

# Magic System in a Parallel World

## - Chapter 170: Ruthless |

### Chapter 170: Ruthless

"If it isn't our little Mana Drain addict. I wonder how she'll perform." Lilith said when she saw Lia's appearance.

"How powerful do you think she is?" Leo asked her.

"It's hard to say, but I'm pretty confident that she's one of— if not the strongest student in this tournament."

Leo sighed out loud, "Why did she also participate in this tournament? She doesn't seem like the kind of person who would care about these kinds of things."

"She's probably doing it to increase her own reputation."

"If you ask me, I say she's already famous enough. Look at how many people are cheering for her."

The tournament began shortly after.

The Knight Tournament was very exciting and fierce with both sides fighting to the bitter end. Each fight took about 10 minutes, and during this time, the fighters would try to suppress one another with barely any pauses in-between.

In the end, the Sakura Academy actually narrowly defeated the Scarlet Academy, taking their first defeat.

"Oooooooh! The Sakura Academy has managed to defeat the Scarlet Academy, becoming the first school to take a point from them! Marvelous work!"

"..."

The magic students from the Scarlet Academy looked at the knights that lost with disdain on their faces.

"A bunch of trash. How could you lose to those weaklings?"

"Our Scarlet Academy lost face because of your defeat. You better prepare yourselves once we get back to the academy."

The Scarlet Academy did not take defeats lightly, and many of their students were perfectionist, which made their environment incredibly competitive and toxic. However, because of this pressure that always bore down on them, its students were levels above the other academies.

Despite this, they still lost against the Sakura Academy, which wasn't that surprising, because they were ranked first when it comes to swordsmanship.

As for the Scarlet Academy, they were the complete opposite, being first in magic and third in swordsmanship.

The Four Witches Academy was slightly behind them, being second in magic and fourth in swordsmanship.

"Lia, what do you want to do?" The Headmaster of the Scarlet Family, who was also Lia's uncle, asked her.

"I will finish this quickly." She said in a nonchalant manner before she started approaching the stage, which surprised many people there, including her fellow students, as she had never gone first before.

'I will quickly end this match so that I can fight Leo sooner.' Lia thought to herself as she stepped onto the stage.

The magic students from the Sakura Academy immediately became nervous when they saw Lia's small figure standing on the stage, and none of them dared to approach the stage. Even though she casually stood there, she seemed incredibly menacing to her opponents, as they still recall her prowess in the previous tournaments.

Eventually, one of them entered the stage and stood before her.

"Jason Craft. It's an honor to exchange magic with you, Lady Scarlet." The student bowed to her in a respectful manner, hoping that she would go easy on him for it.

"Lia Scarlet," she spoke in a low but clear voice, sounding like an innocent child.

The buzzer resounded a moment later.

Jason immediately raised his wand and pointed it at Lia, but before he could even fully construct the magic circle in his head, the mana around Lia's small body distorted, and an invisible pressure bore down on Jason's body like a mountain, instantly crushing his body and forcing him to his knees.

"You have three seconds to surrender before I crush your body." Lia spoke in a cold voice.

Jason's back was soaked in cold sweat after hearing her words.

There was one thing about Lia Scarlet that everybody knew— that she wasn't someone who bluffs. If she says she will do something, she will do it without fail, no matter the consequences or risks. In fact, this is what scares people the most about Lia Scarlet.

"I-I surrender!" Jason surrendered a second later, becoming the first person to surrender in a match.

Even though the magic protecting them could protect them from sharp objects and magic, it wasn't that effective against impact damage, so Lia could, without doubt, crush him into meat paste with her gravity magic.

Lia stopped her magic the moment her opponent gave up.

When Jason returned to his fellow students, nobody there made fun of him or blamed him for losing, and they even patted him on the back to comfort him.

The second student entered the stage a moment later— only to lose the exact same way.

"You have three seconds to surrender." Lia repeated.

"I surrender!"

The audience erupted into another uproar.

"Fight her, your damn cowards!"

"If you're going to surrender, do it before the match begins to save us all time!"

In the end, Lia defeated all five opponents in less than five minutes by forcing them to surrender.

"The Scarlet Eyes is as ruthless as ever— no, she's become even more ruthless. At least she fought them properly before." The representative of the Thorns Family said with a bittersweet smile on her face.

"Defeating her opponents before they can even cast a single spell. She's truly on another level," said the Tempest Family's representative.

"She's grown so much stronger since the last tournament. The other students can't even catch up to her now." The representative of the Light Family sighed.

All of these representatives were all feeling envious of the Scarlet Family for having such a monster in their family.

"Hahaha!" The representative for the Scarlet Family merely laughed out loud, and on his face was a gleeful smile.

Meanwhile, inside the Four Witches Academy's waiting room, its participants started feeling nervous after seeing the result of the match.

"That Lia... This year is going to be really rough." John sighed.

"At this rate, she will be invincible by the next tournament." Valery shook her head with a bitter smile on her face.

Kevin turned to look at Leo and said, "If you can defeat her, I will call you Young Master."

"..." Leo was speechless, but he understood their feeling— the feeling of being helpless before a seemingly unbeatable entity.

Author's Note: As requested, I will give a bonus chapter for every super gift. The chapter will be much longer than usual, too. I will also count the super gift from yesterday, so I will release an extra chapter later today.

