

LOA Nobody 191

Chapter 191 The First Spar - Show Of Spells

As the spar between Rio and Rebecca started, nearby students started watching them and whispers spread through the training grounds like wildfire.

"Are those two fighting?"

"Why would they fight? They're probably sparring with each other."

"Is that allowed?"

"Well, the professor did say to do whatever you want."

Soon enough their match attracted the attention of everyone. Students who had been diligently practicing turned their focus towards the first spar happening before them.

Rebecca, noticing the growing crowd, remarked, "The crowd's gathering around us now."

Rio grinned and replied, "Then let's give them a show," as he hurled mana bullets towards her.

WATERWALL Rebecca said, and at her command a wall of water formed around her which blocked the water bullets. She then made a sword out of water and slashed at him.

"I thought we agreed to keep it at basic spells," Rio chided, after forming an ice sword to counter her.

"The class is about elemental control, so why not?" Rebecca responded, her hand gliding through the air. The water drops which fell from her sword spell, merged and became a dagger that attacked him from behind.

Rio smiled, "Don't forget, but you asked for this," With a simple tap on the dagger's tip, he froze it in ice and then threw it back at her.

Startled, Rebecca tried to step back, but the ground suddenly cracked and holes appeared around her. "Nature, huh?" she mused, carefully avoiding the pitfalls. When the dagger threatened to hit her, she conjured a gust of wind, sending it off-course. "Didn't know you mastered that?"

"I wouldn't call that mastery. It's just a parlor trick," Rio replied, jumping forward to engage her in close combat. Seeing his intentions Rebecca transformed her water sword into an ice spear, and started to fight with him seriously.

"Are those two really first years?" a student nearby muttered, his tone filled with surprise.

"The princess is, but the Duke's son is repeating," another student informed him. However, his eyes remained fixated on their match where a dazzling display of elemental mastery was on show.

"Still, they're amazing. Did you see how he turned her dagger into ice? That's what Miss Freya did some time ago, right?" a girl in the group couldn't help but comment.

"Maybe it's possible after we increase our mastery of elements." The boy replied, finally taking his eyes off the spar and looking at the girl who spoke.

(He was a poor single soul. His mind had already created a fantasy of marriage life with that girl and names of his children already. Just because she talked to him one time.)

<Girl's that's how simple and idiot first timers are so fool em to fullest>

Ignoring the chatter all around, Rio and Rebecca were still fighting, when Rio said "Time to get serious, princess. Bring up your A-game or you're gonna lose."

Rebecca just humphed at his remark with a confident smirk pasted across her face. But she still got ready and started to put all her focus on him. Just to be on the safe side, she still added "No darkness. You said so."

"Yupp. No darkness." Rio said as he slashed his sword at her, but before it could collide with her spear, he whispered *DISPERSE*.

Next second the ice sword melted in an instant, as the mana in the spell got absorbed by him again. The water then got blasted in the air. Disappearing slowly.

Seeing Rebecca's spear coming close to his neck, he jumped back a few steps. Rebecca wanted to follow after him and engage in melee fight again, when she heard him whisper *RAINDROP*

In an instant, water drops started to form all around Rebecca. Their number increased every second. As both of them mostly used water spells from the beginning, it created a humid environment around them, which made gathering water much easier.

The water drops instead of falling down to gravity, started flying towards Rebecca in a circular motion. Surprised for a second, she created a barrier of air to disrupt their flow and move out of their circle. When she saw Rio's smirking expression, and saw him mouthing something *CONDENSE*

She watched as the water droplets started to freeze and turn into ice cubes. Before she could increase the mana input of the air barrier, several ice cubes had already flown past the barrier and were about to hit her.

Seeing her imminent defeat, Rebecca decided to concede. But then, out of nowhere, a gust of wind appeared behind her, and she started to smile back at Rio.

Rio watched as Rebecca, who was just about to get hit and lose the spar, suddenly disappeared from her place and appeared out of the circle of icicles he created.

"That's cheating Amy." He said, as he watched Amelia appear out of nowhere near Rebecca.

"Rules never said it was a one on one fight." Rebecca pointed out with a smile and started to create bullets of water in front of her.

In a matter of moments, she had around two dozen of them floating in front of her. After giving a slight nod to Amelia, she sent them all flying towards Rio with a push of her hand.

"Sorry brother, but Becca promised me free dinner." Amelia teased, and clapped her hands. At her signal, the space around the water bullets began to warp and collapse. And when she separated her hands with a pull again, all the water bullets vanished from their place. *TRANSFER*I think you should take a look at

'Space magic is awesome.' Rio thought after watching Amelia use her element. No matter how many times he saw it, it just always amazed him.

But he didn't just get lost in his thoughts and praise of magic, a wall of ice had started to form around him the moment Amelia saved Rebecca.

It didn't take long for the icewall to form all the way up to his head, and just at that moment, several flying water bullets started to clamor opposite it. Without looking at the wall, Rio turned his head, and slashed his sword at Amelia who suddenly appeared behind him.

"Crafty as always brother. But you lost." Amelia said, as she signaled towards Rio's feet. Where black chains of smoke started to tie around him.

"Shadow bind" Rio whispered after looking at the chains.

"You're not the only one who mastered other elements." Rebecca said and formed a big spiral cone made of air and threw it hurtling towards his back.

In response to their pincer attack, Rio just smiled and said "You forgot what I said to you a few moments ago my sister. Be careful when you fight against geniuses."

Next instant, under Amelia's shocked expression, the shadowy chains started getting loose and then flew towards her and captured her. She wanted to teleport out of there, when she saw her brother smile again. She saw as he disappeared from his place and appeared behind Rebecca with a sword ready to slash on her neck. By the time Amelia got free from the increasing binds of darkness, Rebecca's spell spiral was already in front of her.

crash

boom

A barrier formed around Rebecca and Amelia both, before the sword or the spell could hit any of them. This was the protection function of the academy uniform. And since this barrier was used, it also signaled the end of their spar.

"You lost." Rio said, as he tapped his sword two times on the barrier. He turned to walk away, when he remembered something and added "About that dinner, you both can pay for my tab too now."

Hearing his snarky remark Rebecca could just click her tongue and say "You just got a little lucky. I'll defeat you next time."

Her words made Amelia smile, as she said "Leave it Becca. This was already your 14th defeat."

"Whose side are you on, traitor?" Hearing her best friend say that, Rebecca glared at her and said. "He won because we didn't know he learned space magic too. We'll get him next time."

Saying this, she started walking away from the crowd and sit on a chair at the side. Even though they used a minimum amount of mana in each spell, the mana loss was still not something they could ignore. So they both decided to rest for a while.

Miss Freya was still calling for students and giving them small pointers. While the other two, assistant professors were guiding other students.

"Did you see that? How many elements did he learn?" One of the students said, looking at Rio.

"He's amazing. No wonder he was rank one 2 years ago."

"Even his sister and the princess, both of them were good too."

"Is this the difference between nobles and us?" One of the commoner students said. "How many spells did they cast, and yet still have more mana left."

"Forget mana, did you see the control all of them had with elements? Who said mastering more than one element was hard."

"Yeah, just look at them. If they took part in academy exams, the rankings would really change."

"True, hey do you think he can take first rank this time too?" One of the girls asked, looking at Leon, who was coming down from the stage after showing his spells to Miss Freya.

"What type of question is that? Didn't you see him? He's already C+ rank, and with so many elements at his disposal, he can easily beat Leon."

"I think so too"

Leon, who had seen the spar between them a little, didn't mind all this and started to focus on his training again. Miss Freya had pointed out some faults in his mana management, so he needed to train on that aspect. As for what others said about losing his rank 1 or whatever, he didn't care. He still had 6 months to get to his level and defeat him.

Though Leon had full confidence in himself, and his abilities, his God had already started to form his own thoughts.

[Your battle intrigues God Apollo.]

[He gives you another chance to become his follower.]

Chapter 192 Circle of Darkness and guidance from goddess

192 Circle of Darkness and guidance from goddess

{Your battle intrigues God Apollo.}

{He gives you another chance to become his follower.}

Rio read the notification from Apollo and didn't show any surprise. He had already expected it. Instead of replying and refusing to Apollo himself, he let his goddess do the talking.

{Hela scoffs at the shamelessness of this dimmed out lamp}

{Nyx shoots away the annoying presence of light from her follower}

'Hahaha, poor guy,' Rio thought as he chuckled inwardly after reading the messages of Nyx and Hela.

[Was that necessary?] System asked, once its host was away from the crowd and the chatter.

"What do you mean? Of course it was. I just stopped the protagonist from showing off in front of the whole class. That's some free points for me." Rio replied with a sly grin.

In the original novel, at this time the whole class would've surrounded Leon who was called on stage. Since everyone was curious about his skills and spells, they would all gather around the stage and watch as he showed his fire spells to Miss Freya.

But now no one looked at the direction of the stage since he started a spar just at that moment. Plus his spar and display of ice element's control would interest another girl who wields ice. And thus, cutting the first meet up between the hero and the 2nd heroine, Katherine Winston.

'She should be coming to ask for some help from me now.' Rio thought, as he looked at the opposite side and saw Katherine practicing by herself.

In the original novel, after seeing Leon's talent in elemental control and mastery of fire element, which is the bane of ice element, she would ask him to spar with her. So she can get better at using her own element and learn its shortcomings. This way Katherine vs Leon became the first spar of the first year. And it also became the starting point of the relationship between those two.

But now he had already changed the spar angle and Katherine might just ask him to teach her about the method of transformation magic instead of learning it from Leon.

Transformation magic, a method of casting magic, where one can turn one element to another and one spell to another midway. Like how he turned water into ice or vice versa. Leon, on the other hand, knew how to change spells midway, like turning a fireball into a shield of fire or sword of flames into ring of fire.

