazily picked would cause Fenrir to feel jealous and suddenly question Waffle's name, which she had approved herself.

"Well, it was Amy who chose it. You know my naming talent. How could I come up with something so good?" Myne, a master of lying, denied her accusation without batting an eye, maintaining a calm expression while waving his hand.

Fenrir, who was ready to teach Myne a lesson, suddenly paused. She took a deep look at him, confirmed that he didn't seem to be lying, and forced herself to calm down. She decided not to pursue the matter further, allowing Myne to breathe a sigh of relief. He resolved that, after returning home, the first thing he would do was level up his Liar skill. Until he maxed it out, he wouldn't feel safe talking to his women. God only knew when they'd pick up a word from his speech and create an argument over it.

Chapter 635. Accumulation

"I hope you aren't talking nonsense. I'll verify it later. Remember that," Fenrir, still harbouring some doubt, spoke while narrowing her eyes.

"Sure, sure, do as you like. By the way, let's forget about those useless things and get to the main point of my visit."

Although Myne was sweating profusely inside, he knew the most important rule of lying was maintaining absolute confidence. He didn't show any nervousness on his face, instead quickly changing the topic to divert her attention.

"And what is this so-called main point of yours except giving me headaches?" She asked, raising an eyebrow unhappily.

Fenrir found it hard to expect anything serious from Myne. She already believed that whatever Myne wanted to discuss was most likely related to her hume form, upon which he had cast his perverted gaze.

"It's about something called 'seed skills' I found on monsters in the World Tree dungeon. Although I used Appraisal on them, no useful information appeared. So, I came to you hoping you might have some idea about them," Myne didn't know Fenrir's inner thoughts, and quickly gave a brief explanation about the kinds of monsters he fought and from which he acquired these skills.

"Huh? Ahhh... I see, 'seed skills,' you say?" Fenrir first pretended not to understand what Myne was talking about. Only after he explained every single detail three times did she suddenly adopt an expression of enlightenment and speak.

"As expected of you Fenrir, I can always rely on you. Coming to you for help was the best decision," Myne complimented Fenrir to improve her mood so she would exhibit more energetic behaviour while talking to him.

"I don't really understand it well either. I just overheard it when Mother was speaking of another skill that you have to find, which by combining with your Appraisal, you will get the ability to travel into the past. Actually, she mentioned it on a whim, and I didn't think much about it at the time. I didn't expect you would bring up those skills to me so quickly..."

"Don't beat around the bush, and tell me what she said." Myne, unable to contain his curiosity, was too impatient to hear Fenrir's rambling and interrupted her.

"Well, you're quite in a hurry to get an answer, aren't you? If I directly conveyed her words, you probably wouldn't understand them, so let me give you an example. You once mentioned that if you found any high-quality skill, you would store them in pebbles or small stones, right? You also use this trick to make hot water in your bathtub, right?"

"Quite a luxury to use your lifespan for hot water, don't you think? Even I, who can live for thousands of years, wouldn't waste lifespan like that," Fenrir complained, giving Myne a strange look. She even felt that Myne's entire story about losing lifespan in exchange for copying and pasting other skills was pure nonsense.

Otherwise, even if he had eaten lifespan-increasing fruit that extended his lifespan by a hundred years, with the speed he copied and pasted other skills onto himself, the people around him, and, of course, onto pebbles for emergency use, he should have long ago exhausted his lifespan. But by the life energy she could sense in him, Myne's body showed no sign of losing life energy at all; instead, it was increasing slightly.

"Cough! Don't mention it. At that time, I didn't know I was losing my lifespan by doing that; I did it in ignorance. You can ask Waffle if I've done anything like that since. Anyway, what were you saying about me storing skills on pebbles?" Myne, seeing that his lie was about to be exposed, first cursed Waffle and his big mouth in his mind, then quickly brought Fenrir back to the point.

"To whom did you paste the skill seed that you've cut?" Fenrir asked.

"Ehm, only to myself, obviously? How could I have so much lifespan to give those unknown skills to others before even knowing their use? Why? Is there anything wrong?" Myne spoke righteously. Of course, if Fenrir hadn't made him vigilant by revealing that she had already begun to doubt the credibility of his words, he would have replied honestly, saying that he had also stored a few pebbles as well for experiment purposes.

"If that's the case, before I continue, you have to go back to the World Tree dungeon and bring back some of those seed skills. You can paste them on pebbles. By the way, if possible, paste everyone on the same pebble to avoid confusion," Fenrir said, trying to hide her playful smile.

"Are you serious?" Myne asked reluctantly. However, seeing that Fenrir had no intention of continuing, he sighed helplessly, stood up, and opened a portal back to the World Tree's dungeon. He gave Fenrir a pitiful look, making puppy eyes, but she, having raised three naughty children, was immune to this kind of attack. He only found her smile even brighter.

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"Here's your stone with the Seed Skills. What's next?" Half an hour later, Myne returned and tossed a half-palm-sized stone before Fenrir.

"Good. Now use your Appraisal skill on it," Fenrir said, nodding happily, clearly enjoying letting Myne suffer.

"Eh? Appraising a stone with Seed Skills pasted on it? I haven't tried that yet. Is there anything special about it?" Myne wondered confusedly and quickly did as told.

[Name: Small Stone

[Skill]

Wind Seed x 8

Water Seed x 4]

"There seems to be nothing strange," He muttered confusedly, giving Fenrir a questioning look.

"Is there really nothing strange with this stone?" She continued and gestured for him to try Appraisal again.

Damn riddlers, Myne complained. I hate it when she isn't straightforward.

He used Appraisal on the stone again but found nothing. However, he didn't immediately look at Fenrir for an answer. Instead, he thought for a moment and focused on the Wind Seed column.

