

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 161: Kevin Stoner

"You cheeky little brat. Why are you acting so arrogant already?" Eve said to Leo when he returned.

"What are you talking about? They were looking down on me, so I decided to open their eyes a little."

"Open their eyes? You did the complete opposite! Anyways, the audience will stop underestimating you now— at least some of them. While your performance was magnificent, in the end, you had only used a Tier 2 spell, and people will find ways to make excuses for you."

Just as Eve anticipated, many of the audience still couldn't believe that Leo was qualified to participate in the tournament, even though he's already defeated 2 opponents, and both were overwhelming victories.

"His Flame Blast might be powerful, but if that's all he can do, he won't go far!"

"Those two opponents he'd luckily beat weren't that strong to begin with."

With that being said, the true experts within the audience didn't look down on Leo, as they had a good grasp on his capabilities after just watching his two matches.

"Leo Magnus... He's that kid who consumed the Fruit of Magic Awakening, right? He has potential," said the representative from the Light Family, a middle-aged man with a refined appearance.

"I really want to see if he can use other magic spells," said the Thorns Family's representative, who was a beautiful young woman and also sitting beside the Light Family's representative.

In fact, all four Celestial Families were sitting on the same row beside each other towards the front of the stadium, even though they weren't exactly on good terms with each other.

"Regardless of his potential, I still think he shouldn't have consumed that Fruit of Magic Awakening." The representative for the Scarlet Family coldly snorted, and he continued, "It would've been far more beneficial if our Scarlet Eyes had consumed it."

"Beneficial for whom? The Scarlet Family? You already have the Scarlet Eyes. Leave some resources for the rest of us, won't you?" The representative for the Tempest Family sneered.

Naturally, when they mentioned the Scarlet Eyes, they were talking about Lia Scarlet, as it was treated as some sort of prestigious title.

"Speaking of the Scarlet Eyes, how is she faring? Is she still killing her fellow students at school?" The Thorn Family's representative suddenly asked with a cunning smile on her face.

"Are you asking if she can control her eyes yet?" The Scarlet Family's representative chuckled before speaking, "According to the Scarlet Eyes herself, she has found a method to keep her eyes under control."

"What?! Are you serious?!" The other three representatives were shocked when they heard this, and they felt a little nervous as well.

The Scarlet Eyes are one of the most powerful traits in the whole world. The moment Lia Scarlet has complete control over it, she would take over the world— at least that's what many experts speculated.

This is why the other families were nervous to hear that Lia had found a way to control her eyes, as this meant that it was only a matter of time before she became a powerhouse.

"What is this method she found? I'm intrigued." The Tempest Family's representative asked.

"So what? So you can hinder us? No thanks!" The Scarlet Family's representative quickly rejected it.

However, in truth, he didn't want to say it because he didn't know the answer either. When Lia Scarlet told her family that she found a way to control her Scarlet Eyes, they were overwhelmed with joy, but Lia didn't tell them the method for some reason, and despite pressure from her parents, Lia didn't utter a single word.

In the end, they had no choice but to trust Lia's words and hope that she will get her eyes under control as soon as possible.

Sometime later, Eve sent Kevin onto the stage.

"Kevin Stoner, nice to meet ya." Kevin, who was quite bulky compared to his opponent, amused the audience.

Once the match started, Kevin immediately enhanced his body with earth magic, covering his body in a rock-like armor, which increased his defensive abilities tremendously.

"Flamethrower!" His opponent released a line of flames that engulfed Kevin's body.

However, almost as though he couldn't even feel it, Kevin started walking towards his opponent in a slow and casual manner.

"You will need more than that to damage me. Come on, I will even let you cast your strongest spell." Kevin said in a provocative manner.

His opponent stopped using Flamethrower and immediately began casting a Tier 4 magic spell.

Kevin kept his words and stood there while his opponent took the time to cast and overcharge his spell.

A few moments later—

"Fire Bomb!" The student shot out a large ball of fire that detonated the moment it landed on Kevin's body.

BOOM!

The explosion from the attack was even more powerful than Leo's Flame Blast, causing the stadium to shake a little.

However, Kevin emerged from the flames a moment later without a scratch on his body.

"Why don't you give up? You won't be able to defeat me if you cannot even damage my armor." Kevin said to his opponent, who was gritting his teeth from frustration.

Not wanting to surrender, the student continued to cast magic spells one after another, until he was out of mana.

During this whole time, Kevin just stood there with a bored expression on his face.

"I-I surrender..." The student eventually gave up and fell to his knees. It was a devastating loss for him even though he didn't suffer any damage, and the humiliation he experienced just now was indescribable.

"As expected of the Immovable Mountain, Kevin Stoner. Many of the students in this tournament won't be able to get past his defense, much less damage him." Thalia smiled from above.

In the end, Kevin decided to stay on the stage for the rest of the matches, defeating the Flying Leviathan Academy without using a single attack.

"Hahaha!" Kevin laughed out loud in a prideful manner as he walked down the stage.

He turned to look at Leo and spoke, "If you can do what I just did, I will recognize you!"

"I don't need your recognition." Leo casually shrugged.

Chapter 162: Four Witches Academy's Second Match

After defeating the Flying Leviathan Academy, the Four Witches Academy returned to the waiting room with 4 points in total.

"Leo Magnus..." Inside the Scarlet Academy's waiting room, Lia Scarlet found Leo's existence particularly intriguing for some reason.

'Leon has a dark and a wind magic affinity, but this Leo has been an ordinary person until recently, as he'd consumed the Fruit of Magic Awakening and gained the power of fire magic affinity. Although their names and demeanor are similar...' Lia was perplexed by this situation.

She instinctively knew that Leo was Leon since he was the only one who caught her interest amongst the other students, but everything about them suggested otherwise, and she had no evidence that they were the same person.

