

## Death 611

Death... and me

Chapter 611: Not as Expected

Frandin narrowed his eyes.

'I did. By the way, if you're here, that means you know what the Bloodline Marks truly are, right?'

Rean and Roan nodded, with Rean saying.

'We do. Those are human sacrifices. The Bloodline Marks are made by condensing their Souls.'

Frandin nodded.

'Exactly. Just so you know, I had no idea that it was the case before. As I mentioned, my father went through the Rank Two Bloodline Trial, not me. He simply used his own Bloodline Mark to create his family's marks. It was the first time I saw what a Bloodline Trial was.'

Rean didn't mind as he said soon after.

'If you're worried that we will complain that you used the sacrifices, you don't need to worry. We know very well that those humans don't have any other choice anymore. You don't know formations as well as I do. In any case, I can guarantee you that trying to save them would just get them killed straight away because of the trials' formations. The way they are at the moment, it's not wrong to say that they're already dead.'

Frandin sighed in relief after hearing that.

'From the looks of it, you also got your Bloodline Marks.'

Rean and Roan nodded.

'We did. But we want to hear about your test instead.'

Frandin then continued.

'When I stepped on the diagram on the ground and touched the sacrifice's forehead, my consciousness was pulled into some kind of illusion world. Later I understood that this illusion world was made based on the memories of that human.'

'Inside there, the human still had some of its consciousness remaining, and I believe the others have it as well. However, it seems like the last remains of sentience only appear when the trial starts.'

Rean wasn't surprised by that. He already expected that much after he analyzed the seal on the humans back then. Besides, Luna told Roan that the Zasfin would need to convince their sacrifices to accept to be their Soul Marks. To convince them, they would need to be conscious. As for what kind of approach they used, that was their problem.

'Let me guess, that human obviously hated your presence there in his illusion world. After all, it was you, Zasfins, who put them there to start with. We also know that this is why the Bloodline Trials can fail since your sacrifices simply hate you guys. Besides, the higher the rank of the Bloodline Trial, the stronger the sacrifice's Soul will be, making it even harder.'

Frandin nodded. He also understood that when his trial started.

'Exactly. As you mentioned, that guy went all out against me in his illusion world. I was lost at what to do as well. After all, I didn't know what I was supposed to accomplish there. Just how was I supposed to get the Bloodline Mark with this method? No one explained it to me.'

Frandin continued.

'However, there was one point in the trials. I could use Soul Force to resist and even counterattack that human in his illusion world.'

Rean and Roan were not surprised by that. One must remember that each trial rank had a minimal amount of Soul Power required to be taken. Naturally, Soul Power must be used somewhere, and now they know that it was used inside those illusion worlds.

'It seems like you had a very hard time resisting that human's attack.'

Frandin nodded.

'It can't be helped. Do you remember the Soul Power requirement? My own Soul Power was smaller than the necessary amount. Also, I couldn't use my actual Bloodline Mark when inside the Illusion World, only my raw power. That's why they measure your raw power alone in the Bloodline Trial Offices, I guess.'

That was the part that puzzled Rean and Roan. In theory, Frandin should have failed and then tried again until his Soul Power ran out.

'However, your bloodline trial finished almost at the same time as ours. Obviously, you succeeded on the first try. How did you do that?'

Frandin scratched the back of his head.

'I believe it was because of you two...'

That only puzzled the twins even more.

'Us? But we didn't do anything.'

Frandin then explained.

'You do know that humans hate us because of how we treat them, right? During my time inside the illusion world, it wasn't just the human memories that could be seen. I don't know how, but there was some kind of connection between my Soul and his own. Because of that, he could also see my own.'

However, it wasn't at the same level as his. He could only see my most recent memories for some reason.'

'As we battled, we shared our experiences until he suddenly called for a time out. The memories he saw were the ones where we traveled together, and I helped you. From that point onward, that battle turned into a weird conversation. I explained to him that I wasn't doing it on purpose. That I was being forced because of the poison that Roan fed me. Well, he knew that as well since he saw the moments that I took the poison and the partial antidotes to keep it at bay.'

Roan couldn't help but ask.

'If he knew that, then there shouldn't be a reason for him to stop the battle, much less trust you. What's happening here?'

Frandin nodded as he answered.

'Beats me. He already knew, but I still told him that I finally got the complete antidote, so I didn't have anything to do with you anymore. There was no reason for him to look so calm. However, that was the moment everything changed. He simply decided that he would allow me to use his Soul to become my Bloodline Mark. From the looks of it, he already knew that he would disappear the moment the trial failed as well.'

Rean and Roan nodded. They already hypothesized that outcome back in the last chamber that each failed trial would wipe out the Soul of the human selected for it. From what Frandin said, it seemed like it was the truth. That made sense since the Zasfins wouldn't allow the humans to keep part of their own memories either.

'Still, why did he suddenly decide to give you his Soul? Becoming a Bloodline Mark was also considered death for him. Why would he choose to die while helping you? I could understand if you used your Soul Power to torture his Soul in the Illusion World. That's how the other Zasfins have been doing it for sure. But it wasn't the same in your case, right?'

Frandin lightly laughed in self-deprecation.

'Hehe... Even if I wanted to, my Soul Power was too weak to do such a thing. You must remember that I'm participating in this trial with a lot less than the necessary amount needed.'

Frandin continued.

'The illusion world began to disappear right after. At the last moment, I asked him why he would do that. He simply said that it was still better to give me the Soul Mark than dying since I at least helped the humans, even if it was against my will.'

Rean and Roan thought it to be quite weird. If it were them, they most likely wouldn't have done that either way. Why would that guy decide to do it? It wasn't like Frandin had become their friend or anything.

'Well, I guess it all depends on the person. If that was his choice, then we are not the ones to judge it.'

Roan agreed with Rean on that.

However, Frandin mentally sighed right after. Everything he had said so far was the truth. However, there was one thing he didn't tell the twins. At those last moments, the guy added one last piece to his motives.

'Hahaha! You helped them against your will. That much is obvious... but just halfway through the journey. I can feel it through our momentaneous connection. You have improved so much that you almost can't believe it. Besides, you might deny it, but deep down, your life had never been so exciting. You just can't help but think about what else could happen. Compared to the dull life you had back then, this one is much, much better. Well, whether you will accept this or not, that's up to you. I'll give you a little help, so bring my Bloodline Mark with you.'

Not long after that, Frandin's consciousness came back to his body. Following that, the same sacrifice happened. The guy's Soul left his body and was condensed into a Bloodline Mark that entered Frandin's forehead. As for the previous Bloodline Mark, it was wiped away by the stronger one. Not to mention that Frandin's previous mark wasn't an original one but a subproduct of his father's mark.

Frandin didn't know what to think after that. Exciting life? He had almost died many times during Roan's Death Style training. Not to mention that he had made quite a few enemies since he joined the twins. Did he really like it? At the very least, the human used as sacrifice believed so. But what about him?

The answer appeared as soon as he found Rean and Roan again. That's because the chamber's door he used to enter the trial was closed. Even if he wanted to, he couldn't go back to where the twins' group stayed. However, he couldn't help but feel relieved that he was able to see them again. Wasn't that proof enough that he wanted to continue this adventure?

Rean then looked at Frandin before saying.

'Well, that's good for you. Anyway, your poison is already healed, so we will let you go after leaving this place. Since we brought you inside, we might as well see you out. After that, you're on your own.'

Roan nodded. That was the plan from the start.

Frandin was taken aback. Things didn't go as he expected at all.

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Chapter 612: How did it happen?

Frandin couldn't help but ask.

'Isn't that a bad move? It was difficult for others to trust me before. But now that I've obtained a Rank Five Bloodline Mark, it should be possible to convince my race that you are a threat. Just the fact that you can appear here without them knowing is more than enough for them to consider it a huge problem.'

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he replied.

