

Extras 241

Chapter 241 The New Order [Pt 2]

"Looks like we've talked about all the important bits."

Scylla smiled as she continued all she had to say for the meeting.

So far, they had discussed a lot of extensive topics such as the management of their newly acquired territory, and the plan that they had decided on to fully take over the United Human Alliance.

It was a grand scheme worth uniting for.

"So... any questions?" Scylla asked with an innocent face.

Her violet eyes scanned the room for defiance, and she certainly found one very quickly.

It came from none other than Fenrir.

"What's your gain in all of this?" He asked with a suspicious expression written clearly on his face.

"Hm? What do you mean?"

"Don't play dumb. The way you allocated the resources between all of us is clearly detrimental to you!" Fenrir raised his voice.

His anger was palpable at this point.

"You must clearly have some scheme. There's no way you'd place yourself at such a disadvantage."

He wasn't wrong, especially when considering how valuable these resources being given out were.

More than Enchanted Items to outfit every single member of the Mercenary Guild...

More than enough money and territories for each House...

More than enough power and influence to be wielded by both parties...

"Where does your Slave Union come in?" Fenrir's question echoed within the vast room.

For a moment, there was silence.

No one said a word, and all eyes were on Scylla.

"Oh? So that's what you were talking about?"

Suddenly, her innocent smile warped into something twisted, and her eyes slanted in the most ominous way possible.

The grin on her face was the very definition of evil.

"Isn't it obvious? You all... are mine."

As she said this, the room seemed to tremble with an invisible kind of pressure that could be felt by everyone in the room.

"You can have all the riches and power you want. As long as you're mine, it will never be a loss on my part." Her moist lips echoed the words she had kept in her heart since she founded the New Order.

"You may obtain whatever you desire; grow to the very ends of the world. It changes nothing."

As a Slave Trader who was a veteran in the field, she understood this principle too well.

So long as she was the one in power, there was nothing to fear.

"In the end, I'll be the winner."

That was all she had to say on the matter.

"Pfft! Bravo! Bravo!" Fenrir, for the first time since the meeting started, genuinely laughed while clapping his hands.

The echoes radiated throughout the room, and the shockwaves from his claps caused everything to tremble.

"So you're finally revealing your true intentions. Took you long enough!"

The other three who sat on their tables said nothing.

They probably knew that this was their fate already. The revelation made no difference to them.

"You've grown even bolder, Scylla. I can't say I dislike that, so I guess I'll just go with all this... for now?"

"Well, that's nice to hear." Her sweet and kind response to Fenrir had just as many undertones as his had.

Despite being allies, there was a certain friction between the two that just couldn't be missed.

"I also have a question. But it's directed at Mr. Fenrir over here."

Lord Noir was seated right beside Fenrir, so all he had to do was look beside him to gaze upon the beast of a man.

"I still don't understand why you're on board with all this. The Mercenary Gang usually stays neutral in political issues like this. Plus, it seems you do not particularly like working with Lady Scylla."

His tone was calm and composed, and despite being but a fragile broomstick when compared to the absolutely ripped Fenrir, he still spoke his mind.

"So... why exactly are you here, as an Ally?"

Scylla heard this question and smiled. Her violet eyes twinkled as she looked at the man who now had the stage.

It was time for Fenrir to answer.

"I guess I just chose the most logical option—the winning team in this war."

Noir raised his brow slightly, still not completely convinced by the answer he was getting.

Fenrir noticed this and groaned a little before proceeding to speak some more.

"I guess you could say Scylla—or rather, her bodyguard over there—was pretty convincing."

"Bodyguard?" All darted to the young man who had black hair and blue eyes; standing right behind the head of the table.

His stoic demeanor revealed from his calm gaze did not change even though so much focus was on him.

His white mask remained as well.

He appeared to be nothing more than a statue.

"I'm very confident in my strength and I am well aware of my limits. That guy over there is stronger than I am."

Gasps filled the air as everyone in the room—with the exception of the smiling Scylla, the frowning Fenrir, and the expressionless figure—kept interchanging glances between the two involved parties.

"Surely you jest..." At this point, even Noir seemed a bit on edge.

"I wouldn't joke about such a thing." He grunted. "Even if I and these two... no, every one of my Executives... face him, I doubt we would come out unscathed, even if we managed to win."

It was surprising to the majority of the people within the room; especially since they all knew how powerful the Mercenary Gang's Chief was.

But just like he said... he wouldn't joke about such a thing.

"You could call it fear mixed with personal interests, but for now our interests are aligned." Fenrir shrugged, as if everything he just said was no big deal.

He cast a glance at Scylla and frowned a little more.

Seeing her smile so gleefully as he spilled the beans gave him a bad feeling, but he swallowed it in.

Now wasn't the time...

"Since you've all satisfied your curiosity, and we're done with our discussions for today, I suppose our meeting will be adjourned."

As Scylla said this, everyone nodded in agreement and rose to their feet.

"Until next time."

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Chapter 242 Ralyks Meets The Otherworlders

Daybreak arrived, and once it was approaching noon, all the Otherworlders gathered together.

There was only one reason for such; especially after formal training had been discarded in favor of personalized training and duels.

Since Brutus and Lucielle had gone to the frontlines—including all the competent Mages and Warriors available—the only ones left weren't competent enough to train the Otherworlders

Plus, since they were only nine now, the Capital had more than enough resources to support individual training.

Hence, pending the time for the Raid, it was agreed that this would be the new training method.

However, today was different.

All the Otherworlders were here, along with the two members of the Royal Council, to meet with none other than the Dark Adventurer himself.

—Ralyks!

"Sir Ralyks, we are so pleased to have you with us." Conrad smiled at the masked man.

"Indeed." Vida emphasized.

The Dark Adventurer shrugged despite their display of high regard for him.

He had no use for formalities.

"So these are the nine who will descend..." Ralyks spoke, turning to the nine who stood before him.

They were of different heights, builds, and many other factors.

However, if they all had something in common, it was this—

"You're all young. Weak too."

Indeed. Ralyks had called them the very word that no one in the Royal Estate had ever referred to them as.

Expressions of disbelief washed over the faces of the teenagers who stood before him.

No, by this world's standards, they were pretty much adults.

Their faces clearly depicted surprise.

"Haha! It is as you say, Sir Ralyks. That is why they need your guidance." Conrad added oil to the flames by his patronizing remarks to the Dark Adventurer.

This was the very same man who had told them they were special, and that only they could save the world.

Right now, he was bending over backwards to an absolute stranger; albeit one who killed a Dragon and saved the Capital.

So, yes... Conrad was onto something.

"I'd like to be left alone with them, if you don't mind." Ralyks looked at both Conrad and Vida as he spoke.

They nodded instantly.

"Understand. Well, we will be taking our leave now."

"Make sure you listen to everything Sir Ralyks tells you."

