

Descent 381

Chapter 381

Leonel didn't spare any more thoughts toward Jerach. He didn't feel that it was a shame nor did he feel any sense of self pity. He was already focusing on another task already. This was just the kind of person Leonel was.

At most, Leonel was now certain that there was something important about his home world he needed to find out on this planet. Though he didn't know exactly what it was, he would be able to find out.

But, first' |

Leonel locked himself into the same top floor room of his Abode. He split one portion of his mind to monitor Zilar's situation and another to make sure that the little mink was alright, then he prepared to enter the Lab Setting.

Just as he was doing so, his lip curled as he sensed a fiery pillar of darkness shoot into the skies as the little mink claimed an abode of his own.

Of course, this was done through the little guy's connection with Leonel. So, technically, it was Leonel claiming another. But, it brought a smile to Leonel's face regardless before he once again became serious.

He didn't care about what commotion this would cause, he had something much more important in mind.

Now that he had broken into the Fourth Dimension with his Spirit Pressure, he could search Aliard's mind without worrying about the consequences.

Leonel entered the Lab Setting and brought out the snowglobe that held Aliard. With a thought, the mental mage appeared, still shackled by illusory chains.
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Aliard coughed violently, his gaze showing hints of confusion as he looked around.

When he looked up and saw Leonel standing above him, a hint of rage and trepidation could be seen in his eyes.

Over this period of time, Leonel had been allowing the Suspended Animation ability of the Segmented Cube to slowly heal Aliard. So, compared to the manic state the mental mage had been in before, he was much better now.

Of course, Leonel had no idea how rare treasures that could heal mental injuries were. If he did, he would know that he had taken the Segmented Cube for granted once more.

That said, Leonel hadn't done this for Aliard's sake but rather his own. The more whole Aliard's memories were, the easier things would be on him. If he was picking through memory fragments, it would be a pain and maybe even difficult to piece together the true story.

Leonel didn't spare any words for Aliard. He found it to be a waste of his time. So, without hesitation, he activated [Mind Search].

Aliard's eyes widened before a sinister light shone in his eyes. He thought that Leonel was foolish trying to use such a technique on a mental mage like him. He almost salivated at the thought of turning Leonel into a mindless slave.

But, when he felt the strength of Leonel's Spirit Pressure, he paled. PANDA NOVEL

How was this the strength of someone in the Third Dimension? It was impossible!

It was then he thought of a shocking possibility.

"It can't be.. you can't have'!!"

Aliard knew things that the others of Camelot had not. After all, he wasn't a part of the original legend, he had been sent in by his organization to infiltrate and capture the core treasure.

But, it was precisely because of this that he was shocked.

Everyone knew that it was impossible to break into the Fourth Dimension with the mind unless the body was strong enough. Doing so without a solid foundation would lead to one imploding in on themselves.

Yet, Leonel's body was definitely still within the Third Dimension. In addition, the Force that circulated his body was also considered to be within the Third. It shouldn't have been possible to do this unless'

Unless Leonel had an ability or a Lineage Factor that allowed him to circumvent these rules. ρ??∪?????
?

Unfortunately for Aliard, Leonel had not just one of these things, but both.

Aliard fell into despair as he felt his memories being eaten away at. No matter how hard he fought back, Leonel's mind was like a violent swarm.

[Mind Search] was a truly sinister technique. A more accurate title would most definitely be [Mind Swallow].

To say that one was searching was completely inaccurate. The truth of what Leonel was doing was ingesting all the memories that were useful to him and discarding all those that weren't.

Due to the style of the technique, Leonel had to build a bridge between his mind and Aliard's. This meant that when he found a memory to be useless, rather than it remaining with Aliard, it dissipated along the bridge, leaving Aliard with nothing.

If the two of their minds have been of similar strength, this bridge would cause a tug of war to erupt. However, Leonel's mind was so much stronger than Aliard's that it was nothing but child's play.

Aliard's helplessness soon became dullness, then was replaced by a complete vacancy as he fell over, drool leaking from the side of his mouth.

Leonel didn't spare the brain-dead man a single glance. He closed his eyes, organizing and sifting through everything he had just learned.

The first thing he realized was that Aliard didn't know much. However, this much was to be expected, he should have been fairly low on the totem pole. Still, for an organization that just expected Leonel to hand over all evidence of their crimes, they didn't take many precautions either.

Finally, Leonel learned of the name of the organization he was dealing with. The name that so many avoided speaking of.

Shield Cross Stars.

It was only now Leonel understood how unlucky he was. This so-called Shield Cross Stars organization was actually a police force of the universe. Its duty was to protect the safety and humanitarian rights of beasts and humanoids across the worlds.

The main issue here was that Leonel had never expected that the same organization he had slighted by not handing in evidence of their wrongdoing was the very same organization that happened to brand him as a fugitive worth monitoring.

Was it just a coincidence? Or had they targeted him on purpose?

From Leonel's analysis, he was fairly certain that it truly was a coincidence. But, if he was correct, just how unlucky was he? Now, an organization that had it out for him also knew his location at all times?

“ ‘! Fuck.”

Leonel stood, his jaw becoming steely.

He wasn't safe here. He had to find a way back to Earth as quickly as possible. Since there wasn't a branch of SCS there just yet, it would be more difficult for them to cause problems for him.

The issue was ' how?

Entering another Zone would be difficult. Using teleportation platforms was probably another no go'

'I'll find Aina first then think of what to do' Leonel sighed.

He felt as though a guillotine was hanging over his head. However, at least he was aware of its existence now. Not only this, but he had become aware of many other things'

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The days quickly flew by. Soon, Leonel would have no choice but to join everyone else within the Central Tower.

That morning, with just a few hours left until the timer would hit zero, a shadowy figure slowly stalked toward the Central Tower.

A prominent hunched back was the first thing anyone caught sight of. As for the rest, it was shrouded in black.

By now, everyone knew that this was the Sword Monstress, the very woman who caused the commotion at the Northern Gate.

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The Sword Monstress' steps were light. It was almost impossible to accept that her figure was so large yet so nimble.

From the third phase onward, all of the trials would begin with the Central Tower as the centerpiece. As a result, the population of people flowing into it was quite large to begin with. So, it was no surprise that such an odd figure stood out right from the very beginning.

Of course, there was no lack of odd individuals. However, from the very beginning, most eyes had been focused toward the Northern Sector's entry gates. For such a figure to come from this specific region immediately caught the attention of many.

Despite the fact those tasked with observing the Northern Sector had their own speculations, they didn't dare to confirm it themselves. If they were correct, this person was the only Emperor to be birthed from the second phase since Brave City appeared on Terrain. This wasn't a person they could afford to offend.

Though they couldn't see what was beneath the hood, this only made this person more fear inducing. They didn't want to get mixed up in anything far beyond themselves and lose their lives for a ridiculous reason.