'Unless Leo had managed to keep his identity a secret and fooled everyone for many years, or the Four Witches Academy is hiding him for some reason, there's no way he could be Leon...'

Although she's never confronted or spoken with Leo before, she has seen him multiple times before, and the current Leo felt like a different person to her.

'Leo, just who are you...?' Lia wondered inwardly.

Lia eventually stopped thinking about it. After all, she will know the truth— whether Leo and Leon are the same person— once she meets him on the stage.

Sometime later, the Four Witches Academy was called to the stage again. Since they started the tournament much earlier today, they decided to do more matches.

[Four Witches Academy] versus [Red Moon Academy]

"Oh! Look what we have here! The Four Witches Academy will be doing two matches today! Furthermore, their opponent is the Red Moon Academy, who ranked top 4 in the last tournament! This is going to be an exciting one!" Thalia spoke with excitement.

"Currently, the Red Moon Academy has 4 points, and the same goes for the Four Witches Academy! Who will come out on top after this match?! Make your bets now through the app!"

Since this was a tournament, there were naturally going to be gambling involved. The rules were simple. The people put their money on the team that they think will win, and if they picked correctly, they will receive a payout.

In terms of talented students, both the Four Witches Academy and the Red Moon Academy were on equal terms with some who might argue that the Four Witches Academy is ahead by a slight amount.

During the last tournament, the Four Witches Academy ranked third whilst the Red Moon Academy ranked fourth, so it was only natural to place one's bet on the Four Witches Academy— if Leo hadn't taken up a slot for the Magic Tournament's team.

However, since the Four Witches Academy has Leo participating in the Magic Tournament, those who did not think Leo qualified would naturally think that the academy had wasted one slot, and in their eyes, it was a four versus five, so the Four Witches Academy were at a disadvantage for this tournament.

Within moments after the match was announced, 70 percent of people voted for the Red Moon Academy while only 30 percent voted for the Four Witches Academy.

"There's no way the Four Witches Academy will win this one when they're down one member!"

"I don't know. I have a feeling that Leo is still hiding some of his power."

"Even if that's the case, the Red Moon Academy isn't anything like the Flying Leviathan Academy— they're on a whole different level!"

A few minutes later, once the Four Witches Academy and the Red Moon Academy entered the stage, the audience could no longer purchase any more votes and could only wait for the match to begin.

Once both sides were prepared, they sent out their first fighters.

"Julian Shaw." The male knight from the Four Witches Academy greeted.

"Drake Wagner," said his opponent.

The two of them clashed a few moments later.

A good chunk of the audience were in awe after witnessing their high-level performance. Compared to the previous matches, this one was on another level. Of course, since this is the first match between two famous schools and two fighters with equal strength, this level of standard was to be expected.

The whole fight lasted for about 7 minutes, becoming the longest match since the beginning of the tournament.

"Winner, Julian Shaw from the Four Witches Academy!" Thalia announced after he narrowly defeated his opponent.

After the fight, Julian decided to stay for the second match even though he could barely move after his first match. In his mind, he wanted to weaken the next opponent as much as he could before going down, allowing his replacement a higher chance of victory.

However, Julian didn't even last a minute in the second match.

"Cora, you'll go next." Eve said to her.

"I understand."

"Cora Shannon."

"Troy Crane."

After a brief introduction, the two of them started fighting each other.

"Since the Four Witches Academy only has 2 knights for this year's tournament, if she cannot defeat two opponents, they will lose one point, huh?" The spectators spoke to each other while they watched the match, unaware that Leo was also a participant.

"The Four Witches Academy will definitely lose at least one point from their match with the Red Moon Academy."

"Definitely."

"I also think so."

Five minutes later, the second round of the Knights Tournament was concluded.

"Winner, Troy Crane!" Thalia announced.

In the end, Cora couldn't even defeat one opponent, much less two.

After winning the match, Troy turned around and began walking off the stage without uttering a single word.

However, Cora stopped him, "Where are you going? The match isn't done yet."

"What?" Troy turned to look at her with a puzzled face.

It was at this moment another figure walked onto the stage.

When Troy and the audience saw who this person was, their eyes widened with shock.

"Isn't that Leo?! What is he doing on the stage?!" Many people exclaimed.

"What are you doing? The Magic Tournament hasn't begun yet." Troy said after snapping out of his daze.

"I'm well aware." Leo calmly said, and he continued, "I'm your next opponent."

Chapter 163: Fighting the Red Moon Academy

"You're my next opponent? That's not a very funny joke, Leo. You're already participating in the Magic Tournament, which is a complete waste of slots, by the way." Troy spoke with a nervous grin on his face.

"So what if I am participating in the Magic Tournament? I am also participating in the Knight Tournament." Leo calmly said.

"What?! Is that even possible?!" Troy immediately turned to look at Thalia, as did the audience.

Under the gaze of everyone there, Thalia nodded her head with a carefree smile, "Yup! Leo Magnus has set a precedent and will be participating in both tournaments. This has been approved by our organization."

The audience immediately went into an uproar, "Holy shit! This is truly unprecedented!"

"This changes everything! If Leo is participating in the Knight Tournament as well, they might not lose!"

"As much as I hate to admit this, he's definitely one of the strongest swordsmen in this city."

Now that the audience was aware of the truth, many of them regretted betting on the Red Moon Academy.

Most of them voted against the Four Witches Academy because they thought that Leo wasn't participating in the Knight Tournament, but that turned out to be false.

Of course, nobody can blame these people, as nobody has ever participated in both Knight and Magic Tournament at once.

After all, these tournaments were back-to-back, meaning that you won't get any time to rest in-between the matches if you participated in both.

After consuming the Mana Suppressing Pill, Leo pointed his sword at Troy and spoke, "What are you waiting for? Get your ass back here so I can finish this already."

