

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 151: Alice(2)

"You can use lightning magic? This is my first time seeing someone with this magic affinity." Leo said.

"Indeed, I have a Lightning Magic Affinity. And when paired with my swordsmanship, I can do something like this—"

Alice suddenly disappeared from her spot and Leo felt a weird sensation breeze past him, and before he could even turn around, Leo felt a cold sensation around his neck.

Not daring to move his neck, Leo looked down with just his eyes to see a golden blade touching his neck.

"Although it may sound silly, don't underestimate a Magic Swordsman." Alice's voice resounded from behind him.

After removing her blade, she continued, "Although some affinity may flow better with the sword than others, you can still be a Magic Swordsman regardless of your magic affinity."

"I see..."

"The real training begins now, Leo Magnus." Alice pointed her sword that was crackling with sparks at him.

Leo swallowed nervously, but he still had an excited smile on his face.

Thus, over the next several days, Alice continued to train Leo to the best of her abilities.

During these few days, Leo learned a few things about Alice.

First off, although she's very serious and strict about his training, she never once made him feel overwhelmed, unlike Eve and Khrome's training. She would always be slightly ahead of him, but she never felt so strong that Leo felt like it was impossible to defeat her.

This made Leo feel more at ease and allowed him to enjoy the training more. Of course, this isn't to say Eve's training method was wrong. Since they didn't have much time, Eve

had to cram as much experience inside Leo as possible within that limited time, and pushing him to his limit statistically showed better results for someone like Leo.

There was another reason why Alice didn't push Leo to his limits. The purpose of their training wasn't just to make Leo stronger. She wanted to refine Leo's movements and to teach him a new fighting method, and constantly pressuring him would be counterproductive, as some things cannot be rushed. Naturally, this will make Leo stronger in general, but it was a different type of strength. In other words, instead of improving Leo's raw strength, Alice wanted to improve Leo's technique and experience as a swordsman, which is exactly what Leo needed for the Knight Tournament, as he would not be allowed to use magic there.

Time passed in the blink of an eye, and it was already the last day of Leo's training with Alice.

"Today is my last day here. Although I would like to continue training you, I must return to my city, and my leave days are running low." Alice said.

"Your leave days...? You're taking leave to come here?" Leo was speechless to hear this.

When people work, they would get a day or two of leave every month that they can use to go on vacation or just rest at home and still get paid as if they were working a normal day.

Most people save up these leave days for vacation or emergencies. However, since this wasn't part of her job, Alice had to take over a month of leave to train Leo, as it required two weeks alone just to get to Stellar City.

"If you feel bad for me, you come to our city and join the Royal Family. That way, I can train you every day without using up my leave." Alice said with a joking smile.

"Maybe in the future when I can leave the academy without worrying about getting killed." Leo said with a stiff smile.

"Are you talking about the Fruit of Magic Awakening?" Alice asked.

"That's right. I became the world's number one enemy after that incident. However, I don't regret it since I can use magic now."

Alice shook her head, "Don't mind these people. They only want the Fruit of Magic Awakening for themselves and are angry because they couldn't acquire it. And it's not as though the entire world hates you."

"Thank you for your kind words, Alice. When I have the time, I will definitely visit the Golden City." Leo's smile became less stiff.

At the end of the day and their final training session, Alice handed her golden sword to Leo.

"I want you to have this."

"Huh? But isn't this your sword? Are you sure you want to give it to me? It seems very valuable." Leo asked with raised eyebrows.

"It's just an ornamental sword with my name engraved into it. If you really decide to visit our Golden City one day, keep this sword by your side. It'll help you find me."

"This is an ornamental sword...? I thought it was an artifact!" Leo exclaimed after learning this information.

"An artifact?" Alice chuckled, "Even with the protection magic in this place, it would be too dangerous to use my artifact for training, as I might accidentally cut you in half."

Leo swallowed nervously, "Thank you for being considerate."

"Anyways, the past week was fun. It's been a while since I had a talented student like you. It's truly a shame that you weren't born in the Golden City."

"And you're the first teacher who hasn't beaten me to a plump." Leo chuckled.

After talking for a little longer, Alice left the training room and went to speak with Eve before leaving the academy.

"So what do you think of my new student? He's pretty gifted, right?" Eve said with a smile on her face, almost as though she was bragging about it.

"..." Alice didn't immediately respond and seemed to be pondering about something.

After a moment of silence, she spoke in a low voice, "A little too gifted if you ask me."

"Huh?" Eve raised an eyebrow.

"Although I have never seen him using his full strength before, I can tell that he wasn't going all out during our training. He's still hiding some of his strength. I don't know why he's doing it, but I hope to see what he's truly capable of one day."

A mysterious smile appeared on Eve's face, and she said, "Don't worry, you'll definitely be able to see it one day, and you won't have to wait very long."

Chapter 152: The Day Before the School Tournament

"By the way, about my debt..." Alice suddenly reminded Eve about it.

"Oh, you can consider it fulfilled." Eve casually said.

"Are you sure? It doesn't feel like I have repaid anything, considering how much I owed you. Sure, I lost a month of leave days that took three years to save up, but it's still nothing compared to what you did for me." Alice said with a slight frown on her face.

"It's fine, really. But you're free to continue thinking that you owe me a debt until you're satisfied." Eve smiled.

Alice nodded, "Then I will be returning to my city now."

"Send the little princess my regards." Eve suddenly said.

"Why don't you visit her yourself? I'm sure she'll be more happy that way."

"If I get the chance."

"When was the last time you left this city? 10 years ago?"

Eve shrugged, "I'm a busy woman."

Sometime later, Alice left the academy.

"How do you feel? Are you feeling more confident about the Knight Tournament?" Eve asked Leo during dinner.

He nodded, "Yes, I'm feeling pretty confident. I really owe Alice. She taught me a lot about swordsmanship. Although Khrome also taught me a lot, his lessons were more basic— just enough for me to get through. However, Alice's lessons are far more advanced. Honestly, I want to train with her a little more. A week is just too short."

Eve smiled and said, "You can always visit the Golden City and train with her there. However, you're not allowed to visit another city until you graduate from this academy— so for another two years."

"What?! Two years?!" Leo exclaimed.

