

# **Strongest Necromancer Of Heaven's Gate**

## **- Chapter 161-192**

### **I'll Take Care Of These Pests For You |**

## **Chapter 161: I'll Take Care Of These Pests For You**

"Run, children!" Grandma Annie desperately shouted to the fleeing Dwarves, wanting them to run faster towards the shelters.

She was already feeling faint after casting spell after spell without a single break. She hurriedly ate some of her candies to replenish her health and mana as she scanned her surroundings.

Not far from her, Randolph was fighting against two Draugr's with his hammer. The Blacksmith had been a warrior in the past, and even now, he would train his body as long as he had extra time, which was whenever he wasn't busy forging weapons or armor for the foreigners who would visit his shop.

"Die!" Randolph shouted as he smashed one of the Draugr's head like a watermelon. He then rolled to his side, evading the attack of the Draugr behind him.

"Do you need help?" Grandma Annie asked as three Fire Bolts floated around her.

Randolph shook his head as he faced off against the Draugr in front of him.

"Save your strength, there are stronger monsters prowling about," Randolph said as he parried the slash of his opponent. "I'll kill this bastard first then we'll go help the guards take control of the situation."

"Got it!" Grandma Annie replied.

It was at this moment that they heard a loud explosion from the distance, followed by something falling from the sky.

"Cedwyn!" Grandma Annie shouted as she ran towards the Village Head who was seriously injured. "What happened to you? Who did this?!"

Blood seeped out of the corner of Cedwyn's lips as she gripped Grandma Annie's hand firmly.

"A-Annie, it's no use," Cedwyn said through gritted teeth. "The Village is done for. We can't win."

"Stop talking," Grandma Annie replied as she poured healing potion on Cedwyn's body and allowed him to drink a full bottle to help with his injuries. "We just need to hold on for an hour like always and the Riders of Norria will arrive. Captain Boreas is still here in the village, so he should be able to buy us time until the rest of his comrades arrive."

"No! It's no use!" Cedwyn stated as he stared at Grandma Annie with blood-shot eyes. "Run Annie! We can't win! No matter what we do, even if the Riders of Norria arrive, we can't win!"

"J-Just what are you talking about?" Grandma Annie stuttered.

She hadn't seen Cedwyn so desperate and helpless in the past, even if they were facing untold hardships.

"It's too late...", Cedwyn said, almost sobbing as he pointed behind Grandma Annie. "He is here."

The old candy maker of Leaf Village turned her head around and her entire body stiffened after seeing the Monster that was standing on top of a house and looking at her as if she was a mere insect.

"M-Mutated Thunder Wolf King!" Grandma Annie gasped in shock. "No! This is impossible! It can't be here! It just can't!"

Cedwyn could only smile bitterly as he watched Grandma Annie's reaction. At first, he had also thought that he might just be seeing things, but this was the reality that they were facing.

Earlier, he was forced to use a teleportation spell to forcefully send the Dwarf children outside the village. He didn't know where he had sent them because he didn't have enough time to properly set a coordinate.

All he knew was that any place would be safer than the village at the moment, so he sent them away before the Thunder Wolf King blasted them with its lightning bolt and turned them into ashes.

A moment later, another figure crashed into the house beside Cedwyn and Grandma Annie.

"Randolph!" Grandma Annie shouted as he looked at the Blacksmith who was not moving in the distance.

A moment later, a Red-Eyed Terror Mantis descended from the sky and landed near the fallen blacksmith. It then raised its bladed claw with the intention of ending Randolph's life, while the latter laid on the ground, heavily injured.

"Randooooooooooooooooolph!" Grandma Annie shouted with all of her might as the bladed claw slashed at the fallen Dwarf.

Flames swirled around her hand as she tried to cast her strongest spell in order to prevent the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis from taking her friend's life. She knew that her spell wouldn't make it in time, but there was nothing else that she could do at the moment.

The two of them had just been bickering with each other, and now, she could only watch helplessly as her friend lost his life in front of her.

Suddenly, the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis was blown away from where it stood and slammed into the wall of the nearby house, completely destroying it.

Grandma Annie and Cedwyn could only look at the figure standing beside the fallen Randolph with surprised expressions on their faces.

"Have no fear!" the fat, Demonic Defender cried out with arrogance. "Pazuzu is here!"

"P-Pazuzu," Grandma Annie stuttered. "If he's here then that could only mean..."

Just as Grandma Annie was about to finish her sentence, a Black Warg leapt above her head and landed several meters in front of her.

Riding on the Warg's back was a red-headed teenager, with a baby slime perched on top of his head.

"Lux...", Grandma Annie said, almost sobbing as she looked at the Half-Elf that she hadn't seen for several months. "Child, run away! Leave us here and save yourself!"

Lux turned around to look at the kind Grandma who would always invite him to eat some sweets in her tea shop whenever she saw him walking past her store. Seeing her in a disheveled state already made his heart ache, but seeing his Master, Randolph, lying unconscious on the ground, made his heart ache more to the point that he felt suffocated.

"Thank you for doing your best to protect everyone, Grandma Annie," Lux said as he shifted his attention to the two Alpha Monsters in front of him. "I'll take care of these pests for you."

The Half-Elf loved everyone in Leaf Village. Seeing it in such a state filled him with rage.

Grandma Annie wanted to dissuade the Half-Elf by letting him know that what he was about to do was suicide. However, her words stopped at the back of her throat as he looked at Lux's figure who was standing between them and the monsters who wanted them killed.

It had been a while since the last time she was protected by someone. She had always been the one doing her best to protect everyone in Leaf Village to the best of her abilities. Seeing Lux's straight and steady form, she started to believe that a miracle might just happen.

A miracle that would be fondly remembered by the residents of Leaf Village for many years to come.

## **Chapter 162: If We Survive This, I'm Taking You Out For A Drink**

The Red-Eyed Terror Mantis emerged from the destroyed house and angrily shrieked at Lux.

It was at this moment that Boreas, the Captain of the Riders of Norria, arrived at the scene along with over twenty Riders, who were all Grade C Apostles (Rank 2 Monsters).

After seeing the opponents, Boreas face paled. With just a glance, he could tell that the five-meter-tall mutated wolf was bad news.

"Captain Boreas, can you hold them back for five minutes?" Lux asked with a smile. "I need to do something first."

"No," Boreas replied. "It's impossible."

"Awww. Isn't this the part where you will say, 'Leave everything to me!' and act like a hero?"

"Don't ask for the impossible. That wolf is bad news. Even if our reinforcements arrive, it will still be difficult to deal with."

The red-headed teenager dismounted from his warg and summoned his skeletons to carry Randolph, Grandma Annie, and Cedwyn and mount them on Jed's back. He knew that all three of them had reached their limits and could no longer fight against the enemies.

"Has everyone been evacuated?" Lux asked Boreas, who was firmly holding his War Hammer while riding on top of his Mountain Goat.

Boreas nodded. "Only the Adults, the Guards of the Village, and the Riders of Norria remain. We have already suffered over a hundred casualties, and there will be more names added on that list until we defeat that thing."

Lux stared at the Thunder Wolf King who was eyeing them with great interest.

'If only I had my gold token with me, things would be different,' Lux thought.

The Half-Elf didn't want to rely on the power of an Argonaut Ranked Crystal Dragon when he fought because it would only give him a false sense of security. In order to prevent himself from relying on the artifact, he left it in his Grandma Vera's hands for safekeeping back in Solais.

He wanted to train himself to become stronger by his own strength, not by using the strength of others.

The Half-Elf took a deep breath as he summoned his Soul Book. It was now time for him to fight seriously, and this time, he would no longer hold back his strength.

In truth, aside from the Mythical Quest of the different villages in the Territory of Norria, his main reason for staying was to help Leaf Village fight off another Monster Outbreak as a means to redeem himself from what happened in the past.

Now that the time had finally arrived, he would fight with everything he had and put his life on the line for the sake of the village that accepted him even though he was not a Dwarf.

"Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, come!" Lux ordered and his three named creatures stood by his side. "I order the three of you to hold them back for five minutes. Do I make myself clear?!"

""Yes!""

All three named creatures spoke in unison as they took a step forward to face the two Alpha Monsters in front of them.

"Captain Boreas, if you want to have a chance of winning, please, accept my invitation!" Lux said as he sent the Rider Captain an invite to join his party.

For some reason, Boreas felt that Lux's words held a trace of confidence, so he nodded his head and accepted his invite. Soon, all of the Riders of Norria were added to Lux's party.

It was not only the Riders who had joined Lux's party, but also the Village Guards led by Aron, who was currently fighting against the Beast Ghoul in the Western side of the village.

"Eiko, summon Blackie and Whitey, as well as your Skeletons!" Lux ordered. "Also, don't join the battle for now. Wait for me to give you the signal!"

"Pa!" Eiko nodded as she summoned Blackie, Whitey, and her Skeleton Soldiers to fight by their side. Although she was raring to join them in battle, she prioritized obeying her Papa's orders because she trusted him completely.

Lux did the same and raised his hand to shout a Battle Cry to enhance everyone's physical and magical damage. He knew that even the smallest

increment in strength could potentially tilt the battle in their favor, so he no longer planned to only use it for himself and his Summons.

The Riders of Norria and the Village Guards immediately felt an additional strength surge in their bodies. However, before they could express their amazement, Diablo shouted his Warlord's Warcry, further boosting their strength.

"Jade Body!" Lux shouted and all his Skeletons Summons, as well as his other allies were enveloped with brilliance, coating their bodies with another layer of protection.

"W-We might just win this," Boreas muttered as he felt the power that was flowing inside his body.

Because of the buffs, all of the Riders of Norria's strength had been given an upgrade and their strength were now similar to a Grade B Apostle (Rank 3 Monsters). Boreas' strength even reached the initial stages of a Grade A Apostle (Rank 4 Monsters).

"Now, Captain, can you hold them back for five minutes?" Lux asked as he gazed at Boreas with a serious expression on his face.

This time, Boreas nodded his head.

"If it is only five minutes, I can do that," Boreas replied. "However, will we win if I give you five minutes?"

"Perhaps," Lux answered. "I will not know until we try."

Boreas grinned as he urged his mount to face the Monsters alongside his men.

"Boy, if we survive this, I'm taking you out for a drink," Boreas stated. "I'll give you the best Dwarf Wine you will ever taste in your life."

Lux smiled as he nodded his head. "I look forward to it."

The Half-Elf then summoned his Soul Book and started distributing his free stat points to his attributes, so that he could fight with full strength.

Slowly but surely, Lux's Rank broke through the Grade D Disciple Rank, but it didn't stop there, continuously rising at a rapid pace.

He had now broken past the limit of what was acceptable inside the Beginner's Zone, but he didn't care.

Several rows of text appeared in front of him, presenting him with the new set of abilities that had been unlocked after upgrading to his current rank.

As the Half-Elf raced against time, his Named Creatures and Skeleton Summons fought with everything they had to buy him the time he needed.

They knew that once their Master had finished allocating his points to his Stats and Skills, his true strength, that he had been suppressing for the past few months, would finally be unleashed in full.

## **Chapter 163.1: Lux's Battle Regalia [Part 1]**

After Lux's arrival, the defenders suddenly found a second wind, which allowed them to gain more strength to repel the invaders.

Due to the powerful buffs that had been granted when the Half-Elf completed the Hidden Quest in the Stronghold of Norria, all the defenders gained a 20% increase to their attack and defense.

Coupled with Lux's stacking buffs, they were able to deal with the rampaging monsters that were destroying the houses that were bereft of their owners.

"Push them back!" Boreas ordered. "Riders, rally to me!"

Boreas led the charge against the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, who was pushed back by the Riders of Norria's powerful charge.

Over twenty Riders smashed their hammers against the three-meter tall Mantis at about the same time, making it shriek out of pain and fury.

'The only tough problem left is the Thunder Wolf King,' Boreas thought as he glanced at the Peak Rank 5 Alpha Monster that was being distracted by Lux's Undead Army.

Every few seconds, one of Lux's and Eiko's Skeleton Summons would shatter after getting hit by the Giant Wolf's ferocious swipes.



The Baby Slime would immediately resummon the Skeletons that belonged to her every time they get destroyed in order to buy her Papa some time to fix his stats.

Several panels appeared in front of Lux, as he multitasked to allocate all of his stats and skill points.

A few minutes passed before the panels in front of Lux disappeared. He then closed his eyes and took a few deep breaths before opening his eyes again. He then looked at the carnage in front of him before shifting his attention to the Thunder Wolf King, whose strength even surpassed the Draconic Kobold, Cadmus.

The Half-Elf used the Elysium Compendium to appraise the greatest threat among the Monsters attacking Leaf Village.

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< Mutated Thunder Wolf King >

– Thunder Wolf King

– Rank 5 Field Boss Monster

Health: 783,210 / 800,000

Mana: 246,956 / 250,000

Strength: 800

Intelligence: 500

Vitality: 800

Agility: 800

Dexterity: 800

Active Skills: Chain Lightning, Call Lightning, Thunder Fang, Lightning Body, Leap, Lightning Step, Lightning Tempest.

Passive Skills: Ability Focus, Dodge, Quick Footed.

Title: Blessed by Thunder and Lightning

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Lux fearlessly gazed at the Monster as he prepared himself for battle.

"Eiko, it's time to fight seriously," Lux said as he raised his hand to summon more Skeletons to fight for his side.

"Pa!" Eiko replied, as she, too, summoned the new and improved Skeletons she gained thanks to Lux's upgrade.

Twenty five Skeletal Fighters and twenty Skeleton Grand Archers rose to fight the enemy in front of him. Both of their summoning skills now had a Rating of A, which made them more powerful.

However, Lux wasn't finished yet.

"Doppelganger," Lux said as two, near-perfect, clones appeared on his side.

"Pa!" Eiko also used her Doppelganger skill, creating two baby Slimes that jumped onto the heads of the clones that her Papa created.

""Arise!""

After a few seconds, the two new baby Slimes shouted in unison as they summoned their own Skeleton Fighters. Lux's two clones did the same and a hundred and eighty skeletons appeared around them.

But he was not done yet. Lux then raised his sword as he shouted his Battle Cry to increase everyone's attack damage.

As if waiting for that cue, Diablo also raised Oathbreaker towards the sky and activated his Warlord's Warcry, boosting everyone's attack further.

Now, Lux's Undead Army, as well as his allies, now had a +300 increase in their physical and magical attack damage.

But thanks to Diablo's passive ability, Warlord's Presence, which granted a 10% increase to physical and magical attack to the Warlord and his allies, their attacks were once again raised to the next level.

"Kill!" Lux ordered as his forces charged at the Thunder Wolf King with vengeance.

Lightning snaked around the Giant Wolf as the horns on its head glowed brightly. It was preparing to unleash its skill, Chain Lightning, which could decimate the majority of Lux's forces in one blow.

Fortunately, before the Alpha Monster could unleash its attack, Pazuzu used his Duel [EX] to force the monster to cancel its attack and exchange a blow with him.

Rains of arrows pelted the Giant Wolf's body as Pazuzu used his Shield Bash to smash the Alpha Monster's head, causing it to howl in pain.

When the Giant Wolf regained its balance, it leapt towards one of the houses and attempted to use its AOE skill once again. But before it could unleash its deadly strike, Diablo used his Duel [EX] to force the latter to lunge at him in frustration.

"My God, he is actually able to hold his ground against that thing!" Boreas exclaimed after smashing the head of the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, sending it crashing towards a house.

The Thunder Wolf King then angrily roared towards the sky, creating storm clouds that covered the entire village. Lightning flashed in the heavens and thunder roared in fury. It had had enough of the pesky insects that were getting on its nerves, so it decided to get serious.

"Did we rub you the wrong way?" Lux sneered at the arrogant Alpha Monster's beastly face, who treated all of them like insects.

The Giant Wolf roared in anger as lightning bolts hit its body, infusing it with some sort of lightning armor that crackled across its body.

Lux was unfazed as he raised his hand to give his Undead Summons an offensive buff.

"Barbed Bones!"

The Skeletons grew barbed spikes on their bodies made up of bones. These bones dealt additional 10 Piercing True Damage to anyone that attacked them.

Although 10 points of damage seemed like an insignificant number, it would still stack up every time Diablo, Ishtar, the Skeleton Fighters and the Skeleton Grand Archers were attacked.

Currently, there were over a hundred and eighty Skeletons present on the battlefield. If the Thunder Wolf King attacked all of them, a significant amount of damage would be dealt before all of them died.

Aron, the Guard Captain of Leaf Village, arrived at the scene and assessed the situation. Seeing that Lux was fighting against the Thunder Wolf King, he ordered his men to attack the beasts that were getting in the way of the Half-Elf's assault against the Field Boss Monster.

"Deal with those small fries first!" Aron ordered. "We will reinforce Lux after we clear them all up! Get them!"

"Charge!"

"Kill these bastards!"

"I'll turn them into barbecued meat later!"

The Dwarf Defenders rushed towards the Berserked Horned Rabbits, as well as the Carbunble that was assisting the Mutated Thunder Wolf King in battle. They had just defeated the Ghoul Beast and demolished its Undead Army, reducing the pressure on the Eastern Side of Leaf Village.

On the other hand, Boreas, the Rider Captain, was still busy dealing with the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis in addition to the Insect Outbreak that had come from the North.

Although Lux was currently dealing with the Thunder Wolf King and the Dire Wolves that came from the Heartwood Forest, they still didn't have enough manpower to deal with everything.

As if sensing his worries, he heard Lux's confident voice as he dealt with the Thunder Wolf King as well as the Dire Wolves that had come to help their leader.

"Don't worry, Captain Boreas," Lux answered. "I'll keep the Thunder Wolf company until you're done with the cleanup."

Boreas nodded and turned back to face the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis that had activated its Berserk Skill.

"Don't die before we exterminate these bugs, Lux," Boreas said as he charged at the Berserked Mantis whose strength had drastically increased.

Lux no longer had time to reply to the Rider Captain as he slashed at a Dire Wolf that had lunged at him.

Jed, his Black Warg, stood by his side and defended him from sneak attacks. The Black Warg was a Rank 3 Monster, so it was more than enough to deal with the Rank 2 Dire Wolves that were currently targeting its Master.

Suddenly, Lux's sixth sense kicked up so he hastily turned around, just in time to see the Thunder Wolf King shoot a lightning bolt in his direction.

A loud explosion rang out as the Giant Wolf's attack connected. It caused an eruption of dust clouds in Lux's location, blocking everyone's view.

Boreas' and Aron's voices rang out as they called for the Half-Elf who just got hit by the Monster's powerful attack.

The Mutated Thunder Wolf King was a very smart monster. It knew that if it killed the Summoner, all of the annoying Skeletons would disappear. Once they were gone, nothing would stand in its way of completely obliterating the village that it had set its eyes on.

"That was a close call. For a brief moment I thought I was a goner."

A teasing voice came from within the dust cloud, which made Aron and Boreas, who thought that Lux had been turned into charcoal, feel relieved.

A few moments later, the dust cloud dispersed and the Half-Elf reappeared. Only this time, he was covered in a blue-colored full body armor that gleamed faintly in the sunlight.

## **Chapter 164.2: Lux's Battle Regalia [Part 2]**

"Is that the Faunus Battle Regalia?" Aron gasped as he looked at the blue armor that covered Lux's entire body. "No. The Faunus Battle Regalia is green. This one is blue, but the design is almost the same."

What Aron didn't know was that he guessed correctly. Lux had indeed equipped the Faunus Battle Regalia, but it had been modified in accordance to the Half-Elf's request, which had given Randolph a headache when he was crafting it for him.

Even so, after nearly a month of experiments, Lux's Personal Battle Regalia was born and it was called "Lux's Dragon Regalia".

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< Lux's Dragon Regalia >

(Lightning Awakened Form)

Rating: Pseudo-Legendary

Requirements: Apostle Grade D

– An armor that was forged for the sake of protecting someone who is important to him.

+50 to all Stats

+500 to Defense

– 50% Resistance to the element of Lightning

– Has a moderate chance to nullify any lightning based damage that the wearer of this armor will receive.

– This armor can absorb lightning damage and use it to coat its entirety with lightning that deals damage to anyone within two meters of its wearer.

– This Armor is bound to Lux Von Kaizer

Active Skills: Lightning Flash, Lightning Strider, Lightning Body

Passive Skills: Improved Lightning Reflexes, Improved Concentration, Beast Bane, Improved Elemental Resistance, Absorb Lightning, Indestructible, Auto Fit

< Lightning Flash >

– Create a dazzling radiance that has a high chance of temporarily blinding your enemies.

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< Lightning Strider >

– Teleport anywhere within a twenty meter square radius.

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< Lightning Body >

– Coat your body with the power of lightning that deals damage to anyone within two meters of you.

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< Improved Concentration >

– Raises all of your stats by 10 points each.

< Improved Lightning Reflexes >

– Your awareness is raised to a higher level, giving you the ability to dodge blows, as well as execute maneuvers that require fast movement.

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< Beast Bane >

– When fighting against Beast Type Monsters, increase physical and magical damage by 20%

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< Improved Elemental Resistance >

– Decrease all Elemental Damage by 20%

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Lux's Dragon Regalia was an armor that was specifically crafted to counter any skill that was related to lightning. Lux had asked his Master, Randolph, to craft this armor with the intention of wanting to beat the crap out of Nero at the Tournament at Barbatos Academy.

It just so happened that the Mutated Thunder Wolf King was a Lightning Type Monster, which gave Lux the perfect opportunity to try out the power of his armor.

However, this armor was still not complete. After hearing Lux's request, Randolph came up with an ingenious idea of creating an armor that could change its elemental affinity. He wanted to make an armor that was capable of resisting as well as nullifying all elemental damage.

Lux's Armor was still a prototype for his grand design, so it was still incomplete. Even so, the red-headed teenager was already more than happy with the armor that his Master had especially crafted for him.

"Lightning Body!" Lux roared towards the sky, and the heavens answered his call. Several lightning bolts descended from the sky, repeatedly striking the Half-Elf who was currently wearing his personalized battle regalia.

After the armor was bathed in lightning bolts, its color changed to a whitish blue, as lightning cracked around its body.

"Okay, let's go for round two, shall we?" Lux said before consecutively teleporting three times until he was right below the Giant Wolf.

"Dragon War Art Second Form!" Lux shouted as his hands turned into Dragon Claws. "Dragon Uppercut!"

The head of the Giant Wolf was pushed back after Lux unleashed one of the Dragon War Arts that he had mastered while he was finishing the mythical quests of the other villages in the Territory of Norria.

The Mutated Thunder Wolf quickly recovered and immediately used its own claws to swipe at the arrogant Half-Elf that dared to attack it.



A metallic sound resonated in the battlefield as a tower shield met with the Giant Wolf's attack, preventing it from hitting Lux, who was now standing behind his Demonic Defender.

"Shield Bash!" Pazuzu smashed his shield against the Wolf's face, pushing it away from its Master.

"Eiko, let's do it!"

"Pa!"

Before Lux teleported towards the Mutated Thunder Wolf King, he had told Eiko to jump off his head, so she could go near their opponent without being noticed.

Lux's and the baby Slime's clones had surrounded the Thunder Wolf King with the intention of crippling their opponent by draining away its mana reserves.

""""Mana Drain!""""

""""Pa!""""

Tendrils of magical energy were siphoned from the Thunder Wolf King's body at a rapid pace, which alarmed the Field Boss.

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Mana Drain [EX]: Absorbs the Mana of your target for five seconds. Mana absorbed is equivalent to 5% of Target's Maximum Mana.

Range: 10 meters

Duration: 5 seconds

Cooldown: 20 seconds

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Although 5% might seem small, Mana Drain was still a skill capable of exhausting the opponent's mana reserve, limiting their usage of active skills. Right now, Lux's, as well as Eiko's clones were also using this skill at the same time, which drastically increased the amount of mana drained from the Thunder Wolf King.

The skill only had a twenty seconds cooldown, and in the limited period of time, Lux was able to absorb 30% of the Monster's Mana within the span of a few seconds.

If Lux could do this three to four more times, the Field Boss would run out of juice, and would have no choice but to fight them with just physical attacks.

As if considering this possibility, the Thunder Wolf King decided to unleash a strong AOE attack to repel everyone that was attacking it. Right now, only Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, and the Skeleton Grand Archers were actively fighting the Boss Monster.

The Skeleton Fighters were busy keeping the Dire Wolves that were trying to help their leader away from the battle.

As the Thunder Wolf King gathered magical energy in its body, it eyed Lux with hatred.

Unfortunately, the boss was unable to cast its powerful skill because one of Eiko's Clones had copied Diablo's Duel [EX] skill, forcing the Giant Wolf to face her.

The baby Slime clone only opened its mouth as a magic circle appeared in front of it.

Lux, Eiko, and the rest of their clones did the same as they prepared to unleash one of the strongest attacks that they could muster at the same time.

This was one of Lux's ultimate Trump Cards.

He and Eiko had already used this move several times when they were clearing the difficult missions that accompanied the Mythical Quests in the Territory of Norria.

It was an attack that even Cadmus, who was a Rank 5 Alpha Monster, didn't want to face head-on.

""Dragon's Breath!""

""Eyah!""

Six dragon breaths engulfed the Thunder Wolf King, resulting in an explosion that blew away all nearby Skeletons and Dire Wolves that were fighting near the Boss Monster.

Aron, and Boreas, who had just finished dealing with the Carbuncle and the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, could only stare in shock at the powerful explosion that shook the entirety of Leaf Village.

Although they didn't want to admit it, the Half-Elf who had almost died during the Undead Outbreak when he first arrived, was now stronger than them.

## Chapter 165: The Revenger

The Mutated Thunder Wolf King was in the center of a smoldering crater after it had tanked six Dragon Breaths at the same time. It was badly shaken by the surprise attack, and had received serious injuries, but the Half-Elf was certain that it could still fight.

If it was an ordinary Alpha Beast, like the Red-Eyed Terror Mantis, it might have been killed by this point.

Smoke oozed out from the corner of Lux's and Eiko's lips as the effect of the Dragon's Breath faded.

'I knew it, it would not go down that easily,' Lux thought. 'As expected of a Rank Five Field Boss Monster.'

After checking the Elysium Compendium, Lux was quite surprised when he saw that they managed to take out a third of the Mutated Thunder Wolf King's health.

"Eiko!"

"Pa!"

""""Mana Drain!""""

""""Drain!""""

Lux took this opportunity to siphon the Monster's mana reserves, while it was still down for the count.

Diablo rushed towards the Monster, wielding a Dark Spear that Lux had acquired when doing the Mythical Quest in Millwood Village. Although it wasn't a Mythical Weapon, it was still a Unique Weapon that boasted significant strength.

The Skeletal Rider's Heroic Charge connected with the Thunder Wolf King's body, sending it skidding several meters away. However, just before Diablo could hit it with a follow up attack, the monster leapt away to safety.

"Lux! We're here!" Boreas shouted.

"Let's take this monster down together!" Aron declared.

Seeing that it was outnumbered, the Mutated Wolf King planned to escape, but before doing that, it still wanted to kill the Half-Elf who had made its life miserable.

Lightning enveloped the Giant Wolf's feet before it disappeared from where it originally stood. A second later, it reappeared behind Lux, and opened its fangs to bite him to pieces.

However, just as its fangs were about to reach its target, a rocky hand jutted out of the ground and gave the Thunder Wolf King an uppercut that sent it flying.