Like this, several backed off after the Sword Monstress appeared, rushing off to their superiors with their conjectures.

The Sword Monstress continued to walk forward as though nothing had changed.PANDA-NOVEL.COM

The Central Tower was one of many floors and was the only structure in Brave City that could rival the walls in height. At the same time, it was also an incredibly wide structure despite the fact it was definitely much taller than it was so. This design left one feeling as though one had stepped into an all new world after entering just the first floor.

The first floor of the tower was expansive and incredibly bland. It acted as nothing more than a conduit to help the flow of people reach the places they wanted to go.

There were no stairs nor any elevators like one would see on Earth. Rather, there were elevated pads with queues of people. Each had a miniature teleportation station that would take one to a given floor.

During the first and second phase, the Tower was nothing more than a restaurant. With enough status, one could reach the top floor and gain access to delicacies the likes of which the world of Terrain rarely saw.

It was unfortunate that Leonel wasn't aware of this or he may very well have taken advantage. He had long since become tired of his usual bland diet of meat and more meat.

Of course, this was also mostly due to his own laziness. He had obtained many delicious fruits and vegetables from the underground garden he found within the hive. But, he kept them all within the snowglobes rather than properly fostering them. After all, he was a Force Crafter, not a gardener. PANDA NOVEL

At this moment, though, not a single person was traveling to higher floors. Even if one wanted to, the teleportation pads were out of commission.

Those who were aware of the changes that happened as the third phase approached weren't surprised. This was simply the Tower preparing itself for its true purpose.

"Hey, are you the Emperor from the Northern Sector? Let me see the brand on your forehead."

The once bustling Tower suddenly fell into silence.

The voice that had called out was booming. It had enough forcefulness to it to directly suppress the voices of everyone else. Of course, this was because no one else was trying to speak over the crowd at the same time, or else this matter wouldn't have been so easy.

Everyone's attention oscillated between the Emperor who had spoken and the black figure that had been targeted. PANDA NOVEL

There were very few Emperors in Brave City to begin with. So, everyone immediately recognized the original speaker as Wilas Mirage, the young Heir to the Mirage Pavilion.

He had a rotund body, yet his charms were also somewhat feminine. Of course, the red robes accented with violet soft armor didn't help him escape this image very well.

It couldn't be helped. The Heir to the Mirage Pavilion was rarely a man. In fact, this was only the second time in their history that such a thing had happened.

This said, no one looked down on this chubby, feminine man. So, when the black figure didn't bother to respond, the tension in the air grew palpable.

Wilas' gaze narrowed. His cheeks squeezed, almost covering his eyes completely.

Wilas suddenly chuckled, his body moving forward slowly.

Reynred and Jilniya, who had been by his side, didn't say anything as they watched him. The third phase had yet to begin, so they were still under the rules of the second phase. There was no rules against battle outside of trials just yet. In addition, even if there were, they would still support Wilas' actions at this moment.

The best way to learn about such a mysterious figure would be to test them personally.

As Heirs to Powers, they didn't believe that some unknown could be better than them. In their minds, if they were born from lesser families and didn't receive quotas, they too could become Emperors through the second phase.

Whether that was actually true or not was still up for debate. But, all that mattered was that they believed it.

The shadowy figure didn't move in the slightest. Her hulking figure seemed unperturbed by Wilas' looming threat, even as the young Heir's footsteps echoed through the floor.

In a corner, Syl and Anared watched on in silence. They didn't have any particular horse in this race, so they too were just spectating just like everyone else.

“Big Brother, do you recognize that person?”

Anared’s gaze narrowed slightly, but in the end he shook his head.

“No. I don’t.”

Syl’s lovely eyes blinked with an innocent curiosity. It seemed that the legend of the Sword Monstress hadn’t spread very wide just yet. But, this made quite some sense. After all, one of the reasons the Sword Monstress was able to make it here was because the influx of people migrating toward Brave City made it difficult to pick out individuals.

At that moment, Wilas made it to within three meters of the shadowy figure before stopping.

If before everyone was already avoiding this person, they were now giving the figure an even wider berth.. No one had any interest in getting caught up in this drama.

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Wilas opened his mouth to speak once more, but’!

BANG!

A heavy sword swung from the Sword Monstress’ back, landing on the stones grounds of the tower’s floors.

Despite the heft of the sword, not a single mark was left behind. But no one doubted the strength of the Sword Monstress due to this.

The broad sword vibrated wildly upon impact as though looking to launch itself out from the hands of the Sword Monstress as she faced Wilas.

When the sword appeared, Jilniya's gaze narrowed.

Wilas stood just under three meters before the Sword Monstress. But, due to the outrageous length of the massive sword, it clanged before him, just a mere foot or two away. In fact, it seemed to be aimed between his legs, leaving him feeling a slight chill.

However, what Wilas felt wasn't fear. The process had been slow enough for him to witness the start to the end without issue. To a warrior on his level, it hadn't been a problem to see it all. The issue was that his heart still felt a slight trepidation.

It was a warning.PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Wilas, though, had every intention of lashing out. Not only was it important for them to know the limits of this figure, but it was also a matter of his face. Where would he put it if he were to back off now? Especially since he was the one who started all of this.

"It seems that –"

Just when Wilas wanted to say more, he suddenly sensed a figure appear by his side.

The contrast between this figure and the hulking, black robed figure before them was too striking.

Jilniya was a goddess in the eyes of many. She had a small, soft waist, flowing black hair, and a flawless complexion that seemed sculpted by the hands of a master. Though she was lacking in comparison to Heira, this seemed to be due to lack of a mature and refined temperament rather than a shortcoming of her own looks.

All of this alone would have been enough to capture many hearts. But, the way her white robes hung to her curves captured the soul. And, whether by design or coincidence, the way her sky blue soft armor cupped her chest and accentuated her slender legs only made more imaginations run wild.

The moment she appeared, most directly forgot about Wilas and what he had been planning to do. To them, there was no better entertainment than a beauty, even if she only stood there and did nothing else.

In a corner to his own, having reunited with the members of his Black City, Jerach was enthralled. He only barely managed to stop himself from whistling. PANDA NOVEL

It was fine if he teased a weak woman, but if he teased someone like Jilniya' | Well, let's just say he didn't have any fantasies of being castrated any time soon.

“What are you doing –?”

Jilniya all but ignored Wilas. But, it was difficult to get angry at a beauty, so Wilas only shook his head and let her do as she pleased.

“That sword.” Jilniya said coldly, looking from the tip of the blade that reverberated against the ground to the shadowy figure. “I received reports from my subordinate cities that several massacres had occurred. The perpetrator was a woman with a hunched back, dressed in black robes, and wielding a great sword. That was you?”

A shocked silence overcame everyone.

The first thing that caught them by surprise was the word ‘woman’. It was hard to connect the hulking figure before them with the fairer sex.