He wasn't interested in fooling up girls or going out of his way to trouble Leon, but he wouldn't mind doing it, if it can annoy Apollo.

'That guy gotta pay the price for ruining my plans last time.' Rio thought bitterly, remembering the incident in the dungeon two years ago.

[He didn't even know what you wanted to do.]

'Doesn't change the fact that he still did it.'

2 years ago, during the final tournament for first year students of the world association academies, he had made a plan to kill some annoying people who were planning to fight against the Blake family from the shadows. He couldn't just leave them be, knowing they're coming for his family, now could he?

And in his plans to root out the enemies during the Warzy attack, followers of Apollo appeared out of nowhere to intervene. Just so they can gain tidbits of publicity and a little bit of belief power for their God.

Their arrival led one thing to another and just like a house of cards, all his carefully crafted plan lit up in shambles.

He would even ignore that, but then shit started going even more out of control and he ended up getting trapped in a dungeon full of zombies. Now that is something he can't ignore. The fucking pain of spatial distortion is still giving him chills, everytime he uses a teleportation circle or a gate.

It's hard to forget, and this guy still has the gall to ask him to be his follower.

'Be glad I'm not planning to kill you motherfucker.' Rio cursed the God, as he brought out a water bottle filled with mana potion and drank it.

He still had to show his skills to his now professor and past senior, he can't just do it half heartedly.

"_ Blake"

'Hum, did someone call me?'

[Nah, I don't know? Didn't notice.]

'I'm here thinking of ways of our survival and you can't even keep an eye on my surroundings. Get yourself a scanning function or something.' Rio chided the system for its uselessness and stood up. As he heard someone calling his name again.

[If you need it that bad, why don't you buy it for me. I'll give you a limited offer, just for 49000 points.] System said in a playful tone.

'Fuck off. I'll just keep my eyes open next time.' Rio said and closed the system panel.

"Hi, senior," Rio greeted as he turned his attention to Professor Freya, who was waiting for him.

Miss Freya shook her head with mock exasperation. "I called you last, and you're still late."

"I was just taking a little break outside after the spar," Rio explained, offering an apologetic smile. "I couldn't hear you calling."

"I saw your spar. You got quite the many spells." Miss Freya said.

"I'm a jack of all trades," Rio replied with a shrug, "Who knows when which element will come in handy?"

"Let's see if you still remember your main element or not," Miss Freya's tone turned into a serious side, as she continued. "If you don't show me a new spell, I will just have to increase your training time."

After thinking for a while, Rio remembered about a perfect spell and chose to show that. "This is something I learned from a dungeon, senior. Tell me if I got it right."

CIRCLE OF DARKNESS

His spell had just finished when a circle made of darkness started to spread on ground outward with him as a center. It reached till miss Freya and covered her shadow in it too. Once that was done and the circle stopped expanding, Miss Freya tried to move forward, she found her steps a little too heavy. Like something heavy was tied to her feet and she had to drag it with her.

'First shadow magic to tie and hold the opponent and then darkness magic to cover up the shadow. A clever trick.' Miss Freya thought as she figured out how his spell worked.

While the opponent focused on the growing sphere of darkness, he used his shadow element to tie them to a place. And before his opponent could notice anything, the darkness circle covered it up. Now since their shadow is tied to a place, they can't move freely. And with the cover of darkness over it, breaking shadow control isn't easy.

"It's a nice spell to use on someone your rank. But you'll fail badly if you pull it on people above your level." Miss Freya said as she created a blaze below her feet. The gust of hot air and flame soon broke the shadow's control, and she rose from the ground and started floating. Once the shadow control was totally lost, the circle of darkness cracked too and the spell lost its effect.

"You should try to merge the elements of nature or water in it. That way the spell can be more deadly." Miss Freya said, as she floated down near him and gently slapped his head. "Now go, you wasted too much time."

"Thanks senior. I'll try that after I master it completely." Rio replied.

"I'm a professor now, not your senior." Miss Freya said with a warm smile.

"Yes ma'am. Congratulations on the promotion though." Rio said as he smiled and gave a salute to her.

"Getting a job at the academy you graduated from isn't exactly a promotion." Miss Freya said with a smile. They were both walking down the stage. Since Rio was the last to be called on stage, the class for today was done.

"But you always wanted it," Rio pointed out. "Besides, I did say you were going to be the best teacher in the academy two years ago, remember? And after listening to your lecture today, I know I was right."

"Did you really listen though? I thought you were busy staring at the girls." Miss Freya teased.

"Come on," Rio protested, "that was just for a moment. I only glanced at her because her answer was interesting. That's all."

"Mana is a tool to get what we want." Miss Freya repeated Katherine's answer and nodded "Interesting answer indeed. Kinda reminds me of your points back then, doesn't it?" She finished her words with a smile.

"Yupp, that's why I was looking at her." Rio admitted with a grin.

"It's good that you're back. Now don't slack off in your classes and training this time. Otherwise even if you bring the student council's letter, your results will still be in my hands. And I don't think the academy will let you repeat the first year a third time." Miss Freya informed him and left.

Some students gathered around her and started asking her questions or showing her the result on the pointers she gave earlier. After all, it's not everyday that they can get the guidance from the one considered a goddess by many.

'Student council huh. It's better that I stay away from them.' Rio said, as he remembered about the dear sister of the protagonist and the big brother of the princess.

Chapter 193 The Great Library Of Zenith

193 The Great Library Of Zenith

After Miss Freya answered the doubts of anyone who came to her, she announced the end of the class and everyone was given a break time.

"This will be your only class for today, but from tomorrow on you'll have 3 classes a day," Miss Freya's voice rang in their ears. "Your schedule would be sent to you, so you can all check and bring anything that you might need. Other than that, you're free for the day."

"But I'll make an announcement before you all leave," she then continued, her words carrying a special weight. "As many of you might know already, every first year can go to the great library and choose a technique for themselves for free. You can choose whichever art is suitable for you."

Miss Freya's words made everyone excited. The Great Library of Zenith Academy was famous not only among the academies but throughout the entire land of Arcadia. There were techniques that have been passed down for centuries and even those which have been lost in annals of history, if they can find one that is suitable for them, they can learn it for free.

Even though they can only visit the first floor of the library and all the arts placed there would at best be 3* or below. But even they would cost thousands of coins on the outside. And commoners have no way to get them. So it's really a blessing for them.

Miss Freya offered a piece of advice, her tone earnest. "Before you go there, I'd like to tell you that don't be hasty in choosing the techniques. So be sure to check all your options and find the one that is most suitable for you. You have today's whole day for that, so take your time. You can also ask the staff at the library and the assistant professors you met before, if you have any questions. From tomorrow there'll

be another teacher assigned to your class who'll teach you about those techniques, so be sure to be smart about decisions."

With those parting words, she left the students to their own devices.

Every time a student starts a new year, the academy gives them a chance to choose a new technique Or a skill from the great library. First floor for first year, second floor for second years and so on. First year students can choose their art which they will be practicing for the whole year, while second year students and onwards have an option to choose a skill instead of an art too. Since mastering too many techniques can be a hindrance and hard job, so many people opt to choose a skill instead. But that has nothing to do with new students.

"Brother, let's go for lunch." Amelia came near Rio and said.

"What lunch, let's go to the library first. We'll need time to find a technique suitable for us." Rebecca came and dragged Amelia with her.

"What's the rush? Brother has been there, he might've already looked at the techniques for us, right brother." Amelia asked, hopefully glancing at Rio. Hoping he'd back her so they can go for lunch first. But sadly Rio shook his head and crushed her dreams.

"How would I know which techniques are suitable for you? Becca's right, let's go to the library first." Rio said, agreeing with Rebecca who happily nodded her head and started walking while dragging Amelia with her.

"What about the students from other classes, will they be coming to the library too?" Ayla asked as she came near them.

"Yes, that's why, we should go first. Lest it becomes too crowded later." Rio said and they all left.

After following the pathway instructions on their watches they all reached the library of the Zenith academy.

The library was strategically made on the left side of the academy buildings, away from the bustling student activities. And near the building where the offices of staff members and principal were made. Its grand structure, designed in a towering medieval format, seemed to reach for the sky. Tall, imposing, and built with intricate stone walls, it exuded an air of academic reverence.

Upon entering the premise of the library, one was greeted by a collection of statues that lined the perimeter of the grand foyer. These statues weren't mere decorations; they were golems, enchanted guardians that remained dormant until they detected any unauthorized entry. The golems served as protectors of the library's precious contents. Similar golems were made and placed in various corners of the library too. Some were in the forms of warriors, while others were in the forms of animals and other beasts. Only those with valid student IDs or any special token could enter the library.

The library operated on a system where the ground floor was open to everyone, providing access to a wide array of books and resources. The knowledge contained in those books was simply unimaginable, as the academy had collected them over the centuries. However, if students wished to read them they'd need to pay for them with their merit points according to the time they spent within. Taking books out of the library came with extra charges.

The ground floor, open to everyone, consisted only of simple books of research and history and knowledge. The first floor, access to first years, had techniques of 3* and below. Second floor which is open to second years consisted of techniques and spells of 4* and below. Third floor which for third years with techniques of 5* and similar spells. And so on. At the fifth floor techniques of 7* were present there. But that was only accessible to final year students and that too only rankers.

At any point if one wanted a new technique Or a new skill, they could exchange it with merit points.

"This is amazing." Takashi said, as he looked at the grand structure of the building. It wasn't just him, most of the students were awe struck by the designs and richness of the place.

Upon entering they were greeted by the staff working there, along with other assistant professors.