"I knew you'd do that, so I prepared a surprise for you beforehand," Lux turned around to look at the Giant Wolf whose jaws were bleeding from the blow it received. "Say hello to my little friend."

The ground trembled and a four-meter-tall rock golem stood in front of Lux. After Lux had upgraded all of his stats and skill points, he had unlocked his skill Summon Golem, and pooled his remaining Skill Points to strengthen it as much as possible.

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< Orion >

"Where there is no Struggle, there is no Strength."

– Named Golem

– Rock Golem

– Rating: B

– Mana 100

– Progress ( 0 / 10,000)

Health: 60,000 / 60,000

Mana: 2,500 / 2,500

Attack: 950 - 1000

Attack Type: Earth Elemental Damage

Strength: 300

Intelligence: 50

Vitality: 300

Agility: 50

Dexterity: 100

Defense: 600

Active Skill: Earthshaker, Rock Throw, Rampage, Duel [EX], Jackhammer, Stomp, Gaia Smash

Passive Skill: Equip Item, Guts, Enhanced Fortitude, Stone Skin, Earth Walker

Title: Revenger

– Orion is your fourth Named Creature and has been bestowed the title of Revenger.

– This Named Creature has gained the ability to evolve.

< Revenger >

– Regardless of what happens in the future, this Named Creature will be forever loyal to you.

– All attacks made by Orion will deal extra damage as his health decreases.

100% Health = Normal Damage

80% Health = Increase damage by 25%

60% Health = Increase Damage by 50%

40% Health = Increase Damage by 75%

20% Health - Increase Damage by 200%

– When Orion is killed by an enemy, he will add the name of that creature to his Revenge List. The next time he faces the same enemy, all of his stats will increase by 200%

– The Revenger ability will apply to similar kinds of monsters in his Revenge List. For example, if he was killed by a Red Dragon, the next time he faced a Red Dragon, his overall stats would increase by 200% upon meeting the creature on his revenge list.

– If Orion is killed by the same creature again, he would gain an additional 10% stacking bonus to the overall increase of his Stat Points, whenever he faces the same enemy.

Note: Vengeance is always an option!

(A/N: Orion gains a 210% increase in all of his stats if he is killed by the same enemy twice, and 220% if he was killed thrice. This effect stacks and so on, and so forth.)

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"Go get him, Orion!" Lux ordered and the Rock Golem roared before running towards the direction of the Mutated Thunder Wolf King that lunged at the Golem in front of it.

Just as the two were about to collide, the Giant Wolf King vanished once again. It was dead set on killing the Half-Elf, but did not want to bother with his Summons.

The Mutated Thunder Wolf King reappeared beside its armored opponent and crushed him with all of his might.

The sound of armor creaking was heard, and soon, the body it had bitten was torn in half.

"No! Lux!" Boreas shouted when he saw what happened to the Half-Elf that had the upper hand in the battle. He didn't expect that the monster would be stubborn enough to only aim at Lux in order to end his life.

After killing its prey, the Mutated Thunder Wolf King howled in triumph before eyeing the summoned monsters that would soon disappear in front of it. But, after nearly half a minute, the Skeletons were still there and were rushing towards the Boss Monsters as if they were on steroids.

Diablo's bone spears, as well as Airon's flame lances, flew through the air, hitting the side of the Giant Wolf's body.

Ishtar's rain of arrows pummeled her target and made its movements slow down.

Pazuzu smashed its mace into the Giant Wolf's forehead, making it howl in pain.

"T-They're still moving?" Aron muttered as he looked at Lux's summons who were duking it out with the Boss Monster, who was also fighting them with everything it had.

Boreas immediately noticed something and urged his subordinates to attack. Since the summoned creatures didn't disappear when Lux died it only meant one thing.

The Half-Elf wasn't dead.

Soon, the wrath of the Riders of Norria was seen as their weapons smashed against the Mutated Thunder Wolf King's body repeatedly, while their goats rammed their horns into its body.

Aron also snapped out of his daze and ordered his men to join the fray.

Each and every time the Thunder Wolf King tried to use its AOE lightning attacks, one of Lux's minions would cancel it by forcing it into a duel.

Little by little, the health of the Rank 5 Monster dropped, until only a third of it remained.

The clones had repeatedly used the Mana Drain ability until the boss monster could no longer sustain its special moves. It had no choice but to resort to just using its physical attacks to deal with the horde of Skeletons, Dwarves, Slimes, and the Rock Golem who punched the Giant Wolf's head left and right.

After feeling that its death was imminent, the Thunder Wolf King forcefully shook off its attackers and used its Lightning Step one last time to distance itself from its enemies before making a run for it.

"Just where do you think you're going?"

A teasing tone asked from the sky.

Lux, whom everyone had thought was dead, descended from the heavens like a comet.

"Dragon War Art Ninth Form!" Lux roared as an image of a Red Dragon appeared above him. "Draco-Meteor!"

The mighty roar of a Dragon spread across the surroundings as Lux descended in blazing fury.

His fist smashed into the Mutated Thunder Wolf King's head, causing the ground under its feet to shatter due the force of the impact.

"Die!" Lux shouted as he smashed the Giant Wolf's head towards the ground again, creating a powerful explosion, which sent dirt and rocks flying in every direction.

Lux clicked his tongue because his blow was still not enough to kill the monster. However, he was completely exhausted from the all out attack he had just done.

The Half-Elf then used his Lightning Strider skill to distance himself from the monster who was near-death and ordered his new companion to finish it.

"Orion! Finish him!" Lux ordered as he pointed at the Monster which had forcefully propped itself up from the ground.



The ground shook as the four-meter tall Rock Golem ran towards his opponent. When the wolf came within its range, it used its Leap Attack to lunge at his opponent with his arms pulled back to deliver its strongest attack.

"Gaia Smash!" Orion roared as it descended towards his enemy with his fist radiating a golden light.

The moment the Rock Golem's attack connected, a loud cracking sound was heard as the Mutated Thunder Wolf King's skull broke under Orion's finishing strike.

A powerful shockwave blasted everyone in the surroundings away as the Boss Monster howled its dying cry.

The greatest threat that appeared in Leaf Village had finally breathed its last and turned into particles of light.

This left everyone, especially the dwarves, feeling like they had just witnessed the birth of a legend, whose tale would soon spread across the entire Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven.

## **Chapter 166: Aftermath of the Grand Monster Outbreak**

"Hurry up everyone!" Thoram, the Commander of the Stronghold of Norria, led the charge towards Leaf Village.

Behind him, over five hundred Riders of Norria rode their trusty Goats. Leaf Village had rung the highest level of alarm possible, which meant that they weren't dealing with just an ordinary Monster Outbreak.

Boreas, one of his most trusted Captains, had been stationed to look after the village. With him there, no ordinary Monster Outbreak could possibly get past him. Still, the Calamity Bell of Leaf Village had been rung, which meant that the problem they were facing could potentially wipe out the entire village from the face of the world.

From afar, he could see dark clouds covering the entirety of the village. All of the Riders of Norria watched as lightning bolts fell from the sky, followed by a booming thunder that spread across the entire territory of Norria.

As the strongest Dwarf Commander, he had also felt the powerful fluctuations that were happening in the distance.

'It will still take us about thirty minutes before we can arrive.' Thoram gritted his teeth. 'If Leaf Village falls, I will be demoted from my position and possibly be replaced by the King for my inability to secure this territory. No matter what happens, I must get there in time!'

When the almost non-existent protective walls of Leaf Village finally came into view, all that Thoram saw was smoke rising up in the air. His heart sank, thinking that the village had been destroyed completely and that no one had survived.

"Sound the battle horns!" Thoram ordered. "Make them know that reinforcements have arrived!"

Immediately, the sound of horns reverberated in the surroundings as the Riders of Norria entered Leaf Village with their weapons raised high. Their eyes were bloodshot and they were ready to kill the first Monster that crossed their path.

The first thing that Thoram saw when he and his troops entered the village were the countless bodies of Monsters lying on the ground. There were also several Dwarfs that had fallen in battle, but all of them were adults, who had done their best to fight for those that were important to them.

It was obvious that they prioritized the evacuation of the children and the Foreigners, who would often help the Village resist Monster Outbreaks.

When the Riders of Norria arrived near the center of the village, they saw over a hundred Skeletons loitering about. There was even a Rock Golem, who was carrying a few Dwarves in his hands, which made Thoram roar in anger.

"Kill these filthy Monsters!" Thoram roared. "Avenge Leaf Village!"

""Kill!""

The Skeletons looked towards the direction of the approaching Riders, some even waving at them from afar. Thoram thought that the monsters were mocking them so he raised his warhammer and lunged at the nearest Skeleton and smashed his hammer on its face.

The poor Skeleton was then gangbanged until its entire body shattered into pieces. Seeing this scene, all the other Skeletons made a run for it, and headed to the very center of the village.

"Don't let them escape!" Thoram ordered. "Kill them all!"

Just as the Riders were about to follow their Commander's orders, Boreas and his subordinates ran towards their Commander while waving their hands in an attempt to stop the massacre of friendly forces.

"Commander! They are allies!" Boreas shouted. "Don't kill them!"

Aron, the Head of the Village Guards, also appeared from the distance, running in their direction and shouting to not kill the Skeletons.

Thoram raised his hand to stop the Riders' advance and looked at his Rider Captain, as well as the Guard Captain with a serious expression on his face.

"Explain the situation," Thoram ordered. "Where are the monsters? Is everyone dead? Where is Cedwyn?"

Boreas cleared his throat before he answered his Commander's barrage of questions.

"The Monsters are still being dealt with, but most of them have been slain. We are currently in the middle of clean up operations, Commander," Boreas answered. "As for the villagers, we had over a hundred casualties, and hundreds of wounded who are now receiving treatment."

"Village Head, Cedwyn, was injured, but there is no danger to his life. He is currently at the rear of the village, looking after the wounded."

Thoram sighed after hearing Boreas' explanation. He then looked at the devastated village in front of him with a serious expression on his face.

"Just what on Earth attacked this place?" Thoram asked. "This is too much destruction for a Monster Outbreak."

Boreas nodded. "It was no ordinary Monster Outbreak, Commander. It was a Grand Monster Outbreak. The Beasts from the Aspiration plains, the Undead from the Cemetery, the Insect Monsters from the Figaro Gardens, as well as the Dire Wolves from the Heartwood Forest, all attacked at the same time."

"However, that is not the main reason for this much destruction. A Rank 5 Mutated Thunder Wolf King also appeared and destroyed any attempt of resistance from the villagers and us. I'm not gonna lie, Commander. I thought that I wouldn't be able to survive unless all of you arrived."

Thoram's expression became grim when he heard the name of the Monster that attacked Leaf Village. There had been several cases in the past where the Thunder Wolf King had been sighted, especially near the territory of the Intermediate Towns.

Everytime it happened, the Adventurer's Guild would issue an emergency order to slay it as soon as possible in order to prevent widespread casualties that usually followed the appearance of such Beasts.

The Dwarf Commander knew that Boreas, as well as Aron, couldn't possibly defeat the Field Boss Monster, which was nearing the Pseudo-Deimos Rank.

"Where is it now?" Thoram asked. "Did it leave after destroying more than half of the village?"

Boreas shook his head. "No, sir. The Mutated Thunder Wolf King is now dead. We are just cleaning up the remaining Beasts that are still loitering within the village."

Thoram blinked once then twice as he stared at his Rider Captain with an incredulous look on his face.

"Killed?" Thoram asked. "What do you mean killed? Who killed it?"

Boreas didn't answer, and simply pointed towards the center of the village. There, a red-headed teenager, seated on top of a Black Warg, could be seen.

Thoram looked at the Half-Elf, who was holding his Soul Book in his hands and seemed to be pondering something very important. After looking at Lux, he then shifted his attention to Boreas and gave him the "You must be kidding me?" glare, which made the latter scratch his head in helplessness.

"It is true, Commander," Aron said as he walked towards the Commander of the Riders of Norria. "It was indeed Lux who slew the Mutated Thunder Wolf King. If I didn't witness it myself, I'd have the same expression you have on your face right now."

Thoram shifted his attention back to the Half-Elf, who was still seated on top of his Black Warg. Right now, he was still half in doubt whether Boreas and Aron were telling him the truth.

However, things were clear, the Grand Monster Outbreak was now over and the villagers were safe. He wouldn't have to be demoted and kicked out of his position as the Commander of Norria.

'I guess I owe this kid a favor,' Thoram thought as he urged his mount to head towards the savior of Leaf Village. He still had so many questions, but decided to hold onto them until he could get a detailed report from the Elders of Leaf Village.

Boreas and Aron watched as the Commander of Norria headed towards the Half-Elf, who was still busy looking at his Soul Book. A moment later, the two exchanged a knowing glance with each other because Lux's performance had far exceeded those of the previous foreigners that had stayed in Leaf Village.

They had a feeling that if the officials in the Capital were to hear about his latest feat, the King might confer another Honorary Rank on him, which would raise Lux's rank to that of an Honorary Baronet.

## Chapter 167: Birth Of A Legend

Lux, who was seated on top of his Mount, Jed, had a serious expression on his face as he looked at the spoils of war he obtained from defeating the Mutated Thunder Wolf King.

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< Leaf Village's Tragedy >

– Emergency Quest

– Difficulty Rating: S

– An extremely rare monster that has never been seen in the Territory of Norria has spawned inside Heartwood Forest.

– The Thunderwolf King can be considered an Overlord of an area and has the ability to control all beasts, including Alpha Monsters, within its surrounding territories.

– Due to its aggressive and terrorizing nature, the Thunder Wolf King will seek the nearest settlement and kill everything in sight without leaving any survivors behind.

Quest Objective: Defeat the Thunder Wolf King and save Leaf Village from complete destruction.

Quest Failure: When Leaf Village is completely destroyed and only 20% of the overall population (including Solaians) remains.

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< Rewards >

5,000 Gold Coins

10,000 Leaf Village Reputation Points.

5,000 Stronghold of Norria reputation Points.

200 Kingdom of Gweliven Reputation Points

1 Beast Core of Mutated Thunder Wolf King

1 Beast Core of Carbuncle

1 Beast Core of Red-Eyed Terror Mantis

1 Beast Core of Ghoul Beast

+1,000 Points to Immortal Dragon Conqueror's Legacy

+1,000 Skill Points

+5 to Summon Skeleton Skills

+1 to Summon Golem Skills

+1 Thunder Wolf King Mutated Blood

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< Bonus Rewards >

- Guardian Crystal (Mythical Rank)

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< Guardian Crystal >

- The Guardian Crystal has the power to ward off any kind of Monster Attack below the Dreadnaught Rank.
- Once the Guardian Crystal has been assigned to a location, it cannot be transferred anywhere else.
- Gives a permanent 10% increase to production success of Crafting, Alchemy, Smithing, and any form of crafts made in Leaf Village.
- Everyone inside Leaf Village will gain a 100% Health and Mana Regeneration Buff that will last for an hour after they leave the village.

-----

Lux was paying close attention to the Guardian Crystal that he had acquired as a Bonus Reward after defeating the Thunder Wolf King.

'If the information of the Guardian Crystal is true then this is certainly a good thing,' Lux thought. 'With this, Leaf Village will no longer have to worry about Monster Outbreaks ever again.'

Lux had already decided to give the Guardian Crystal to Cedwyn, to increase the defense of the Village that had played an important role in his life in Elysium.

The Half-Elf's main reason for not leaving the Village when he could have was to help them fight against the next Monster Outbreak that would happen within a year. He could still remember the horror of the first Monster Outbreak he had experienced that had almost taken his life.

This was the final goal that he had set for himself, before he could leave without any regrets and continue his journey in Elysium. Acquiring the

Guardian Crystal was a pleasant surprise because it would ensure the safety of Leaf Village for hundreds of years.

But, the one thing that surprised Lux the most was that after defeating the Thunder Wolf King, he received its mutated blood, which allowed any wolf type monster to gain its abilities.

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< Thunder Wolf King's Mutated Blood >

- Allows Wolf Type Monsters to mutate and gain the powers of the Thunder Wolf King.
- Creatures bestowed with this blood will gain the ability to evolve.

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'This Thunder Wolf King Mutated Blood will be useful to upgrade Jed's race and rank,' Lux mused as he looked at the vial of blood which he already decided to give Jed at a later time. In Elysium, the type and race of a monster played an important role in its strength.

Even if creatures had the same Rank, that didn't mean that their strengths were equal. The perfect example of this was Keoza, the Crystal Dragon, who now resided inside Lux's Golden Dragon Token.

If the Thunder Wolf King reached the Argonaut Rank, it would still lose to Keoza, hands down, if the two of them were to battle. This was the difference in race.

In Elysium, there were very few monsters that had the strength to contend with Dragons. Phoenixes, Qilins, and the other Mythical Races were also in this category.

Lower-ranked monsters like the Thunder Wolf King were simply not enough to threaten a pure-blooded Dragon of the same rank.

After Lux finished checking the rewards he had received from the emergency quest, he noticed another notification in his Soul Book, which gave him a very pleasant surprise.



'I didn't expect that I would be able to complete this mission in this manner,' Lux thought as he looked at the rewards from the Hidden Mythical Quest of Leaf Village that no one had ever cleared in the past.

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### < Mythical Quest >

#### (Birth of a Legend)

- Defeat the Alpha Monster of the Aspiration Plains.

#### Carbuncle (1/1)

- Defeat the Alpha Monster of the Leaf Village Cemetery

#### Ghoul Beast (1/1)

- Defeat the Alpha Monster of Figaro Garden

#### Red-Eyed Terror Mantis (1/1)

- Defeat the Field Boss of Heartwood Forest

#### Forest Wolf King (1/1)

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### < Rewards >

- 500 Skill Points
- 50 Body Constitution Points
- 50 Stats Points
- Leaf Village Equipment Set (Mythical)

#### [Favonius Legacy, The Heirloom of the West]

- One random Mythical Item exclusive to the Leaf Village

#### [Misery's End - Destroyer of Lost Hope]

## < Bonus Rewards >

Title: Eternal Guardian

5,000 Leaf Village Reputation Points

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## < Eternal Guardian >

- Increases Physical and Magical attacks by 10%
- Increases Defense by 10%
- Increases Magical Resistance by 10%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase all Stats by 100%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase Physical and Magical Attacks by 100%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase Physical and Magical Defense by 100%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase Health and Mana Regeneration by 200%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase Health Points by 200%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, you will be able to use the Skill, Guardian's Call.
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, you will be able to command its Guardian Beast if it exists.
- You will be able to instantly teleport to Leaf Village anytime you want, regardless of your current Rank.

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## < Guardian's Call >

- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase the stats of all your guild members by 100%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase Physical and Magical Attack of all your guild members by 100%
- When defending a village, town, stronghold, or city, increase Physical and Magical Defense of all your guild members by 100%
- This Skill also applies to all Creatures under your command.

---

Lux almost fell off Jed's back after seeing the information of the Title he received from clearing Leaf Village's Mythical Quest.

"Oh... My... God," Lux muttered after rereading the information of the Eternal Guardian Title for the second time just to make sure that his eyes weren't deceiving him.

'It's real,' Lux thought as he rubbed his face with both of his hands. 'What an OP ability.'

Aside from the bonuses that the Eternal Guardian Title bestowed, it also gave a groundbreaking ability that would bypass the established rules of Elysium.

What was that rule? It was the ability to return to a Beginner Village regardless of Rank. This was simply an ability that was unheard of. Although Elysians could go anywhere in their world, the same couldn't be said for Solaians.

Once they stepped into the Apostle Grade, they would be forced to leave the Beginner's Village after ten days, whether they liked it or not.

While Lux was still recovering from his shock, Thoram, the Commander of the Stronghold of Norria, arrived next to him.

"Lux, my boy, just what have you been eating as of late?" Thoram asked in a teasing tone. "I haven't seen you for a while and the next thing I know, you're fighting against a Thunder Wolf King by yourself. Tell me, Lad, what kind of mead have you been drinking? I want some of that as well."

Lux chuckled nervously, unable to come up with any answer to give to the Commander of Norria, who was looking at him as if he was planning on dissecting him to see what made him tick.

## Chapter 168: Tales of Hardship And Friendship

< 231 Hours, 23 minutes, 20 seconds. >

The countdown indicating when Lux had to leave Leaf Village had started to move. However, the Half-Elf was currently being jostled around the center of the Plaza by his Master, Randolph, who had a merry face, while he held a mug of mead in his hands.

"Hahaha! My Disciple is so awesome!"

"Um. Do you know that this boy is my Disciple? You don't? Well, now you know! I taught this brat everything he knows!"

"Yes. the moment I saw him, I knew he was the one. Because of this, I made sure to teach him the basics, and look at him now, he's so... tall, right?"

"Hahaha! Of course, I was the one that raised this boy since he was a weeee lad. What? You don't believe me? Tsk, can't you see the resemblance of our faces? Both of us are handsome!"

Lux was doing his best to keep the smile on his face from stiffening as his Master paraded him around, bragging to everyone that they met on how he raised him to be a strong adventurer.

Only when Grandma Annie whacked him repeatedly with her walking stick out of irritation, did the old Dwarf stop bragging and leave Lux alone.

The Half-Elf looked at a quiet place as he raised the mug of mead in his lips to take a sip. If his Grandma Vera was there, she would give Lux a disapproving look because he was still not of drinking age.

Even so, since the occasion was special, Lux allowed himself to enjoy this moment, even though the drink he was drinking was quite bitter.

A large bonfire was set up at the center of the plaza, while several smaller ones could be seen everywhere. Half of Leaf Village had been destroyed, and there were many things that needed to be done when morning came.

Giving those who died their last rites, and giving them a proper burial.

Sending the orphaned children to the Stronghold of Norria to be kept safe until the orphanage that Cedwyn had proposed was built.

Rebuilding the houses that were destroyed.

There were so many things that had to be done, but for tonight, everyone was just thankful to be alive.

As the one who played a big role in saving the village, Lux was treated as a hero by everyone. The Dwarves from Elysium and Solais would look at Lux in admiration and respect, which made the Half-Elf feel bashful.

In the past, Lux had hungered for recognition.

He wanted to prove to everyone that he wasn't useless.

He wanted his Grandma to be proud of his achievements as a way to repay her for raising him with love and care.

More than anything else, he wanted to go to Elysium, so that his goals could be achieved.

But, no one knew how hard he worked in order to achieve what he had today.

How many times he risked his life in order to gain the power to protect those that were important to him.

All everyone saw was his greatness, and no one knew about his failures and hardships. Even so, Lux felt that his suffering and hardships had just started.

"Eiko, we'll stay in Leaf Village for a while to help repair the houses that were destroyed," Lux said as he lightly patted the baby Slime that sat on his lap.

"After that, we'll go to the Intermediate Town to look for Colette and the others. I don't know if they went straight to Whitebridge City where her sister was, but just in case she didn't, we will meet with them first before we head back to Solais to register for the upcoming tournament in Barbatos Academy."

"Pa!" Eiko nodded her head in agreement. After that she jumped on Lux's arms and moved toward the mug of mead in his hand.

However, before the curious baby Slime could even drink the mead, Lux grabbed her and told Eiko that she was still too young to drink mead. Eiko protested, but after Lux told her that Iris would get mad if he allowed her to drink his mead, the baby Slime stopped being stubborn and crawled back onto Lux's lap, so that her Papa could continue to pat her head.

While the Half-Elf and Baby Slime were having a bonding moment, Cedwyn, the Village Head of Leaf Village, approached Lux with a smile.

"Lux, are you sure you want to give us this Guardian Crystal?" Cedwyn asked as he showed Lux a golden crystal that was a foot tall. "This could fetch a high price, you know?"

"Village head, the lives of the people here in Leaf Village are priceless," Lux replied. "No amount of gold can match Grandma Annie's life, as well as my Master Randolph's life. Knowing that both of them will be safe even after I leave will give me some peace of mind. So, please, take the Guardian Crystal and ensure that Leaf Village will prosper for many years to come."

Cedwyn looked at Lux fondly and nodded his head. For villages located at the edge of the Kingdom of Gweliven, a Guardian Crystal was like a protective charm that ensured that no Monster Outbreaks, or Beast Tides, would dare come their way.

"By the way, Lux, when will you leave Leaf Village?" Cedwyn asked. "Oh, don't misunderstand. I am not forcing you to leave, in fact, I wish that you can stay with us longer. I just want to know so that we can prepare to give you a grand send off before you head to the Intermediate Towns."

Lux smiled as he contemplated a date. In the end, he told Cedwyn that he would be leaving in nine days.

After getting the Half-Elf's promise to attend their grand farewell party, Cedwyn left him alone so that he could have time to himself to think.

After Cedwyn left, several Dwarf children approached Lux in order to have a chat with him.

"It's you guys," Lux said as he looked at the Dwarves who had suddenly appeared near him while he was on his way back to Leaf Village after finishing his last Mythical Quest.

They were the Dwarves that Cedwyn had forcefully teleported away from the village, in order to save them from the monsters that were about to kill them.

These were the same Dwarves that told Lux about the current situation in Leaf Village, which made the Half-Elf use his Boots of Teleportation to arrive at the spawn point of foreigners within the village as fast as he could.

If not for them, he might not have arrived in time to save his Master, Randolph, as well as Grandma Annie and Cedwyn, from the Alpha Monsters' merciless assault.

"Thank you for saving Leaf Village," the Dwarf boy said with admiration.

Lux shook his head. "No. It is me who should be thanking you. If not for you guys, I might not have known that the village was under attack. Thank you very much. Because of you guys, the people important to me are still alive."

The Dwarves then took a log and placed it in front of Lux, where they all sat and asked him to tell them the stories of his travels.

Perhaps due to his good mood, or the effect of the mead he drank, the Half-Elf accepted their request and told them tales about his travels.

Tales of Kobolds, Powerful Orcs, Giant Worms, and Dragons. Tales of hardships and overcoming difficulties, and trusting the bonds between friends.

Soon, the Half-Elf was surrounded by many children, both Elysians and Solains. There were even some adults, namely Grandma Annie, Randolph, Aron, and Boreas, who had come over to hear Lux exploits during his time in the Territory of Norria.

The Dwarf children, as well as the adults, were awed by Lux's fairy-tale-like storytelling. Even Eiko kept on giggling whenever her Papa mentioned her exploits, and the Dwarf children would look at the Blue Slime as if she was a Mythical Beast.

"I'll also get a Slime as my beast companion!"

"Me, too!"

"I'll get one as well."

Lux didn't know if he should laugh or cry at the Dwarf children's desire to have a baby Slime as their first Beast Companion. He and the other adults did their best to convince the children that Eiko was different from the other Slimes that they were familiar with, and they shouldn't take having one as a beast companion lightly.

The children were pacified but only on the surface. Lux didn't know that his casual story telling would bring a trend to the Dwarves of Leaf Village to always have a Slime with them whenever they went on adventures.

In a few years, these same Slimes—that were reared in Leaf Village—and their owners, would do incredible feats which would shake the entirety of the Kingdom of Gweliven in the unforeseeable future.

But, that was a story that will be told another time.

## **Chapter 169: A Heart That Is Bigger Than A Dwarf**

The next day, hundreds of Skeletons and three Rock Golems could be seen moving around Leaf Village.