'Hahaha! I still doubt very much that they will believe such a thing. Even if they do, so what? Zasfins had never thought much about us humans, so they won't put as much importance on it as you're saying, especially because of our cultivation. After all, we're just a small group. Anyway, it wouldn't be a good thing for you either. The best option for you is to keep mum and go back to your city. With a Rank Five

Bloodline Mark, you should have a very good life from now on. Because of that, I also doubt that you will say that you got this because you were helped by humans.'

That was also why Roan didn't care much. After passing all the cities and investigating the Zasfin Race, he had concluded that the Zasfins would never consider them a problem. At the very least, not until they find out about the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm and their Circuitry Teleport Formation. Of course, to find out about it, they would need to enter it. Naturally, that won't happen.

However, Frandin insisted.

'Still, isn't it better to prevent it?'

Roan looked at Frandin with cold eyes.

'I was letting you leave as payment for all the help so far and because there's little risk to us anyway. However, are you perhaps asking us to kill you, then? If that's the case, I don't mind it at all.'

Frandin immediately felt a chill.

'Of course not!'

Suddenly, Rean stepped back a little as he looked at Frandin with disgust on his face.

'Could it be... that you're actually a masochist?'

Roan's eyes widened after hearing that and immediately jumped back as well. Sure enough, it looked like that, right?

Frandin felt like crying!

'Who the hell's a masochist? You're masochists! Your entire families are masochists!'

Rean and Roan looked at each other before looking back at him.

'Then stop beating around the bush. Just tell us what the hell you want, for fuck's sake.'

Frandin madly scratched the back of his head as he replied.

'Aghhhh! Fine! I don't want to leave yet, alright?! My cultivation and Soul Power have been improving more than ever during this journey. Why would I leave such great conditions? Just let me stay around. I won't bother you much.'

Rean and Roan then took a few steps further back from Frandin after that.

'So you really are a masochist! Sorry, bro. But we don't dabble in that area.'

If Rean and Roan weren't so much stronger than him, Frandin would have definitely given them a beating.

'Fuck you! I'm not a masochist! Sure, Roan's training schedule is hellish, but I'm doing it for my cultivation! Who the hell likes pain? Stop coming up with these weird ideas! It's all for my own benefit! You keep me around, and I'll keep playing the owner role every time we need to enter a city. Isn't that good enough? Why are you making it look like I'm weird?'

Rean sighed in relief.

'Oh... So that's what you meant. Bro, you gave me a fright just now.'

Frandin's mouth twitched in response.

'It was you who got the wrong idea! First of all, how the hell did you instantly assume that I'm a masochist?! What's wrong with your head?!'



Rean laughed, pretending that he didn't care at all.

'Hahaha! It's fine, it's fine. Let's just say that you didn't hear anything, and I didn't say anything. How about that?'

Now that they found out Frandin wasn't a masochist, Roan then entered the main topic.

'Whatever. Since Frandin wants to stay, that will save us some trouble. Rank Five Bloodline Marks have pretty big standards in the Zasfin world, which will help a lot. Besides, capturing someone with a similar rank would be annoying. Such ZASFins would most likely have too much pride to accept being controlled by us.'

It was then that Frandin understood a point.

'Wait! You were already intending to swap me for someone else, weren't you?!'

Roan snorted, not hiding his intentions at all.

'Isn't that obvious? Do you really think I believed you would succeed in the Rank Five Bloodline Trials? Wake up, idiot! Anyone would definitely bet that you would fail.'

Rean immediately nodded. No one thought that Frandin could succeed at all in his Rank Five Bloodline Trial. If not because of the abnormal conditions of his test, such a thing shouldn't have happened.

Frandin's pride couldn't help but get another hit. Well... it didn't hurt that much this time since his pride had been getting beaten up ever since he joined their group. As much as he hated it, he already got used to being looked down upon by now. Besides... he was indeed much weaker than them even though he was of similar age.

'Whatever... I will just ignore these comments from now on.'

Roan then threw him another poison pill.

'Since that's your choice, take the pill again. As much as you might be telling the truth, I can't afford to be wrong in the end. Of course, this is up to you. If you don't want to take the poison pill, we will simply let you go when we're out.'

Roan then continued.

'Also, I will warn you. Things will only get harder and more dangerous from here and out. You simply have no idea how idiotic it will be if you really decide to come along. Chances are that you WILL die at some point. Last but not least, this pill is even more potent than the other pill I've been giving you so far. I have no choice since your cultivation is increasing. Trust me when I say that if you fail to take the antidote, you will experience an ending worse than any death you could ever hope for.'

That was the truth. Let alone trying to do something for the girls and boys of the Bloodline Trials. Their own future was bound to be as crazy as one could possibly imagine. After all, they were the Soul Gem System's Owners.

Frandin couldn't help but show a hint of fear as he looked at the pill in his hand. It's Roan that we're talking about here. Frandin was absolutely sure that Roan didn't exaggerate in his descriptions at all. However, determination filled his mind a second later. If that's the price for a chance to become much stronger, he might as well embrace it all.

\*Gulp!\*

In a single go, the pill went down his throat. In the end, he was still a Zasfin, so he couldn't blame Roan for being careful. Besides, he would definitely have done something similar in Roan's shoes. Their own group's safety was still their top priority after all.

However, just as the pill reached his stomach, a burst of Light and Dark Element came out of it. Together with a huge amount of Spiritual Energy, those two elements began to run through all his meridians. Like what happened during the alchemist exam, the Light Element protected the meridians while the Dark Element destroyed all impurities. Thanks to the medicinal properties of the pill and those two elements, such a thing was possible.

Frandin was shocked by that effect. However, he didn't have time to ponder about it as the energy of the pill ran through his body. He immediately sat down and used his own Spiritual Energy and even Soul Power to help the pill work.

Rean, on the other hand, smiled in Roan's direction as he said.

'Big brother likes to put up a strong front, but you're very gentle, aren't you?'

\*Bang!\*

\*Clang!\*

Roan immediately kicked Rean once again. However, Rean was ready for that this time and blocked Roan's attack.

'Hahaha! Why so mad? I'm just telling the truth here.'

Roan then brought out his White Star, which gave Rean a slight chill.

'Alright, alright! I'll stop. Man, you really can't take a joke.'

Roan snorted.

'Hmph! That's because you talk too much bullshit.'

Frandin didn't even see what was happening since his entire focus was on the pill's effect. The purification of his meridians was not the only thing it helped him with. As one could remember, that was Roan's Cross-Realm Pill. Naturally, its effects weren't just that.

Frandin felt his bottleneck becoming weaker as time passed. The medicinal properties kept rushing into his dantian, making it even clearer. Frandin, of course, didn't let such a good chance pass up. He

immediately took out his Spirit Stones and aimed for the Late Stage of the Foundation Establishment Realm.

\*Boom!\*

Sure enough, a burst of Spiritual Energy came out of his body sometime later. With that, the Spirit Stones dried out as Frandin's cultivation increased at a fast pace. It only stopped after it stabilized in the Late Stage.

\*Phew...\*

Frandin exhaled some air together with Spiritual Energy. Finally, he opened his eyes again, thinking about thanking Roan for this. However...

\*Clang, clang, clang!\*

\*Crash!\*

\*Boom, boom, boom!\*

For some reason, Rean and Roan were in a life-and-death battle against each other. Well, because there wasn't much space to maneuver, Roan clearly had the advantage. Rean was obviously suffering quite a bit there.

'Just... how did they end like that?'

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Chapter 613: Way Out

\*Bang!\*

Eventually, Rean couldn't hold back anymore and was embedded into the wall.

"Cough, cough... Do you really need to go this far?"

Roan snorted as he replied.

"When it's you, there is no such thing as too far."

Frandin couldn't help but sweat a little as he kept whispering.

'You two, you're making too much noise! What if we're found out?'

Roan didn't seem to care, though.

"Fuck that! That guy will probably take forever until he finishes his trial anyway. Unlike you, the humans there will undoubtedly hate him. There's more than enough time to give this guy a beating."

Rean then got up once again as his Light Element hastily healed his injuries.