One of the staff came forward and guided them inside and told them about the rules. For today class A-1 to A-3 students were allowed to enter the library and choose their techniques.

"Can we return the technique or exchange it if we don't understand it?" One of the students raised his doubts. After all, it's not easy to learn about a technique based on just the little details pasted in front of the book. Some techniques might look easy to master at first glance, but only after fully learning it one can see all the requirements and hardships of it.

"You can't. So you better think twice before you pick something." The staff replied in a stern tone.

Academy didn't care about the techniques of such low caliber but that didn't mean students could just play around with them daily. If they picked anything wrong today, they can just wait and exchange something better after getting enough merit points. Until then they'll have to stay behind their peers.

"Students of class A-1 are already on the first floor. So you can all go and check for the techniques you want. Once you've selected it, you can come here to record it in your name."

The staff said that and started moving towards the stairs at the center, which led them all to the first floor.

Unlike the ground floor which looked more open and spacier, the first floor was a sprawling expanse of shelves, alcoves, and reading nooks. The ambience was steeped in an air of scholarly tranquility. Dimly lit, ornate chandeliers and light crystals hung from the high ceilings, casting warm lights over various reading areas. The shelves were neatly organized, housing countless techniques in the form of tomes, scrolls and textbooks.

Rio and others could see some students of the other classes looking through the shelves trying to find techniques suitable for them. Everyone was following the rules of the library as only the hushed whispers could be heard among them. The staff led the students first and explained about the method the books were stored within, so they don't have to look through each and every shelf.

Each line of shelves was separated by just enough space to navigate comfortably. Engraved plaques identified the contents of each aisle, making it simple for students to find their way.

The library's extensive collection was meticulously organized, with books and tomes neatly categorized into various fields of study.

The first floor mainly contained books of combat techniques or elemental arts, some books for healing and other supportive fields were present too. But in less numbers. As first years, mainly needed to focus on building a strong foundation and ranking up first, they can learn everything else later on too.

One side of the whole floor was filled with techniques based on combat and weapon mastery. Which was further divided in many subsections of shelves based on type of weapons and fighting style. Techniques based on swords, spears, archery, dagger, scythe etc were placed on the right side.

While the left side was fully filled with tomes of body refinement and melee fight techniques. These volumes contained a rich variety of martial arts styles, from fist and kick techniques to advanced forms such as boxing, kung fu, karate, and judo etc. Wooden plaques adorned these shelves, providing general information about each art.

On the other side of the library were the books filled with techniques of elemental magic. Here, books were further divided into shelves, each representing a different element or category. From simple elements of fire, water and wind to complex elements like metal, lava and lightning - arts related to every element were placed there.

In the small section at the side were techniques based on supportive fields. With shelves containing arts of healing, restoration and rejuvenation etc. Some arts belonging to spiritual attacks and soul strengthening were placed there too.

The students were given free reign to roam around and choose whatever techniques they want. Time was of the essence and everyone was looking for things they thought were most in line with their development.

While everyone was busy with choosing a book for themselves, Rio wanted to smile aloud. Cause he knew exactly which technique to choose.

'Let's go and steal the art of the protagonist. And see which one he'll choose instead.'

Rio happily moved towards the section where arts of archery were placed. Little did he know that, in just a few moments, he would find himself face to face with someone whose presence would alter the destiny of the entire world.

Chapter 194 A faceslap routine??

"You guys can choose your own techniques, I'll meet you back outside." Rio said to everyone and left them.

"You can come to help me, if you find something for yourself." Rebecca said, after looking at the long section of shelves piled up with books related to spear arts.

"You were in a hurry to come here. So choose for yourself, I'm going." Amelia said and left towards the section of magic arts.

Takashi went towards the section which stored the books on meditation or spiritual arts. While Ayla followed Amelia, as she needed to take a look at the arts based on her wood element. Or maybe find something that can help her in alchemy.

"Come on. You guys. I'm serious." Rebecca said, as she saw everyone leaving. She already had a 6* technique on her water element, what she lacked was a close combat fighting technique. She had learned some from her family, but they were too tough to understand, and she was still stuck on novice mastery. So she wanted a chance to look at something compatible and easy to master.

'Idiots' she said, to all of them and busied herself, in looking through the books.

The techniques stored within the great library would be given out to students without any cost. But they could only keep it until they remained in the academy. After the final year they would have to return the books to the academy, and they would have to find a fault in it and perfect it, as part of a test.

If they couldn't find any faults, then they'd need to share some insights they had, which makes mastering that technique easier for the next students. If anyone couldn't even do that, then they'd either have to give the academy a technique of similar rank or they'll have to do some other tasks for the academy as compensation.

Overall nothing was free for anyone, the academy got their arts perfected, and some side effects and skills improved, or they got some new skills in return - so no one was suffering a loss.

Even the poor commoners or people without any resources and backing were happy with this method, as it gave them a way to learn strong techniques passed down for centuries. As for returning some new technique, what's so hard about that, after they successfully passed from one of the best academies.

<Those who failed, dropped or died in between the years, the academy would suffer a loss, but as they say, not all loans gets paid back in full. But those that do, come with great interest.>>

Rio, was walking happily towards the section of techniques based on archery.

Apollo was a well known God famous for his talent in archery. In Greek myths, aside from his sister Artemis, hardly anyone could match his talent in it. And that's what he planned to teach Leon in the beginning of the novel's plot.

The novel was different from others of similar genre, because it broke the typical trope of a swordsman protagonist. But that was only for a while, as the time passed, and more gods and more enemies came - sword became author's main focus and Leon became another cliched swordsman hero.

The last time Rio entered the library, he also looked for the technique of the protagonist but he couldn't find it anywhere. Thinking that maybe it was with some other student Or was only placed in the library, when the plot started - Rio gave up and chose the technique his character chose in the novel.

Starfall Strike – a 3* sword art, which mainly focused on swift and precise attacks. It's a style that emphasizes fluidity, agility, and perfect timing. Practitioners of this art are often likened to shooting stars, leaving a trail of light as they move swiftly and strike with pinpoint accuracy.

Rio already knew all about this method and how it would progress further.

In the novel this technique was divided in 4 parts, with 3 parts of it placed around the great library on different floors, while the last part was found in a tower.

He would find its second part on the next floor of the library after he became a second year student, but instead of waiting like that, Rio just hired a second year student and asked him to bring the second part for him.

With him already mastered the foundation sword art, created by his father, his understanding of sword techniques was much higher, coupled with his talent and no disturbances from anyone, Rio had already learned the 3* technique completely and successfully started practicing the next version of it.

Silence Star – a 4* sword art. Upgraded version of the Starfall Strike. It is known for its sheer unpredictability and swiftness. Practitioners of this art are often seen as celestial dancers on the battlefield. The technique involves silent, sweeping motions that mimic the descent of stars from the sky.

With his time in the dungeon, and the stupid zombies which became his practice partners, he had practiced it till fundamental level of mastery. If not for the effects of corrosive energy of the red sun, which started to affect his senses, he might've mastered it a little more.

But there was no need for him to worry, he could use his points to perfect it any time he wanted.

But he chose not to, there was no need to waste the precious points on something trivial he could do himself. He can't just laze around and leave it all for the system.

'I'm such a hard worker, yet everyone calls me lazy. They really don't know a thing.'

[...]

Rio looked at the system's panel which suddenly popped up and he closed it instantly.

'Even this system is dumb' He said and reached the section he was looking for.

After reaching there Rio started going through the books, looking for the first opportunity of the protagonist in the academy.

'Eagle's Dive Shot'

'Hunter's Moon'

'Whispering Wind Release'

'Hawk's Eye'

'Star Shower'

"Where is it?" Rio said as he checked every book on a long shelf, but couldn't find that one. "Did something change unexpectedly? But I don't remember anything regarding that technique anywhere else. And I didn't change anything related to that clan, so where is it?"

'Did Leon came before me and got it?' Rio thought, but crossed that idea. According to the novel, Leon was supposed to go after Professor Freya to ask about some doubts on elemental magic, and would only come here much later with her. He had seen him talking with Miss Freya, that's why he was in a hurry to come here and steal that technique, before he came.

'But where is it?'

[Maybe someone else took it?]

'What is that - a cabbage on the roadside.' Rio scoffed at the system for giving a useless solution. How can anyone else take the technique designed for the protagonist? Especially since the plot has started, it's simply preposterous.

[Maybe fate acted in his favor, and someone took it for now. And Leon will get it from them later.]
System said, as even it was surprised with this development.

Hearing system's suggestions, Rio thought for a second, if that could be possible, but then he shook his head. 'Every student would have to record the technique in their names after taking it. One technique can't be shared between 2 students. Especially since the staff would assess everyone's performance over the mastery of the technique recorded here, every month. So it's not possible that 2 students would share one technique. They wouldn't allow it.'

[Then maybe someone picked it from here and..]

'Is now waiting for Leon to come and take it.'

The system started speaking as it thought of a certain scenario from other stupid novels and Rio understood and finished its words.

"It's a fucking faceslap scenario." Rio couldn't help but mutter aloud as he understood this whole routine.

Over the years he had come across many flashback scenes and storylines that changed and altered a little to make things more interesting than the novel. He could just blame it all on heaven's playfulness or his interference.

And now here it was again.

A faceslap routine, where some stupid young master or side stepping stone, got something good and the protagonist set his sights on it too. Then they will both either have some kind of bet or a competition or another useless argument, which would end up with protagonist shining brighter and getting the rewards. While the stepping stone could just cry and vow for revenge in the corner.

'Is this the way of fate to give Leon some limelight since I stole that in the entrance ceremony.' Rio couldn't help but think.

[Whatever you do, you should hurry up, cause Leon would be coming here soon.]