But, after that sunk in, they recognized the word massacre.

You mean to tell them that someone actually slaughtered their way through World's End Falls territory? And even dared to come to Brave City right afterward? p???(???????)

They couldn't decide whether this person was brave or just stupid.

At this point, it didn't even matter whether Jilniya's words were true or not. When it came to matters like this, whoever held the most strength would be the one in the right. And, it seemed now that not only had this Sword Monstress angered Wilas with her disregard, but she had also enraged Jilniya by slighting the Power behind her.

No matter how others looked at it, this would end incredibly badly for this cloaked figure.

Still, despite the young Heiress' pointed questions, the Sword Monstress still didn't respond. The reverberations of her sword sung through the tower's first floor as though acting as her reply.

'If you're dissatisfied, just come', it seemed to say.

'!

At that very moment, Leonel stood before the Dark Abode, shaking his head.

He turned his head toward the looming numbers in the distance and sighed again.

0:0:8:39

Considering his location, it wouldn't take him long to get to the Central Tower. But, he still felt uncomfortable cutting it so close. He wasn't sure if there would be a penalty for being late. But, considering his current situation, he didn't dare to test it out. He felt that if there was a timer, there was a reason for it being there.

Now, whether that was true or not'! once again, he was unsure. But, better safe than sorry.

He was a bit regretful that he had allowed the Little Mink to enter on his own now. Unfortunately, Leonel had forgotten that the first time he watched the Little Mink evolve, the little guy had fallen into a deep sleep for several days. This was likely happening again.

‘Forget it. It will take me 2 minutes and 21 seconds to make it from here to the Tower at full speed. I’ll wait until 0:0:2:30 is left on the clock, then.’

Leonel felt that the little mink should be fine within the Abode. From what he knew, there was no one else capable of claiming a Dark Abode. And, even if there were, they would all be taking part in the third phase. So, everything should be fine.

Just when Leonel had made this decision, a black blur suddenly shot out from the house and barreled right into his chest. The streak was so quick that due to Leonel’s absentmindedness, he didn’t even notice what happened until it was too late.

“ ‘!Oof.”

Leonel coughed, feeling his ribs rebound against his heart and lungs.

After a while, he laughed, looking at the bundle of fur in his arms.

“Were you trying to kill me or something?” Leonel chuckled.

“Yip! Yip!”

Leonel’s lip twitched. “Why does that sound like a yes’ !?”

The little mink ignored Leonel’s words and crawled to his favorite spot around his neck.

“Fine, fine. You win.. Alright, let’s go.”

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Jilniya’s eyes narrowed. “You overestimate yourself.”

What happened next was so sudden that no one could have expected it. It was hard to imagine that beauty who elicited the feeling of care and protection in them all would suddenly surge forward and attack without warning.

In one instant, Jilniya was like a delicate flower in a vase. In the next, she was a pouncing panther, her slender legs exploding with undeniable power and strength.

The Sword Monstress responded as quickly as it seemed humanly possible, raising her sword like a shield across her body.

Jilniya's palm shot forward like a venomous serpent, slamming against the spine of the great sword.

BANG!

The Sword Monstress' body convulsed. It was just a single palm, but it felt as though she had been hit three times continuously.

A surge of concentric wind ricocheted off the side of her sword, sending her sliding across the ground.

Jilniya didn't seem intent on stopping, her beautiful eyes remaining indifferent as she shot forward again. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Her movements gave one the illusion of rushing water. It had an undeniable forcefulness, but also hid a fluidity and flexibility that accentuated the curves of a woman.

BANG!

A second palm descended. This one was several times stronger than the previous. Rather than carrying three layered strikes, this one carried four.

This time, the Sword Monstress lost her footing. Unable to slide along the ground anymore, she stumbled backward and got tossed off her feet.

Jilniya's attack was relentless.

Any veteran of battle knew that whoever gained an initiative would hold an upper hand. If one managed to keep this advantage, victory would only be a matter of time.

However, it soon became very clear that Jilniya didn't need the initiative to claim victory. Whether it was speed, strength, or ability, she surpassed this cloaked figure by not just a single level.

This left those watching baffled. They had thought that this cloaked figure would have a high level of skill after daring to offend two Heirs. Yet, it seemed that when comparing whether this woman was brave or foolish, it was most likely the latter. PANDA NOVEL

Wilas felt his anger dissipate. What a waste of emotions. He couldn't believe he wasted time getting angry at a person so far beneath him.

'It seems that Jilniya gained an inkling of comprehension toward her Falls Style'! Couple that with her ability and she truly would be too troublesome to deal with.'

Every time Jilniya attacked, it was as though three, four, five and sometimes even six of her were assaulting the same person all at the same time.

Her heart couldn't help but be filled with disdain.

'Just die.' She thought coldly.

She didn't know who this person was, but she had truly never met anyone more foolish.

Thanks to the times, this Sword Monstress had already been lucky enough to escape the clutches of her Power. Yet, instead of accepting this bout of good fortune, she actually dove right back into the lion's den.

Jilniya's palm shot toward the Sword Monstress' head. $\rho \int$

The air around her palm trembled. If one looked closely, it seemed as though her strike was being superimposed. A portion reflected where her palm would be, a portion reflected where it was now, and the last reflected where it had been.

These attacks came together as one, causing the air to quake.

Had this strike been sent out in a Third Dimensional world, there was no doubt that the clap of the sound barrier shattering would have sounded.

It was at that moment when Jilniya's palm was just moments away from collapsing the Sword Monstress' head in on itself that things suddenly changed.

The Sword Monstress' aura surged. A sinister, dark and bloodthirsty air erupted.

From beneath the hooded cloak, one could see two eyes blazing with a blinding gold light that flickered with a deep darkness.

The Sword Monstress swung her great sword to meet Jilniya's palm.

BANG!

The Sword Monstress took several steps back before stabilizing herself while Jilniya took just one. But, without hesitation, the Sword Monstress shot forward again, her great sword trailing to her back like the tail of a comet.

She brought her sword forward in a great arc, leaving a blur in the air.

BANG!

Jilniya forced the Sword Monstress back again, her expression filled with rage. It was as though she couldn't believe that this beast of a woman would dare fight back against her.

The spectators remained silent as though scared to get involved in such a thing. They too hadn't expected the Sword Monstress to suddenly fight back, but the truth was that it didn't seem to matter.

However, those who were clever among them seemed to realize that maybe the Sword Monstress wasn't as foolish as she seemed.

By now, there was already less than five minutes before the timer struck zero. By feigning an inability to fight back at all in the beginning, she managed to drag out the battle. It was only after it seemed she really might die that she really started to fight.

If things went on like this, there was no way Jilniya would be able to kill her before the timer rang out. And, when the third phase began, all the rules would change.