"Indeed. One may become a student at the Four Witches Academy at the age of 13, but no matter how many years they study in this academy, they must graduate at the age of 21. Since you're 19 years old, you have 2 more years left in this academy. If you wish to continue staying in this academy, you must become a teacher." Eve explained to him.

'So it works like this in this world as well...'

In his old world, his university also had a similar rule, so he wasn't that surprised. However, not being able to leave the city for 2 years definitely surprised him.

"Don't worry, 2 years is actually shorter than it sounds. It'll fly past before you even know it."

"Hm? Wait a moment. Am I not allowed to leave the city at all, or am I just not allowed to visit other cities?" Leo noticed this and asked.

"If you have a good reason for leaving the city, I don't mind, but I want you to stay out of the other cities until you are strong enough. Every city in this world has their own rules and regulations, not to mention their environment. Some are stricter than others while some are more dangerous than even the Wilderness."

"Is that so..."

"Anyways, we can talk more about that after the tournament. The tournament will begin in two days, and there will be a briefing for our students tomorrow, but you don't need to attend it. In fact, you're not going to show up until the tournament actually begins to avoid any unnecessary risks."

"I understand."

Leo returned to his room shortly after.

"Are you excited?" Lilith asked him as he laid on the bed.

"Of course. This is my first time in a competition like this." He said.

"I also cannot wait to see my best friend shine on the stage!" Lilith chuckled.

Leo quickly fell asleep, as he hasn't had a wink of sleep since he started training with Alice.

Meanwhile, outside the city, Alice was traveling at lightning speed with her magic.

"Yes, I am on my way back." Alice spoke through the phone while she moved through the Wilderness at lightning speed.

"Where did you go? Did you really need to take a month of leave?"

"Stellar City. A friend needed my help."

"Stellar City?! Don't tell me you're traveling on foot! Why didn't you take the teleporter? That would've saved you so much time!"

"I hate using teleporters, especially the aftereffects." Alice calmly said.

"Seriously? In order to avoid feeling nausea for a few minutes, you decided to waste 2 weeks on foot— a month since you have to return too? I can't even..."

"Anyways, hurry up and come back, Alice. My family is getting anxious since you've been gone for so long."

Alice suddenly stopped moving when a large figure that emitted the aura of an S-Rank monster blocked her path.

After glancing at the giant monster before her, she said, "I will return as soon as possible, and I will call you again when I am back. See you later, Princess."

After hanging up the phone, Alice retrieved a sword with a blue blade.

"Lightning Blade." Alice mumbled in a low voice.

Lightning snakes appeared and coiled around her sword.

The giant monster suddenly went to strike her, but Alice disappeared before the hit could land.

When Alice reappeared, she was right behind the giant monster, and before it could react, she slashed her sword a hundred times in the blink of an eye, turning the monster into minced meat.

After killing the S-Rank monster with ease, Alice went to pick up its mana core before she continued her journey back to the Golden City.

The following day, without anybody bothering him, Leo didn't wake up until it was late in the afternoon.

After washing his face and taking a quick shower, Leo ate some lunch in his room before returning to his bed.

"Lilith, show me the ancient magic circle. I want to study it today." Leo said to her.

"Are you sure? Isn't this your rest day?"

"Even if you say that, what am I supposed to do when I cannot leave this place? Also, studying is a form of relaxation for me."

"Alright. Here you go." Lilith displayed the ancient magic circle for him.

And for the remainder of the day, Leo would study the ancient magic circle.

Meanwhile, somewhere inside the academy, a small group of students were gathered and waiting for Eve to brief them about the tournament.

Chapter 153: The Day Before the School Tournament(2)

"Good morning, Headmistress."

The students in the room stood up and bowed to Eve when she entered the room.

"Morning, students." Eve returned their greeting.

Inside the room were 6 students— 2 of them wearing uniforms for ordinary students with the rest wearing uniforms meant for the magic students. Naturally, they were all from the Elite Class, and since they are going to participate in the tournament, it would only make sense for them to be the best of the best within the academy.

In other words, the strongest students were currently gathered in this classroom.

"Since everyone is here, let's get started with the briefing." Eve said.

"Huh? Aren't we missing two people?" One of the students there suddenly asked.

"There should be three students for the Knight Tournament and five for the Magic Tournament," said another.

"Don't worry about him. He'll show up during the day of the tournament." Eve said.

"Him? Don't tell me Leo will be participating in the tournament?" Kevin, who was in Valery's team during the Wilderness Training Course, said out loud.

"..."

John and Valery, who was also participating in the tournament, gritted their teeth after hearing his name.

The last participant for the Magic Tournament was the Crimson Witch, Helia Barnett.

"That's right. Leo will be joining this year's tournament. In fact, he will be joining both the Knight and Magic Tournament." Eve confirmed Kevin's suspicions.

"I understand why you decided to put him in the Knight Tournament, but I cannot comprehend why you would let him participate in the Magic Tournament, Headmistress." Helia suddenly said.

And she continued, "Even if he can use magic now, he's only had a month of training. Or are you telling me that he only needed a month of training to get on our level?"

Helia felt like it was a slap in the face to all of the magic students to let someone with one month of experience participate in the Magic Tournament, especially when considering that most of them have been practicing magic even before they can walk.

A profound smile appeared on Eve's face as she spoke, "You will find out during the tournament."

Helia frowned slightly, but she didn't continue this topic. Since Eve was the Headmistress, she had the final say to everything, not to mention that it was already too late to complain since the roster cannot be changed once it's been approved.

"Anyways, let's talk about the tournament." Eve said, and she went on to tell them about the tournament even though they already knew what to expect.

A few hours later, Eve dismissed the students and returned to her living quarters.

When she didn't see Leo in the training room, she went to knock on his room.

"Yes?" Leo stopped studying the ancient magic circle to open the door.

"Hey, I want to talk to you about the tournament tomorrow."

"Sure."

Once they were seated, Eve spoke, "For the Magic Tournament, I am going to forbid you from using magic above Tier 5 until the semi-finals."

"Eh? Why? I thought you wanted me to dominate the tournament." Leo raised an eyebrow.

"I do, but using Tier 7— even Tier 6 is overkill. I don't know if you know this or not, but the majority of students don't even know any Tier 5 magic, much less Tier 6 and Tier 7. In fact, you're probably the only student in this city who can use Tier 7 magic."

