

Dungeon S 641

Chapter 641 'Maeve'llous Appearance

"No way..." Gaeru was dumbfounded when he opened the gates to the throne hall. The first thing that caught his eye was the Salamander King hung from the ceiling, swinging motionlessly by the updraft from the opening of the throne doors.

Whatever that was left of his intestinal bowels were hanging loosely from his gutted torso and the Valgs right under him were chewing it as if it was mere gum. Upon closer inspection, Gaeru discerned that what was left of the Salamander King was only his skin and scales.

His bones, muscles and other organs were already missing.

After all that struggle to reach the throne hall, the frog swordsman's purpose for revenge vanished into thin air upon absorbing the sight of the unfortunate king's death. The view of it nearly made some of the cultivators puke, but a few of them who were well versed in group support had emitted auras of chi to calm the nerves of the whole crowd.

"Ahhh... So, my new playthings have arrived. A bit slow, in my opinion, but it gives me the luxury to prepare a magnificent playing field for you." A tiny little purple light twinkled from the throne seat and swerved around the room before shapeshifting into a human a few metres away from Gaeru and the rest of the cultivators.

"It had been a long time since I saw humans, and better yet, humans with magical powers," Maeve said as she walked around in a dress that was similar to the Victorian lineage. Her purplish black bustle dress packed with fluffy frills matched her slightly curled long hair. The top hat she was wearing had a veil that somehow managed to blur her face despite their masks' superior vision technology.

"But you guys smell different," Maeve responded as she casually walked towards the group while twirling the Salamander king's crown around her index finger. The entire group somehow sensed a cold, piercing chill going down their back whenever she slowly took a step closer. Even the calming chi aura could not neglect the feeling of dread at all.

"It smells like a freshly washed sheet of bedding that had been stained with a pungent smell of cheap perfume, but yet it still tingles me with anticipation!" Maeve's smile behind the veil clearly crept every single cultivator, and even Gaeru felt disgusted.

"So, I am guessing the monsters who populated this particular castle was because of this lady rather than the dead Salamander up there?" Xiong Da questioned as he held his weapon tightly. Something was telling him that this final boss would not be as manageable as the ones he had fought before in Jin's dungeons.

"Since you have killed the Salamander King, I have no qualms with you, fairy," Gaeru said as he kept Boo back into the scabbard and turned around, indicating that he had no intentions to fight.

"Really? You think that spineless lizard ordered the massacre of your tribe?" Maeve spat at him the moment he lowered his guard. "I was the one who aroused his cannibalistic nature. I was the one who convinced him to kill not just your Papi and Mummy. Oh, I do know you rather well, Gaeru, Son of Magu." Maeve taunted the frog as she had tapped into his well of memories.

"They were the most fun to play with, always urging, begging us not to kill your twin brother who injured himself because-" Maeve was instantly interrupted by Gaeru's first strike. Yet, she did not move an inch further and took the hit through her stomach. Initially, she was surprised that the blade was able to cut her, but her wounds closed the moment his blade slid away.

"Well, well, well! Looks like this swordsman not only have a blade that can cut me, but have the will to do so too! Everyone! Let's give him a round of applause!" Maeve said as she sauntered back to the throne seat while Valgs began to block their path to her. Despite her orders, no one dared to move a single muscle after Gaeru's attack.

"No clapping? That's boring." Maeve laid back on the throne chair and suddenly, purple icicle flowers surrounded the throne chair and glittered beautifully under the dull candles around the hall. "But you know? You should have aimed for the head for more satisfaction."

"Any ideas on how to defeat this boss? Seems like her regeneration will be a pain in the ass." Bu Dong was finally able to relax when Maeve walked a certain distance away from them. He then took his sword and pointed at the Valgs who were gathering right in front of the cultivators.

"You should ask how do we even get close to her when her presence was enough to paralyse us." Zi Dan added as he charged up his chain ball mace.

"She's a faerie. Find her source of power. It could be anything, from a small trinket to a large block of stone." One of the hooded black mask cultivators finally spoke out. The rest of the cultivators were amazed that they have such information on them. Perhaps, they might have scoured the castle and found clues regarding this final boss.

"Hahaha, is that a joke? This is too big of a place!" Bu Dong asked since they had no clue what they were searching for and the castle itself would need more than the number of people they have to find the item of power. He was suspecting that Jin had made this place gigantic in nature so that it would be hard to find clues on the final boss.

What they did not know was that those Black Masked Cultivators were the Dark Elves from Jin. They had encountered a faerie before, and thus they knew what they were up against.

In fact, they had a similar relic, an Item of Power from the faerie they fought against with but the Dark Elves did not know how effective it would be against Maeve; thus it would be better to search and use her personal Item of Power against herself.

"Find something related to what she is wearing or the colours black and purple. It is usually connected, but I have no guarantees that you have results. It could possibly be a wild goose chase." Another Black Masked cultivator replied.

"We will distract her while you take on the Valgs. Send people to search the rooms connecting the throne hall for the source. If unsure, destroy anything on sight." The former black mask cultivator said, but before they could continue their conversation, Gaeru had already fixated his sights on the boss.

The moment he took his first step, the Valgs reacted the same way as well, and the two groups immediately clashed with each other.

"Kong Xian! Zi Dan! Split your groups into two and search the east and west exits! You! That Hawk Cultivator! Send a message to Jing Yu, who is still fighting against the Valgs behind us to look for that Item of Power too! The rest, commence your attack! Bring these bloodthirsty monsters down to their knees and show them we... Cultivators are not to be underestimated!" Xiong Da shouted his orders, and a resounding yes was heard from everyone.

"Damn it, Boss Jin! You should have given everyone a standard title instead of just us Pandawans." Xiong Da whispered to himself as he rushed against the Valgs while the Black Masked Cultivators were already gaining their pace to assist the reckless frog.

Chapter 642 A Cornered Cheetah

When Zi Dan was given the order by Xiong Da to disperse, he was all the more than happy to do so. The horror he experienced upon seeing the lady dressed in Victorian garb, was amplified by the memory of his first encounter in this particular raid.

The feeling of sheer trepidation from the Final Boss was similar to the six legged Valg's paralysing stare, except that this time around, it was very much courting death.

Hence, Zi Dan rather performed this menial job and let the brave Pandawans do the bulk of boss fighting while he attempts to find this Item of Power those Black Masked Cultivators talked about.

"Hahaha! So much for conserving energy for the Last Boss!" Xia Mao said to Zi Dan with bated breath as he tried to catch up with Zi Dan's running pace. "More like conserving the last bit of stamina to run away from the boss fight!"

"Pfft! Say all you want! Of all people who had experienced that paralysing stare, you are the only one to understand how I felt! And why are you following me?!" Zi Dan said as he slipped through one of the rooms whose doors were left ajar.

All he could find were even more Valgs lurking inside. The temporary squad leader commanded the cultivators at the back to deal with the threat as he continued forward, in search for more of the rooms.

In the meantime, Xia Mao kept his mouth shut for the moment and continued to follow behind Zi Dan. Even though he knew that Zi Dan was not going at top speed, his regular pace was already demanding for most of the cultivators to catch up. Maybe that was why Xiong Da decided to use the Bullet Cheetah Cultivator as the scout to find that relic to defeat the faerie boss.

And as for the Item of Power, Zi Dan figured that if it existed, it should be in a room where the strongest of Valgs be protecting it. All he had to do was to find it and report it. There was no use wasting his life trying to be a hero. (He was already earning points being a scout, and he felt it was a decent way to survive the raid.)

So far, it was going all fine and dandy by commanding the cultivators to clear the room and giving them first hand information what was inside. Xia Mao eventually gave up chasing after his friend and decided to enter the third room to battle against those Valgs.

"Heh! I knew that Blind Cat can never chase after me! So much for boasting to be a renowned escape artist when you cannot even run well!" Zi Dan remarked to himself as he glanced back for a moment before heading forth to the fourth and final room.