System spoke, with some interest in its voice. This is what it was waiting for, finally a scene where the villain system could watch the wait for full 8 years for any fun drama to begin.

09:16

drama between the protagonist and the villain. Everytime it got binded to a host, some kind of plot would already be happening, so it would always be interesting to watch, only this time, it had to wait for full 8 years for any fun drama to begin.

'Damn it, which bastard stole that technique' Rio cursed the luck and started looking at every student who were standing near that section.

A little far from where Rio was searching around, a beautiful girl was standing alone, waiting for her subordinates.

"Your highness, did you find a technique for yourself?" A handsome elf came near her and asked her in a polite way.

"I have, let's leave." The girl said, while showing the leather printed book with an arrowhead mark on it. With the title of the book written in some old letters - Aurora Volley.

Chapter 195 Saisha Ellsworth - The Future Queen of Elves

"Your highness, did you find a technique suitable for you? I can go and look for it." A boy came out from behind the shelves, holding a little booklet in his hand. He had short styled gray hair and emerald eyes. Short pointy ears that showed his lineage to elven race. His face bore the proud look that seemed to look down on others, yet in front of the girl even his gaze was cast downward.

"No need, I've found it. Let's leave." The girl replied and started walking towards the staff to register the technique she chose. With each step her rich white hair flew around her shoulders. Her sharp pointy ears, the charming smile and the flawless skin she had could enchant anyone and they dare not look away. Elegant, delicate features that could bewitch even the most stoic of hearts.

Even the students who were busy looking through books stopped everything and looked at her, her looks enough to make people forget even to breathe. And yet when her light black eyes turned to their direction, none dared to meet her eyes. Some looked away in fear and some looked down in respect and admiration, she was the next ruler of the kingdom of elves, princess of Elfring - Saisha Ellsworth.

Undeterred by the gazes of everyone, she kept walking, while seeing her indifference to the admiring gazes of everyone, a smirk came to the face of the elven boy who walked behind her. The one assigned to protect the princess and follow her for life. Her guardian and the successor of the clan of wood elves, Jaesin Ferglen.

The people around couldn't help but wonder, what this guy was so proud of, was he arrogant like other elves, who considered themselves superior, or was he proud that he was following the goddess in the gazes of everyone. But they couldn't do anything, but just curse this guy in their hearts.

Rio, on the other hand was looking everywhere, trying to find the one who picked the technique of protagonist, but to no avail. Frustration grew within him, as he looked at the students and the time on his watch. Even the doubt that the technique wasn't in the academy came to his mind, but he decided not to think about that for now. That technique was connected to one other plotline of future events, and if protagonist didn't get that, then that even would be ruined too. Rio didn't care about even that event, as it was just another cliché trope, but he needed to find out the anomaly.

After searching up entire section of archery arts twice and looking at every student in the vicinity of that section, Rio decided to move towards the ground floor. He had just reached the stairs when he found a stepping stone, whose proud face literally screamed 'Come and slap me.'

"Your highness, do you want to get something to eat, the others wanted to meet you." Jaesin respectfully suggested, and the princess just nodded her head without saying anything.

Unlike the fractured human factions, who boasted about their families and guilds, Elves remained united, bound by their allegiance to the Royal family and the empress. Saisha's status as the sole successor to the throne garnered her respect from all elves, regardless of their clan or faction.

They were walking ahead, when a sudden shout from behind stopped their advance. "Stop"

Jaesin turned around angrily to see who it was that dared to stop him, but stopped his words when he saw the white haired boy, who's been in limelight for the past whole month. Even though elves didn't meddle in the affairs of human territory, they did keep track of everything happening around the world. And being the successor of wood elves, who were named the protector of elven domain, Jaesin knew all about this boy.

The human whose reputation is bordering on that of a saint or an angel, due to all his work and the image he presented to the world. The recent resurrection only solidified common people's beliefs in him more.

Yet in Jaesin's eyes, even he was just like other humans, a pest on the planet. He looked at him and asked "What is it?"

The students near them, turned their attention to him, as the thoughts that something interesting might happen.

Rio, on the other hand, didn't look at anything. His eyes were fixed on the girl standing behind that angry elf. He knew her, that face, that resemblance, the familiar feeling that she gave him. It was her...

The memories, the dreams, the nightmares - everything and everywhere he had seen her till now came crashing in his mind, as the scenes of everywhere started playing in his mind.

'Is this your way of saying hi?'

'Why're you looking at me like that?'

'Do you want to say something?'

'We are really not a good match.'

'I'm starting to like you more and more Shiva. It's almost scary.'

'You're gonna die without me stupid.'

'Do you think she'd like me?'

'I'm your queen remember.'

'Why're you doing this? This isn't you.'

'I would never leave you, Shiva. And we'll have our happy ending.'

'By the time you see this, I'll be gone.'

The memories of her, the memories of their time together, the feelings of love that he thought he had buried and forgotten for a while, everything was in front of him. A tear fell from his eyes unknowingly, as his eyes locked with hers.

A slight smile adorned his face as he looked at her confused expression, which reminded him of their first meeting. It was all so fresh in his mind, like it hasn't been a day even though it had been more than a decade since then.

"Do you want to say something?" Saisha said, as she looked at the boy staring at her.

She had received the all kinds of looks from people her whole life. The eyes of envy, respect, fear, pride, admiration - she had seen it all, and yet something about the way he looked at her was different. And the more she looked at him, the more she started to lose herself.

A small chuckle escaped his mouth, as he heard the exact words from her. She was her, he didn't even need to confirm it, or ask for any confirmation from any gods or the system, just one look at her was enough to quell all his doubts and answer all his questions.. She was his Queency.

And when that realization drew in his heart, a wave of coldness started to seep deep within him. This time instead of the happy memories of their relationship, came the pain he had to live through after she left him. The desperation he felt after waiting for her, the betrayal he felt that broke his heart in pieces. The final blow that shattered his old life and left it in shambles.

'Why did she leave him?

Why did she never came back?

And most of all why was she here? Why now? When he was finally about to move on. When he was finally about to start anew with his new family and leave everything behind. Why did she had to appear here in front of him and ruin it all again. Whyyyyy???'

As those thoughts crossed his mind, his eyes which held the gentle side for her, changed into a cold expression. All kinds of emotions startes chirning inside of him, as everything he hid deep within him, was standing in front of him.

His mana started to leak out of him, as his techniques started to function on their own. In just a mere moments the temperature around him dropped to down zero, as the ground began to freeze beneath everyone's feet.

The students near them scattered, as the sudden cold started to affect them. Jaesin who was standing nearest to him was frozen still in shock unable to understand what was happening? He looked behind him and saw Saisha still lost just looking at that human. That expression on her face, he had never seen it in all the years he had followed her, and it bothered him.

Saisha was unaware of everything around her, as her eyes were just locked with the boy, her whole focus was on just trying to understand why he was looking at her like that? Even now when he was looking at her coldly, with eyes dripping in anger, she didn't feel any malice or any danger. The only thing she felt was that she didn't like it. She didn't like the look he was giving her. She wanted to see the eyes and emotions he showed before, not this. It made her feel lost and sad, yet she herself didn't know the reason why. They met for the first time today, so why was he looking at her like he had known her all his life. And why was his anger making her feel sad.

"Stop staring at the princess, you bastard?" Jaesin said in anger, as he channeled his mana to break the ice, that was starting to form around his feet. "Or else _ "

He was saying something, when Rio finally turned his eyes away from Saisha and looked at him. Just like his mana, his blessings lost his control too. Subtle smoke started emanating from his eyes and they shone in a silvery light.

And just a glance was enough to make Jaesin feel the horror of that blessing. His eyes started bleeding suddenly. He bent down on the floor and started screaming in agony. He tried to cover his eyes, trying to erase the sight of that look from his mind, yet the more he tried, the more painful he felt. Panic overcame him as he writhed on the floor, attempting to escape the searing pain. The golden necklace around his chest shone in green light, as a cocoon made of wood appeared on the floor, covering him

whole. Yet the very next instant, the wood started rotting and in seconds it disappeared into nothingness.

"St_stop it. S save me someone." Jaesin pleaded, his screams echoing through the library.

Rio ignored Jaesin and his painful penance, his eyes turned towards the girl, who was still unable to look away from him. "What do you want?" He spoke, his tone chilling to the bone.

"Who _?"

Before she could say anything, he finished his words while saying her name for the first time in nearly a decade. "What do you want, Shweta?"

Chapter 196 Gaze of Hatred & Karmic God Shani

After discussing some doubts he had about the fire element, Leon decided to go to the library and choose a technique for him. The insights Miss Freya provided were really helpful for him and he could feel her control with the fire element far surpassed his own. Even though he was chosen by Apollo, just like other gods Apollo didn't interfere much with his avatar. He wanted to nurture Leon to perfection, and spoon feeding him wasn't going to be helpful in the vision he had for him. This is why even though Leon already received Apollo's blessings and legacy, mastering them was his own task.

'She really deserves to be a genius.' Leon thought, as he looked at the graceful back of Miss Freya walking forward.

'With her help I can learn about the elemental magic and increase my mastery over them. With the sword technique I found, it is enough for me for now, what I lack is in the ranged attacks. Since God Apollo was an archer, should I find an archery technique?'

Leon wondered as he contemplated what kind of technique he should look for. With his halo and adventures, he had already found a sword technique and some blessings that can help his mana recovery rate. This he decided to look for archery techniques. The more he thought, the more his decision seemed like a good one to him.

"You can go on the first floor to look for your technique and come back here to report it." Miss Freya said as they reached the library. She wasn't in a hurry, so she decided to talk with the elder in charge of

the library before leaving. But as soon as she entered the building, she felt something and looked upwards. She could feel the mana that was gathering on the first floor.