The two Councilors left the nine in the hands of a man they barely knew—not even showing the slightest hints of hesitation.

The reason was simple,

They had to attend to other important affairs—like the Mana Crystals that had been mined already, the production of ingots and raw materials meant for the Items they planned to bestow upon the Otherworlders, and finally the issue with the Criminal Underworld.

These were all issues that required immediate attention, so they were happy to be excused.

"Introduce yourselves." Ralyks spoke aloud, his voice as deep as the blackness of his garment.

And so, they began.

"My name is Adonis Levi."

Ralyks nodded as soon as he heard the name, looking at the rest for their words.

"I'm Alicia White."

"Justin Blake."

"Just call me Clark."

"I'm Eric."

"My name is Trisha."

"R-Rey... is my name."

"Billy... McGuire... sir."

"I'm Belle. Nice to meet you, Sir Ralyks."

Once they were done with their introductions, the Dark Adventurer nodded in satisfaction.

"If you think you are strong... step forward." He said.

No one moved an inch.

How could they? After seeing the full might of a Dragon, who could dare say they were strong?

After suffering the humiliation of nearly being sold as slaves, not even Alicia or Billy could move their still legs.

But... that wasn't all.

After witnessing the power of the man in front of them, sensing the power that oozed from his body alone, how could they even compete with his power ?

The answer was that they couldn't.

They were all weak—at least, compared to the standard they strived for—so no one had enough hubris to exert their strength.

In the eyes of the man who was truly strong, they were nothing.

"It's a good thing you all know your place. But there's no need to have such downtrodden faces, though."

As Ralyks said this, he got surprised reactions from everyone.

"There's nothing shameful about being weak. We all start out that way. The true shame lies in remaining that same way after being given the opportunity to improve."

There was an opportunity standing in front of them right now.

He stretched out his hand as he continued.

"The Royal Dungeon is more dangerous than ever, but it'll make you strong. You all have a choice. To remain as weak as you are, or to step forward and choose to be strong."

His words echoed in the air as he narrowed his crimson eyes.

"What will it be?"

The first trembling leg stepped forward. It belonged to none other than Adonis.

"I choose to become strong!" He yelled with a passion.

The next step was from Trisha, as her beautiful face gave off sheer resolve.

"I also choose to become strong!"

One after the other, the rest followed. Justin, Eric, Clark, Alicia, Belle, Billy... and Rey.

They were all prepared for the task ahead.

"Good." He nodded.

"You all need the right set of gear to go into the Dungeon, and based on my discussions with your superiors, it'll take a few more days before they're prepared."

That meant they still had a bit of time to grow stronger—before they entered the jaws of death.

"In the meantime, I will be supervising your training. I'll be teaching you how to properly act in a Dungeon."

Attack. Defense. Strategy.

Everything necessary to succeed in a Dungeon would be taught by the man before them.

Since he had Summoning Magic, he could always bring out monsters and teach them the best ways to subjugate them.

There were no downsides to his tutelage.

"But first... I need to know just how strong or weak you currently are." Ralyks threw aside his cape and hood, leaving only his mask and black garment underneath.

"All of you will attack me at the same time." He made a battle stance and looked at the weaklings that were determined to be more.

Something about their bright eyes made him all the more assured of his instruction.

"Go ahead. Don't hold anything back."

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Chapter 243 Otherworlders Vs Ralyks [Pt 1]

'As expected. I still can't see it...'

As Rey looked at the eight—plus a projection of the ninth—enemies who would fight him, he could see Status Windows popping out of every single one of them.

All except one.

—Adonis!

'I guess it's because he has an S-Tier Class. That makes sense...'

In essence, it was on the same Level as [Absolute Appraisal]... or even stronger.

'Still, the only exception to [Absolute Appraisal] is that the target is a Tier above my Skill's effect.'

As such, Rey thought he'd be able to see Adonis' Status Window. However, after trying for so long, nothing was forthcoming.

In the end, he had to settle on a conclusion.

'He probably has Resistance to that kind of stuff.' That was the only explanation that made sense to him at this point.

'In any case, it looks like they're about ready.'

Still in his Ralyks persona, he calmly looked at the group that surrounded him from all areas.

It was a cool morning, so no one was sweating—at least, not yet—yet they looked tense as they circled around him.

'I should probably cancel out the effects of my Items to give them a chance...'

Instead, Rey decided to utilize a few of his Buff Skills instead.

His body flowed slightly as every aspect of himself became strengthened, one way or the other.

Rey still felt it was unfair, as he pretty much knew all their abilities and style of combat, but he was also being faced by everyone at once.

'I think that evens things out a little...' He smiled, feeling his heart thump a little in excitement.

'Alright then. Let's see what they've got.'

~WHOOOSH!~

The group attacked at once, all of them glowing with energies of various colors as they buffed themselves up considerably well—for those who could—and a couple attacked from long range.

Rey watched all the attacks come at him with a smile on his face.

'Let's see how far I can go too!'

Adonis felt a determination within his heart as he looked at the opponent in front of him.

He wanted to win!

'I already know Sir Ralyks is stronger than I am. I'm not even sure we can defeat him if we combine our strengths. Still...'

Adonis was looking for a single clean hit.

As such, once the fight was initiated, he used his [Grand Light Magic] to call a heavy rain of light to descend upon his target.

He looked around and saw everyone else call forth their Skills or Magic abilities.

Alicia utilized her [Greater Ice Magic], sending piles of Ice Spikes flowing his way, while Justin sent a bunch of sharp threads flying towards Ralyks using [Marionette].

He also utilized stealth and tried to get closer.

Belle was using her [Absolute Wind Magic] to conjure a maelstrom of wind torrents all around Ralyks.

It made it difficult for those who had rushed to face Ralyks head-on—like Trisha and Clark—to properly reach him,

However, once the whirlwind reached a critical point, both of them chose to back off.

Trisha launched a Lightning Strike Spell using her [Greater Lightning Magic] Skill, while Eric relied on his [Heat Vision] Skill.

Eric could only do so much thanks to his C-Tier Mage Class, but he practically poured his entire Mana Supply into [Greater Explosion], since that was the best damage-dealing Skill at the moment.

As for Rey, well... his only Skill wasn't going to be very useful, so he maintained his distance and watched from afar. fr eeweb novel

That was probably for the best.

~BOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!~

Echoes of destruction, and shockwaves of power spread from the target's location.

The area of impact was so large that Adonis and his classmates had to take countless steps back and regroup in a single position thanks to the explosion.

With all of these Skills raining down on the target, one would think he was toast.

But...

'What's this bad feeling that I sense?' Adonis narrowed his gaze as he stared at the convergence of overwhelming energy on the target at once.

'He should suffer some damage... right? He didn't even dodge it.'

Even the Dragon that they fought—whom Ralyks had defeated

—would have been severely wounded if he received so many attacks at once.