When he was slowing down to check out the last room in the Western Hallway, Zi Dan already felt that something was wrong. Not only that, but he also noticed that he was not slowing down despite his desire to do so. The more Zi Dan tried to resist, the more he sensed that the last chamber was forcing its 'invitation' to welcome the Bullet Cheetah Cultivator into the room.

As much as Zi Dan wished to break out of it, he felt that his body did not belong to him at all the moment he entered the room. (Fortunately) to his dismay, the room was completely empty except for a series of open panel glass windows and an antique looking chair in the middle of the room. Right beside it was a man, dressed smartly with a buttoned black shirt.

Or that was what Zi Dan thought.

It was actually the man's powers manifested into a physical form, covering his entire body with an ominous veil of energy. His hair was gelled all the way to the back, making it look as if he had multiple horns diverging from his head while his forehead had a visible scar on it.

"Heh, to think I will ever see humans ever again." The man said as he walked to his seat and lean forward when he sat down. With a thinking pose, he looked at the frightened Zi Dan who was already poised in a kneeling posture, all thanks to his innate powers alone.

"Did you see a broken Salamander before you arrive at this particular room? You should, right? Because that is the only viable entrance to reach here." The man inquired, but Zi Dan was hopelessly keeping his mouth shut even though his body was aching to tell the truth.

"Ah. Not bad. And here I thought this was merely a spineless human. I guess you do have the will to fight back, its just a matter of when." The man smiled, and he leaned backwards.

"I will make things very simple. Let me connect to your body and together, we will kill that bitch." The man relaxed further as he folded his legs and pointed at the Zi Dan. Even though he acted as if he was asking, but he was, in fact, giving a command Zi Dan could not refuse.

Zi Dan figured this could possibly be the Item of Power since it was able to talk and powers probably equivalent to the faerie boss he encountered. And recently, he had seen nothing but yapping monsters that growl, shout and gnawed at cultivators.

Even though this could be the best opportunity to steal the final boss kill if what the man said was true, Zi Dan somehow sensed that things were not that simple. The Bullet Cheetah Cultivator felt that he would be in terrible danger if the 'man' in front of him decided to take over his body.

Despite knowing that this was just a Raid, Zi Dan was unable to shake the feeling that it was as real as it could get. He could feel that if he did not fight against this monster properly, he might- Nay, he would definitely lose his sanity, soul and maybe will never be the same person again.

Consequently, in a dire attempt to survive, Zi Dan called forth whatever chi he had within him and tried to defy the stasis he was trapped in as much as possible.

"Ho? I did not know the surviving humans learnt some form of magic. This made your body even more desirable. Allow me, Dorian to take over the body and be the master of your craft and together we can defeat that wretched Daughter of the Winter Courts." Dorian unleashed his powers once more, and Zi Dan could clearly see a Valg-like phantom hiding behind his shadow.

"Damn, why am I the only one fighting a boss?" Zi Dan clenched his fist and gritted his teeth. His uncalled determination enabled his chi to overflow, breaking his usual limits.

Without a doubt, this ordeal had made Zi Dan increase half a grade to Grade 5 Peak. His body finally allowed him to break out of Dorian's mind chains and regain control of his own actions.

If it was a fight Zi Dan had to go through, at the very least, he figured to give his all.

Chapter 643 Salamander King Dorian

At first, Zi Dan had no idea what kind of monster Dorian was, but when he saw that Valg phantom controlling that body in the shadows, he could only deduce it was a Valg variant.

Although the phantom looked similar to the animal silhouettes they portrayed, Zi Dan had the feeling that it required magic to defeat it. But he figured Jin would not be heartless to demand magic users when they were not the norm in his shop yet. Maybe a burst of chi could defeat him if Zi Dan was able to immobilise the humanoid?

And what he deduced nearly hit the mark.

When the Salamander King Dorian was killed, his soul and parts of his bodies were used as sacrifice pieces for the ritual to call Maeve's beloved Valgs out from the otherworldly dimension.

Although the betrayal was expected, he did not anticipate it to be this soon. Maeve had promised Dorian that he was able to achieve powers that were beyond his limits. The problem was that Maeve did fulfil his wish even though she had twisted the words of their promise to the absolute limit.

With loose wordings from the contract, Dorian had become THE power that was beyond his limits. The Valg portal was made from the fabrics of his soul while his body parts were used as fuel to maintain the portal opening.

However, what Maeve did not know was that her magic was as distorted as her interpretation of the promises she keeps. One of Dorian's soul fragments 'coincidentally' assimilated into a Valg variant parasite, allowing Dorian to 'reincarnate' into a Valg, manifesting physically without Maeve learning of its existence. (In fact, Maeve never knew what kind of Valgs there were, she merely used them to her delight.)

Not to mention, the richness of magical energy from the gigantic surroundings allowed Dorian's Valg form to grow in strength. His anger and hatred harboured within his soul fragment became the very core of the physical shell's existence. It was also the cornerstone that allowed the surrounding energy to supplement and strengthen him, giving Dorian the form he has right now.

Ever since he was transformed into a Salamander to prevent the 'giantism' virus, he dreaded it on a regular basis and always hope to return back to the human form he once had. But time dimmed that desire until the day Dorian incidentally found with Maeve lurking in one of the corners of the castle.

Her boredom reignited Dorian's yearnings and his family eventually became her plaything. Killing the former Salamander King by slowly draining his life away, cultivating Dorian's appetite for the Animal People gave Maeve her daily craving of sadistic joy.

Unfortunately, the prince played along with her, and at some point, learnt to enjoy such cruel sadism. If his people ever looked back and discover his true nature, they would have said that Prince Dorian deserved to die the way those cultivators found him.

Nevertheless, the unexpected outcome allowed him to return and manifest as a humanoid, and to Dorian, it was more than enough he could get from the bargain with the Fey.

Upon breaking the mind chains, Zi Dan never experienced that very same technique ever again. Maybe the Valg Humanoid could only do it once, but in actual fact, Dorian merely wished to display his overpowering strength to test his abilities out.

Dishing out kinetic blasts at the whims of the former Salamander Prince... (or dead King), Zi Dan was barely able to dodge any of those if not for his cultivation. However, after experiencing a series of attacks, the Bullet Cheetah cultivator finally got a grasp of the blast's speed.

The young elder initially observed that the Valg Humanoid was similar to a psychic user, and his moves were mostly telekinetic energy based. So, it was basically the Bullet Cheetah's nemesis, especially when his enemy's attacks could be as fast as flicking a switch button. (Which wasn't the case in his world since he had fought along with Psychic users before.)

Yet, there might be a chance Zi Dan could catch him unguarded especially now that he had reached Grade 5 Peak.

But even with the improvement of his Grade, Zi Dan also knew that he was engaging in a losing fight and there was no way for him to escape unscathed. He knew that he only had one shot despite the increased chi pool and the Cheetah Cultivator had to time his attack to make the best out of it.

"Don't underestimate the Cheetah Style!" Zi Dan shouted as he unveiled five clearly defined silhouettes of Cheetahs roaring above him. In a split second, Dorian's eyes were unable to catch where Zi Dan was moving to.

Hence, the Valg Humanoid released a burst of kinetic energy around him, hoping to destroy or at least push his prey away from him. Upon injuring him in the process, Dorian would then take the opportunity to steal his enemy's physical body.

Despite his ability to manifest a physical shell, the Valg Humanoid knew that his form was incomplete. The body he created would not last long since it was burdening him with consistent consumption of magical energy. Though Dorian could absorb the energies from his surroundings, it was not efficient in a prolonged fight and might prove to be detrimental when fighting against Maeve.

That was also the very reason he hid himself to this very corner of the castle. He knew the Frog swordsman that crashed through his castle would return, and Dorian was betting that his comrades would search this room to escape from Maeve's overwhelming powers.