## **Chapter 171: The Most Anticipated Match**

"She used gravity magic, right? How do we even combat that? Her opponents were helpless before it." Leo asked Lilith a moment later.

"It's quite simple, actually. Just protect your body with your mana. Although it won't completely negate its effect, you can greatly reduce its power. Naturally, this will depend on your mana and magic power."

"If you're too weak, you will experience what the Sakura Academy experienced just now."

"I see..."

Once the Scarlet Academy returned to their waiting room, the students thanked Lia for her hard work.

"Great job, Lady Scarlet. You have helped us regain our face."

"As expected of Lady Scarlet. The Sakura Academy couldn't even hold a candle to your prowess."

Lia suddenly turned to look at these students, silencing them with a single glance, and she said, "I will fight in all of the matches starting now."

"Huh?"

The students couldn't believe their ears.

"You guys take too long to finish the matches."

And without explaining any further, Lia stopped speaking to them.

The students were puzzled about her decision, but they didn't dare to question it.

A few matches later, the Four Witches Academy were called onto the stage.

Their opponent was the Soul Academy, who was ranked 5 for the last tournament.

The Knight Tournament progressed like usual with Cora and Julian going first.

Both Cora and Julian managed to defeat their opponent, but they had to rest after their fight, so Leo fought the third round.

Naturally, he won the fight. However, it wasn't as easy as the Magic Tournament, and he needed to actually focus and be serious about it.

Once the fight began, Leo took the stage first.

"He's going first again?! What is going on with the Four Witches Academy this year?"

The audience was already tired of Leo and his Fire Blast by now, and they wanted to see the other students fight.

"I will go first." A handsome young man from the Soul Academy said to the others.

"Okay. Good luck, and don't underestimate him."

"I won't."

Once both participants were on the stage, they introduced themselves.

"Leo Magnus."

"Michael Light."

"Light?" Leo raised an eyebrow after hearing this unique surname.

"Are you, by any chance, related to Camille Light?" He couldn't help but ask.

"She's my aunt. Why do you care?" Michael said with an unhappy look on his face for some reason.

"Nothing. I was just curious." Leo said.

The buzzer resounded a moment later.

"Spear of Light!" Michael quickly tossed a spear at Leo the moment the match began.

'As expected, he has a light magic affinity, just like Miss Camille.' Leo thought to himself as he instinctively dodged the golden spear that he had seen many times by now.

"Ray of Light!"

A small golden sun suddenly appeared above Michael, and it shot out multiple golden lasers in quick succession at Leo.

"Whoa!" Leo hastily dodged the lasers.

Sssss.

The stage sizzled and melted when the lasers landed.

'Never seen that one before.' Leo smiled.

"Divine Lance!"

A long lance made of light materialized in Michael's grasp, and he pointed it at Leo.

"Fire!" He shouted the next moment.

Whoosh!

A powerful golden beam of light was released by the Divine Lance, threatening to erase everything it touches.

When Leo saw this, he quickly used Flame Dash to get away safely.

"What is going on? Why isn't he attacking?" Kevin noticed Leo's strange actions and asked out loud.

Compared to his previous fights, Leo was acting very evasive and defensive for some reason.

However, the others couldn't answer Kevin's question, so they remained silent.

The audience eventually noticed Leo's strange behavior as well, and they all began questioning it.

'This guy... What is he doing?!' Michael asked himself, but he didn't stop casting spells— he couldn't, as he feared that Leo might retaliate the moment he stops.

Unbeknownst to them, Leo had a very simple yet petty reason for his behavior.

"Come on! Is this all you've got?!" Leo suddenly began laughing out loud.

"Shut up! Golden Needles!" Michael shouted before releasing hundreds of tiny needle-like projectiles at Leo.

Leo didn't bother dodging this and protected himself with Fire Barrier.

'I am always bullied by Miss Camille and her light magic! It's so refreshing to mess with someone else that uses light magic!' Leo laughed inwardly as he continued to taunt Michael.

"Are you really Miss Camille's nephew?"

"If you want to hit me, you'll need to cast your spells faster!"

"Fuck you!" Michael gritted his teeth and released his strongest spell— a Tier 6 spell.

"Holy Arrow!"

A golden bow appeared in Michael's grasp the following moment.

However, he didn't aim it at Leo. Instead, he pointed it towards the sky.

When he released the arrow, it shot straight up into the sky and disappeared into thin air.

Then, a large golden magic circle that covered the entire arena appeared.

The following moment, thousands of golden arrows rained down upon the stage.

"Let's see how you'll dodge this!" Michael said with a confident smile on his face.

Seeing this, Leo cast Flame Wall around himself.

A ring of fire surrounded Leo, burning all of the arrows that touched it.

Once the magic circle above the stage disappeared, Leo said from within his Flame Wall, "Alright, I'm satisfied now. Let's fight again sometime."

"Huh?" Michael didn't understand the meaning behind Leo's words, nor did he have the time to, as Leo had suddenly charged out of his Flame Wall using Flame Dash, and he was charging towards Michael's direction.

"Ack!"

Michael released a cry as he was sent flying off the stage.

After defeating Michael, Leo went on to defeat the rest of the students from the Soul Academy, and he did so by using his old tactics— spamming Fire Blast until he won.

His performance left the audience completely dumbfounded.

As for Michael, he was absolutely livid, as he felt like he had been targeted by Leo for some reason.