They busied themselves with helping the villagers rebuild their homes by carrying logs, cutting wood, hammering nails, as well as applying a waterproof coating on the roofs of the newly built houses.

Lux, Eiko, their Skeletons, the Dwarf children, as well as the adults, were working on a giant structure near the Eastern part of the village. This was the orphanage that Cedwyn had proposed a day ago, and the Half-Elf thought that it was a great idea.

Although he didn't know much about carpentry, he was a fast learner. After a few hours, the orphanage's basic foundation was already starting to take shape, thanks to the tireless efforts of the Skeletons that didn't need to rest and the Golems that did the heavy lifting.



When Grandma Annie, Randolph, and Cedwyn saw three Luxs and three Eikos working side by side, they initially thought that they were just seeing things. However, after confirming that their eyes were not deceiving them, they finally understood why there were so many Skeletons that were helping the villagers reconstruct their homes.

"Such a convenient ability," Randolph said as he rubbed his chin. "If I could create two copies of myself then my work will be a whole lot faster."

Grandma Annie nodded her head in agreement. As an alchemist, she would be able to produce pills and potions faster than she did in the past.

As for Cedwyn, he admired the clones because if he ever had them, then he would be able to take a nap, while the other two did his work for him.

This earned him a glare from Grandma Annie and Randolph, who started nagging him to do his job as Village Head properly.

"Lux, can you come here for a minute?" Cedwyn asked after escaping from his friends' nagging. His purpose for coming to see Lux was to let him know about the rewards that the village planned to give him in return for what the Half-Elf did for them.

The Half-Elf stopped his work and followed the Village Chief, who had a mischievous smile on his face.

"What's wrong, Village Head?" Lux asked. "Did something happen?"

Cedwyn shook his head. "Nothing happened. It's just, we came here to give you some rewards for helping us overcome this calamity. Also, you are not allowed to reject these gifts. Rejecting them is the same as rejecting our gratitude for you. We won't take no for an answer."

The wise Village Head had cut off any forms of retreat for Lux, forcing the red-headed teenager to accept the gifts that they had prepared for him, without even knowing what they were.

The two then joined Grandma Annie and Randolph, who were initially bickering at the side, and the four of them went to Cedwyn's house to present Lux the gratitude of the Elders of Leaf Village.

As soon as Lux entered the conference room, the first thing Lux saw was a dark-green armor, which he initially thought was the Faunus Battle Regalia. However, after closer inspection, he realized that the design was different.

There was gold plating on the edges of the armor, and it gave off a faint refreshing breeze. Beside the armor, a black halberd with an intimidating presence could be seen.

A single glance was enough to tell him that these two pieces of equipment were the rewards that he gained from clearing the Mythical Quest of Leaf Village, which was called "The Birth of a Legend".

"The name of the armor over there is the Favonius Legacy," Cedwyn explained. "It's the armor which the Faunus Armor Set was inspired from. It is also the armor of the first founder of Leaf Village, who decided to retire here after exploring the world. This was the legacy he left behind."

"The Halberd beside it is called, Misery's End, the Destroyer of Last Hope. This was the weapon that the founder of Leaf Village used when he was still on active duty. It is our wish that you carry out his legacy as you travel the world."

Lux looked at the two pieces of equipment before shifting his gaze towards Cedwyn who was looking up to him with a smile.

"But, these two items are too precious," Lux said. "I can't take them. These are like the final mementos of the Leaf Village's founder, right? It can also be considered a Family Heirloom. I greatly appreciate the gesture, but I can't take these with me."

Grandma Annie sighed before holding Lux's hand. The Half-Elf could feel the roughness of the old Dwarf lady's hand, who had encountered many hardships over the passing of many years.

"Lux, I'm sure that our founder would be very happy if you carry his legacy with you," Grandma Annie commented. "If not for you, this village would no longer be standing, and its people would all be dead. Although the village could be rebuilt again, once the people are gone, it wouldn't be the same."

"That is why, as long as you carry these with you, Leaf Village will always remain in your heart. Please, take them. This is our wish as the Elders of Leaf Village."

After seeing all the Elders look at him with tender gazes, Lux had no choice but to nod his head and accept the Founder of Leaf's Village Legacy.

"Thank you very much," Lux replied. "I will use these gifts to the best of my abilities."

"Good. That is all that we ask of you." Cedwyn smiled. "Now, go on. Take them."

Lux nodded and reached out to touch the ancient armor that had been kept in a hidden treasure house that only the Village Head of Leaf Village could open.

As soon as his hands touched the armor, the entire world suddenly turned white. A moment later, Lux found himself on a mountain, overlooking a small village in the distance. Although it wasn't exactly the same as the one he remembered, there was no mistake that the village he was looking at was the old Leaf Village.

"Beautiful, isn't it?"

A calm, steady voice spoke from behind Lux.

The Half-Elf turned around to see an old Dwarf, with white hair and weathered features. However, his presence was strong enough to let Lux feel that the person in front of him was very strong.

So strong that Lux was feeling doubtful whether he had properly assessed the old dwarf's strength or not.

'His strength is the same as my step-father's,' Lux thought as he felt his heart clenched in his chest. Although he was still half in doubt, he had aspired so much to become that person in the past, so he was mostly sure of his hunch about how strong the old Dwarf was. 'This person before me is a Saint.'

The old Dwarf smiled at Lux as he walked towards him. He then stopped a meter away from the Half-Elf and looked up at him as if he was looking at something very amusing.

Lux felt his heart tremble when the old Dwarf stared straight to his eyes. Although the Dwarf was smaller than him, he felt that he was looking up at a mountain, whose peak was hidden by the clouds in the sky.

"You are certainly not a Dwarf," the old Dwarf said after some time. "But your heart is bigger than one."

The old Dwarf chuckled as he gave Lux a brief nod of acknowledgement. "My name is Favonius, and I am very happy to see that my village has raised such an outstanding individual. What is your name, young man?"

"My name is Lux, Sir Favonious," Lux replied. "Lux Von Kaizer."

Favonius lightly patted Lux's arms as he spoke in a friendly manner.

"My friend, Lux, would you like to hear the ramblings of a lingering will that an old, decrepit, Dwarf left behind?" Favonius asked.

"It will be my honor, Sir Favonius."

"Good. As expected of the savior of my village."

Favonius happily chuckled as he looked at the person whom he had been waiting for hundreds of years to arrive. There were things that he wanted to impart to his successor and it was his wish that the legacy he left behind would be put to good use.

Lux took a deep breath as he forcefully tried to calm his wildly beating heart. He didn't know why he was able to talk to an old Saint after touching the armor, but he knew with every fiber of his being, that this meeting across space and time was something that he wouldn't forget in his lifetime.

## **Chapter 170: Against The Unknown, All Races Must Stand As One**

"Tell me, Lux, when you look at that small village over there, what do you see?" Favonius asked as he looked fondly at the village that he had built on the outskirts of the Kingdom of Gweliven.

"A seed," Lux replied because that is truly what he felt after looking at the small village in the distance.

Favonius laughed heartily before nodding his head in satisfaction.

"You can also put it that way," Favonius commented. "It is a seed that will grow into a sturdy tree. This tree will then foster and care for the new batch of seeds, which will also grow into trees and usher in a new era of prosperity and peace."

Lux smiled, but he knew that this was not the answer Favonius was looking for. Because of this, he decided to ask what that village represented to the Dwarf Saint who decided to retire in a place far from the Capital of the Dwarven Kingdom.

"Hope," Favonius said as he gazed at the small village with tender eyes. "When I look at the village from here, I see hope."

The old Dwarf then shifted his attention to Lux and gave him a warm smile that made the Old Saint's weathered face look like it was ten years younger.

"When I look at you, Lux, I also see hope," Favonius commented. "Just like the seeds of a dandelion that fly freely with the help of a passing breeze, you are now about to set off on a new journey towards the unknown."

"A journey where you will face countless dangers and hardships, but I am hopeful that you will be able to grow into a sturdy tree. A tree that will shelter the new generation and nourish them before they embark on their own journeys."

The dwarf sighed as he once again looked at the small village in the distance.

"With hope, people can move mountains," Favonius softly muttered. "With courage, we can cross the seas. At age two-hundred and seventy, I had seen and conquered many vast domains, and yet, there were still places I have yet to see."

"As the years pass by and my age increases. Many times I've felt that I should have gone farther, and been more adventurous than what I was in the past."

"This world is so vast, and sometimes you'll feel like you are just a tiny insignificant speck in the grand order of things. Even a Saint can sometimes feel weak and, in the merciless face of the world, it is very normal for us to feel fear."

Lux listened quietly on the side as he allowed Favonius to say whatever he had to say. He had already figured out that the person who was standing in

front of him was not the real Favonius, but a Will that he had left behind the Favonius Armor that had accompanied him on his adventures.

The Dwarf appreciated Lux's silence, so he continued to narrate his life experiences as his final parting words to the person who would now inherit his legacy.

"My adventuring days may be over, but my ambition exceeds this lifetime of mine," Favonius said with a determined voice. "People create weapons and armors in order to fight monsters, and when monsters triumph over them, they create better tools."

"Where my legs cannot take me, maybe yours can. And when yours fails you, perhaps those around you will carry you instead. My dear friend, I leave you my legacy. Against the unknown, all races must stand as one. To be alive is to live, to set foot in every place that our eyes can see."

Favonius held Lux's hands into his own, and through the roughness of the old Dwarf's hands, the Half-Elf felt as if he was being enveloped in a warm embrace.

"I have little time remaining, and my soul has long been gone from this world. But, between us, your children, future guildmates and friends, I believe that your dying world will be saved, at last."

The old man gave Lux a playful wink before disappearing into particles of light. The Half-Elf was surprised at Favonius' last words, because he didn't mention Elysium in the end, but his own dying world, Solais.

"Such an interesting old man," Lux said softly as he gazed at the small village in the distance. "Understood, Sir Favonius. I will take you along on my journey to see the sights and heights that you haven't seen before. Perhaps, someday, both of us will be able to reach that place at last."

As if touched by his solemn promise, the last traces of Favonius' Will, that still lingered within that Domain, said its heartfelt words before finally disappearing from the world.

"Thank you, my friend."

Soon, the Half-Elf was bathed by a warm and radiant light as he bid goodbye to the scenery of the old Leaf Village, which he was about to leave behind.

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"Lux, my boy. Are you alright?" Randolph asked as he shook the red-headed teenager, who seemed to have gone into a trance the moment he touched the Favonius Legacy Armor that was left behind by the founder of Leaf Village.

"Stop shaking him," Grandma Annie said as she observed the Half-Elf who was staring blankly in space. "Maybe he is talking to the founder right now."

"Talking to the founder? Have you grown senile, you old hag?" Randolph asked. "Careful now. Maybe next time, you will even forget your name because of old age."

Instead of answering Randolph with words, Grandma Annie's wooden staff smacked his face, sending him flying a few meters away from the Half-Elf who seemed to be frozen in time.

None of the Dwarf Elders of Leaf Village batted an eye when they saw this scene. They had already grown used to it long ago. Even if Grandma Annie whacked the old blacksmith until his face looked like a pig, they would still not be surprised at the outcome.

A minute later, Lux's body shook as he woke up from his trance.

"Child, what did you see?" Grandma Annie asked with great curiosity. "Did the Founder leave some instructions behind?"

The Elders of Leaf Village, including the Village Head, Cedwyn, perked their ears up as they waited in anticipation for Lux's answer. They had carefully handled the Favonius Armor, and studied it for years, which had led to the creation of the Faunus Battle Regalia.

For them, the legacy that their founder had left behind held an important place in their hearts. So if Favonius had indeed left some instructions for the next generation, they would be more than happy to carry out his will with the best of their abilities.

"Yes. Sir Favonius had indeed left something behind," Lux replied with a smile. "He left behind Hope."

"Hope?" Cedwyn inquired. "Can you please elaborate?"

Lux nodded his head and told the Dwarves about his meeting with the founder of Leaf Village, Favonius. Of course, he left out the part about his dying world. Although most Solains had a hunch that their world might be dying, this was only a conjecture on their part.

After hearing his tale, the Dwarves sighed and looked at the Half-Elf with admiration and respect.

All of them wished that they were the one to hear the last words of the Legendary Saint of the Gweliven Kingdom instead of Lux.

"Lux, please, take our Founder's hope and will with you," Cedwyn said as he held the Half-Elf's hand. "It is not only his will that you carry with you, but our collective wills as well. You are our pride, and even though you are not a Dwarf, our founder is right. Your heart is bigger than a Dwarf's."

Lux nodded his head as he gratefully, and respectfully, equipped the Favonius Legacy as his equipment set. He still hadn't seen all of its stats because he felt that it was inappropriate to do so at this time.

However, he promised himself that regardless of the stats the armor had, he would always carry it with him as a memento of the Beginner Village that had played an important role in his life.

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## **Chapter 171: Lux's Last Day In Leaf Village**

Inside the newly built inn, Lux and Eiko were sleeping peacefully.

The baby Slime slept on top of Lux's chest, as always, because Lux's heartbeats were like a lullaby that made her feel safe and warm.

Only an hour was left until sunrise and both had gone to bed very late the night before, as they tried to finish the Orphanage within one day.

The work inside Leaf Village didn't stop. Even though there were a lot of other people sleeping, there were still some who stayed awake, working on rebuilding their homes. Artifacts and spells that lit up the surroundings were very common in Elysium, so it was not a big deal to work late at night.



Lux's and Eiko's Named Creatures, Skeletons, Slimes, and Golems were still helping the villagers even as their Masters rested inside their comfortable room that was specially arranged for them by the Inn's Owner.

Leaf Village Plaza...

"Well then, this turned out better than I thought," Randolph said as he admired the work that the Elders of Leaf Village, as well as Lux's Named Creatures, worked on in secret whenever the Half-Elf and his baby Slime were asleep.

"Indeed," Grandma Annie commented with a satisfied nod. "This will be the symbol of our village for years to come, so it must have an impact."

In order to maintain secrecy, the Elders of the village had erected four tall Earth Walls around their special project to prevent anyone from spying on their work.

"I'm sure that Lux will be surprised when he sees it." Cedwyn chuckled as he imagined the Half-Elf's reaction after seeing the surprise that they had made just for him. He turned to Diablo and asked, "What do you think, Diablo? Will your Master like it?"

Diablo nodded. "Yes."

Right now, Diabo and Ishtar were able to communicate through speaking, despite the limited vocabulary, due to the increase in their ranks.

"Well then, we should wrap up," one of the Elders commented as he stifled a yawn. "My old bones can't handle works that require high precision on a regular basis. Perhaps, this will be the last masterpiece that I will work on in this lifetime."

"Ah. Don't be like that. You're still young."

"What definition of young are you talking about? I'm almost two-hundred and forty years old."

The Elders laughed as they exchanged friendly banters. Half an hour later, all of them returned to their own homes to rest.

Only Lux's Named Creatures remained, and they once again looked at the new symbol of Leaf Village with pride.

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Five hour later...

The Half-Elf finally opened his eyes. He then lightly patted the baby slime on his chest to wake her up as well.

"...Pa?" Eiko asked sleepily before yawning.

"Good morning, Eiko," Lux lifted the baby slime and gave her a kiss on the cheek. "It's almost noon. Time to wake up."

Eiko looked at her Papa for a few seconds before closing her eyes again to sleep. Lux chuckled and no longer insisted on waking the baby, who was still exhausted from working all through the night.

After placing Eiko back on the bed, he washed his face and changed his clothes. He then combed his hair before picking up the baby Slime from the bed to place her on his head.

For some reason, Eiko could stay on top of Lux's head even if it was shaking badly. The Half-Elf still had no idea how she was able to do that, but he was thankful for having such ability.

When he went down the stairs to dine in the inn's tavern, he was instantly able to smell the delicious food that was being prepared in the kitchen.

Eiko, who was still asleep, started sniffing. The baby Slime liked to eat Beast Cores, but she also liked eating home-made food. She was not picky, unlike children who hated vegetables, and ate anything that Lux liked to eat.

A few seconds later, the smell of the food won her over, and she finally opened her sleepy eyes, and greeted her Papa before yawning.

"Pa..."

"Mmm. We will be having breakfast soon."

As soon as the innkeeper saw Lux, he immediately went to the kitchen and brought out a tray of hot food for him and the baby Slime, who had somehow become Leaf Village's mascot.

"Lux, are you going to leave Leaf Village today?" the innkeeper asked. Although he didn't try to show it, there was a faint trace of sadness in his voice.

Lux nodded. "The time has come. I wish I could stay longer and help finish the reconstruction of Leaf Village, but I just can't fight the inevitable."

Today was Lux's tenth day after ascending to the Apostle Grade. Even if he wanted to stay, he would still be kicked out by the laws of Elysium, and teleported to a random place near an Intermediate Town upon midnight.

The innkeeper nodded an understanding before presenting a plaque to the Half-Elf who blinked his eyes in confusion.

"Please sign this," the Innkeeper said. "I will hang it on the wall over there and keep it as a family heirloom."

"E-Eh? You don't have to do that," Lux replied in embarrassment after hearing what the innkeeper had to say.

"Nonsense. I insist that you sign it whether you like it or not. I have to brag to my great grandchildren that the Hero of this village and I were best friends!"

"... Um."

Lux wanted to ask the innkeeper the question "Since when did we become best friends?" but decided to just let it slide. Finally, he signed the plaque and handed it back to the smiling innkeeper, who felt like he was holding something worth over a million gold coins in his hands.

"Ah! Before I forget, the Village Head said that you should look for him before you leave," the Innkeeper stated.

"Understood," Lux replied.

The Innkeeper then left the Half-Elf and the Baby Slime alone.

Eiko had already started eating and was happily chewing on bacon strips that had become one of her favorite foods in Leaf Village.

Lux ate the roast beef sandwich that was the Inn's specialty and savored its taste for the last time.

'I'm finally leaving this place,' Lux thought as his eyes wandered around the inn.

This was the inn where he had stayed on his first night in Leaf Village and it was also the last place he'd slept in before leaving it.

Half an hour later, Lux and Eiko finished their meal. The Half-Elf then left the inn and aimlessly strolled around town.

Lux was taking in the sights and sounds of Leaf Village before he left. All around him, houses that were under construction could be seen, and the newly built ones stood out from the rest. The several Dwarves who saw him greeted him with a smile, and he greeted them in return.

The red-headed teenager had become a celebrity in Leaf Village, and everyone inside it knew his name by heart. Even the Dwarf Solaians looked up him and even told him that they would catch up to him soon.

As Lux wandered around the village, he found himself standing in front of Grandma Annie's Candy Store. The store was partially destroyed, but Grandma Annie said that she was not in a hurry to fix it, and insisted that the other houses should be constructed first.

"I'll miss this place," Lux muttered as he looked at the signage that said "Leaf Village's Candy Shop".

"Well, I will miss you too."

A familiar voice spoke from inside the house. A few moments later, the door opened and Grandma Annie appeared, smiling at Lux who would be leaving soon.

"Have you had breakfast yet?" Grandma Annie inquired.

Lux nodded. "Yes, Grandma Annie."

"Then, would you like to have some tea with me? Randolph is still probably asleep and will probably wake up in two or three hours from now. Cedwyn is the same. So why don't you have a chat with me for a while before you look for those two old buffoons."

"It will be my pleasure."

"Pa!"

Lux accepted Grandma Annie's invite because he could see the sadness in the old lady's eyes despite her smiling face.

He had already decided to leave Leaf Village before sunset, so spending an hour with the old Dwarf who had helped him many times in the past was the least he could do to show how thankful he was for her help.

## **Chapter 172: Right Now, I Am Looking At The Future Heroes Of The World**

"Come, Lux!" Randolph said with a smug smile on his face. "It's time for you to see my masterpiec-argh! Dammit woman! What do you think you're doing?!"

Grandma Annie, who had just finished whacking Randolph's head with her staff, glared at the bastard, who just made a failed attempt to claim all credit for everyone's hard work.

"One more word from you and I'm going to hurl a fireball in your face!" Grandma Annie shouted, which made the Blacksmith cower in fear.

Lux and Eiko chuckled after seeing this scene. Frankly, he wondered if Grandma Annie and Randolph were once a couple because of how close they were.

After a few minutes, they arrived at the Village's Plaza, near the spawning point of the Solaians when they enter Elysium.

"Lux Von Kaizer, on behalf of Leaf Village, allow me to once again thank you for everything you have done for us," Cedwyn said as he bowed his head.

The other Elders and the villagers of Leaf Village, who had also gathered in the plaza, also bowed their heads to their hero.

The Solaians on the other hand, looked at the Half-Elf with respect, admiration, and even a hint of jealousy. They also wished to become someone like Lux, so they made a promise to surpass him after they had reached the Apostle Grade.

"Village Head, you don't have to do this," Lux replied in embarrassment. "Leaf Village has helped me grow, not only as an adventurer, but as a person as well. I have learned many lessons in this place, and I will forever cherish them in my heart."

"Pa!" Eiko also agreed with what her Papa said as she looked at everyone in the village with a smile from on top of Lux's head.

Cedwyn smiled back, and gestured to Grandma Annie and Randolph as a signal to pull the cloth that was covering the surprise that they had prepared for Lux.

The moment the cloth fell on the ground, Lux's and Eiko's mouths opened wide as they looked at the bronze statues that had been erected in the plaza.

Diablo's, Ishtar's, and Pazuzu's statues stood tall and proud, with Diablo at the center riding his Nightmare, Airon.

Behind them was an elevated platform where a Half-Elf stood with his arms crossed over his chest, and a baby slime perched on top of his head.

Behind the Half-Elf was a Hulking Rock Golem with his arms spread wide in a protective manner. It was as if he was ready to block anything and everything that would dare to harm his Master, who wore a fearless expression on his face.

Eiko's eyes sparkled as she looked at the statues in front of her. With a joyful shout, the baby Slime jumped off Lux's head and hurriedly crawled across the ground to climb up her Papa's bronze statue. A minute later, Eiko looked closely at the bronze baby slime on top of Lux's head as if admiring herself.

"Pa!" Eiko shouted as she looked at the red-headed teenager who was looking at her with a smile.

"That's right, Eiko." Lux nodded his head. "That's you."

Eiko giggled and once again looked at the bronze baby slime. She stuck close to her statue and rubbed her cheeks against it, as if she was marking it as her own.

The Dwarves of Leaf Village, as well as the Solaians, were all in awe of the statue that they were seeing for the first time.

Suddenly, the chest of the Lux bronze statue shone, which spread to its entire body, as well as to the other statues around it. A moment later, a pillar of light shot up towards the sky and a blue barrier suddenly formed around Leaf Village.

Lux, along with everyone else in the village, suddenly felt a refreshing breeze pass over their bodies as the effect of the Guardian Crystal took effect.

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< You are affected by the Guardian Crystal Buff >

- Gives a permanent 10% increase to production success for Crafting, Alchemy, Smithing, and any form of crafts made in Leaf Village.
- Everyone inside Leaf Village will gain a 100% Health and Mana Regeneration Buff that will last for an hour after they leave the village.

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'Amazing,' Lux thought as he looked at the Bronze Statues that were radiating a very faint glow from their bodies.

When he gave the Guardian Crystal to Cedwyn, he didn't expect that the Head of Leaf Village would work together with the other Elders to create a statue of him and his subordinates, and use his statue as the home of the Crystal that would protect Leaf Village.

For him, this was the greatest honor that he could possibly receive, which made him teary eyed. Even so, he did his best to smile and not allow a single drop of tear to fall from his eyes. He needed to keep his cool image for the younger generation as he stood tall, while holding back the feeling of happiness inside his heart.

"Why don't you give us some parting words before you leave the village?" Cedwyn said with a playful smile on his face.

Everyone clapped as they cheered the Half-Elf who had become an important member of their lives.

"Actually, I don't know what to say," Lux said as he scanned the faces of everyone around him. "You refer to me as a hero, but I am not a hero. In my

eyes, the heroes are the Dwarves who have stood their ground and protected this place since its conception."

Lux smiled as he looked at Grandma Annie.

"If you ask me who I think the true heroes of Leaf Village are, they would be Grandma Annie, who sells candies to everyone and stands at the front lines when monsters invade the town."

"My Master, Randolph, who busied himself in his smithy most of the time to craft and repair the weapons and armors that most of you use to fight and defend against Monsters and their attacks.

"The Riders of Norria, who ensured the safety of this region and is always there to send reinforcements when the sky falls down upon our heads."

"The adult Dwarves who escorted the children to the shelters whenever the town is being attacked by monsters."

Lux closed his eyes and pressed his right hand over his chest. "A hero is someone who would give their life to something bigger than oneself."

When the Half-Elf opened his eyes, he scanned the faces of everyone in the crowd, young and old alike, with a smile on his face.

"Right now, I am looking at heroes, and the future heroes of the world," Lux declared before raising his closed fist towards the sky "Long live Leaf Village!"

""Long live Leaf Village!""

""Long live Leaf Village!""

""Long live Leaf Village!""

""Long live Leaf Village!""

""Long live Leaf Village!""

Resounding shouts echoed all across the village, which made Cedwyn's and the Elders of the Village's blood boil. Not out of anger, but out of desire to uphold the Legacy that their Founder, Favonius, and now, Lux, had left behind.



Lux then bowed his head to his Master, Randolph, to Grandma Annie, to Cedwyn, to the Elders of Leaf Village, to Captain Boreas, to Aron, to the villagers, as well as the Solaians. After bowing to all of them, he summoned his mount Jed, and jumped on its back.

He had already said his final goodbyes to the people that were important to him. Now, he waved his hands as a final gesture of farewell to the dwarves of Leaf Village, as well as the Dwarves that came from Solais.

"I will bid you goodbye for now, but this is not our final farewell," Lux said as Eiko jumped onto Jed's back, and crawled towards her Papa's head.

She knew that the time to say goodbye had come, but the tears in her eyes fell like rain, drenching her Papa's hair.

"Let's all meet again soon!" Lux shouted as he urged Jed to make a dash for it. He was afraid that if he stayed any longer, everyone would see him crying uncontrollably.

"Bye Bye!" Eiko shouted before crying like the baby she is. "Wuwuwu!"

Jed ran with all of its might, in order to protect his Master's dignity.

Grandma Annie and Randolph wiped the tears that fell from their faces. As they watched the red-headed teenager embark on the next stage of his journey. They never thought that they would love someone this much, even though he wasn't a Dwarf.

As the Half-Elf was approaching the gate of Leaf Village, the Guards and the Riders of Norria that were stationed there gave him a salute.

"Goodbye, everyone," Lux said as he returned their salute, while his tears blurred his vision. "Till we meet again."

The guards bid him safe travels as Lux went past them. Eiko watched with sadness as the village that she loved grew farther and farther away from her.

"It's fine, Eiko," Lux assured her. "We will definitely return here someday."

"Pa!" Eiko nodded her head as more tears slid down her eyes.

Even when the Half-Elf was already a kilometer away from Leaf Village, Lux and Eiko could still hear the resounding shouts of the villagers, who were still shouting to honor his name.

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End of Volume 1: Open! Heaven's Gate!

## Chapter 173: You Better Not Lose Until You Meet Me

Vera happily hummed as she cooked Lux's favorite dishes.

Just before midnight, Lux returned home from Elysium with tears in his eyes. Eiko was still crying when Vera entered the training hall. The baby slime jumped into her Grandma's arms in order to cry her heart out more.