However, he did not expect humans to be accompanying him, and this brought his power hungry desires to another level.

With a human shell, Dorian would revert back as what he used to be, right before the terrible transmutation into a Salamander to prevent his head from being blown off by the Giantism Virus.

By being a Valg, Dorian was sure that he did not have to worry about the Giantism Virus (Especially when he's the origin of the said virus!). The former prince could then consume other Valgs or even the rest of the Frog's comrades and ultimately take his revenge against a possibly weakened Maeve from the Frog's return assault.

"Too bad for you. For once, I am faster than your mind tricks." Zi Dan said as he slipped past Dorian's attack. He finally found the right interval between the casting of his Kinetic Wave magic.

With his Bullet Cheetah Cultivation, Zi Dan travelled fast enough that he experienced something similar to a slip shot within the time space continuum. In short, his enhanced burst of speed allowed him to move in subatomic speed, making him seem to temporarily disappear from the world. Sadly, that trick could only be used once due to the limitations of his current cultivation grade, but it was a definite one hit kill technique.

...Or that was what Zi Dan thought when he smashed his ball chain mace with subatomic speeds against the Valg Humanoid.

Whoosh!

A pound of flesh flew out of Dorian's chest like a bullet.

Zi Dan did not stop there as he twirled and attempted to destroy his head as well. Regrettably, the concept of pain did not apply to Dorian now as he grabbed onto the ball chain mace with his bare hands and crashed it into dust with his magic.

Zi Dan's eyes went wide as he retreated to the back of the room while the Valg Humanoid raised his hand up to release a focused blast of kinetic energy towards him.

"Shit, I guess that's it for me, huh?" Zi Dan looked at his broken weapon while his fatigued body weighed him down. The feeling of hopelessness seeped in slowly into Zi Dan's mind as his strength wore out of his body.

"Your body is mine to take!" Dorian shouted in glee as he awaited Zi Dan's death to take possession of it.

Boom!

"Twin Shields of the Towering Tortoise!" A voice came from the back as a slab of metal smashed right in front of Zi Dan. When the metal perched into the ground, it expanded forward with a blowout of chi that acted as a defensive barrier against the kinetic shockwave.

Zi Dan then noticed a Cat Head Arrow flying towards Dorian as a follow up attack before it was dismantled into various pieces in midair. Yet, the parts were still able to detonate before it was disassembled entirely, causing a pause in Dorian's attacks.

"This is what you get for jumping the gun!" Xia Mao shouted as he panted with an empty crossbow in his hands. In the meantime, Kong Xian who sent his shield ahead of him, charged forward earnestly with his two handed sword, not knowing the dangers of the Sub Boss.

Chapter 644 Black Masked Cultivator

"If I waited for you, the monster could have already died from boredom by the time we reach here!" Even with the added reinforcements, Zi Dan exhibited his relief with a bit of sarcasm at Xiao Mao but also knew that they still did not have the capability to defeat Dorian.

Without a doubt, Kong Xian was blown back by Dorian's psychic attacks. If not for Zi Dan quick wits to throw the shield back at Kong Xian to defend himself, he would have been shredded to pieces by the blast.

Even Kong Xian who thought his new shield was sturdy enough, it was already severely dented by the recent kinetic energy blast from the Valg Humanoid. "Ahhh... That one cost about 200 over panda medals..." Kong Xian said to himself as he kept the shield and focused holding on his two handed sword.

Even though Zi Dan was relieved by the additional support, he could not fathom why Kong Xian who was supposed to be heading towards the opposite side of the throne hall, would be right beside him.

"Before I was about to make our move, one of those Black Masked cultivators held on to my shoulder and told us to move to your direction. they insisted that there was nothing significant at the side I was about to explore." Kong Xian replied as he observed the surroundings of the room. "But I think I should have ignored their advice and explore that area instead of being stuck here with a sub Boss. Heck, maybe this is the real boss!"

"Not possible, his latent aura is not as strong as the one we encountered in the throne hall. We might have a chance to defeat it." Xia Mao reloaded his Cat Head Arrows and pointed his crossbow at the sniggering Valg Humanoid.

"Hahaha! I think that chance just went out of the window when you stepped into this room." Zi Dan shook his head with a short sigh.

"So there are more of these competent humans with magic, huh? Maybe I will consume all of you and get my revenge against -" A rock was thrown at tremendous speed, hitting right smack onto Dorian's forehead.

"Thank you for finding this... monster. Now step aside, I will finish this." The Black Masked Cultivator said as he picked up a piece of broken tile on the ground, courtesy of Dorian's persistent attacks. He then casually flung it right straight at the Valg Humanoid's leg, causing him to fall to the ground. Even though Dorian had no concept of pain, the physical body still reacted to the damage he received when the tile destroyed the knee joints.

"I shall not suffer such insolence!!!" Even with his brains splattered all over the place from the rock attack, Dorian's mouth was still blabbering nonsense nonstop.

"Heh! And take all the raid points by yourself? You do not have to be all that high and mighty, you know!" Kong Xian said as he attempted to rush strike the Valg Humanoid, but this time around, a stronger kinetic shockwave sent everyone flying to the corners of the room ...Except for the Black Masked cultivator.

"Like I said, you guys can stay back." Even though his full mask blocked his facial expression, it was clear that the Black Mask cultivator was smirking behind it. Dorian was not exactly happy that his kinetic shockwave had no effects against the person who did the most amount of hurt to him.

Even as he began regenerating, Dorian was cautious for another attack and prepared to dodge or counterattack whenever necessary. Yet the Black Masked cultivator took another rock and crushed it into smaller pieces with his bare hand before throwing towards Dorian.

The Valg Humanoid thought that those smashed up rock pieces would be a threat and decided to release another wave of kinetic blasts to prevent them from hitting him.

The stronger shockwave rendered the three other cultivators to be paralysed once again from the backlash, and it was a miracle they could still hold on to their lives.

To Dorian's surprise, the small rock projectiles disintegrated and cease to exist. But his focus on those rock pieces made the Valg Humanoid to temporarily take his eyes off his primary target.

That split second was sufficient for the Black Masked cultivator to zoom past the shockwave without much effort and proceeded to serve Dorian an uppercut to his chin.

Dorian's neck splintered off from his main body, and his brain mass was scattered all around the Black Masked cultivator. Without hesitation, the latter continued by grabbing the torso and smashed it to the ground with a fraction of his might, causing the body to split its parts into various directions with just one hit.

At the same time when the body was smashed into bits, a haunting, agonising shout echoed throughout the entire room. It was none other than the true form of Dorian as he lost his physical body. Still, that was merely a way for the sentient Valg to materialise. Given enough magical energy, it could regenerate the body once more. For now, it tried to escape the room via its spiritual form.

In his mind, Dorian vowed to return and hunt this Black Masked human down and skin his insides out like how Maeve did to him when he was still barely conscious.

Sadly, his dream of revenge would be for nought as the Black Masked cultivator was not done. From beneath his shirt, he took out an inverted black cross with thorns spiralling down the symbol and raised it up towards the floating spiritual form.

A short flickering of dark toned light emerged from the inverted cross upon detecting a dense amount of magical energy in the room. The thing was, the cross would not react to any sort of magical power but only to the magic of Feys.

The Black Masked Cultivator could have used it directly when fighting against Maeve, but the Daughter of the Winter Court would have noticed it and directly aimed for him to destroy the cross. Thus, this was the best place to get a hold of the Fey's magic.

Without any chants accompanied to the reveal of the inverted cross, the air within the room turned oppressive, and the haunting echoes suddenly turned into cries of pleas. For some reason, the cultivators observed the spiritual Valg form being forcibly absorbed into the inverted cross.

Even though Dorian had no way to escape it, he still tried to curse the Black Masked cultivator for his actions until the room was utterly silent. "Heh, for a useless otherworldly spirit, he sure made a lot of noise." The masked cultivator said before he inspected the inverted cross.