"Really?" A prideful look appeared on Leo's face.

"Yes. Considering your magic power and ridiculous casting speed, you can probably defeat most of your opponents with just your Tier 2 magic spell."

"So I am limited to Tier 5 and below magic spells until the semi-finals, right? I don't mind." Leo calmly nodded.

Although it sucked that he won't be able to go all out at first, he understood why Eve didn't want him to go too crazy. Furthermore, he would be able to surprise the spectators more if he suddenly uses a Tier 6 or Tier 7 magic spell when he's been using nothing but low tier magic spells for the rest of the tournament.

'If this guy uses Tier 7 magic at the beginning of the tournament, it would demoralize the others and the tournament will become boring.' Eve sighed inwardly.

"What about the Knight Tournament?" Leo suddenly asked.

"There's no need for any limitations for the Knight Tournament since you already have enough restrictions." Eve shook her head.

And she continued, "I guess I might as well tell you now. For the Knight Tournament, you will have to consume a Mana Suppressing Pill before you enter the stage. This is to prevent people from cheating."

"Sounds reasonable." Leo nodded.

"Well, that's all I have to say. I won't bother you for the rest of the day."

Eve left him alone shortly after.

"Guess I'll go to sleep early today." Leo mumbled afterward.

The following day, Leo left the house with Eve, and they made their way to the front of the academy, where a bus was waiting to transport the participants to the tournament.

"Will Miss Camille be there?" Leo asked Eve before they left the house.

"Yes, she will meet us there."

"Okay."

Once they reached the bus, Leo could finally see the other participants for the tournament.

'Those three will also be participating, huh?' Leo glanced at John, Kevin, and Valery for a moment before looking away.

He turned his attention to the two students wearing the Knight's uniform and thought to himself, 'That female student... She was the captain of the kendo club back in my world. What was her name again? April something... As for that male student... I don't recognize him.'

The last person there he looked at was a beautiful young lady with silky crimson hair that flowed down her back like a waterfall, a delicate yet serious-looking face, and she was glaring at him for some reason.

'She looks familiar for some reason... ' Leo thought to himself after seeing Helia's face and unique features.

And without speaking a single word to these students, Leo boarded the bus with everyone shortly after arriving.

Chapter 154: The Day of the School Tournament

Once all of the students boarded the bus and took their seats, the driver started the engine and entered the road.

"We should arrive in 2 hours if there is no traffic." Eve said to them before taking a seat right beside Leo.

"..."

The bus was dead silent with most of the students there staring at Leo through the corner of their eyes.

"Wow, they're really staring intensely at you." Lilith said as she hovered above him.

"I'm not surprised. I haven't appeared in public since I consumed the Fruit of Magic Awakening." Leo sighed.

"Especially that Crimson Witch. She's staring daggers at you." Lilith chuckled.

"Hm? So that redhead is the Crimson Witch? No wonder why I thought I had seen her before. She greatly resembles that Tia Barnett girl." Leo recalled the time the Crimson Witch's little sister challenged him to a fight.

Then he recalled that he wanted to sell her the Fire Affinity Orb that he'd found in the Labyrinth. However, now that he also has a fire affinity, he wondered if he should keep it for himself instead.

"Headmistress, I have a question." Leo decided to ask her.

"What is it?"

He retrieved the Affinity Orb and said, "I wanted to sell this before, but now that I have a fire affinity, I'm thinking about keeping it for myself. What can I do with it?"

"Let me see it." Eve gestured for the little marble.

Once it was in her hands, she looked at it with interest.

"A Fire Affinity Orb, huh? These can be used to craft magic artifacts and guarantee that they will have a fire effect. Or you can use it to enhance a magic artifact that already has a fire affinity. Honestly, the quality of this Affinity Orb is too weak to craft anything decent, so you are better off using it to enchant a magic artifact." Eve said to him a moment later as she handed the Affinity Orb back to him.

"Is that so..."

Eve looked at him in silence for a moment before speaking, "If you want, I can get you a magic artifact with a fire affinity. After all, the academy still owes you a reward for getting first place in the Wilderness Training Course."

"Really?!" Leo immediately became excited after hearing that he'll get a free magic artifact.

"Yes. In fact, I have already started looking for one for you. Do you want a sword or something that will enhance your fire magic?"

Leo pondered for a moment before responding, "I want something that will strengthen my magic."

"No problem. I will see what I can get my hands on."

"Thank you, Headmistress."

Meanwhile, several rows away from Leo's seat was Valery and her team.

"Do you think he's actually strong enough to participate in the Magic Tournament with us?" Kevin suddenly started a conversation with John and Valery.

And he continued, "I mean, if the Headmistress thinks he qualifies..."

"You can't be serious. Do you seriously think he can match our magic capabilities in a month?" John scoffed, and he continued, "Listen. No matter how talented he is, magic cannot be rushed. I don't know why the Headmistress signed him up for the Magic Tournament, but he'll only become a laughingstock from it."

"I don't know... The Headmistress trained several S-Rank Adventurers, right?" Kevin said.

"Even if she's the best instructor in the world, there's no way for Leo to accumulate years of experience in a single month. It's simply impossible." Valery finally spoke.

"Either way, there's no point talking about it now. We'll find out the truth during the tournament."

Two and a half hours later, the bus parked in a crowded parking lot in front of a massive stadium.

"This is the Stellar Stadium... Instead of using it for sports, I guess they're using it for tournaments in this world," Leo thought to himself when he first saw the colossal dome.

Once the bus came to a full stop, the students and Eve remained in the bus until the teachers that had arrived beforehand showed up. Amongst these teachers was the Vice Principal, and he glared at Leo like a lion staring at its prey. Clearly, he was still upset about the Fruit of Magic Awakening incident.

After talking with the teachers a bit, Eve brought the participants to the stadium to check in.

"How many schools are participating in this tournament? I can see over a dozen different uniforms just from walking a few minutes." Leo mumbled.

"Pretty much every school in the city will be participating." Eve said to him.

"And how many schools are in this city?"

"About 50."

"And if these 50 schools all brought 8 students to participate, there will be around 400 participants, huh? That's a lot of people."