The wise grandma didn't ask why her grandson and her great granddaughter were crying. She just held both of them in a loving embrace, and told them, "Welcome home."

Perhaps due to the exhaustion from their journey and sadness, the two fell asleep two hours after their arrival. Even after the sun's crown peaked and appeared in the East, they were still in bed.

Vera didn't mind and allowed the two to sleep as long as they wanted.

"It's done." Vera smiled after she had finished cooking everything that Lux and Eiko liked to eat. There was beef stew, grilled fish, chicken soup with vegetables, grilled corn with butter, and freshly baked bread.

She wanted to prepare more, but she knew that there was a high possibility of Lux and Eiko not having an appetite when they woke up.

As soon as she finished placing all the dishes on the table, she heard the door to Lux's room open. A moment later, a Half-Elf, as well as a yawning baby slime, descended the stairs.

"Good morning, Grandma."

"Manma!"

"Good morning, Lux," Vera replied with a smile. "Good morning, Eiko. Breakfast is ready, let's eat together."

"Mmm," Lux hummed as he sat on his chair. "It's been a while since I ate your home-made cooking, Grandma."

"Manma!" Eiko said as she crawled down from Lux's head and lightly jumped on the table, away from the dishes. The baby Slime then crawled towards Vera and looked up to her like the spoiled great grandchild she was, hoping to catch her grandma's attention.

Vera chuckled and lightly patted Eiko's head. She was quite fond of Lux's and Iris' baby Monster, whom she also treated as her great grandchild. After making the baby Slime happy, Vera then placed a plate in front of her and served her some beef stew, a grilled fish, and a few cobs of grilled corn.

Eiko happily ate the grilled corn first because this was something she couldn't eat often in Leaf Village.

Lux, on the other hand, gave himself a good serving of beef stew. He then held a roll of freshly baked bread in his left hand, and alternated his bites between it and the beef stew on his plate.

"As expected, Grandma's cooking is the best," Lux praised Vera's cooking to the high heavens, which earned him a sweet smile from his grandma's weathered face.

"Manma!" Eiko nodded in agreement before eating the grilled fish on her plate.

Vera watched the two children eat with satisfaction. Eating alone was quite lonely, but whenever Lux and Eiko returned home from their journey in Elysium, their house would become lively for a short period of time.

"Eat as much as you want," Vera said. "There are still plenty in the kitchen."

"You should also eat, Grandma. You won't get full by watching us eat."

"Manma."

The old lady chuckled before nodding her head. She then filled her bowl with chicken soup and ate in a good mood.

An hour later, a satisfied Half-Elf and a baby Slime, washed the dishes together. Vera had gone through her usual morning rounds around Wildgarde Stronghold to ensure that everything was peaceful.

Lux knew that his grandma would be away for an hour or two, so he decided to use that time to check his inventory.

< Favonius Legacy, The Heirloom of the West >

(Degraded Pseudo-Demigod Armor)

Rarity: Mythical (Degraded)

Requirements: Must gain the recognition of Favonius' Will.

- This armor was once worn by a Saint. However, due to the passing of hundreds of years, the armor had degraded to the Mythical Rank.
- After its rank degraded, the stats of this armor also degraded. In order to restore the armor to its former glory, you will need the help of a Saint-Ranked Blacksmith.
- Only those that had been recognized by the will of Favonius can wield this armor set.
- This armor is Soulbound to Lux Von Kaizer.
- This armor can be worn by any Creature under your command.
- +20 to all stats
- +300 to Defense.
- 50% Resistant to Wind Element
- While this armor is equipped, the wearer will gain the ability to fly.
- While this armor is equipped, the wearer will gain the ability to use the skill "Sky-High Rush".

– While this armor is equipped, the wearer will gain the ability to use the skill "Gale Storm."

Active Skills: Razor Wind, Acceleration Charge.

Passive Skills: Levitation, Auto Fit

Title: Favored by the Wind.

< Razor Wind >

(10 Mana)

– Send razor-sharp wind blades at your target that deals +100 Wind Elemental Damage.

< Acceleration Charge >

– Increase flying speed by 100%

< Levitation >

– The wearer of this armor can hover two-feet above the ground.

– This passive skill can be turned on and off.

< Favored by the Wind >

– The effect of Wind Elemental Damage, or skills, will increase by 20%

– Thrice a day, you may cast the skill, Healing Wind.

< Healing Wind >

– Restores 20% of the Maximum Health Points of everyone within the two-hundred meter radius of the wearer of this armor.

'Even though its abilities have degraded, it is still an amazing set of armor,' Lux thought as he looked at the legacy that was left behind by a Saint.

He then turned the page of his Soul Book and looked at the information of the spear that served as the Saint's weapon when he was still alive.

## < Misery's End - Destroyer of Lost Hope >

(Degraded Pseudo-Demigod Weapon)

Weapon Type: Spear

Rarity: Mythical (Degraded)

Requirement: Must gain the recognition of Favonius' Will.

– This spear accompanied Favonius during his travels. In the past, it was a fearsome weapon. But due to hundreds of years of inaction, its abilities and skills had degraded.

– This weapon is Soulbound to Lux Von Kaizer.

– This weapon can be equipped by any Creature under your command.

Attack: 300 - 350

– Has a 10% chance to trigger the skill, Bleed, while attacking an enemy.

– Has a .01% chance to trigger Storm Tempest, while attacking an enemy.

### < Bleed >

– has a 5% chance to apply the Bleeding effect to your target with every strike.

– Bleeding effect reduces your target's Health Points by 1% of its Maximum Health Points every 2 seconds.

– Bleed Effect Duration: 10 seconds.

Lux equipped the spear to Diablo, so that the Skeleton Rider could use it whenever he charged at his opponent. But when fighting at extremely close range, Diablo could switch his weapon to the mythical sword that was given to Lux as a parting gift by his Master, Randolph.

It was none other than the blacksmith's prized masterpiece, Blood Moon. This was the weapon that Diablo used during the battle in the Kobold's Nest.

Because of this, the Skeleton Rider had gained a massive boost in his offensive capabilities, making Lux very happy.

After an hour, Lux finally finished sorting out his inventory. It was a grueling task, and he had no time to do it when he was still in Leaf Village because he had been busy helping the Dwarves repair their houses and build the orphanage.

'In a few days, I'll go to Barbatos Academy with Grandma in order to register for the tournament,' Lux thought as he took a mask out of his inventory. 'I have to change my plans a bit.'

The mask in Lux's hand was one of the Mythical Equipment that composed the Faunus Battle Regalia.

It was called the "Mask of a Thousand Faces." It was an exaggerated title, since the mask didn't exactly have the ability to let someone change their appearance with a hundred different faces.

The mask could only allow each user to store two appearances inside it. Perhaps the creator had already expected that the mask would be passed down from generation to generation, allowing many people to use it until it had created over a thousand faces.

The reason why Lux wanted to change his appearance was because he wanted to protect Iris from her father's plan to marry her off to the winner of the tournament.

Iris was a very important lady in the eyes of the nobles, as well as the royal families of the six kingdoms that supported Barbatos Academy. Whoever won in the tournament would definitely be targeted by several powerful factions, and Lux wanted to avoid that scenario.

Surprisingly, when he was thinking about what face to use, an ingenious idea came to his mind. He could copy any face as long as he had seen them once. The great part about the mask was that it could also change the size and shape of the body to create a perfect replica of the person that he wanted to copy.

Since he didn't want to harm other people by copying their appearance, he decided to use his former appearance from when he was back on Earth.

In Lux's past life, he was a chubby teenager with short black hair and light brown eyes. He was confident that he had no look alike in the worlds of Solais and Elysium, so using his past identity was the perfect cover for his plan.

Naturally, he intended to reveal this secret to Vera and Iris as well. The reason for doing so was simple.

He was certain that Iris would not acknowledge the champion of the tournament as her fiancé. She would definitely fight tooth and nail with her father, even if the latter were to imprison her somewhere.

The second reason was his grandma, Vera. Lux had a feeling that, aside from him, whoever won the tournament would meet an untimely death as soon as the tournament was over.

This was a feeling that was deeply rooted in his bones, so to ensure that he didn't die in his grandma's hands, telling her about his plan was of the utmost importance.

"Wait for me, Nero," Lux said with determination. "I'll settle all our scores in the tournament. You better not lose to anyone before you face me."

Lux would not allow the arrogant prodigy, or any of the other participants in the tournament, marry Iris against her will. Although he knew that the tournament would be filled with powerful competitors, he wasn't worried a single bit.

The red-headed teenager was no longer the weak and sickly Half-Elf who would faint whenever he over-taxed himself.

He was no longer the useless person that Nero humiliated in the past, or the person that Alexander didn't deem worthy of his daughter.

A faint smile appeared on Lux's face before he closed his eyes to take a nap. He had already formulated a plan in his mind, and he was confident that he would be able to succeed even in the face of needing to fight the strongest members of the young generation within the six kingdoms that supported Barbatos Academy.



## Chapter 174: I Wonder Where That Confidence Of Yours Is Coming From?

Later that afternoon, Lux decided to take a stroll inside Wildgarde Stronghold.

It had been a long time since he had taken a walk around the place where he grew up, and he was immediately greeted by the familiar faces that he hadn't seen for a long time.

As he was taking a stroll, he saw the Commander of the Stronghold, Gerald, walking alongside an old woman, who was one of his Grandma Vera's close friends.

"Grandma Natasha, Sir Gerald," Lux greeted the two important people in the stronghold with a big smile on his face. These were the two elders that took good care of him as a child, so he respected them a lot.

"Lux, my boy," Gerald waved his hand. "I haven't seen you for a long time. Vera said that you have been busy training for your next test to enter Elysium."

"K-Kinda." The smile on Lux's face stiffened after hearing Gerald's words. "Grandma Natasha, how are you?"

The old woman had taken care of Lux countless times, and the Half-Elf could be considered one of her regular patients due to his constant fainting.

"Tired, but good," Natasha replied. "How about you? You are not making things difficult for Vera, are you? Also, that is one adorable Slime you got there. Is that your pet?"

Eiko, who was perched on top of Lux's head, looked at the two old people with a smile. She was quite fond of old people because her Grandma Vera, Grandma Annie, and the other old people in Leaf Village spoiled her a lot. Because of this, she looked at the old commander, and old nurse, with a warm smile that almost made the hearts of the two oldies melt.

"She's not my pet," Lux replied. "Her name is Eiko. She is like a daughter to me."

Eiko nodded her head in agreement before continuing to smile at the two old people that were now only a meter away from them.

"Such a well behaved Slime," Natasha lightly patted the baby Slime, who giggled under her touch. "By the way, Lux, according to the last conference, the Entrance Test for Elysium will be delayed until the Tournament in Barbatos Academy is over.

"The Stronghold is putting their effort into training the kids to participate in the tournament. Although I'm sure that they won't reach the top 100, it is still a good thing to have a goal, right?"

Lux nodded. "Yes. Having a goal is important."

Gerald patted Lux's right shoulder. "Don't worry Lux. I believe if you continue to persevere, a miracle will happen. You will one day step foot in Elysium and realize your dream."

"Thank you, Commander," Lux replied. He had no intention of telling the old man that he had already stepped into Elysium, and had already ascended into the initial stages of a Grade A Apostle.

Right now, he was wearing a special ring given to him by Vera to hide his rank from the appraisal of other people. Since Lux had been a very sickly boy, no one would find it weird if he was still "Rankless", and considered to be one of the children who had no talent in going to the world on the other side of the gate.

"By the way, I heard that your step-sister, Iris, will become the fiancée of the champion of the tournament," Gerald said as he gazed at Lux with a serious expression. "I know that the two of you are close. How do you feel about it?"

"Commander, I believe that everyone has the right to love," Lux replied. "I do not think that what her father is doing is right, but there is nothing that I can do about it."

Gerald glanced at his surroundings before whispering something in Lux's ears.

"You and I know that Nero had been pursuing your sister in Elysium for a long time now," Gerald whispered. "I know that you and him don't get along, but right now, his position among the younger generation is quite high. Some of

the Guardians even believe that he has a high chance of becoming a champion in the tournament. If that happens, his goal of making your step sister his fiancée will become a reality."

Natasha didn't say anything because she and Gerald were on Lux's side. Although Nero's performance in Elysium was great, and his ambition to reach the top was admirable, they were more biased to Lux whom they had raised with Vera.

"He has to win the tournament first," Lux replied. "Only then will he have the possibility of becoming Iris' fiancée."

Natasha who was just standing at the side looked in the distance and smirked.

"Speaking of the devil," Natasha commented. "Look who just returned from Elysium."

At the Teleportation Gate of Wildgarde Stronghold, several teenagers walked down the platform. Lux recognized all of them because most of them had become his friends inside the Stronghold, with the exception of the good looking boy who was leading the group.

"Commander Gerald, I came to give you a report of our latest expedition in Elysium," Nero bowed his head with respect. He then gave Lux a side-long glance before shifting his attention back to the Supreme Commander of Wildgarde Stronghold.

"Feel free to speak, everyone is family here," Gerald replied as he patted Lux's shoulder to tell him that red-headed teenager was one of his people.

Nero smiled as he nodded his head in understanding. "Of course. Everyone inside the Stronghold is family. Isn't that right, Lux?"

"More or less," Lux replied.

"Don't be like that," Nero commented. "After all, after the tournament, we will really become part of the same family."

Gerald, and Natasha frowned, but they didn't say anything. Rivalry and any form of competition was allowed inside Wildgarde Stronghold because it allowed the young generation to strive and do their best to reach greater heights.

Lux's friends, who were part of Nero's entourage, didn't say anything and remained silent. Lux was their friend, but Nero was the appointed Guild Master of Wildegard Stronghold's branch guild in Elysium, who managed the members of the young generation.

They didn't want to offend either side, so they decided to keep their silence to maintain a neutral stance.

"You talk as if you have already won the tournament," Lux replied. "I wonder where that confidence of yours is coming from?"

Nero chuckled and brushed aside Lux's sarcastic words as if they were a passing breeze.

"My confidence is fueled by my ability, performance, and the achievements that I have made in Elysium," Nero replied. "I'm not like you. Aside from your good looks, you have nothing else to offer. But, don't worry, there are plenty of pretty ladies out there that are unable to step inside Elysium because they lack talent. Just take your pick, I'm sure that any girl you choose would be a match made in heaven."

Lux chuckled as he crossed his arms over his chest. "Yea, being handsome is a sin. Iris has been nagging me to marry her for a very long time. Unlike others whose face is as thick as the walls of the Stronghold, my face is enough to attract all the ladies even if I just stand here and do nothing."

Gerald and Natasha exchanged a glance at each other before looking at the Half-Elf who was tooting his own horn. Although they had to admit that Lux was indeed handsome because he was a Half-Elf, they had the strong urge to spank his bum for being shameless.

Surprisingly, Nero just nodded his head and smiled.

"Unfortunately, good looks alone is not enough to have her hand in marriage," Nero replied. "Her father, Saint Alexander, knows that only the strong can stand on top of the world. Only the strong can have riches, women, and influence. What you have is only superficial. In the end, it amounts to nothing. You can't even protect those that are important to you."

Nero sneered as he walked close to Lux until their faces were only a few centimeters apart.

"If you've got guts then I dare you to enter the tournament that will be held in Barbatos Academy," Nero stated. "At that time, you will understand that, in the face of absolute strength, your eloquent words are meaningless."

Nero snorted before bowing respectfully to Gerald and Natasha.

"Commander, I will be visiting Master's residence," Nero said in a polite manner. "I will also leave my detailed report with him. Please, consult with him later about the progress of the Storm Dragon Guild. I will now take my leave."

"Okay," Gerald replied. "Thanks for your hard work."

Nero nodded before leaving with his entourage. He didn't even spare Lux a backward glance as he headed towards his Master's residence.

When the young man was no longer in sight, Gerald sighed as he once again patted Lux's shoulder.

"Even though he is arrogant, I have to admit that he can back his words," Gerald commented. "The Storm Dragons have grown to be the leading Bronze Guild under the Wildgarde Banner. I believe that it will only take them a month or two before their Guild is upgraded to the Silver Rank."

Natasha took this opportunity to pat Lux's head as if giving him support.

"It's fine, Lux," Natasha replied. "Although I can't refute that strength makes right, I believe that strength isn't everything. One day, you will find your calling, and when that happens, no one, not even Nero, can look down on you."

"Thank you, Commander Gerald; thank you, Grandma Natasha," Lux said as with a confident smile on his face. "Don't worry. I am not bothered by his words. In fact, I wish him luck in the upcoming tournament."

Gerald nodded. "That's good. Although we sometimes have conflicting opinions, all of us are on the same side. Natasha, it's time to go. We still have matters that we need to settle before the tournament starts."

Natasha lightly pinched Lux's and Eiko's cheeks before following Gerald towards the Commander's office.

Lux watched them go with a calm expression, but deep inside his heart was boiling. If not for the fact that he was looking at the bigger picture, he might have challenged Nero to a duel to shut him up in front of everyone.

'I guess I'll return to Elysium after registering at the academy for the tournament,' Lux thought as he walked back towards his home where his Grandma Vera was waiting for him. 'Colette and the others are still waiting for me, and there's still plenty of time before the tournament starts.'

The Half-Elf chuckled internally as he looked forward to the upcoming tournament. Although he wouldn't personally appear there as "Lux" he would still stand on that grand stage, and show the arrogant candidates, like Nero, a thing or two about humility.

## Chapter 175: When Two Rivals Meet

"Eiko!"

"Ma!"

Before Sophie could even step onto the shore, Eiko jumped off from the White Hippopotamus' head and used her Air Strider [EX] skill to fly in the direction of the beautiful young lady who was waiting for her on the shore.

Vera chuckled as she watched this scene, while Lux only smiled. With a glance, he could tell that Eiko really missed Iris, so he just happily looked at them as the Mama and daughter pair kissed each other after their reunion.

Alicia who was standing beside Iris looked at the White Hippopotamus who was now making its way up the riverbank.

"Lady Vera, welcome back to Barbatos Academy," Alicia greeted.

"Alicia, I hope you are doing well," Vera replied. "Is my no-good-son giving you some trouble with your work?"

Alicia vehemently shook her head as she tried to protect the honor and dignity of her employer.

"Lord Alexander is the one that is working too hard, Lady Vera," Alicia replied. "He sometimes works until midnight just to finish the paperwork."

"Don't worry. Dealing with paperwork is not enough to kill a Saint," Vera commented as she dismounted from Sophie's back assisted by Lux. "How are the preparations for the tournament going?"

"They are going well. In fact, they are going too well. There have already been over six thousand applicants this month alone."

"Not bad. It seems that a lot of people want to become the champion."

Everytime a tournament was held, the rewards that could be gained from it were enormous. After all, it was sponsored by the six kingdoms that were supporting Barbatos Academy. The lowest number of participants that joined the tournament was usually around ten thousand, but this year, they were expecting more participants.

Alexander's whim of making the champion of the tournament Iris' fiance, was just icing on the cake that was already sought by so many.

"Are there many promising individuals this year?" Vera inquired as Lux went to have a chat with Iris, who was currently busy pampering Eiko.

Alicia nodded. "Yes. Famed geniuses and prodigies that hail from the six kingdoms are going to join this year's tournament. There are at least thirty notable individuals who are as strong as, and maybe even stronger than, the last tournament's champion."

"Oh? That sounds incredible."

"Yes, Lady Vera. I was even surprised when I got their information. This year's tournament is going to be the talk of the kingdoms for the next few years."

Vera smiled as Alicia and her followed Lux and Iris, who were already making their way towards the hidden path that led to Barbatos Academy.

"Alicia, there is a matter that I will need your help with in regards to the tournament," Vera said softly.

Alicia already had an idea on what Vera was going to say as she glanced at the handsome Half-Elf who was walking hand in hand with Iris in the distance.

"Lady Vera, can Lux really do it?" Alicia asked. "If he faints in the middle of the tournament, it might traumatize him for life."

"Don't worry. What you're thinking about will not happen. Also, I'm planning to have his identity be a secret, so you will have to become his guarantor when he enters the tournament."

Guarantors were part of the high-ranking staff of the tournament who were in charge of dealing with participants who refused to reveal their identity to anyone. These participants could wear masks, or any other form of disguise, to prevent anyone from knowing who they were.

However, since this rule could easily be taken advantage of, they were given strict guidelines by the guarantors who knew of their identity. This is to ensure that people wouldn't switch places with someone else for the duration of the tournament, which would lead to harsh consequences if discovered.

"If that is your wish, Lady Vera, I will personally handle this task," Alicia promised. "May I get permission to tell this to the Headmaster?"

Vera smirked as she thought of her no-good-son who was trying to get in the way of her granddaughter's happiness.

"You can tell him that Lux is joining, but don't tell him what kind of identity he will use in the tournament. Let him guess as much as he wants."

"Understood. I will handle the necessary preparations, and will register Lux before the sun sets. Is that acceptable, Lady Vera?"

Vera nodded. "Thank you, Alicia. You can now return to your duties. I'll look after my grandkids for the time being."

Alicia bowed respectfully before taking a left turn on the hidden path that they were traversing. Barbatos Academy had many hidden pathways and only a select number of people knew about them.

The reason for this was because Barbatos Academy could be used as a fortress during war time, so these secret passageways were made in order to let high-ranking nobles, as well as members of the royal family, escape if and when their lives were in danger.



The moment Lux, Vera, and Iris arrived at the young beauty's private residence, the bro-con little sister immediately hugged Lux tightly and the latter responded by patting her head.

Vera excused herself and left her grandkids alone to go and meet her son, who was buried under a lot of paperwork that was related to the upcoming tournament.

Also, Vera wanted to give Lux and Iris some private time together, since she knew that her granddaughter had plenty of questions to ask Lux. As a very understanding Grandma, she didn't want to become a third wheel.

Iris served Lux and Eiko some fruit juice, as well as sweets. She was dying to know what kind of adventures her brother and her baby slime had had in Elysium.

However, just before Iris could ask the Half-Elf her question, the baby slime, that was happily drinking her fruit juice, jumped off the table and glared at the Unicorn who was now walking towards Iris.

It was none other than Eiko's mortal enemy, Astra, who had given the baby slime a hard time when she was just born.

"Simp!" Eiko shouted towards the Unicorn, which made Lux almost spit out the fruit juice that he was drinking.

In truth, Eiko wanted to call Astra, f\*cker, but since her mama was around, she refrained from using it and used the word that her Papa used to tease Matty back in Leaf Village.

The Unicorn scoffed as he looked down on the baby Slime in contempt. Clearly, he still didn't see Eiko as a threat to its existence.

Seeing that she got ignored, Eiko wanted to attack the arrogant Unicorn, but Iris immediately picked her up from the ground and patted her head.

"You and Astra can fight later, Eiko," Iris said as she tried to coax the baby Slime to not fight inside her living room. "For now, I want to hear about your adventures with your papa in Elysium."

Eiko looked up at her Mama and obediently nodded her head. She then gave the Unicorn a sidelong glance and stuck out her tongue towards the arrogant horse that she would be fighting later.

Astra scoffed at Eiko's petty attempts to taunt him and just walked towards Lux with an annoyed look on his face. He was giving the Half-Elf the "Bruh, what is wrong with your daughter?" look, which the Half-Elf replied with a helpless smile on his face.

"Astra, make sure to not underestimate Eiko later," Lux warned. "If you're not careful, you'll be in a world of pain."

Astra rolled his eyes at the red-headed teenager. Clearly, he didn't take Lux's words seriously. For him, Eiko was just a little baby who didn't know her place. As an elder, he was more than happy to teach her a thing or two about knowing her place.

Lux could only smirk at the Unicorn who served as one of Iris' guardians before drinking his fruit juice. He was already looking forward to the battle between the two Monsters, who held a grudge against each other.

'I guess both of them are now considered rivals for Iris' attention,' Lux mused. 'Still, this will be one interesting battle. I look forward to how Eiko will showcase her skills against a veteran like Astra in battle.'

Although he didn't know who would win between the two rivals, Lux still wanted to see how Astra would react after it realized that the baby slime he bullied in the past was no longer the weak monster that he could deal with in a casual manner.

## **Chapter 176: Eiko's Monster Grade**

Eiko managed to convince Iris to make Astra leave the room before Lux told her about their adventures in Elysium.

The baby Slime didn't want her rival to hear how powerful she had become and wanted it to be a surprise to him later. Iris agreed and asked Astra to head to the training grounds to prepare for his battle with Eiko, which the Unicorn thought was a big joke.

Even so, for Iris' sake, he left the room and allowed Eiko to monopolize Iris for a short period of time.

Astra was confident that he would easily win against the baby Slime who still didn't know her place in the hierarchy of beasts that protected Iris' safety.

The moment Astra left, Lux began to tell Iris about the details of the adventures they had in Elysium. The young beauty's eyes would widen in shock from time to time, and her mouth would open and close as the red-headed teenager told the tale of things that seemed impossible to have happened inside a Beginner's Zone.

Even so, Iris believed every word of it. She could tell at a glance that her stepbrother was not exaggerating his tale, and even went out of his way to downplay the story telling, so he wouldn't come out as someone who bragged about the feats he had accomplished in Elysium.

After hearing about his encounter with the Indus Death Worm and Keoza, the Argonaut-Ranked Crystal Dragon, Iris asked Lux to pause his story telling, so she could drink some water in order to calm herself.

Only after she had regained her calm did Iris allow Lux to continue his tale.

In the Intermediate Areas, Pseudo-Deimos and Deimos-Ranked Monsters were considered quite rare, and were deemed as the ultimate bosses that needed to be fought by an entire guild to ensure that there would be less casualties in battle.

A single party would not challenge Monsters of such rank because it would immediately turn into a party wipe. If they met such Monsters inside a Dungeon, it would still be fine because if they died since they would just lose some of their stat points.

However, if they encountered them in the wild, the first thing that a party should do is run away as fast as they could. It was simply impossible to beat creatures of that rank. If there were people stubborn enough to think that they could fight it using the power of friendship, they would end up as monster poop.

"Unbelievable," Iris commented after Lux finished his tale about the Grotto of the Forbidden Guardian. "A dungeon that degraded because its Dungeon

Core was damaged. Although this is the first time that I've heard of a story like this, I'm still glad that you are still safe after that experience, Lux."

Iris decided to just call the red-headed teenager, Lux, when it was just the two of them. Although Lux was surprised at first, he didn't mind it too much and allowed the young beauty to call him whatever she wanted.

Iris then stared at Lux with a serious expression on her face, while holding Eiko in her hand. A few moments later, she nodded her head in admiration after sensing the faint power of Dragons inside Lux's body.

As a Beast Tamer, she was quite familiar with how the blood of beasts could be fused with ordinary people, giving them specific abilities that belonged to that Beast. Although this practice was very common, it still held significant danger to the person that consumed the Monster Blood.

In the worst case scenario, they would die due to incompatibility or the Monster Blood having a strong side-effect on those who tried to fuse with it.

"Lux, can you transform parts of your body?" Iris asked. "I have seen others do it, so I am curious if you can do it as well."

Lux nodded and transformed his hand into that of a dragon claw, which made Iris very curious. She even reached out to touch Lux's clawed hand, and pressed it in places to confirm if it had merged completely.

Her gaze was so serious that it reminded him of scientists who were focused on their craft. Out of curiosity, Iris almost licked Lux's hand just to taste what a transformed claw tasted like.