She was surprised to see that, since the use of skills and blessings was restricted in the great library. She only thought that some new student used some skill unknowingly and the floor protectors or the other staff of the library would address the issue. However, what happened next exceeded her expectations.

A deafening scream echoed through the library, shattering the silence. She furrowed her brows, as her pupils turned white. With heightened perception, she could now see past the walls and the shelves. And as she did, she found a man writhing on the ground, with blood leaking from his eyes.

"St-stop it. Save me, someone!" The man cried out in pain again.

Without wasting a moment, Miss Freya transformed into a stream of air, vanishing from her spot. Her swift movement was not without notice, as other library staff also felt the disturbance and began converging on the first floor.

When she reached the first floor, a sudden cold wind hit her, but she ignored it and moved towards the place where the commotion was happening.

On the first floor, after seeing the elven girl standing there, with the same face and features as Shweta, all the control Rio had over his emotions and himself was let loose. The feeling of loss and betrayal he remembered after seeing her again, became the fuel that made his mana run amok.

Gaze of hatred, the blessing given by the karmic god of Hindu Pantheon Shani, automatically came into effect with his feelings and started to affect everyone around him.

[Calm down host. You're losing control.]

[Think of everything you planned, stop your madness, or that'll all be ruined.]

System was constantly issuing alerts and warnings, but his mind paid no heed to them. His eyes now covered in the shadowy smoke gleamed dangerously, as he looked at her face. Jaesin, the elven guard

who dared to interfere without any knowledge bore the full brunt of his blessing and felt the deep seated hatred of Rio, which was enough to have him beg for mercy in a matter of moments.

"What do you want, Shweta?" Rio said, as he looked back at the girl whose one appearance was enough to scratch open all his past wounds.

"Who are you?" Saisha said, as she looked at the white haired boy with puzzled eyes. Her eyes, dark as a moonless night, were locked onto his.

The blessing, the mana, the cold ice that started to cover everything, none of it affected her, or more like none of it mattered to her. She was too lost in those eyes. A familiar feeling like she never felt before, was keeping her hooked, as she tried hard to remember why she felt like that.

'Who was he? Why was he looking at her like that? Why did he cry when he looked at her? Who was this Shweta that he spoke of?' Everything was so confusing for her, as she didn't know what to do or feel anymore, so she just asked him.

"So you don't _ " Rio was saying something, when an oppressive pressure as high as a mountain fell on his shoulders.

Two staff members pressed their hands onto his shoulders, forcing him to bend under the tremendous weight. Blood spurted from his mouth, and he struggled to withstand the pain.

"Nooo!" A scream escaped Saisha's mouth as she looked at him. For a moment her own mana started to channel automatically, making her confused at why she did that.

Miss Freya also came that moment, her elemental mana surging in response to the disturbance. The icy grip that had begun to encase the surroundings yielded to her power, melting and evaporating into nothingness.

The students around them retreated further and left the area in a hurry. One of the staff took Jaesin away and fed him a healing pill.

While some more staff members gathered around Rio, whose body started to emit a dark fog that started to erode the floor below him. The sinister, shadowy smoke wreathed around him, and his eyes gleamed with a menacing light. The staff raised the pressure on him, and soon he was forced to fall down on the ground.

The floor started to crack and crumble in layers with the erosion of darkness. Yet the golden runes which shimmered in between made it revert back to the way it was next instant.

"Stop it, student." One of the assistant professors said, as he tapped on Rio's shoulders and back to seal his mana veins and stop this madness.

{Stop this nonsense human} Nyx said to Rio, when he tried to use her blessing to control the darkness.

[Don't do it SK please.] The system too chimed in, its tone filled with worry and impatience.

System knew Rio would lose it the moment it saw Saisha's face. After all, it had seen all his memories and feelings, it understood him perfectly.

Yet it could do nothing to help him now. So it could just curse 'That Being' for reincarnating another girl from his past into this world. There was no one else who could've done this, and seeing the gifts he sent for its host in the beginning, which now started to shine - system even had an inkling of feeling of what it held within.

'What the hell does he want to do? Did he finally go insane from watching everything fall apart.' It wondered, but there was nothing it could do. 'That Being' didn't speak or say anything, and the system had no way to talk to him.

Amelia along with Rebecca came there after seeing the commotion and passing through the crowd of students who surrounded everything. Seeing Rio pressed on the floor and hurt, made both of them concerned and confused.

"Brother" Amelia said and stepped forward to save him, when Rebecca held him back. "He's not himself."

"Leave it, Becca." Instead of talking reason with her, Amelia just gave her a stern glance, which was enough to tell her that if you don't let go, I will fight you here and now.

Getting free, Amelia stepped forward to walk past the circle of staff, whose hands seemed frozen as the space around them seemed to crack and getting crushed.

Miss Freya came forward to stop her, and stop the staff who were ready to handle Amelia too. She never thought two of her own students would actually be stupid enough to act out openly and break the rules set by the academy.

"Stop it, you two." She said sternly, as she went forward and stood between the staff before a conflict started again. "Rio, cease this immediately. Or be ready for the punishment."

"Brother, please stop it." Amelia pleaded, her voice filled with worry.

[Host, calm yourself. Things are getting out of hand here.]

Hearing the constant reminders from everyone, Rio finally closed his eyes, silencing the turmoil within him. He stopped his blessings. The next moment his mana was successfully sealed by the staff and the darkness around him finally faded away. And the library returned to its previous state of tranquility once more.

"You can release me now." Rio said, his gaze shifting upwards.

The assistant professor looked at Miss Freya and when she nodded her head, he let go of him.

Then without answering anyone or saying anything, Rio took a final glance at the elven girl and left the library. The students around made space for him, as they all moved out of the way. "It was my fault, Miss Freya. You are free to determine any punishment you see fit."

He departed the scene, leaving a crowd of stunned students in his wake. Amelia, Rebecca, and Ayla moved to follow him, but Leon vanished from sight once he was beyond the library's grounds.

"You all can stop staring and choose a technique for yourself. You're only wasting your own time." Miss Freya's stern voice cut through the lingering shock, dispersing the students who remained in a daze.

"Take him to the infirmary." She said looking at Jaesin, who was still trembling, even though he seemed unconscious now.

'That blessing, those eyes - why did it have to be him.' Miss Freya pondered, as she remembered Rio's eyes and the feeling she got from coming near him.

Chapter 197 Looking for answers

As soon as Rio stepped out of the library, his breathing became ragged, each step he took was in a daze without any notice of what's around him or who's been staring at him. He could faintly hear someone calling him from behind, but even that became a backdrop as the scenes of Shweta kept floating in his mind.

Suddenly, he collided with a young girl, who let out a startled shout. He turned to look at her, but her face seemed to blur as Shweta's image superimposed itself. The girl scolded him, "Hey, watch where you're going."

"Stop staring, seriously. What's wrong with you?" her voice seemed to merge with Shweta's.

Then, he heard a familiar voice from behind, calling him "Brother." He turned around to see Amelia approaching him, her face etched with concern. Unable to face her in this state, he summoned his mana and created a portal, disappearing from that place. He wanted to be alone now, away from everyone.

Walking out of the portal, he landed in a garden and sat down near a tree. Pulling out a potion from his storage ring, he drank it in a one big gulp before tossing the empty vial aside. With the tree trunk as his support, he laid down there.

His chest was aching as if someone was constantly clawing at it from the inside, he could hear his own heartbeat thumping like crazy.

"Did you know I really like the open sky? Looking at it from the below, it seems so far and so peaceful. I don't know why people like the moon, the floating clouds are much more beautiful. Don't you think so, Shiva?"

"I never thought the cheating boy who was responsible for my punishment would end up being the one I'd end up with."

"Why don't we move in together. It's been so long since we've known each other. Maybe you'll get bored of me before we even get married."

His memories consumed him, and he clutched his chest, attempting to block out the painful recollections. His pleas for it to stop went unheard as Shweta's voice continued to echo in his mind.

"You know I had a dream last night. You wouldn't believe what I saw. Aren't you curious?"

"I dreamt we were all grown up, and we were still living together. We had our own little house, and our own little family. We even had a ___. Hey, why are you smiling? Stupid, I'm not telling you anymore about that."

"Stop saying my lines to me, idiot. Here, open it, it's your birthday gift. Do you like it?"

"Stop crying, it was just a little accident. You won't get rid of me so easily. I'm not leaving you. Not now, not ever."

The memories, the sounds, the visions everything turned back in time. Her voice was echoing in his mind, and he couldn't do anything to stop it. Clutching his chest, covering his ears -nothing seemed to work. Tears started flowing out his eyes, as all the precious memories he had of her kept ringing in his ears. Yet the more he remembered them, the more hurtful he felt when he knew how she'd leave everything behind, leave him behind with a letter and go away.

'Stop it.'

'Please'

[Serenity Elixir - This potion induces a sense of calm and tranquility, easing racing thoughts and soothing frayed nerves. It's often used to alleviate anxiety and stress. This elixir brings clarity and focus to a cluttered mind.]

Looking at the system's panel, which showed a potion, he bought it without hesitation and drank it.

After some time when finally the whispers and the voices started to fade away, he took a calm breath and exhaled. He kept lying down looking at the open sky, and once he finally calmed down, and there was no more pain, anger took its place. His eyes started turning redder as he looked at the system panel, specially at the gift section of the option, which was shining with a bell notification sign near it.

Even though the system didn't say anything, and he didn't look at it, but with the example of Ria and Amelia, he could guess what that gift was, and it only made him more mad.

He had to try hard to keep his mana in check, so he didn't create another rockus like the one in the library, but it was getting harder with every second.