"Hmph! It's not like I didn't hit you a few times either. Just you wait, Roan. There will come a day that I'll be the winner."

Roan snorted in response, saying.

"I'll be waiting, then."

One must remember that the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm was showing the things happening outside as well.

[Those two idiots never learn.]

Malaka laughed, not minding it at all.

"What are you talking about? If it wasn't like this, then something would definitely be wrong."

Calina then looked at Malaka before asking.

"How long had they been like this?"

Malaka shrugged her shoulders as she responded.

"We're at the same age. Still, as far as my memories go back, they have always been at each other's throats. Now that we know that they're reincarnations, it most likely has something to do with what happened before that."

Qia and Agis nodded after that. Only that would make some sense.

"Such is fate. They were born as each other's brothers even though they hate one another. It's quite funny in a certain way."

Calina couldn't help but comment.

"Who knows? Perhaps that's how they show each other their love."

"Love your ass!"

Rean and Roan, as owners of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, obviously heard that comment. Naturally, they replied straight away.

Malaka and the others laughed at that. Nevertheless, they somewhat agreed with Calina's final words. Roan was definitely cold to the point of giving others a slight chill. Still, he definitely had his gentle side... although it was rarely seen.

Frandin, who was still outside, scratched the back of his head.

"Ahem... By the way, what did you give me? That was definitely not poison."

Rean patted Frandin's shoulder as if nothing had happened so far.

"Oh, don't worry. That was just a test the ice block gave you. Roan wanted to see if you were staying true to your words or not. You obviously passed that, so your reward was the breakthrough and the cleansing of the meridians."

Rean then looked at Roan before asking.

"Oh, right! You might as well give him the Cauldron Medicinal Paste Bath later."

Everyone's eyes inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm lit up. The Medicinal Paste Bath was definitely good for the body. However, they could totally tell that Rean wasn't being kind at all. He just wanted Frandin to suffer as they all did before.

Well, there was an exception, though.

"Medicinal Paste Bath? What is that?"

Sure enough, Agis wasn't there when Roan prepared the hell bath for them.

Calina and Qia patted his shoulder as they brightly smiled at him.

"It's great! It's called Body Enhancement Paste. However, Roan uses a special method."

Qia nodded.

"My body became much stronger after that. After that session, I can even fight ordinary cultivators two stages higher than my realm. Before, I could do only a single stage. You'll love it!"

However, Agis noticed Kentucky running towards a corner and rolling himself in a ball. Not to mention the fact that the ball of feathers was trembling in fear. From the looks of it, the word 'Medicinal Paste Bath' scared the hell out of it.

'This bird has the highest defense between all of us, but even it is trembling in fear...'

Agis then looked at the two smiling women with a not very willing expression.

"Ahem... I'm- I'm fine. There is no need to worry about me."

However, Roan seemed to agree with the idea outside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.

"That's true. We should take this chance now that we're close to the city to buy the necessary materials. I'll put you and Agis into it since the stronger you are, the safer we'll be."

Agis felt like crying. He knew that Roan definitely heard his refusal, but he was completely ignored.

Frandin, on the other hand, didn't see the scenes inside the Soul Gem Realm, so he became quite excited with Rean's description.

"It's that good? Great! I'll help with anything I can!"

Rean's smile grew even wider after hearing that.

"Hahaha! That's what I like to hear. A man should never run away from hardships, even if it's something straight from hell like this one."



Frandin got puzzled.

"Hardships? Isn't it supposed to be a good thing?"

Rean patted his shoulder even more as he replied.

"It's fine, it's fine! It's definitely a good thing... after you're done with it. Don't worry, don't worry at all! Hahaha!"

Roan ignored the happy faces of Rean, Calina, and Qia before sitting behind a boulder. They wanted to see what was behind the next altar. If it was just an exit, they would leave this place through the Circuitry Teleport Formation. If there was something else to this trial, they would enter it to check. However, they wanted to leave it for the guy who was still in the middle of the test to do it. After all, there was a chance that there might be Zasfins on the other side if it was an exit.

Time passed, and the hours went by in a flash. During this time, the twins and Frandin just cultivated while keeping their auras and Spiritual Energy in check. Eventually, they began to hear someone's voice coming from one of the passages. They immediately stopped cultivating and focused on hiding with Rean's skills.

At first, it was hard to make out what the guy was saying since he was too far away. However, the closer he got, the easier it became.

"Those... trash... they..."

It didn't take long for them to understand what he was saying. Basically, he was cursing without end.

"Why are those trash making it so difficult? I'm a Zasfin, your Master! You should just accept becoming my Bloodline Soul Mark! Again! 27 pieces of trash died because they didn't want to become my Bloodline Soul Mark! Why can't they understand that it's their honor to become our Soul Marks?!"

Rean narrowed his eyes as he heard that. Regardless if a Bloodline Trial worked or not, the sacrifice would die. From what they were hearing, this guy tried it twenty-seven times and failed all of them.

One must remember that just lying won't work. The humans can also see the other side's recent memories up to a few years in the past. Naturally, you can't hide your behavior up to that point. That's why most Zasfins can only try to force the humans to submit to them. There was no helping it since only humans with strong wills would have strong souls.

The Zasfins tried to use humans who were completely submissive to them to make the Bloodline Soul Marks. However, it turned out that their Souls became too weak. It was the will to fight that increased their qualities. Otherwise, a submissive human system would have been set long ago. That's also why places like the Decadence Region existed. They were the perfect breeding grounds for strong human souls.

Rean began to take out his Black Star, thinking about cutting that guy's head here and now. However, Roan held his arm before shaking his head.

'Leave it. He isn't the first and definitely won't be the last. No one should know that we're here.'

Rean sighed but nodded in the end.

The guy then arrived at the next altar. However, he had a dejected expression, typical of those who failed their bloodline tests. Finally, he touched it and sent his Soul Power inside.

\*Creek!\*

The giant door behind the altar began to open straight away as Rean's group watched it from another path far away back. Sure enough, Rean's group was right. That was just the exit. Not only that, but they really did see other Zasfins already waiting for the guy outside. They kept quiet as they listened to the conversation on the other side.

"Maluco, why did you do that?"

Obviously, that was the name of the guy who activated the altar.

"Do... what?"

Maluco was puzzled. What were they talking about?

"You dare take us for fools? I'm asking you why you destroyed the Bloodline Altar at the entrance. Do you have any idea how hard it is to make them? Just because you're part of the Jure Clan, that doesn't give you the right to destroy the Imperial Family's Property!"

"What?! Destroy the Bloodline Altar? I didn't even do such a thing."

However, the elders on the other side seemed pretty convinced that Maluco was the culprit. After all, the Bloodline Trial Grounds was protected by a tremendous force. Only a single Zasfin could enter it at each time. They only found out about the destruction of the altar because of how it was connected to the Bloodline Trial's Formation.

"Hmph! Have you finished your trial?"

Maluco nodded as he replied.

"Ye-Yes... I failed it."

"Then, let's enter and check it by ourselves. Let's see if you really didn't do anything."

Maluco felt helpless. He really didn't do anything at all!

Rean, on the other hand, was quite satisfied with that.

'That should serve as punishment for him. Let's leave.'

Since that was only the exit, the twins' group had no intention of using it. They entered the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm after sending Frandin inside before using the Soul Gem Circuitry Teleport Formation to get away from there.

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Chapter 614: Does that mean...

Leaving the Bloodline Trial Grounds was many times easier than entering it. With Rank Two Spirit Stones, the twins could use the Circuitry Teleport Formation to teleport to a max range of 300km. Beyond that, they would need Rank Three Stones, but that wasn't necessary. The twins then selected a direction that would be somewhat close to Venasi City to make their other arrangements.

This time, Rean had reappeared far high in the skies. But that wasn't an issue since he simply summoned Kentucky and flew down with him while using his Light Bending Skill.