Troy tightened his grasp on his sword and returned to the stage with a nervous expression on his face.

'There's no need to be nervous. I heard that he's got amnesia after going missing for three months. He's probably still injured.' Troy tried to convince himself that Leo wasn't as strong as before, boosting his own morale.

After all, if Leo was as strong as before, then he'd have no chance of winning.

Once the two of them were in position, Thalia started the match.

Whoosh!

Troy made the first movement and rushed at Leo.

As for Leo, he merely stood there with his sword placed in front of him.

"Ha!"

Troy released a loud shout as he slashed his sword that moved with extreme speed.

Clang!

However, Leo managed to block it with ease.

"Is that all?" Leo asked in a low voice, startling Troy, who immediately jumped back to gain some distance.

Leo remained in his spot, almost as though he was provoking Troy to approach him.

After waiting for a few moments without any results, Troy had ran out of patience and had no choice but to approach Leo instead, and he would unleash a flurry of slashes.

'This bastard! His fighting style has changed!' Troy cursed inwardly when Leo blocked all of his attacks with ease and with minimal movement.

This wasn't his first time fighting Leo, as they'd fought each other during the previous tournaments, and Leo would normally be the aggressive one.

However, this year, Leo was the complete opposite, and he was almost like a turtle that only focused on defense.

But Troy will soon realize that he was wrong, as the moment he made a mistake, Leo stepped forward and shoved his sword, striking Troy directly in the heart with the tip of his blade.

If it weren't for the protection magic in the stadium, Troy would have died on the spot right there and then, but because the protection exists, Leo's blade penetrated an inch into Troy's body before it was forced to stop.

However, the protection magic did not stop the impact from the strike, and Troy was sent flying off the stage.

In a little over a minute, Leo had defeated his opponent without moving from his spot.

The audience were in awe, but they were not surprised, as they have seen Leo's superb swordsmanship before.

"Next!" Leo said as his gaze focused on the last fighter from the Red Moon Academy.

The student entered the stage, and the fight started shortly after.

This time, Leo didn't play defensively and went full offense.

His opponent was quickly overwhelmed, and in less than a minute, Leo achieved his victory, gaining another point for the Four Witches Academy.

"Oh my! What an upset! Leo Magnus has managed to turn the tide and defeated two opponents by himself!" Thalia shouted in excitement.

Leo swallowed the antidote and walked off the stage.

"G-Good job, Leo." Cora said to him in a somewhat nervous voice.

Leo silently nodded in acknowledgement.

The Magic Tournament began shortly after.

"Are you going to send me this time?" Leo asked Eve.

"I want everyone to have a chance to stand on the stage," she said. "If I send you and you win all of the matches by yourself, the others might hate you even more. Don't worry, you'll have plenty of chances later. I promise."

Sometime later, both academies sent out their first fighter.

"John. You're up." Eve said.

John nodded with a calm face and approached the stage, his body oozing with confidence.

"John Cloven." John introduced himself with a respectful bow.

"Douglas Woods. Nice to meet you." His opponent returned the bow.

Once they were in position, Thalia started the match.

The mana around the stage immediately began to fluctuate as both fights began casting their spells.

"Wind Cutter!"

"Lightning Bolt!"

A sharp blade made of wind came from Douglas while a ball of lightning emerged from John's wand.

'Lightning magic affinity, huh? How unexpected.' Leo thought to himself after seeing John's magic affinity for the first time.

'Now that I think about it, I don't know Valery's magic affinity either.' He just realized this.

After releasing his first magic spell, John immediately went to cast his second one.

"Lightning Spear!" In less than a second, John summoned a lightning rod that was crackling with electricity.

His opponent reacted as quickly and summoned a wall of wind to protect himself, but the Lightning Spear penetrated the wind wall. However, Douglas' intention was only to delay the Lightning Spear for a split second so that he could dodge it.

Their match left the spectators on the edge of their seats. Compared to the previous matches, this one was incredibly fast-paced.

Chapter 164: Fighting the Red Moon Academy(2)

"Thunder Strike!"

"Tornado!"

"Chain Lightning!"

"Cyclone!"

John and Douglas exchanged magic spells left and right, causing the mana in the area to become more and more unstable.

When the mana in the air became too unstable, the audience began feeling a little nauseous, which is a common occurrence during such a phenomenon, and it was called mana sickness.

Though, the mana disturbance was being contained within the fighting area through magic, so it wasn't too bad.

And almost as though they were showcasing their magic spells, both participants started with Tier 1 magic spells before going up in tiers.

Eventually, they started bombarding each other with Tier 5 magic spells.

"Lightning Cannon!"

"Tornado!"

A concentrated beam of lightning shot out from John's wand, colliding with a tornado that threatened to shred everything in its path.

In the end, John's magic power was stronger, and his Lightning Cannon tore a hole right through Douglas' magic spell, before hitting him directly in the chest.

Boom!

Douglas was sent flying off the stage while feeling like he'd been struck by lightning.

"Winner, John Cloven!"

Even though John won the fight, it wasn't an easy victory, and he had exhausted more than half of his mana. Therefore, he decided to step down to let someone replace him while he recovered his mana.

"Great work, John." Valery said to him with a sweet smile on her face.

"You guys should be careful. They have grown a lot stronger since the last tournament." John warned them with a stern face.

Up next, Eve decided to send in Valery.

"Valery Warren." Valery greeted her opponent.

"Opal Tempest," said the beautiful young lady before her, who bore the name of Tempest, one of four Celestial Families.

'Opal Tempest... She has an S-Rank magic talent and an A-Rank water magic affinity...' Valery recalled her opponent's capabilities as she silently waited for the match to begin.

The match began a moment later, and the two ladies on the stage immediately began casting their spell.