"The tournament will take a few days to finish so we have plenty of time." Eve said.

Sometime later, they entered the stadium, and Eve brought the participants to another room while the rest of the teachers and students went to their seats to wait for the tournament to begin.

Every school participating in the tournament will be given exclusive seating for the teachers and students that want to spectate the tournament, and the amount of seats given to each school are determined by their overall rank.

Being one of the top ranking schools in the city, the Four Witches Academy had around 2,000 seats, and all of them were quickly occupied. As for those that were too late to get a seat, they had to find a seat elsewhere in the stadium. Naturally, these free seats weren't as good as the exclusive ones that were closer to the stage.

As for the stadium itself, there were 500,000 seats available.

The check-in process was quite simple, as all they needed to do was show up.

Once the participants are checked in, they must wait in another room and wait for the tournament to start.

In a private room somewhere in the stadium, Lia Scarlet suddenly felt a shiver down her spine.

She quickly stood up and looked around with a puzzled face.

"That sensation just now... Leon?" She mumbled in a dazed voice.

Chapter 155: A Tingly Sensation

"Lady Scarlet? Are you okay?" The teacher in the room asked in a respectful voice when he noticed Lia's unnatural movements while the other students in the room didn't even dare to look at her for some reason, almost as though they all feared her.

But without saying a single word, Lia walked out of the room.

"Lady Scarlet?! Where are you going? The tournament will be starting soon!" The teacher was baffled when he saw this.

"Leave the Young Lady to me." Edwin, who served Lia even at school, said to the teacher before following Lia out of the room.

Once the Scarlet Family's presence was gone, all of the students and teachers in that waiting room released a sigh of relief, feeling as though something heavy was lifted from their chest.

It was clear that they all feared Lia Scarlet, but what terrified them the most was neither her powerful background or overwhelming talents— it was her uncontrollable bloodthirst and nonchalant demeanor that truly terrified them.

They all feared that if they looked at her wrong, she would kill them in a heartbeat, and there was nothing the teachers or school could do about it with the amount of people protecting her. That was how powerful and overwhelming Lia Scarlet's presence was.

After leaving the room, Lia wandered the stadium, looking like a lost child, but in reality, she was following her instincts.

When the other people in the stadium noticed Lia, they were mesmerized by her doll-like face, but when they recognized her identity, they immediately lowered their head and bowed to her.

"Young Lady, where are you going?" Edwin eventually asked her.

"Leon... I can sense Leon's presence," she spoke in a calm voice.

"What?" Edwin frowned when he heard Leon's name.

Lia didn't say anything else and continued to follow the tingly sensation in her body that would become stronger the closer she got to Leon— at least that's what she believed.

"That was Lia Scarlet, the monster from the Scarlet Family, right?" The people that saw her mumbled to each other after she was long gone.

"Yes, that was her. Just being around her gives me the chills."

"I heard that she's killed over a hundred students at her school because they looked at her wrong."

"I wouldn't be surprised even if that rumor is true. She's one crazy bitch, after all."

Sometime later, Lia stopped moving when she encountered a certain individual in the hallway.

Edwin frowned slightly when he saw this tall beauty with black hair and violet eyes.

'Camille Light... What is she doing here?' He wondered inwardly.

Camille also stopped moving when she noticed Lia's stares, but she continued moving shortly after.

"Wait." Lia suddenly spoke.

Camille stopped again and turned to look at her.

"What?"

Although most people feared Lia and the Scarlet Family, Camille wasn't one of these people.

"You're Camille Light, right?" Lia asked for confirmation.

"Yes, I am. Why do you ask?"

"Leon. Where is Leon? I want to see him." Lia asked with a nonchalant expression.

"Leon? Sorry, but I don't know his whereabouts."

"You're lying." Lia immediately said.

"Why would I lie to you? We haven't spoken in months, and just because I am his sponsor doesn't mean I am required to know about his situation all the time."

Lia's eyes narrowed slightly, her gaze oozing with killing intent.

"Please calm down, Young Lady." Edwin suddenly interrupted, breaking the cold atmosphere.

"Miss Light, if you have any information about Leon's whereabouts, please contact us. We've been trying to reach him for a while now but to no avail."

"And why does the Scarlet Family care so much about a mere teenager?" Camille asked.

"This has nothing to do with the Scarlet Family. We just want to reward him for completing his mission." Edwin made up some random excuse.

"Aren't you supposed to let the Adventurers' Guild handle the reward distribution?"

"Yes, but we want to personally thank him for his effort." Edwin said.

"Is that so? Good luck. If I see or hear from Leon, I will let him know that you're looking for him." Camille started walking again and disappeared from their sight.

"Don't mind her, Young Lady. She's famous for her bad attitude." Edwin said to Lia afterward.

Lia glanced at him and spoke in a calm voice, "How unusual, Edwin. Normally, you would kill anyone that dares to disrespect me. Is she that powerful?"

"She is not very capable by herself, but she has connections with many influential people, which makes it difficult to deal with her. She was also known as the Golden Child of the Adventurers' Guild because of her role as a healer." Edwin explained.

"I see." Lia didn't say anything else and continued wandering the stadium.

Eventually, she reached the room where the Four Witches Academy was staying, and her tingling sensation was the strongest there.

'Leon... He's here...'
Lia thought to herself, and without any hesitation, she reached for the door knob.

"Young Lady, please reconsider." Edwin suddenly called out to her, halting her movements.

"We're not allowed to disturb other schools during the tournament, or we could be disqualified from the tournament. This is a very strict rule that even we cannot infringe." He warned her.

"..."

After a moment of silence, Lia retrieved her hand, and she asked, "Which school is staying in this room?"

Edwin looked at the emblem on the door plaque and spoke, "I believe the Four Witches Academy."

"Four Witches Academy..." After engraving this name into her head, Lia turned around and started walking back to her school's room.

Edwin sighed in relief inwardly when he saw that Lia still had some self control, as he was getting worried that she might be willing to do anything to see Leon again.

Once Lia and Edwin left the scene, Lilith flew through the door and said to Leo, "You won't believe who was just outside."

"Who?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"Lia Scarlet. And it seemed like she wanted to enter this room for some reason. Do you think she knows you're here?"

"How is that even possible? There's no way." Leo immediately disregarded this possibility.