Most intelligent people seemed to realize this. But, it was difficult to calmly analyze things in the heat of battle, especially when you were enraged like Jilniya. As for why Wilas and Reynred hadn't explained this to Jilniya, there were two reasons.

For one, if someone had to explain this to her, Jilniya would only lose more face. And, secondly, after seeing the Sword Monstress' combat power' | they no longer feared her. They didn't care whether she died or not, it would hardly change anything.

This was the same reason they had for not pressing forward to kill Leonel. His impact on the coming trials would be limited.

BANG!

The Sword Monstress slid back once again. But, this time, Jilniya didn't pursue.

“So that’s your plot?” The beautiful Heiress looked toward the ticking time, visible anger twisting her delicate features. “Unfortunately for you, you’ve still underestimated me.”

At that moment, many touched their ears, not believing what they were hearing.

Where was this sound of rushing water coming from?

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Jilniya brandished her palms in a composed stance, her gaze cold.

Just like there were weapons Forces, there were likewise Forces for various bodily martial arts. Fist Force, Palm Force, various kicking and leg Forces, they all existed. However, just like weapon Forces, these bodily martial art Forces didn’t have anything particularly special to them other than a slight boost in strength.

When Leonel comprehended his Spear Force, it was a product of the spear consciousnesses he observed within Spear Domain. He was able to constantly build on this Spear Force, refining it and perfecting it.

Despite the fact Leonel’s Spear Force was still just an empty shell right now, it was still far more powerful than it had been in the past.

In the same way, bodily Forces had to be refined over time. Only in this way could they manifest true strength.

The so-called ‘Falls Style’ was a martial arts discipline of the World’s End Falls Power. It emphasized a steady, unrelenting flow. Every attack flowed into the next. Upon gaining an initiative with this style, it was impossible to lose it. Had it not been for Jilniya choosing to take a step back now, the Sword Monstress would still be on her back foot.

If Leonel had been here, he would realize that this so-called ‘Style’ was exactly the discipline he had been learning through the stone monuments.

For the Falls Style, only upon reaching a high level of comprehension would one hear the sound of rushing waters. It was clear that not only had Jilniya begun to grasp her Power's core teachings, but she was well on her way to mastering them.

Jilniya knew well just how suited this Style was to her. Her ability was shockingly an exceptionally rare time affinity ability that allowed her to layer her attacks. It made a single attack feel like many, giving her great offensive prowess. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Unfortunately, among time affinity abilities, hers was ranked so near the bottom that she couldn't even dream of claiming the Time Abode. The first time she came to Brave City, she foolishly overestimated herself and almost lost her life in the attempt. In fact, she was still suffering from the loss of over ten years from her lifespan.

However, this didn't mean that her ability was weak. In fact, when coupled with the Fall Style, she was likely the strongest amongst herself, Reynred and Wilas.

Knowing this, when she saw the enemy of her Power before her, a fiery anger bubbled up within her heart. She was the strongest. How could she possibly allow such a plan to succeed?

"Die."

Jilniya shot forward again. But, this time, her speed seemed to have almost doubled, her palms raining down like the judgment of a god from above.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

The Sword Monstress was hardly able to block, but her success only pissed Jilniya off more.

Jilniya's gaze flashed with a hint of red. By now, the sound of rushing water reached a peak. It was as though they were all standing at the base of an impossibly vast waterfall, falling with such strength that it shattered the rocks at its base into powder. PANDA NOVEL

Jilniya's next strike was so fast that it bypassed the defense of the Sword Monstress' great sword and shot right toward her head.

The glow of two eyes flickered beneath the hood.

With an inhuman reaction speed, the Sword Monstress curled her head away. However, the air pressure grazed her shoulder, causing her body to swirl backward.

BANG!

The Sword Monstress shot tens of meters backward, crashing into the walls of the tower.

All those standing in the area shot away, unwilling to get in Jilniya's way.

The sound of dripping blood sounded once the tower fell into another silence.

At that moment, everyone saw the same thing. The side of the Sword Monstress' cloak was torn away, revealing a now bloodied shoulder. However, what was the most shocking was that this Sword Monstress' so-called hunched back was actually a massive, oddly curved package larger than even the Sword Monstress herself. ρ???(???????)

With much of the cloak ripped away, it was easier to estimate the Sword Monstress' true size. In fact, she looked like quite a petite young lady. And with the way her black hair fell over her face, she even seemed somewhat enticing.

However, those thoughts of curiosity all vanished when the Sword Monstress raised her head.

In all their years, they had never seen such a grotesque sight. A ghastly infection ran across her face like the trenches of a muddy war. The scars were so inflamed that they even somewhat covered the portions of her face that hadn't been run across by them.

Colors of green, purple and even gross brown ran across them all. It all reflected beneath the light in a way that made the skin of all those who saw it crawl.

“ ‘! It’s you!” Jilniya’s gaze blazed.

The Sword Monstress used her sword as a crutch and pushed herself up. Under the gazes of everyone present, the wound to her shoulder rapidly healed. In the blink of an eye, other than the blood that still ran over her skin, it seemed as though she had never been injured at all.

Jilniya’s pupils constricted. She remembered this ability, but it was even more potent than it had been in the past.

Unfortunately, it wouldn’t matter. A dead person couldn’t heal.

The Sword Monstress walked forward with an indifferent expression. The cloak she wore had nothing to do with a will to hide her face. If it was about this, she would wear a mask instead. Rather, the cloak was a convenient way to hide the curved box on her back. This was what she wanted to hide.

But, since it was out in the open already, it didn’t matter much anymore. Since she had already made it to Brave City and the third phase was about to begin, keeping it hidden no longer mattered.

Jilniya’s gaze flashed with a cold light.

At that moment, though, a person suddenly rushed into the Tower’s first floor. In such a silent environment, especially when everyone had already arrived early, such an arrival caught the attention of many. Even Jilniya couldn’t help but spare a glance.

A young man with handsome and sharp features shot inside, a wide grin on his face when he noticed the time hadn’t quite hit zero just yet.

The young man seemed to be in a great mood. But, with his sharp senses, he seemed to realize that something was off about the atmosphere. After scanning the area, his gaze landed on two young women.

The young man's eyes widened.

“Aina –!”

The young man's expression suddenly changed. Any words he was going to say were cut off, his mind going blank.

Those who spoke about the details of this day in the future would remember it as the day they felt the most fear they ever had in their lifetimes.

Each and every person present felt as though their hearts had been gripped by a reaper, like bone cold waters had been poured into their veins, travelling through their bodies and leaving them completely paralyzed.

Out of her own control, Jilniya's body shot backward at the fastest speed she could muster, her heart thumping so hard that it felt like it might fly from her chest at any moment.

The young man vanished, appearing before the Sword Monstress in the blink of an eye. Only a rare few could even see how he moved, and even those who could felt as though he had become nothing but a streak of gold light.