Unlike the previous match, the current fighters decided to use their powerful spells from the get-go.

An azure-colored magic circle with four rings appeared before Valery while a dark blue magic circle also with four rings appeared in front of Opal Tempest.

After spending a moment chanting, they unleashed their magic spells.

"Ice Nova!"

"Hydro Pump!"

A wave of ice appeared before Valery and expanded rapidly towards her opponent, and Opal launched a powerful blast of water at Valery.

When the two magic spells collided, hundreds of tiny fragments of ice scattered everywhere as Opal's Hydro Pump smashed through Valery's thick ice.

When she noticed that her ice magic wasn't strong enough to withstand her opponent's magic, Valery immediately dodged out of the way before the blast of water could penetrate her ice.

"High Tides!" Opal Tempest quickly cast another spell, summoning a wall wave of water that threatened to wash Valery off the stage.

"Ice Barrier!" In response, Valery immediately created a thick wall of ice around her body.

BOOM!

Valery could feel the water smashing into her ice barrier, which caused it to crack.

However, her barrier managed to last.

Afterward, Valery continued to cast more defensive spells as Opal Tempest kept on spamming her water magic.

'Ice magic, huh? I can feel its coldness even from here...!' Leo thought to himself as he stared at the beautiful ice created by Valery.

Their fight continued for many minutes until both of their mana started running low.

"Why don't we end this with our strongest magic spell?" Opal Tempest suddenly suggested.

Valery nodded, "Sure."

The two of them gained some distance from each other and began casting their most powerful spell.

Sometime later, once they were prepared, they unleashed their Tier 5 magic spell at the same time.

"Glacial Lance!"

"Sea Splitter!"

Valery created a massive lance out of ice and tossed it ahead while Opal formed a colossal sword from water and slashed it downward.

"How unfortunate." Eve shook her head before their magic spells even collided.

The very next moment, the colossal water sword smashed through the ice lance with ease and reached Valery.

"Ah!"

Valery released a painful cry as she was thrown off the stage from the impact.

"Valery! Are you okay?!" John quickly rushed to her side.

"Yes... I am fine... Sorry, I couldn't defeat her this year either..." Valery sighed.

Valery had fought against Opal before during a previous tournament, and just like today, she lost to her.

However, even though she was defeated, nobody in the audience found her to be weak. In fact, they were impressed and even cheered for her, as Valery had just gone up against someone from the Tempest Family.

The Tempest Family is just as influential and powerful as the Light Family and the Scarlet Family, and their speciality was water magic.

After defeating Valery, Opal walked off the stage and decided to recover her mana.

Eve turned to look at Kevin and Helia.

"Which of you wants to go next?" She asked them.

Kevin looked at Helia and spoke, "Since I have already gone and you're the only one who hasn't fought a single match yet, why don't you go?"

"Okay." Helia nodded.

However, before she entered the stage, she approached Leo and said to him in a low voice, "I will show you what real fire magic is like. Don't blink or you might miss it."

"Sure...?" Leo wasn't sure about her intentions, so he didn't really say anything.

"Helia Barnett." Helia introduced herself shortly after both fighters entered the stage.

"It's a pleasure to fight you again, Crimson Witch Helia, or should I call you the Fiery Princess? In case you don't remember, my name is Bram Tombend, and I am—"

"Save your breath." Helia suddenly interrupted.

Bram then spoke with a cold smile, "If you think you will be able to defeat me with a single strike like the last time, I will have to disappoint you."

"Whatever." Helia remained nonchalant.

The match began a moment later.

Chapter 165: Crimson Witch

The moment the match started, Helia's opponent, Bram Tombend quickly summoned a massive dome made of earth magic around him, barricading himself in it.

His intention was clear— to stall out the match for as long as possible so that Opal Tempest had more time to recover her mana and to make Helia waste her energy.

Although this kind of defensive strategy isn't illegal in the tournament, it was frowned upon by the audience because it was boring to watch someone essentially repeatedly hitting a wall.

However, the audience appeared to be quite excited for some reason.

"How many strikes do you think it will take the Crimson Witch to break Bram's defense this year?"

"She's broken his defenses with a single hit three times now. I doubt it will be any different this year."

"I wouldn't be so sure about that. I heard that the Red Moon Academy had changed their training regimen at the beginning of last year and have shown tremendous improvements since then."

"Let's see if that training was worth it."

After Bram enclosed himself in multiple defensive magic spells, Helia released a low sigh, "You never learn, do you? No matter how many defenses you set up, it won't stop me from reaching you."

Despite her words, Helia did not immediately attack his defenses and decided to give him several minutes to prepare.

Once she believed that enough time had passed, she made her move.

"Ready or not, here I come."

After taking a deep breath, Helia's body began overflowing with mana, and flames started appearing on her uniform without damaging it.

Her red hair fluttered behind her back like a cape, and her amber eyes changed colors, becoming reddish orange, just like her flames, and they seemed to be alive, almost as though it contained flames within.

The audience were at the edge of their seats once again when they saw this.

"I have been waiting for this moment since the last tournament! No matter how many times I see it, I am always excited!"

Many of the spectators knew what Helia was trying to do because she had used this same strategy to defeat Bram on multiple occasions.

Once she had gathered enough mana, Helia began to chant her spell.

"Burn hotter than the sun and melt everything that dares to block your path—
Hephaestus' Flaming Sword!"

Helia lifted her arm into the sky, and a massive 20-meter sword made of pure flames materialized above her.

"Ha!"

Helia flourished the flaming sword directly at the earth dome.

The next moment—

BOOM!

Almost as though a volcano had erupted, flames spewed everywhere during the moment of impact, causing it to rain fire for a brief moment.

The flaming sword was so powerful that it not only completely smashed through all of Bram's defenses, but it even split the stage in half.