Adonis wasn't comparing Ralyks to an average Dragon Commander, by any means, but he simply couldn't see so much power going without consequence.

"Amusing."

The nine students expressed shock the moment the words were uttered from Ralyks' lips.

Hissing smoke soon replaced the explosion, and as the charred, devastated ground leaked out dark mists, there was a certain silhouette that stood at the center.

The shadowy appearance was tanging still, as casually as imaginable.

"My turn."

The moment Adonis heard this, he activated [Absolute Defense] and yelled at the very top of his lungs.

"Everyone! To me!"

The group huddled closer to him, and his golden dome of energy covered all nine of them.

He looked at the position where Ralyks had stood, at the crater that had been formed on the ground, but found nothing there.

'H-he's gone...?!' Adonis' eyes widened as he tried searching for him all around.

Left? Right? Behind? No... he was in none of those places.

"There's no need to look so anxious... or is there?" The voice came from above.

Everyone raised their heads, and there Ralyks was; floating in the air as he stared down at all of them.

"Do you really think you're safe inside that dome?"

Adonis shivered as the question was asked. He didn't know how to answer it, so he decided not to.

Instead, he thought of a way to counter, and it involved summoning his Divine Sword to—

"It's no use..." Adonis felt a hand rest on his shoulder as a voice echoed within the dome.

'E-eh...?'

It belonged to none other than Ralyks, and the Hero hadn't even noticed when the invaded his [Absolute Defense].

~VWUUUUM!~

A strong pressure filled the interior of the defensive barrier, causing everyone to fall to their knees.

"Is there anyone who can rise?."

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Chapter 244 Otherworlders Vs Ralyks [Pt 2]

True power.

It has been, and will always be, a crushing pressure that causes the ones under it to fall to their knees.

Helpless to go against it, they have no choice but to show subservience. In truth, true power can not be resisted.

It consumes all.

'D-damnit!'

Adonis struggled to rise, but there was no use to it. He could feel a weight on him that was impossible to shrug off.

Looking at everyone else, they seemed to be having the same problem.

But—

"Urahhh!" Clark jumped from

His position, shattering the earth where they all knelt as he flew towards Ralyks.

'Of course! Clark has [Crush Resistance] based on his Class.'

Adonis swiftly released his [Absolute Defense], and Belle used her Wind Magic to propel Clark in his epic rush.

~WHOOSH!~

The determined boy was about to punch Ralyks and send him away from his current position.

However, what ended up happening was completely different from his intentions.

Before Clark could land a single hit, Ralyks held his throat, causing the boy to get stunned instantly.

"Urk!"

Still, he refused to give up.

He sent his most powerful fist towards Ralyks, but before it could even reach the man, a very tough layer of defense stopped him.

"Nice try."

That was what Ralyks said before ascending high into the air and hurling Clark down to the ground in a series of swift moves.

~BOOOM!~

The ground shattered, and the boy was nearly buried in rubble as he lost consciousness.

"CLARK!" Many shouted—especially Eric and Justin—but they only caught the attention of their predator.

"Worry more about yourselves." He appeared right behind the two of them.

His crimson eyes glowed as he spoke, like a demon whose malevolent presence was impossible to escape.

Justin tried to use his [Marionette] to at least bind Ralyks, but before he could do so, he heard a thud and suddenly found himself on the ground.

Eric was about to use [Grand Sound Magic] to completely mess up his target, but what he found out was that his attack bounced back towards him.

The result?

"Arghhhhhh!!!" Eric screamed before falling to the ground as well.

His smaller body fell on top Justin's taller form—the both of them clearly unconscious.

~ZTTTZZZZ!~

Sparks of electricity buzzed all around, and the space around began to vibrate.

"Lightning Torrent Of Destruction!" A fierce feminine voice echoed in the air.

Bigger sparks coalesced to form a swirling barrier of pure lightning, and everything began to close in on the target.

However, the man just walked through it like it was nothing.

"W-what?!" As the ebony who cast the Spell was still recoiling from shock, Ralyks appeared right behind her.

"L-Lightni—!"

A swift chop on her neck sent her falling unconscious instantly.

Ralyks didn't even spare her a thought as she landed on the floor. Instead, he looked at his next prey.

"Alicia... right?" He now stood in front of her, his merciless crimson gaze falling on the girl who was smiling nervously.

"What do you have for me... huh?"

Before Ralyks could realize what was happening, his entire body was beginning to freeze from the leg up.

He looked at the smiling Alicia whose smile grew broader the longer his dark form took on white.

"Ice Magic: Absolute Zero Chamber..." She smirked, her eyes displaying how happy she was to have gotten the enemy.

Unknown to her, though...

"Ice Magic, huh?"

... The man she was trying to defeat could not be stopped by something so trivial.

Almost as fast as he began to freeze, all the ice on his body broke apart.

"Why don't I give you a taste of the same?"

Alicia's eyes widened as misty breaths began to escape from her lips. Her body grew stiff, and layers of white began to cover her like a shell.

"STAY AWAY FROM ALICIA!" A loud voice emerged from someone who was running straight towards Ralyks.

He was short—at least, more than the others. He also looked a lot weaker than the rest.

The boy had transformed his hand into a blade as he rushed towards Ralyks

His pathetic excuse for an attack came for the overwhelming opponent that was Ralyks, causing the latter to shrug as he watched it come.

"Hmph... weak." He waved his hand and sent a wave of energy towards Rey.

"Hup!" The boy slid on the ground, successfully dodging the blast that would have made many lose their footing.

Rey successfully closed the distance between him and his enemy, a determined expression on his face.

He elongated his hand and broadened the blade he had turned his arm into, just so could have more reach.

~SWISH!~

As he slashed through the air, Ralyks easily caught the thing with his thumb and index finger.

"Too slow." Before Rey could even react or step away from the fight for a moment, a strike was sent to his stomach.

"Puack!"

Rey's eyes bulged, nearly popping out of their sockets, as saliva flew out of his mouth.

"Too impulsive." Another strike was sent to the boy's back, causing him to scream out even more.

And then, just as Rey staggered, his body unable to fully process the pain he was going through, a last attack came.

"Too slow." novel

With a swift backhand hit from Ralyks, Rey's helpless body was sent landing on the ground.

His head dug into the earth as his butt pointed towards the sky in pure humiliation.

He was down for the count.

As Ralyks turned away from Rey, and back to Alicia, he noticed her deep glare.

"Y-you didn't have to go that far!" She yelled, despite shivering from the ice that still encroached her body.

"He'll live. Worry more about yourself."

"Why do you—!"

~WHUUUUSH!~

A brilliant gust of both wind and light echoed from behind Ralyks, causing him to turn back a little and generate a shield to defend himself.

~BOOOOM!~

Destruction swarmed the area, and everything around was filled with smoke once again.

"Bothersome..."

With a single Spell, Ralyks got rid of the smoke that swirled around him.