He stood before the Sword Monstress, his eyes blazing.

In that instant, several collapsed to the ground, their visions turning black. The pressure was so suffocating that even many who managed to maintain their consciousness fell to their knees, tears of fear falling from their eyes.

“Who did this to you? I'll kill them all!”

A palpable aura surged out like a sea of blood, enveloping the tower's first floor. The young man's voice boomed, causing the air to quake and tremble beneath his rage.

For the first time, there was a ripple in the Sword Monstress' gaze.

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Leonel had never felt so much anger before. He didn't even think about how it was he recognized Aina at all.

Leonel had known for a long time that the face he had come to know wasn't Aina's own. He never once thought of asking her why that was. To him, it simply didn't matter. But, after finding out the truth, his blood boiled and seethed.

He didn't care about what Aina looked like. Even back when he chose her over so many others and hadn't known about her face coverings, she had never been the most beautiful. He simply went with his gut feeling and accepted it.

But now, knowing that someone had done something like this to her, Leonel's visceral reaction was even more violent than it had been when he found out someone had cut something out of him as a mere child.

As for Aina, the last thing she had expected was to meet Leonel here. Despite the effort Leonel had put into spreading his name, she had practically cut off contact with the outside world while she was on the run. Where would she have had the time to converse and learn about the hottest rumors?

However, it was precisely because she was so caught off-guard that her gaze rippled so violently. Something about Leonel's reaction shook her to her core.

After she came to this world, she had hoped to forget everything else. In fact, part of the reason she chose to take off her face covering was as a way of leaving those things of the past in the past.

This scarred face of hers looked nothing like the face Leonel knew. Even if these scars suddenly vanished, she would look like a completely different person. She had thought that even if she ran into Leonel, there was no way he would recognize her. But, she could have never expected that not only would he, but that he would do so, so quickly. It was almost surreal.
PANDA-NOVEL.COM

As if that wasn't enough to shake her, of all the reactions she expected to find in his gaze, she saw none of them.

There was no disgust, there was no hesitancy, there wasn't even a shred of pity. There was nothing but rage.

Leonel saw red. He was so focused on Aina's face that he hadn't even realized she had been in battle.

When he looked down at her shoulder and saw the yet-to-dry blood dripping down from her already healed wound, his gaze became steely.

Leonel's head turned to Jilniya, his irises flickering with wild violet-red lights.

"You did this?"

Clearly, this time, Leonel was no longer referring to Aina's scars. PANDA NOVEL

"Who gave you the guts?"

Jilniya trembled. She didn't know why she was feeling such fear. Wasn't this the same Third Dimensional brat they hadn't taken seriously? Where was all this pressure coming from? It felt as though a hand was constricting her throat, limiting her breathing.

Leonel's palm flipped over, a dense black bow appearing.

Sharp winds kicked up. A fluid conception of a wild blizzard shook the air, wrapping around Leonel and Aina.

Whether by design or because Aina was simply the only one who never seemed to feel any pressure from Leonel, she stood by silently, her gaze still flickering with a dense swath of emotions.

“Die.”

Leonel spoke the same word Jilniya had. But somehow, it felt like the true call of the reaper. Compared to the latter’s version, it seemed like a command, an unquestionable call from the depths of hell.

ρ??∫??????

An arrow whirled to life, forming from the energies of the world.

A little mink bared its fangs from around Leonel’s neck, it’s little body growing a size as its fur stood on end.

A thick black shadow drifted from its body and surrounded Leonel’s body. And, at that moment’

SHING! SHING! SHING!

Leonel’s Force suddenly gained a sharp characteristic. It felt as though he could tear through anything, as though no obstacle could block his path.

Jilniya felt in those moments that no matter how she dodged, nothing would come of it.

Leonel’s sharp gaze locked onto her, a cold murderous intent manifesting around his body. His hair whipped about wildly, his back standing tall and straight as it flexed with all its might. Even through the thickness of his black robes, one could feel the fullness of his figure.

SHUUUUUUUUU!

Leonel’s fingers left his bowstring.

For an instant, it felt as though everyone was thrust into a land of ice and snow, watching as a relentless hail descended from above.

Jilniya felt too much fear to even move. She was locked down by a 'Style' far beyond her Falls martial arts. It was like her every instinct had been accounted for, like even if she dodged it would only be like jumping into the arms of death.

It was a feeling she would never forget in her life. She knew she had more strength than this, more power than maybe this attack even had to offer. But, for some reason, she didn't dare to use it. It was as though a higher power had commanded her to accept her death. And ' before this power' she was nothing.

But '

0:0:0:0

DING!

An energy swirled around the Tower's first floor, snuffing everything out. Even Leonel's arrow vanished into thin air.

The moment the clock hit zero, a central platform elevated from the center of the first floor and a teleportation array flickered. Soon, three forms began to appear.

When they manifested, the first thing everyone noticed was their odd yet valiant dressing. However, Leonel's gaze still carried a bloodthirsty air to it. All he knew was that the appearance of these three stopped his commandment from coming to fruition.

The three figures had been casual. This world was definitely not as interesting as being assigned to the others, but they still had to do their jobs. Since they had been thrust into this boring situation together, they had a sense of comradery amongst one another.

The truth was that they weren't the ones who snuffed out Leonel's attack, that was just a normal function of the tower. They had no idea that they had been wrongly accused by a kid they wouldn't normally give a second glance toward.

But, when they appeared, they felt a savage, relentless aura lock onto them.. Even with their strength, they couldn't help but frown and look toward the source of it.

Chapter 387

For a moment it seemed that Leonel really had every intention of attacking these people.

Those who knew him had expressions that widened in shock. It was one thing to attack Jilniya, but the overseers of these trials were not only outstanding talents from across the universe, but they were most definitely Fifth Dimensional entities at worst. In fact, that was just their speculation from their place at the bottom of a well. For all they knew, these individuals were beyond the Fifth Dimension.

However, judging by Leonel's posture and the fact his aura of rage hadn't dissipated in the slightest, it seemed he really did have every intention of attacking.

It was at the moment he almost acted that Leonel suddenly felt something soft grasp his hand.

He was so unused to the feeling that he was shocked out of his enraged state.

The atmosphere seemed to become several times lighter in the blink of an eye, causing those who had forgotten to breathe to finally heave a sigh of relief. Those who had collapsed to the ground finally relaxed, their minds being released from their shackles.

It was only after this happened that Jilniya suddenly understood the state she had been in. In the blink of an eye, her fear became shock, then shame, then rage. However, there was already nothing she could do.

Leonel shook his head and looked down to find that Aina had grabbed onto his hand.PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Well, it couldn't really be described like this. More accurately, she had grasped onto three of his fingers as though she was scared to grab onto anything more. The sight made Leonel involuntarily chuckle.