Fighting to control his rising mana, he commanded, "Speak!" His tear-stained eyes bore into the screen as he struggled to prevent Shani's blessing from spiraling out of control again. His mastery over the blessing was little, and due to his outrage, it was getting harder to keep it from functioning.

[I had no idea, host.]

[I didn't know anything about anyone's reincarnation, host. Neither Ria's nor Shweta's. I just know that they weren't supposed to be here.]

'Is she what I think it is? One of his other gifts for me. Did he send another crystal for her too.'

Rio's hands trembled with a mix of anger and despair as he opened the gift section in the system's panel. His suspicions were confirmed - it was another memory crystal, this time containing Shweta's memories.

[Host has met the set requirements to use the 3rd item given by ???]

[??? wishes you another chance and a happy ending you wished for.]

----- [Memory crystal (Shweta - host's lover, planet earth) ??

??? has seen the pain of your heartbreak, after seeing your past he has decided to give you another chance. Learning that your fates are intertwined, he had prepared this crystal for you. He hopes you can find your answers and move on from your past.

This memory crystal contains all of her memories and feelings of her past life, with it you can bring your love back. ??? hopes your soul will find its soulmate and peace this time.

Beware this crystal might bring some unpleasant memories and some unseen side effects with it too.

Cost - 100000 SP]

Reading the introduction and the big words which asked him to find a happy ending and moving on, he wanted to beat that bastard if he could.

"She was alive," he uttered, his voice quivering with emotion. "She was alive when I came here. Tell me, did your fucking being kill her?"

[...]

"Are the other gifts someone's memories too? Who else did he kill?" Rio's voice grew louder with each question, frustration and anger bubbling within him.

[Calm down host. You're only wasting your anger. He doesn't care and he won't answer.]

The system repeated, but Rio's torrent of questions poured forth. "Then at least tell me, why me? There are billions of people on Earth. Millions had a worse life than me. Then why choose me? What does he want from me?"

He was a nobody, nothing special about him. He never did anything substantial in his whole life. Did God took pity on him? Why, he didn't even believe in God? If anything, he only remembered them, when he wanted to vent his anger.

Seen his pain, learned his past - His suffering, while significant to him, was eclipsed by the hardships endured by countless others on Earth. Then why focus on him?

He had these questions ever since he got the system and Ria's crystal, but he didn't care about anything since that was a second chance he was glad with. If it meant saving Ria's life this time, he was happy if he had to be a toy for someone. But why her?.

Shweta was alive when he came here. He knew that. And yet here she was, and the crystal of her memories was sitting in his inventory from the day he got his system. So did that mean she was killed that day too.

what he wanted. Even the system didn't know why he chose this host and what he wanted to do with him.

System wanted to calm its host and answer his questions, but it didn't know what to say. Even though it knew 'That Being' for millions of years, yet no one could guess what he was thinking and what he wanted. Even the system didn't know why he chose this host and what he wanted to do with him.

Should it say there are memories and existences stuck in his head, that he has no idea about.

That even their remnants are strong enough to kill the system and fight with the Being itself.

That some man tied in chains made some deal with That Being, and it's goal was to get him a happy ending.

Would he believe that? System had seen all? Nuthat, and even it couldn't believe all that nonsense.

[I'm sorry host.] The system eventually responded, its tone flat and mechanical. [But there's nothing you can do.]

Even though Rio expected this answer, he at least wanted to learn something. He could feel the system's surprise and frustration too, and that was the only reason why he didn't lash out on it.

"She was Saisha right?" Rio asked, as he remembered Jaesin near her, and understood which character Shweta was transmigrated or reincarnated in.

[Yes. And that's why you have to be more careful. The plotlines related to her are completely gone, if you lose your control every time you see her.]

"And if I want to save myself from the fate that's waiting for me, then I need her." Rio said, as he needed to rethink all of his plans now.

Elves had something that he had to get, if he wanted to solve the problem of his doomed ending. At first, he thought of fooling Saisha and getting the treasure, but now it was gonna be hard.

'Amelia has all the habits of Ria, if Saisha has hers too, then it'll be troublesome.' Rio thought as he remembered about her nature on earth. Unlike the elven princess in the novel, who was naive and righteous, Shweta was smart and perceptive. Fooling her easily was out of the equation, and even Leon who was supposed to be her hero can say goodbye to his love life too.

[Yupp. Unless our protagonist burns out his protagonist halo, Leon would look like an annoying fly in her eyes. She hates troublesome things, and Leon is a trouble magnet.]

Rio was thinking about all these changes and his future plans, when a voice interrupted his thoughts

"So you were here."

Chapter 198 Meeting with an old friend

Rio, who was thinking about what to do after learning that Shweta was now living as Saisha, was disturbed when a voice interrupted his thoughts.

"So you were here."

He turned back to see a girl standing there. Her long, lustrous black hair cascaded down like a midnight waterfall. Her complexion pristine, resembling porcelain, as it radiated a subtle, almost ethereal glow that heightened her beauty.

She wore the standard academy uniform, much like Rio, but over the plain blue shirt, she donned a sophisticated black jacket. Which bore the emblem of a golden star near her chest, signifying her role in the student council.

As she spoke her face had a charming style that was enough to captivate anyone who looked at her, Yet when Rio saw her, only anger bubbled up within him. She was after all Lisa Heartwell, the same old friend who taught him that even if he does the same things as the protagonist, he'll still be a villain and the one who could be left behind.

He trusted her back then, because her character in the novel was trustable, but he should've realized that, that was a treatment tailor made for the protagonist and not some villain. Cause while in the novel she jumped forward to sacrifice herself, in reality she ran away.

"What are you doing here?" He said, as the place he teleported was somewhere he knew no one would come.

Lisa took a moment to glance around at their surroundings, reminiscing about the times Rio had brought her here. This was where he would come to train alone or occasionally skip classes, and Lisa found herself lost in nostalgia.

"Your sister was looking for you. And I knew you'd be here." Lisa replied, her demeanor casual as she seated herself nearby. They were on the outskirts of the foreboding Black Forest, an area reserved for second-year and senior students for training and monster hunting.

"I heard what happened at the library, wanna talk about it?" Lisa said, thinking about the scene she'll have to handle due to the presence of the elven princess in the drama. The elf students would surely create a scene if Saisha said a word of it to anyone. Though Miss Freya was handling the matter, but still with what happened with Jaesin, it was clear that maintaining silence on the matter would be hard.

Lisa took a moment to glance around at their surroundings, and remembered the first time he showed her this place. This was where he used to come whenever he wanted to train alone or just bunk his classes for no reason.

Bringing her out of nostalgic thoughts was Rio's voice as he said "I'm leaving."

Rio wasn't in the mood to talk to her so he just stood up to leave. His anger and emotions had just calmed down a little after that big shock, so he didn't want to add another reason for them to go out of control again.

Seeing him silently leaving Lisa came in front of him and stood like a statue. Rio tried to move away, but she moved along and covered his path.

"What do you want?" He said, knowing she won't let him leave.

"Can we talk for a minute?" Lisa said, as she tried to look him in the eyes.

"There's nothing to talk about." Rio said as he looked away "You should know seniors aren't supposed to contact the freshers this early."

In the first month of the academy, new students were given time to acclimate to their new environment. Senior students were prohibited from interacting with freshmen during this period. The freshman party, organized by the student council, marked the first official opportunity for everyone to meet and socialize.

"I'm the council president. That doesn't apply to me." Lisa said it as a joke, hoping to get a smile from him, but only got a silent stare.

"Well, congratulations on your presidency then. You deserve it, don't you?" Rio said and turned around to leave.

Lisa cursed herself after seeing that. It was only after saying it that she remembered he always wanted to be the student council president back then. And that's where they would both often bet and debate upon.

"Won't you at least talk to me for once." Lisa said, as she appeared in front of him again. She created a barrier around them so he won't try to leave. "At least give me a chance to explain."

Rio touched the invisible wall, and said "I don't need your explanation, miss president. It wouldn't change anything that happened, so what's the point?"

Ignoring what he said, Lisa started speaking "You knew the situation back then. The people from Warzy were attacking, many students were killed. The dungeon was about to crash, and no instructors were anywhere to be found. There was no other choice but to use the escape portal and _"

"Use me as bait to lure them away. Or to leave me behind to fight, while you all ran away. Or to let me be stuck there with no way out."

Lisa was explaining the scene when Rio's cold tone cut her off. His anger rising beneath the surface.

"What was I supposed to do, let everyone die along with you?" Lisa defended herself, her voice tinged with desperation. "Even if I didn't do anything, others would've left nonetheless."

"Other students weren't the ones I trusted. Nor did I have any hopes from others." Rio said and that was enough for the answer.

"Atleast tell me what you want me to do? The guilt's been _"

Lisa started speaking hoarsely, as her eyes started getting moist and voice got heavier. But ignoring her Rio's cold tone cut her off mid sentence as he smiled and said

"Ohh, you don't need to do anything, miss president. The lives I saved that time are my dues to everyone, and I'll collect my debts soon enough."

Rio pushed her aside and channeled his mana.

He used his blessing, Threads of mana, which lets him see the essence of mana through his own eyes in the form of separate threads and control them to some extent. Then channeling his second blessing, called Master of Magic, which lets his control and understanding of magic spells increase by twofold.

Seeing the world in a new vibrant colors, he just waved his hand in a sword motion, cutting off the mana which was keeping the barrier in place.

-crack-

-shatter-

Without the power of mana, the barrier shattered under his attack and he left the place without turning back.

