

# My Infinite Mana System

## Chapter 4: Enjoying Freedom

The rain had slowed to a drizzle by the time I reached my apartment, the city lights reflecting off the slick pavement.

The cold air bit at my face, but I barely felt it.

My mind was elsewhere, swirling with thoughts...

Before I came home, after I went to my parents grave, I went to the restaurant where I work, and quit.

I quit working at the restaurant.

It's not like I enjoyed working there or missed the restaurant because I have been working there for years.

The job has always been my way of escape out of my damned reality, the only way I had to stop thinking of my past and my issues, it kept me occupied.

But all at what cause... I lost my happiness, I was never happy...

I thought occupying myself with work could make me free, but after years of deceiving myself, I found out I was... empty.

I wasn't comfortable with that emptiness, I needed a change.

I wished everyday to awaken, at first I was afraid, it's not everyone that awaken, but I just needed power, power to protect myself, and to get revenge for my parents.

I had always believed freedom was just a word, something other people enjoyed while I remained trapped in the monotony of survival.

But now, after I awakened... everything felt... different.

This power, it was mine.

No one could take it away from me.

For the first time, I had something that made me feel like I could rise above the shadows of my past, I could feel that emptiness in me.

After a quick shower to wash away the chill, I sat down at my desk.

The glow of my laptop lit up the room, casting a pale light over the walls and furniture.

My fingers hovered over the keyboard as I debated what to do next.

The answer was obvious.

I needed to call the Hunters Association.

Every awakened who want to become a hunter was required to register, not just for legal reasons but to get access to dungeons, and other hunter's benefits.

The association was a gatekeeper to the world of power and opportunity.

And now, I had the key.

The phone rang twice before a sharp female voice answered.

"Hunters Association, registration department. How may I assist you?"

I hesitated for a moment, then cleared my throat.

"I need to register, I just newly awaken."

"Name?" the voice asked briskly, typing away in the background.

"Allen Quovar."

"Age?"

"Twenty."

There was a pause, just long enough to be noticeable.

I could practically hear the judgment in their silence.

A twenty-year-old late bloomer wasn't exactly common.

"Understood. What's your ability?"

"Lightning."

This time, the pause was shorter, but there was a slight shift in the tone of their voice.

Lightning wasn't fully a typical element, and some few people who had it couldn't properly control it.

It wasn't a easy ability to control, and people who awaken lighting ability was advised to learn how to control it before becoming a hunter.

It was a bit rare, unpredictable and powerful.

"No.. Noted. Uh are you planning to sign with the association as an independent or under a guild?"

She didn't ask if I can control it, because when I take the test and can't control lighting, I would automatically be an E rank, and advised to learn how to control it before entering a dungeon or join a group.

And for E ranks to join a group is impossible, no group would accept them, who would want to accept a weak person that would only be a liability to them.

The association are just secret liars trying to make the weak have hope, but didn't know they're destroying them instead.

"Independent," I said firmly.

Another pause.

This one felt longer.

"You'll need to visit your nearest hunters association branch to complete the process and obtain your Hunters ID. Do you need the address?"

"No, I know where it is," I replied.

"Very well. Bring a valid ID and be prepared for a basic assessment."

"I understand," I said.

"And one thing, Mr Quovar"

"Yes?"

"Our mana machine... Have some little issue that would be resolved soon, and for now it's on maintenance." She said

"Oh okay.." I answered.

"So... Would you like to wait for the machine to be fully repaired, or would you want to have the test without the machine?"

"I would have the test without the machine"

"Ah okay, you are probably excited to awaken and want to become a hunter right away, it like that for most people, but..." She paused briefly then continued, "Good, welcome to the association, Mr. Quovar."

The line went dead.

I leaned back in my chair, staring at the cracked ceiling.

It felt surreal, like stepping into a world I'd only ever seen from the outside.

My fingers drummed against the desk, a restless energy building inside me.

Lightning sparked faintly at my fingertips, dancing across my skin before fading.

A grin tugged at the corner of my lips.

This was happening.

I stood, grabbing my hoodie and heading for the door.

The rain had stopped, leaving the air crisp and clean.

The city stretched out before me, alive with possibilities.

For the first time in years, I felt like I wasn't just a spectator.

I was a player.