Fortunately, Lux undid the transformation in time, which prevented Iris from continuing to carry out her experiments.

After a few minutes of dissatisfaction, Lux continued his tale. When he mentioned fighting against the Mutated Thunder Wolf King, Iris' brows furrowed.

"When it died, did it leave behind a vial of mutated blood?" Iris asked.

Lux nodded. "Yes. it did."

Iris's expression became more serious after hearing Lux's answer.

"Do you remember when Nero came to Wildgarde Stronghold to look for me because our guilds were going to challenge a Dungeon together?"

"How could I forget?"

Iris nodded. "The Boss of the Dungeon we faced was a Mutated Thunder Wolf King. Fortunately, there were two hundred of us, so we were able to deal with it. After it was defeated, according to the rules of conquest, the one that made the greatest contribution would take the first pick at the Monster loot.

"Nero didn't even hesitate to take the Monster's Beast Core. Since he specializes in Lightning Abilities, the outcome was acceptable. I don't know if he succeeded in learning a skill after absorbing the Monster Core, but one thing is for sure, he is strong, Lux, very strong. Be sure to be extra careful if you meet him in the tournament."

Lux gave her a brief nod to acknowledge Nero's abilities. "I understand. I promise to be careful. So, since you knew of the vial, did your group receive it as well?"

"We did. The Mutated Monster Blood was given to the Prince of Exalos Kingdom, as his compensation for his support in the battle."

"How about you? What did you get?"

Iris gave Lux a mischievous smile, which caught the latter's interest.

"For some reason, the Mutated Thunder Wolf King dropped an egg," Iris answered. "As the main Beast Tamer in the group, it was given to me by unanimous vote."

Lux chuckled. "I'm sure that no one will challenge you over a monster egg. So, did you hatch the egg already?"

"Yes," Iris replied. "I gifted the baby monster to Alicia because she has long wanted to raise a baby Monster, but never found the time to hunt in Elysium."

"Um, do you mind if I ask what kind of monster came out of the egg? It isn't a Mutated Thunder Wolf King, right?"

"No. What came out of it was a Mythical Class Golden-Winged Griffin. Alicia loves the little guy so much that he named him Alex."

Lux almost burst out laughing because, not expecting that Alicia would be so bold as to call a Golden-Wing Griffin, Alex, which was obviously a shortened version of Iris' father's name, Alexander.

"But, as expected of you, Iris," Lux said as he crossed his arms over his chest. "A Mythical Beast from the get go. You sure are lucky when it comes to hatching eggs."

"Ma!" Eiko, who was sitting on Iris' lap and being petted by her Mama, nodded her head in agreement.

Iris smiled sweetly as she lightly squeezed Eiko's cheeks, making the baby Slime giggle. "To be honest, I was a bit disappointed. I thought I was going to hatch a Legendary Class Monster, but this time, I only got a Mythical one. I am losing my touch."

Lux stared at his step-sister for a few seconds before rubbing his face with both hands. The only one who could casually say she was losing her touch by hatching a Mythical Grade Monster was none other than the young beauty with light-blue hair in front of him.

If other Monster Tamers or Monster Breeders were to hear her complaints, all of them would definitely suffer from high blood pressure or aneurysm for her audacity.

'My sister is in another league when it comes to her standards in hatching monsters,' Lux thought as he shook his head helplessly. Finally, a thought came across his mind as he asked Iris the question he forgot to ask long ago.

"Iris, what is Eiko's Monster Grade?" Lux inquired.

Iris blinked once then twice as she looked at Lux with surprise.

"Didn't I tell you about her Monster Grade when she was born?" Iris asked.

Lux shook his head. "No. Is she perhaps Mythical Grade just like that Golden-Winged Griffin?"

Iris smiled as she lightly rubbed Eiko's chubby cheeks, making the baby Slime giggle for the second time.

"I also thought that she was a Mythical Monster," Iris replied. "But, after thinking for a long time, I came to a conclusion. Eiko is not a Mythical Monster. She is a Legendary Monster, whose untapped potential is endless. Even now, I'm still researching what kind of Monster she is."

Lux stared at the baby Slime that was giggling from Iris' constant squeezing, and wondered what kind of evolution Eiko would take once she reached a higher rank.

Now that Iris had confirmed that Eiko Monster Grade was of the Legendary Rank, he was sure that whatever the baby Slime would become in the future, she would definitely leave a mark in history as one of the strongest Slimes that was ever born in the world of Elysium.

Eiko didn't understand anything about Monster Grades or anything of the sort. She was just happy that her Mama was spoiling her before she'd go to fight that annoying Unicorn that was waiting for her in Mama's private Training Grounds.

She had long wanted to have a revenge match with Astra. Since she had been expecting this, she practiced a lot in Elysium. Eiko was confident that no matter how strong the Unicorn was, she would emerge victorious and show her arrogant rival that she was no longer the weak Monster that Astra had bullied in the past.

## **Chapter 177: Eiko Vs. Astra**

Lux and Iris stood at the corner of the Training Ground, watching Eiko face off against Astra.

They were not the only spectators this time since Vera had come just before they headed towards the training grounds. She was very curious to know how much stronger Eiko had become after staying in Elysium for several months.

Iris' other Guardians were also present to observe Lux and Iris' "baby" and see for themselves what the little slime was capable of.

Hanz, the White Tiger.

Valerie, the Blue Dragon.

Myrtle, the Black Tortoise.

And lastly, Zoe, the Red Phoenix.

These were all Iris' Beast Companions, and they had been raised by her ever since they were hatched from eggs.

They were her loyal protectors who ensured her safety in Elysium. All of them were powerful beasts, which made Iris a very precious member of the Serenity Guild, which was a subsidiary of the Barbatos Guild in Elysium.

"Who do you think will win, Brother?" Iris asked.

"If Astra underestimates Eiko, our daughter will definitely win," Lux replied.

"Really?"

"Yes."

When the Guardian Beasts beside Iris heard Lux's words, all of them thought that the Half-Elf was just joking, except Hanz, the White Tiger.

He had been there when Eiko and Astra fought for the first time. Although the baby slime didn't hold a candle to the Unicorn then, the White Tiger could see Eiko's potential. Just like the others, he was looking forward to this rematch, wanting to know if the baby slime had improved since the last time he saw her.

Eiko glared at the Unicorn, who was looking down at her with contempt, in the distance. They were waiting for Iris' go signal to start the battle before they began attacking each other.

"Are the both of you ready?" Iris asked.

"Ma!" Eiko replied.

Astra just nodded his head and stomped his right hoof on the ground. He was also raring to teach the baby slime a lesson.

"Start the Duel!"

As soon as the battle started, Eiko summoned Four Slimes which spread out in order to attack the baby slime's opponent.



Blackie and Whitey flew in the air and fired their spells at the unicorn, while Eiko's two new summons, Rocky, the Earth Slime, and Maya, the Water Slime, did the same.

"Looks like Eiko has made some new friends in Elysium," Iris commented as she looked at the four slimes that were working together to fight against the Unicorn who easily dodged their attacks due to its speed.

Lux nodded. He didn't tell Iris that Eiko had also received a reward after defeating the Mutated Thunder Wolf King, which allowed her to gain another rank. Rocky and Maya were fairly new to Eiko's arsenal, so their teamwork with Blackie and Whitey wasn't that great at the moment.

However, that didn't change the fact that the four slimes were performing extremely well against an opponent that was as strong as Astra.

Just when the Unicorn evaded Blackie and Whitey's combination attack, Eiko appeared beside him and unleashed her skill, Moon Blast, which she had gained after she had ranked up.

Astra's body briefly glowed as he disappeared from his location and reappeared behind the baby slime. However, at that exact moment, Blackie and Whitey's special combo attack, Starfire Tempest, collided with the side of the Unicorn's Body that had just teleported behind Eiko.

The unicorn was pushed back a few meters from where he stood, but he was mostly unscathed because it managed to activate its Magical Barrier just in time. Even so, there was a minor burn mark at the side of his body, which made the Unicorn narrow his eyes.

"Astra is now going to get serious," Iris smiled. "He finally recognized Eiko's threat."

"Yes," Lux agreed. "Now, Eiko will be hard pressed to fight him since the element of surprise is now gone."

Vera and the Guardians that were watching the battle from the side were quite impressed on how things played out. Clearly, Eiko expected that Astra would teleport behind her and ordered Blackie and Whitey to fire their special move behind her, even before Astra teleported.

This made the attack hit the Unicorn without fail. If not for the fact that Astra reacted in time, a minor burn mark would be the least of his worries.

"Simp!" Eiko raised her head arrogantly, taunting Astra.

The Unicorn didn't reply and simply unleashed its Aura, which created a shockwave that pushed back Eiko, as well as the slimes that were in a thirty-meter radius around it.

Lightning crackled at the tip of Astra's horn and its entire body was covered in lightning bolts. This was similar to the Mutated Thunder Wolf King's Lightning Body, which damaged those who came close to it.

Astra then aimed its horn at Eiko and unleashed a Lightning Blast, which the latter easily evaded using Blink.

However, after she disappeared, the lightning changed direction and attacked the place where she had gone to.

A thunderous explosion erupted as a slime crashed on the ground, rolling away for several meters before coming to a complete stop.

"Rocky!" Eiko shouted as she gazed at the Earth Slime who had appeared in front of her to shield her from Astra's attack.

Rocky's body shook as it propped itself up before looking in Astra's direction.

"Careful!" Rocky shouted as he fired a barrage of Stone Bullets at the Unicorn, who was in the middle of preparing to unleash another attack.

Astra didn't dodge and simply allowed himself to get hit by the Stone Bullets. The lightning that covered his body incinerated the stones before they could even reach him.

Astra then unleashed three lightning bolts which were all targeted at Eiko. Knowing that dodging was not an option, the baby slime activated her Elemental Shields to mitigate the lightning bolts that were aimed at her.

Three magic circles which glowed with the colors of the rainbow appeared in front of Eiko. However, they only lasted for a few seconds before they broke apart.

At that moment, Blackey, Whitey, and Maya, appeared in front of Eiko and blocked the lightning bolts with their bodies. All three slimes were sent flying several meters away before they crashed on the ground, motionless.

Eiko glared at Astra as her body glowed briefly.

Suddenly, two baby slimes who looked exactly like Eiko appeared beside her. However, the moment these slimes appeared, Eiko shook her head and the two slimes vanished without a trace.

Lux, who was watching this scene smiled, because he understood what Eiko was thinking.

Clearly, she wanted to fight against Astra using only her powers, which proved that she had started to gain confidence in her own abilities. Although she could copy Lux's abilities and gain an upper hand, she didn't do that.

More than anything else, Eiko wanted to beat Astra using everything she got, without relying on others.

'You can do it, Eiko!' Lux cheered for the baby slime in his heart as he watched the battle become more intense.

Iris' Guardians were no longer observing with a carefree manner ever since they realized that the baby slime's performance had exceeded their expectations.

Little by little, Eiko was being pushed back by Astra's dominating attacks. Even if the other slimes were to help her, all of them were helpless against the Unicorn's swift and powerful attacks that didn't give them any time to rest.

"Simp!" Eiko shouted at Astra as she stood her ground. "Fight!"

Astra paused as he looked at the baby slime. Although Eiko only said the word "Fight," he understood her intention. The baby slime was challenging him to a head on clash with their most powerful attack.

Astra stomped his right foot against the ground and aimed his horn at the baby slime. He had accepted her challenge and decided to face her head-on.

Eiko then opened her mouth wide as a magic circle appeared in front of her. To everyone's surprise, the magic circle was getting bigger and bigger.

Clearly, Eiko was pouring all of her magical energy into one powerful attack with all of her might.

Astra knew that he couldn't afford to hold back since he could feel that Eiko's magical energy was rising at a rapid rate.

Lightning crackled at the tip of the Unicorn's horn, creating a ball of lightning which grew bigger and bigger every second.

Lux had summoned Pazuzu to stand in front of them, while the Black Tortoise, Myrtle, stood in front of Iris. The rest of Iris' Guardians had also taken a defensive stance, forming a circle around their Master to ensure her safety.

"Grandma, please, make your move if you see that Eiko's life is in danger," Lux said softly.

Vera nodded. She had also made her preparations to take action if Eiko's and Astra's life were in danger.

"Moonblast!" Eiko shouted and a two-meter tall orb of light erupted from the magic circle in front of her. It had a shape similar to that of the moon's which emitted a radiance that shone brightly.

Astra neighed as it unleashed its skill called "Thunder's Fury." It was his strongest attack that he only used when he fought against strong opponents in Elysium.

When these two spells collided, a mini shockwave erupted in the surroundings as both spells tried to push each other away.

These lasted for several seconds before both attacks merged into each other.

"Pazuzu, block it!" Lux ordered.

The Demonic Defender immediately activated its Shield Wall, creating a giant Tower Shield in front of them.

Vera disappeared from where she stood and a few seconds after that, a powerful explosion rocked the entire Training Grounds, forcing Lux, and Iris, to cover their eyes due to the intense radiance that turned their sight completely white.

## Chapter 178: I've Seen That Mofo Two Times Already

When the bright light receded, Lux and Iris stared at the aftermath of Eiko's and Astra's final clash.

The training grounds were in a mess, with bits of equipment scattered all over. However, there was no damage in the Training Ground itself. It was obvious that the facility was made to endure strong attacks. It could probably only be destroyed by blows that came from High-Rankers.

Vera approached her grandchildren while holding a small puddle of goo in her hands. The small blue puddle was none other than Eiko who had used up all her energy in her last attack. The baby slime didn't even have any strength left to retain her usual form, which worried Lux and Iris.

However, after Iris checked Eiko's condition, she was relieved to find out that aside from exhaustion, her baby slime was fine and had simply fell into hibernation mode to regain her strength.

Astra, on the other hand, stood arrogantly in the training ground. The moment the lightning that covered its body disappeared, several bruises could be found on its pristine white skin. Clearly, it suffered minor injuries during his last clash with Eiko.

Vera had stood in front of Eiko to block the explosion and protected the awakened slime from getting injured. Because of this, the baby slime was unscathed by the aftermath, and was now being cared for by Iris, who was pouring regeneration potions on Eiko's puddle-like-body.

"This is your victory, Astra," Lux said as he approached the Unicorn who was looking at the baby slime in Iris' hands from a distance. "Thank you for taking it easy on my daughter. However, if you slack on your training, Eiko will surely catch up to you. She may not beat you in your next rematch, or your rematch after that. But, I'm sure that a year from now, you'll no longer be able to take it easy."

Astra glanced at Lux and let out a snort before walking away. The Unicorn was about to return to its personal residence when Iris blocked his path.

"Thank you, Astra, for holding back," Iris said with a smile. She then opened a regeneration potion and offered it to Astra, which the latter took without even a slight hint of hesitation.

The young beauty then opened another potion and poured its contents on Astra's bruised body. A few seconds later, all of his injuries were healed. Aside from the dirt that was stuck on its body, the Unicorn had mostly recovered.

Just like what Iris said, Astra had held back in the end. If it wished, it could've blasted through Eiko's Moon Blast and pushed the attack back to the baby slime, which might have resulted in a critical injury.

Astra didn't reply and simply nudged his head on Iris cheek, telling her that it was not a big deal to him. After a while, the Unicorn walked away before teleporting towards his residence.

His battle with Eiko had made him realize that Lux was right. If he slacked on his training, Eiko would definitely catch up to him, which was something he wouldn't want to happen.

It wasn't only Astra who felt this way. All of Iris' Guardians who witnessed the battle felt a fire light up inside their chest. More than anything else, they didn't want to lose to the baby slime the most. The battle had shown them that even a baby like her could threaten their lives if they weren't careful.

Vera looked in amusement as she held the puddle of blue goo in her hands. According to her estimate, it would take Eiko a few hours or a whole day before she finally regained her consciousness.

She had seen many slimes in the past, and for some reason, Eiko reminded her of that one slime she had once encountered in one of the High-Ranking areas in Elysium. Vera didn't know if Eiko would grow up to become similar to that slime she had met, but if the baby slime did, then her current impression of her adopted slime granddaughter would have to be revised.

After all, that Slime Queen had taken over an entire kingdom by itself and was now considered as one of the Overlords in Elysium.

It was an existence that even High-Rankers didn't dare to offend.

Iris had taken Eiko back to her room to do a full body examination. She was very curious about Eiko's current form since she had never taken care of a slime before.

Lux felt that it would be a bad idea to follow Iris back to her room, so he decided to stroll around Barbatos Academy with Vera, while waiting for Alicia to finish the preparation for his registration as well as the paperwork she had to complete to become his guarantor in the tournament.

When the two appeared in the training grounds of the students, Vera pointed at one of the teenagers that were standing in the arena. The teenager had short blonde hair and blue eyes and he was quite handsome.

The blonde teenager stood as straight as a sword and his mere presence made Lux feel that he was looking at an expert.

"He is one of the people that you should look out for in the tournament, Lux," Vera said softly. "That young man is the Second Prince of the Kingdom of Azov, Rupert Evans Vi Azov. Have you heard of the 'Four Kings, and the Five Overlords'?"

Lux nodded. "They are considered as the strongest members of the young generation among the Six Kingdoms."

"That's right. That person is one of the Four Kings and the younger generation refer to him as the Sword King."

"What a domineering title. So, he's a genius in swordsmanship?"

Vera chuckled as she shook her head. "Calling him a genius is belittling him. Even my son hadn't reached his level of proficiency with the sword when he was of the same age. Also, he has a very unique body constitution that is very resistant against magical attacks. This makes him a very dangerous opponent for magic users."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. "Looks like he got all of his bases covered. If Nero were to match up against him, who would win?"

Vera paused as she pondered the answer to this question.

"I say that Nero has a forty percent chance to win against him," Vera replied. "Although Prince Rupert might be strong, he is not invincible. Just remember

Lux that there are many strong people that will be joining the tournament. You should never let your guard down."

Lux knew that his Grandma was only concerned about his well-being, so she decided to show him one of the possible opponents that he could be facing in the tournament.

As if sensing Lux's gaze, Prince Rupert glanced in his direction and gave him a brief nod before walking down from the arena. His opponent had conceded even before their mock battle started, which the spectators who were hoping to gain an insight to his abilities, sigh in disappointment.

"Grandma, are the members of the Four Kings and Five Overlords also here in Barbatos Academy?" Lux inquired.

"Two of the Four Kings, and two of the Five Overlords reside here," Vera answered. "The others like Nero spend most of their days in Elysium. They only return to Solais to give their reports, so it's hard to get a hold of them."

"Heh, I've seen that Mofo two times already," Lux said. "He's not that hard to find."

Vera could only shake her head helplessly at her grandson's comment. Clearly, Lux and Nero had bad blood between them. But, as a responsible adult, she didn't plan to interfere. This was a conflict between the younger generation, so this must be settled by the two of them.

Besides, she didn't dislike Nero being Lux's rival. This kind of relationship would only encourage her grandson to work harder. Aside from that, she was sure that Lux would settle their differences in the tournament, so she didn't have to do anything about it.

## **Chapter 179: Is My Disguise Good?**

"Brother, you're going to join the tournament, right?" Iris asked as she sat on the couch of her residence's living room.

Lux nodded his head. "But I'll be hiding my identity."

"Is it because of my father?"



"Not really. I just don't want to stand out."

Iris giggled as she looked at her stepbrother with an amused expression on her face.

"So, will you be wearing a mask?" Iris asked in a mischievous tone.

Lux replied with a smile as he took out the mythical mask that belonged to the Faunus Battle Regalia.

The mask was called the Mask of a Thousand Faces, but the number of faces that it could store in its memory were only two.

As soon as Lux wore the mask, something unbelievable happened. His body instantly changed. In just a short moment, a chubby boy with short black hair and light-brown eyes appeared in front of Iris.

The young beauty's eyes widened and her jaw dropped in shock. When Lux said that he would be using a different identity to enter the tournament, she didn't expect something like the scene in front of her eyes.

"Well, how do I look?" Lux asked.

His voice had also changed after wearing the mask, but his expressions were the same.

Iris reached out to poke Lux's chubby belly, as well as pat his chubby arms. She then reached out to pinch Lux's face and felt its softness. What surprised her the most was the fact that even though she tried to take off the mask, the only thing she managed to pull was Lux's skin, which made the latter cry out in pain.

"S-Sorry!" Iris immediately apologized. "Brother, this mask is amazing! Are you the only one that can take it off?"

"Yes," Lux said as he took off the mask, which allowed him to revert back to his handsome appearance. "What do you think? Is my disguise good?"

"Very good! I think even my father will not be able to tell that it is you."

"That's the plan. Since no one will know who I am, let alone how I fight, it's the perfect disguise for me."

Iris quieted down as she looked at Lux with a serious expression on her face. The Hal-Elf blinked once then twice because Iris' was staring at him as if she wanted to see through his very soul.

"Lux, can you wear it again?" Iris asked. "Please?"

"Okay." Lux nodded. He didn't know what Iris was thinking, but for some reason he felt that he should comply with her request.

As soon as Lux transformed into his chubby appearance, Iris walked up to him and cupped his face.

"I see... so that's it," Iris said softly as she stared at Lux's light-brown eyes.

"Um, Iris?" Lux couldn't help but feel anxious because Iris' stare never left his eyes. "Is there something wrong with my eyes?"

"No," Iris replied. "Even though you have taken a new form, the look in your eyes is the same."

"Really?"

"Yes. I've been observing Brother for a long time, so I can tell that the way you look at others is the same."

After she finished talking, Iris hugged Lux and rested her head on his shoulder. A minute later, Iris hand lightly patted Lux's round belly and giggled.

"Lux, I'd like to experience what it's like to sleep on your belly," Iris said. "Can we do that?"

"I don't mind," Lux answered. "But, let's do that when you are in Grandma's house. If for some reason, your father suddenly visited you and saw us together, he might kill me without asking for any explanation."

Iris giggled because what Lux had said was certainly possible. Her father wouldn't allow a random stranger to be so close to Iris without his permission. Even if he didn't kill that person, that person would still suffer from excruciating pain, which would make them wish they were dead.

Just as the two were about to continue their discussion, a knock was heard from the door. Lux immediately took off his mask and hid it inside his storage ring, and sat on the couch as if nothing had happened.

With a smirk on her face, Iris called out towards the door.

"Come in."

"Excuse me, Lady Iris."

Alicia entered the room, and opened the door for Lux and Iris' grandma, Vera.

The old woman entered the room first before Alicia closed the door and locked it behind her.

"Lady Vera had already told me that you're planning to join the tournament and asked me to become your guarantor," Alicia stated. "Are you now ready to register, Lux?"

Lux nodded his head to confirm his determination to participate in the tournament.

"Good," Alicia commented before tossing a blue crystal on the floor.

As soon as the crystal touched the floor, it transformed into a circular artifact that remained motionless on the ground.

"Lady Vera said that you're going to wear a disguise in the tournament," Alicia stared at Lux, her eyes filled with curiosity. "Wear your disguise and step onto the artifact. It will record your body's statistics."

Lux smiled before wearing his mask. He was quite curious on how Alicia would react after seeing his current form.

The moment his form changed that of a chubby boy, Alicia just nodded her head and made a gesture for Lux to step into the platform, which confused the Half-Elf.

"Um, aren't you going to say anything?" Lux asked the beautiful secretary who always did her work properly.

"About what? Your transformation?" Alicia arched an eyebrow. "Sorry, but I've been working with several Foxkin's as of late, and all of them are expert in transformations. If you showed this trick to me half a year ago, I would have been surprised. But now, I'm just numb to it all."

"Hah... it can't be helped." Lux sighed before stepping into the platform that recorded his overall stats. This record would be the one that Alicia would use to register Lux to ensure that no problem would arise during the tournament.

Only those who were aged twenty and below were allowed to participate in the tournament. Even if Lux changed his appearance, his bone age was still the same. This was how the artifact would ensure that Lux didn't surpass the age of twenty, which was the main requirement to join the tournament in Barbatos Academy.

"Your features are now recorded," Alicia commented after looking at the data that flashed in front of her. "Now, all you need to do is give me the name that you want to use in the tournament."

Lux smiled. He had thought long and hard for the name that he was going to use in the tournament. After Alicia, and Iris heard of the name, the two girls looked at Lux in a weird manner before chuckling at the same time.

Vera only smiled because she had already known the name that Lux would use in the tournament. From the name alone, the old lady could already see how everyone would react when the tournament in Barbatos Academy finally started.

"Lux, are you sure that this is the name that you are going to choose?" Alicia asked after she had regained her composure. "For some reason, I am already looking forward to how the referee will announce your name in the tournament."

"Me too!" Iris commented. "I want to see how everyone will react after hearing your name."

Lux smirked because this was the reaction that he was aiming for when he chose his name. Alicia stayed for a few minutes to have idle chat with Lux and Iris before leaving the room.

She was quite busy and there were still some things that she had to do. However, before anything else, she would go to the Headmaster's Office to make a report that Lux was going to join the tournament.

This was what Vera asked her to do, so that her son would be informed that the Half-Elf would also join the festivities.

'I just hope Lux doesn't faint in the middle of the fight,' Alicia thought anxiously as she knocked on the door of the Headmaster's office. 'Will he really be alright?'

To say that Alicia was worried about Lux was an understatement. The beautiful secretary was well aware of Lux's condition since it had also happened several times in the past when the Half-Elf visited Barbatos Academy.

However, since Vera had assured her that everything was going to be fine, Alicia had no choice but to believe the kind old lady, who had raised Lux with all the love and care in the world

## **Chapter 180: There's No Chance That He Will Pass The Qualifiers**

Alexander sighed after hearing Alicia's report.

"Does she really want Lux to get hurt that badly?" Alexander asked Alicia who had a complicated look on his face. "This is not a friendly sparring match. There's a huge chance that he would get seriously injured in the tournament."

Although Alicia also had misgivings, she believed that Vera wouldn't have agreed to anything that could actively harm her grandson. Also, Lux somehow felt different to her at the moment. For some reason, she felt like the teenage boy had grown a lot since the last time that the two of them had met.

"Sir, Lady Vera treasures Lux a lot," Alicia replied. "I'm sure you know how much she cares about him. Knowing her, do you really think that she would allow Lux to get hurt?"

Alexander didn't respond and merely tapped his finger on top of his table. He knew how overprotective his mother was more than anyone in the world. He didn't believe that his mother would allow Lux to enter the tournament if she didn't have some kind of assurance about his safety.

"Let's not talk about him for now," Alexander stated. "How are the registration of the tournament proceeding? Are you encountering any problems?"

Alicia shook her head. "Everything is in order, Sir. I believe that the number of candidates will surpass our initial estimates. Perhaps declaring that the champion will become Lady Iris' fiance inspired the members of the young generation to go all out."

Alexander's expression remained calm after Alicia's reply. He had long decided to go down this path for the sake of his daughter. Although his mother was against it, both of them knew that the only thing that mattered in this world was strength.

Love might be good, but it was not enough to protect the people that are important to you when faced with someone who was truly powerful.

Alexander and Vera knew this very well, and yet, both have divided opinions on how to settle Iris' future.

Alexander wanted his daughter to have a stable and comfortable life.

Vera on the other hand wanted Iris to live a happy life with her beloved.

Right now, Alexander had the strength to protect his daughter, but who knew if that would change in the future. Accidents could happen, so at the very least, he wanted Iris to be with someone who could properly protect her when the sky falls down above her head.