'This bastard! Does he have some kind of grudge against the Light Family?! How dare he humiliate me in such a manner!' Michael gnashed his teeth in anger.

"Congratulations to the Four Witches Academy for acquiring their 10th point! Out of all of the participants, they are the only ones that have managed to remain undefeated!" Thalia announced.

Towards the end of the day, the Scarlet Academy was picked for another match, and to everyone's surprise, Lia was the first to enter the stage again.

However, their opponent, the Phantom Academy, completely surrendered after losing just two rounds to Lia, as the remaining three refused to enter the stage just to surrender.



At the end of the day, half of the schools participating in the tournament were eliminated.

Once he was back in his room in the hotel, Leo sighed, "At this rate, I won't need to use anything stronger than Flame Wall— at least until I face Lia."

"That's a good thing, no? It just means you're that strong." Lilith said.

"I know, but I want to show off a little. I trained my ass off to do so, after all."

Lilith shook her head and said, "Honestly, if I were in your shoes, I wouldn't use anything above Tier 5. In case you forgot, being too talented could be a bad thing and backfire on you."

"Unlike Lia Scarlet, who is protected by the Scarlet Family, you're just an ordinary student who got lucky with the Fruit of Magic Awakening— at least this is how the others see you. If you show too much talent, you'll be hunted by those who are jealous or those who don't want you to be a threat in the future."

Leo became silent after hearing her words, and he agreed with her.

"You're right. I got ahead of myself." He said a moment later, and he continued, "If I can defeat Lia without using above Tier 5 magic, I will do it."

The following day, Leo returned to the stadium.

"There's a good chance that we'll face the Scarlet Academy today." Eve said when they entered the waiting room.

She turned to look at Leo and continued, "Lia Scarlet is your biggest threat, but you cannot look down on the others."

"I know." He nodded.

However, they didn't get matched up with the Scarlet Academy.

[Four Witches Academy] versus [Sakura Academy]

They were fighting Sakura Academy, who had lost to the Scarlet Academy.

"I'm sorry..." Cora apologized to the Headmistress and the others when she lost her match.

A few minutes later, Julian also apologized, "I'm sorry..."

The Sakura Academy was truly on another level when it came to swordsmanship, and they had managed to defeat both Cora and Julian.

"It's all up to you now, Leo." Cora said to him.

"I'll try my best."

For the first time during this tournament, Leo was feeling pressure.

He wasn't as confident in his swordsmanship as he is in his magic, and he had three strong opponents to defeat, not to mention that they had bested even the Scarlet Academy.

Once he was on the stage, Leo got rid of all of his useless thoughts and focused on his opponents.

The first two opponents were not as difficult, as they had been weakened during their fight with Cora and Julian, and Leo defeated them after a few minutes.

However, his third opponent was on a whole other level, and he felt like he was facing a slightly weaker Khrome.

The two of them went back and forth for many minutes, keeping the audience at the edge of their seats as they wondered if Leo would finally have his first defeat in the tournament with most of the audience hoping for Leo's defeat.

Many minutes later, his opponent made a slight mistake, and Leo took advantage of this chance, narrowly defeating him.

"Damn it! He's still undefeated!" The audience cursed out loud when Leo won.

"Phew." Leo wiped his forehead after winning the fight.

"Good fight." He said to his opponent.

"Yes, it was truly a good fight."

His opponent requested for a handshake afterward, and he accepted it.

Unfortunately for Leo, he was not finished, as he had to deal with the Magic Tournament next.

"I don't have the stamina to mess around, so I am going to finish this as soon as possible." Leo mumbled to himself as his next opponent entered the stage.

"Jason Craft."

"Leo Magnus."

The moment the match began, Leo summoned his Flame Walls, trapping his opponent within.

Then, without any pauses, he immediately cast his next spell.

BOOM!

A barrage of Fire Blasts attacked Jason while he was still trapped inside the Flame Wall.

And since his vision was obstructed by the Flame Wall, Jason couldn't react in time to the attack and was sent flying.

Leo repeated this strategy for the next four fights, and his opponents had no response for this kind of tactic.

"Leo Magnus did it again! Eight victories in a row! This is an unprecedented achievement that may never be achieved again!" Thalia exclaimed in her microphone.

The audience were baffled by the results, and they were beginning to wonder if Leo could have a chance at defeating Lia Scarlet.

At the end of the day, those with fewer than 7 points were eliminated from the tournament.

The next day.

[Four Witches Academy] versus [Scarlet Academy]

On the sixth day of the tournament, the Four Witches Academy was finally matched with the Scarlet Academy, and it was even the first match of the day.

The audience went wild after seeing that their most anticipated fight of this tournament was finally becoming a reality.

"This is it, Leo. If you can defeat the Scarlet Academy— Lia Scarlet, we will win this tournament." Eve said to him.

The Four Witches Academy arrived at the stage at the same time as the Scarlet Academy.

"Leo..." Lia's gaze was fixated on him the moment she could see him, and the tingly sensation in her body returned.

Leo felt his skin crawl when he sensed Lia's sharp gaze, and he recalled what she said to him before.

"Leon, I want you."

"It may not be today or even a year from now, but I will not give up until you're mine."

Almost as if he was affected by a spell, Lia's voice resounded in his head repeatedly.