After that, Frandin and Roan reappeared outside before they made their way to Venasi once again. They quickly passed by the city's gate and went back to the workshop they had rented previously.

Rean then looked at them before saying.

"Alright, I'll spend my next few days forging Earth Peak-Level Equipment. I want to bring it to the auction house for sale. After that, we should have enough Spirit Stones to keep traveling without much worry of running out."

Calina couldn't help but ask.

"Wouldn't it be too risky to use such high-level equipment in this place? You crafted Earth High-Level ones before exactly because of that."

Rean nodded as he replied.

"That was the plan. However, did you see how the appraiser of the Imperial Auction House looked at my weapons? In the end, they could only be considered opening items. It seems like it won't be a huge problem to bring Earth Peak-Level weapons."

Rean then looked at Frandin before continuing.

"Besides, we do have a Zasfin owner with a Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark. If problems arise, Frandin just has to bring out his Bloodline Mark, and the others should know how to restrain themselves."

Frandin shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"Already expecting to use me this soon, huh?"

Roan snorted as he replied.

"If not for that, what use would there be for you?"

"Sigh... fine. By the way, have you tried using your Soul Powers yet? With a Rank Five Bloodline Mark, the amplification of your Soul Power should be enough for you to manifest it."

Qia nodded first.

"I did, but I can't seem to bring it out. You said that it was like breathing for Zasfins, but I can't even detect its presence at all."

Roan and the others agreed with Qia's words. They also tried to use it a few times, but they couldn't even activate their Rank Five Bloodline Marks. Well, there was one exception, though.

\*Chick!\*

Although very faint, Kentucky's Rank Five Bloodline mark shone on his forehead as Soul Power manifested around his body. It was a far cry from what Frandin could do, but he could still do it.

Frandin then pondered over the sight for a bit before saying.

"Oh! I think I know why."

He then put his hand on Roan's shoulder as he said.

"I will send my own Soul Power into your body and let it run through. Pay attention to the feeling of what Soul Power is. I believe you guys can't activate it because your conscience still doesn't know what it is even though you know it exists. Kentucky ate the altar, which had Soul Power inside. That's why his brain already understands what Soul Power is and has the knowledge that he has it."

Roan nodded. Frandin's theory made a lot of sense.

"Alright, go ahead."

Frandin couldn't help but ask, though.

"Aren't you afraid that I might mess something up in your body?"

Roan looked at Frandin with a serious expression as he responded.

"Don't doubt people you use, don't use people you doubt."

Everyone was taken aback by those words. It was quite a mismatch for someone with Roan's personality. Nevertheless, Frandin quickly recovered and nodded. Soon after, he summoned his Soul Power and let it run inside Roan's body. Sure enough, he didn't have any intentions of messing anything up.

Roan then focused on that power, trying to find something similar to it inside himself. At first, he couldn't notice anything. But as he became more and more used to it, a weird sensation began to arise from his forehead.

Suddenly, the Rank Five Bloodline Mark activated, albeit faintly. Following that, Roan's 13 points of Soul Power were amplified more than 100%! Well, that was expected since this was a Rank Five Bloodline SOul Mark. Thanks to that, Roan's Soul Power Points increased to 32 while the mark was active.

The moment it happened, Roan's eyes lit up. He could finally feel that hint of Soul Power inside his mind.

"Alright, you can stop now."

Frandin nodded and took his hand away.

Following that, Roan's body began to manifest a very faint Soul Power, just like Kentucky's one. The difference was that Kentucky wasn't very smart to control it well. In Roan's case, he quickly understood the principle of using Soul Power and condensed all of it in his hand.

"I see... Frandin was right. It's just that I didn't really 'know' what Soul Power was. Now I understand how to activate the Soul Mark and manifest it. Frandin, go ahead and do the same thing with the others."

Frandin nodded and began to send his Soul Power into everyone's body. Rean was the first one after Roan. For Rean, it was even easier to understand and manifest it since he was a Light Element user. Soul Power only existed because there was a Soul, and a Soul existed because there's a Life Force. Since Life Force was involved, Light Element was the best affinity for feeling it.

"Oh! Such a weird power. Hey, let me try the Soul Measurement Crystal."

Rean quickly put his hand on the Crystal and sent his Soul Power inside. Not long after, his Soul Power number was displayed on the surface.

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Frandin was quite surprised by that.

"38? That means you had at least 16 or more before."

Rean nodded.

"Indeed. That's most likely because I have Light Element Affinity. I can feel the presence of Life Force inside Soul Power now that I understand what it is. I can even feel my Soul Power increasing in power very slightly as we speak. If I continued like this, I believe I would have manifested Soul Power at some point in my life on my own."

That was quite a surprising thing. Still, since they all got Bloodline Soul Marks now, it didn't matter as much as it would in the future. Besides, it was not guaranteed either since Rean didn't know 'what' Soul Power was. Perhaps he would reach the threshold to manifest Soul Power but would never know that he could use it.

After that, Frandin used his Soul Power on everyone else. The others obviously took longer than Rean and Roan since they didn't have anything to do with the Light Element. Nonetheless, they eventually grasped the principles and were able to manifest their Soul Powers as well.

Malaka and Calina had 28 points, Agis 27, and Qia 26. Of course, that was only achievable after the Bloodline Soul Mark appeared. Without that, they couldn't manifest Soul Power.

Roan then took this opportunity and took out everyone's training routines.

"Alright. I'll call you one by one and revise your training schedule to include Soul Power. At first, it's just a test. After I get to know it better, I will update it once again."

Each person had their own traits, so Roan had created a routine specifically for each one of them. Rean was the first one. Still, he also thought about his own way of using it. Roan was responsible for battle training, but he decided to practice it while he was forging. Simply put, he chose to incorporate Soul Power in it as well.

The others were thinking about the same thing. Agis wanted to try to use it in his talismans. Just like Rean, Qia intended to use it to understand the Soul Runes in the formations. Well, Calina and Malaka had never tried any side occupation before, so they could only follow the routine given by Roan.



"Keep it active all the time. Use it in everyday tasks. If possible, sleep with it as well."

Frandin couldn't help but warn them.

"If you do that, you will run out of Soul Power all the time."

Roan shrugged his shoulders.

"So what? Our Soul Power is so ridiculously low that it will make almost no difference in battles. Since we aren't battling anyway, we might as well use it in other things."

Calina then remembered something else.

"Oh, right. When's the auction happening? Do you have enough time to forge the equipment, Rean?"

Rean shook his head.

"Nope. We only had three days before the next auction, not to mention that we spent at least a day with the Rank Five Bloodline Trial thing. The auction should be happening two days from now. However, it doesn't mean that I can't participate in the next one."

Rean then brought several materials out of the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm before saying.

"However, I do have enough time to make at least one weapon if I hurry up. That's because I won't use my Element Gathering Technique on them, so it's easier to work with. Even though I don't think bringing out an Earth Peak-Level Equipment will be bad, I might as well test it first, just to be sure."

Roan agreed with that thought.

"That's good, then. Now, let's talk about the next issue."

Everyone knew what Roan wanted.

"Just one Frandin isn't enough. We need at least another two Zasfins to be able to move into the cities in different groups without catching attention."

Frandin was taken aback.

"Does that mean..."

Roan coldly smiled.

"It's kidnapping time."

Death... and me

Chapter 615: Do you really think so?

Frandin's mouth twitched in response. He would never forget that this was how he got involved in all of this.

"Ahem... Can't we use a more... gentle method?"

Everyone looked at Frandin, puzzled.

"Would there be a Zasfin willing to come along with a bunch of humans like you? First of all, you still hate normal humans, right? You're just tagging along because we aren't from this place, to begin with. We aren't the same as the slaves around you, or so you think."

Frandin didn't deny that. He had no pity or interest in any of the slave humans of the world. Save them? Help them? Unless it was necessary, he had no intention or wish of doing so. To be more specific,

Frandin simply didn't care about them at all since they couldn't provide him anything to start with. In this regard, he was quite similar to Roan.