As for Bram, he was sent flying off the stage, and he was knocked unconscious before he even landed on the floor.

"You're not the only one who's improved since the last tournament." Helia mumbled in a low voice before she turned around and walked off the stage, as that one Tier 6 magic spell had just drained her of most of her mana.

When the medical team on standby went to check Bram's condition, they found out that he had several broken bones, but besides that, his life wasn't endangered.

The audience erupted with cheers after Helia's overwhelming victory.

"As expected of the Crimson Witch! She's definitely worthy of being called the strongest witch within the Four Witches Academy!"

Indeed, Helia was considered the strongest magic student in the Four Witches Academy by many, and her performance today only solidified that belief.

Since Helia destroyed half of the stage, the staff there had to fix it using magic.

"Good job, Helia." John and the others said to her when she returned to them.

"It wasn't much. I was only able to defeat him because of his niche antics that allowed me to take my time and use Tier 6 magic." Helia said in a humble manner.

She turned to look at Leo the next moment, but she didn't say anything, her thoughts obvious.

"Looks like she's challenging you." Lilith suddenly said.

"Why?" Leo asked, as he couldn't understand Helia.

"From what I heard, she's been trying to get the Headmistress to teach her for years now, but she would always get turned away. Perhaps she's a little jealous that you got the Headmistress to train you when she's been trying to do the same for so long. Furthermore, she might see you as a rival now that you also have fire magic affinity."

"I see..." Leo mumbled.

While they waited for the stage to get fixed, Eve spoke, "Kevin, you can go next."

However, to everyone's surprise, Kevin shook his head and refused, "Sorry, but I don't want to go. Send Leo instead."

"What is your reasoning for your decision?" Eve didn't get angry and asked in a calm manner.

Kevin turned to look at Leo and smiled, "I want to see what he's truly capable of and how long he'll last."

"I would like that as well." Helia suddenly said, and she continued, "I want to see why you think he qualified to join our side of the tournament, Headmistress. And until he loses, I won't enter the stage."

"..."

Eve turned to look at John and Valery for their opinion on the matter.

Valery silently nodded her head.

"I will follow Valery's decision." John then said.

Eve rubbed her eyes and sighed, "Alright, but don't blame me later for not letting you guys get more screen time on the stage."

She turned to look at Leo and continued with a smile on her face, "You heard them, Leo. Starting now, you will be the first and last person on the stage— at least until you lose. Do you understand?"

"Seriously...?" Leo mumbled in a dazed voice.

"Isn't this what you wanted? Now you can finally go all out." Lilith chuckled.

"I guess."

Leo said a moment later, "I understand. I will stay on the stage until the end of the tournament then."

Chapter 166: Leo Takes the Stage

It didn't take long for the stage to be fixed, and within minutes, the tournament was ready to continue.

"Leo, go ahead. It's your turn. Remember, you'll fight until you lose." Eve reminded him.

"I know. By the way, am I still only allowed to use up to Tier 2?" Leo then asked.

"Since you're up against the Red Moon Academy, I'll allow you to use up to Tier 4 magic spells— but only if you really need to use it."

"Alright."

"Then I will see you all later— once I defeat all of them." Leo glanced at the others before walking onto the stage.

"It's Leo! He's going again!"

"Ha! Let's see how long he'll last before the Red Moon Academy!"

"He'll probably be blown away in less than a minute."

"Leo Magnus." Leo introduced himself once he was standing before his opponent on the stage.

"Finn Cunningham."

'This guy will most likely go for a fast Fire Blast like his previous matches. I won't make it in time if I use any high tier magic spell. Once I block his Fire Blast, he will need some time to recast. I will use this chance to defeat him!' Finn thought to himself and planned the whole fight in his head right before the tournament started.

The moment the fight began, Finn quickly cast a Tier 1 defensive magic spell on himself, creating a fire barrier around his body.

'He also uses fire magic, huh? My Fire Blast will have a weaker effect on him because of his Fire Barrier that greatly reduces all fire magic damage.' Leo thought to himself.

However, he didn't care about that and proceeded to cast Fire Blast anyway.

BOOM!

The Fire Blast consumed Finn's figure.

Once the flames died down, Finn's figure was revealed, and to nobody's surprise, he wasn't damaged by the Fire Blast.

"If you want to fight fire with fire, your fire magic must be stronger than mine, and that is clearly not the case!" Finn laughed out loud from within his fire barrier, feeling quite confident in his magic.

Leo smiled and said, "If one isn't enough, I just need to keep doing it until it breaks."

He then cast another Fire Blast, then another— and another.

Leo spammed Fire Blast every second, leaving the audience and Finn speechless.

'How can he cast this fast?! I can't find an opening like this!' He cried inwardly.

No matter how fast one can cast spells, one would normally need a moment to prepare their next spell after casting. However, Leo didn't seem to have this flaw as he kept casting spells one after another with barely any pauses in between.

"Is Fire Blast the only spell he can cast? What a waste of mana!"

"Hahaha! That's definitely the case! No wonder why his Fire Blast is so powerful! Turns out it's the only spell he's practiced for the past month!"

"Clearly, it's not powerful enough to break Finn's barrier."

"What the hell is that idiot doing?!" Kevin suddenly exclaimed in an angry manner.

"Doesn't he realize how much mana he's wasting by doing that?! Even if he can eventually break Finn's Fire Barrier, he would've spent a large amount of mana to do so, and Finn could easily create another Fire Barrier afterward and use far less mana than what Leo needs to break it!"

Unbeknownst to Kevin and everyone there, even though Leo was using a lot of mana to spam Fire Blasts, his mana regenerated fast enough to negate all of that, so he was still at full mana.

Eventually, Leo got bored of casting just Fire Blast, so he decided to change it up a bit.