## **Chapter 172: Fighting the Scarlet Academy**

'Leo... He's definitely Leon!' Lia came to this conclusion when the tingling sensation in her body reached its peak, feeling as though Leo was using mana drain on her from afar.

"She's definitely onto you, Leo. Look at the way she's staring at you." Lilith chuckled.

Leo merely sighed at her words.

Sometime later, the tournament began, and Cora went up to the stage first.

During the whole fight, Lia completely ignored the match, and she kept her eyes fixated on Leo, almost as though she was afraid that he'd disappear from her sight if she looked away.

As for Leo, he tried his best to avoid eye contact with Lia by focusing on the match.

Cora and her opponent were evenly matched in terms of technique and skills, but Cora's opponent was a little faster in terms of speed.

Several minutes later, Cora was defeated. However, her opponent was exhausted from the fight.

Julian replaced Cora and defeated her opponent, who remained on the stage to weaken him, but it didn't really work out that well.

After defeating her, Julian went on to defeat his next opponent.

The Four Witches Academy was taking the lead with only a single defeat for the Knight Tournament, but that would not last long, as Julian was defeated by the last fighter in the Scarlet Academy.

Leo consumed a Mana Suppressing Pill before approaching the stage a moment later.

"Leo Magnus."

"Zen Everbleed."

The buzzer resounded, and Leo immediately prepared to confront his opponent, but something very unexpected happened.

"Surrender!" A clear voice suddenly resounded, halting both Leo and Zen.

They turned to look at Lia, who had just spoken just now.

"E-Excuse me?" Zen spoke in a nervous voice.

She glared at Zen and repeated, "Surrender yourself. I will not repeat myself."

Lia's words sent shockwaves through the stadium.

"What?! Did she just tell her own teammate to surrender?!"

"Why would she do that?"

"How overbearing!"

"L-Lia... Why are you telling your own teammate to surrender? You should be threatening our enemy, not our allies!" Her uncle asked her with a bittersweet smile on his face.

"So I can fight Leo faster, and I don't want to fight him while he's weakened." Lia gave her reasoning, which was quite simple yet ridiculous at the same time.

"Uhhh..." The Headmaster had a perplexed look on his face, but he didn't want to upset her.

He eventually gave up and turned to look at Zen Everbleed before nodding his head with a solemn expression on his face, his intentions clear.

Seeing this, Zen sighed out loud, "I surrender."

The audience went into another commotion.

"Hey, hey, hey! Is this even allowed?!"

"I don't think there are any rules that state one cannot tell their own teammates to surrender..."

Meanwhile, Thalia spoke through her microphone, "What an unexpected turn of events! Who could've expected that Zen Everbleed would be forced to surrender by his own teammate! Truly an unprecedented event!"

And before Zen could even walk off the stage, Lia jumped onto the stage, standing right in front of Leo with a nonchalant look on her face.

"I appreciate your effort, but I don't like being looked down on." Leo said to her in a calm voice.

"I am not looking down on you. I wanted to have a fair fight with you." Lia said.

"A fair fight, huh?"

"..."

After a moment of silence, Lia spoke, "You're not afraid of me?"

"Of course not. Why would I be scared of you?"

Lia took a few more steps forward until she was standing literally in front of Leo.

Her eyes glared into his, and she spoke in a low voice that could only be heard by the two of them, "You're Leon, aren't you?"

Leo's eyebrows twitched upon hearing her words, and he immediately distanced himself from her.

"You have the wrong person." He said in a calm voice.

"You're lying."

"|—"

The buzzer resounded, signaling the beginning of the match. However, neither Lia or Leo moved from their spot.

"Why would I lie to you? This is my first time speaking with you." Leo said a moment later.

"You cannot deceive my eyes. I don't know why you're hiding your identity, but it's not going to work on me."

"Like I'd already said, you have the wrong person. And what makes you think I am this person that you're speaking about? How ridiculous."

"..."

After a moment of silence, Lia spoke, "Why don't we play a little game, Leo."

"What are you talking about? We're in the middle of a tournament."

"The rules are simple. If you can defeat me, I will stop questioning your identity. However, if I win, you will tell me everything and become mine."

Leo scoffed, "This game doesn't seem very fair. If I lose, I will become yours. However, if I win, you will only stop bothering me. How is that fair even in the slightest?"

"..." Lia couldn't refute his words, as it did seem unfair to him, who was taking far more risks than she was.

"I understand. Then how about this? If I win, you will become mine. However, if I lose, I will become yours." Lia suggested.

Leo was utterly speechless. Even if he won, he couldn't possibly make the treasure of the Scarlet Family 'his', as her family would immediately hunt him down.

"Ummm... Are you two going to fight anytime soon?" Thalia suddenly asked them, as it has been several minutes since the fight started.

"Sorry! We will begin the fight now!" Leo apologized to her.

He then turned to look at Lia and said, "Alright, I will play your little game."

Naturally, he wasn't going to make her 'his' even if he won.

Leo and Lia distanced themselves from each other.

"Are you ready?" He asked her.

"Whenever you are."

"Then let's go!"

Both Leo and Lia's aura suddenly exploded, causing a powerful mana disturbance in the stadium.

The following moment, both of them released their magic spell.

AN: The will be released after the mass release. There will be 15 chapters over the next two days.