In Roan's eyes, it's not just the fact that they were slaves. He could also tell that the humans had no intention of fighting against this fate. Since even the human slaves didn't want to do anything, why should he or anyone else help them? Roan had no intention of helping someone who had already given up to start with.

"Well, that's true. I consider you guys differently because you definitely don't think of yourselves as slaves, let alone act like them. I really don't give a damn about the rest. However, we're talking about capturing a Zasfin here, right? They definitely don't think about themselves as slaves either. Are you perhaps trying to get someone with a high bloodline rank? If that's the case, they'll most likely be even more prideful than I was. I came from a remote place, but this city is different. Chances are that they would rather die than accept your orders."

Agis couldn't help but ask.

"Could it be that you have an idea? We definitely need more than just you, especially if we decide to head in different directions later."

Everyone looked at Frandin to see what he had to say.

Frandin then nodded as he scratched the back of his head.

"As you mentioned, ZASFins think nothing of humans. That much should be pretty clear for you all. However, it doesn't mean that all of them are like that. I'm sure that if you put some effort into information gathering, you will find a few who don't like the slave thing. Even back in Danve City, a few Zasfin families had human slaves but didn't treat them badly or anything. In my opinion, this is the kind of Zasfin you should focus on."

Roan found a problem with that.

"However, such ZASFins would be at the bottom of the food chain, no? Would they have any ranking whatsoever?"

Frandin nodded.

"That's why I said you would need to put some effort into information gathering. If you just want something like the families I told you about, just walk to the city's poorer areas. You'll eventually find a few Zasfins with their humans who don't treat them as slaves in some corners. You might even find a few humans without any slave collars walking with their 'owners.' However, if you want someone with a high Bloodline Rank and talent, you will need to investigate properly. After all, these Zasfins don't want to lose their power because they don't treat humans badly. That being said, they definitely keep it hidden on the surface."

Roan knew how to gather information. Just like in Sunkan Planet, this planet also had organizations that liked to sell information.

"We should be able to buy this information with enough Spirit Stones, right?"

Frandin nodded.

"I saw a branch of the Dark Web Organization in the city center before when we went to the auction house. If there's a place you can get this information, it's there."

Rean and Roan were taken aback.

'Dark Web Organization? Wait, could it be the same Dark Web Organization from our previous world?'

'I don't know, but the names are definitely the same. First of all, we've never learned much about the Dark Web Organization back then, so we don't know how far their power stretches.'

'Could they be an interplanetary organization? Is that possible?'

Roan pondered for a bit before saying.

'This is, after all, the cultivation universe. There are forces capable of smashing an entire planet in a single attack. It wouldn't be too surprising if interplanetary organizations existed, right?'

Rean had to admit that Roan was right.

As for the others, they didn't hear what Rean and Roan talked about since they used their Soul Connection for that.

Roan then looked at Frandin before saying.

"Alright, Rean will stay here since he needs to forge the equipment for the auction. Frandin, you will come out with me for us to buy information."

Frandin shook his head, though.

"That wouldn't be a good idea."

"Why not?"

Frandin continued.

"Cough, cough... I saw how many Rank Two Spirit Stones you still have in that Dimensional Realm. Well... Let me say that it's far from enough to buy information on high-rank Zasfins, especially the ones who are hiding their good treatment to humans."

Roan then focused on the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Sure enough, they only had a little bit over one hundred Rank Two Spirit Stones remaining.

"Sigh... Seems like we spent quite a lot on our way here."

Rean shrugged his shoulders as he said.

"Well, we didn't have the chance to sell things back in Fhanzen City before we had to run away. Naturally, we only had the Demon Cores' Spirit Stones for the travel. This planet lacks a lot of Natural Spiritual Energy in the air, so our expenditure is even higher. Wait until the next auction before you go out to buy information. After that, we should have quite a decent amount."

Roan and the others nodded after that.

Calina, Malaka, and Qia then looked at Roan before asking.

"In that case, can we go out with Frandin?"

The men in the group were puzzled, with one of them asking.

"Why?"

"Ahem... we need some... women stuff. We don't have many Spirit Stones, but that's far more than enough for the items we need. Besides, we didn't have the chance to walk around on our own lately."

Calina also mentioned.

"Of course, as you can see, I have my hair dyed, so no one will be able to tell that I'm blond. Besides, with Frandin's Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark, I don't think anyone will try to find problems with him either."

Frandin couldn't help but sweat a little.

"Buy women stuff... B-But... You are humans, which means..."

Malaka and Qia put their hands on his shoulders.

"Obviously, it means we will select the things, but you will buy them for us. Thank you in advance."

Roan, on the other hand, simply nodded.

"Alright. I noticed that the pads you use for your periods are running out, so that makes sense."

Sure enough, Roan could talk about it without even flinching. Well, it's just that he didn't care about these things about men and women to start with.

The girls couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed when Roan talked so openly about it. It seemed like even in the Imperial Family, these issues weren't broadly spoken about.

Roan noticed their reactions but ignored them completely before continuing.

"In that case, I'm going out with you as well. If something goes wrong, I'll send everyone into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Besides, it would be a good chance to buy more of those makeup things. I need to change your appearances every now and then so that you don't need to rely on Rean's skill that works only temporarily."

Roan was still a very good stylist. Not to mention he had gotten better at it as he kept working on Calina from time to time back in the Dalamu Sect.

"Is anyone else coming?"

Agis immediately looked in Rean's direction.

"Ahem... I... will help Rean with his forging. You can go ahead."

Frandin felt like crying. Unlike Agis, he couldn't refuse this since he was the only Zasfin available. Nevertheless, this was a world of warriors and cultivators. Unsurprisingly, there were shops for women ZASFINS. After all, alchemy also existed in this world. Nevertheless, that wasn't a place where you would see male ZASFINS at all. Well, at least not the straight ones.

"Can-Can't we wait until we find the next Zasfin? It would be better if you have a female Zasfin playing the owner role."

\*Pah!\*

Qia, Calina, and Malaka slapped the back of his head.

"Stop wasting time. Do you think women can ignore their needs as easily as men? The three of us have been holding ourselves for months already."

Surprisingly, the three girls were a lot more pushy than normal. Usually, it would be Roan who did that.

Roan, obviously, agreed with it.

"If we can use this free time to get over these problems, we might as well do it. Let's go."

Rean then used his Light Element to change their appearances since he was better with it. One must remember that his body appearance changing skill lasted quite a few hours before needing more Light Element, after all. Roan then spread the Spiritual Sense bending skill, covering Malaka, Qia, and Calina's Dantians. After that, the three girls left with Frandin and Roan, leaving Rean and Agis behind with Kentucky.

Agis then looked at Rean before asking.

"Is it really okay?"

Rean playfully smiled when he heard that.

"Do you really think so?"



Agis couldn't help but sweat a little for Frandin.

Death... and me

Chapter 616: You! You!

No one paid too much attention to Roan's group as they walked along the various streets. After all, there was no lack of Zasfins being followed by their humans there. Well, that was until they arrived at the shopping district. The reason behind that was because Frandin just so happened to enter one of those shops made for female Zasfins.

The female attendant was taken aback when she saw Frandin enter with his humans. However, a customer was still a customer, after all. She quickly put on a smile on her face before asking.

"Hello, sir. Can I help you with something?"

Frandin nodded in response even though he felt uncomfortable. However, before he could even say anything, Calina, Qia, and Malaka immediately separated from him to look at the products. The attendant was taken aback after seeing that and couldn't help but ask.

"Sir, could you please control your humans? We can't have them causing problems here."

Frandin let out a bit of cold sweat as he tried to calm his senses down. Soon, he replied.

"Ahem... Don't worry, I'm here to buy things for them. If they break anything, I'll pay for it."

Let alone the attendant, the other female Zasfins in the shop immediately looked at him.

"Is he one of those men who like to do that with his slaves?"

"Probably."

"That's really disgusting."

"I'll go talk with the manager. She won't let something like that slip under her fingertips."