"If there are any concerns regarding the tournament, report it to me at once," Alexander ordered. "I don't want any mishaps to happen in this year's event."

Alicia nodded her head. However, before she left the room, she decided to see if Alexander cared for Lux's well-being in the tournament or not.

"Sir, do you think that Lux will be able to get far in the tournament?" Alicia asked. She was curious on how the Headmaster of Barbatos Academy would answer her question.

"I don't need to think. There's no chance for him to even pass the qualifiers," Alexander said before staring at his secretary with a serious expression on his face. "Make sure to personally handpick the referee for his battles. At the very least, order him to prevent that fool from dying. Although he's not good enough to become Iris' fiance, I don't hate him enough for him to get killed. He is still family, so make sure he doesn't die. Do you understand?"

Alicia bowed. "As you wish, Headmaster."

The beautiful secretary then left the room and returned to her duties. Now that Alexander had given her another order, she would have to personally handpick the referee that would be mediating Lux's battles to ensure his safety.

At the very least, Alicia felt relieved knowing that behind Alexander's rough treatment for his step-son, he still cared enough to ensure Lux's safety.

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Inside the Storm Dragon's Guild Headquarters in Elysium...

"Sir, one of our people in Barbatos Academy had discovered that Lux had come to the academy to register for the tournament," one of Nero's trusted subordinates reported.

"Good," Nero replied. "Thank you for the report. You may leave now."

His subordinate bowed before leaving the Guildmaster's office. He was the person that Nero had tasked to make a report if Lux was found in Barbatos Academy. After hearing that the Half-Elf had registered for the tournament, Nero felt an incredible itch in the palm of his hand.

"Too bad that I am already a seeded participant," Nero muttered. "I would love to personally kick that bastard out of the tournament. He sure is lucky that he didn't have the chance to face me."

The Four Kings and the Five Overlords were exempted from participating in the Qualifiers. Among the thousands of participants, only a few dozen would make it to the Final Qualifying Matches.

After that, the regular matches would be held. That was where The Four Kings and the Five Overlords would participate until only eight would remain.

These eight people would then head to the Semi-Finals.

In Nero's Eyes, only the Four Kings posed a threat to him. This was especially true for the Sword King, whose abilities were known to everyone.

"You got lucky this time, Lux," Nero sneered. "But, don't worry. I'll make sure to win the tournament not only for your stepsister, but for my ambition as well."

As someone who was born among the common folk, Nero wanted to escape from his origins and become a dragon among men.

For that to happen, he needed power and influence.

These were the things that he longed for and although his position allowed him some authority over the younger generation of Wildgarde Stronghold, for him, it was not enough.

Right now, the tournament matched the goal he had in mind. Not only would he gain power and influence, he would also gain riches and the prized daughter of the Saint of Barbatos Academy.

Nero could feel the ambition burning in his chest and his desire to become the champion intensified.

His only regret was that he would not be the one to personally cripple the Half-Elf in front of the latter's grandmother, as well as the young beauty that loved Lux.

## **Chapter 181.1: I Want Them All. Dead Or Alive [Part 1]**

Somewhere in Elysium...

"Are you sure this is the place where that monster is located?" Colette asked as she surveyed their surroundings. "Maybe we came to the wrong place?"

"I'm certain that this is the place," Matty replied as he looked at the map in his hands. "This is the location shown in the map. The receptionist in the Adventurer's Guild was the one who gave it to us, so this shouldn't be wrong."

Andy, Axel, and Helen were paying close attention to their surroundings, feeling that this was a very dangerous place. Their senses were telling them that something was amiss, but they had no idea what it was.

They had accepted a Rank-C mission from the Adventurer's Guild, which was to kill a certain monster that was terrorizing the adventurers and the Town's people that wandered too deep in the forest to forage, and then go to the next town in order to trade.



There was an adventurer's group that had attempted to clear this mission first, but they went missing and hadn't been seen since then. The guild had re-issued this quest in the hope that clues on what happened to the adventurer party would come to light.

Colette and her party had safely become Grade C Apostles, so they thought that this mission was just right for their current rank. They were the kind of adventurer party that liked to help others, so finding the missing dwarves was something that they decided to carry out themselves.

But, as they continued to advance further inside the forest, they sensed movement from their surroundings, which prompted all of them to take a defensive stance.

Suddenly, a loud howl broke the peace and a two-meter tall Werewolf descended several meters away from them. Just as they thought that they were only fighting one opponent, five other Lycans who were shorter than the first one appeared at their left and right sides, flanking them.

As Colette's party was about to engage their opponents, a merry voice sounded from behind them.

"Looks like we got ourselves a decent group this time," an excited voice sounded from behind dwarven children.

Colette and the others turned around to look at the source of the voice, which came from behind, and found over twenty black-robed individuals.

"Indeed, the last group were just a bunch of Rookies that had just stepped into the Apostle Grade," one of the robed dwarves said. "They weren't even enough to become our experiment's play thing."

"Take a look at the emblems they are carrying. They are from the Eternal Guild."

"From that girl, Aina's, Guild? This is perfect. She has been getting in our way a lot lately."

"That's right, we can take this as a little payback for making things difficult for us in Whitebridge City."

"Well, with this, the members of our Lycan brigade here in Oakwood Town will grow. We could've had an army by now, but for some reason, the serum only works on Foreigners. The townspeople die before they complete their transformation."

Colette's expression became grim after overhearing what the black-robed figures were chatting about. The group didn't even bother to keep this information secret from them, since they were sure that the dwarven children were already goners.

With a two-meter tall Lycan, who was at least a Rank 3 Alpha Monster, and smaller Lycans who were Rank 3 Monsters, Colette found themselves in a difficult situation. Behind them was a group of dwarves whose strength were still unknown to them.

"Colette, listen," Matty said in a low voice. "I will try to hold them off. You try to break through this encirclement and call for help."

"Helen, you go with Colette," Andy said. "We will buy you girls some time, so run as fast as you can."

Axel nodded his head as he held his staff firmly. The boys already knew that this was a hopeless situation, so they unanimously decided to let Colette and Helen escape while they held back their enemies.

"Did you hear that?" one of the black-robed dwarves chuckled. "These brats are playing the hero."

"How touching. Too bad, it's futile," the black-robed dwarf who stood at the front of the group said. "None of you are getting away. Get them!"

The Alpha Lycan Monster roared and lunged at Colette's group. Matty roared as he blocked the Lycans' path and engaged it in a one-on-one battle.

"Go! Colette, Helen!" Matty shouted. "Go and look for help!"

Right after Matty's shout, one of the smaller Lycans flanking them jumped at him with its jaws open wide.

A metallic ring spread in the surroundings as Colette used her round shield to block the Lycan's attack, shielding Matty from getting injured.

"We can't escape," Colette stated as she pushed back the Lycan before smashing its chest with her mace. "They will not let any of us escape, so might as well fight till the end!"

Matty gritted his teeth as he slashed at the Alpha Monster in front of him. He knew that what Colette said was right, and he felt helpless about it.

Helen's shout suddenly sounded behind them, which made Colette glance at her direction. One of the Lycans had managed to land a blow on Axel, sending him smashing towards a tree. Helen, who was about to heal him, was then attacked by another Lycan, forcing Andy to take the blow for her.

The result was the latter getting a deep gash on his chest, staining his clothes with blood.

Colette pushed back the Lycan she was fighting against and quickly came to Helen's aid. If their healer were to fall, their chance for survival would decrease drastically, which was the main reason why the Lycans tried to take her down first.

The group wearing black-robos watched with great interest as Colette fought off two Lycans at once, forcing them back with sheer strength and determination.

"She will make a good Lycan," the leader of the group said. "At least Alpha Rank 2, perhaps even Rank 3 after the serum strengthens her body."

"That Weaponmaster over there isn't too shabby himself," another robed-dwarf commented. "Perhaps he would also be an Alpha Monster after he transforms."

While the black-robed group chatted idly, Colette's and Matty's condition were deteriorating at a rapid rate. Although Helen had started to heal Andy's and Axel's injuries, the fact that they were being overpowered still remained.

It was only a matter of time before they were taken down one by one, until none of them was left.

Colette and Matty were wearing the Faunus Armor Set, which were made for fighters like them. If it weren't for this, they wouldn't have been able to stand their ground and resist most of the blows that landed on their bodies.

Andy, Axel, and Helen were wearing Faunus Sets as well, but theirs was more of a support type armor set meant for mages and healers. They were sturdy, but not as sturdy as the ones worn by warriors, which specialized in hand to hand combat.

"Good, they lasted longer than expected," the leader said before taking out a flute from her storage ring. "Time to finish this."

The leader of the dwarves blew on the flute, creating a shrill melody that made the Lycans stop their attacks. A moment later, all of them howled as their eyes turned blood-red, and the muscles on their bodies grew.

They had all entered a berserked-state, which meant that all of their attacks were now stronger than before.

As if to prove this point, when Colette used her Round Shield to block the Rank 3 Alpha Monster's punch, she was sent flying until her body slammed to a tree, causing Matty to roar in anger.

Immediately after that, the group's formation crumbled, and they were easily beaten up until they laid on the ground groaning in pain.

"You did well," the leader of the group of dwarves said, while clapping her hand. "Worry not. We have deemed all of you worthy to become our subordinates, so none of you will be killed. When we return to our base, all of you will be injected with a serum that will turn you into Lycans. You should be honored because you will be part of the revolution that will change this world for the better!"

Matty glared hatefully at the leader of the dwarves as blood seeped at the corner of his lips. The Alpha Monster's foot was pinning him down, so he couldn't move even if he wished for it.

He then glanced at Colette in the distance, who had already lost consciousness. Several bruises could be seen on her pretty face. Matty felt his heart ache from seeing the girl he loved in such a condition.

"Take them back to the Headquarters," the leader ordered. "Make sure to handle them with care. Afterall, they will become our new pets when the sun rises tomorrow."

The Lycan's picked up Colette's, Helen's, Andy's, and Axel's body from the ground and lifted them all in a princess carry.

The Alpha Monster was about to knock Matty unconscious when it saw a blue slime looking up at it, a meter away from the dwarf boy under its feet.

Slimes were pretty common monsters, so the Alpha Monster, as well as the robed-dwarves didn't pay much attention to it.

But, there was one person that paid attention to it, which was none other than Matty, who got teary-eyed after seeing the familiar baby slime that belonged to the person he aspired to be.

The baby slime then lowered its gaze from the Lycan and looked at the beaten-up dwarf under its feet.

"Simp!"

The baby slime only said one word, but it was enough to make the dwarf boy, who had lost all hope, laugh, despite his sorry state.

## **Chapter 182.2: I Want Them All. Dead Or Alive [Part 2]**

"Simp!"

It was a word that Matty hated ever since he heard it back in Leaf Village.

Despite his multiple attempts to vehemently deny it over and over again, the naughty baby slime would call him with this word over and over again.

When he left Leaf Village alongside his friends, he even felt thankful, thinking that he would never hear this word ever again.

But now, the word that was meant to tease him, sounded like it was the best thing ever.

The irony made Matty laugh.

He laughed as tears streamed down his bruised cheeks. Their Big Brother had come to save them from the people who bullied them.

"Poor thing," the leader of the dwarves said as she looked at the dwarf boy who was laughing crazily. "He broke."

"Well, that is only expected, Leader," one of the robed-dwarves said. "It seems that he had accepted his situation and had fallen in despair."

The leader nodded before pointing at the baby slime that was looking with an amused expression at the laughing dwarf that was pinned on the ground.

"Kill that slime," the leader nodded. "I hate weak monsters."

"Yes!" one of her subordinates replied and fired a Stone Bullet at the baby slime who was giggling, while looking at the laughing dwarf in front of her.

Just as the Stone Bullet was about to hit its target, the baby slime jumped to the side, dodging the attack completely.

The subordinate frowned and fired another Stone Bullet at the baby slime, which the latter evaded by casually dodging to the side.

Seeing this, the leader of the group became irritated and ordered one of the Lycans to step on the slime to crush it completely.

The Lycan growled as it stomped on the blue slime that had made its master angry. However, his attack missed because the baby slime disappeared on the ground. It then later appeared on top of the Lycan's head, giggling, as if finding the situation quite amusing.

When the baby slime blinked on top of the Lycan's head, the leader of the dwarves' looked at it with a shocked expression on her face. She had never seen a slime use a blink skill before, and her impression of it changed completely.

"Capture that slime," the leader of the dwarves ordered. "It might be a new species that has never been seen before. It might be a specimen worth studying."

Three of her subordinates rushed towards the baby slime with the intention to catch it. Just like their leader, they were very curious about the blue slime

upon seeing that it was acting differently from the slimes they were familiar with.

When the three robed-dwarves came within striking range, Eiko unleashed her Moonblast Skill, which sent the three dwarves flying.

If in the past, the leader was just interested in the baby slime, now, she was determined to catch it no matter what. A slime as powerful as the one in front of her was rare within the surrounding territories. She would be a fool to not bring it back to their base to research.

"If you want something done, you have to do it yourself," the leader said as she conjured a magical rope meant for capturing monsters. "You're mine!"

The rope flew towards Eiko as if it was a living creature, which made the baby slime's smile disappear from her face. She could tell that she would have a hard time breaking free from the magical rope if it managed to catch her, so she decided to take this fight seriously.

The first thing Eiko did was to slide down from the Lycan's head, and hid herself behind it. Without seeing her target, the leader was forced to make the rope bind the Lycan, in the hope that it would also bind the slime alongside it.

However, when the rope wrapped itself around the Lycan, the baby slime was nowhere to be found.

"It must have escaped," the leader said with a frown. "Don't mind. We'll just look for it later after we get these brats back to the base. We can't stay here for long or else we might get discovered by passersby."

Her subordinates nodded their heads in agreement, but just before they were about to carry the dwarves away, they heard a teasing voice right above their heads.

"When you say passersby, are you referring to me?"

The leader of the dwarves looked up and saw a red-headed teenager standing on a tree branch and looking down on them with a smile on his face.

"An elf?" the leader stared at the teenager with a serious expression on her face. "No. A Half-Elf. So, you must be that boy who messed up our plan in the Territory of Norria. Perfect timing. Our boss has long wanted to catch you, but

the border guards had increased after the incident. Tough luck, boy. You shouldn't have made us your enemy."

After hearing their leader's words, the dwarves all took out their weapons with the intention to beat the Half-Elf until he was Half-Dead.

Their Boss wanted him alive, even placing a bounty on Lux's head for the members of their organization. Since the rewards were grand, everyone was raring to go and capture him for themselves.

"Wrong," Lux replied as his body was covered with a Dark-Green armor that released a gust of wind. "You shouldn't have hurt my friends and made me your enemy."

After registering in Barbatos Academy for the tournament, Lux returned to Wildgarde Stronghold with his grandma Vera. He intended to come back to Elysium and stay for a few weeks to reunite with his friends, who had gone to a town outside the territory of Norria.

He had promised to look for them after leaving Leaf Village. When he arrived in Oakwood Town, he found out that Colette's group had left for a mission from the Adventurer's Guild.

Although Lux had been away from the Kingdom of Gweliven for some time, the King of the Dwarves had notified all the branches of the Adventurer's Guild in his kingdom about his accomplishments.

Because of this, the Guild Masters of the various branches of the Adventurer's Guild had instructed their staff to give the Half-Elf the VIP treatment. Thanks to this, he was able to find the exact mission that his friends were handling and left Oakwood Town to give them a surprise.

Lux didn't expect that instead of a happy reunion, he would find his friends under the mercy of the same organization that had planned to lay waste to the Territory of Norria through the abomination that they had hatched inside the Figaro Gardens.

The red-headed teenager then pointed at the Alpha Monster that was stepping over Matty's body with a glare.

"Take that filthy foot off my friend!" Lux ordered.



Immediately, a rocky fist jutted from the ground and smashed on the Alpha Monster's chest, sending it skidding a few meters away.

A moment later, several pained howls followed, as the Lycans holding Colette, Helen, Andy, and Axel, were attacked by a group of skeletons that materialized out of nowhere.

Since they were holding the dwarf children in their hands, they were unable to fend themselves from the surprise attack, which allowed Diablo, Ishtar, and Pazuzu to retrieve the children safely.

After his friends were safely rescued, several skeletons carried them towards Lux, while his Named Creatures faced the Alpha Monster, as well as the group of dwarves fearlessly.

Through the shared connection they had with Lux, they all knew how angry Lux was because of what happened to his friends.

"Don't let any of them escape," Lux ordered as he crouched down to help Matty drink a Health Potion. "I want them all. Dead or Alive."

## **Chapter 183: Lycan Mutation Project**

"Drink up, Matty," Lux said as he helped the Dwarf boy drink the potion in his hand. After the bottle was emptied, the Half-Elf took out a different bottle and sprinkled it on Matty's body to help him recover faster.

The Dwarf boy's face was still a little pale, but it was far better than its previous state.

"Thank you, Big Brother," Matty replied as soon as he recovered enough of his strength to talk. He was overcome with emotions of gratitude, he ended up voicing out the thought inside his head that he had been trying to hold back.

"Um? Big Brother?" Lux flashed a mischievous smile towards the Dwarf boy before patting his head. "Good! Don't worry, Little Bro, I got your back. Your Big Bro is going to teach these bullies not to pick on you guys."

Matty's face became beet red, instantly regretting calling Lux Big Brother. The Half-Elf's smug expression was so irritating, he was very tempted to dig a hole and bury himself inside it with the mentality of out of sight, out of mind.

However, before Matty could wallow in his embarrassment, Lux took out several Health Potions and Mana Potions from his storage ring and passed all of them to him.

"Take care of Colette and the others," Lux said as he glanced at the battle that was unfolding around them. "I'll deal with these guys first."

Matty nodded and hurried towards his friends' side. Right now, Diablo and Pazuzu were dealing with the Rank 3 Alpha Monster, while Ishtar and Orion, alongside the skeleton army, were dealing with its lackeys.

The robed Dwarfs were also about to join the battle when several Skeletons and Slimes attacked them from behind.

"Doppelganger," Lux declared and two clones appeared beside him.

Eiko had hidden herself in one of the trees, observing the battle from a safe distance. And just like Lux, she had also summoned her own Doppelgangers and tasked them to assist the battle.

Lux had given the baby Slime a role, which disallowed her from showing herself in the battlefield. The same rule applied to her clones, so they had no choice but to hide in the treetops and simply summon minions to fight in their stead.

With Lux's and Eiko's combined abilities, the number of Skeletons that were currently engaged in battle were over 300.

But that was not all. Aside from the Skeletons and Slimes, there were also seven Rock Golems on the battlefield, including Orion. If in the beginning, the Lycans and the robed Dwarves outnumbered Colette's party five to one, now, the summoned creatures outnumbered the other party fourteen to one.

The leader of the Dwarves and her subordinates couldn't believe what was happening around them. They initially thought that the Skeletons were just ordinary Skeletons, but against their expectations, the Undead they were fighting against were quite tough and worked well together as a team.

"It's still not enough," Lux muttered. "These bastards need to suffer more. Guys, come out and bite them silly!"

Lux summoned the Wargs that he had acquired during the Quest of Dominion. All of them were battle mounts, so they had the ability to fight, just like Diablo's mount, Airon.

These twenty Wargs were led by Jed, who had now mutated into a Thunder Warg King after he ingested the Mutated Blood of the Thunder Wolf King that Lux gave him.

Jed was now a Rank 4 Monster, while the other Wargs remained as Rank 2 Monsters.

Back then, Jed just looked like any other ordinary Warg that could be seen in the wild. Aside from the scar on his right eye, he had no other distinctive features.

But, now, it was different.

With the help of Randolph, Lux's Battle Mount was adorned with cool looking armor that made him look like a Blade Liger from the anime series Zoydz.

Jed roared and lightning bolts snaked around his body. He then electrocuted the five lesser Lycans with his lightning bolts until all of them were paralyzed.

Lux overheard the Dwarf leader's words about turning Colette and the others into Lycans. If his hunch was right, the lesser Lycans were also dwarves that had been mutated due to the effect of the serum. If possible, Lux wanted to find a way to revert them to their previous forms.

Although he wasn't sure if it was possible, he still wanted to do his best to help them regain the things that they had lost.

The robed Dwarves could still resist the Skeletons to a certain extent since most of them were Grade B and Grade A Apostles. However, after the lesser Lycans were dealt with, Ishtar, Orion, and Jed, as well as the Wargs under it, joined the Skeletons in attacking the villains who had targeted their Master's friends.

'Not good!' By now, the leader of the Dwarves had realized that staying to fight Lux and his minions was a futile endeavor.

Using her subordinates as shields, she hurriedly escaped the scene and ran through the forest, leaving everyone behind.

The other Dwarves, who saw this scene, ran after their leader. They had the same rank as her, so it was easy for them to break free from the Skeletons that were trying to pin them down.

Lux watched them go with a sneer. He had ordered his Skeletons to subtly open a path that would allow the Dwarf leader and some of her subordinates to escape.

'Eiko, it's all up to you.'

'Pa!'

Six dwarves, including their leader, had fled the scene and hurried towards their headquarters. They were unaware that above their heads, three baby slimes were flying over the trees in hot pursuit.

Ishtar, as well as Eiko, had used the Hunter's Mark skill to put a tracker on the Dwarves that had escaped.

Lux's plan was to allow them to return to their base, so that he could clear the quest that had appeared the moment he had engaged them in battle.

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< Lycan Mutation Project >

– Emergency Quest

– Difficulty Rating: B

– An unknown organization is conducting an experiment within the territory of Oakwood Town. Their goal is to create an army of mutated monsters in order to further their goals of overturning the peace in the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven.

< Quest Objective >

– Find their headquarters and look for documents about the experiments.

– Report this discovery to the Adventurer's Guild, so they can dispatch adventurers to weed out the remaining members of the unknown organization that are lurking within Oakwood Town.

< Optional Quest Objective >

– Find a cure for the mutated Lycans

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< Rewards >

– Quest Rewards will be calculated depending on how the quest is going to be cleared.

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With a frustrated howl, the Rank 3 Alpha Lycan collapsed on the ground after receiving Airon's powerful kick to its chest.

Lux could have killed it, but he was unsure if the Lycan was also a victim of the unknown organization's experiment. Since that was the case, he decided to spare its life and only make it so it was incapable of fighting back.

While Lux was in the middle of tying up the Dwarves that he had crippled, a loud shout reached his ear.

"Big Brother!"

The Half-Elf smiled as he opened his arms to hug back the crying Dwarf girl in his embrace.

"Colette, we still have things to do," Lux said as he lightly patted Colette's head. "The organization that tried to capture you is still at large. So I need to ask you to do something for me."

Colette pulled back and wiped the tears in her eyes before looking at Lux with a serious expression on her face.

Seeing that the little Dwarf girl had finally regained her composure, the Half-Elf told her to take Helen back to the Adventurer's Guild and report the current situation.

Lux thought that letting the Adventurer's Guild handle the bad guys that he had captured would be the optimal solution while he dealt with the leader of the organization that was on her way to their headquarters.

Matty, Andy, Axel, Ishtar, Pazuzu, and Orion were tasked to look after the Dwarves that they had captured and to wait for Colette's and Helen's return.

"Don't worry, Big Brother," Colette said as soon as she mounted her Warg. "I'll bring help as fast as I can!"

Lux nodded. "I'm counting on it."

Colette didn't waste any more time and urged her Warg to run as fast as it could.

Helen was right behind her, also hurrying towards Oakwood Town to ask for reinforcements.

When the two Dwarves and their mounts disappeared from his sight, Lux looked in the direction where the leader of the robed Dwarves had gone.

'Pa!'

'Good job, Eiko. I'm on my way.'

Now that the Dwarf leader had finally reached their base, it was now time for him to make his move. He was going to make sure that the leader and her remaining subordinates would not have an easy time after what they tried to do to his friends.

Originally, he wanted all of them dead. But after receiving the quest, he deemed that they were better off alive and left to pay for their sins in prison.

Lux didn't want to act too violently in front of the children, but since they were left to guard the captured Dwarves, he could now go all out and make them regret their decision of turning the innocents into pawns that they could use for their vile schemes.

## **Chapter 184: A Deal With The Devil**

"Dammit!" the leader shouted as soon as she had locked the entrance of their headquarters. There was a hidden mechanism installed by the entrance to hide the whole base from plain sight.

The five subordinates who managed to escape with her were panting beside her, feeling ashamed that they had been forced to escape from the same person that thwarted their plans in the Territory of Norria.

"Hurry and gather all the documents of our research!" the leader ordered. "This base might have already been compromised. We can't stay here for long."

"What about the Foreigners that are still in the midst of transformation?" one of her subordinates asked.

"Just leave them!" the leader replied. "We can't possibly take them back with us. Besides, they have more worth staying here as decoys when someone discovers this base."

Inside the nursery room, twelve cocoons were still in the midst of transformation. Although they wouldn't be able to be there when the new batch of Lycans was born, their research had already produced the results that they needed in order to create batches of Mutated Lycans.

Just as the Dwarves were ransacking their headquarters for anything of value, they heard the distinct opening of the entrance of their base, which made all of them stop whatever they were doing.

The leader gestured for everyone to hide, planning to have them help her neutralize the trespasser who just entered their research facility.

'It must be him.' The leader of the Dwarves gritted her teeth as she listened to the footsteps heading in her direction. 'It sounds like he's alone. As long as we act quick enough, we can kill him before he can summon his minions.'

The leaders' subordinates were thinking of the same thing. All of them readied themselves to ambush the hateful Half-Elf who had forced them to evacuate their base and return to their branch headquarters in Whitebridge City.

As soon as the trespasser opened the door to the laboratory, several spells flew in their direction and obliterated their body.

The leader of the Dwarves was about to celebrate when she noticed that something was wrong. Lying on the floor was not a charred corpse, but several shattered bones that soon turned into particles of light.

"Such a warm welcome." A voice filled with ridicule sounded from the passageway. "I've already sent the Dwarves that you targeted back to Oakwood Town to ask the Adventurer's Guild for reinforcements. At most, it will take them an hour to arrive here, so you don't have much time remaining."

The expression of the Dwarf leader, as well as her subordinates, turned grim upon hearing the Half-Elf's words. The leader had a skill which allowed her to know whether a person was telling the truth or not. This was why she was certain that the Half-Elf was telling the truth, which didn't bode well for them.

"Since you decided to talk to us, it means that you want something from us," the leader replied with certainty. "Boy, I admit that you have the upper hand right now, but if you think that you can trap us here until the reinforcements from the Adventurer's Guild arrive, you are making a big mistake. We would rather die than be captured and interrogated by them."

The reply she received was a mocking laughter that made her grit her teeth in frustration.

"So what if you kill yourselves?" Lux asked. "Go on. Kill yourselves. Do you think that I care? I am a Necromancer. I deal with dead people. So, all of you dying is better than being alive. I can raise your bodies and make you my slaves. I'm sure that all of you will be more polite once you turn into an Undead."

"Ah! Let me quote what you said back in the forest." An eerie smile crept up on Lux's lips.

"Worry not, for I have deemed all of you worthy to become my subordinates. You should all be honored because you will be part of my Undead Army that will change this world for the better!"

The leader of the Dwarves and her subordinates felt the hair on the back of their necks stand on end. Lux's words had reminded them that they were dealing with a Necromancer who specialized in dealing with dead people.