[Name: Small Stone

[Seed Skill]

Wind Seed (Large) x 1

Wind Seed (Medium) x 3

Wind Seed x 4

Water Seed (Large) x 2

Water Seed x 2]

The information expanded a bit, but there doesn't seem to be anything new... Wait a moment, why are there so few skills? I remember stealing skills from more than 50 monsters. Why are there only 12? Where are the rest? Also, were there even Water Seeds of Large quality? Why don't I remember that? What the f*ck...?

Wait a minute... Could it be...?

As soon as Myne had the thought, he quickly looked at Fenrir, who, even faster than him, turned her head away and began staring at a random butterfly with amazement, as if she'd never seen such a creature before.

Not expecting much from her, Myne didn't waste his breath. Instead, he opened his Inventory and, after looking around for a minute or so, took out a pebble that magically released a large amount of water out of thin air—a miracle of nature, or perhaps of Myne.

[Name: Pebble

[Skill]

Constant Water

Constant Water

Constant Water

Constant Water

Constant Water

Constant Water

Constant Water]

"So this is how it is... The skills written now are clearly different! First of all, the Seed Skills seem to overlap with the same name and their quality is written after them, while the normal skill on this pebble is divided into individual entries like this: 'Constant Water.'"

"What's more, the numbers don't match. I clearly remember pasting more than 50 Seed Skills onto it, but now there are barely 12 remaining. Also, the number of Wind Seeds is odd. There should only be one Wind Seed (Medium), but for some reason, I have three now."

"What's more, the Wind Seed (Large) that I've never acquired before is now showing as one."

"Which means, these are..."

Pondering about it for a few minutes while trying to remember how many skills he had pasted on the stone, Myne looked at Fenrir and said with an uncertain expression, "Fenrir, are you trying to say that if I repeatedly paste the Skill Seed onto the same object or person, it'll transform from Low to Medium and then to Large after every five and ten stacks, respectively?"

"That's correct... Great! You were able to figure out half the mystery of those Seed Skills on your own," Fenrir said with a proud smile.

However, Myne, who still had many questions bothering him, didn't share her happiness and asked, "However, strictly speaking, do these Seed Skills even fall under the category of normal skills? They seem a bit different to me."

"Again, correct! Seems like staying with someone smart like me is already showing its effect," Fenrir joked. Seeing that Myne was too impatient to listen to her joke, she continued,

"I've mentioned to you before that the World Tree supplies magic to our world, right? So, monsters residing within the dungeon or around the World Tree absorb large quantities of magic released by it all the time. Most of them use it to strengthen their bodies or magical abilities, but a large part of that energy remains unused in their bodies due to a lack of a proper guiding method."

"The Skill Seeds, though they have the word 'skill' in them, are strictly speaking just masses of that unused pure magic remaining within their bodies."

"Try imagining it as clay. If you mix two small pieces of clay together, wouldn't it form a slightly larger piece?"

"Hence, when you paste them onto the same object, just like clay, the Skill Seeds will also merge, and when their energy capacity exceeds their limit, they'll upgrade to their upper form. In your words, the Low version will become the Medium one, and then Large, and so on."

Chapter 636. Without Purpose

So, simply, 'those Seed Skills are a chunk of pure magic energy. Now I understand... Wait, then what is this even used for? Myne, who suddenly felt everything become clear, realized that the main problem was still there—he didn't understand anything except nonsense that seemed useless.

"It's pure magic, got it! However, what is it used for, then?" He asked Fenrir with a helpless look.

However, to his surprise, Fenrir gave him a disdainful look and shrugged her shoulders dismissively.

"How would I know? I have no idea either. In the first place, there wasn't any apparent value to these Seed Skills. At least, I couldn't see any at this moment. If a monster that absorbs the seed dies, it'll return to the World Tree," She said casually.

"What the f*ck... After all that drama, in the end, you're saying there's no meaning in collecting them?" Myne gave Fenrir a speechless look, which soon turned into anger.

Now, he couldn't wait to teach her a good lesson, but he knew it was pointless—he'd surely get beaten in the end—so he held back.

"Not really. Remember when I said 'at this moment'? I've only heard about these Seed Skills from my mother on a whim when she accidentally mentioned them. Maybe she knows their true use. Since she mentioned it to me, it means there must be some purpose. It's just that we don't have any use for them right now. My advice is that you collect some for now. When the time comes, you'll naturally find out their use. There's no need to be so impatient," Fenrir explained gently.

Sigh, she and her mother—damn riddlers. She definitely did it on purpose, Myne cursed under his breath, taking a deep breath to calm himself down.

"By the way," Myne said, suddenly changing the subject, "When are you going to fulfil your promise?" Caught her off guard.

"What promise?" She asked, pretending to be ignorant.

"The one you made when you asked for my help with your divine beast mess and saving the Elven race by going back in time. In return, I requested a date with your purple-haired friend who manages your business. Remember?" Myne gave Fenrir a bright smile, ignoring her murderous glare. He even moved closer and nudged her gently with his elbow.

"Do you want to get beaten? Stop poking your elbow at me! Also, when did I make such a promise? I remember throwing you away in anger. How could I possibly sell out my only friend to a pervert like you? And that too, without her consent?" Fenrir exclaimed, feigning indignation.

"What?!" Myne protested, his eyes widening in disbelief. He hadn't expected her to go back on her word. "But... but you didn't deny my request at that time, so I thought you agreed..."

"Not denying something is not the same as agreeing! I threw you away in anger—how much clearer could I have been?" Fenrir retorted, her voice rising. She was trying to get rid of his dangerous thoughts about her other form and didn't want to deal with his antics any longer.

"All right, all right, if you want to play dirty, don't blame me for being ruthless," Myne, whose heart crushed brutally, said through gritted teeth, his heart sinking. He took a deep breath and pulled out a chair, sitting down in front of her with a determined glint in his eyes.

"What are you doing?" Fenrir, who felt déjà vu from Myne's behaviour, asked, raising an eyebrow, sensing his mischievous intent.

"Waiting! Since you're not willing to set up a date for me with that lady, I'll wait for her. When she comes to meet you, I'll naturally get a chance to spend some time with her. Until then, thanks for taking care of me," Myne said with a bright smile.