It was now brimming with the hatred from Dorian, and the Black Masked Cultivator could feel the cross's magic to be pulsating at the same rate of his heart. "Now we have a working Item of Power. Looks like the Feys from our world are interconnected to this world as well. Hmph, makes the job all the more easier. Would be better if Narris and Tinda found Maeve's Item of Power."

The other three cultivators managed to regain their footing and wanted to know what was happening. Yet, the Black Masked cultivator made no noise and disappeared from their sight as if he never existed before.

"Do you wish to wait here until the end of the raid?" Zi Dan's legs gave way immediately when he noticed that the coast was clear.

"You freeloader...count me in." Xia Mao whispered as he dragged himself towards Zi Dan and sat beside him. In no time, the two took out cans of beer and started to drink among themselves. Kong Xian could not believe that the elderly cultivators were acting this way.

"Wanna join?" Zi Dan offered a can towards Kong Xian even though the latter was displaying disdain. Yet, that disdain gradually turned into acceptance, and the Towering Tortoise cultivator willingly sat down beside them for a drink.

Besides, with that group of absurdly strong Black Masked cultivators tagging along with Xiong Da and Bu Dong? They probably can clear the raid boss in no time. Kong Xian believed there was no harm for them to rest for now and recuperate before coming to aid them at the very last minute. (If there was ever a need for that!)

With Kong Xian taking out a few snacks from his storage ring, the three laughed and recollected the recent boss fight as they forged a new friendship amidst that few cans of beer.

There was nothing more pleasing than finding new comrades in a perilous dungeon setting.

Chapter 645 Operation Mass Migration - Part 1

"My birds have already covered most of the ruined kingdom and are in position. We are ready, Master." Que Er reported through the System Channel as she sat down on Mr Derpy's head and rubbed the smooth scales.

"Peppers is still bitter about wearing my experimental vest, but we are ready too," Ayse replied the moment Qu Er gave her signal. Her mobile equipment was functioning well, and her Orcs had also brought extra electrical generators as back up. The readings from Peppers were stable, and the discrepancies were within limits. Thus, Ayse gave Peppers the heads up to prepare her Legendary Grade Scan spell after her report to Jin.

"The Raid is proceeding smoothly, my men are distracting her as we speak." The Elder of the Dark Elves, Drex was overseeing the Raid Instance portion since Jin had his hands busy with the rescue operation. "We have also managed to revive an Item of Power which could potentially be useful against the Fey Maeve."

"So, your relic still works?" Jin questioned Drex, and all he could give was a slight shrug. Drex had previously told Jin about how they might have a way to defeat the Feys, and this Dark Elf Relic from their village was supposed to be that game changer. However, because this relic was from his ancestor's era, they did not know how effective it would be against this particular Fey.

But since the inverted black cross relic could be charged up, the Dark Elves felt it should work to a certain degree. If anything, it should distract her long enough for the rescue operation to commence with ease.

Else, the only way to defeat it would be through overwhelming power against Maeve. Yet, Jin emphasised repeatedly that their objective was to rescue the animal people from the Giant World. Defeating Maeve was optional though he confessed, it would be beneficial for him and the System if the cultivators and the dark elves were able to do it.

"Hamatarou, you ready? Everything else is going smoothly." Jin asked through the System Channel, and the Druid Sage was happily holding his wand in his mouth as he climbed up to the highest point of his tree hideout.

"I --hmmm I am shooting the flare in 3 minutes!" With the all important wand was in his mouth, Hamatarou made sure that it doesn't drop off when he was speaking through the System Channel. (Maybe no one told him that he could use his mind thoughts to do it.)

Jin acknowledged Hamatarou as he turned his back to check on Lynn's ninja penguins. Kido, who would be leading the ninja penguins, was making sure they had sufficient equipment for the subsequent fight as well as signal beacons to alert Peppers for the bombardment if needed.

Kido and the penguins knew the danger those Giant Monsters could pose and would make every effort to ensure that they were well equipped for most unexpected situations.

And because Jin was also afraid that monsters such as the Colossal Father Porkcupine could appear when the flare strikes, he had painstakingly assembled Goblins, Orcs, Werejackals and even diverted the Mousefolks to be on standby. With each of them being led by a prominent monster leader figure such as Gold, Nubwort and the Goblin Trios, he was not about to delegate what they were supposed to do in the battlefield.

That much he had learnt to trust his minions in battle since they were more than capable of doing that. While he could have asked Qiu Yue and Moloch to assist with the operation, Jin wanted them to focus

solely on the completion of the Dungeon City Fortress since the deadline for the closure of the Dungeon Core's Barrier were only a few days after New Year.

With everything in place, all Jin had to worry was that the discovery of those migrating groups could successfully reach to the open surface for him to rescue them. He initially thought of sending the penguin ninjas straight to the village the moment Peppers scanned the area, but he felt that would incur unwarranted panic among the Animal People. That would waste more time than an already organised group leaving the village.

Also, He initially wanted to insert the Penguin Ninjas at close proximity to the villages to make sure they attract the Giant Monsters, but Kido advised against that since a protracted battle would not be beneficial for both the ninja teams as well as protecting the escapees.

That was where Que Er's birds would come into play. Acting as a scout as well as a mobile explosive unit would provide sufficient distraction to those Giant Monsters.

"Flare's ready!" Hamatarou was panting a little as he held on to the wand. To say that he was prepared for this day was an overstatement. There was no way he could have predicted the migration and rescue of the common people would turn this way.

Hamatarou did not have to do this, but through the years, something within him had always spurred him to save the common folk. He would never know that it was his duty ...his fate as the prince of this ruined kingdom to save his countrymen.

"Alright, Peppers hit it. Get the first preliminary scan up so we can see if there are densely populated groups in the area before the flare goes up. The System will need some time to analyse your scan and prepare the coordinates to teleport our rescue groups to aid in their escape." Jin said through the System Channel, allowing for every monster on standby to hear it loud and clear.

"Hamatarou also said that the mass movement of the animal people somehow would trigger the Giant Monsters to prey on them, so everyone time is of an essence. The lives of our new allies depend on all of you. Do a good job, and you all be generously rewarded." The monsters gave a resounding affirmation through the System Channel after Jin's short prep talk, and he wished everyone a speedy and successful operation.

The Mage bellator took a deep breath in before giving her staff a twirl to start the activation of her spells. As Peppers raised her weapon up high, a gleaming ray of rainbow light shone upon the floating platform.

"Operation Mass Migration commence now!" Jin shouted, and Peppers released the spell into the sky.

Chapter 646 Experimental Ves

Peppers' Legendary Scan Spell went through, permeating the sky with her magic and provided the System with a detailed breakdown of the place. The castle was nonetheless the most populated area with a mix of Valgs and Cultivators in it.

Other than that, the System was able to identify various pockets of activity within the city's underground. It predicted that those were the Animal People which they were hoping to rescue. Thus, the System had already started searching for viable coordinates to teleport the insertion teams.

And because of this particular operation, the System had also diverted processing power away of its other menial processes to analyse the possible routes the monsters could take so it could allocate the soldiers needed for each insertion team.

Peppers' Scan Spell was without a doubt worthy of being called Legendary Grade. Should she ever be deployed into a war zone, it was clearly similar to a cheat spell for revealing the fog of war on the battlefield. There was nothing that could be hidden from her scan but only an entity like the System was able to analyse the copious amount of data.

Such a high levelled spell would have already taken a toll on her body given the scale of the scan, but Ayse had already begun activating her machine. Her experimental vest had successfully counteracted the after effects Peppers was experiencing.

What Peppers previously lack was the sufficient mechanisms to handle the overloading of Mana as it gushed into her. Peppers' body was acting like a gate against an immeasurable amount of Mana flowing into her from the Universal Pool of Mana. If she was using only a spell or two, the body did not need to tap much from the pool, and it absorbs the Mana like a sponge.