"So I need 13 Fire Blasts to get through your Fire Barrier, huh?" A mysterious smile suddenly appeared on Leo's face.

Over a dozen magic circles suddenly appeared before Leo. Instead of casting a single Fire Blast, he has decided to multicast them!

Although it was possible to cast magic spells without showing its magic circle, it was much harder to do so while multicasting, so much so that even Leo couldn't achieve it with his current experience.

"What the hell?" Finn muttered in a dazed voice when he saw the magic circles.

And before he could react, Leo released all of the Fire Blasts he had been overcharging.

Fourteen Fire Blasts exploded on Finn the following second, instantly destroying his Fire Barrier before sending him flying.

Fortunately for Finn, he didn't fly off the stage, so he was still in the match.

Unfortunately for him, Leo had already begun casting his next set of Fire Blasts.

"You have got to be fucking kidding me..." Finn uttered these words with a look of disbelief on his face right before another set of Fire Blasts knocked him unconscious and sent him flying off the stage.

The whole stadium was dead silent after witnessing the spectacle.

"W-What the hell is going on? Just how did he achieve such ridiculous casting speed?" Jennifer, who was part of Valery's team during the Wilderness Training Course, muttered in a dazed voice from the spectators' area.

"Forget about his casting speed... He just multicas 14 Fire Blasts at once! His mental strength is ridiculously strong!" Conan, who was also from Valery's team, said.

Once the silence broke, the whole stadium erupted with noises and chattering.

Even though most of them didn't want to admit it, they were very impressed by Leo's performance just now.

"Even though he's won, he's probably used up most of his mana by now."

"Looks like the Four Witches Academy might be winning this one."

"No, it's still too early to tell. They may have more people, but most of them are exhausted. If the Red Moon Academy's last fighter can defeat Kevin without spending too much mana, they still have a good chance of winning."

However, to everyone's surprise, Leo remained on the stage even after winning the match.

"Does he plan on weakening the next opponent for Kevin? I guess it makes sense, especially considering their situation, but I doubt it will have much of an effect."

Sometime later, the fifth fighter from the Red Moon Academy entered the stage.

Chapter 167: Leo Takes the Stage(2)

"Tyler Freeman." The fifth participant from the Red Moon Academy introduced himself.

"Leo Magnus."

"If you think you can tire me out with what little mana you have left, good luck, because it's not going to work on me." Tyler said to him.

"How do you know that I have little mana left?" Leo asked with a raised eyebrow.

"And I don't plan on tiring you out. I'm going to defeat you and then do the same to that student who defeated Valery."

"Your bluffs won't work on me. With the amount of Fire Blasts you have spammed, I would be surprised if you have more than a third of your mana left." Tyler smiled.

Leo merely smiled at his words. If Tyler knew that his mana was actually completely full, he'd probably die from shock.

"Leo, don't go overboard with your mana regeneration. You'll definitely raise suspicions if you keep using mana like you have unlimited mana." Lilith suddenly warned him.

"I know. I will defeat him with a single magic spell."

"Oh? And how are you going to do that?"

"Just wait and see."

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

Tyler immediately pointed his wand at Leo and began casting his spell, but before he could even finish halfway with his spell, Leo rushed at him at a speed that took everyone by surprise, even leaving behind a trail of fire behind him.

Whoosh!

Leo zoomed through the stage faster than a racing car going at full speed.

When he arrived before Tyler, Leo did not stop and continued charging forward, striking Tyler in the chest with his shoulder.

"Ah!"

Tyler released a loud cry as he felt his ribs being shattered before his body was sent flying off the stage.

Many people within the audience stood up when they saw what just happened, their faces filled with shock, but it was not because Leo had managed to win the match.

"He didn't use Fire Blast?!"

"That Leo! He can use magic spells beside Fire Blast?!"

"That was Flame Dash, a Tier 3 magic spell!"

"Holy shit! Leo actually knows a Tier 3 magic spell! And he can even silent cast it!"

The audience was in an uproar because Leo had used a magic spell that wasn't Fire Blast for the first time, and it was even a tier above Fire Blast.

Before this, pretty much everybody assumed that Leo only knew Fire Blast, but was no longer the case, and they began wondering what else Leo had hidden in his sleeves.

"How dirty!"

"Damn you, Leo!"

The Red Moon Academy students began cursing at him shortly after snapping out of their daze.

Leo turned to look at them and spoke while picking his ear with his pinky, acting quite obnoxious, "Huh? What are you talking about? What was so dirty about that?"

"You mislead everybody with your Fire Blast and defeated Tyler using such a dirty tactic!" One of the exclaimed.

Leo raised an eyebrow and said, "How is that dirty? Because you assumed that I can only use Fire Blast? I never made such claims, so don't blame me for making your own assumptions. Furthermore, even if I purposely mislead you, so what about it? Is there

any rule that states I must reveal all of my secrets and skills to my opponent before the match? You guys sound so stupid right now."

The Red Moon Academy was fuming in anger now, and it was not just the participants. Even the students in the audience were stomping their feet in anger, as they all believed that Tyler's loss wasn't deserved.

"Enough. I will deal with him." A calm voice suddenly resounded, and the participants turned to look at Opal Tempest, who was already approaching the stage.

"Opal Tempest," she quickly introduced herself.

"Leo Magnus."

"This will be a tough match for you, Leo. After all, your fire magic is very weak to her water magic." Lilith said.

And she continued, "Of course, I am assuming that you will not use anything above Tier 3."

Leo didn't respond to Lilith's assessment and remained silent, seemingly pondering about something.

Opal also didn't say anything after her introduction.

The moment the match began, Opal created a water barrier around her.

Even though he knew it was pointless, he wanted to see what would happen if he attacked her water barrier with his fire magic, so he casually threw a Fire Blast at her.

Ssssss.