"No way! You can't stay in my house. Today is my last day of vacation, and I have to go out for work tomorrow. Leave me alone, at least for today!" Fenrir, knowing what was going on in Myne's evil mind, spoke nervously. She knew she could easily throw him out of the cave, but unless she modified the barrier around her cave—which took a lot of time—he could always return with his teleportation skill.

"Don't worry. I won't disturb you at all. You can continue your beauty sleep. Believe me, I'll be so quiet you won't even notice I'm here," He assured her with a mischievous glint in his eyes.

The more Myne spoke, the more Fenrir realized he had no intention of leaving peacefully. In the end, she did what she thought was most effective.

Instead of wasting time arguing, she picked up Waffle's elder brothers, who were sleeping beside her, cast a barrier around them so they wouldn't wake up from what was about to happen, and, after giving Myne a paw slap in anger, she leapt into the pond in her cave, which was connected to the mana ocean.

"Cough, cough. You can't run away from me... cough, cough. Damn it, it hurts..." Myne, spitting a mouthful of blood, got up from the ground. His bloodshot eyes glared at the pond as he vowed,

"The day I become more powerful than you, Fenrir, that day will be your doom's day!"

...

"Ocea, am I doing it right?"

"Yes, Brother Myne, just like that. Take a deep breath and maintain balance, then you'll learn it in no time," Ocea replied encouragingly.

"How long do you think he will fall this time?" Aisha asked while eating an apple, lazily sitting on the armchair.

"The moment he lets go of Ocea, even now he is completely dependent on her to balance. Without her, probably five seconds at most," June replied confidently, before turning to Amy who was trying to create a new kind of attack from her Unique Magic.

"Do you think we missed something very important by not going with them last time? Amy seemed to have become a completely different person. Although before this she still hardly spoke anything unless it was important, or too much to digest and couldn't help but make some lame jokes, but now she seemed to have completely turned into a loner. Except for eating, sleeping, and making potions, If she did anything, then it was training, training, and just training."

"If you have the responsibility for your entire race on your shoulders, you also wouldn't be in the mood to laze around," Aisha, who knew the entire story thanks to someone's big mouth, then explained the matter to June, making June look at Amy with pity.

"It is hard to be a princess nowadays," June sighed, then turned to another frank in the family, who was hacking dummies with her heavy wooden sword.

"Aisha, are we lazy? Except for both of us, the rest of all are training hard, but we are here, sitting, eating snacks, and making jokes about them. Why do I suddenly feel bad?" She asked with a complicated look on her face and took a big bite of cookies.

"We aren't lazy, we are normal people who don't have too many expectations in life, and just want to live a happy, normal, and worry-free life, while those three are different. Well, let's not talk about that bastard, there is nothing to talk about his dream."

"Sylphy wanted to become powerful so she doesn't have to depend on anyone, while Amy is trying to bring her people back to life, but what about us? You wanted to be a cook, while I, a perfect housewife, with no lack of money. What is the point of training like a madman to us?"

"Even so, we train hard in the morning and evening, so there is no need to feel sad. We are already a hundred miles ahead of other normal people. Just remember whom you are comparing yourself with, then you won't feel sad," Aisha explained calmly, giving June enlightenment, who finally felt more at ease and picked up another piece of pastry.

Bang!

"I am fine, I am fine..."

Just as both girls were chatting, a loud sound of something falling on the ground attracted their attention, and then came the familiar worried scream of Ocea.

"Brother Myne, you didn't get too much hurt, right? We were quite high this time," She asked Myne who was getting off the ground while massaging his right cheek which was hurting like hell as he fell on his face this time.

"This is nothing. I have handled more than this, but I think this is enough for today. We will continue our flight training tomorrow, and thanks for the trouble, dear," Myne, after his injuries had healed, spoke with a smile while rubbing Ocea's pink back and thanking her.

It had been two days since the last time they went to the dungeon of the World Tree, and he got his flight skill, as well as betrayal from Fenrir. But instead of feeling heartbroken, and going behind her to lose his face, he turned his anger and grief into motivation and started learning flying, which turned out to be much more difficult than what others had made it seem.

At first, he thought it would be very easy, as even a dumb guy like Waffle could do it in one go, but who would have thought that Waffle would turn out to be a natural in flying, a peerless genius, and he, just a nobody without looks and talent, only relying on chests to make a living.

Even after spending two entire days and smashing his poor buttocks, God knows how many times, he now could hardly fly a few inches over the ground properly. But as soon as he rose high and the speed increased, he would lose balance and fall to the ground.

Chapter 637. Unexpected Mission

"I see, you two are having fun, aren't you? Laughing at me again?" Myne lifted Aisha, cradling her in his arms like a princess. He settled her on a chair and made her sit on his lap, feigning a pout.

"Can't help it. Waffle learned to fly within a few minutes, but you—it's been two whole days, and you're still nowhere near as good as a beginner. It's really hard not to make fun of you," Aisha said matter-of-factly while adjusting her sitting position.

"Especially when you have such a great teacher to guide you, right, Ocea?" June added, turning to Ocea, floating beside her, and hugging her cheerfully.

"Well, I'm not that great," Ocea embarrassed by the praise, mumbled something shyly. However, since both girls couldn't understand her words, they only heard her low murmurs and looked to Myne for translation.

"She's thanking you for the compliment," Myne said with a smile. "By the way, what's for lunch? I'm starving after all that hard work."

"But didn't you eat just two hours ago—"

"Myne! Myne! Where are you?"

Just as Aisha was complaining, Waffle, rushed towards them in a hurry.

"What's the matter?" Myne asked, confused about Waffle's sudden appearance. Waffle had been busy with Ted, searching for another secret spot to hide their snacks.

"There's an uncle at the door who wants to see you."

"An uncle? We have a guest?" Myne looked at Aisha in disbelief. This reaction was natural, as he barely knew anyone who would visit him. In the past six months, he hadn't seen a single stranger at his doorstep.