Once he did, though, he saw a fine alliance between three individuals.

Billy, Adonis, and Belle.

These three were huddled together as a group and desired to fight him together.

"Oh? What an interesting development."

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Chapter 245 Otherworlders Vs Ralyks [Pt 3]

[Moments Earlier]

"Belle, Billy... over here!"

As Ralyks was delivering destruction to his classmates, Adonis called for the two individuals who were closest to him.

His serious demeanor was enough to tell anyone that he meant business, so they rushed to his side.

"Let's team up." Adonis said, looking at the both of them.

Belle's brows were raised the moment he asked this.

"Aren't we all teamed up already?"

"No! I don't mean that. It's true that we're all a team, but in a group this large, we're practically utilizing individual abilities at once or in sequence to face him."

Adonis suggested they went a step further.

"If we have considerable teamwork and systematically attack him with a plan in mind, we'll go very far."

Adonis would have loved to have Alicia on board, but she was too far away for him to risk it.

If he made too many moves, the chances of him being noticed by Ralyks went up.

Once that happened, it was game over.

'Besides, both Belle and Billy are more primed towards combat than she is.' f(r)eewebn(o)vel.com

Belle's Wind Magic was two Tiers higher than Alicia's, and Adonis also needed Billy's destructive capabilities as Warrior abilities.

'If Alicia could properly use her SS-Tier Skill, that would be nice. Unfortunately... she can't.'

It drained too much Mana to summon a useful Beast, and her Level was too low to have such Mana.

'Her Healing Magic is also draining, which is why she pours all her energy into Ice Magic.'

One of Adonis' hopes was that Alicia would be able to get a lot more powerful during the Raid and awaken to her true potential.

'After all, she should be the second strongest in our entire class...'

In the end, the three ended up partnering up and watching as Ralyks beat up their classmates—all in order to think of a perfect strategy to counter him.

It took some time, but they were finally ready.

"Remember, both of you..." Adonis heaved a sigh as he summoned his Divine Sword.

"... Give it all you've got!"

'Hmm? What are they up to now?' Rey pondered as he looked at the trio.

He knew they had been together for some time now, so none of this development was surprising to him.

In fact, he would have been disappointed if Adonis hadn't made a move like this.

'But what of it?'

He could only wait and see what the results of their planning was. Meanwhile...

'I hope I didn't overdo it.' Rey looked behind him and noticed Alicia being unconscious.

She wasn't the only one, too.

Practically everyone, except the three that now challenged him, had fallen unconscious.

'White Ember should heal her, so she'll be fine. This is all for her own good anyway.'

Rey knew it was most likely due to [Dead Calm], but he really didn't feel bad for his actions.

He only had the best of intentions for his classmates, and since they all consented to all of this, he had the responsibility of gauging their abilities and showing them a standard of strength.

'Now it remains these three.'

Adonis now wielded his Divine Sword, and Billy had put on all the Buffs that he could.

As for Belle, she was preparing her [Absolute Wind Magic].

'Her Great Mage Class must be really helping her with that Mana Usage issue. Unlike Alicia, who is a Tamer and can't get enough Privileges from her Class when it comes to that.'

Rey began to stroke his masked chin as he thought about something in particular.

'I wonder... hmm, I think I'll try it out after this training exercise.'

Right as he was thinking, both Adonis and Billy rushed towards him.

Billy was holding a powerful sword—thanks to his [Greater Weapon Summon] Skill, and Adonis wielded the Divine Sword.

It was clear who was faster of the two, but Adonis lessened his pace so they could run side by side.

'I guess it's because of their plan. I wonder what it is. Attacking me from both flanks in order to distract me?'

Just as Rey suspected, Adonis rushed to Rey's right and Billy charged to his left.

They both had glowing bodies thanks to the enchantments they had placed on themselves to make them stronger and faster than normal.

Adonis raised his Divine Sword and made to strike, while Billy took his Martial Arts stance and coated his sword with intense flames.

'Belle will probably use Wind Magic to ensure my escape paths are limited, which means I'll either have to dodge Adonis' attack and suffer Billy's strike, or I use my defenses to block Billy and suffer from Adonis' attacks.'

Once again, the battle flowed just as he predicted.

Belle used her [Absolute Wind Magic] Skill to create a wind barricade that pushed Rey away from escaping behind him, and he also couldn't rush forward because of the same barrier.

From a strategic standpoint, they had him pretty trapped.

'What about upward? They probably left that as an option for me for a reason. Should I play along?' Rey wondered as the enemies closed in on him even more.'

He sighed and shook his head a little.

'No... I think I've had enough.'

To be honest, their strategy wasn't bad in the slightest. However, he was just too strong for such things to be an issue for him.

For example...

~WHUUSH!~

Rey instantly teleported to Belle and touched her back.

"A-ah...?!" Her widened eyes depicted surprise as he touched her back.

'You can't fool me. I already know this is a part of your plan.' Rey looked beneath him and could sense a lot of weapons lodged under the ground.

'Belle will use Wind Magic to raise them and try to skewer me. But that's only a distraction so that Adonis and Billy can reach me before I fully recover from the surprise.'

Rey suspected that Adonis would probably use his Light Magic to blind or disorient him, and then he and Billy would rush to strike him down.

'I'm happy they thought this far ahead. Since Adonis has fought an opponent who can teleport, he knows how tricky they can be.'

However, even though he was going according to their plan, things weren't going to turn out the way they wanted.

'For one... I'm faster than they expect.'

Rey moved slightly faster than usual, easily breaking past Belle's Wind Defense.

He hit her at the base of her neck and she instantly fell unconscious. As her body slowly fell to the ground, Rey looked at the shocked and desperate expressions on both Billy and Adonis' faces.

"BELLE!!!" They yelled out.

'Let me try something else...' Rey smiled as he looked at the two rushing towards him.

'[Intense Bloodlust].'

The moment Rey activated this Skill, an aura of danger and intense killing intent spread all over the area.

Intense fear took over, and he watched as the two reacted.

Billy stopped moving entirely, his body shaking as his weapon dropped from his grasp.

As for Adonis, he still advanced despite trembling slightly.

'Ohh!' Rey's eyes widened as a smile coursed through his face.

'Nice one, Adonis!'

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Chapter 246 Conclusion Of The Duel

'Must be that Divine Sword. Or is that a perk of his Class.'

Rey had many thoughts as he saw the Hero approaching with sheer ferocity and an unstoppable will.

Either way, though, Rey couldn't see the fight going his way.

'He looks so determined. I hate to do this to him, but...' He began to raise his hand.

However, he found himself unable to move.

'What's this? Marionette?' He turned to his side to see that Justin was still slightly conscious, and he was smiling while on the floor.

'Nice one, Justin. But...' Rey easily broke through Marionette.

The moment he did so, a flash of lightning descended from the sky—obviously a Skill from Trisha.

Still, none of the electric currents that burst from the attack really affected him.