"I wouldn't be so sure about that if I were you." Lilith chuckled, as she was confident that Lia somehow knew 'Leon' was in the room.

Chapter 156: The First Match

Shortly after Lia Scarlet returned to her room, the tournament organizers summoned all of the participating schools and their students to the center of the stadium.

"All participants, please gather in the field for a briefing." A voice resounded in all of the waiting rooms even though there were no speakers inside.

Sometime later, a grand total of 55 schools appeared in the field.

The tens of thousands of spectators at the stadium began cheering when they saw the schools coming out.

Once all of the schools gathered, a figure descended from the sky and hovered in the center of the stadium with a microphone in her hands.

This figure in the sky was an elegant beauty with long pink hair and azure-colored eyes, and she was wearing a white bunny headband for some reason.

"Welcome to the Stellar Stadium. I am Thalia Laurens, and I will be the judge of this year's tournament. First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone for coming here today, especially to the friends and families of the participants. I would also like to give special attention to the esteemed guests from the Four Celestial Families that came to witness this tournament despite their busy schedule!"

"Let us all welcome those from the Scarlet Family, Light Family, Thorns Family, and Tempest Family!"

The crowd began cheering and clapping for these four powerhouses that were present at the tournament.

Naturally, only their representatives showed up at the tournament, as the important figures from these elite families were too busy to attend a mere school tournament.

Once the cheering weakened, Thalia Laurens continued to speak, "I know everyone is excited for the tournament to begin, but before we send the participants on the stage, I would like to take a minute to go over the rules for this tournament."

"For this year's tournament, we have 439 participants. There will be 165 participants for the Knight Tournament and 275 participants for the Magic Tournament."

The spectators raised an eyebrow when they heard this information, as the numbers didn't add up.

'How can there only be 439 participants if there are 165 and 275 students participating in each tournament?' They all wondered. After all, this is the first time that someone will be participating in both the Knight Tournament and the Magic Tournament simultaneously.

"Now let's move onto the rules for the tournament. For the Knight Tournament, all participants are required to consume a Mana Suppressing Pill before they step onto the stage to prevent cheating. As for your weapons, they will be supplied to you, and no artifacts will be allowed."

"As for the Magic Tournament, it's the same as the Knight Tournament except for the Mana Suppressing Pill. Quite simple, right?"

Sometime later, Thalia Laurens snapped her finger, causing the ground to tremble.

Then, everybody there watched as a massive platform that took up 70 percent of the field emerged from the ground.

"This stage is where your matches will take place. The tournament is very simple. Two schools will be picked to enter the stage, and the students will fight each other until their opponents are all defeated. I will elaborate more on this later when the tournament begins."

"The only thing I have left to say is— good luck, everyone! You may return to your waiting rooms until we call you onto the stage, or you can stay out here and watch the matches."

Most of the participants decided to return to their waiting rooms and waited for the tournament to begin.

About ten minutes later, once the staff members double checked all of the magic protections on the stage and the stadium to ensure the spectators' safety and that the students wouldn't receive any life-threatening injuries, Thalia appeared on the stage and pointed at the transparent screen above the stage.

"The tournament will officially begin now! The two schools that will appear on the screen will be up first! By the way, this is all random, so even I don't know who will fight who until their names are revealed!"

The audience roared with cheers.

Then, almost like a slot machine, the transparent screen began shuffling through the 55 school names at a quick speed.

A few moments later, the first name was revealed.

[Plum Blossom Academy]

The second name was revealed a few seconds later.

[Scarlet Academy]

The audience became even more rowdy when they saw the second name.

"Ooooh! One of the powerhouses, the Scarlet Academy, will be going first this year!"

"Hahaha! I feel bad for the Plum Blossom Academy! To be facing the Scarlet Academy during their first match, what shitty luck they have!"

When the students and teachers of Plum Blossom Academy saw their first opponent, their faces immediately turned pale, almost as though they'd just seen a ghost.

"Fuck! We're up against the Scarlet Academy already?!"

"What bad luck!"

The participants cursed, but there was nothing they could do about it. Of course, they could forfeit the match, but to surrender on the first match of the tournament, they will become a laughingstock. Thus, they could only reluctantly leave their room and meet the Scarlet Academy on the stage.

Furthermore, because of Scarlet Academy's influence and reputation, many participants decided to leave their room to watch the match personally.

Sometime later, the Scarlet Academy and the Plum Blossom Academy showed up on the stage.

However, the students of the Plum Blossom Academy were surprised when they couldn't see the monster they feared the most amongst the Scarlet Academy's participants.

"Where's Lia Scarlet? Is she not participating in this year's tournament?" The spectators mumbled to each other when they noticed her absence.

"That's not possible. I saw her earlier, so she's definitely at the stadium."

"Hahaha! Of course Lady Scarlet isn't here! Her opponents are so weak that she can't even be bothered to show up!" One of the spectators there laughed out loud.

"I see... That makes sense..." The people couldn't argue with that logic, and even though it may seem rude to the Plum Blossom Academy and extremely arrogant of Lia Scarlet, nobody dared to utter a single complaint, as Lia Scarlet had the power and influence to back up her arrogance.

Chapter 157: The First Match(2)

Once the Plum Blossom Academy and the Scarlet Academy were both on the stage, Thalia Laurens spoke into her microphone, and her energetic voice resounded throughout the entire arena, "I will now explain the tournament!"

"The Knight Tournament and the Magic Tournament will take place together with the Knight Tournament starting first! The rules are simple, each side will send out a fighter, and the two fighters will fight until one of them loses consciousness, forfeits, or gets thrown out of the stage perimeter. When that happens, the school that lost a participant will send in their next fighter— until there are no fighters left."

"Once the Knight Tournament ends, we will immediately jump into the Magic Tournament, and the same rules will apply."

"Your school will receive one point if you win a tournament, so you can receive two points maximum at a time. Once all 55 schools have gone, those with the same amount of points will be paired with each other until there is only one school leading in points."

"However, since we have an odd number of participants this year, there will be one school that will automatically advance with 2 points. Some might argue that this isn't fair and has nothing to do with skills, but I will also argue that having luck is also a valuable strength. No matter how talented or strong you are, if you have bad luck, you could die an early death."