"Why are you looking at me? Since he wants to see you, go deal with him." Aisha knocked on his forehead, hopped off his lap and reminded him. Only then did Myne snap out of his thoughts and quickly walk toward the main entrance.

...

As he opened the door, he saw a familiar-looking middle-aged man surrounded by Ted and his parents, who had gained some weight and looked even bigger. The uncle wore a frightened expression, and Myne did not doubt that if any of them suddenly leapt forward and barked, he might faint from fright.

"Isn't he the leader of the First Knight's Division? (Chapter 239) The one who was the main examiner during the mock battle between me and that... what was his name again? Never mind. The guy who wanted to compete with me for Sylphy's hand."

Myne frowned. "What's he doing here? I don't think we've even talked except once, and that was over half a year ago. If not for seeing him wandering around the royal palace, I'd have forgotten him long ago."

Despite the lingering questions, Myne couldn't let his guest wait, especially when the man looked so uncomfortable. After a moment's pause, he walked toward him and shooed away Ted and his parents.

"I apologize for their behaviour. They just don't like strangers," Myne greeted the uncle with a polite smile, raising his hand for a handshake.

"I understand... Nice to meet you, Lord Myne. Long time no see." The uncle, clearly nervous, spoke quickly. "By the way, you might not know me, so let me introduce myself. I'm Gale—Gale Works, the Captain of the Knight's Division." Gale's eyes occasionally darted to Ted and his parents, who stood a few meters away, staring at him without blinking.

Of course, there was another reason for his nervousness. He couldn't believe that the man standing before him was alive. Myne's disappearance had led many to believe he was dead. Even after his return, Myne had kept a low profile, rarely appearing in public, leaving everyone in the dark. It was only today that Aniue had confirmed that Myne was alive and well, pretending to be dead. Gale felt like a fool for falling for the ruse.

"Oh, believe me, Captain Gale, you're not as low-profile as you think. I know you very well. After all, if it weren't for your fair judgment, how could I have won Sylphy?" Myne said as he led Gale into the house, speaking politely to put him at ease.

"Haha, I was just doing my duty. Otherwise, if you complained to Her Highness, I might've lost my head. As a knight of the royal family, it's my responsibility to protect Her Highness Sylphid from those noble bastards who only want to use her to gain power," Gale said, relaxing as he realized Myne was an easygoing person.

"Ah, Gale! What a surprise. What are you doing here?" Sylphy, hearing from Aisha that there was a guest, paused her training and came to check. She hadn't expected the visitor to be someone from her family's side.

"Your Highness, Princess Sylphid! Long time no see!" Gale stood up and saluted Sylphid with a formal knight's salute.

"Sigh, I've told you many times, that you no longer need to call me 'Your Highness.' I am just a housewife now. The Princess you knew has stepped down from her duties," Sylphid said helplessly, noticing Gale still treating her with royal protocol.

After her marriage, she had no further ties to the royal family. Even though Myne had been granted a noble title, they had no fiefdom, their lifestyle was far from extravagant, and they lived like commoners. In the eyes of most, they held no significant position within the kingdom. Or you can even say that they have no sense of existence at all.

"To me, Your Highness is always Your Highness! And that won't change just because you've changed your surname," Gale insisted, refusing to budge.

"Well, whatever. What brings you here, Gale? Does Anieue have any orders for Lord Husband?"

"Sylphy, at least offer our guest some water! On one hand, you're telling him you're no longer a princess, but on the other hand, you're treating him like your subordinate!" Aisha stopped Gale, who was about to speak, handed him a glass of water, and complained while placing a tray of snacks on the table.

"Please forgive their rudeness," Aisha apologized with a smile. "We don't usually have guests, so they don't know how to properly receive them. Please, have a seat" She gestured with a smile. Only then did Sylphid and Myne realize their oversight, and under their joint effort, Gale, who felt like overstepping his status, reluctantly sat down.

"Now, Gale, tell me, what can we do for you?" Myne, sitting between Aisha and Sylphy, asked calmly.

Hearing Myne's question, Gale looked nervous. He glanced at Myne, then suddenly stood up again. Taking an upright posture, he spoke loudly, as if reciting a knight's oath.

"From today, I, Gale Works, by Your Highness Aniue, appointed ruler of the Augusta Kingdom's order, will be assigned as a knight for the Fortuna Family..."

"Umm... That's all. Please take care of me."

While the start of his declaration was commanding, Gale seemed to run out of words at the end, fumbling awkwardly. Even so, his statement left everyone around him dumbfounded.

"Eh? × 8"

Everyone was stunned by his declaration.

"Ahh, I understand. He is talking about the matter regarding Amy's escort guard. He told me about this before getting injured. But then, things got complicated, and Father had no time to think about it, putting it on hold," Sylphy explained, quickly grasping the situation.

"Now that you mention it, Father-in-law did seem to say something like that," Myne continued thoughtfully, recalling Faren's words. Who was still on bed rest, thanks to Garnet being too heavy-handed while teaching him a lesson of playing with her heart, and young maids in the palace.

"That's right," Gale chimed in. "Actually, I was asked to get ready to come here and serve you all a long time ago, but then Lord Myne suddenly disappeared, which delayed the matter. Then, Your Highness was injured, and with all the troubles happening in the kingdom, there was no time for anyone to think about this task. It wasn't until yesterday, when Your Highness Anlue was reviewing old records, that he remembered me and asked me to carry out this mission immediately.

"To tell you the truth, I've been on unofficial leave for the past six months. I was supposed to receive a transfer letter from Your Highness very early and move here with my family. Who would've thought it would take so long for that letter to reach me? You might not believe this, but since I couldn't talk about my mission of protecting the Elf Princess to anyone, not even my wife, everyone thought I was fired from my job."