'Looks like I slightly underestimated their recovery capabilities.' Rey smiled as he stepped out of the lightning-charged assault.

'I should end this now.'

Taking a deep breath, Rey's eyes turned purple as he raised his index finger—seeing that a bunch of people were already gaining consciousness.

"[Absolute Spatial Domain]..." He whispered.

~VWUUUUUUUMMMMM!~

At that very instant, everyone appeared in the same position, forcefully transported beside each other.

Even Adonis, who had been charging towards him, experienced the same change in location.

He looked surprised, but his grand march did not stop.

Unfortunately for the dear Hero, Rey wasn't finished with him—or everyone else for that matter.

"Fall."

In that instant, space itself warped in a way that forced them to fall to their knees before him.

Adonis was no exception.

The boy struggled to get up, but it was no use.

'Space seems to be warping around the Divine Sword, so he must be fighting it somehow.'

However, it was useless.

'My [Absolute Spatial Domain] allows me to control every facet of space around me. That allows me to unwarp the space around the sword.'

For Rey, as long as he had enough power to overpower his enemy, there really wasn't anything they could do to resist.

'Seems like none of them can escape. Time to finish things...'

His index finger was still raised, so Rey activated one of his SS-Tier Skills.

[Divine Elemental Magic].

A sudden swirl of several elemental attributes—Fire, Water, Earth, Wind, Ice, Darkness, Light, etc.—began to swirl around Rey's palm.

Everything danced around one another, becoming a massive sphere that rose above his finger until it floated above Rey.

His other Skill, [Fusion/Fission] allowed everything to flow seamlessly, so no conflicting element reduced the total ability of the cluster of various elements.

Rey smiled as he saw them tremble before his colossal orb of destruction.

'Now you understand...' His thoughts trailed.

It was different seeing a Dragon—the enemy—exhibiting such power, and a human doing the same.

'Ralyks' wasn't even an Otherworlder, so by showing them this power, he wasn't intending on granting them despair.

No. It was the exact opposite.

'You all can do great things like this someday. Well, not all, but...'

As long as they saw someone show them that humans were capable of this much, the people in front of him wouldn't be too distraught about the Dragons.

"That's it. Lesson over."

The cluster of elemental attributes was broken down into nothingness, causing mere sparkles of broken-down energy to remain.

Rey also undid the effects of his Skills, allowing the Otherworlders to move of their volition.

"I was slightly wrong about you all." He moved forward and smiled at the disheveled group.

Their crestfallen faces and dirtied clothes showed just how badly they had been hurt—both physically and emotionally.

Rey stretched out his hand and activated his [Absolute Healing] Skill.

He spread the effects to everyone, and while the ability took a toll on his Mana, it wasn't too serious.

Thanks to his remaining Buffs, it was no big deal.

"A-ahhh...?!"

"I feel good as new!"

"The... hell...?"

Rey smiled and nodded at them, moving even closer to the eight—appearing as nine.

'Healing Magic, unlike Potions, doesn't reset a person's growth by reversion. I'm sure they've grown a tad bit stronger due to this experience.'

"All of you should rise." With everyone being conscious and capable of movement, they obeyed.

Some were a little sluggish, but in a mere few seconds, everyone was on their feet.

Rey placed hands in his pocket and nodded slowly at them.

"Stand proud. You are strong."

He wasn't just saying that to make them feel better. He genuinely thought so.

'Compared to the humans of this world, they're definitely top tier. They are also very young and have room to grow.'

That was enough reason for Rey not to discount them.

"You all have immense potential to be stronger. I can promise you that by the time you are done with this Raid, you'll be much stronger than you were today."

That much was a given, but Rey wasn't done with his admonition.

"I probably won't be able to hold you off as easily as I just did."

As soon as he said that, he could see shocked expressions on the faces of everyone present.

After his display of power, they most likely saw him as an impossible wall that they could never surpass.

But now...

"Who would win between you and all of us if we fought again after actualizing our potential?"

Justin was the one who raised the question, and from his smile, Rey could already tell he wasn't being very serious.

Still, he answered it with his usual 'Ralyks' tone.

"Well, if you were at full strength, then you might cause me some trouble..." He began, stroking his chin a little as he narrowed his eyes on a select few of his classmates.

'Once Alicia can use her Divine Beast Summon, she'll be at an advantage in that aspect due to her Class. Adonis also had a lot of room for growth, and he Levels Up fast too. As much as I don't like Billy, he has a very powerful set of Skills, and then there's Belle and her problematic abilities.'

All in all, Rey could see a bunch of other students as well who would prove problematic if they all joined forces and fought him with a proper strategy.

That said...

"Would you lose though?" Adonis asked with all seriousness.

Rey smiled at the Hero, almost as if he already knew what was on the boy's mind.

There was no need to skirt around the issue.

'They could give me all the trouble in the world. That doesn't matter at all.'

Rey was still confident in the outcome.

"Nah, I'd win."

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Chapter 247 A Little Friction

'Why... why do I feel so frustrated?'

As Adonis stood among his classmates, hearing the words of the great Ralyks, he couldn't help but grate his teeth.

A sense of restlessness and unease rested upon him, and he calmed himself by squeezing his hand while placing both hands behind him.

He did his best to express a neutral expression, but any observant person could tell he was upset.

'I was never this strong in my past life. None of us were. This power that Sir Ralyks has is unreal...'
His thoughts echoed as he stared at the dark-cloaked figure.

'... It honestly shouldn't exist. Still, I'm glad it does. If not, we would all be dead and humanity would have already lost.'

Adonis truly felt grateful for Ralyks and his existence in their lives—even if he didn't completely understand it yet—however, something ate at him.

It was something he desperately tried to avoid, but Adonis was fighting a losing battle.

'Why do I feel so envious...?'

Adonis had put in every ounce of spare time into training. He chose the most Optimal Class ad sets of Skills for combat, defense, and overall utility.

Since Skills and Classes had the chance to evolve into higher Tiers, and the Hero Class ensured quick growth—among other things—he thought he had made the right choice by choosing his current ability set.

Plus, he had the knowledge of his past life guiding him.

Adonis thought he could combine all of these factors to grant himself a better shot at saving everyone.

But... nothing has really changed,

'Compared to Sir Ralyks... I'm nothing.'

He wanted to cry. Hot tears welled up in his eyes, but he held them all in as he took in deep breaths.

'I know I shouldn't feel this way. It isn't right. We're all on the same side, and we have a common enemy to defeat.'

Normally, as long as that was the case, and Ralyks was contributing to that, he wasn't meant to have any problems with it.

But...

'I just can't help but wonder if all the efforts I put in didn't matter. If I'm even as relevant as I thought...'

Adonis smiled wryly, realizing he was probably being childish for wanting to be the central figure who led his classmates and this world to victory.

He wanted to be the strongest.