## Chapter 173: Fighting Lia Scarlet

The first thing Leo did was protect himself with a mana barrier, as he was sure that Lia was going to use her gravity magic to try and crush him.

As for Lia, she did just as Leo had predicted, casting the Tier 4 magic spell 'Gravity Manipulation' right from the beginning, which allowed her to increase the gravity around Leo by many folds.

However, she wasn't done yet.

"Gravity Well."

Not only did she increase the gravity around him, she's actively trying to crush him with a second spell.

"H-He didn't fall! He's actually resisting Lia Scarlet's gravity magic!" The audience overflowed with excitement when they saw this because they were worried that Leo couldn't handle Lia's magic and lose to her like the other victims, as that would make for a boring match.

However, this didn't mean that Leo wasn't struggling, because he was, and he could barely stand still with this immense pressure bearing down on him.

'Flame Wall!'

Leo pointed his wand at Lia with much difficulty before casting Fire Wall and obstructing her view, which also disrupted her spell.

Once the pressure on him was gone, Leo immediately began bombarding Lia with Fire Blasts.



Suddenly, a massive hole opened up in the Flame Wall, and Leo could see a black ball coming from inside the Flame Wall.

"Gravity Ball." Lia mumbled, releasing a Tier 5 magic spell.

This black ball functioned almost like a black hole as it absorbed all of Leo's flames.

Seeing this, Leo dodged it using Flame Dash, then he gritted his teeth and began casting a Tier 5 spell for the first time in this tournament.

After spending a few seconds gathering his mana, Leo released it.

'Flame Tempest!'

A tornado made out of pure flames materialized on the stage before confronting the Gravity Ball.

The Gravity Ball absorbed the flames from the Flame Tempest, but it stopped halfway, as it had reached its capacity and couldn't absorb anymore.

When this happened, the Gravity Ball simply disappeared into thin air.

The audience jumped out of their seats when they saw this.

"Tier 5 magic spell?! That bastard Leo was still hiding some of his strength?!" Kevin was utterly astonished.

"This Leo... What are the chances of him knowing a Tier 6 magic spell as well?" The representative from the Thorns Family questioned out loud.

"There's no way. Learning a Tier 5 magic spell in a month is already a miracle, not to mention his other spells," said the representative from the Tempest Family.

"Even if he can use a Tier 6 spell, he won't be able to defeat our Scarlet Eyes." The representative from the Scarlet Family said with a confident smile on his face.

Meanwhile, after casting Flame Tempest, Leo took a moment to multicast several more Flame Tempests.

A few seconds later, four fiery tornados appeared on the stage.

Lia's eyes widened slightly, as she was impressed by his prowess.

And if someone like Lia was impressed, one can already imagine the audiences' reaction.

'Void Step.'

Lia used dark magic to avoid the Flame Tempests.

'Damn it...!' Leo cursed inwardly when he saw Lia using dark magic.

'If only I could use my dark magic as well...' he sighed.

After dodging his Flame Tempests, Lia started using dark magic instead of gravity magic, almost as though she was provoking him, as she knew that he also had dark magic affinity.

Many Void Spears later, Lia returned to using gravity magic.

"It's about time we end this, Leon." Lia suddenly said to him.

"After today, you'll be mine."

Leo shuddered when he saw the slight grin on her face.

"Gravity Manipulation." Lia used her Tier 4 magic again, but this time, it had the opposite effect.

Instead of pressuring Leo, it actually made him weightless.

And before Leo could react, Lia released another spell.

"Reverse Gravity Well."

Just as its name suggested, it did the opposite of Gravity Well, so instead of pressing him down, it pulled him up, and paired with Gravity Manipulation, she sent Leo flying straight into the sky.

"Whoa!" Leo was taken aback by this situation, and he hoped that she wouldn't throw him off the stage like this.

"Lilith! Is there anything I can do about this?!" He decided to ask for her advice as he continued to levitate higher into the sky.

"Yes. You can brace yourself," she said.

"What kind of advice is that?!" He exclaimed.

Fortunately for Leo, Lia had no intention of throwing him off the stage, as she didn't want that kind of victory.

Unfortunately for him, what she had planned was much worse than being sent off the stage.

"Gravity Hell." Lia muttered in a cold voice.

Leo, who was about three hundred meters in the air, suddenly felt as though a mountain had fallen on top of him, causing him to fall back down to the ground at a rapid rate.

Leo feared for his life at this moment. If he fell from this height while being pressured by gravity magic, he would surely become meat paste.

'Fuck! I have to use that spell if I want to survive this!' Leo immediately began casting this spell that came to his mind.

A few moments later, mere seconds before his body slammed into the stage, Leo used Divine Flame Fortification, which was his strongest defense magic spell.

**BOOM!**

The entire stage shook when Leo crashed into the stage, creating a crater in the center of it.

Dust and rubbles flew everywhere, obstructing the spectators' view and preventing them from seeing the situation on the stage.

But even without looking at his condition, many people there did not believe that Leo would be able to survive such a devastating attack.

"Shit... I really hope he's still alive..." The Thorns Family's representative swallowed nervously, as she was planning to recruit Leo into her family after the tournament.

If he died, it would be a huge waste of talent, not to mention the Fruit of Magic Awakening.

## **Chapter 174: Fighting Lia Scarlet(2)**

'Holy fuck... I managed to survive... That crazy bitch. Didn't she want me? Does she not care if I am dead or alive?' Leo felt a sense of relief wash over him when he survived the fall.