[Don't you think you're being too much. She is a heroine and with everything that's been going wrong in the plot, you might need to keep her close, lest something untoward happens again.] System said, reminding him about the predicament he was in. Without Saisha's support and Leon's luck, he would need a lot of fire power if he wanted to fight the later bosses himself. [Plus her plotlines are linked to you so _]

"Leon can look out for his own sister, I don't need to interfere. If he can't, then that's her bad luck. After all, I don't need to act all goody two shoes around her anymore." Rio said in anger.

[She did what any heroine would. Made the hard choice.]

"That's your answer then. If she's a heroine, then she can wait for her hero to save her. The villain doesn't need to stick his nose in their business." Rio said as he smiled. "And besides don't act like a saint, wanting me to forgive her. You literally shouted at me for trusting her too much, just after you woke up."

[I'm not asking you to forgive her. Just don't ignore her. That's all.]

System said, but Rio just humphed in response, as he reached the training halls of the academy.

Scanning his watch, and paying some merit points he went inside the room.

[100 points deducted. You can stay for an hour inside the room.]

[Remaining time 59 min 59 sec]

As the door to the training room closed behind him, Rio's demeanor changed.

'Time to vent some pent up stress'

He said, as he started his beatdown on a lifeless golem who couldn't break and couldn't scream.

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----- Threads of Mana - The updated version of Skuld's blessing, Strings of Mana.

Effects - Allows the user to perceive the essence of mana in its various forms of colors. User can also use his own Mana to create threads of energy. Use of this blessing can further enhance the user's perception of magic and control.

Limited chance to perceive someone's fate or luck, and forewarning of danger to oneself.

----- Master of Magic - Hecate and Freyja, two goddesses known for their mastery and use of magic, have shown their interest in your growth. They have given you the blessing of - Magic sense and Rules of Magic. Combination of both blessings have formed the upgraded version - Master of Magic.

Effects - Increases the users control over magic and Mana depending on the proficiency. Casting of spells and the consumption of Mana depends upon the user's mastery over the blessing.

Increases perception and detection of mana permanently. Makes channeling and manipulating Mana easier. (Passive effect)

Limited chance to increase the power of spells depending on luck.

Chapter 199 Therapy and Thaddeus Winthrop

Next day, the news about what happened at the library was spread throughout the entire academy. Miss Freya did her best to suppress the matter or downplay it, but since other staff and students were also present there, it was hard. Since no one knew what really happened or why Rio suddenly snapped, Miss Freya just used the trauma as an excuse to divert the attention, and put the blame on PTSD of him being trapped in the dungeon. Not many bought it, but that's also the only thing that made some little sense, cause otherwise what would be the reason for a Duke's son to snap at elven royal guards?

"Miss Freya, do I really have to do this?" After the first class was over, Rio ran after Miss Freya and asked her. "You can just double my training time, or give me some solitary treatment or something."

"The fact that you're trying to skip it and asking me this, is all the more proof that you need to go there." Miss Freya said, as she kept walking, "And besides, the decision is made by the council, requesting me now won't change a thing."

"But I'm perfectly fine. Yesterday was just a bad slip up. It won't happen again." Rio requested, as he really didn't expect them to give him the useless punishment.

"You're wasting your time, Rio. Your next class is about to start, so just go for the training." Miss Freya said and entered her next class. "I'll tell Lucius to go easy on you."

Rio just stood by the door, in the hallway thinking if he could find some excuse to escape his punishment.

[I don't get why you're so worried about it. A little therapy might be tone.]

"Seriously." Rio said in a surprised tone "You've seen my memories right, and you're still saying that."

[Not every therapist is a hoax out to fool the customers and loot some money. Some are really nice.]

"Not this one. Lucius Delirium is literally the male version of Harley Quinn. No one knows when he'll flip and turn crazy himself. Let alone cure me." Rio said with a defeated smile.

"You've seen the novel right, this guy is no good with his weird ways of treatment. I might just turn more twisted after meeting him."

[Well, you have no choice, do you? Unless you want to openly oppose the academy or expose him.]
System said [In both cases, your losses would far outweigh the little gains you'd get.]

Rio understood that point too, as he nodded his head and said "Let's just hope these sessions end up better than the ones back on earth."

what you really need the most right now.] System said in an amused [Or you'll have to think of a way to remove another villain from the academy.]

'I would've done it, if his plotlines weren't necessary for the growth of senior Freya.' Rio thought remembering about the slow burn will they, won't they romance thingy between those two.

Stopping unnecessary thoughts, he started making his way towards the training grounds, where his next class for physical training and techniques would start soon.

Since the technique he was looking for was taken by Saisha, he just picked another archery technique, which was hers in the novel. Leon on the other hand, not finding a suitable technique about archery, he chose another technique about elemental control, called 'Fusion Art'.

Though Rio didn't know anything about this art, as it was never mentioned in the novel. Maybe some extra character chose it, or maybe no one did. Or maybe it was his luck giving him another hidden gem, he wasn't sure.

But after asking around about its origin and uses from the staff at the library, he learned it was mainly focused on fusing different elements together(Elemental Fusion), and merging the essence of one element with your body(Elemental Ascendance).

It's famous for giving a boost to spells casted, or gaining temporal boost depending on the element used on your body.

The downside of this technique was that it required precise control and mastery of elements used for fusion. And it had a huge Mana consumption if one tried to enhance themselves by merging.

From that Rio wasn't sure if the protagonist really even needed this, as in the novel Apollo taught him all that stuff for free, whenever he was in a difficult situation.

[Maybe this time Apollo will teach him archery instead of all that. Plus with this technique he can get more chances and scenes with Professor Freya, this hastening her plotlines.]

"And Lucius's too." Rio said. "That would become troublesome to handle, if Lucius became crazy earlier than he was supposed to."

[All the more reasons for you to go for therapy, so you can keep an eye on him.]

"Damn it. Are you sure my luck hasn't dropped, cause I feel like I'm getting unlucky over time." Rio said, as he remembered all that has happened with him in recent times.

[Your luck is still fixed on 6. Ever since you stopped Noah's prophecy, it's been stuck there.]

"If all this is still happening with my high luck, then I should increase it once phase 2 hits. And the world system gets an upgrade." Rio said.

Even though the system could increase all his stats, it advised him not to try to meddle with luck. Because it might attract the attention of the World's Will.

Besides he only had to wait for 2 years and then with all the 'good deeds' he did till now, and could do later - he can get a ton of World Points and increase his luck in a more legal way.

[Loki is curious about your outburst yesterday, so you should try to act normal for a few days. He's an anomaly and no one knows what he might pull.]

"That slippery bastard. I should deal with him first when phase 2 begins, so as not to bring any more trouble." Rio said.

Somewhere far away from the plane of mortals, Loki who was watching a drama where he made a noblewoman's affair with a soldier public, suddenly had a shiver run down his spine.

His playful expression shifted to one of mild concern. "That's weird," Loki muttered, his voice a melodious blend of coquettishness and amusement. "Did that old man start looking for me again? Or is it that monkey this time?"

He looked around the ever-changing landscape of his realm, filled with mirrors and illusions shifting and swirling. However, aside from a few agitated gods gnashing their teeth at his antics, there was no sign of the source of his discomfort.

To be on the safe side, he decided to change places and go somewhere else. But before he left, he didn't forget to play the final trick, as he snapped his fingers with a devilish smile.

Soon a housemaid came forward for the affair with the lady too, asking to join the lady's harem, and her husband to watch from the side, shaming the nobleman in public even more.

Loki reveled in the mayhem he had sown, his eyes dancing with the satisfaction of a trick well played. His smiling figure fading in the void.

Talking and chatting like that, Rio soon reached the place of the training grounds. When he reached there, almost all of the classmates were already gathered there and forming lines.

The stage was dominated by a burly old man, seated on a chair with his eyes closed, and his head resting on his hand. His age was evident from the long, flowing white hair that moved over his shoulders, interspersed with sporadic black strands. A majestic beard of similar hue further accentuated his aged appearance. He wore a long, jet-black trench coat adorned with intricate golden designs, which seemed to glimmer in the sunlight.

As Rio joined the ranks of his fellow students, the old man stirred. His eyes, a haunting shade of purple, opened, and a piercing gaze scanned the assembly. His mere presence exuded an intimidating aura, and it was clear that this was no ordinary instructor.

Thaddeus Winthrop, the man who commanded this stage, held the responsibility of teaching Class A-3 about weapon arts and physical endurance. He was renowned for his strict discipline and an unyielding demeanor that left few in his wake unscathed.

He was one of the first apostles of apostasy. The man who saw gods for what they truly were. He refused to be the avatar of any deity, relying solely on his own strength to ascend to the high realms of power. HE was a self-made warrior.

'It's been a while, professor.' Rio thought as he met the gaze of the old man, instead of looking away like everyone else.

[Here it comes, host.]

The system's ominous warning hung in the air, and before Rio could fully understand its meaning, a colossal wave of pressure cascaded over them. Thaddeus had released his aura, and the effect was immediate and overwhelming.

Students gasped audibly, the air in their lungs suddenly thinning. They struggled to maintain their composure as the oppressive force intensified. Everyone felt like a mountain was pressing on their shoulders, forcing them to fall down. Some frantically attempted to channel their mana or employ their aura to shield themselves, but under the weight of Thaddeus's aura, these efforts proved futile.

Thud - Thud.

The training grounds echoed with the sound of bodies hitting the ground. Students, one by one, succumbed to the crushing weight, their bodies unable to withstand the immense pressure. The unlucky ones who had bent down to find support by resting on their knees soon joined the fallen, some even sustaining broken bones in the process.

-arghh thud-

Rio looked around and saw that more than half of his class was lying on the ground, while others were trying hard to not fall down.