"They started spreading nonsense rumours, which made my wife worry for no reason. If not for the fact that I was still getting paid every month and rarely left the house, spending my time training alone in the backyard, and checking on her all the time, my wife would've surely believed those rumours gave those dark-hearted big-mouthed neighbour ladies skilled method of ruining other people lives."

The more Gale spoke, the more pitiful he seemed. Although most people would consider an extended leave a blessing, he looked far more relieved to return to work than to stay at home with his wife and child.

Chapter 638. Misplaced Confidence

"From the outside, I would still appear to belong to the First Knight Division, but in reality, I will be the Head of the Konoe Knights of the Fortuna Family," Gale, after telling his emotional but very envious and motivational story, realized that he was not in front of his friends and quickly got back to the point.

However, I remember my cheap father-in-law mentioning sending several people. But now there's only one? How the hell is he going to protect so many of us? Myne wondered, confused. Although with his and his girls' current strength, no one in the entire kingdom could threaten them; rather, they were protecting others. Still, seeing a rabbit talking about protecting a lion with such confidence was amusing.

"I heard your father-in-law said he would dispatch some soldiers and civil officials here. Aren't they come with you, Mr. Gale?" Myne inquired, unable to contain his curiosity.

"Yes, currently only I have arrived with my family. Two more knights and two civil servants will arrive soon, once your clan building construction is complete. I'll greet you as soon as they arrive," Gale explained hurriedly as if he was being fined gold coins for every second wasted, he was very nervous.

Ah, I see. So they're waiting for the clan officials to begin... Myne murmured. It seems construction is almost complete. After Garnet moved here and took charge, with the help of extra magic architects she borrowed from someone, the speed increased significantly.

"By the way, what do you mean by 'Fortuna's Konoe Knights'?" June, who had been listening intently to their conversation, couldn't help but ask curiously, excitement mixed in her voice. As a commoner, before moving into Myne's house, she had never encountered a real royal knight, let alone an entire division dedicated to their service.

Hearing the question from the unknown girl, Gale first looked at her, then at the strange pink creature in her arms. He then shifted his gaze to Myne and Sylphy, seemingly trying to figure out their origin. He had done his homework before coming to meet them and was familiar with most people, but these two were unknown factors, a serious oversight for a man with Gale's level of responsibility.

"She's my girlfriend, June, and the one in her arms is Ocea, our new family member, she is an aquatic creature," Myne said nonchalantly, introducing his girlfriend while sitting between his two wives, who had stiff and forced smiles, clearly displeased. This was normal, as no wife could tolerate a third wheel between her and her husband, and June wasn't the third but the fourth wheel.

"Huh? What! Cough, cough—I mean, what a surprise. Nice to meet you, Miss June," Gale, sensing that he had lost his composure, coughed awkwardly and greeted June before giving Myne an admiring look. He couldn't even handle a single wife properly, but here Myne was writing history by building a harem at such a young age.

However, maybe because he had never seen a creature like Ocea before, his eyes occasionally drifted toward her, consciously or unconsciously. But clearly, Myne had no intention of explaining her origin to an outsider and inviting unnecessary trouble, so he let Gale brainstorm about her.

"As for your question, Lord Myne, are you familiar with the banner of the knight's division?"

Myne shook his head and turned to Sylphy, the former knight princess, wanting her to explain. But Gale, who was prepared, hurriedly continued...

"Please be aware, Lord Myne, that as you are married to Her Highness Sylphid, you're a noble too."

"Although you're welcomed into the royal family, you don't have any self-defence unit or knights hired under you."

"It is without a doubt that I am an escort guard for Miss Amy, and I'll put in my 100% to fulfil this mission. However, protecting Lord Myne and his family in the shadows is also one of my responsibilities..."

"You will protect us?" Myne interrupted the excited Gale, asking in confusion and glancing at Sylphy, wondering if he had heard wrong.

To his surprise, she had a very similar expression to his. Then they both turned their heads toward Aisha. Finally, all three of them looked at Gale, who was scratching his head, wondering what he had said wrong.

[Name: Gale Works

LV: 34

Race: Hume

Gender: Male

Age: 32

Occupation: Member of the First Knight Division of Augusta Royal Army. The leader of the Fortuna's Konoe Knight Division

Title: The Knight

Status: Nervous, Confused, Distracted

[Skills]

Titan's Surge

Void Runner

Chaos Pulse]

[Titan's Surge (Active Skill)

Description: Temporarily increases the user's strength tenfold, allowing them to lift massive objects or shatter walls. However, overuse causes intense muscle fatigue.

Cooldown Time: 30 Minutes.]

[Void Runner (Active Skill)

Description: Increases speed and agility drastically through supplemental use of mana, making the user move like a blur. It also lets the user momentarily phase through physical barriers. Perfect example of synergistic use of both energies in the body, but it is easy for magic energy to take a dominating position, and break the balance.

Cooldown Time: None]

[Chaos Pulse (Active Skill)

Description: Randomly enhances one physical ability (strength, speed, or endurance) to a superhuman level for five minutes but has an unpredictable and random temporary side effect because of uncontrollable mana flow in the body (e.g., glowing skin, loss of speech, crazy growth of hair or any body part, etc.).

Cooldown Time: 1 hour.]

It has been quite a long time since I have seen anyone with a title... Now I remember, Fenrir's title also showed up on her status last time when I used appraisal on her, but because the time wasn't right, I didn't check them. Next time I will do it immediately, I wonder what kind of evil deeds she has done to get them, Myne thought excitedly with a smile.

Although most of the time titles don't make much sense, especially if they are negative once, not only will you not gain any benefit after going through so much trouble to have one, instead, those negative effects come with it, making your life miserable. Even so, just to have one title, Myne, specifically tasked one of his clones to have fun with new girls as many as he could, and to do this, what better place could there be than a brothel, where money can buy you happiness without much trouble?

"I have already tasted 32 nice-looking girls of my type from all brothels in the capital city, I wonder how many more I have to taste before earning a title, but it shouldn't be anytime soon, otherwise everyone might have this title, especially the middle age men, whom I don't think have left any girl in a brothel alone in their young ages."