However, he didn't try to leave the crater and decided to remain in the cloud of dust, as his body was currently engulfed in golden flames because of the Divine Flame Fortification.

'If I leave now, everyone will see my flames and realize that I can use Tier 7 magic, and Headmistress Eve will question where I learned this spell.'

Fortunately for him, Divine Flame Fortification lasted only half a minute.

Meanwhile, the audience were making bets with each other.

"I bet you a thousand that he's alive!"

"Then I will bet you a thousand that he's dead!"

"Nobody can survive that kind of fall even with the magic protecting them!"

"Right? He was even being pressured by Lia Scarlet's gravity magic. He'd have to be made of steel to survive that kind of fall."

"Fuck... Did he really die?" Kevin tapped the floor with his foot in an anxious manner when Leo didn't come back out of the crater.

"Leo..." Valery muttered in a weak voice, her gaze filled with worry.

Eve had a deep frown on her face. Despite her confidence in Leo, she couldn't help but worry about what had just happened.

'I should've taught him some more defensive spells.' She regretted not teaching Leo more spells, but it was too late at this point.

Fifteen seconds after Leo fell back down, the medical team approached the stage and prepared to heal Leo if he was still alive.

After another fifteen seconds, Thalia spoke into her microphone, "Medics! Go check on him!"

The medics rushed onto the stage after hearing Thalia's words.

However, right as they reached the steps, Leo's voice resounded, "Calm down. I am not dead yet."

A gust of wind suddenly swept the stage as Leo used mana blast to blast away the dust, revealing his figure that looked completely fine besides a few scratches.

The medics and Thalia were baffled to see Leo in such good condition after suffering that kind of attack.

If they were in his shoes, they would have a broken limb or two at the very least.

"Holy fuck! He's actually alive!"

"And he doesn't seem to be hurt!"

"Is he even human?!"

The audience were once again shocked by the outcome.

"A-Are you sure you're fine?" The person leading the medics asked Leo just to be sure.

"Yes, I am fine." Leo nodded.

He turned to look at Lia and continued, "That was quite harsh of you. I really thought I was going to die there."

"But you didn't." Lia calmly said.

"I'm just saying what if I had actually died? If I hadn't used my trump card, I would've definitely died there."

"But you didn't die." She repeated, still with a nonchalant look on her face.

"Forget it. Let's continue our match now, shall we?"

Hearing his words, Lia nodded her head, and she began casting her spell.

However, she suddenly halted her movements when a large shadow suddenly entered her view.

Lia and the audience tilted their heads and looked at the sky, their heads moving simultaneously.

"T-That's..."

The audiences' eyes and mouth were wide open from shock when they saw a massive rock the size of a building that was engulfed in flames falling from the sky.

"That's..." Helia stared at the meteor in the sky with a dazed look on her face.

"Tier 6 magic, Meteor...?" John muttered in a low voice.

"Impossible!" The representatives from the Celestial Families stood up from shock, especially the Scarlet Family.

'Don't blame me for this, Lia.' Leo said inwardly.

During the thirty seconds that he hid within the crater, he didn't just sit there doing nothing, and he used that time to cast and overcharge Meteor, his Tier 6 spell.

Since everybody was occupied with the stage and Leo's condition, nobody there noticed the magic circle in the sky until it was too late and the Meteor was already falling down.

Lia gritted her teeth and quickly began casting her spell.

"Gravity Manipulation!"

"Reverse Gravity Well!"

She tried to slow down the Meteor by manipulating the gravity around the Meteor, and while she succeeded, it had cost her a lot of mana.

Furthermore, while it had slowed down, the Meteor was actually still falling and still a threat.

Without any other options left, Lia decided what little mana she had left to cast her final spell.

A large magic circle suddenly appeared around the Meteor, and to everyone's surprise, it had seven rings.

"T-Tier 7 magic?!"

This was Lia's first time using her Tier 7 magic in public, so this was news to everyone there.

Leo was curious about her Tier 7 magic, so he purposefully did not try to interrupt her even though he could've defeated her at that moment when she was distracted.

A few moments later, right as the Meteor was about to smash into the stage, Lia spoke in a cold voice, "Forces of Destruction!"

Cracks suddenly began appearing on the Meteor, and three seconds later, the whole rock shattered into tens of thousands of tiny fragments.

Lia fell to her knees afterward from experiencing mana fatigue.

"I'm impressed. You can actually use Tier 7 magic." Leo approached her slowly and nonchalantly.

Now that Lia had no mana, she was no longer a threat to him, and he didn't need to worry about any retaliation.

The whole stadium became dead silent from anticipation.

Is this the end? Will Lia Scarlet actually lose to Leo Magnus, who started training magic only a month ago? Is this the birth of a legend?

"Just like how you gave your opponents a chance to surrender, I will give you a chance to surrender." Leo said after stopping right in front of her.

"You have three seconds to surrender before I toss you out of the stage myself."

## **Chapter 175: Fighting Lia Scarlet(3)**

"Leon..." Lia suddenly mumbled his name in a weak voice.

"Sorry, but I am not Leon. I am Leo. You have the wrong person." Leo shook his head.

Lia remained silent, nor did she move even after three seconds had passed.

"Your time is up. Don't blame me for this." Leo sighed.