But the problem comes when she used a large amount of Mana. When her spell completely drains the body's Mana circuits, Peppers would require immediate replenishment to keep herself sane. That was where the body would openly entirely, and the overflowing rush of Mana from the universe pool would gush in to fill this empty container. (Mages in Jin's world works differently, but the discrepancies were insignificant. They had a Mana Core that tapped into the pool, unlike the Dantian Core which generates chi from within.)

That was also where the pain and hurt come in for Peppers since the body could not close the tap to the Universal Pool due to her pact with the System. Her wish for unlimited Mana had inadvertently caused her body to be overflowing with it, damaging her circuits and thus the after effects such as vomiting and lost consciousness.

In previous fights, all Peppers did was to leave the tap open and let the Mana flow for the battle while Milk tried to repair the strains. But with Ayse's new vest, things changed drastically.

Her machines acted like an extended container for Peppers, allowing overflowing Mana to flow out of her body instead of being restrained solely within her body. The experimental vest assisted diverted the excess Mana via multi layered tubes and later into the machines for processing. Ayse was also not dumb to let such precious Mana dissipate into the atmosphere.

The machines condensed the Mana and inserted them into diamond crystals since they were the best containers of Mana. With those charged crystals, Jin could sell them for extra cash since such prisms held a lot of value in his world.

Apparently, it was rumoured in Jin's world that such crystals had the ability to aid a mage into the next magic grade quickly due to the high condensed level of Mana within and there was little to no consequences using it compared to other methods.

High level mages tried to produce such crystals, and sadly few succeeded. Thus, the demand for such a limited quantity of these high quality crystals skyrocketed through the roof. Many mages who were able to obtain them were usually among the wealthy of the wealthy. These mages also preferred to use these crystals to push their grades up since the modern world had more or less reduced the places with natural occurring Mana near to zero due to globalisation.

In the next few minutes, Peppers was surprised that pain was lesser than anticipated, and when she turned to glance at Ayse, the Orc Research already had a smug look on her face.

"See? What did I tell you? Told you things will work out if you follow my advice. Oh, and you should feel even lesser pain for the next legendary spell casting since the machines were previously warming up."

"Does that mean I can —"

"No! No spamming of spells! My machines are still delicate! Just out of the prototype phase! Don't you dare break it now!" Ayse interrupted Peppers' line of thought.

"Awww, no fun." Peppers frown for a moment before genuinely smiling back at Ayse. For the first time, the Mage Bellator did not have to worry about the backlash of her overflowing Mana. "At least, I can tell Big Sis Milk that you are better than her! Hehehe!"

"Please, No! Don't! The last time you complimented me, I found her drunk and had the urge of punching my other devices and messed up all the research paper! Just keep this to yourself." Ayse shook her head when she recalled Milk coming in complaining that she was not good enough for Peppers anymore.

Clearly, Ayse did all this was to comply with Jin's orders as well as satisfying her ability to solve 'impossible' problems.

Soon after, they saw a bright green flare flying upwards in the distance, and they guessed Jin ordered Hamatarou to officially start the operation. Similar to Peppers' Scan Magic, the beacon of light lit up the sky and split out like a huge firework. But the scattering of the firework was non random as those projectiles flew with purpose into the various parts of the ruined kingdom.

At the very same time, a series of monster cries were heard in the background. The flare had not only signalled the mass migration but also awakened the monsters in the vicinity as well.

"That is why I did not want to send the flares up!" Hamatarou said to himself as he could hear anguished cries of the Giant Monsters.

This was mainly due to the fact that the flare was induced with a Call of the Wild spell, inciting the Animal People's will to move for the mass migration. Hamatarou knew that those Animal People would be too comfortable living in their shitty hole for the rest of their lives because that was how they were trained to be.

Stay somewhere safe, hunt when needed and try to survive the harsh environment.

Those who wished to seek further out of the ruined kingdom were at best a handful. But because they now were partially animals, the Animal People could not ignore the call by a Druid. However, that also meant that the spell incited and disrupted the basic habits of Giant Monsters, causing them to seek the Druid's call.

So right now, all Hamatarou could hope was that the rescue operation by Jin would be successful.

Chapter 647 Operation Mass Migration - Part 2

"Chief! Chief! The Totem is reacting! It is true, they are performing the operation right now!" Colwaski came running into the Chieftain's Skitter's room. The Chieftain nodded his head in solemn, and they departed immediately from the hut. They previously had word from Kido that Jin was going to evict all of the animal people, including the remaining of their tribe.

However, since the dungeon supplier and the rest were busy preparing, Kido could only forewarn his tribe and get the penguins to pack up early. Unlike the rest of the animal people, the Penguin Tribe had more than ample time to evict before the commencement of Operation Mass Migration.

A portal subsequently appeared in the middle of their village, and a few armed Penguins Ninjas came out of it. Chieftain Skitter was already at the centre with the rest of the tribe folks all ready to depart. The Ninjas only were there to ensure the escape was in an orderly fashion.

Unlike the other Animal tribes, who were sceptical of the commands from the Totem, the Penguin Tribe did not have to go to the surface to teleport since they already knew who Jin was. Besides, it was more convenient for them to have the portal at the centre of their village, allowing them to move more things given the limited time frame.

"Is Kido out there already?" Skitter asked, and the Penguin Ninjas nodded their heads in unison.

"I see. Then I hope the rumours of your master being an all powerful being is true. It will be a shame to lose Kido." Skitter replied with a worried expression.

"Heh! You underestimate our fellow penguins. They will be fine." Chieftain Skitter said as he beckoned his people to enter the portal would eventually lead them to the new island instance.

As it was placed near the beachhead of the island, everyone who entered it was surprised by the vast ocean in front of them. Colwaski, who was the first few to arrive, had his jaws dropped when he saw the mesmerising beauty right in front of them.

"C'mon guys! Tell the ones in front to move forward! Or else those people at the back could enter!" Skitter shouted, not knowing what was beyond the portal in the Giant World.

"...And here I thought, it was one shit hole to another. If this is truly where we are living, I would not mind working hard for this Jin." Colwaski whispered to himself when he thought of the times he had to struggle to survive back in the Giant World.

"User, according to the latest scan, some of the groups had already begun moving to the surface. However, there were a few tribes that remained as they were. No panicked movements nor an up spike in activity. They remained unfazed by the message sent out by Druid Hamatarou." The System reported the latest developments out loud to the people in the Dungeon Maker.

"Let's be realistic. We already did our part. Hamatarou did mention that some might not have the Totem with them while others simply refuse to move out." Jin said as he looked at the predicted movement of the Giant Monsters too. "There is only so much we can do. We cannot save them all."

Once the System had already optimised and predicted the routes of the escaping Animal People, Jin gave out another order. "Send teams Charlie and Delta to these coordinates to divert the Giant Monsters away. Prepare Team Alpha and Beta for the extradition of the Animal People, teleport Hamatarou to those teams the moment they make contact with the Animal People. We have to show that we are friendly and prove our credibility."

In less than fifteen minutes, Team Alpha was teleported to the location which Jin had specified, and Ninja Penguin Kido discerned that they had arrived at the Church where their tribe hid in. He speculated that it was possibly the other side of the Church since he cannot recall seeing any of the giant stained glass right above him even though the infrastructure were identical.

"Can you imagine? A tribe that stayed near us all this time and we did not know of its existence! Man, if we had found each other and cooperated, things might turn out differently." One of the Ninja Penguins whispered.

"You are too optimistic. What if the tribe are like the Salamanders? Eating Animal People to survive? We all know how hard it is to kill a Giant and the amount of sacrifice needed." Another Ninja Penguin reasoned.

"Zip it. Eyes front." Kido's orders were sharp, and the other ninjas obeyed immediately as they ready themselves for any possible danger. Without a doubt, they sensed movement south of them, and the footsteps seemed to be hasty.