[The Knight (Positive Title)

A title that the host earns after not breaking their knight's oath for more than 15 years, and following the true creed of the knights, and doing everything to maintain the honour of knights. Only a true knight from both heart and soul can earn this illustrious title.

Remark: The one who loves mortal things more than anything, and is easily seduced, and has a weak heart should not hope for this kind of title.

Title effect: 1. Charisma Increase by 100% (Permanent)

2. Friend: Can easily earn anyone's friendship, and it would be hard for anyone to hate you unless you do absolutely disgusting work.

3. Stamina and Mana increases by 300%. (Permanent)]

F*ck! Cool. Another wonderful title in the hands of someone who has no idea about it, what a waste, what a waste indeed, especially the second effect. If only I could have this, my task of banging a hundred women could be completed in a jiffy, Myne lamented, the ache in his chest growing stronger.

If only I could cut and paste those titles as well, and choose the one which suits me the best... that would be perfect. Sadly, I can't, since appraisal can then show them, maybe in future when my cut-and-paste skill levels are high enough, I can able to do that... Hopefully...

Regretfully closing the transparent floating window in front of him, Myne refocused his attention on Gale. Deep down, he wanted to sneer at him thinking that he should have at least checked his deed of fighting with a dragon and protecting a town before coming to him and saying that he wanted to protect him, but perhaps the other party's title had already taken effect—or maybe it was Gale's innocent nature. Either way, he couldn't bring himself to do so.

"Mr. Gale, I think you have some misunderstanding about this mission, of yours. Your work was only to deal with the daily work of the clan and maintain its order, making sure people coming there wouldn't create chaos, or trouble other guests. We don't need your protection, and believe me, I am not saying it just on a whim, but genuinely we don't need your protection... To be honest, you are far too weak to protect any one of us... except maybe June."

Chapter 639. A Crash

Sylphy gave June an apologetic smile, and the other party waved her hand, signaling her not to worry too much.

"But... all right, if you say so, then..."

Although there were hundreds of questions in Gale's heart, he wondered why everyone seemed so casual about Sylphy's statement that they were all more powerful than him. While he could understand Myne being strong, what about Aisha? He had read her file

—she was just a good archer. Gale was confident he could easily defeat her with his skills. Then there was Amy, who had no combat abilities and was only a potion master.

However, as a good subordinate who had spent most of his life working under someone, Gale quickly accepted this and said nothing. Either way, it was better for him. He had already been worrying about how he would protect so many people and maintain order in the clan with such a pitifully small number of knights.

Now that he only had to take care of the clan matter, he was naturally more than happy to do so. As for protecting Amy, the mission given to him by Anieue, since she herself showed no interest in being protected, what else could he do? It wasn't like he could force his way into her life and wander around her all day in the name of protecting her, right?

"So, Mr. Gale, where are you staying right now?" Myne asked, breaking the silence as the atmosphere grew a bit awkward. He decided to ask one last question, ready to end their pleasant but slightly boring conversation.

"Ah, do not worry about me. To be honest, my family has also moved into Lucas with me. They're sitting in the carriage outside your house.

"Your Majesty has already arranged a place for us to stay. After leaving here, we plan to visit it, settle everything, and, when your clan officially starts, I will take over the post and begin my work," Gale said, standing up with a polite smile.

"It was a pleasant conversation. Now, if you'll excuse me, I must go. By the way, if you need anything, please do not hesitate to call me. My purpose for being here is to serve you all."

"Now, please don't say those lame dialogues as if you're part of some cult. It brings back bad memories," Myne replied teasingly. "But thank you anyway. We'll be sure to reach out to you if we need help. By the way, have you seen the house next to ours? My mother-in-law lives there. If I were you, I'd greet her. Compared to us, she's a single lady and surely needs your help more than anyone else," He said with a meaningful look, patting Gale on the shoulder.

While Gale wasn't paying attention, Myne discreetly slipped ten platinum coins into his coat pocket. Otherwise, given Gale's character, he would have certainly refused to accept them.

He didn't want to see a good man living a poor life, especially since Gale had just moved into a new house and likely had many expenses. Myne was confident that the house Gale was given was probably the cheapest in all of Lucas Town, considering how stingy his master, (Faren and Aniue), could be with his subordinates.

"What! Her Highness the Queen is here?!" Gale exclaimed, his mouth wide open as if someone could put two eggs inside it. Without caring about Myne or anyone else, he hurriedly saluted them and ran out of the house.

"You did that on purpose, didn't you? Knowing full well that Mother won't let him have a peaceful moment after meeting him," Sylphy asked, giving Myne a helpless look.

"Can't help it. Just yesterday at dinner, she was complaining about not having a reliable assistant to share her burden. Now that someone has delivered himself to our door, how could I pretend not to notice him?" Myne shamelessly replied, quoting Aisha's previous words as his own, while putting his arm around Sylphy's shoulder.

"Forget about him. Let's go take a bath. It's been a while since we bathed together."

"All right, since you insist. Anyway, my training is almost complete," Sylphy replied, clearly delighted by the suggestion. She hugged him by the waist, and the two of them, under the narrowed eyebrows of the other three women, pretended to be lovey-dovey as they walked toward the bathroom.

...

"Yawn, where the hell is she? It's already been the third day. Just how long is she going to make me wait?" Myne, sitting alone in the middle of the suspicious hall in the dungeon of the World Tree, complained boredly while waiting for Cetus on what was supposed to be their special date.

"And she's not even picking up my calls. Only God knows where the hell she is," Myne sighed, putting down the book in his hand. He looked up at the dark passage that seemed to have no end and reached all the way out of the World Tree.

To his surprise, under the effect of his night vision, he saw a small dot falling from the sky at a crazy speed. The dot, visible even to the naked eye, grew bigger and bigger...

"F*ck!"

BOOM!

A loud explosion echoed as a giant object fell heavily from the sky and landed flat on the ground.