He pointed his wand at her and unleashed a Flame Tempest right on her.

The Flame Tempest swallowed her small body and spun her around in the air for a few circles before spitting her out, sending her flying off the stage.

"Lady Scarlet! Are you okay?!" Her classmates and uncle immediately rushed to her side.

"Stay away from me." Lia suddenly spoke in a cold voice, halting their movements.

Lia slowly stood up and started walking back to the stage.

"Lia... The match is already over..." Her uncle said to her.

However, she ignored him and continued approaching the stage.

When Leo saw this, he remained on the stage and waited to see what she wanted to achieve.

Lia returned to the stage a moment later, stopping only when she was before Leo again.

"What do you want?" Leo asked her.

"That should be my question. You won the match, and according to our bet, as the loser, I am now yours. What do you want from me?"

"You're seriously going to take that seriously? I don't want you, so you can just forget about the bet. Though, I would appreciate it if you stop bothering me from now on." Leo said in a solemn voice.

Lia's body trembled when she heard his words, and she felt a prickling sensation in her heart, almost as though someone had poked it with a needle.

"Why...?" Lia suddenly mumbled in a weak voice.

"Why don't you want me...? Did I do something wrong?"

"Eh?" Leo was taken aback when he noticed a droplet of tear had suddenly formed in the corner of Lia's eyes.

'She's crying...?' He was truly shocked, as he didn't even think she was capable of producing tears.

"Wow! You actually made her cry!" Lilith hovered right beside him and stared at Lia's face together with him.

"I must say, Leo, you were a little too harsh just now. How can you tell a girl that you don't want her? You will be single for the rest of your life at this rate!" Lilith continued to speak.

"Shut up... I don't actually hate her. I just don't want to deal with the Scarlet Family and her stupid butler, and this is the best way I can think of that will distance us." He sighed.



"I'm sure there are other ways to go about this— ways that don't require you to make a girl cry." Lilith shook her head.

Leo rubbed his eyes and sighed.

He then said, "Alright, I'm sorry. I didn't mean what I said just now. I'm not really good with words, especially during these kinds of situations. Anyways, it's not that I don't want you. It's just that we live in two different worlds. You see, I am a commoner who is currently hated by the whole world and you're the Young Lady of the Scarlet Family. There's no way I can make you mine because your family will kill me if I do such a thing. If you understand, then—"

In the midst of his sentence, Lia suddenly moved.

She grabbed his collar and pulled him into her, connecting their lips together.

"WHAT?!"

The audience exclaimed out loud when they realized what Lia had just done.

"L-Lady Scarlet?!" Her teammates were so shocked that they fell on their buttocks.

As for her uncle, his eyes were popping out of its sockets.

"No way..." Valery and the others were also baffled.

"What a sudden turn of events..." Eve shook her head with a bittersweet smile on her face.

A few seconds later, Lia released Leo and spoke, "I don't care about that. If you cannot be mine, then I will be yours. It is as simple as that."

"..."

Leo was speechless. This was his first time kissing a girl, and he didn't know how to react.

Should he smile? Should he cry? What should he do?

"Umm... I'm sorry to disturb you lovebirds, but we're still in the middle of a tournament..." Thalia eventually broke the silence.

Leo snapped out of his daze when he heard Thalia's voice, and he quickly stepped away from Lia.

"Y-You heard her," he said in a trembling voice.

"This is not over yet, Leon. Once the tournament is over, I will come find you again." Lia said to him before turning around and walking off the stage.

"Once again, I am Leo, not Leon..." He sighed.

"I can't believe she actually kissed you." Lilith said with an amused smile on her face.

"How did it feel? Was that your first time kissing a woman?"

Leo completely ignored her.

Sometime later, a group of people approached the stage to fix the destruction caused by Leo and Lia's fight.

While that happened, the people there talked about what happened between Leo and Lia nonstop.

"Fucking hell! Leo and Lia Scarlet were lovers?! Since when?!"

"I didn't even know Lia Scarlet could be capable of loving another human being!"

"Out of everything that has happened during this tournament, that was the most shocking part!"

"You little brat. How did you dominate the Scarlet Princess' heart?" Eve said to him when he returned to her side.

"There's nothing between us. She kissed me out of the blue." Leo sighed.

"Is it just me or are you blushing right now?" Eve continued to tease him.

This would continue until the stage was repaired.

"Do you still want to continue?" Eve asked him.

"I do." He nodded.

"Alright."

Leo approached the stage shortly after..

The audience were surprised to see him return to the stage.

"He's still going to fight after that crazy fight with Lia Scarlet? He should be out of mana by now!"

Leo's opponent entered the stage a moment later, but there was something off about this person.

His face was flushed with redness, and his eyes were bloodshot.

"You bastard... How dare you defile Lady Scarlet's innocent lips! I will fucking kill you, Leo Magnus!"

"Seriously...?" Leo was utterly speechless.

## **Chapter 176: Defeating the Scarlet Academy**

"I defiled Lia? Are you blind or what? Clearly she was the one who defiled me!" Leo refuted this student's outrageous claims.

"Shut up! Shut up! Shut up! I don't want to hear it!" The student shouted.

Leo sighed, "Forget it. I'm too tired to deal with your bullshit. Let's just get this over with."

The buzzer resounded a moment later, and before his opponent could even finish casting his spell, Leo blew him off the stage with his Flame Wall and Fire Blast strategy, defeating his opponent in less than 10 seconds.