The penguins perceived that the cracked crevice right ahead of them was where the footsteps were coming from. Thus, Kido performed several hand signals to coordinate an ambush attack in case the Animal People was aggressive.

Soon, a figure appeared out from the hole with bated breath, and upon seeing Kido's stance, it panicked for a moment before brandishing his axe out.

"A Croc?" One of the Penguin Ninjas asked and Kido shrugged his shoulders before shouting out loud to state his intentions.

"We are armed, but we are friendlies who can assist you on behalf of Hamatarou, the Druid who sent you the message via his Totems," Kido exclaimed loud and clear. He could later discern the Croc right in front of him had dropped his battle stance when he lowered his axe, looking more relief than ever.

"Forward Scout?" Kido confirmed his suspicion when the Croc nodded his head in reply.

"How far behind is your tribe?"

"I am sorry, but I cannot divulge that information out. I still cannot determine whether you can be trusted despite your declaration." The Croc shouted back.

"Then you can at least trust me." Hamatarou teleported in time right beside Kido which scared the Croc a little. "Show your leader this, and he will know that I am speaking the truth. And hurry! We do not

want to stay here long enough to be the Giants' dinner." Hamatarou threw one of his similar totems at the Croc.

Not to his surprise, the Croc's short arms proved to be quite disadvantages to catch something this small. He only picked it up when it fell on top of his mouth. "Listen to these penguins, they would bring you to Paradise," Hamatarou shouted again before he patted at Kido's shoulders and disappeared to aid another team.

Suddenly, the Penguin Ninjas sensed another series of erratic movement and this time around, they were sure it belonged to Giants instead of another tribe or scout. The Croc felt the same thing and his legs trembled, those footsteps were not the same as the usual prey he and his fellow hunters fought against.

It was something different. Bigger.

"You heard the big hamster! Hasten the march of your tribes, mate." One of the Penguin Ninja shouted.

"Wait! Toto! Follow that Croc and call Jin via the System Channel to open a portal below. If the scout made it up here, it means the route should be safe." Kido commanded, and Toto complied without hesitation. Although he knew that there would be one less man against the monstrosity that was coming, he knew his comrades were able to handle it.

"Godspeed! Save me some fun as well!" Toto shouted as he took off with the Croc scout.

"Heh! I do not want the fun to come to you. Master Jin will kill me." Kido chuckled as he unwrapped a giant scroll right in front of him and started chanting.

Chapter 648 All I Need Is A Rock

"Hahahaha! You call this a fight?" Maeve said as she watched the bunch of sorry mess right in front of her, trying their best to defeat her loyal Valgs. They were making no progress against Maeve as she continued calling out countless otherworldly monsters. (Why fight when she could let her minions do all the work for her?)

The cultivators initially thought of clearing the room before they fight on a 'many to one' basis. But it seemed like there was no end to her minions! What's more, every cultivator in the room thought that the Victorian dressed lady had a limited in her summons, but it seemed like the Raid Instance was not designed to be as such.

The only turnaround that happened was that Jing Yu and fresh cultivators was steadfast in their rear defence against the Valgs which spawned outside the throne hall or else it would be within the nightmare for the cultivators within the room.

With time, Jin's shop was getting filled with more people coming in response for the Emergency Raid Instance. Thus, it lessened the burden Jing Yu and the rest of the rear support drastically.

The Black Masked Cultivators were, however biding time until their Elder gave them permission to engage the main boss. While waiting, they diverted their boredom by bringing newly spawned Valgs to their knees so that the cultivators had an easier time to kill them.

Yet, the Daughter of Winter Court was not idling at the shitshow happening under her feet. She was monitoring who was potentially the most dangerous and might be the real game changer.

Obviously, she singled out the ones with Black Masks.

There were not many of them (In fact, only two among them), but from her observation, they utilised pure brute strength as compared to the rest of the group who wielded strange abilities that could bolster their strength or summon elemental magic to complement their techniques. Regardless of their flashy attacks, Maeve was not afraid of them as opposed to the two Black Masks.

"Hmmm, but if they relied only on brute force, I shouldn't have anything to worry about." Maeve scoffed at the situation as she slouched on her throne and yawned. Maybe, it was time to wrap this up as she started to feel something was happening outside the castle. She sensed a ripple of high level magic passing through the castle a few moments ago, and she was curious about it.

Out of the blue, a projectile headed towards her from the side. Without the need to look, she stopped it with her powers and brought it to her face to inspect. Her barrier was able to block all manner of projectiles and even the smashes from Xiong Da's club. But this projectile....this particular piece of rock which had no magical energy attached to it managed to penetrate her almighty barrier with ease.

The only way to stop it was to concentrate her magical powers to prevent it from contacting her.

"Hah!? A rock? You people must really underestimate me to throw a mere stone at me!" Maeve lied as she glanced at the side. It was none other than a member of that Black Masked Cultivators. The third one and possibly the final one who left the throne hall earlier.

This rock throw further solidified her theory that they only had brute strength and nothing else. Yet, it did place her into high alert when she found out it could penetrate her barrier.

"You animals should know your place," Maeve said as her eyes royal purple shone as she placed kinetic pressure in the area, forcing him to kneel to his knees. However, for some reason, there was no reaction from him except his surroundings. The tiles were broken, and the walls cracked from the intense pressure. Some of the cultivators who were caught within the pressurised area died instantaneously.

"Heh, you are not worthy of our weapons. Rocks are more than enough." The Black Masked Cultivator said while the rest of the Drows chuckled behind their masks.

Maeve became speechless. It had been a long time since someone dared to insult her upfront. No one had ever treated her with this much of disrespect.

Hence, the Evil Kinkstress summoned a high grade Valg right in front of the Black Masked Cultivator as a part of her retaliation to the remarks. However, the moment it arrived into this particular plane of existence, the Black Masked Cultivator jumped right to its face and used a rock to smash its face before it could react at all.

Brutal savagery with just a rock nearly caused a pause in the battlefield as both Valgs and Cultivators could not believe how a giant sized Valg, equivalent to the one which the Elder Cultivators fought, was brought to its knees by it.

Even when the Valg tried to counterattack, his opponent simply smashed it out of its existence. What's more surprising was the rock's durability. Being able to withstand the impact of each and every hit. It was as if the user was more than just a mere specialist in rock smashing.

He was a master at it.

"See? What did I say? All I need is a rock." The Black Masked Cultivator shrugged his shoulder in defiance as the Giant Valg lay on the ground motionless. At that instant, every Valg in the throne hall turned their heads to target the Black Masked Cultivators in the vicinity.

"Do not stop your attacks!" Xiong Da shouted as he smashed the vulnerable Valg down and so did the rest. However, those who were still able to run, the monsters simply followed their mistress's orders and headed for the Black Masked Cultivators.

Immediately, the three Black Masked Cultivators with the aid of the cultivators crushed each and every Valgs without mercy. "Thanks, Narris. Tinda." The Black Masked Cultivator whispered via the System Channel as the two nodded their heads in unison.

Maeve was ticked off. Pissed Off.

She decided this group of playthings was not worth her time anymore, so she stopped summoning the Valgs, giving brief spite of relief to the cultivators. Still sitting on her high throne, Maeve instead conjured a sphere of darkness through her fingertips.

"A Black Hole?" Xiong Da asked as he could feel his body being dragged towards the sphere and Bu Dong shuddered as he tried to balance himself.

All he knew was that the cultivators were no match to Maeve except for those Black Masked Cultivators. He believed they were a bunch of high grade cultivators who could have possibly kept their identities hidden via the black masks to clear the raids.

"Not good," Tinda said as she picked a broken tile on the ground and threw it towards Maeve. The Evil Kinktress sniggered at the pitiful attempt and sent the black hole towards the cultivators instead of them.