Aina frowned. "What are you laughing at? Are you trying to die?"

This was the first time anyone had ever heard the Sword Monstress speak. They couldn't have ever expected for her voice to be so soft and pleasing to the ears. It was as though she was caressing their eardrums.

Leonel looked into Aina's eyes curiously.

Aina suddenly became self conscious and looked away. After she had done it, she realized that she was acting out of character.

'It's ugly, I know.'

Aina didn't say these words aloud. But, this was the very first time she had even thought them to herself. It was a surprise to her that her mind even went to such a place. PANDA NOVEL

These scars had been with her all her life. But, they never filled her with disgust toward herself, they only filled her with rage.

After the Metamorphosis began and she realized how she could use them to her advantage, they even became a source of pride for her. It represented her resilience and her hard work.

For all these reasons, she couldn't believe what she had just breathed to life in her thoughts. She had never been such a person.

"It was the Brazinger family, right?"

Leonel's smile vanished once again, his expression hardening.

Aina froze for a moment, but didn't look back toward Leonel.

“Good.” Leonel looked away. “I’ll make certain to raze them to the ground, then.”

Aina remained silent and slowly let go of Leonel’s fingers.

From the distance, Anared watched this with a frown. After regaining his bearings from Leonel’s previous outburst, he began to calmly analyze the situation. And, quite frankly, he didn’t like what he was seeing.

However, Leonel wasn’t paying attention to this anymore. He continued to stand by Aina’s side, he wasn’t going to let her out of his sight again. Everything else that happened from this point on no longer mattered much to him.

The first reason he had agreed to join the Keafir family’s quota was in order to find a path toward finding Aina. Beyond that, the only reason he had tried to stand out so much was also for this reason.

Now, as far as Leonel was concerned, nothing else was quite so important. Of course, he would still do his part to repay the Keafir family for their role in helping him find Aina. That was the least he could do, anyway.

The three figures on the platform looked toward Leonel with a frown, wondering where such pressure came from. How could they be bothered to care about drama between kids? As a result, they had no idea what had happened here previously.

But, looking at the sorry state most were in, they felt it had something to do with this young man.

Their gazes unconsciously shifted toward the young woman by his side.

By now, Aina had regained her bearing and stood there silently. Though she had let go of Leonel’s hand, she at least didn’t move away from him. In Leonel’s book, that much was a plus.

The three figures were much more experienced than the others here. While these kids only saw ugly, infected scars, they saw’!

‘A curse?’

They raised their eyebrows.

The only female among the three looked toward Aina with a gratified gaze. She had no idea who Aina was before this moment, but just the simple act of Aina standing before them all completely maskless left her feeling somewhat in awe and a bit protective of this young girl.

Any anger she felt toward Leonel unleashing killing intent toward them was already forgotten.

As they were observing Leonel and Aina, Leonel, too, was observing them.

‘Their uniforms are also cool!’ Leonel couldn’t help but think. He really hoped this wasn’t a pattern. If he had to gain enmity with another organization with cool uniforms, it would be too depressing.

At first, it looked as though all three of them, whether male or female, were all wearing skirts. But, upon closer inspection, Leonel realized that this wasn’t the case.

The first thing Leonel thought when he realized the truth was ‘

‘Aladdin’s pants!’

Leonel smiled, remembering the cartoons his father had introduced him to as a child.

The uniforms of these three all involved the same harem pants Aladdin wore. The mid sections of these pants swept so close to the floor that some could mistake them for skirts without looking closely.

All of their harem pants were a pristine white. In addition, they each had cloth waist belts of a deep black. This cloth wrapped around their waists and then dropped vertically to the ground between their legs.

The exposed face of this cloth was inscribed with white embroidery that depicted similar war scenes to the ones that could be found on the wall of Brave City.

The men were bare chested revealing their toned and chiseled torsos while the woman wrapped a white cloth around her bountiful chest. However, regardless of gender, they all had vibrant neckwear reminiscent of what a pharaoh of ancient times would wear. This large neckwear was a solid block of silver that hung heavily around their shoulders and collarbone.

Each and every one of them exuded a powerful aura. Without Leonel's influence, they easily became the center of attention.. No'! they demanded it.

Chapter 388

Seeing that Leonel didn't seem to be off put by their gazes and even seemed to be sizing them up, the three looked toward one another. Maybe this world wouldn't be as boring as they originally thought.

"Alright." The female took the lead, stepping forward. Her voice alone grabbed all of their attention, causing them to almost forget everything else. "Most of you have participated before and are aware of the process.

"Those who haven't, step forward. The registration process will be the same. Age, affinity, and rank will all be taken down before proceeding to the next step."

The central platform flashed with a small light. When it faded, an alter had appeared before the female with a small indent within it.

No one dared to test the patience of the three figures. So, those who had already participated in the past took several steps back, making way for the newbies. Among these new participants there were, of course, Leonel and Aina. But, there were other easily recognizable figures.

There was Young Miss Swan, Syl, Jerach, and even Zilar.

These four kept sweeping glances toward Leonel, but it was as though there was nothing else worth his attention after Leonel appeared. In fact, he seemed to be smiling more, leaving a curtain of warmth around him. It was hard to believe that this was the same young man that fear inducing aura had just come from.

Syl and Qiyra kept looking between Leonel and Aina. As for Zilar, he had a complicated look in his eye. He still couldn't believe that Leonel had been the one to save him. Finally, Jerach didn't dare to look again after the first time. His chest still weighed heavily with guilt.pANDA-N0VEL.COM

The truth was that Leonel had long since forgotten about Jerach. But, maybe it was exactly this that left the latter feeling so uncomfortable. It wasn't as though the two were the best of friends, but Jerach still felt like he was losing something.

But' | how could his loyalty to Leonel already be greater than his loyalty to his own family?

Though this sounded logical, Jerach knew the real reason he felt guilty. It was precisely because his actions were tantamount to going back on his own word. Since he said his life was now Leonel's, that should have been the end of the story. The fact he was still holding back only meant that he never took his word as seriously as he claimed to.

"Jerach Black. 31 years old. Medial Grade Four Wind Elemental affinity."

Jerach took his palm away from the groove in the alter. The female nodded slightly.

"Um' |" Jerach hesitated.

"Is something the matter?" The female asked, slightly impatient. pANDA N0VEL

Jerach smile sheepishly. Usually, this grin of his worked four out of five times on the ladies. But the female continued to glare at him, causing him to retract it just as quickly as he had deployed it.

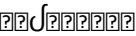
Coughing slightly, Jerach cleared his throat.

“What does a Grade Four affinity mean?”

The female didn't really want to answer. But, unfortunately, this was part of her job description.

“Affinity is a comparison of your skill with a type of Force in comparison to your Dimensional stage. The higher your affinity in comparison to your stage, the higher the score. Inferior Grade Four is the average for someone within the Fourth Dimension. If you had the equivalent of this affinity within the Third Dimension, your affinity would be marked out at Grade Five. A Grade Five affinity is enough to skip the preliminary rounds.”