The rankers and the named characters of the novel were still standing without any problem, waiting for this test to be over. Amaya, Katherine, Valtor, Alaric, all of them were showing no signs of discomfort. Rio even saw Amelia chatting with Rebecca on the side, like she didn't even notice whatever was happening around her

. 'They have no idea,' Rio thought, observing the nonchalant behavior of the select few. As if on cue, the professor intensified the pressure once more, and even the most resilient among the students began to waver.

Rio could see the anger and frustration etched on the faces of his classmates. In their minds, they likely conjured a barrage of curses directed to the instructor who subjected them to this ordeal. They fought to stay upright, their struggle evident in strained expressions and labored breaths.

Rio glanced at the protagonist and other important characters, it was finally time that even they were having a hard time standing straight and keeping their eyes open.

Even Leon, fresh from his rank-up, gritted his teeth and bit his lips, the metallic taste of blood mingling with his determination. Their ability to maintain their stance and keep their eyes open grew increasingly challenging.

[He's batshit crazy.]

'It's time for level 3. How many will fall down this time.' Rio thought, as the pressure increased again. Now even he could feel a little weight on his shoulders.

Chapter 200 Rebound Art & Druidic Dance

?

The training ground was filled with a palpable tension as the unconscious students began to float off the ground, leaving those still standing in puzzled amazement. Many thought that the test had concluded, and they had all passed. However, their assumptions were soon shattered.

Suddenly, the remaining students felt an unimaginable increase in pressure. What was once a weight evenly distributed on their shoulders now felt like an oppressive force pressing down on their entire bodies. It was as if they were trapped between a solid wall and everything around them was slowly crushing them. The remaining students, who were basically all sons and daughters of proud nobles or elite families, or future heirs of the big guilds and associations - started to falter soon too. One by one even they started to drop down.

Rio watched as he saw Valtor being covered by a shadow, Katherine who built a barrier of ice around her, Rebecca who made a water bubble that surrounded her, while Amelia started to extend the space around her making the gap seem endless. Morphius and Alaric, who started showing signs of their transformation, fangs and claws appeared on their hands and feet. Leon was trying hard with his fist clenched tightly, his nails dug deep into his palms, blood dripping from his mouth slowly as he cut his lips to withstand the pain so he wouldn't fall unconscious.

When everyone was having the hardest time Rio was still standing there the same as before. The weight of a mountain was still pressing on him, maybe even more than any other students, yet it didn't seem to affect him. He was continuously channeling his mana into two of his techniques :- "Druidic Dance" and "The Rebound Art".

***The Rebound Art, a technique practiced by a villain in the novel. Surprisingly he didn't look for this technique, but the villain came to his door to hand him this over.

It was chosen by one of the minions of Warzy, who was supposed to be mid-villain like Beric Zastan. Two years ago, during the attack on the academy, he met the guy in the dungeon and he managed to get this technique from him.

This technique was famous for its defensive nature, focusing on redirecting an opponent's attacks or reflecting it back at them. It mainly revolved around using the opponent's energy and momentum against them, making it a highly effective and efficient form of self-defense.

This technique had 8 forms, and what Rio was using now was form zero, the Neutral Defense. In simple terms, remaining neutral in face of attack and danger. Let the attack pass through naturally. The barrier of rebound will dissolve the attack to the ground.

(Limitation - Sufficient mana to maintain the barrier needed to perform the technique's Neutral defense stance.)

***Druidic Dance, a technique developed by Druids of some past civilization. It was a unique combat technique which incorporates the elements of nature and draws inspiration from animal movements to enhance fighting abilities of the user.

Practitioners of this technique are mostly known for their adaptability to any situation. As they can learn and mimic any animal living in the forests. And if they have high mastery of the nature element they can even practice it to perfection.

(Limitation - Understanding of nature's element is a must to learn the art perfectly.)

This was a technique written in the novel, which Leon was supposed to get through a singular book after killing a professor at the academy, who was working under the orders of Stray Gods. There were some schemes and secrets involved, and as usual Leon was supposed to solve them and shine.

But since Rio joined the academy much earlier, he decided to solve some troubles for the protagonist, so he can focus on his studies, instead of roaming around doing all kinds of troublesome things.

[You just stole that technique, and the professor is still alive and looking for that book, while planning who knows what? Stop justifying yourself.]

'I'm not justifying anything. It's just a little experiment. Will Leon save someone and do something, if he gets no rewards out of it, or will fate bestow another blessing on him? It's important to know that.'

[Yeah yeah whatever.]

So anyway, back to the story, Rio just stole this technique before that professor could start translating the singular book. According to the novel, the professor would spend 3 years trying to translate the book, but in the end, like every other villain, he was preparing a wedding dress for the protagonist too. Cause just after he found the key to translate the book, Leon came and exposed him. Thus getting both the praise and the price.

Since Rio knew everything, it took a while but he finally managed to translate it, and once the contents of the book poured into his mind, both the singular book and proof of him stealing stuff just whisked away in air.

—

Druidic Dance, enhanced the close combat ability of his to next level, as it improved all his senses to a new level. Now even without any blessing or spell -his sense of sight, smell and danger was on inhuman levels. They get even more heightened if he's in an area of a forest or nature. He could also use the abilities of some different animals and their fighting abilities to get some boosts.

The technique had 12 steps till perfection, with 12th step being one with nature. Where one can achieve harmony with everything nature related. Currently Rio had learned this technique till the 4th step.

"Rooted Stance" This was the name of the 4th step, where the practitioner's body can stand firm like a tree. It focuses on stability, balance, and resilience, making it hard for opponents to topple or overpower them.

Add upon it the third move "Bear's Resilience" which enhances his endurance. Borrowing the skills of bears, this technique reinforces the practitioner's durability and vitality. They can endure harsh conditions and shrug off blows that would incapacitate others.

—

With the barrier of Rebound art to redirect the pressure on the surroundings, and Druidic Dance to fend off the little pressure that got past the barrier, Rio had little trouble to stand straight.

Eventually, only eight out of nearly 300 students remained standing. The others lay scattered in a corner, like discarded trash bags. When finally even they were in a situation where they could fall any second, the professor withdrew his gaze and closed his eyes again.

The pressure that was overwhelming everyone disappeared in an instant, like all of it wasn't even real and they were just imagining it. Yet looking at their conditions and seeing the group of students piled up in a corner, anyone could guess it was far from a dream.

Leon bent down, his hands resting on his knees, his back drenched in sweat, face gasping for breath.

He looked around and saw only a few of the students were still standing. He recognized all of them. Even though he didn't make friends or talk with any of them, yet he knew them from their reputations. He saw everyone was barely hanging on, some of them were lying on the ground with mouth wide open breathing heavily, some had totally spent their mana and were using their blessings and arts to gather some back.

'I was able to hold on. It seems I've finally caught up to everyone.' Leon thought after seeing everyone in a similar situation.

His eyes finally turned to look in the direction of Rio, whom he was getting compared to daily. He was hoping to see his condition, yet when he did, he was totally shocked by what he saw.

'How is it possible? How is he perfectly fine?'

Leon saw, as Rio dismissed his barrier and started walking away. Leon would have thought that he was exempt from the test, but he watched the ground around Rio was in disarray, bearing the brunt of the pressure he had absorbed, while he, himself seemed totally unscathed.

Rio's technique had shifted the pressure away from him, thus the surroundings near him were in a mess. With each step of his, the ground further cracked, leaving footsteps behind as big as a giant.

Leon watched as Rio moved away like nothing happened. He wasn't the only one who noticed this, others who were still conscious also had surprised expressions.

Yet ignoring everyone's eyes and without sparing them even a single glance, Rio moved towards Amelia and passed her a potion, before turning towards Rebecca and offering her one as well.

'He's strong.' That's what all of them thought after seeing Rio's behavior.

[Hel smiles seeing the arrogance of other gods getting crushed by her chosen one.]

[She suggests that next time, you should use her blessing.]

Amelia and Rebecca were hesitating if they should drink the potion or not, when Rio just said "Don't worry, the test is over. You can drink it now."

Rebecca's gaze darted towards Professor Thaddeus, who suddenly opened his eyes, nearly causing her to drop the potion in fear. However, the professor averted his eyes and began speaking to the remaining students.

"Valtor Shade, Rebecca Von Schott, Amaya Stormswill, Amelia Blake, Alaric Darhk, Katherine Winston, Leonard Heartwell, and Rio Blake," Thaddeus announced, "you all passed. You can take a rest for today. I'll start your training from tomorrow."

With these words, Thaddeus left the area, heading towards the corner where other students were beginning to stir. Assistant professors circulated among the fallen students, providing healing potions to those who were injured and splashing water on the faces of others who were simply unconscious.

As the students regained their senses, a chilling voice cut through the air, sending shivers down their spines. Thaddeus addressed the failed students, announcing their punishment.

"You all have failed my first test," he declared coldly. "So as your punishment, I want all of you to go through an hour of special training daily."

'Special training - my ass, you just want to torture us motherfucker.'

'Old foggy, don't ever meet me outside, or I'll beat you with my brothers.'

'If I ever see you set foot in my city, I'll have my revenge, you psycho professor.'

'I'll contact my parents to never let anyone named Thaddeus stay in any of our hotels. And don't let him buy anything from our shops.'

'This guy doesn't even care about boys and girls. Look at my skin. And how dare that guy throw water at me like that, all my makeup is wasted. Did my prince saw me like that?'

In their minds, curses and threats erupted against the professor. They were filled with resentment and anger, vowing revenge for the physical and mental strain they had endured during the test. And would have to suffer under his 'special training'.

Despite their inner turmoil, the fear of Professor Thaddeus compelled the students to form a line and stand at attention.

Thaddeus glanced at the students and began to speak again, a hint of amusement in his voice, "Now, where should I start..."