"I will make you suffer by removing your comrades away," Maeve shouted as the sphere of darkness flung towards the centre of the throne room, and it started to suck in each and every cultivator within the room. The pulling force was so great that even floor and ceiling of the throne room were eaten up by the black hole. (Not to mention the Pandawans,)

"Awww damn." Xiong Da eventually found himself in a bed staring at the ceiling within the Luxury Recovery instance alongside Bu Dong and Jing Yu.

Thankfully, they were teleported before they were sucked into the black hole by the System. (As stingy as ever, the System scrimped every possible resource whenever possible) Also, because of the magical disparity coming from the Black Hole, Maeve did not notice a third party magical source moving the cultivators away from the scene. She assumed all were devoured within the Black Hole. (Besides, her focus and annoyance with the Black Masked Cultivators made her miss it.)

"Looks like this raid is just way too hard. Maybe we are not supposed to win against the main boss?" Bu Dong said as he laid on the bed and checked how much points he received.

"Ah! I enjoyed the raid, while it lasted. Speaking of which, did that frog disappear as well? I mean since he is the few main objectives of the raid, right?" Jing Yu asked, and the other two shook their head.

"The place was way too chaotic to take care of that crazy frog." Xiong Da said as he began turning on Pandaflix, monitoring the stream for Emergency Raid Instance. However, he could not find any video stream near the main boss, except for the fresh wave of rear support who happened to be running away from the black hole attack.

Xiong Da tried to connect to see what the Black Masked Cultivators were doing, but there was no such option in the Pandaflix stream at all. "Weird. Is this stream broken or something? I can't seem to tune to the Black Masked Cultivators."

"Ah! Unless they are NPCs! Part of the story. Maybe that is why the frog suddenly disappeared." Bu Dong suggested, and one of the Panda Nurses laughed.

"They are ...friends of Jin and wished to stay anonymous for this raid. That is why their streams are not up." The Panda Nurse replied and somehow the Pandawans sighed.

"Maybe that's why we are eliminated. In that raid, the algorithm of the dimensional instance probably compensated for their presence, so the raid boss was wayyyy harder. Maybe we can try the next one, it should be less painful that way." Bu Dong theorised and the other two seemed to accept that.

To them, they were convinced that there were really people out there so strong, it skewed the raid boss rating out of the Pandwan's league.

Or so they thought.

Chapter 649 The Winter Court Queen

With the hole left at the centre of the Throne Hall, Maeve had a gloating expression on her look towards the Black Masked Cultivators.

"Reregot, the faerie thinks that we might be disappointed with the loss of our 'comrades'. She thinks that will reduce our fighting capabilities." Tinda chuckled behind the mask. "In fact, she is making it easier for us to move around without too much worry!"

"I do agree. Let's clear this fast and aid Master Jin in the rescue of the Animal People." Reregot took out the inverted black cross beneath his shirt and revealed it to the Daughter of Winter Courts. The moment Maeve saw the cross, she was mildly disturbed by it.

"...Where did you find a fairy stone?!" She shouted and sent a projectile of dark energy towards the Dark Elves who were still under the cover of their Black Masks. Narris and Tinda evaded the attack instinctively except for Reregot who stood there with the cross.

As expected, the cross was able to defend him from the dark energy projectile. When Reregot thought that it nullified the attack, it was actually dissipated as particles to be absorbed into the Dark Elven relic. Maeve suddenly lost her composure and could not believe it. The inverted cross which the Black Masked Cultivator held was no ordinary fairy stone.

Like every other equipment in Jin's store, there was a varying quality of the fairy stones too. For the stone to absorb Maeve's magic this easily meant that the stone came from entities like her mother, who were tiers higher than her in terms of power.

She vaguely remembered that there was a period where her elders like her mother gave such fairy stones to the humans for fun, just to experiment with the humans.

But that was a very long time ago, so she could not fathom why these short lived humans were able to obtain these fairy stones or even had knowledge about such relics? (Needless to say, she was pinning on the assumption that humans are ignorant beings.)

Still, Maeve believed that it was a fluke and even thought that these humans did not turn to Giants or Monsters because of the protection by the fairy stone. Still, she never saw such intricate design like the inverted cross before. And to add on, Maeve noticed that the Black Masked Cultivator was also bleeding from holding onto the fairy stone.

The Evil Kinkstress had no doubt that there would be side effects for humans to use these fairy stones without magical powers. "Heh, as expected, he would not be able to last long holding that fairy stone, but I guess I better not fool around too," Maeve said to herself as she decided to move out of her chair and released the very same black hole technique towards Reregot.

Except, this time it was much bigger. But what Maeve saw next, made her mouth dropped in horror.

A silhouette of her aunt, Queen Titania of the Summer Courts emerged from the cross and halted the black hole before the magic could be fully executed.

However, it was not the usual bright, cheerful figure that she always portrayed. Instead, it was filled with dark, ominous energy around her that created such a daunting picture of Queen Titania which Maeve never imagined that it could be possible in her entire life. Her clothes, her mannerism and even her hairdo were different from what she last remembered of her.

The Black Hole magic was subsequently assimilated into the silhouette, and the silhouette of Dark Queen Titania unleashed the very same magic spell back at the Evil Kinkstress. This time, the Black Hole was more sinister than the colour black, putting the definition of the abyss into shame.

Maeve still shocked by the sudden change of events was standing at her throne like a fool. She could sense that there were no magic spells in her repertoire that was able to block, negate or deflect it. And no matter how she runs, Maeve could most definitely be not able to escape from that spell.

The Daughter of Winter Courts even believed that those Black Masked Cultivators were prepared to die with her considering the crazy stunt they pulled off.

"That is why you still have more to learn." A calm breezing wave of cold rushed into the room.

In an instant, the enhanced Black Hole Magic was subdued with a spell of spatial disintegration. A lady was standing at the side throne hall, with her arms crossed, looking at the Black Masked Cultivators.

"I do not know how you have gotten my sister's Fairy Stone, but I assure you that the amount of output to kill my daughter? It would nearly render the stone almost useless right now, and my magic would not be easily absorbed by that stone...though I would say, it's not impossible. Just not long enough for you

to throw something like that to me." The Lady spoke with grace as she protected Maeve by standing right in front of her.

Proudly wearing a translucent dress, showing her flawless white skin and toned body, the Queen of Winter Courts, Mab was not one to abandon her child in her time of need.

"Don't you think your child had played enough? The mess she did is irreversible." Reregot questioned as he slowly put the Inverted Cross relic back beneath his shirt.

"What gives you the right to lecture me? It's not your child nor your business... Outsiders." Mab hissed back.

"But as a benevolent Queen, I will give you the chance to walk away freely for one condition. Kill yourselves for me." Mab said as if they had no way to escape her request.

"You puny humans should take it! Before she invokes a contract clause on you guys! Then you all will suffer a living hell like never before! Your souls would not know what peace is!" Maeve barked right behind her mother.

As usual, the Feys had to demonstrate their overwhelming powers to prove that they were right by freezing the entire throne hall into ice except for the areas where the Black Masked Cultivators were standing.

After which, Queen Mab lowered the temperature of the throne room to the point where the Dark Elves were experiencing symptoms of hypothermia in less than a minute.

The Dark Elves knew killing themselves was not an issue since they could resurrect again as long as they were under Jin, but to die because the enemy demanded it? It was more of a pride issue. Not to mention, they were still buying more time for the Rescue Operation.

However, they knew that the Queen of Winter Courts was not deaf to not know about what was going on outside the castle, but she rather preferred to protect her child from the direct threat than to meddle with Jin's operation right now. Hence, all they needed was more time to let the rest of the minions continue their rescue efforts without the interference of the Winter Court Feys.

"Ha! Asking them to kill themselves is like telling your kid to stop playing with dead bodies." A low growling voice was heard from behind Reregot.

The Dark Elves turned around to see an Orc revealing his face from his hooded cloak. "Aye, Boss knew that her mother will be coming, so he asked me to come and assist. And I guess, this is indeed a good time to stretch my powers a little. All those governing nearly bored me to death."