Thalia proceeded to take a deep breath before continuing, "Now with that all said and done, let's finally get the party started! Plum Blossom Academy, Scarlet Academy, please send your first fighters onto the stage! And don't forget to introduce yourselves when you're on the stage!"

"Devin Borges." The male student from the Plum Blossom Academy gave a respectful bow.

"Henry Grimson." The Scarlet Academy's student returned the bow.

The very moment they lifted their heads, their faces turned serious, and they retrieved the sword that had been supplied to them by the tournament organizers.

Both swords weighed exactly 50 kilos, or 110 pounds. They also had the exact same shape, length, and appearance. This was obviously to make the competition as fair as possible.

Furthermore, they consumed a Mana Suppressing Pill beforehand.

"When you hear the buzzer, the match will begin! If you hear the buzzer again anytime after the first one, you are to freeze your movements no matter what you are doing. Failure to do so will result in disqualification." Thalia said to them moments before a loud noise resounded, signaling the start of the tournament.

Both Devin and Henry immediately confronted each other and began swinging their swords at each other.

Things started out fine at first, and it looked like the two students were on equal footing, but the audience would quickly realize that Henry Grimson was matching Devin's capabilities as a way of subtly mocking him.

When Devin realized this, he immediately started moving more aggressively, his face flushed with anger.

However, because of this, Devin lost focus and failed to notice his mistakes, something Henry quickly took advantage of, quickly ending the fight with consecutive blows on his opponent's body.

Even though the stage and the participants were protected by powerful magic, it did not mean that they would not feel pain. In fact, they felt pain normally, and their skin could even be penetrated by the swords. However, there was a limit to how much their body could be injured.

For example, if a participant took a sword strike directly with their arm, they would normally lose that arm, but while they are on the stage, that would not happen, and the cut they would receive from the strike would only be a centimeter deep.

However, they would still feel the pain of their arm being severed, and they could even have broken bones from the impact.

Naturally, this meant that accidents could happen, but the chances were so slim that nobody really paid attention to it.

After the Scarlet Academy won the first round, Thalia spoke again, "You can either stay on the stage and continue fighting the next participant, or you can swap out with one of your teammates as long as they haven't lost yet."

"I will continue." Henry spoke without any hesitation, his expression as calm as a still lake.

The Plum Blossom Academy sent out their second student a moment later, and within minutes, Scarlet Academy received their second victory.

The fights were so one-sided that the spectators were already begging for the Magic Tournament to begin.

Meanwhile, inside the Four Witches Academy's room, Leo asked Eve, "Scarlet Academy... How are they related to the Scarlet Family?"

"The Scarlet Family founded the academy, so they're deeply related to the Scarlet Family," she said.

"And how powerful are their students compared to our own?" He then asked.

"Overall, they have more talented students than us. However, when it comes to the top students, I would dare say that we're slightly ahead of them. With that being said, they have a little monster—"

"Lia Scarlet, right?" Leo interrupted.

Eve nodded with a solemn look on her face, "Lia Scarlet, who had inherited her family's most powerful feature— the Scarlet Eyes. She's definitely one of the most annoying and dangerous competitors for this tournament. Her S-Rank Gravity Magic Affinity is also no joke. She could easily crush most of her opponents without taking a single step."

"What are my chances of defeating her?" Leo suddenly asked.

Eve immediately responded without any hesitation, "If you can take her by surprise, you're guaranteed to win."

"Take her by surprise, huh?" Leo mumbled as he watched the match between the Scarlet Academy and the Plum Blossom Academy through the television in the waiting room.

Ten minutes after the first match began, the Scarlet Academy defeated the Plum Blossom Academy in the Knight Tournament with just a single student, which was no surprise to anyone.

After the Knight Tournament, the Magic Tournament immediately began.

"The Magic Tournament between Scarlet Academy and Plum Blossom Academy will now begin!" Thalia announced.

Chapter 158: Second Day of the School Tournament

Within minutes after the Magic Tournament between the Scarlet Academy and the Plum Blossom Academy began, the Plum Blossom Academy had already lost 3 of their participants while the Scarlet Academy was still on their first fighter.

"The disparity is so big that it's become hard to watch..." The audience cringed at how brutally overwhelming the Scarlet Academy was compared to the Plum Blossom Academy.

"Is this your first time watching the tournament? This happens every tournament. You'll get used to it eventually," said another person.

"This isn't even that bad. If Lia Scarlet was there, she'd finish the match in less than a minute."

Sometime later, all five students from the Plum Blossom Academy were defeated, and it only took two students from the Scarlet Academy to do so.

"Congratulations to the Scarlet Family for winning both matches and acquiring 2 points!" Thalia Laurens announced with excitement.

"As for the Plum Blossom Academy, don't let this defeat define you in this year's tournament! Just because you lost this one doesn't mean you are completely eliminated from the tournament, as you will have another opportunity to gain more points later!"

"Now then, let's see who will have the honor of being the second match for this tournament!?"

A few moments later.

[Wonderland] versus [Erda Academy]

The schools fighting the second match were relatively close in terms of strength, so the audience were excited to finally see decent matches—ones that won't end in just a few moments.

Leo paid attention to a couple matches before he got bored and said to Lilith, "I want to study the ancient magic circle."

"Right now?" She raised an eyebrow.

"I'm too bored. I want to enter the stage already and let loose, but who knows when it'll be our turn. It could even be hours before it's our turn, and even then I am not guaranteed to go onto the stage, especially considering how powerful the others are."

Lilith nodded, "If that's what you want."

She proceeded to show him the magic circle for the ancient magic.

Time passed in the blink of an eye while Leo was focused on the ancient magic, and before he was aware, 50 schools had gone onto the stage.

"How many more schools are left?" Leo asked Eve when he snapped back to reality.

"4 schools, so two more matches."

"Seriously? I don't know if I should consider this as being lucky or unlucky."

"Calm down. You'll get your chance in the spotlight." Eve smiled.

In the end, the Four Witches Academy did not get a chance to fight because they struck the lottery and managed to receive 2 points without doing anything.

When the audience learned that it was the Four Witches Academy that won the lottery, they weren't too upset about it, as they were aware of the Four Witches Academy's prowess.