Right now, they were still alive and could resist, but once they were dead, they would be at his mercy.



"What do you want?" the leader asked through gritted teeth. "I am willing to negotiate. If you wish to have your name erased from the blacklist of our Organization, I am willing to negotiate with our Boss for you."

"Wait! How about you join us instead?" one of the dwarves shouted. "With your abilities, you can easily become one of our Elders! You will gain everything you need, and the organization will be more than happy to provide it to you!"

Lux smiled in the place where he was hiding as he listened to the Dwarf's tempting words. The leader and her subordinates seemed to have realized that suicide won't help them, so they decided to negotiate with him instead. Unfortunately, he had no intention of joining the organization.

'Maybe I can gain something from this exchange,' Lux thought as he pondered what his next move would be.

A few minutes later, he finally gave his response, which made the Dwarves, who were already feeling anxious, feel like an olive branch had been offered to them.

"Let's not talk about your fake promises. I am not interested in them," Lux stated. "What can you offer me, from what is in your possession, that might interest me enough to let all of you go? This serum that you developed, I am quite interested with it. Does it have an antidote?"

"It does," the leader replied in a heartbeat. She was afraid that if Lux thought that they had no value, he would immediately send his Skeletons to kill them. "We can give them to you if you release us."

"Do you really think that your lives are so cheap that a mere antidote will be enough for me to let you go? Don't forget, I can still get my hands on the antidote by interrogating all of you when you're dead. You need to raise the bar higher if you want to get out of this place alive."

"Then, what more do you want?"

Lux chuckled because he knew that he had made them truly understand that the only way to escape was through negotiation.

"I want all the serums in your possessions as well as the antidotes," Lux replied. "Also, you will give me instructions on how to make them. Let's see... I

also want all the gold in your possessions, including your artifacts. Don't worry, I'll let you guys keep your clothes. I am not a fan of exhibitionism."

Lux knew that if he added a few more conditions like golds and artifacts, the Dwarves would be more inclined to give in to his demands.

Why? Because they'd think that losing it all meant that there was a possibility that they would be able to live if they agreed to his conditions.

The leader gritted her teeth as she forced herself to agree to Lux's conditions.

"If we give you everything, will you really let us go?" the leader asked. "How can we be certain that you will keep your promise?"

"Well, you can either trust me, or not. In the end, the ones who are begging to live are you guys, not me. Don't worry. I'll give you guys exactly one minute to decide. After one minute, you will give me your answer. If I don't like your answer, I will send my undead army to attack all of you. Your one minute starts now."

Several rattling sounds echoed inside the underground base as Lux summoned his Undead Warriors. Their blue eyes glowed in the darkness, frightening the leader and her subordinates. At this point, they regret choosing Colette's group as their next set of victims.

If only they hadn't touched Lux's friends, perhaps all of them wouldn't have to worry about keeping their lives, as well as keeping their experiments a secret.

However, there were no if's.

Now that they were on the verge of losing their lives, they knew that they had to make a deal with the devil or risk becoming his Undead Minions, who could do nothing but obey his every command.

"Fine, we accept your condition," the leader said after the one minute grace period was over. "We will give you everything."

"Excellent," Lux replied. "Now, give your possessions to my minions and don't try anything funny. The moment you do, the deal is off."

Lux didn't mind acting like a bandit this time around since he really needed the antidotes. Right now, he still didn't have the skill, Raise Dead, which allowed him to revive dead creatures or people.

He was just bluffing and using his job as a Necromancer to scare the Dwarves into thinking that they could not escape his clutches even in death. This worked perfectly well in the negotiations because none of them wanted to die.

Especially when they knew that even when they turn into corpses, they would be reanimated and still be forced to thank their killer for killing them, which would be the most tragic thing ever.

Although he had the Blackfire Coffin that could store and revive the dead, Lux didn't want to make these Dwarves his subordinates because, in his eyes, they didn't have the qualifications to become his minions.

## **Chapter 185: Letting The Rats Lead The Way To The Sewers**

'As long as I can escape this place alive, I can still have my revenge.' That was the thought that passed through Mara's head when the trespasser gave them the opportunity to leave with their lives.

Ever since she became the leader of their branch guild in Oakwood Town, she painstakingly worked hard in order to achieve the mission that had been entrusted to her by her superior.

After nearly a year of trial and error, she and her subordinates had finally developed a serum that had the ability to mutate foreigners into Lycans. Although the serum was still unstable and the latest version was able to meet their standards. To achieve this, several members from the first batch of experimental subjects died.

Mara thought that it would be smooth sailing from that point onwards since they would've been able to increase their Lycan army secretly within the territory of Oakwood Town. Unexpectedly, they happened to target the wrong Dwarf party, whose members seemed to be friends with the same person that sabotaged their project in the Territory of Norria.

'If only you never appeared,' Mara thought through gritted teeth.

Yes, if only Lux hadn't appeared, then their operation in Oakwood Town wouldn't have been jeopardized. Unfortunately, the red-headed teenager was already here. Their organization first got wind of his information after their spy in the Royal Capital managed to overhear the discussion among some of the Ministers who were headed towards the throne room.

They were discussing the Half-Elf who was bestowed an Honorary Knight Title by the King of the Dwarves, which made waves among the ministers of the palace.

This was how they knew of Lux's existence. Unfortunately, their Boss decided to lay low for the time being after the consecutive raids on the other Beginner Villages. Their operations on the outskirts of the Gweliven Kingdom had been uprooted, so they were forced to take it slowly for the time being.

Unfortunately, Mara got too full of herself, overestimating her ability of avoiding detection. She was confident that she could cover her tracks by issuing a Quest about a monster sighting in Oakwood Forest with a reward that was tempting for Adventurer Parties.

She didn't expect that instead of only attracting sheeps, she would accidentally invite a wolf to her own base, who was now currently in the midst of extorting them of their valuables.

"Give your valuables to my Skeleton minions. Make sure you don't do anything funny or, else, all of you will regret it."

The trespasser's voice sounded from the distance, his words making Mara grit her teeth in frustration.

She and her subordinates handed over their belongings, keeping only their clothes.

"Oi, I said hand everything over. Do you think that I wouldn't notice the item you're hiding inside your mouth? Spit it out or I'll cut off your head! The rest of you better not do the same or I'll have your heads!"

The two Dwarves, who attempted to hide something, immediately spat out storage rings from their mouths upon hearing Lux's command and handed them over to the Skeletons that were collecting their possessions.

The Skeleton didn't have any expression on its face, but the way it looked at the two Dwarves made the latter feel like it was disgusted with them.

Mara and her other subordinates had no idea how the trespasser had been able to see the items they hid inside their bodies. However, after being discovered, none of them took any more chances and honestly gave all of their belongings to the Skeletons, while cursing the trespasser inwardly.

Lux, whose real self was hiding in the distance, chuckled internally when he saw the Dwarves take out the items that they had hidden inside their bodies.

He was just bluffing when he said that he saw an item inside one of the Dwarves' mouths.

Back on earth, he had watched a show where certain agents hid tracking devices in their teeth in order to evade detection from the criminal group that they were trying to infiltrate.

'Diablo, I'll leave everything to you,' Lux conveyed via telepathy.

Diablo, who was beside him, nodded his head as he walked towards the Dwarves who had their arms raised in the air in surrender.

"All of you move in a single file and exit this place," Lux ordered. "The first one to do something funny gets stabbed. No questions asked. Now, start moving!"

Diablo prodded Mara's back with the tip of his sword, leaving the Dwarf leader no choice but to walk towards the exit.

Her subordinates followed behind her as they were escorted by a legion of the Undead.

Lux had already hidden himself in another room and was just waiting for the Dwarves to leave the base through the exit.

He had no plan to let the Dwarves escape for real. It was a trap planned to capture them with the help of the Adventurer's Guild after he had ransacked the entire base.

His minions had already found the nursery for the cocoons of mutated Lycans. According to the Dwarf leader, Mara, the antidote could be drunk or poured into the mutated Lycan's body to undo the mutation.

He had already sent one of his minions to test this method earlier by pouring one of the antidotes over one of the cocoons. The cocoon melted and a Dwarf boy, who was in his birthday suit, appeared.

Although the boy was unconscious, there were no problems with his body, so Lux was assured that the antidote had worked perfectly.

When Mara's group had safely left the base, Lux cured the other Dwarves, who were in the midst of their transformation, reverting them to their original forms.

Among the Dwarves, two were girls so Lux covered them with capes and ordered Eiko and her slimes to look after them. As for the boys, the Half-Elf's skeleton minions carried them to a different room to ensure that nothing untoward would happen when they woke up.

After the Dwarves were separated, Lux personally shook the Dwarf boys to wake them up. He was afraid that if the Skeletons were the ones to do it, the Dwarves would wake up screaming upon realizing that it was an Undead that had been shaking them.

"Thank you for saving us!" one of the Dwarves said as he gazed at Lux with a grateful look. "If you hadn't come, we might have all been turned into one of those Monsters."

"I only did the right thing," Lux replied. "The people that have captured you guys have already been defeated and are tied up near the path that leads to Oakwood Town. The Adventurer's Guild has already been called, so they will probably arrive soon. Make sure to tell them about your experiences so they can make a detailed report about this incident."

The Dwarves nodded their heads and left the laboratory to help guard the researchers who had almost turned them into Lycans. Lux could see anger in their eyes, so he wouldn't be surprised if they suddenly decided to attack their captors in order to exact revenge.

Just to be on the safe side, Lux gave a mental order to Pazuzu, Ishtar, and Orion to prevent the adventurers from killing any of the researchers. They were important leads to the whereabouts of the organization, and the Half-Elf didn't plan to let them off scot free.

'Now, all that is needed is for the rats to lead me to their sewers,' Lux thought. 'I think I'll need to contact Nevreal. I don't know if he's considered a high-ranking noble or not, but it would be best if I leave the cleanup to them.'

Lux was a little worried about an unknown organization adding him to their blacklist.

If possible, he wanted to deal with them as soon as he could to eliminate future troubles. However, he wasn't delusional enough to think that he alone could take down an entire group that had remained at large while hiding inside the Gweliven Kingdom.

He needed helpers, and Nevreal seemed to be the best person for the job.

## Chapter 186: Twilight Rain

"Thank you for handling this matter perfectly," the Guild Master of the Adventurer's Guild in Oakwood Town, Colton said with a serious expression on his face. "I never thought that the mastermind of this incident was also the same person that issued the Quest in our Guild. If I get my hands on her, I'll break all the bones in her body!"

Colton was furious when he found out that his branch of the Adventurer's Guild had been used as a means to conduct diabolical experiments that endangered the adventurers working for them. Because of this, he decided to take the matter seriously, even inviting Lux back to the Guild in order to hear a detailed report from him.

Lux agreed to his request and told him everything he knew about Mara and her group, who were currently on their way to Whitebridge City.

After getting their rough Sketches, Colton thanked Lux once again before contacting the Guild Master of the Adventurer's Guild in Whitebridge City.

He planned to have Mara and her group captured the moment they stepped foot inside the city and have them interrogated by the authorities.

"Sir Colton, I have a request," Lux said. "Can you pass a message to Sir Nevreal for me? Tell him that I have something important to tell him, and I'll meet him here in Oakwood Town."

"Nevreal? Are you talking about THAT Nevreal?" Colton asked with a surprised look on his face. "You know him?"

Lux frowned. He didn't know if the Nevreal he knew, and the Nevreal that Colton was talking about was the same person.

"Um, the person I am talking about is Nevreal Cy Borris," Lux answered. "Middle-aged looking dwarf with scary eyes..."

Colton laughed after hearing Lux's description. Nevreal Borris might not be well-known among the common folk of the Gweliven Kingdom, but the influential people of the realm all knew who Nevreal was.

He was one of the Grandmasters of Alchemy, who had discovered the cure for the White Plague, which had become a wide-spread pandemic a decade ago.

If not for his cure, with how scary the White Plague was, more than a third of the population of the Kingdom of Gweliven could have died.

"Very well, I will send word to him," Colton said as he patted Lux's shoulder. "I just need to tell him that Lux Von Kaizer wants to talk to him about something important, right?"

Lux nodded. "Yes. The sooner we meet, the better."

"Good. I'll make it happen. I'll get back to you as soon as I receive his reply. I will also tell him about the achievements that you have done here."

"Sure."

Everything that happened was just pure coincidence. Lux just wanted to look for his friends and it just so happened that they had been targeted by an unknown organization, which led Lux to fight against them.

'Well, I am already on their blacklist,' Lux thought. 'Making them angrier won't change things.'

Lux understood that since the unknown organization was now aware of his existence, it was only a matter of time before they came to blows. Before that happened, the Half-Elf planned to screw them three times over by letting Nevreal personally deal with the people involved in the incident.



At that moment, a series of notifications sounded inside his head as rows of text appeared in front of him, signifying that the Emergency Quest was completed.

Lux set this matter aside and went to look for Colette and her friends, who were currently waiting for him outside the Adventurer's Guild. They all decided to celebrate their reunion at the most popular inn in Oakwood Town.

Because of Lux's achievements, the Guild Master used his connections in order to let Lux and his friends use the VIP rooms, which were usually reserved for the high-ranking nobles of the Kingdom.

"Big Brother, I have reported this incident to my sister," Colette said after she drank her mug of fruit juice. "She said that she wanted to personally thank you for saving all of us. So, if you're not busy, why don't we all go to Whitebridge City together? I promise you that my sister is a beauty. Don't worry, I already approve of you as my brother-in-law."

Colette patted her chest as if she had the authority to choose who her sister's husband would be. She was confident that as soon as her Big Brother saw her Big Sister, the red-headed teenager would immediately get down on his knees and propose to her sister.

Lux only chuckled to evade Colette's insistence to play matchmaker between him and her sister, Aina.

Although he was curious to see the adorable girl's older sister, he wasn't in a hurry to meet her.

He stirred the conversation to a different topic, asking the Dwarves what they had been up to since they had left Leaf Village.

Colette and the others were more than happy to tell Lux about their adventures after becoming part of the Eternal Guild, which was under Aina's command.

The reunion party lasted through the night before the Dwarves finally returned to their rooms to rest, leaving Lux and Eiko exhausted.

They had traveled far in order to reach Oakwood Town and were dragged into the incident that concerned their friends.

Eiko was already fast asleep on Lux's lap, while the latter wasn't faring any better himself. As soon as he placed the sleeping Slime on the pillow on the bed, a knock was heard on the door of his room, which made him frown.

It was already in the middle of the night, and he didn't know any law-abiding citizen that would visit him at this time of the day.

Lux summoned Ishtar and Diablo by his side and ordered them to defend him if his life was threatened.

After the two Named Creatures positioned themselves at the side of the door, Lux opened it to see who it was.

"Can't you just take it easy once in a while?"

An annoyed, gruff voice greeted him as Nevreal stepped inside his room.

"The moment you appear in an Intermediate Town, a problem appeared right away," Nevreal complained. "If not for the fact that I personally know that you are not connected to the perpetrators of these incidents, I would have personally taken you into custody. Boy, don't you know the meaning of moderation?"

Lux could only scratch his head because he didn't really want to be involved in any kind of mess. He only wanted to see his friends and give them a surprise. Who would have thought that the one who was given the surprise was him instead?

"Okay, I'll tell it to you straight," Nevreal stated as he sat without asking for Lux's permission. "I don't know if you have good or bad luck, but you have ruffled the feathers of an underworld organization, not just once, but twice."

"If I were you, I'd return to where I came from to tide things over. Even with the increased security of the border patrols, I'm sure that they will come to target you for revenge."

Lux frowned as he sat down to face the Dwarf who was looking at him with a serious expression on his face.

"Have you captured the researchers?" Lux asked. This was something that he had been meaning to ask ever since Nevreal had stepped inside his room but had not been able to do so because the latter was nagging at him.

"We did," Nevreal replied. "The Eternal Guild, as well as the other Guilds in Whitebridge City, are now working together to round up the members of the Dark Guild that goes by the name Twilight Rain."

"Twilight Rain..." Lux muttered. "Tell me, Sir Nevreal. What can I do to help?"

Now that he knew the identity of the organization that was targeting him, Lux decided that it was time to actively participate in the operations targeting the Dark Guild that was causing a lot of trouble within the Kingdom of Gweliven.

## **Chapter 187: Lycanthrophy Mutation Perfect Genes**

By the time Nevreal left the room, the drowsiness that Lux felt earlier had disappeared.

The middle-aged dwarf had given him a token that was exclusive to the Kingdom's special agents, who handled matters concerning the stability of the Royal Family's rule.

The token came with a lot of perks, including access to places which were usually restricted from the common-folk and even high-ranking nobles. It could allow Lux to request for assistance from Dwarf guards and border patrols, especially when it came to certain things that he couldn't handle alone.

Nevreal also handed him another token which signified that Lux was now the Kingdom's Honorary Baronet, which was an upgrade from his Rank of Honorary Knight.

The defense of Leaf Village, in addition to the latest capture of the researchers who were planning to create a Mutant Army that could've threatened the Kingdom, had raised the red-headed teenager's importance in the eyes of the Dwarf King.

This was the reason why he gave the Half-Elf an honorary Baronet Rank, making him one of the nobles of the Dwarven Kingdom.

Since he was too sober to sleep, Lux decided to rummage through the things that he extorted from the researchers. He didn't have time to check them

earlier since he was busy helping the mutated Dwarves, in addition to dealing with the members of the Adventurer's Guild who had come to help.

Just as Lux expected, the Alpha Lycan and the lesser Lycans were Dwarves that the researchers had captured.

To his surprise, the Alpha Lycan was a Grade B Apostle, who was also the ace adventurer in Oakwood Town. She went by the name Emma Hewitt, or just Emma for short.

After being reverted to her original form, the Dwarf recognized Lux as her benefactor, even going as far as to declare that she would become the Half-Elf's subordinate from that day onwards.

Lux, of course, rejected her offer, but Emma was too persistent, even going as far as begging on her knees to serve the red-headed teenager in order to return the favor. In the end, the Half-Elf reluctantly agreed, and now, Emma had officially become his first party member.

'Well, having a subordinate isn't a bad thing,' Lux thought. 'Emma seems like an honest person. I'm sure that it will work out... probably.'

For the time being, Lux opened the storage rings of the researchers and checked all of their contents.

'How disappointing,' Lux thought. 'All their gold coins combined only amount to nearly a thousand. Is Twilight Rain a cheapskate organization?'

Of course, it was not only gold that Lux looted from the researchers but also weapons and artifacts. However, all of them were just Rare Items and, for the Half-Elf, he no longer thought highly of Rare Items since he was already using Mythical Items.

'Still, they will be useful for transmutation,' Lux mused as he stored the storage rings inside his own storage ring.

Originally, Lux thought of using the Transmutation [EX] skill to transfer abilities to his weapons, armors, and artifacts. However, after gaining Mythical Items, the Half-Elf was very reluctant to use his transmutation skill, thinking that he might find a better item.

For example, if he were to use the transmutation skill to transfer items to a Mythical Item, even if the item became a lot stronger, it was still nothing compared to a Legendary Item. For the Half-Elf, overgearing an item wasn't worth it, but only if its grade was low.

'At least a Legendary Item,' Lux thought. 'I won't mind dumping a lot of abilities on a Legendary Item that will be beneficial in the future. Now, time to check the rewards from the quest.'

Lux had set this matter aside as well and only remembered it after his meeting with Nevreal.

The red-headed teenager opened his Soul Book to see the rewards he gained and hoped that they would be a whole lot better than the scraps he got from the Dwarf researchers.

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< Lycan Mutation Project (Completed!) >

– Emergency Quest

– Difficulty Rating: B

– An unknown organization is conducting an experiment within the territory of Oakwood Town. Their goal is to create an army of mutated monsters in order to further their goals of overturning the peace in the Dwarven Kingdom of Gweliven.

< Quest Objective >

– Find their headquarters and look for documents about the experiments.

– Report this discovery to the Adventurer's Guild, so they can dispatch adventurers to weed out the remaining members of the unknown organization that are lurking within Oakwood Town.

< Optional Quest Objective >

– Find a cure for the mutated Lycans

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< Rewards >

1000 Oakwood Town Reputation Points

100 Kingdom of Gweliven Reputation Points

1000 Gold

Lycanthrophy Mutation Perfect Genes (1x)

< Lycanthrophy Mutation Perfect Genes >

- This gene can only be used by a foreigner.
- The Perfect Mutation Genes have no side-effects to the user, and will even strengthen their physical body, and add resistance bonuses.
- Upon consumption, the person will be able to transform into a Lycan at will, and return to their previous form at will.
- The transformed creature will gain certain bonuses including an increase in strength, speed, hearing, as well as raising their rank by one stage.

(Example if a Grade B Apostle were to transform into a Lycan, they would gain the strength of a Grade A Apostle).

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'If Emma has no problems transforming into a Lycan, I'll give this to her as a gift,' Lux thought as he looked at the description of the Lycanthrophy Mutation Genes. 'Since the gene is safe to use and can even strengthen its user, as long as Emma hasn't developed a trauma from being forced to become a Lycan, this would be the perfect item for her.'

Lux wasn't stingy when it came to people on his side. The Half-Elf already had the Dragon's Blood in his body, so using the mutation gene on himself would be a waste.

The Half-Elf still had the Lycan Serums in his possession, as well as their antidotes. Although he didn't know if they would be useful for him in the future, he decided to keep them for now, not surrendering them to the authorities.

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The next day, Lux woke up a little earlier than usual. If not for the fact that Colette had started knocking on his door, even threatening to tear it down, the Half-Elf would have remained in bed for at least another half an hour.

Naturally, he couldn't let the adorable little Dwarf break down the door. Not only would that get them blacklisted by the inn owner, it would also bring down their reputation among the other inns in Oakwood Town.

With no alternative, Lux allowed Colette to drag him and Eiko to the tavern to eat.

To his surprise, Emma was there, waiting for him. The pretty Dwarf with dark-brown hair was happily chatting with Matty and the others while they ate breakfast.

Emma was of the same age as Lux. She was more of a Vagabond Adventurer that had no permanent party, so her rank wasn't that high. However, her experience when it came to fighting even surpassed that of Grade A Apostles, and, perhaps, even matched those of the Initiate Rank.

Lux believed that if Emma were to fight against people who were of the same Rank, all of them would be soundly defeated because of her rich battle experience.

"Sir Lux, good morning," Emma said with a smile as she waved at the Half-Elf who was being pulled in their direction by Colette.

"Good morning, Emma," Lux stated. "There is something important that I'd like to talk to you about later. For now, just enjoy your breakfast."

"Okay." Emma nodded her head before resuming her chat with Matty and the others.

Aside from the pretty dwarf calling him Sir Lux, Emma treated him in a friendly way, and not that of a Master and Servant relationship.

The Half-Elf preferred this type of relationship, rather than a strained one. For him, he wanted to become good friends with Emma, and not treat her as a slave who only followed his orders.

While eating, Colette asked Lux about his plans while he was in Oakwood Town. After being rescued by their Big Brother, the Dragonslayer Party weren't in a hurry to take on new quests for the time being.

"I plan to go to Whitebridge City tomorrow," Lux replied. "Do you remember Nevreal? He said that I need to meet a few people in Whitebridge City who are currently handling the cleanup operations for the organization that attacked you guys."

The mood on the table immediately became serious as they looked at Lux with their undivided attention. Even Emma was no longer smiling and stared at the Half-Elf with a determined look on her face.

"Big Brother, I think this is perfect," Colette said. "Since my sister is based in Whitebridge City, this is a good opportunity for the two of you to meet."

"Um, I can meet her when I'm done with my business in the city."

"Okay. I'll make sure to tell her later of our coming."

A few minutes later, the atmosphere returned to its previous merry state as everyone ate and chatted about random things.

Lux was quite curious about Whitebridge City because it was one of the biggest Dwarven cities in the Kingdom of Gweliven, aside from the Royal Capital.

Colette and Emma told him everything they knew about the Dwarven City, including the upcoming Guild Wars, which was held every two years.

According to the two of them, the winner would become Whitebridge City's number one Guild, which had the privilege of managing the city's defenses, in addition to acquiring leases to prime real estate that were located in the city's center.

These lands were perfect for setting up shops, and other establishments that could give the Guild high profits, which would cause all the major Guilds that were based in Whitebridge City to seek them out.

## **Chapter 188: On The Way To Whitebridge City**



Somewhere in Whitebridge City...

"How are the other members?" a middle-aged Dwarf asked his subordinate who had just returned from his mission.

"Not good," the subordinate reported. "Most of our members are currently on the run and have left the city. Mara has been captured by a high-ranking Interrogator. She is currently being subjected to torture and has been fed with truth serums. It's quite fortunate that none of the Guild's members in the city know of our true identities. Using a third party to relay orders to them was a great decision on our Guild Leader's part."

"This is not something to celebrate about," the middle-aged man commented. "Now that everyone is either captured, on the run, or, even worse, dead, our operations in Whitebridge City have to be in a complete halt. Did you find out any information about who is responsible for this mess?"

The subordinate nodded.

"Although it isn't confirmed yet, one of Mara's subordinates managed to escape from capture and relayed the latest information he had to our branch here in Whitebridge City," the subordinate replied. "According to his report, none of the serums were preserved, and Mara had no choice but to destroy the records of the experiments before she got captured. However, he did mention that it was a Half-Elf who foiled their plans in Oakwood Town."

The middle-aged man sighed. Mara was a promising researcher who was loyal to their cause. Losing her to the authorities was a heavy blow to their Guild, and thinking of it made the Branch Leader of Twilight Rain clench his fist in anger.

"There is only one Half-Elf in the Kingdom of Gweliven, so it is safe to assume that he is the same person that destroyed the abomination in the Territory of Norria, right?"

"If the reports that we received are true then it is definitely him."

The middle-aged man sighed a second time before giving his order to his subordinate.

"Send word to the Main Branch and inform the Guild Master that the Half-Elf is starting to become a nuisance," the middle-aged man ordered. "Tell them that

our hands are tied at the moment, and they should send one of the Reapers to deal with him."

"Sir, having one of the Reapers to deal with him is quite wasteful, no?"

"Fool! It is best to nip the problem in the bud before it grows up enough to threaten us. Just follow my orders. Let the Main Branch decide whether a Reaper would be sent or not."

The subordinate nodded before leaving the room. Although he felt that having one of the Initiates of the Guild deal with the Half-Elf was an overkill, he still decided to follow his Leader's orders.

The Twilight Guild had two Assassination Groups, the Reapers and the Slayers. The Reapers were the assassins who had the Rank of Initiates. They were responsible for the assassination of people who had the rank of Initiate and below.

They were often called the Rookie Killers, because countless Apostles had already died in their hands.

Slayers, on the other hand, was a specialized team of Rankers, who dealt with the Assassination of high profile targets, such as high-ranking nobles and politicians, but not Royals.

It was almost impossible to assassinate members of the Royal Family since all of them were guarded by the best High-Rankers within the kingdom.

The Branch Leader of Twilight Rain believed that as long as one of the Reapers took action, the annoying Half-Elf, who kept on getting in their way, would finally meet his end.

—

Meanwhile, on the road that led to Whitebridge City...

"Big Brother, it will take us at least five more hours to arrive at the city," Colette said.