Frandin couldn't help but feel helpless. It wasn't like he wanted this to happen, no? However, because Rean had changed their appearance and Roan put on makeup on them, no one would find them again once they left with their things. After all, these characters would cease to exist in a few hours. That being said, it wouldn't be a problem even if they caused a little trouble. These girls haven't done anything like that for a long time, so they simply ignored the words of the female Zasfins since they already expected to hear those.

Roan, on the other hand, just closed his eyes as he waited. Without a doubt, he was the one who cared the least about everyone involved. Embarrassment? That word didn't exist in his dictionary.

Sure enough, a female Zasfin quickly came out of a room before heading in Frandin's direction, making the latter sigh. She was obviously going to tell him to do something about it.

However, it was then that Frandin's forehead shone with a Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark, immediately catching everyone's attention. A Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark! Those with that kind of Mark had very high status, and few would try to mess with them.

Seeing this, the female Zasfin manager bitterly smiled and threw away any thoughts of reprimand or stopping Frandin anymore. She didn't know what background Frandin had, but it definitely wasn't simple by the looks of it.

The same went for the other female attendants and customers throughout the shop. They all closed their mouths, and quite a few of them left the shop straight away. Those who commented about Frandin's tastes even felt a hint of fear that they might have provoked someone they shouldn't.

The manager then calmed down before saying.

"It-It's an honor to have someone of your status in our establishment, sir. How may I call you?"

Frandin's Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark then disappeared as he scratched the back of his head before responding.

"It's fine. I'm just here to buy what the girls there want. I won't make things difficult for any of you. If possible, just have the attendants help my female humans."

The manager nodded after that and immediately looked at the attendants, who then went to help the girl's group.

"Qia, Malaka, look! Aren't these clothes beautiful?"

Zasfins might have a few different traits on their bodies, but they still had the same body structure as humans, both in size and weight. Naturally, female Zasfins would like good clothes and things like that.

The girls stormed around the shop while they attracted the attention of the Zasfins passing outside. After all, it wasn't every day one saw humans acting that way freely. Eventually, someone with a high enough status appeared in the shop.

"Manager, what's happening here? Why are these humans allowed to do what they want? I have been buying clothes here for a long time, and I don't want to see them being dirtied like that."

The manager's eyes lit up when he saw who it was. Her name was Valia Portin, a member of the Portin Clan hailing from their Vanesi City. The Portin Clan had seven Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark owners, so they had a very high status. Besides, Valia was a frequent customer of her shop. Of course, the manager also didn't want to find trouble with Frandin, so she explained everything through a Spiritual Sense Message.

"Hmph!"

Valia understood the situation and immediately headed to where Frandin was.

"Hey, you."

Out of nowhere, a Rank Five Bloodline Mark shone on her forehead as well. Obviously, she was bringing out her status so that Frandin would understand that his Mark meant nothing to her.

"How could you let filthy humans run amok like that? Immediately call them back and leave this shop."

Roan, who had his eyes closed until now, finally opened it as he looked at the girl. Valia had quite decent cultivation, being at the same level as Frandin. Of course, Frandin wasn't supposed to be at the same level as her if it wasn't because of their group.

Frandin, on the other hand, became a little nervous. Unlike what others thought, he didn't really have any background to speak of. Valia, on the other hand, definitely had one.

However, just as he was about to discuss with Roan on what to do, Roan snorted as he said.

"Who are you to talk with our young master like that? Get the fuck out of here, bitch."

Everyone's expressions froze at that moment, especially Frandin's. He immediately looked at Roan with a helpless expression.

'Brother, why must you be like that?'

Valia, of course, was shocked by what she heard. No human had ever talked like that. In fact, rarely any human even directed their words at her unless she demanded it.

"You! You...!"

Valia immediately looked at Frandin and demanded.

"Kill this human straight away! Otherwise, don't blame me for making a move. We're both Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark owners, so don't expect me to step back!"

At this point, Frandin wanted to shed tears... but couldn't.

Death... and me

#### Chapter 617: It Doesn't Matter What You Wear

Calina, Malaka, and Qia were also there, watching the scene unfold. However, they soon stopped paying attention and continued their shopping. They knew Roan well enough to tell that he had some card under his sleeve. Otherwise, he wouldn't have stepped forward like that.

Frandin bitterly smiled after hearing that and was just about to apologize when Roan pointed at Valia's forehead and snorted, saying.

"How dare you, a nobody who received her Bloodline Soul Mark from her family, try to compare with our young master's earned Bloodline Soul Mark? Those who have received their Mark from their families have no right to stand on the same ground as those who passed the trial by themselves."

In an instant, Frandin and everyone's eyes widened. Not long after, they paid attention to Frandin's Mark and then Valia's Mark. Sure enough, there was a slight difference there. The difference was so minute that no one had noticed it until now. However, everyone was looking directly at it now.

Valia's expression froze at that moment. She also hadn't paid attention to Frandin's Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark. However, she could now see that Roan was right. Frandin's Bloodline Soul Mark was truly an earned one, not given to him by his elders.

"This... How's this possible?!"

Roan then glanced at Frandin, his meaning obvious. Frandin then gritted his teeth and continued their play.

"Hmph! You had to wait for my human to point it out. Truly, your Portin Clan must be full of idiots for having someone like you. Do you know the difference between you and me? Do you have any idea about what will happen if I report you? You should know very well how the hierarchy of Bloodline Soul Marks works. Give me a good enough reason to not bring this issue to your elders."

Valia's complexion paled as she took several steps back. Well, in reality, Frandin was talking bullshit! He didn't know anything about the hierarchy of High-Level Bloodline Marks. Until yesterday, he thought that family-received and trial-earned Bloodline Soul Marks had the same level of importance. Simply

put, he just said these words out of the blue, hoping that he was right about it. To his surprise, it worked several times better than he thought.

"I-I..."

The manager of the shop felt even worse. Valia might still use her clan to minimize things out for her and just receive a bit of punishment. However, the manager didn't have such an option. If Frandin decided to make things difficult for her, her shop and even the owner might get into deep trouble.

That's because everyone could see just how young Frandin was. For someone at his age to pass through the Rank Five Bloodline Trial on his own could only mean that he had a terrifying background. Perhaps... he was even related to the Imperial Family!

Frandin mentally sighed in relief as he looked at Roan before sending him a Spiritual Sense Message.

'How did you know?'

Roan, without any emotions on his face, answered right after.

'Know what? I just tried it out. Now, look at that. It worked. Hehe.'

Frandin almost vomited blood after hearing that.

'You almost bought a fight against a clan with Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark Owners on a hunch?'

Roan nodded as he replied.

'We understood that Bloodline Marks had hierarchies. However, we didn't know just how far it went between earned marks and given marks. It was a good chance to test it out. If it went wrong, we could simply leave through the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.'

Just as they were about to continue talking, Calina came running to Roan before asking.

"Look, Roan. Do you like this piece?"

Roan massaged his forehead as he heard this question. Obviously, he couldn't care less about what Calina wore.

"If you like it, just take it. Just make sure it wouldn't hamper you when battling."

Calina felt a bit disappointed that Roan showed no reaction. Qia and Malaka said that it really matched her, especially if her blond hair wasn't hidden.

Suddenly, Malaka appeared behind Roan and spoke while mimicking his voice.

"What I mean is that it doesn't matter what you wear. You're always beautiful, my Calina."

A vein popped out of Roan's head as he gave Malaka a death glare. Unfortunately for her, the girl retreated as fast as she came, quickly heading back to the shelves.

Calina, on the other hand, almost exploded in embarrassment.

However, Frandin's mouth also twitched at this moment.

'Could it be that you guys forgot what's currently going on? Can't you see that we're still in a precarious situation? I wonder if you even know what it means to be nervous...'

Nevertheless, he quickly recovered and then spoke to Valia.