Of course, what the female didn't bother to say was the fact that an Inferior Grade Four evaluation was only average in terms of the standards of their organization's new recruits. On a Fourth Dimension world like Terrain, especially one reaching the end of its potential, Grade Four was considered to be an elite amongst elites, let alone Medial Grade Four.

“Oh, I see.” 

Jerach stepped down feeling somewhat dejected.

“Qiyra Snow. 29 years old. Inferior Grade Four Variant Water affinity.”

“Syl Keafir. 30 years old. Medial Grade Four Empty Sword Embryo.”

“Zilar Qanif. 35 years old. Quasi Grade Four Empty Spear Embryo.”

Zilar calmly accepted his evaluation, his gaze still blazing with determination. For the first time, a curious glint lit in the eyes of the female. It was quite baffling, though, that this glint would appear for the worst evaluation yet.

At that moment, with the start of the third phase, the audience had already chosen their seats.

Of course, it was impossible for them to enter the tower. But, they were now allowed to enter the city and reach the central region around the Tower. There, they found a stadium of sorts where the matters occurring inside the were projected out for the viewing pleasure.

Unfortunately for them, due to the fact these images only appeared at the start of the third phase, these spectators had no idea what happened between Leonel and the others previously.

“Sister-in-law, who’s that ugly girl beside that mean guy? Is he two-timing big sis?”

Rie didn’t seem very happy with what she was seeing. While others were focused on the registration, she was paying attention to something completely different.

Heira remained silent, keeping her elegant posture. Many in the crowd couldn’t help but gravitate toward her, but the banner of the Keafir family was too strong of a barrier.

Hearing Rie’s words, a middle-aged man sitting beside Zimo frowned.

“What is this all about?”

This man was Syl’s father, City Lord Keafir. Hearing that his daughter was being two-timed was definitely news to him. Since when had his daughter been dating in the first place and why didn’t he know anything about it?

Heira smiled lightly. “It’s nothing, father-in-law. Rie just has an overactive imagination.”

Rie pouted after hearing this, but didn’t go against Heira. Though City Lord Keafir raised an eyebrow, he didn’t say anything more. Rie’s little mental lapses were the last thing on his mind. His son needed to perform well this time. They had much more riding on this.

Of course, there was someone else who needed Anared to perform well, and that was his very own wife. But, her reason for wanting this was very much different from her father-in-law’s

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“Do you want to go first?” Leonel asked with a smile.

Aina nodded lightly and walked forward, climbing to the platform and placing her delicate palm upon the alter.

The female’s eyes glowed. Of all those here, she was most curious about Aina’s performance since she had a good impression of the young girl.. But, when she read them, her eyes couldn’t help but widen, her breath hitching slightly.

Chapter 389

“Aina Brazinger’ | 18 years old’ |”

These words alone caused many to freeze.

An 18-year-old within the Fourth Dimension was completely unheard of on Terrain. When they thought back to how long Aina had managed to battle with Jilniya, their hearts couldn’t help but tremble. Would they have been able to do such a thing at such a young age?

As surprised as those within the Tower were, those spectating from the outside were even more so.

Rie sat completely frozen. Even Heira’s brows raised, a look of curiosity on her lovely features. However, her reaction didn’t seem nearly as exaggerated as that of the others around her.

That said, this age was meaningless to the female. Reaching the Fourth Dimension at such an age couldn’t be said to be amazing in her opinion. There were many who reached such a stage without even crossing into the double digits with their age.

Of course, this didn't factor in the fact that the Metamorphosis had only just occurred on Earth. For those as talented as Leonel and Aina, they could have reached the Fourth Dimension just as quickly had they been much younger when the Metamorphosis occurred.

Unfortunately, only those who knew they were from Earth were aware of this. However, it wasn't until now that they truly pieced together what this really meant.

Earth had begun its Metamorphosis barely a year ago. That meant that Leonel and Aina had gained such strength so fast' | PANDA-NOVEL.COM

Of course, many had practiced on Earth before the Metamorphosis began, and those who did included Aina. But, to practice without undergoing Metamorphosis was like swimming against a vicious tide. If anything, it made their accomplishments even more impressive.

Still, since the female didn't know all of this, this wasn't what had shocked her in the slightest' |

“' | Quasi Grade Five Dark Elemental affinity...”

Another bomb seemed to go off.

To now, the highest evaluation had been Medial Fourth Grade. To suddenly go up two levels was completely beyond anyone's expectation.

But, maybe the most shocking part was that it wasn't a three level leap' | it was a three level leap.

Inferior. Medial. Superior. Perfection. Quasi.

However, the female still wasn't finished. PANDA NOVEL

“' | Medial Grade Four Empty Sword Embryo' | Quasi Grade Five Ax Embryo' |”

Heira's pupils constricted. Just one was already enough for her to sit up, but this was reaching territory where even she was beginning to feel impressed. And yet' ! the female still wasn't finished.

“! Medial Grade Five Life Elemental affinity' !”

Jilniya, Wilas and Reynred stood frozen. Of all those here, their connection with Aina was likely the most complicated. The higher Aina's talent was, the harder their hearts clenched.

Is this why Aina dared to come here? Is it because she knew what would happen? Is this why she wasn't worried about them in the slightest?

How rare was this Life Elemental Force? They had never even heard of it before. At the very least, no Abode had ever appeared in Brave City for it' !

What they didn't know was that just like the Dream Abode, such Abodes like the Life Abode appeared and disappeared at will.

The people of Terrain believed the Dream Abode appeared randomly, when the truth was that it only ever appeared when those with a small amount of affinity appeared. ρ??(???????)

The thing was that considering what Dream Force represented, it would of course appear more often. After all, anyone with an elevated sensory ability would have a small Dream Force affinity whereas someone with a Life Force affinity would be much rarer.

That said, the number of individuals who could use Life and Dream Force to a high level were about the same. Meaning, the rarity still leveled out to equal in the end.

To make the complex simple, the short of it was that everyone had a consciousness and many had a stronger consciousness after undergoing a Metamorphosis. But' ! while everyone had Life, not everyone had an elevated amount of it and even less had such high affinity' !

But, somehow, the female still wasn't finished.

“ ‘! Perfect Grade Five Blood Elemental affinity’ !”

Silence reigned as Aina removed her palm. Her expression didn't have any fluctuations upon hearing any of this.

But, at that moment, there was a sudden burst of clapping. The issue was that it was only from one person.

Leonel grinned and clapped enthusiastically, causing Aina to blush and glare at him. But, Leonel continued to clap as though he didn't notice.

The females gaze locked onto Aina, it never leaving. In fact, the gazes of the two males seemed to have awakened at that moment. From their lazy appearances, they stood up straight, their gazes burning.