'Maybe I'm wrong, but I can't help but feel that way.'

After experiencing the terror of the Dragons in his first life, and watching the very world burn before his eyes, he couldn't help it.

He desired strength; for him, and all of his allies.

'It's just... I want more.'

He hoped that he could at least close the largely insurmountable gap that existed between him and Ralyks, at least a little, during the Raid.

'That would be nice.'

"Now that we're done with this little spar, this is the best time to reiterate that I'll be going over battle tactics and formations with you."

As Rey spoke in his Ralyks tone, he confirmed that everyone was paying attention to his words.

He could see Adonis sulking slightly, and while he honestly felt for the boy—after all, he was only sixteen—Rey was more concerned about the present situation.

'I'm sure he'll be happier once he starts Leveling and getting stronger.'

"I'll be Summoning Monsters to use for your training. This is less about the EXP and more about applying the tactics you'll learn so you can work more efficiently in the Dungeon."

Rey also considered using his Elementals, but since it was better to stick to the kind of Monsters one would find in a Dungeon, it was simply better to summon the latter kind.

"But first..." Rey glanced at Alicia and narrowed his eyes.

'She's the only one I didn't have to heal due to the rings. I'm happy it's working well...'

Beyond his thoughts, though, he had a reason for focusing on her.

"You're a Tamer, aren't you? And you have a Beast Summoning Skill, correct?"

Despite him using his best Ralyks impression, which would intimidate most or cause them to be flustered if he suddenly talked to them, Alicia remained composed.

"Yes. That is all correct. How did you know about all this?"

"I can see through your Status Window."

"W-what?!"

Everyone burst into shock as they looked at Ralyks. Their eyes widened in disbelief, and sharp murmurs rose from the group.

"Kidding! I'm just kidding... haha! I merely asked Conrad and Vida." Rey swiftly turned things into a joke and laughed it off.

He gulped and hoped everyone would take him at his word.

Thankfully...

"Ohhhh!"

"Whew! For a second there, I thought..."

"Well, that's a relief."

... They believed his words.

'That was a close one.' Rey nearly held his chest and heaved a sigh of relief.

He couldn't break out of his persona, though, so he refrained from doing so.

"Ahem... so, back to my point." He got everyone's attention back in no time at all.

Then—

"Why haven't you yet summoned and controlled something?"

Rey asked the burning question.

"I actually have. Maybe you should have asked Conrad and Vida for that information too." Alicia responded, folding her hands.

For some reason, Rey felt she was being a little confrontational.

'Or am I the one going too far? This must be how Seraph felt like when she was challenged by Alicia...'

It wasn't a pleasant feeling at all—falling under the girl's scrutinizing gaze.

"Fair enough. Can you elaborate on what you summoned and controlled?"

Of course, Rey knew the details already. It was during their Skill presentations.

She used her [Divine Beast Summon] Skill and managed to temporarily summon something.

She even brought it under her command for a few seconds before her Mana ran out and the Summon had to be canceled.

From that experience alone, everyone was able to learn two major things about Alicia's ability.

One was the fact that it drained a lot of energy.

Second... once energy ran out, it was all over. At the very least, that was what they observed.

"I'd like you to summon a Beast and control it, right here and now."

As Rey said this, he crossed his own arms as he stared at the defiant girl.

"Why is that?" She responded the same as last time.

In such a situation, he had no choice but to play his almighty card.

"Because, with the way you are now, you're too weak."

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Chapter 248 The Beast Summon

"Because, with the way you are now, you're too weak."

As Alicia heard these words, she frowned a little.

It wasn't because she felt somehow offended by the statement, but because she knew it was true.

'I know I'm not living up to my full potential.'

But was it really her fault? She was just around Level 9, so there really wasn't much she could really do at the moment.

The more she grew, and the more Mana she amassed, the stronger she would become.

Then, after getting strong enough, she would try the Summon again and obtain a Beast that she could tame and call her own.

'Yeah... I don't have to listen to him.' Alicia frowned even deeper as she glared at Ralyks.

She already didn't like the man.

'Maybe I'm being overly sensitive, but I can't help but think he's a huge asshole.'

Looking at the way he treated everyone—especially the way he beat up Rey in the most brutal fashion—made her dislike towards him grow.

Alicia knew that she couldn't objectively dislike him, since none of what he did was personal.

Still, she couldn't help but feel that way.

'I might be overreacting. I also can't let my emotions ruin the progress of everyone.'

Alicia stole a glance at Rey and noticed he was pretty fine, so she sighed in relief.

She caressed the ring in her finger and smiled slightly, slowly feeling her disgust towards Ralyks fade away.

'Maybe I'll cooperate just this once.'

With that, she calmed herself and responded in the nicest way that she could.

"What do you suggest, then?"

'I knew it! She's definitely mad at me!' Rey thought to himself as he felt himself under her scrutinizing gaze.

As someone who had seen Alicia's nice side, it felt a bit awkward to be on this side of the equation.

'She also looked at the 'Rey' projection I made, so maybe she's angry about how I... nah, let's not even go there.'

Right now, the important thing was that she had asked him for his way out.

'That's good. We can get somewhere then.'

The best way to go about it was simple, and it was a shame that the Royal Estate hadn't done this with Alicia yet.

'Enchanted Items. I'll lend you three of my Items that should help boost your Mana Level and elevate your control over your Skills.'

Currently, Rey's 'Equip Limit' remained at about thirty Items, and he had tons of Items he wasn't utilizing.

Every time he had a discussion with the KariBlanc Group, he ended up shopping for energy stuff that he fancied.

In essence, he had a lot more Enchanted Items than he could properly use.

There was also the pile of Enchanted Items that were supposed to be sold to the Elves. Rey had a ton of options to choose from.

'Now that I think of it, I might as well give everyone at least one Enchanted Item in addition to the gear that the Royal Council plan on providing.'

Enchanted Items made Leveling Up easier without increasing the EXP threshold necessary for Leveling Up.

In essence, it served as a crutch to get stronger pretty quickly.

"Let's see what you can do with sufficient Mana and a proper understanding and control over your Taner Class."

Rey was also curious; as well as curious.

'I want to see what she'll manage to summon.'

"So, what do you say? Want to give it a try?" Rey stretched a hand out to Alicia.

She still seemed to dislike him, but he already knew Alicia's personality well.

'She won't hold the entire class back just because of her personal inclinations.'

Alicia wanted to help save this world and find a way to return home.

'I know she'll make the best choice.'

Alicia's eyes were closed as she currently donned three extra Enchanted Items given by Ralyks.

A glowing blue orb that pretty much served as a Mana Battery which she was connected to.

A necklace that improved her individual Mana amount by a certain percentage, and also a bracelet that improved Mana usage efficiency—reducing cost and improving the effects of Skills.

With these three Items sending waves of energy coursing through her body, she inhaled and exhaled deeply.

Alicia could feel power—more power than she had ever perceived before.