A sizzling noise resounded as his Fire Blast was instantly consumed by Opal's water barrier.

'Interesting...!' Leo thought to himself after seeing the results.

Meanwhile, Opal used this chance to send out a spell of her own.

"Water Burst!"

Spikes suddenly emerged from her water barrier before shooting out like some kind of explosive.

Leo quickly protected himself with Fire Barrier.

Ssssssss.

This time, his fire evaporated the small water projectiles.

He smiled when he saw this, and he mumbled, "Fire may be weak to water, but water isn't invulnerable to fire. If I want to defeat her, I will need something much stronger than Fire Blast— something that will completely evaporate her water."

It was at this moment Opal suddenly cast a Tier 4 magic spell.

"Hydro Pump!"

A stream of water that could penetrate even steel flew at Leo.

And to everyone's surprise, Leo didn't even bother dodging it and stood there silently.

SSSSSSSS...

Leo poured as much mana as he could into his Fire Barrier to increase the heat it generated, turning himself into a small sun.

Unlike Fire Blast, Leo could add as much mana as he could into the Fire Barrier, and coupled with his mana regeneration, the strength of his Fire Barrier reached unprecedented levels.

It had gotten to the point where even the audience could feel the heat from their seats.

As for Opal's Hydro Pump, it was evaporating faster than it could reach Leo.

'This guy... Just how much mana did he put into his Fire Barrier? No... How does he still have this much mana left?!' Opal cried inwardly.

Once the water stopped, Leo made his move.

"Now it's my turn." He spoke in a nonchalant voice as he pointed his palm at Opal.

The following moment, a ring of fire appeared on the stage and surrounded Opal before shooting up into the sky, completely trapping her inside.

Chapter 168: Flame Wall

As the fire wall around Opal Tempest soared higher and higher, the audience stood from their seats once again from shock.

"Impossible! This magic is Flame Wall— a Tier 4 spell!" Kevin exclaimed when he saw the sky-high flames on the stage.

"First Flame Dash and now Flame Wall...? Just how much more power is he hiding...?" Helia mumbled in a dazed voice as she stared at the fiery scene before her.

Meanwhile, the spectators were so shocked that they couldn't believe their eyes.

"It took me 6 months to learn a Tier 4 spell, yet he's managed to do it in less than a month?! This guy is insane!"

"Do you think this is because of the Fruit of Magic Awakening? What if it does more than just awaken one's magic? What if it can boost their talent as well?!"

"Fuck! That would make the Fruit of Magic Awakening even more valuable!"

"And that will make Leo's crime of eating it even more heinous!"

While the students and ordinary spectators in the audience cursed Leo, those with influence and from powerful backgrounds were thinking about something else.

"Although he's quite the controversial topic, we cannot ignore his talents, and the heat will eventually die down. I think I might recruit him into our family." The representative from the Thorns Family said.

Naturally, she wasn't the only one with such thoughts, as the other three families were also thinking about adding Leo to their family.

"That will depend on your capabilities," said the representative from the Tempest Family.

"Are your families running out of talent or something? While it may seem like he has some talent, I don't think he's worthy of our attention." The representative from the Scarlet Family snorted with an arrogant look on his face.

The representative from the Light Family remained silent, but one can tell by looking at his face that he was in deep thoughts.

Meanwhile, inside the Flame Wall, Opal was barely able to defend herself from the intense heat that evaporated her water barrier faster than she could fix it, and she did not have enough mana to break out of the Flame Walls.

'Damn it! Is this how I will lose?! To a newbie magic user who has only studied magic for a month?!' Opal gritted her teeth in frustration, but there was nothing she could do in this situation but wait for her defeat.

In the end, she decided to deactivate her water barrier and focused on breaking the Flame Wall even if it meant using all of her mana.

"Water Eruption!"

Opal ignored the burning sensation on her body and endured the pain while she cast a Tier 4 magic spell, which ended up using the rest of her mana.

BOOM!

A flow of water erupted before her and attacked the deadly flames.

When the two magic spells collided with one another, it produced a large amount of steam that quickly filled the stage.

Opal had managed to weaken the Flame Wall, but she quickly realized that she did not defeat it, and within moments, the Flame Wall surged again.

"Aaaaah!"

Without any mana left to protect her, Opal felt as though she was being baked inside an oven, and her skin felt like it was burning away.

Leo eventually deactivated the Flame Wall.

Once the flames died down, the audience could finally see Opal again, and she was lying on the stage with the majority of her clothes burned away. However, her skin appeared to be fine, only looking slightly rosy, almost as though she had accidentally slept in the sun for too long and received sunburn.

"Winner, Leo Magnus! Congratulations to the Four Witches Academy for acquiring their 6th point!" Thalia announced as her gaze was fixated on Leo for some reason.

A few female staff members quickly approached the stage and covered up Opal's body with a towel before carrying her away.

Leo didn't linger around and quickly got off the stage, where Kevin and the others were waiting for him.

"What's wrong? You don't seem satisfied. Were you hoping that I would lose? Sorry, but I don't plan on losing. I am going to win every match until the end of the tournament." Leo said when he noticed their weird expressions.

And he continued, "And don't try to talk me out of it. You were the ones who came up with this idea."

"Who said anything about talking you out of it? And I do not regret it." Kevin said with a nervous smile on his face. "After all, I finally got to see what you're truly capable of. Now the question is how long you'll be able to keep this up."

"Is that so?" Leo casually shrugged.

"Anyways, I'm tired, so I am going to rest in the waiting room. Call me when I need to enter the stage again."

Eve then said, "We won't be participating in any more matches for the day so you can go back to the hotel if you want. I will let Camille escort you back."

"Okay." He nodded.

Camille showed up shortly after to escort Leo back to the hotel while the others remained with Eve. Even though they no longer had any more matches for the day, it would be disrespectful of them to leave before they are officially dismissed.