"Ahem... As you can see, my humans are having a little bit of fun. However, our problem hasn't been solved yet. I think it's as obvious as the light of day, but I do like my humans. I've trained them for a long

time after all. Still, you asked me to kill one of them. I wonder if a public punishment would be enough to quell the anger of my humans. Roan, girls, what do you think?"

Valia took even more steps back after that. Not only would she be punished, but it would be a public one and because of a few humans. She definitely couldn't accept that.

"You're going too far!"

Frandin snorted.

"How come? It's one life for one punishment. Isn't that good enough?"

Roan simply nodded as the girls complimented Frandin's decision.

"As expected of the young master, you're the best!"

Soon after, the three girls hugged him.

Frandin was already despairing inside. The problem wasn't that the girls hugged him, but that CALINA hugged him. He could totally feel the killing intent coming from Roan's eyes in his direction.

Just as it was about to reach a climax, a voice came from the shop's entrance.

"That won't be necessary, my friend. I shall take responsibility for my daughter's mistake."

Valia's eyes lit up as she looked at who arrived. She couldn't be happier.

"Father!"

However, Valia's father looked anything but happy.



"Shut up! Immediately apologize to him."

Roan's group looked in the voice's direction and noticed a middle-aged man entering. However, what really caught their attention was the Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark on his forehead. Just like Frandin's, his Mark was also an earned Bloodline Soul Mark.

Death... and me

Chapter 618: Marau Portin

Valia felt wronged. Then again, she knew that the situation wasn't good, so she bowed to Frandin.

"Sorry for my previous outburst. I shouldn't have intervened in your free time."

Valia's father also added.

"She's too young and failed to understand her insignificance. Young man, I hope you can let things go."

Roan glanced at Frandin and slightly nodded after listening to the man's words.

Frandin then laughed out loud before saying.

"Hahaha! Don't worry, senior. I was just joking earlier. Sure, I do like my humans a little more than the majority. However, I definitely wouldn't punish one of our Zasfin Race members just because of humans, especially one as beautiful as your daughter. I just wanted to see her scared face. After all, I'm not here to make enemies out of anyone."

Frandin then extended his hand.

"By the way, you can call me Gian Torio."

Well, Frandin just came up with the name on the spot. Others didn't know of Roan even if he used his real name. However, there might be someone who will search for 'Frandin' from Danve City, so it was better not to risk it.

Valia's father smiled in response and accepted Frandin's handshake.

"That's for the best. You can call me Marau Portin. I'm one of the Portin Clan's elders in our Vanesi City."

Frandin nodded while he sighed in relief in his mind.

'It seems we can end things here.'

Frandin then took his hand back before saying.

"Well then, Senior Marau. I hope this is everything. Have a good day."

Frandin then looked at Roan and the others before saying.

"Well, how about you show me what you chose to buy, huh?"

"Yes, young master."

Roan nodded and closed his eyes once more, waiting for the girls to finish shopping. He didn't have an interest in those things.

Calina, Malaka, and Qia then returned to their shopping.

However, Marau didn't leave and extended an invitation to Frandin.

"Young man, how about you come and pay a visit to our clan's residence? I would like to use this opportunity to get to know you a bit more. I'll make sure to make Valia serve you as a way of apologizing for the trouble she has given to you."

Frandin was taken aback for a second but decided to refuse. However, Roan immediately stopped him.

'Accept it. We need information about the girls of the Bloodline Trial, so this is a good opportunity since his clan seems to have a strong influence.'

Frandin couldn't help but ask.

'Isn't this a bit too risky? He's very close to us, so his Spiritual Sense might pierce through your Spiritual Sense bending. If that happens, he will immediately see your cultivations.'

Roan shook his head as he responded.

'Don't worry. Even if there are Zasfins with high cultivations there, they won't pay attention to us. All their Spiritual Sense will be focused on you alone. If they find out, it wouldn't be a problem either. Because of your Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark, they will first ask you about it before trying anything.'

Frandin nodded as he remembered just how much authority he commanded now that he got his Rank Bloodline Soul Mark.

"So, Miss Valia will serve me during this time? Alright, then. How could I let the opportunity of receiving such nice treatment from a beautiful girl as her pass up?"

Valia was taken aback. Surprisingly, there was a slight tinge of red on her face when she heard that. After what happened, the last thing she thought was that Frandin would talk like that about her.

Marau was very satisfied with Frandin's answer. Whatever background Frandin had, it wouldn't matter much. What mattered was that he had unlimited potential. Of course, his clan was well within the same scope as Frandin since they had seven Rank Five Earned Bloodline Soul Marks. That being said, neither side was taking advantage of the other.

"That's good. You can come anytime you want. It won't be hard to find our residence either. By the way, take this."

Marau then passed a token to Frandin.

"Just show it at the entrance gate, and the guards will immediately let you through. Also, you can use this token in most places in our Vanesi City just in case you encounter any problems. It should make things much easier."

Frandin nodded and placed the token away after that. Though, the expression he showed while receiving it was as if the token didn't mean much. Well, that was only the surface, of course. The real Frandin was thrilled inside to receive such an item.

'Holy shit! Earned Bloodline Marks are just too frightening!'

Marau then bid his farewell and left with Valia.

On their way back, Valia couldn't help but ask her father.

"Dad, is it really okay to treat him that well? He has an Earned Rank Five Bloodline Soul Mark. However, we also have seven members like that. Why were you so polite?"

Marau snorted when he heard that question. It was obvious that Valia didn't consider the bigger picture.

"Hmph! That's why I told you to cultivate and focus on your Soul Power training. Sure, we do have seven members, including me, who earned their bloodline marks. However, look at how old we are at the moment. He isn't even a fifth of the age I was when I got my Mark. Even great grandfather was already above sixty when he got his. Do you have any idea just how much potential that young man has?"

Marau then looked intently at Valia and continued.

"When he comes to the clan, make sure to treat him like a king. So what if he likes to play with his humans? In the end, they're just that, humans! However, you are different. You should take this opportunity to try to rope him in. I don't care about his background, only about his future. For someone like that, a Rank Six or even a Rank Seven Bloodline Soul Mark is well within possibility. The best thing is if you can take him for yourself."

Valia was taken aback. Her father was planning to hook her up with that guy already!

Death... and me

Chapter 619: Lack of Common Sense

Obviously, Valia didn't like the idea at all.

"I don't want that!"

However, Marau warned her.

"Are you sure about that? The news about this young man will soon spread like wildfire. All your rivals will pounce on him like hungry wolves tomorrow. Are you really okay with that, knowing that one of those girls might come back in the future with a Rank Six or even a Rank Seven Bloodline Soul Mark? Remember, even if you were gifted a Rank Six Bloodline Mark, your status would still be higher than anyone with an earned Rank Five Mark."

Marau then added.

"If you don't take this chance, the other girls in the clan and from the other families in the city will. Especially a certain someone named Xiria Asume."

As soon as Valia heard that name, her face warped. Xiria was someone she simply didn't see eye to eye with and always competed against each other. This situation started far in the past when the two fought in a tournament and ended up in a draw. Since then, the two have always tried to surpass the other in any way possible.

"Fine... I'll try it out. But I can't guarantee it'll work. As father saw a while ago, our start was as terrible as it could be."

Marau nodded as he said.

"It's fine. I also think the chances are low. In fact, they aren't low only for you, but for everyone else. Someone like that is bound to marry someone at the same level of importance. However, there's nothing wrong in trying."

Valia agreed with Marau and then asked something else.

"By the way, father. Have you ever heard anything about a Torio clan or any organization related to it?"

Marau narrowed his eyes as he pondered about this issue.

"To be honest, I've never heard of them. Besides, Gian didn't say that he was part of a clan named Torio or any organization. He simply said that his name was that. As a city with a Rank Five Bloodline Trial Ground, we have quite a few connections within the Empire. Nevertheless, I can't figure out anything through Gian's name."

He then continued.