"You sure? Fire beats ice, you know?" Flame Ripper accompanied the Orc King Frost Echo by his side while the Orc asked if he could hold the cloak for him.

"Don't you know? Ice is a form of water? You probably die immediately from the drowning! Besides, didn't Boss ask you to aid the penguins?" Frost Echo said as he tightened his armour. If it was regular armour, he probably would have discarded it by now.

But they were armour bestowed by Shiva, The Shaitan of Primitive Ice, the Goblin World's Herald of Winter. Frost Echo figured his bestowed armour could aid him to withstand a bit of the cold. If not, he probably complaining to his god that it was useless junk.

"He told me I am the backup unit for this in case you did not appear." Flame Ripper folded the large cloak and hung it over his shoulders.

"Heh! If I did not appear, I think the System gonna eat me up alive. If not that, Mistress Qiu Yue will!" The Orc King said as he cracked his knuckles and walked on the ice with poise.

The Dark Elves did learn the existence of every minion in Jin's consortium of freaks, and they happily jumped back to where Flame Ripper was.

They knew it was a show they would not want to miss.

Chapter 650 Ice Against Ice

"Who do you think you are? You think your powers ever exceed my mother? You yellow freak!" Maeve did not know what kind of monstrosity that human had become to have such an ugly face and body structure. Or maybe it was one of those Animal People that she never saw before.

"I know your species...you are an Orc, aren't you?" Queen Mab squinted her eyes though she could not believe that an Orc had survived in this world for generations. "But you are more civilised than the ones I last remembered. Although I was very sure the humans had annihilated all of you and the ...goblin race from existence."

"Aren't you happy that the eyesores had come back to haunt you?" Frost Echo inferred that the Feys were probably the ones who incited the humans to kill the Orcs and Goblins judging from Maeve's behaviour.

Maybe it happened in their world too since the Dark Elves said they had encountered similar Feys before.

"Not particularly. Usually, Orcs and Goblins are beneath me and powerless compared to what I possess. But out of amusement, I am going to erase you permanently out of this world. You should be glad you get to taste my powers firsthand." Mab clenched her right fist and loosen it, creating a ball of ice in front of her.

She then used her magic to flatten it into a sheet and subsequently rubbed the ball of ice until it looked like an icicle spear. With a flick of her finger, the icicle flew towards Frost Echo but the armour he wore, dissipated the icicle into dust.

"Damn, looks like I am not as fit as I was." Frost Echo said to himself when his intention was to dodge it at first. But even if he did avoid it, Queen Mab's icicle spear was something similar to a tracking missile. It would not stop until it hits the target.

"Probably eat less of those Royal dishes with those buffalo meat. Might also help to change your diet! And more exercise!" Flame Ripper blurted out, and the Black Masked Cultivators who were leaning at the door chuckled softly behind their masks.

"Yeah yeah, I will tell Cross to watch for my diet and exercise." Frost Echo waved his hand in a manner to shoo them off before he turned his head to notice an icicle ten times larger was pointing towards him.

"Try dissolving this into ice dust." Queen Mab was reluctant to use her powers against such a puny insignificant being when she released the projectile. She assumed that the armour was the one that was protecting him from the attacks. But from her perspective, the 'magical' armour plates were only skin thick, and they could be pierced through with sufficient power.

"You are not the only one with ice powers." Frost Echo said as he grabbed the thrown giant icicle spear by the tip with just one hand and eventually broke it into pieces. For the first time, the Avatar of Shiva was having fun, and his Shaitan was on the standby to come out any time whenever he needed to. It was a long time since they scratch their itch for battle.

"You should have gone and not that bitch," Ifrit said to Flame Ripper in his head.

"Nah, do not have to worry much. Her avatar would still interfere, and we can join in the fun later. Besides, Shiva's your elder sister, give her some leeway." Flame Ripper tried to calm the Fire Shaitan in him.

Queen Mab raised an eyebrow seeing that she underestimated the Orc and clasped her fingers. In an instant, her cold snap froze Frost Echo into a bulk of ice. "See, stop wasting my time already. Because of his interferences, I shall let do the Maeve killin-"

An Ice Shard flew from the back and attempted to pierce Maeve, but Mab's barrier blocked it. However, that was enough for Queen Mab to turn her head, lowering her guard momentarily. This split second distraction gave Frost Echo the opportunity to do the same towards Queen Mab as she was frozen in a bulk of ice for a second before breaking out. (Obviously, it was not a projectile based magic but rather a pinpoint type of magic, allowing Frost Echo to bypass her barrier and perform the Ice Prison spell.)

Though Frost Echo was still in the ice block, his retaliation made Queen Mab ticked off, enough to magically create spears of ice into his direction. But to annoy her even more, the ice block Frost Echo was in, shot out the same number of ice spears against her, breaking it at a tie.

"You! You are no normal Orc! There's no Orc that could wield magic, much less with finesse like yours!" Cracks started to appear on Queen Mab's face.

"Why thank you! Don't be too shocked that an Orc can perform such feats. I mean, I am also surprised how awfully sadistic you let your daughter to be. How about you let us kill her, and then we train her to be a good person?" Frost Echo replied with glee as he broke the ice block cleanly into two with his imprint still in it.

"What? Don't test my limits. I know you are cahooting with some magician that is currently performing a large scale movement to this ruined kingdom. Don't think that I knew nothing about the situation happening outside. While I might not have any idea what your magician friends are plotting, but it looks like you are just a pawn in his books. How about you join me? And I will spare those people out there." Queen Mab seems to have taken an interest in high level Orc Magician.

"Ehhh, that is a problem. Apparently, it's a death contract I signed without much of my will, and now I could not break out of it. Besides, I can't make promises with you since we Orcs value honour and trust the most." Frost Echo said but at the same time hoping that Jin was listening in to their conversation.

If Hell did freeze over the entire ruined kingdom, it would spell trouble for the current rescue operation. "Then all we have to do is to weaken her to the state that she's not able to cast such a large scale spell...or maybe distract her enough until it's meaningless for her to cast it." Kraft who was watching at the side in the dungeon Maker said via the System Channel. "Don't pull your punches, Orc King."

"Heh, why don't you come and try it for yourself!" Frost Echo's thoughts were full of hateful remarks for that Fox. Suddenly a fire arrow flew right behind him, and Queen Mab managed to create a partial ice barrier to block the ice. But she noticed that the fire was strong enough to melt the ice in front of her before it extinguishes.

Not to mention, the moment she blocked the arrow attack, Mab saw a shadow at the side causing her daughter Maeve to immediately call a Valg out to act as a Meat Shield.

Happy to be out of the hellhole it was in, the Valg roared out for the freedom it was bestowed in before it roared in pain, being burnt violently by an attack it did not anticipate.

Flame Ripper had decided to take action since Kraft was right. If her concentration was with the fight, her threats would not be an issue even though it did hit a nerve. Even Dark Elf Reregot had decided to help by taking out the inverted cross and wrapping it around his hand. Even though it might not damage the Fey Winter Queen much as she had warned, he believed it should still inflict some damage to them.

It was solely a battle to buy time for the rescue operation to succeed but to the cultivators in his shop, what they saw were the other cultivators struggling to fight the remaining Valgs in the castle. Some who manage to reach the throne hall found that there was a large hole right in front of them. There was also a layer of treacherous ice at the far end of the hole, making it almost impossible to land properly should one jump across the massive gap. Most thought it was just a dead end and turned away to search for other Valgs.

The only ones who happened to know that something was still going on in the Throne Hall were the Zi Dan, Xia Mao and Kong Xian who wrapped up their drinking session. While they did catch a glimpse of the intense ice fight scene between Frost Echo and Queen Mab from a distance, it instantly clicked on them that surrendering was the equivalent version of knowing their limits.

Thus, the 'real' boss battle was shrouded with mystery and not known to the cultivators.