Once the last two schools finished their match, Thalia spoke, "We will end the tournament here today. Please get some good rest and come back tomorrow. We will start the tournament at the same time."

Leo was speechless.

'Who could've thought that we would spend the whole day doing nothing?' Leo sighed inwardly as they left the stadium and returned to the bus.

"All participants are given free rooms in a nearby hotel. We will be staying there until the end of the tournament." Eve said to them once everyone was back on the bus.

The hotel they were given was naturally a luxurious hotel, and it was only about 10 minutes away from the stadium. However, due to the tight traffic there, it took them almost an hour to get there.

Once they were at the hotel, Even assigned them their rooms and said, "The meals are free for us. If you need anything, I will be in room 101. Gather at the lobby tomorrow morning at 6 AM. That's all. You can do whatever you want until then, but I suggest you all stay in your room and avoid meeting the other academies since we're not the only ones here, and I don't want unnecessary trouble."

She turned to look at Leo and continued, "This is especially true for you. I forbid you from leaving your room."

"What about my food?" He asked.

"I will bring it to your room."

"I see..."

Leo went to his room and went straight to lie on the bed.

"Ahhhh! All of my excitement and nervousness were pointless! I didn't even get to fight a single match today!" He complained out loud.

"Just wait until tomorrow. I'm sure you'll get to fight someone then."

"I sure hope so. I trained really hard for this, after all." He sighed before going to sleep early since he wanted the day to end as soon as possible.

The following day, Leo and the others returned to the stadium for the second day of the tournament.

"Welcome back, everyone!" Just like yesterday, Thalia was full of energy.

"Since this is the second day of the tournament, I will spare you all some time and get straight back into the tournament!"

"Let's see who will be fighting in the first match today!"

A few moments later.

[Flying Leviathan Academy] versus [Four Witches Academy]

"Oh! Look what we have here! The Four Witches Academy that managed to win the lottery yesterday has been picked to fight in the first match of the day!" Thalia shouted in excitement.

The crowd immediately began cheering.

Sometime later, Leo and the others made their way to the stage.

Once they were on the stage, Leo could feel countless gazes staring directly at him, causing him to swallow nervously.

'Looks like I have underestimated the pressure of being watched by tens of— if not hundreds of thousands of people at once...' He sighed inwardly.

"Just like yesterday, the Knight Tournament will go first! If you're ready, please send out your fighter!" Thalia announced.

Eve turned to look at Leo and the other two knights.

After pondering for a moment, she spoke, "Cora, you can go first."

"Yes, Headmistress." The female knight nodded before walking onto the stage.

Chapter 159: Four Witches Academy's First Match

"Eh? Why didn't you let me go first?" Leo asked Eve, as she was well aware how much he wanted to get on the stage.

"Patience, Leo. It wouldn't be fair to the others if you acquire all of the spotlight." Eve smiled.

Leo didn't say anything else and proceeded to watch the match.

Cora Shannon was one of the best knights in the Four Witches Academy alongside the old Leo and Julian Shaw, who was the other participant.

Her performance was magnificent, and she managed to defeat her opponent within minutes. However, most of the people in the audience weren't paying attention to her.

Instead, their gaze was on the handsome young man standing outside the stage.

"Hey... Isn't that Leo Magnus? That bastard who consumed the priceless treasure Fruit of Magic Awakening."

"You're right! So he has the courage to show up before so many people after what happened, huh?"

"Do you think he will be participating in the Knight Tournament or the Magic Tournament this year? They only have 9 people, unless one of them is hiding somewhere for some reason."

"He'll definitely participate in the Knight Tournament. How long has it been since he started using magic? A month? There's no way he can compete against the other students with that little experience."

"Damn! Look at his stupid face! I am getting angry just looking at him!"

"I still can't believe that he'd consumed the Fruit of Magic Awakening. What a waste. He should've stayed as a swordsman for the rest of his life. Why even bother learning magic now? He's a decade behind everyone else. I really don't see the point."

"Bastard has zero consideration for the rest of us. If only he'd given the Fruit of Magic Awakening to the researchers."

"Right? What a selfish prick."

Many people within the audience cursed Leo out loud, a stark contrast from the last time he participated in the tournament, where the majority of the audience were cheering for him.

"Wow, I think I just heard someone booing at you." Lilith suddenly laughed at him.

"How do you know that they were booing at me? I'm not even on the stage yet." Leo calmly said.

"I just know." She continued chuckling.

"Whatever." Leo proceeded to ignore her and the crowd, solely focusing on the match.

'Her movements are swift and decisive. However, she is making too many unnecessary movements.' He subconsciously assessed Cora's movements.

After winning the first match, Cora decided to stay for the second.

A few minutes later, Cora defeated her second opponent as well.

In the end, Cora stayed for all 3 matches, defeating all knights from the opposing team in less than 15 minutes all by herself.

"Good job, Cora." Julian said to her when she returned.

"Thank you."

Cora turned to look at Leo, who was staring at her.

"If you have something to say, say it." She said to him in an unfriendly manner for some reason.

"Well..."

After a moment of silence, Leo proceeded to give her a 'lecture' regarding her match, telling her about her useless movements.

This dumbfounded Cora, who wasn't aware of it.

"Of course, this is just what I noticed. You don't need to listen to me if you don't want to." Leo ended his sentence with that and a smile on his face.

"...Thank you..." Cora mumbled in a low voice before turning around and ignoring him.

Sometime later, the Magic Tournament began.

"Headmistress, I would like you to send Leo out."

One of the participants suddenly said, and to Eve's surprise, it was Helia who had just made that request.

"Why?" Eve asked.

"I want to see what he's capable of and if he's truly qualified to stand on the same stage as us," she calmly said with a stern-looking face.

Helia didn't intend to look down on Leo. She genuinely wanted to know if Leo was qualified to participate in the Magic Tournament.

Eve turned to look at Leo and asked, "What do you think?"

"I will go up." Leo nodded with a serious look on his face.

Eve sighed, "Alright, you can fight. However, you will only fight one round, and you can only use your Tier 2 spell, Flame Blast."

"I understand." Leo nodded before calmly approaching the stage.

"What?! Isn't that Leo?! Why is he approaching the stage?! I thought he's participating in the Knight Tournament!"