"That being said, I can only think about two possibilities. First, Gian is using a fake name. However, I find this option unlikely. I used my Spiritual Sense before and couldn't find anyone in the surroundings that seemed to be protecting him. Even if he had changed his name, he was bound to have someone watching him. After all, which clan, organization, sect, etc., would let such a talent roam outside on his own? Of course, that might be because the one protecting him has a level of cultivation much higher than mine. Though, I don't think that would be the case."

"As for the second option, I guess you know the answer already."

Valia felt a chill on her back when she thought about it.

"He... came from one of the Celestial Lands."

Marau nodded as he replied.

"Exactly. That's the most likely answer to Gian's identity. As you know, the Celestial Land Disciples are usually somewhat eccentric, acting as they like. Don't you think that his taste for playing with humans fits that criteria?"

Valia nodded vigorously.

"Yes. No normal Zasfin would treat their humans that way. Only those crazy guys from the Celestial Lands would do things that make no sense."

Marau smiled after hearing that.

"However, that's even better. Celestial Lands have their own Bloodline Soul Trials separated from the Empires. That's why I've never learned about Gian. Otherwise, I should have heard something once he got his Mark at that age."

Valia couldn't help but grow a little excited. Celestial Lands stood on the same degree of importance as the Imperial Family. Gian was most likely one of their members and a very talented one at that. If she could really take him, she wouldn't even care if she had to play friends with all the humans in the world.

"Father, I'll do my best."

Marau nodded, satisfied.

"Good! Who knows? Perhaps this bad start will play to your advantage in the future."

And just like that, the two flew away.

Back in the shop, Frandin was clueless about all of that. Celestial Lands? That was only but a dream to him.

After what happened, no one tried to bother Frandin and his humans anymore. Calina, Malaka, and Qia took that chance to go all out and make up for the long time they had isolated themselves outside. While the three girls made their choices, Roan opened his eyes and looked at a shelf. After that, he looked at the girls and noticed that they wouldn't be over with it anytime soon.

That being said, he moved to the shelf and began to take a few boxes from there after reading the descriptions.

Frandin became curious and went to take a look as well. What could Roan possibly have interest in a female's shop?

Just as he arrived at his side, Roan shouted at the girls.

"Hey, are these the pads you need for your periods? They have several types here, so I don't know which ones you like most."

All the girls in the shop had gone stiff after hearing that, including Calina's group.

Seeing how neither of the three answered his question, he took it as a confirmation.

"Young Master, it seems like the type doesn't matter. Buy these ones."

Roan then stuffed all the boxes he grabbed in Frandin's hands without a care for the world.

At this point, Frandin wanted to cry. Now everyone was looking at him once again. It was as if he did this kind of shopping all the time.

Calina, Malaka, and Qia quickly recovered and immediately ran over.



"Wait, wait, wait! What the hell are you doing? Of course, they're different."

As unwilling to answer as they could be, the girls couldn't simply let Roan choose whatever.

Roan narrowed his eyes, saying.

"Why didn't you answer, then? You're wasting even more of my time."

Everyone felt helpless. Roan's lack of common sense in these situations made it difficult for both Frandin and the girls.

Death... and me

Chapter 620: As far as possible

Calina and Malaka quickly took the boxes away from Frandin and... gave him the right ones.

"Young... Master, buy these ones instead."

Frandin almost vomited blood after that. Well, they did say they would select what they needed and have him buy it, didn't they? However, wasn't it quite meaningless now that all of that happened?

"Ahem... alright."

Frandin then went to the counter and brought a few Spirit Stones out. Of course, those items were only at the Rank One Spirit Stone value. In fact, using Spirit Stones to pay for them was already extremely expensive. Then again, this was a luxurious shop for female ZASFINS, after all.

The girl on the other side of the counter did her best to conceal her thoughts of awkwardness, but it was really hard to do so. Frandin, obviously, noticed that as well. However, he pretended he didn't see anything.

'It's fine. These are necessary. If the girls had no need for this, that would mean that they have reproductive issues, which would be quite a blow for women. Yes, let's think of it that way. I'm helping out in protecting their reproductive organs, that's all. Besides, they're humans. I don't need to focus too much on it.'

Frandin then put on a bright smile once again as he paid for the products. Well, that only made the Zasfin girls in the shop think about him as a bigger pervert than before.

Sometime later, Calina, Malaka, and Qia finished grabbing the things they wanted to buy. Since Roan was looking, they didn't take anything that could hinder their moves during fights either. Of course, they gave everything to Frandin, who once again paid for all of that.

Following that, they went to other shops to buy a few more things, like the make-up products Roan used to further change their appearance after Rean's skill. Surprisingly, Roan was very picky about it, asking the female attendant several questions on each product he chose.

Eventually, they ended their shopping and left. As one could imagine, a few Zasfins started to follow them around from the shadows. As Marau mentioned, Frandin's age and talent caught the attention of several aristocrats in the city.

However, just as their own representatives came out to introduce themselves, Frandin's group suddenly disappeared. Even the people following them couldn't understand what just happened. One second earlier, they were well within everyone's Spiritual Senses. In the very next moment, they simply vanished without a trace.

Sure enough, many experts began to comb the region, trying to find out where they went. Unfortunately, everything was for naught as no clue came out.

"As expected of a Celestial Land member."

"Indeed. Our cultivations are all one or two realms above Gian, but he still left us in the dust."

"Still, where would have he gone?"

"No, wait! Gian and Marau did talk about paying a visit to the Portin Clan's estate."

"Yes, I heard that as well from the girl in the shop."

"Let's go!"

They were right. Frandin's group really did go to the Portin Clan to pay a visit. They didn't go back to the workshop where Rean was working since someone might have found them. That was also a test to see if the Zasfins had some other way of tracking them down.

Fortunately, it seemed like that wasn't the case. Roan's group arrived at the Portin Clan without being bothered by anyone. However, just as they were about to talk with the guards at the clan estate's entrance, a girl appeared in front of them.

She had the same cultivation as Valia and was about the same age. Together with her, there was a middle-aged man who looked at Frandin with a smile.

"Hello, friend. May I know if you're called Gian Torio?"

Frandin narrowed his eyes before asking.

"It seems like quite a few Zasfins know about me already. However, I was pretty sure I escaped all those annoying shadows back in the city center. How did you find out that I was here?"

The girl beside Frandin laughed as she showed a beautiful smile.

"Don't worry, Gian. We didn't follow you. We just used our heads a little more than the others. We knew from the start that you accepted Marau's invitation, so we just came to this place ahead of time. It shouldn't take long for the others to understand this and come to the Portin Clan's estate as well."

Roan mentally nodded after listening to her explanation. These two were a lot better than the others. They predicted that his group would eventually escape everyone's sight, so they came here instead, where they would have to appear sooner or later.

'Well, perhaps they had some subordinates following us back then as well.'

Roan then used Spiritual Sense to tell Frandin how to act in this situation.

"I see. You seemed very confident that those guys would lose our tracks. Well, then. How can I help you? I came here to pay a visit to the Portin Clan, so I don't have much time."

The girl then bowed to Frandin before saying.

"My name is Xiria Asume, and this is my uncle, Baran Asume. We came here in the hopes of inviting you to pay a visit to our clan's estate as well. We will make sure to treat you even better than the Portin Clan."

As soon as Xiria said that, an angry voice came from the Portin Clan's entrance.

"Xiria, you really are shameless. You even came to our doorsteps to take our guests away. Is that how your Asume Clan acts?"

Sure enough, the one who came out was Valia. She also felt a serious threat when she saw Xiria.

'Father was right. She intends to hook up with him first. It was a good thing I kept one eye at the entrance.'

Xiria smiled at Valia, not minding her words at all.

"I don't know what you're talking about. This is the street, a public place. Whether I invite someone to pay a visit or not has nothing to do with you."

Valia snorted as she said.

"Ha! Only an idiot would believe such words."

As the two girls argued, Malaka couldn't help but ask Frandin.

'Which one of the two will you select?'

Frandin felt a chill on his back. Choose? He wanted to be as far away as possible from all of this.