It was nearly overwhelming.

"Huu... I'm ready." Once she acclimated to the Mana that resonated with her, she spoke.

All eyes were on her as she concentrated her attention on what she was about to do.

The entire crowd held their breaths and waited.

"[Divine Beast Summon]." She whispered.

As she uttered those words, a System Window appeared in front of her.

[Select Category Of Summon]

~Divine Tier (SS)~

~Absolute Tier (S)~

~Grand Tier (A)~

~Lesser Tiers (B - C)~

[Warning: Your Grand Tamer Class can only control up to the Grand Tier. Anything beyond will be beyond your control]

[End Of Information]

Alicia had seen all of this before.

She had chosen the least of the allowed Tiers back then, and she managed to Summon something for a few seconds before running out of Mana.

But now, things were different.

She had advanced some Levels, and she had three Mana-enhancing Items to aid her in her endeavor.

Frankly speaking, she was also very excited to see the outcome of the Summon.

'I'll go with the highest one possible—the Grand Tier.'

She slowly opened her eyes and saw the Magic Circle forming in front of her.

It flowed bright and white, waiting for her to pour her Mana inside.

And so she did.

~FSHUUU~

Energy flowed from Alicia, dancing like a whirlwind as it swirled around her and the Magic Circle like a whirlwind.

And then... something began to emerge.

The world held its breath as it welcomed the entity that was rising from the depths of the circle.

Unlike ordinary Summoning Magic, which brought forth Monsters that already existed in H'Trae through the Summoning Circle, Alicia's Skill was different.

For one; Beasts weren't the same as Monsters.

They had no kind of Core, but were instead made out of Mana itself.

Secondly, they didn't naturally exist within H'Trae.

They were usually summoned from another plane of reality—
somewhere different from this world.

Finally, compared to Monsters... Beasts were phenomenally stronger.

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Chapter 249 The New Familiar [Pt 1]

A swirling white void opened up.

Within it emerged a radiant creature with pure white fur—brilliant like snow.

Its two long ears perked up as it manifested, with marble-like red eyes gleaming with innocence.

It had a small form, quadrupedal, with a cute appearance that startled everyone once they witnessed the entity that showed itself.

It was none other than...

"A rabbit?"

"That's a rabbit, isn't it?"

"An albino rabbit to be exact."

The students looked at the creature before them and murmured their thoughts.

The Grand Beast that just manifested in front of them resembled just any kind of albino rabbit one could find on Earth.

If not for the tattoo-like markings on its body—lined in black—it looked so ordinary.

'These guys... they have no idea.' Rey grinned widely as he looked at the summoned entity.

Its cute appearance could fool everyone, but not him.

He could clearly feel the intense energy the thing emitted.

But, that wasn't even all.

'Absolute Appraisal.'

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: (Currently Nameless)
- Race: Tibbar (Beast)
- Class: Grand Summon (A-Tier)
- Level: 1 (00.00% EXP)
- Life Force: 300
- Mana Level: 500

- Combat Ability: 700
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): [Replicate]
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): [Rush]. [Leap]. [Bounce].
- Alignment: Neutral

[Additional Information]

A Grand Beast that resembles the Rabbit on Earth, but possesses great power despite its cute appearance.

It is quite dangerous.

[End Of Information]

Rey nearly dropped his jaw as looked at the absurd Status Information of the creature.

He expected it to be strong, but not this powerful.

'What the fuck?!'

This was what the entire class was missing out on by letting Alicia's Skill collect dust all this time!

'It's a phenomenal ability! I'm definitely trying this out later!'

If he could obtain a powerful summon, then it could prove to be his most valuable ally yet.

'Is there a limit to the summon you can get per time? If so, I bet she can just keep summoning them and improve our overall combat ability.' Rey was beyond amazed.

He was bamboozled.

He looked around and saw that most of the students considered the rabbit cute and were even squealing at the pure white thing.

"Awww! Look at the little guy."

"Shhh! It could be a girl."

"Either way, it's too adorable!"

'That little guy can rip most of you to shreds in a single hit!' Rey's thoughts screamed as he fought to stay composed.

He looked beside him and noticed Adonis staring intensely at the creature.

Rey couldn't help but smile and nod.

'At least one of them knows just how strong the Summon is.'

He cast his gaze to Alicia, who had begun the 'Bonding' process. .com

'You did well, Alicia.' Her determined expression caused his heart to skip a beat.

As she pursed her lips, breathing heavily while sweating and maintaining eye contact with the Grand Summon, he silently wished her the best.

'That is a fine Summon. Perfect for someone like you.'

"Haaa..."

Alicia leaked out misty breaths as she blocked off every sound that caused her to lose concentration.

Her gaze was only on the Grand Beast, and it also looked at her with its seemingly innocent eyes.

Alicia could sense it, though.

This Grand Beast was anything but innocent.

'It's strong! Stronger than I am by far!'

It could probably kill everyone in their class—except for maybe Adonis and a few others.

She didn't sense any kind of malice from the rabbit-looking Beast, but she still couldn't afford to fail in 'Bonding' with it.

Her Grand Tamer Class naturally had five Privileges associated with it.

The Window that showed all of them was open right beside her, though she could not as much as glance at it at the moment.

[Class Privileges]

~ 10 Starting Base Stats for all your Stat Areas

~ 4+ Subsequent Stat Point for every Level Up

~ Animal Friendly Effect can be activated (No animal, whether domestic or wild, will ever be hostile to you)

~ 'Bonding' will be applied to any living creature you wish to contract with or command. This will make them connected to you at all times, and they will be your loyal subordinate until the 'Bond' is terminated by you. (Bonding can only be used on creatures who have a lower or equal class with you)

~+100 Stat Points for Mana Level

[End Of Information]

It was all thanks to her Class Privileges that she could command such a creature despite it being much stronger than she was.

Her Status Window by her side displayed just how strong—or rather, weak—she was.

[STATUS WINDOW]

- Name: Alicia White

- Race: Human (Otherworlder)

- Class: Grand Tamer (A-Tier)

- Level: 9 (34.90% EXP)

- Life Force: 10

- Mana Level: 1/30 (+100) [10/300]
- Combat Ability: 23
- Stat Points: 0
- Skills (Exclusive): [Divine Beast Summon]. [Absolute Healing]. [Greater Ice Magic]
- Skills (Non-Exclusive): Nil
- Alignment: Lawful Good

[Additional Information]

A pet-lover who desires to return home, but can not afford to see others in a state of distress. Your Skills and Class are in perfect synergy with you.

[End Of Information]

The gap that she felt between herself and the rabbit was too far apart.

It was like the distance between Heaven and Earth.

'He was right...' Alicia heaved slowly.

As much as she hated to admit it, Ralyks had been correct on this matter.

'I'm too weak. This was the right call all along...' A small smile formed on her face as her lips curled upward.