It wasn't Aina's numbers alone that shocked them so much, it was the numbers in combination with the curse chaining her. If that curse was lifted' !

On the outside Rie was pouting. “‘! He didn't cheer like that for big sis.”

Heira smiled bitterly hearing Rie's words. She could tell that Rie didn't intend anyone else to hear these words, but with their strength, how could they miss it? Once again, City Lord Keafir sent a questioning gaze toward Heira who could only try to dodge it.

City Lord Keafir really didn't know how to deal with this daughter-in-law of his. Traditionally speaking, he should be in a higher position in comparison. Yet, he felt as though he was on an equal playing level with this daughter-in-law of his. And, worst of all, he could subtly feel that she was lowering herself to allow him such ease of mind.

In the end, he could only drop the topic once again.

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Within the Tower, Leonel grinned as he watched Aina step down. Though she kept avoiding his gaze, he didn't mind.

Others, though, found it hard to believe that the Sword Monstress was even capable of being embarrassed.

Leonel stepped forward, hopping onto the elevated platform. Though the three figures all locked onto him, he didn't particularly care. He was happier with Aina's result than he would ever be with his own.

The female didn't like Leonel very much. Who would like someone who aimed killing intent toward them? But, she still went ahead with the examination with her usual apathetic gaze.

However' † She would become frozen just the same.

“ † Morales?” The female trembled.

When she saw the list of affinities, her mind went blank.

Leonel Morales. 19 years old. Quasi Grade Six Empty Spear Embryo. Inferior Grade Six Complete Bow Embryo. Perfect Grade Six Light Elemental affinity. Perfect Grade Six Variant Earth affinity. Perfect Grade Six Star Elemental affinity. Quasi Grade Seven Fire Elemental affinity.

Perfect Grade Nine Dream Elemental affinity.

Chapter 390

Leonel removed his palm from the alter and sent a curious glance toward the female. Usually, she would have begun speaking by now. But, even after several moments, she had yet to.

If the female knew that Leonel wanted her to hurry up, she might very well lash out in rage. At this very moment, her mind had become its own war zone.

Under any other circumstances, finding such a genius was something she should be jumping around and celebrating. The kind of benefits she would receive from such a thing was endless and that was just considering what she could gain from those old fogies. If she also considered what she could gain by simply having a connection with Leonel himself; the possibilities were endless.

But that one name ruined everything. It made her tremble almost uncontrollably.

Morales.

Anared only had a shallow understanding of this family, but even he knew of their strength. Maybe the only reason he didn't treat Leonel any differently was because he didn't believe Leonel was a part of them. And, beyond that, even if Leonel activated his Metal Synergy Lineage Factor, Anared was ignorant enough to likely not even recognize it. PANDA-NOVEL.COM

But, for the female; It was as they said, the more powerful one became, the greater understanding and respect one had for those who were truly powerful.

To have such a name and to also have a Quasi Grade Six Empty Spear Embryo and a Perfect Grade Six Variant Earth affinity; There couldn't possibly be such a coincidence in this world, right?

This meant that Leonel was not only a member of that family, but he was one of the only seven in the Nova Generation to awaken both Lineage Factors. This was the only explanation.

To put this matter into proper perspective, one had to understand how the Grading system worked on a deeper level.

There were two factors that decided one's Grade: one's affinity and its comparison to one's Dimensional level. PANDA NOVEL

However, this matter still wasn't so simple.

One's talent could be considered a growth factor. Let's say for instance someone with average talent was noted as having a 1.0 growth factor while one with a greater talent would be considered a 2.0.

Upon breaking through to the Fourth Dimension, the average talents strength would become 2.0 and the greater talent would become 4.0. Upon breaking through to the Fifth, the former would become 3.0 and the latter would become 6.0.

The disparity would only grow with time. And, the harsh reality of it was that the separation was even more exaggerated than this and could be considered to be exponential.

What was the point of all of this? It was to say that one with greater talent would experience more growth even while improving at the same rate. If this logic was applied to the Grading system, it meant that the disparity between Leonel's Dimensional level and his affinity would only grow with time, meaning that as he continued to improve, his Grade would only continue to do so as well! ρ??∫??????

For the female's organization, Inferior Grade Four was considered average for new recruits. However, Superior Grade Four already made you an elite amongst elites. To touch upon Quasi Grade Five within the Fourth Dimension was enough to make you an asset greatly worth fostering while entering Grade Five firmly would make you among the few worthy of vying for a leadership position within the organization!

The main issue here was that' ! Leonel was still within the Third Dimension! Yet, his worst talent was considered to be of the Quasi Grade Six level. And, his one talent that could be considered to be of the Fourth Dimension, his Dream Force.... Was Perfect Grade Nine!

This was all to say that' ! These three were nowhere near equipped to deal with something like this.

Take a potential Heir of the Morales family as a new recruit? Was that a joke? Did they have a death wish?

The longer the female remained silent, the more those around seemed to hang on her every word. None dared to look away for fear that they might miss something important.

"Hello?" Leonel finally asked.

It was a shame he hadn't been paying much attention before, or else maybe he would have been able to read the results himself. That said, he might have been overthinking things. It might not be so easy to read in the first place.

The female snapped out from her thoughts and almost couldn't refrain from glaring at Leonel and gnashing her teeth.

Was he having fun putting her in such a situation? You know well what kind of family you come from, yet you came here to cause trouble. What for exactly? To chase women?

The female thought back to how Leonel treated Aina as though nothing else mattered in the world. But, she couldn't bring herself to be too enraged. After all, the current Aina wasn't exactly considered a beauty. It would be much easier to believe that Leonel was just chasing skirts if this wasn't the case.

"You'!" The female choked on her words before clearing her throat. "'! Aina Brazinger and Leonel Morales will skip the preliminary rounds. The rest of you new ones, prepare yourselves."

A shocked murmur spread over the crowd.

She didn't read out Leonel's Grades, but she also said that Leonel could skip the preliminaries. According to what she said before, that meant that Leonel had at least one Grade Five affinity. But, if that was the case, why not read them aloud?

Leonel raised an eyebrow but didn't say much more. Didn't skipping the preliminaries mean that he could chat idly with Aina for a while? As long as he got to do that, nothing else really mattered.

Leonel stepped down from the platform to find Aina looking back at him with a hint of curiosity. It seems that she too wondered why it was that the female hadn't read his Grades aloud like she had done with everyone else.

"They say curiosity is the first sign of falling in love." Leonel said to no one in particular.

However, when Aina registered his words her heart skipped a beat and her face went red. It was just a shame that much of it was marred by her inflamed scars.

Leonel grinned. "Let's go to the side and ""."

Leonel's words paused.. His gaze shifted to find Syl's elder brother, Anared, standing before him with a cold expression.