"Headmistress... Just what kind of training did you make Leo go through? I cannot imagine how he can become this powerful in just a month." Valery suddenly asked her.

Eve smiled and said, "My training methods are a secret."

However, the students didn't give up and continued to ask her questions regarding Leo.

"How are you feeling?" Camille asked Leo as they drove back to the hotel.

"I don't know... A little underwhelmed?" He sighed.

"I thought these students would be much stronger, but I guess I was wrong. I had set my expectations too high."

"If you're comparing these students to the Headmistress and Khrome, of course they'll seem weak. The Headmistress is literally one of the strongest Adventurers in the whole city and Khrome has decades more experience than these students."

"I know that, but still..."

Once they returned to the hotel, Leo immediately went to his room to take a shower before retiring for the rest of the day.

Chapter 169: Lia Scarlet's First Appearance

After a good night's rest, Leo woke up early in the morning and went downstairs for the hotel's breakfast.

Naturally, there were students from the other schools there, and they would all turn to look at Leo when they noticed his presence in the dining room.

It felt quite awkward for him, but he still ignored all of them and pretended as though they weren't even there.

A few minutes after he sat down at an empty table and began eating his food, he noticed a figure sitting right in front of him.

"Normally, one would ask if they could sit at a table if there is already somebody there. It's called being polite." Leo spoke as he looked at the person who just sat before him.

"You dare to talk about being polite when you basically stripped me naked in front of tens of thousands of people?" A cold voice resounded.

This person was Opal Tempest, who he defeated yesterday and also stripped naked with his Flame Wall.

"If you want to blame something, blame the nature of this world. Fire burns things. If you want me to apologize for burning your clothes, you might as well ask me to apologize for fighting you." Leo calmly said.

"You sharp-tongued bastard..."

"Did you come here just to curse at me? If you're going to eat, hurry up and eat."

"Hmph!" Opal coldly snorted before she ignored him and started eating her food.

'This bastard doesn't give a damn about my background, almost as though the Tempest Family isn't in his eyes!'

This is the first time a commoner like Leo dares to disrespect her so openly, and it made her incredibly frustrated. However, there was nothing she could do. If she causes any commotion or hurts Leo during the tournament, her entire academy will be dragged down with her, and they would be disqualified from the tournament, regardless of her background.

After quickly finishing his breakfast, Leo left the dining area and gathered with the others in the lobby before they made their way back to the stadium.

Inside the waiting room for the Four Witches Academy, the atmosphere was quite tense, and Leo could feel the others' gaze on him.

He wanted to say something, but he didn't know what to say, and in the end, he remained silent until they were called onto the stage.

[Four Witches Academy] versus [Maxon Academy]

"Um... Does your 'fight until you lose' challenge apply to us as well?" Cora asked him.

Since only the magic students agreed to it, she wasn't sure if it applied to them as well.

And that is exactly what Leo said, "Since the agreement was only between me and the magic students, it wouldn't be fair to drag you into it, so you can go first if you want."

"Okay." Cora nodded.

Unlike the magic students that already have plenty of fame, she wanted to stay in the spotlight a little longer.

Cora entered the stage shortly after.

Several minutes later, she walked off the stage with a victory.

Julian approached the stage next, and he went on to defeat the next two opponents, granting them another point.

Compared to the Red Moon Academy, the Maxon Academy wasn't anywhere as powerful, so they had no trouble during their matches.

Once Julian got off the stage, Leo entered the stage and waited for his opponent for the Magic Tournament.

"Leo is going to fight first?" The audience were surprised.

They expected for the others to go first since he had his spotlight yesterday, but that didn't appear to be the case.

When the match began, Leo immediately blasted his opponent off the stage with a quick and powerful Fire Blast.

"He's gone back to using Fire Blast!"

"His opponents are probably too weak to make him use anything stronger."

After the first match, Leo stayed for the second match, then the third.

"Does he intend on fighting everybody today?! Are the others okay with this? He's hogging all of the spotlight!"

A few more moments later, Leo won all five matches within minutes and gained the Four Witches Academy their 8th point.

It was a flawless victory, and he made it seem effortless.

The other participants didn't want to admit it, but they could no longer take Leo as a joke. In fact, he'd become a real menace that was almost at Lia Scarlet's level.

"Who do you think is stronger? Leo or Lia Scarlet?"

"Is that even a question? Lia Scarlet is a monster who is on a whole other level. Leo cannot even begin to compare to her."

"I would be very surprised if Leo can last a minute against Lia Scarlet. She defeated half of the Four Witches Academy's team by herself during the last tournament."

"I don't know... What are the chances of him hiding even more of his powers?"

"Unless he knows a Tier 7 magic spell, he cannot compare to Lia Scarlet."

"That's impossible... Nobody can learn a Tier 7 magic spell in a month..."

Time passed quickly, and the Four Witches Academy didn't get to fight a second match that day.

As for the other schools, those that have less than 2 points after fighting three matches were kicked out of the tournament.

On the fourth day of the tournament.

"Starting today, those with less than 5 points and lose will be permanently out of the tournament!" Thalia announced right before the first match began.

Sometime later, the first match began.

[Scarlet Academy] versus [Sakura Academy]

"Ooooh!"

The audience erupted in cheers when they saw this matchup, as the Sakura Academy was ranked third in the previous tournament.

The Sakura Academy showed up first, and the Scarlet Academy showed up a minute later.

When the Scarlet Academy showed up, compared to the previous three days, there was an additional person there.

"It's Lia Scarlet! She's finally decided to show up after three days of absence!"

"As expected of the Sakura Academy! They are an opponent that she cannot ignore!"
The audience were filled with excitement.

Meanwhile, Leo stared intently at Lia's face through the screen, his thoughts unknown.