The audience were greatly shocked when they saw Leo entering the stage. Pretty much everybody in the audience had expected Leo to be participating in the Knight Tournament since he didn't have the experience to fight with magic just yet.

"Holy shit! The Four Witches Academy has gone mad! They actually let this loser who just started learning magic on the stage?!"

"Hahaha! They must be desperate or something! This is hilarious!"

The entire stadium was in an uproar.

Leo ignored the laughter coming from all directions and said to his opponent, "Leo Magnus, nice to meet you."

'Leo Magnus? So he's the one who consumed the Fruit of Magic Awakening...!' Thalia stared at Leo from above with a look of interest, her thoughts unknown.

"Hmph." The student from the Fly Leviathan Academy coldly snorted.

"Aren't you going to introduce yourself?" Leo asked.

"You're not worthy. Making me fight a novice who just started learning magic... Are you bastards mocking me?" The student said in a cold voice.

"Whether we are mocking you or not... Why don't you find out?"

"I will finish this in less than a minute!" The student then raised his wooden wand supported by the tournament and pointed it at Leo.

A Tier 4 magic circle appeared a moment later.

Leo yawned and asked, "Are you done yet? What's taking you so long to cast? It's just a Tier 4 magic spell."

The student ignored Leo's provocation and continued to cast his spell.

The very next second, right as the student was prepared to unleash his magic spell, Leo raised his arm and pointed his palm at the student—

BOOM!

Without showing any magic circle and before one could even blink, Leo unleashed a powerful Flame Blast that covered half of the stage, immediately sending his opponent flying off the stage like a broken ragdoll.

Chapter 160: 3 Seconds

After being sent flying off the stage by Leo's Fire Blast, the Flying Leviathan Academy's student landed many meters away from the stage, and since he'd lost consciousness right after the blast, he did not try to stand up after his landing.

The audience and the entire stadium was dead silent after what they had just witnessed, and most of them couldn't believe their eyes.

Leo, who had only started learning magic a little over a month ago, could not only silent cast but also unleash such a powerful Tier 2 magic spell.

The Flame Blast released by Leo had so much magic power behind it that it could rival even a fully overcharged Tier 4 magic spell.

The medic on standby were the first to snap out of their daze, and they quickly rushed to see the student's condition.

Once they realized that he was still alive, they brought him out of the stadium on a stretcher.

"W-What the hell was that? What the hell just happened?!" Someone in the crowd suddenly demanded for an answer, his voice filled with bewilderment.

"That Leo had just defeated one of the top magic students in the Flying Leviathan Academy with a single magic spell!"

"Unbelievable! What kind of magic spell did he use just now?! That power— it must've been at least a Tier 5 magic spell, right?!"

"Idiot! That was just a Flame Blast! It's a Tier 2 magic spell!"

"Tier 2 magic? There's no freaking way! That power is too strong for a mere Tier 2 spell! It probably just resembles Flame Blast!"

"Are you trying to say that he'd managed to learn a Tier 4 magic spell in a month, not to mention that he has acquired enough experience to silent cast it?! I will not believe it even if you beat me to death!"

The stadium was in an uproar as thousands of spectators argued with each other about Leo's magic spell.

Meanwhile, Valery and the others were left speechless by his performance. There were many things about his performance that were shocking and even somewhat impossible.

First of all, the fact that he could silent cast a Tier 2 spell after just 2 months is nothing short of amazing. Then combined with his casting speed, his magic talent could be considered monstrous. However, that wasn't the end of it, as his magic power also seemed to be unrealistically powerful for someone who supposedly only started learning magic a month ago.

All in all, after just a single match that lasted for less than a minute and using a single Tier 2 magic spell, many people there could see that Leo had immense potential when it comes to magic.

"This ended faster than I would have liked. How disappointing. I'm not even satisfied." Leo sighed despite winning his first match.

He wanted to stay for another match or two, but Eve had told him that he was only allowed to participate in one match, so he reluctantly began walking off the stage.

However, right as he took two steps, someone shouted, "Hold it right there!"

Leo halted his steps and turned to look at the student who just spoke.

"Where the hell do you think you're going?! You think you can just leave after humiliating my friend and academy like that?! And let's be clear— you only won because you were lucky!"

"..."

After staring at this student for a moment, he turned to look at Eve and spoke, "Just one more, okay? I swear, this will be the last one."

"Alright." Eve reluctantly nodded.

A smile appeared on Leo's face as he turned around and returned to his previous location.

"You think I won because of luck? Then you best hope that you're luckier than me, or you will end up just like your friend." Leo spoke with a provocative smile.

"YOU BAST—" The student suddenly pointed his rod at Leo.

However, an angry voice thundered the very next moment, "The match has not begun yet! If you attack before the match officially begins, you will be disqualified!"

The student snapped back to reality and bowed to Thalia, who just spoke.

"Thank you, Miss Laurens. I got a little heated there and lost myself for a second."

"There will not be a second time." Thalia snorted.

Before the match began, Leo raised his hand and showed his opponents three fingers.

"What the hell are you trying to say?" The student asked him.

Leo smiled and said, "I will defeat you in three seconds."

The student was immediately enraged, "I really want to see how you'll defeat me in less than three seconds!"

The buzzer resounded a moment later, signaling the start of the match.

Before the buzzer even stopped, Leo took half a second to raise his arm and aim at his opponent.

Then he used 2 full seconds to cast and overcharge his Flame Blast as much as possible before releasing it within the last half a second.

BOOM!

The exact same scene as the last match happened as Leo's opponent was sent flying out of the stage.

"Holy shit! He ended the match as soon as it started! Leo— he's the real deal!"

Some of the audience began seeing Leo in a new light because of his immense talents.

However, there were still people who doubted his ability, and this accounted for the majority of the people there.

"Hahaha! This idiot must have trained nothing but Flame Blast over the past month, hence why his Flame Blast is so powerful! Hell, I am even willing to bet that he doesn't know any magic spells besides Flame Burst!"

"A fluke! It's all just a fluke!" Another said.

After defeating his second opponent, the third participant entered the stage and demanded that Leo fight him.

However, Leo wasn't having any of it this time, and he spoke, "Nah. You're not worthy."

And without saying anything else, Leo walked off the stage and returned to Eve's side, who was smiling from ear to ear for some reason.