"Ahh, someone help~" Myne, buried under the unknown object, cried out pityfully. Fortunately, he had activated his Absolute Defense skill and was completely fine despite having a mountain's worth of weight on him. However, he couldn't move even a finger.

But, thankfully, he didn't need to move his body to activate his skills. With a single thought, a portal appeared beneath him, and he fell into it.

"Haaa... What the hell was that?" Myne emerged from the other end of the hall, collapsing onto his knees while breathing heavily. Taking a moment to collect himself, he turned his head toward the mountain-like object that had fallen on him. He was dumbfounded to see the body of a certain someone he had been waiting for.

"F*ck! Cetus, what happened to you? How did you end up like this?" Myne hurriedly ran toward Cetus, whose eyes were closed, and asked telepathically. Thankfully, she was still conscious and replied.

"Hehehe, nothing, just tired. Give me a moment; I'll be fine soon..." Those were the last words she managed to squeeze out before falling silent. No matter how much Myne called, she didn't respond again.

"F*ck, f*ck, what should I do? Should I call Fenrir? But then how am I going to explain what I'm doing here? And it doesn't seem like she's in any mortal danger; otherwise, she might've told me to call for someone. If only Appraisal worked on her, I could paste Ultra Regeneration on her, and she'd recover quickly."

"With a body this huge, I doubt the pitiful amount of healing potions I have will be of any use," Myne muttered worriedly while pacing back and forth. He frantically checked his skills to see if anything could help.

But even after scanning his skill list three times in a row, he found nothing. If she were in her hume form, Myne might have tried experimenting with Regenesys Ray—maybe it could heal her. But considering her current massive body size, it was a pipe dream unless he had an unlimited supply of mana.

After nearly ten minutes of worrying and thinking through every possible scenario, Myne finally concluded that he could do nothing except wait. Sighing in frustration, he took out another chair and sat down to wait for Cetus to wake.

And this wait lasted nearly seven hours.

"Ahhmm, it hurts so much," Cetus groaned softly, slowly opening her eyes. But to her surprise, someone was sleeping right in front of her.

She focused on the small ant-like figure in front of her eye and found that this was Myne, sitting on the chair, a book resting on his chest, sleeping peacefully.

So it was true. I thought I was hallucinating when I heard someone's voice before passing out. But what the hell is he doing here so late at night...?

Ahhh, the date... I completely forgot about that. Has he been coming here every day, waiting for me? So cute. No wonder Fenrir likes him so much. As a lover, he really does have some qualities, Cetus thought happily. Slowly and silently, she lifted her body and transformed into her humanoid form.

"The damage is quite serious... Hehehe, but I finally taught that b*tch a good lesson this time. Let's see if she dares to mess with me again," Cetus murmured while examining herself. Countless cuts and burns marred her snow-white skin, and a chunk of flesh was

missing from her left leg as if someone had bitten it off, her beautiful blue hair also had burned seriously, making her look a bit creepy.

"It'll take a long time to recover back to my peak. Sigh... This little guy will have to wait even longer before getting inside me. I was quite excited to finally have some fun, but who would've thought that b*tch would not only increase her elemental efficiency but also find an artefact from the Elemental Plane? God knows who she made a deal with to get it," Cetus grumbled jealously. With a wave of her hand, she used illusion magic to hide her wounds. Then, she approached Myne and gently tapped his forehead.

Chapter 640. Hidden Wounds

"Wake up, sweetie pie..."

"Let me sleep a bit more, Aisha. It's still early. I'll do the training later," Myne muttered, waving his hand left and right, trying to grab his quilt to cover his face out of habit—but found nothing. Confused, he opened his eyes, only to find that instead of Aisha, someone else was standing before him with a meaningful smile on her face.

"And who could this Aisha be?" she asked, her hands behind her back, showing no trace of being injured.

"She... F*ck, are you alright? I saw you falling from the sky, and... and... Aren't you injured?" Myne, about to answer her, suddenly realized who he was talking to. He jolted up and asked, only to notice that she didn't seem injured at all. Instead, she looked even more beautiful—like she had just come back from a parlor.

"Do I look like I'm injured? Last night, I just traveled a bit too far and got so tired that I wanted to sleep—and forget about you. Even when I spoke to you, I was half-asleep."

"Phew, that's a relief. I thought you were hurt. I spent half the night worrying about your situation, but it seems I was overthinking," Myne breathed a sigh of relief. Still, doubts lingered in his mind. He circled around Cetus, only after confirming twice that she was unharmed did he finally nod, satisfied.

"By the way, I'm sorry for breaking my promise and keeping you waiting for so long. It wasn't intentional. A certain btch hadn't been bothering me for quite some time, but because of Ocea and other divine beast matters, I couldn't free myself to settle the score with her until recently. At first, I thought it would be an easy matter and end quickly, but who would have thought that while I was busy with my work, that btch would hit the jackpot and become even more powerful?"

If not for the fact that she underestimated me, relied on my trump card, which caught her off guard, and was beaten to death, I might have suffered a great loss this time. As she said those words, Myne noticed the corner of Cetus's mouth twist, and she clenched her fist tightly for some reason, with unwillingness and anger clearly visible in her eyes. It was as if she was talking about her own situation instead of her enemy's.

"That's good. Since you're done with your revenge, shall we talk about our matter? Where do you think we should start our date from? I know quite a lot of good dating destinations. We can start with them and try to understand each other more deeply before getting to the final stage."

Since he hadn't noticed Cetus's miserable condition and thought she was completely fine because of her perfect camouflage, Myne didn't care about those minor things and went straight to the point.

He had been waiting for this moment for three days and had almost memorized every move he wanted to make with Cetus. After all, it's not every day you can make your dig as deep as you want and have fun with someone's cave, which is almost bottomless by normal standards. Thankfully, he wasn't normal and had quite a lot of support to help him achieve his first divine beast knockoff accomplishment.