Her amber-colored eyes reflected the System Notification that now glowed in front of her.

[Bonding Successful]

[Congratulations! You have acquired a Familiar, and a secure 'Bond' has been established between the two of you.]

[Please Name Your Familiar]

'I did it! I succeeded!'

The Summoning Circle surrounding the rabbit was slowly evaporating, but Alicia no longer laid any mind to it.

One of the importance of the Circle was to protect the summoner from the Beast within it, since if it wasn't yet under control, it could rampage.

No matter how powerful a Beast or Monster was, they could never break out of an active Summoning Circle.

If the rabbit had negative intentions, it couldn't perpetrate it as long as it was within the confines of the barrier.

But now... all of that was unnecessary.

The creature was hers now.

"Snow. I'll call her Snow."

[Your Familiar will be named 'Snow']

[You and Snow have become linked by your Bond, so you can completely understand each other]

[End Of Process]

The System Panel disappeared, and almost as soon as it did, Alicia collapsed to her knees in sheer exhaustion.

"Haaa... Haaa..."

Several of her classmates attempted to encircle her, but Ralyks signaled for them to stop.

As such, they maintained their distance.

"Huff... huff..." Sweat dripped from Alicia's face, and her body trembled as she felt the toll on her body.

'Even with the enhancements... I feel so drained.'

This wasn't Life Force drainage, else she would have healed herself.

It also wasn't a decrease in stamina or any other physical area, since she could always use the White Ember to raise her physical attributes to counter the exhaustion.

No... this was about her Mana.

'To think that I feel this way even after using three Enchanted Items simultaneously.'

It was no wonder she hadn't been able to properly use this Skill before.

'But... I did it!' Alicia beamed, albeit tiredly.

And the fruits of her labor, Snow, stood in front of her as a testament to that.

'You and I... we're in this together, okay?'

*

Chapter 250 The New Familiar [Pt 2]

"Congratulations, Alicia."

Ralyks' voice echoed throughout the devastated field as he approached, his dark cape and cloak now fluttering behind him as he walked towards her.

She was still kneeling, the rabbit in front of her, as she looked at him.

"This is quite an impressive summon." He added.

The moment he got a bit closer, the rabbit turned away from Alicia and glared at Ralyks.

'E-eh...?' The girl thought to herself, wondering where all the hostility was coming from.

"It appears you don't like me very much, Alicia. I have to say, that's a little hurtful..."

Alicia felt bad hearing that. She realized her Familiar must have sensed her dislike for Ralyks and acted accordingly.

"No, Snow. He's not an enemy." She quickly patted the white fur of the cute creature, and the thing finally backed off.

The Familiar returned its gaze to Alicia, rushing towards her bosom for something akin to an embrace.

"Looks like it desires to be petted. Do you have experience with animals?" Ralyks asked, almost amusedly.

Alicia smiled as she tickled the belly of the rabbit and gently stroked its head.

"Yes. I have... erm, cats back home. You may not know them, but..."

Alicia thought she saw Ralyks take a few steps back and shudder for a second, but that was probably her imagination.

"A-anyway... I don't think I'll have a problem catering for her."

"Her? What made you draw such a conclusion?"

"I just know it within myself." Alicia responded, stroking the rabbit even more.

The little guy seemed to be enjoying every moment of it, but Ralyks had to ruin the fun with a bit of unnecessary information.

"It's a Beast made of Mana. There's really no Gender or Sex you can give it."

"You think I don't—um... what I meant to say is that I'm well aware of that."

Alicia knew it would be wrong of her to be rude to her instructor, especially since he had shown a fair share of goodwill towards her.

'I still can't get over what he did, but he's not a bad person.'

Yes, Snow had no real sex, but that didn't mean Alicia would look at her just a thing made up of Mana.

It was also strange for her to refer to her Familiar as they/them.

As such, she could only think of the perfect compromise.

Besides, Snow looked feminine enough to be girl.

'And she's so soft too. Almost feels like a cat. I've not had a pet in this world yet. Ahh... I might get addicted to this!' She fought to make any weird face as she looked at her adorable little fighter.

As a warmer smile formed on Alicia's face, she looked a distance away from her.

"Hey, Rey! You should get over here. Come check this out. She's so soft."

She had told Rey all about her love for cats, and the pets she had at home.

Plus, Rey said he loved cats too.

'I'm sure this will remind him of them!'

As she thought this, she noticed Billy's sad—almost pitiful—expression, but completely ignored it.

She didn't want to have anything to do with him.

And now, with Snow by her side, he wouldn't dare to carelessly make a move against her.

"Come on, Rey... hurry." Alicia yelled, noticing how slow the boy was moving.

Before he could take another step, though—

"U-um... that's enough of playing around for now!"

—Ralyks suddenly interfered.

"You now have your Familiar, so let's move on to the next stage. You can indulge in whatever activities you wish to do after that."

What Ralyks said made a lot of sense. Once Alicia regained the awareness that literally every single person present had eyes on her, she realized how careless she had been.

"Maybe later, then..." She shot Rey an apologetic look, and he smiled and gave her a thumbs up.

'He must have felt a bit awkward doing this in public.'

Her Familiar shot her a quizzical expression, but she ignored it and focused on Ralyks and his new agenda.

"We'll have to test out the strength of your Familiar, since I still do not have a proper grasp of its—ah, I meant her—strength."

Alicia didn't know why, but she was happy to hear Ralyks adopt the pronoun for Snow.

"Don't worry. I won't be the one facing her." Ralyks added, placing both hands in his pockets.

"I guess we can all sit back and enjoy this show."

'That was a close one! That was a very close call!'

Rey found himself nearly sweating within his dark mask.

He had almost messed up his entire arrangement thanks to the existence of Snow.

'[Phantom Projection] is only a B-Tier Skill. That Familiar is too strong and sensitive to notice what is real and what isn't.'

His replacement as Rey was an illusion he had conjured up with that Skill. It worked on everyone with certain base Stats and inferior Levels to compensate.

Even Adonis, despite having an S-Tier Class, was no exception.

'He's weaker in terms of detection compared to Snow. That's probably why he didn't notice.'

However, one look at the Grand Beast told Rey that he already knew his replacement was an illusion.

'There's a chance it would have told Alicia if the projection got too close.'

That was why he had to quickly create this scenario.

'I already know how strong Snow is, but I suppose I can let everyone find out.'

Rey had a perfect method for that.

'I've used the Grand Fire Elemental before, so why don't we switch things up a little?'

Rather than relying on the one with the highest offensive capabilities, he would summon the better tank.

That was practically the best way to test the power of their new addition.

'And the entire thing will let me copy its Skills. A win-win!'

With his thoughts already concluded, Rey began his summoning process.

'[Greater Elemental Summoning (Basic)], and [Divine Elemental Magic]'

With the aid of [Fusion/Fission], the results were established.

"A Grand Earth Elemental."