She was currently seated beside Lux inside the carriage, which was arranged by the Guild Leader of the Adventurer's Guild, to take them to Whitebridge

City. He had even hired Grade A Apostles as guards to ensure that they would reach the city safely.

In truth, Lux felt that it would have been faster if they all just traveled riding their Wargs instead of a carriage. However, since the Guild Master, Colton, had already dealt with their means of transport, he felt that it would be impolite to reject his kind offer.

"That means that we will arrive just before sunset," Lux replied as he looked outside the window of the carriage. "Colette, you and your friends can head to your sister's headquarters when we arrive in the city. I need to deal with private matters, so I'll just see you guys in the morning."

"Un!" Colette nodded her head obediently while patting Eiko's head. "That will also give me some time to set up an appointment for you to meet with my sister, Big Brother. By the way, my sister likes dried berries. Make sure to buy a bag of them as a gift before meeting her."

Lux suddenly imagined a slightly older Colette munching on dried berries like a chipmunk and it made him smile.

Aina was the Guild Master of the Silver-Ranked Guild, Eternal.

The Storm Dragons, which was currently under Nero's management, was only a Bronze-Ranked Guild, indirectly proving that Aina was a step better than the brown-haired teenager, who held animosity towards Lux.

The Half-Elf thought that it wouldn't be a bad idea to form a good relationship with Aina, who was in control of a well-established Guild in Whitebridge City.

"Okay, are there any other things that she likes aside from dried berries?" Lux inquired.

Colette, who thought that his Big Brother was trying to score more brownie points to make her sister like him, was more than willing to tell him the things that Aina liked and disliked.

Lux smirked when he found out that Aina wasn't a fan of spicy things. According to Colette, her sister's face would immediately turn beet-red if she consumed something relatively spicy.

To his surprise, Aina liked eating sour things, which was the reason why she preferred dried berries. She was not too fond of sweet things, and could only tolerate the sweet and sour taste of the dried berries that she liked to snack on from time to time.

Suddenly, the carriage came to an abrupt halt, and the sound of shouting was heard outside of the carriage.

"Goblin attack!"

"Are they perhaps bandits?"

"Protect the carriage!"

"There's too many of them!"

After hearing the commotion outside, Lux immediately opened the carriage doors to help their escorts ward off the danger that had come knocking on their doors.

Immediately, he saw dozens of Goblins that were wielding short swords, maces, and bows. They were known for attacking merchant convoys and kidnapping the women to make them their breeding horses.

Using the appraisal ability of the Elysium Compendium, Lux immediately knew the Ranks of the Monsters that were attacking them. The bulk of the Goblins consisted of Rank 2 Monsters, but nearly twenty of them were Rank 3 Monsters.

Although they weren't that strong, there were too many of them, which placed their escorts at a disadvantage.

Lux wasn't too worried about the Goblins since he still had his skeletons. However, before he could even summon them, a black blur flew past him.

A two-meter tall Lycan grabbed the head of one of the Goblins that were attacking the adventurers, and smashed it towards the ground.

The Lycan then emitted a growl that made the nearby Goblins take a step back due to the intimidating Monster, who was looking at all of them as if they were mere insects that it could easily crush with its bare hands.

## Chapter 189.1: Order Of The Griffin [Part 1]

"M-Monster!" One of the adventurers, who was about to help his friend fight a Goblin, panicked after seeing the Lycan that suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Although the Monster had attacked the Goblin, as ordinary people, their reaction was quite normal.

Even the adventurer that was saved also backed away in haste, pointing his weapon at the Lycan, who towered above him.

However, before things could spiral out of control, a confident voice broke everyone from their anxious state.

"Relax, she's on our side," Lux said as he walked past the adventurers. "Diablo, Ishtar, Pazuzu, come out."

As soon as the Half-Elf called for his Named Creatures, the three of them appeared in front of him.

"Push them back," Lux ordered as he summoned thirty Skeleton Fighters, who now had the strength of peak Rank 1 Monsters.

Although they were slightly weaker than the Goblins, their weapons and armor, which were forged within the Stronghold of Norria, made them slightly more powerful than the Goblins that were currently ambushing them since they were only wielding basic weapons.

As soon as Lux's minions joined the fray, the Goblins were pushed back, giving the adventurer party that was escorting them time to recover their bearings.

Colette and the others also joined the battle. In just a short time, they managed to force the monsters to retreat by causing several of the other side's comrades to die in battle.

Lux was observing the Lycan whose strength and speed outmatched the Goblins that were running away.

Before they left, he asked Emma if she was willing to take the Lycan's Perfect Genes into her body which would allow her to turn back into a Lycan. Contrary to what Lux expected, the pretty dwarf said "Yes" in a heartbeat.

He thought that Emma would reject, or tell him that she needed time to reconsider before accepting his request, but that didn't happen at all.

Emma told Lux that she wanted to become stronger, and she believed that gaining the ability to transform into a Lycan at will would allow her to fight on even ground with stronger opponents.

She had been a vagabond fighter all her life, because she thought that there was nothing that she couldn't handle alone. However, after getting captured and experimented on by the researchers of Twilight Rain, Emma realized that her current strength was not enough to protect herself.

Aside from that, she also trusted Lux. She felt that the Half-Elf would never harm her, so she readily agreed to accepting his gift.

'Her rank had jumped from Grade B Apostle to Grade A Apostle,' Lux thought as he observed Emma from a distance. 'She was a brawler in the past and used gauntlets to battle. Since she likes to engage the enemy in close combat, then, perhaps, being able to transform into a Lycan is perfect for her.'

Fifteen minutes later, several Goblins lay on the ground, dead.

Eiko didn't participate in battle and was, instead, busy ordering Blackie, Whitey, Rocky, and Mara to dig the Beast Cores out of the Goblins' bodies.

Lux could only shake his head helplessly upon seeing how the baby Slime refused to miss any opportunity to eat the Beast Cores of Monsters in order to strengthen herself.

Her recent loss against Astra made Eiko strive harder to become stronger, just so she could beat him up in their next rematch.

After collecting the Beast Cores, Eiko didn't hesitate to eat them all one by one, allowing her progression rating to increase.

Unfortunately, the skills that she could acquire from the Goblins' beast core were skills that she had already learned in the past, like Slash, which had already evolved into Heavy Slash.

Even so, the baby Slime was still happy, because, for her, every Beast Core brought her one step closer to defeating Astra, whom she had labeled as her mortal enemy when it came to her Mama's affection.

"You did well, Emma," Lux said the moment the Lycan returned to his side.

'Thank you, Lux,' the Lycan said through telepathy before transforming back into the pretty dwarf whose height reached up to his chest.

Emma could transform while wearing armor and regular clothes. The fun part was that after returning to her original form, her clothes would remain undamaged, which also added an additional layer of defense to her stats, allowing her to maximize her equipment's potential.

Just like her clothes, the gauntlets that she wore as a weapon added to her physical damage in her Lycan Form. Her claws were as sharp and as hard as steel, making them ideal weapons in close combat.

"Wow! Amazing!" Colette said as she used her hands to pat Emma's body all over. "How are you able to transform? Is this the side-effect of that seru-mmpph!"

Lux had covered the adorable girl's mouth to prevent her from saying things that were confidential in nature.

Colette also realized that she had made a blunder, so looked at her Big Brother with apologetic eyes.

Seeing that she understood her mistake, Lux released the adorable Dwarf before returning to the carriage.

He had already unsummoned his minions, because he believed that they would no longer encounter mishaps along the way to Whitebridge City.

The adventurers, who were escorting them, also heaved sighs of relief. Although they had plenty of experience fighting against the Undead, fighting alongside them was a different matter.

Just as Lux expected, no Goblins or any other type of Monster tried to ambush them again.

As the sun was about to set on the horizon, Lux saw a magnificent city in the distance. A white bridge extended across a river, to allow people to gain access to the city.

This was the reason the city was called Whitebridge City. It was currently one of the main trading cities of the Gweliven Kingdom due to its access to river transportation, allowing fast shipment of goods to and from important trade partners.

'Whitebridge City,' Lux thought. 'So the other members of the Order of the Griffin are waiting for me there. I hope they're nice.'

According to the Dwarven King's orders, Lux had been secretly appointed as the newest member of the Order of the Griffin.

The King and Nevreal shared the same opinion-- Lux was an abnormality that had appeared inside their kingdom for reasons that only the Gods knew. Since this was the case, they believed that Fate had sent him to become their friend and not their enemy.

Because of this, the King granted Lux an honor that only those that had accomplished Legendary Feats in the Gweliven Kingdom could acquire, and that was none other than the Token of the Griffin, which symbolized that he was one of the members of the Secret Organization that worked directly under the King.

Lux hoped that his colleagues wouldn't treat him like a child because of his age. After all, he was now part of their Secret Order, by hook or by crook.

## **Chapter 190.2: Order Of The Griffin [Part 2]**

Lux entered the library inside the city, while Colette and her friends headed to the Eternal Guild to meet with her big sister, Aina.

He had asked Emma to secure their inn accommodations in the city, while he met with two members of the Order of the Griffin that had been dispatched to Whitebridge City to help the authorities find the members of Twilight Rain.



After getting to the second floor of the library, he walked over to the Northeast corner of the room and pulled the candle holder, which was stuck on the wall, down.

A few seconds later, the bookcase in front of him moved to the side, allowing a single person to pass through it. This was a hidden path specially used by the members of the Order in order to hold their meetings in Whitebridge City.

The Half-Elf didn't hesitate and entered the secret passageway. As soon as his body passed through the room, the bookcase righted itself, making it seem that nothing had happened in the surroundings.

Lux then walked a long pathway for a few minutes before he arrived at a steel gate. The red-headed teenager knocked on it thrice.

"Password?" a voice asked from behind the door.

"Treat your password like your toothbrush," Lux replied. "Don't let anybody else use it, and get a new one every six months."

The gate opened wide, and the Half-Elf found himself inside a tavern filled with Dwarves who were either playing card games, drinking ale, or both.

Those who were near the gate gave him a side-long glance, but no one paid too much attention to him.

Lux then headed straight to the bartender who was busy cleaning a glass cup with a piece of cloth. The Half-Elf then placed the Token of the Griffin on the counter, which made the bartender arch an eyebrow.

"Third Floor, Room 13," the bartender replied. "May you have a good day, Sir."

Lux briefly nodded his head before climbing up the stairs. The bartender watched until his back disappeared from view before taking a golden locket from his pocket.

"Capture the people that are waiting for our guest outside the library," the bartender ordered. "Make sure none of them escape."

After giving his order, the bartender returned the golden locket inside his pocket and resumed cleaning the glass cups on his counter.

The moment Lux appeared in the city, several individuals started to follow him around. The Order of the Griffin was an elite unit that directly served the King. Usually, the members of this Elite Unit often handled "messy" problems, and it was their job to clean up the mess others had left behind.

Seeing that there were people targeting one of their Kingdom's Guardians, the Dwarves that were playing cards left the tavern, intending to capture the members of Twilight Rain who had noticed Lux's arrival in Whitebridge City.

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Third Floor, Room 13...

"Well, well, well... look who's finally here," a Dwarf with a curled up beard said with amusement. "The famous Half-Elf from Leaf Village. So young, and yet has the uncanny hobby of poking the hornet's nest. Boy, you won't live long at this rate."

"That's him?" a silver-haired Dwarf wearing spectacles gave Lux an appraising gaze. "Apostle Grade A. Not bad for an ordinary adventurer, but not good enough to contend against Twilight Rain. This Elf is as good as dead."

Lux didn't know how he should react at the two Dwarves' greeting. He didn't know if the Dwarves were praising him or mocking him for being stupid.

"What are you waiting for, boy? Go on and sit," the Dwarf that Lux had mentally given the nickname "Curly" said with a smile.

"Our time is precious, so please, don't dilly dally," the Dwarf whom Lux had given the nickname "Prick" commented.

Curly smiled before introducing himself.

"Well, newcomer, we are your seniors, so I will first introduce myself," Curly said. "My name is Galileo Darwin. Just call me Galileo. This impatient person over here is Charles Galilei. Just call him Charles."

"Lux Von Kaizer," Lux replied. "Just call me Lux. And this is my baby Slime, Eiko."

"Ei!" Eiko lightly jumped to introduce herself.

"A Slime huh? How peculiar."

"It's just a common blue Slime. Nothing special about it."

Galileo and Charles commented. After looking at the new member of their group, Charles immediately became uninterested, while Galileo had a complicated look on his face.

After a minute of awkward silence, Galileo coughed as he started to talk about why they were meeting Lux in Whitebridge City.

"Before anything else, let me ask you, Lux, what do you know about Twilight Rain?" Galileo asked.

"Aside from the fact that they're the bad guys? Not much." Lux answered.

Galileo nodded as if he had already expected this answer from the Half-Elf. Charles, on the other hand, just closed his eyes and didn't make any comment whatsoever.

"Twilight Rain is what you foreigners call a Dark Guild," Galileo stated. "It is an organization that is trying to sow discord inside the Gweliven Kingdom. Their leader was the previous king's uncle, who had tried to stop our current King's coronation by starting a civil war. Fortunately, he didn't succeed and had been in hiding since then.

"The problem is that he had allied himself with... Foreigners who have designs to usurp the current rulers of the land. Many of them seem to be very keen in staking their claim, not only in the Kingdom of Gweliven, but in the other Kingdoms as well."

Lux nodded his head in understanding. Solaians had come to Elysium in order to gain resources, as well as own a place where they could settle. There were people who wanted to work with the current inhabitants of the Elysium to create a mutually beneficial relationship, while others wanted to conquer the existing Kingdoms and Empires in order to become the new rulers of the Territory.

There were good and bad people in the world, and greed was the most common reason behind why these incidents happen in the first place. Solaians had long wanted to have their own lands and territories in Elysium,

so it didn't come as a surprise to Lux when Galileo explained the current structure of Twilight Rain.

"The bulk of Twilight Rain is made up of Elysians—I believe that is the term that you Foreigners call us, yes?"

"Right."

Galileo smiled. He had long been fascinated by these visitors from another world, who were very similar to their own.

"Right now, the cleanup operation is proceeding smoothly," Galileo explained. "However, the members of Twilight Rain in this city are just part of their Branch Guild. This means that the Main Guild is still at large, which brings us to the next topic which is you."

"Lux, I don't know if you're aware of how dangerous this Guild is. After the two recent incidents, I'm sure that you are now starting to be considered as an eyesore for them."

Charles, who had stayed silent all this time snorted as he looked at the Half-Elf with a mocking gaze.

"Boy, it's best if you prepare a coffin for yourself," Charles stated. "Sooner or later, the Reapers will come for your head. If I were you, I'd go back to my world and lay low for a year or two until their rage subsides. Actually, it might be better if you stayed in your world for good. That is the only way for you to survive from the assassins who are after the bounty that will be placed on your head."

Galileo cleared his throat and knocked on the table to capture Lux's attention.

"Although my colleague's words are quite harsh, what he said is the truth," Galileo commented. "Twilight Rain has two assassination groups called the Reapers and the Slayers. The Reapers are composed of assassins who have reached the Initiate Rank, while the Slayers are composed of assassins who are already Rankers. Right now, there's a very high chance that one of the Reapers of Twilight Rain has already been dispatched to kill you."

"Although the King is providing us some support and protection, they can't be with us all the time. Make sure to always be vigilant, and keep a better awareness of your surroundings. Right now, you are not a match for an

Initiate. So, take all the precautions that you can in order to survive their assassination."

Galileo placed a golden locket on top of the table, and pushed it in front of the Half-Elf.

"This locket is a special artifact that can negate three attacks from an Initiate. This is the life saving artifact that the Order has bestowed upon you, but remember that after three attacks, the effect of this locket will be used up. If you still haven't escaped by that time, I'm afraid that you won't survive for long."

Lux picked up the golden locket on the table, which had the design of a Griffin embedded on its surface, and appraised it.

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#### Golden Locket of the Griffin

- This protective charm is able to negate three attacks from an Initiate.
- This protective charm is able to negate twenty attacks from Apostles of any grade.
- Once either option is used up, this locket will lose its effectiveness.

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"Thank you," Lux replied before slipping the chain of the locket over his head so he could wear it on his neck. "I will always wear it."

Galileo nodded his head in satisfaction. "You are the youngest and tallest member of our organization. So make sure to stay alive as long as possible. I don't want to see you kicking the bucket anytime soon."

Lux smiled because despite Galileo's teasing words, he could truly feel his concern for him.

A few minutes later, Lux left the room as their meeting came to an end. He remembered being told that before he joined, the Order of the Griffin only had twelve members, which meant that he was the thirteenth member.

When Lux left the library, it was already very dark. Fortunately, a carriage had been prepared for him beforehand, and it took him to the inn where Emma had made reservations for their stay.

As the carriage trotted away in the night, a lone figure stepped out of the alleyway and looked in the direction where Lux was headed.

It was one of the Dwarves who had been playing cards in the tavern earlier. He had been assigned to ensure Lux's safety while he was in Whitebridge City.

A moment later, the Dwarf returned to the darkness of the alley. Since the coachman of Lux's carriage was one of his comrades, he didn't need to follow him back to the inn.

This was going to be a long night, and they still had plenty of rats to catch before sunrise.

## **Chapter 191: Lux's Trump Card**

When Lux arrived at the Inn, Emma, as well as Colette and her friends, were waiting for his return.

"Big Brother! Let's go to our Guild's Headquarters tomorrow before noon," Colette said. "My sister said that she wanted to meet you and personally thank you for always saving me."

"Okay," Lux replied before patting Matty's shoulder. He then winked at the young Dwarf. "Make sure to become stronger, so I don't always have to save this troublemaker. I can't always be by her side, you know?"

Matty frowned, but he still nodded his head seriously. He was already thinking of ways he could improve himself to become stronger, so he wouldn't always be the one that needed saving.

Naturally, it wasn't just Matty thinking about this. Colette, Andy, Axel, and Helen, also had the same thoughts.

Lux understood that his friends were still too young, so becoming strong right from the get go was impossible for them.

'Fortunately, the one being targeted is me and not them,' Lux thought. 'Still... an Initiate Assassin sounds like a pain in the ass.'

An Initiate was the grade above the Grade A Apostle Rank. It was the turning point where an Apostle would become a Ranker after accumulating enough points.

In order to reach the Initiate Rank, one must have at least 5,000 combined Stat Points.

This was a level that was still far away from his reach. Fighting against that kind of opponent would not be an easy task.

Even so, he would rather face an Initiate by himself instead of allowing someone of that caliber target his friends, who wouldn't stand a chance against such foes.

After eating dinner, Colette and the others left the inn and returned to their headquarters. Aina had given strict orders to her sister and her friends, forbidding them from spending the night outside their guild's headquarters, in order to keep them safe.

Right now, the tension inside Whitebridge City was high, and Aina didn't want her little sister to be caught in the crossfire between the combined might of the guilds and the authorities that were busy rounding up the members of Twilight Rain inside the city.

Lux was also aware of what was happening in the city and was told to stay in the inn for the night. The place where their inn was booked had guards patrolling on a regular basis, so, unless they wanted to be sent to prison, no one with ulterior motives would openly make trouble in the inn that was the mainstay of many high-ranked adventurer parties in Whitebridge City.

"Emma, there is something that I need to tell you in private," Lux said as he invited Emma to his room.

Once they were inside, he explained that there was a high possibility that he was being targeted by an Initiate, so he asked the pretty Dwarf to avoid interacting with him for the time being for her own safety.

But, contrary to what Lux expected, Emma became more determined to stay by Lux's side in order to protect him, rejecting his request, even though she wasn't a match against an Initiate.

"Since you are being targeted by Twilight Rain, I should always stay by your side," Emma insisted. "Make no mistake. I treasure my life, so I don't plan on doing anything reckless. But I also made an oath that I would return the favor for saving my life. If I can stall the assassin for a few seconds to allow you to escape, I will not hesitate to do that."

"And if I die, then I die. You're a Necromancer, right? Just raise me as an Undead. I don't mind it one bit!"

Lux rubbed his face with both of his hands when he heard the pretty Dwarf in front of him set up a death flag for herself. Even so, he was touched that she was willing to sacrifice herself for his safety.

"Very well, I promise you this, from now on, I truly recognize you as my first trusted subordinate," Lux stated. "I will do my best to help you grow stronger."

"Um? You didn't treat me as a trusted subordinate before?"

"Let's not dig up the past. What is important is that we should always go forward!"

Emma chuckled, knowing that Lux no longer wanted to dwell on the subject. Even so, she was quite satisfied that the Half-Elf had finally recognized her as his trusted subordinate.

After their short chat, Emma returned to their room to rest for the night, leaving Lux to think about how to handle the big threat that was looming over his head.

'An Initiate Ranked Assassin,' Lux thought as he looked at the upper right corner of his vision where a map was located.

Enlarging the map, Lux tweaked its settings to show only allies and enemies on the map. Allies would be represented by green dots on the map, while enemies would be represented by red. He hoped that by changing the setting of his map, he would be able to detect if the assassin was near his immediate vicinity.



If he was able to detect the Assassin before the latter came in contact with him, he would immediately run away or hide in order to save himself from the other party who was ordered to kill him.

He also ran several simulations in his head for what he would do when the Initiate Ranked Assassin appeared. He also talked to his Named Creatures through his Soul Book about his plan, and all of them agreed to follow it to give Lux a chance at survival.

Right now, it was impossible for them to fight against an Initiate Ranked Assassin. However, he was not entirely powerless.

'I still have the Token of the Gold Dragon with me,' Lux thought as he held the golden token in his hand. 'Even an Initiate Rank would have no choice but to escape when faced with an Argonaut Ranked Crystal Dragon.'

This was his Trump Card, and it was the only thing that he could rely on against an opponent that was an expert in waiting for the perfect opportunity to end his life.

## **Chapter 192: Rivalry Between Assassins**

Somewhere in the Kingdom of Gweliven...

"Useless fools!" A Dwarf with silver hair pounded the table with his fist after hearing the report of his subordinate. "They can't even do something so simple!"

The silver-haired dwarf once again smashed his fist on the table, making his subordinates inside the room lower their heads in shame.

He was none other than the Guild Master of Twilight Rain, Magnar Vonmus Gweliven. As a member of the Royal Family, he had also wanted to become the King of the Dwarven Kingdom but had lost the right to succession.

Because of this, he started a civil war, with the intention to bring down his nephew, who had inherited the crown. Unfortunately, he was defeated but fortunately managed to escape with his life and had gone into hiding.

A few years later, he returned as the founder of the Dark Guild, Twilight Rain, which started to terrorize the Kingdom from the shadows. However, there were a few people who had blocked him in his path.

They were the members of the Order of the Griffin that served his Nephew.

It was an Elite Group that had both brains and brawn, and its members were capable enough to fight against him in the shadows, stopping his second attempt to start another civil war.

After his nephew retired and passed his crown to the current ruling King, Magnar thought that he could use this opportunity to bring down the newly crowned King since he was not yet well versed in managing the affairs of the Kingdom.

But he made a mistake. The new King had long been educated by his predecessor about Magnar's desire for power.

The new King had forged bonds with the new batch of elites who now belonged to his own Order, which was currently lurking in the shadows, waiting to end this decades-long struggle between them.

After Magnar reined in his anger, he made a gesture for his right-hand man to step forward.

"Who is the best assassin among the Reapers?" Magnar asked. "I want him to personally kill this Half-Elf and rid us of this bastard once and for all."

Magnar's right-hand man thought for a moment before giving two names.

"Right now, we have two promising Reapers that have recently joined our ranks," the right-hand man answered. "All the missions that they have undertaken were completed without fail. Till now, none among their peers have managed such a perfect record when it comes to assassinating their targets. I believe that after a year or two, the both of them will become the new Slayer candidates that will bring our Assassination Squad to the next level."

"Oh? We have such promising talents?" Magnar arched an eyebrow. He had completely given his right-hand man the control over the assassination groups under their guild, so he could focus on domestic issues. Because of this, he

wasn't aware about the current rankings among the Assassins under his command.

Magnar's right-hand man nodded. "Sid hails from the North, while Scarlet is from the West. Both of them are more than capable of dealing with the Half-Elf. Sir, which one do you want to take on this mission?"

Magnar pondered for a bit before a devilish grin appeared on his face.

"How about you let them compete with each other," Magnar proposed. "Give them both the mission, and tell them that the one who manages to assassinate the Half-Elf will officially be given the title of Slayer Candidate."

"Competition is good. This will ensure that the two of them will take this mission seriously."

"I agree with the Guild Master. This is the most effective method to deal with the Half-Elf, while also nurturing our own talents. It's like killing two birds with one stone."

"I'm also curious to find out who the best assassin among the young generation is. I'm sure that this is going to be interesting."

Magnar smirked after hearing his subordinate's take on his idea. Even his right-hand man thought that this was also a good way to make the assassins become more proficient in their craft. A good rivalry allowed both parties to grow due to the pressure that they were giving each other.

"Understood, I will issue this mission at once," Magnar's right-hand man bowed his head before leaving the room to send word to the two assassins about their latest mission.

He believed that it wouldn't even take two weeks before the Half-Elf's head was delivered inside their conference room, since the latter would have to deal with the two strongest Initiates that were part of the Reapers.

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"Achoo!"

"Ah... chu?"

Lux brushed his nose, while Eiko tilted her head to look at her Papa who had sneezed while brushing his hair.

Today was the day that he would be meeting Colette's sister, Aina, so he wanted to give a good first impression.

"Eiko, how do I look?" Lux asked the baby slime that was seated on top of the table, and chewing on a piece of bacon.

"Pa!" Eiko replied.

For her, it didn't really matter whether Lux combed his hair or not. In the end, she would perch on top of his head and render his hard work useless.

Just as the Half-Elf was admiring his image in the mirror, a knock was heard on the door.

"Lux, it's time to go."

Emma's voice sounded through the door, which Lux hurriedly opened.

"Not bad," Emma said after looking at the Half-Elf who had dressed for the occasion. "Are you doing this so that you can marry Colette's sister in the future?"

Lux was wearing a gown that was often used by nobles, which Nevreal had given him alongside the token that proved that he was now an Honorary Baronet.

In truth, this was the most expensive set of clothes that Lux had in his possession because it was specially made for the high-ranking members of the nobility.

"Of course not," Lux replied in a heartbeat. "Don't listen to that little girl. She tries to matchmake me with her sister whenever there is an opportunity."

"But, I heard that the guild leader of the Eternal Guild is truly a beauty." Emma smirked. "You might even ask Colette's help later as you try to woo her."

Lux could only smile helplessly due to the pretty Dwarf's teasing.

He really didn't have any intention of letting Colette play matchmaker and pair him with her sister in marriage. Right now, the Half-Elf had a lot on his plate.

Aside from the threat of assassins that were meant to kill him, he still needed to protect his step-sister from the machinations of her own father.

He really had neither the time or strength to chase the skirts of Dwarf girls due to his current circumstances.

"Let's go," Lux said before Emma could continue teasing him. "Eiko, come."

"Pa!" The baby slime jumped from the table and blinked on top of Lux's head.

In the end, Eiko didn't damage Lux's hairstyle and behaved properly. She was also very curious about seeing Colette's sister, and she hoped that she would be as friendly as the little blonde Dwarf, who spoiled her a lot whenever they were together.

Emma led the way, and Lux walked behind her. Right now, her role was to be Lux's bodyguard, so she would definitely do her best to ensure that no harm would come to her savior under her watch.