"Ahm, about our date... I think you'll have to wait for some more time," Cetus sighed as she looked at the dense wounds on her body, from which blood was gushing out crazily. Her burn marks were also covered with big and small blisters. Although her body was different from a normal human's and had a high healing speed, the process was still slow, and some things were inevitable.

"Although I'm more excited than you can even imagine, I just came back from a tough battle, and I have almost no energy to do anything now. Even maintaining this human form is currently draining the little energy I have left. If I run out of it as well, especially during our 'fun activity,' and return to my original form... I don't think I need to say what would happen, right?"

"What?!" Myne, who was now feeling like a cheated husband who, after coming home from a hard day, found his wife having fun with a younger man while screaming in pleasure and insulting him as useless, suddenly didn't know what to say. Although he was dying to say that he didn't mind, he then imagined himself at the peak of passion, only for his lover to suddenly vanish beneath him, replaced by a giant whale tearing through their small love nest. The thought of being buried alive under her massive form left him completely speechless.

"But, but... Sigh. And how long will it take you to recover to your peak?"

Finally, temporarily giving up on his achievement of having sex with a divine beast, Myne looked at Cetus's giant breasts under her thin, nearly transparent blue robe, especially her hard nipples, which seemed to be inviting him to remove the damn clothes covering them and take them in his mouth.

"Don't worry, it won't take long. At most a week, then we can play as much as we want."

Although Cetus wanted to spend more time with Myne, she could feel her blood draining at a very fast pace in her human form. Her head was already spinning, and she could hardly stand on her feet. If she continued staying with him, it was very likely that her white lie would be exposed.

"Alright, that's all for today. Now, since it's already morning, you should go back. Otherwise, your wives might find out about our little secret if you stay too long here. I'm afraid then I wouldn't be able to see you again," Cetus said, chuckling softly.

She gave Myne a quick kiss on his cheek and gently said goodbye before floating away through the passage above his head.

"Sigh, what a loss. I have to wait for another seven days... No, I can't go back empty-handed. Since I can't 'eat' her, I need to find someone else to vent my excessive energy on."

Thinking about it for a bit, a certain figure with the characteristics of a cow appeared in his mind—a figure carrying his first child in her stomach.

"It seems I've been neglecting Hanaha recently. It's time to make her happy," Myne muttered with a smile, opened a portal, and walked into it.

...

Bang!

"F*ck! Who broke into my house!? Damn it, Elder Sis Cetus, what happened to you?!"

In a place surrounded by raw, active volcanoes with rivers of lava flowing everywhere—giving the feeling of hell on Earth to anyone who saw it—there stood a large house made of special red stone. This house floated slowly in the middle of an active volcano filled with lava, releasing unrelenting heat. Yet, the house seemed impervious to the extreme temperature.

However, the house that could withstand such harsh conditions now had a small hole in its ceiling. Inside, a figure lay unconscious on the broken floor, while a two-meter-tall bird with flaming red feathers stood nearby. The bird, with a silly and naive look on his face, appeared on the verge of a panic attack as he stared at the injured intruder before him.

"Elder Sis, can you hear me? What happened to you?"

When Cetus, the divine beast of fire, gave no response, the bird—Phin—who looked remarkably like the mythical phoenix that represented the cycle of life, death, and rebirth, rushed to the kitchen. He rummaged through everything in a frenzy before hurrying back two minutes later with a bright red fruit in hand.

Phin quickly knelt beside Cetus, opened her mouth, and squeezed the fruit hard, letting its juice drip into her mouth.

The fruit, evidently of high quality, began to work instantly. As the juice entered Cetus' body, her charred wounds started to heal, visible to the naked eye. She regained partial consciousness, and Phin helped her consume the fruit completely, knowing its full effects could only manifest when eaten raw.

"Elder Sis, what happened? How did you get hurt so badly? And why is there so much chaotic fire energy in your body? Aren't you tasked with guarding the World Tree?"

Where could such powerful fire elements appear there? Even the elemental planes don't usually have such high-level, pure elemental particles!" Phin asked, worry evident in his voice as Cetus regained enough strength to stand.

Cetus hesitated for a moment, torn about whether to tell the truth to her unreliable younger brother. Phin was notorious for being unable to keep secrets. However, in the end, she decided to be honest. After all, if she wanted to recover quickly, she would need his help. Only a fool would lie to their healer about their condition.

"What?! How could you go there?!" Phin exclaimed, stepping back in shock. He lowered his voice nervously, as if afraid someone would overhear. "Didn't Mother forbid us from going there? If she finds out you went there despite her strict warnings, I'm afraid you won't see the sun for hundreds of years! This is no small matter, Elder Sis. She's very serious about anything involving that forbidden zone. We should stay far away from it!"

"That's why I need you to keep silent about this, Phin. For my sake, can you do that?" Cetus stepped forward, grabbing his wing as she looked up at him with a pitiful expression.

"You don't want your elder sister locked in a dark, tiny cell for hundreds of years, do you? Or for your dear niece to be left all alone, crying day and night just to catch a glimpse of her mother?"

Phin hesitated. He was well-known for his big mouth, and he wasn't confident he could keep such a secret. However, the thought of Ocea crying for her mother, unable to see her for who knows how long, swayed him. In the end, he reluctantly promised to keep quiet. To ensure he wouldn't accidentally slip up, they sealed the agreement with a soul-binding contract. If Phin even thought about revealing Cetus' secret, he would suffer excruciating pain throughout his entire body.

"Good. Now, help me get rid of these fire elements in my body. Because of them, I can't even heal myself properly." Seeing the contract dissolve into golden particles, Cetus nodded in satisfaction and gave her order.

"Alright. I'll get my tools. You go outside and return to your normal form," Phin sighed helplessly, knowing he was about to work overtime. He shuffled to his workshop beside his bedroom to prepare.

"Hopefully, this ends quickly, and I can fulfill my promise to Myne. I really can't wait to have some fun," Cetus muttered happily as she floated out through the hole in the ceiling she had made during her dramatic entrance.