He would repeat this three more times with the next three fighters until there were no more opponents and the Four Witches Academy gained their 12th point.

"Good job, Leo. Now that we have defeated the Scarlet Academy, our spot in the first place is pretty much guaranteed." Eve said to him when he returned.

"How many more matches do we have to fight until this whole tournament ends?" He asked her.

"Just two more."

"So two more days at most, huh?"

"Yes."

The Four Witches Academy returned to their waiting room shortly after.

But before they left, Leo felt a glare filled with killing intent directed at him from somewhere, causing him to shudder.

Unbeknownst to him, this stare came from Edwin, Lia's butler, who had witnessed the whole situation from the shadows.

'How dare that commoner defile the Young Lady... How dare that commoner defile the Young Lady... How dare that commoner defile the Young Lady... How dare that commoner defile the Young Lady...'

'I am going to kill that bastard... I am going to kill that bastard... I am going to kill that bastard... I am going to kill that bastard...'

'Leo Magnus, you fucking bastard... Leo Magnus, you fucking bastard... Leo Magnus, you fucking bastard...'

Almost as though his mind had malfunctioned, Edwin could only repeat these few sentences inside his head.

In his entire life, he has never felt such hatred towards someone before— not even when he was pissed off by Leon.

Fortunately for Leo, Edwin didn't know he was also Leon. If he did, heaven knows how he'll react.

Once they returned to the waiting room, Eve said to Leo, "We're going to relocate your place so you won't need to go back to that hotel today."

"Is this because I showed off a little too much?" He asked.

"Yes, but it is also because of what happened between you and Lia. Once the Scarlet Family learns about what has happened, they will undoubtedly try to contact you, and things might get out of hand."

"Damn it... I knew it... That Lia— she's nothing but trouble..." Leo sighed out loud.

He glanced at Lilith and said to her, "I knew I shouldn't have listened to your nonsense! Look at what you have done! If you didn't make me feel guilty about making her cry, none of this would've happened!"

Lilith shrugged, "How was I supposed to know that she was going to kiss you? I'm a spirit, not a fortune teller. And letting her cry is just as bad as kissing her, not to mention that you had also defeated her. Either way, you were going to have to deal with the Scarlet Family, so you might as well get a kiss out of it."

Sometime later, Kevin approached him and asked, "Since when did you share a thing with Lia Scarlet?"

"I don't want to talk about this anymore. Leave me alone." Leo said before closing his eyes on the couch, pretending to go to sleep.

In the end, the Four Witches Academy did not have to fight for a second time that day and returned to their hotel at the end of the day.

However, Leo did not return to his hotel and followed Eve to her hotel, which was countless times nicer than the hotels the students were staying at.

"You'll be staying with me until we return to the academy," she said to him.

"I'm going to live with you?" Leo asked for confirmation.

"That's right. Since this is a suite, we have plenty of room."

"I understand."

Later that night, Leo and Eve shared the dining table in their hotel room.

"Leo, I have been wanting to ask you this, but how did you remain essentially unscathed from that falling attack? Besides Fire Barrier, you don't have any defensive spells, and I think I saw some golden flame on your body the moment before you smashed into the stage."

"Ummm... Actually..."

Leo proceeded to give her an excuse, something he had plenty of time to think about just in case she asked him.

"When I explored that cave with Nina and discovered the Elder's Legacy, we actually found something else— a Tier 7 magic circle for the magic spell Divine Flame Fortification, and that is what I used to protect myself from that attack."

"D-Divine Flame Fortification?!" Eve exclaimed after hearing this magic spell.

"That is an ancient magic spell that has been lost for hundreds of years now! Is it really Divine Flame Fortification?! Can I see it?!" She asked him in an excited voice, almost like a child at the amusement park for the first time.

"Sure..." Leo showed off the spell to her.

"Amazing... What beautiful flames..." Eve stared at his fiery body with an enchanted look on her face, seemingly mesmerized by his golden flames.

"This spell boosts my defenses tremendously, but it only lasts for 30 seconds." Leo explained.

"Thirty seconds is a long time. Do you know how many times a person can die in that amount of time? A lot." Eve said.

Sometime later, she asked him, "Leo, do you think you can sell me the magic circle for Divine Flame Fortification? I will pay you generously for it. Of course, you can refuse."

"Eh?" Leo looked at her with a perplexed expression on his face.

"Umm... Can you give me some time to think about it?" He then asked.

"Of course. Take as long as you need." She nodded. "And don't think that I will treat you any differently if you refuse. I am not that unreasonable and petty."

"I understand."

## **Chapter 177: End of the Tournament**

Once he retired to his own room, Leo asked Lilith, "What do you think? Are you okay with me sharing the magic spells you taught me to the Headmistress?"

She nodded, "I don't mind if you share your magic spells with others, but there are some that you shouldn't share, such as the ancient magic that you're still trying to learn."

"Okay. Thanks, Lilith."

The following morning, Leo told Eve the good news, "I'm willing to share the Divine Flame Fortification with you."

"Really?! Thank you, Leo! Let's deal with this after the tournament." Eve said in an excited manner.

"You have been a huge help to me, after all." He smiled.

Sometime later, they returned to the stadium for another day of the tournament.

However, because of Leo and Lia's match yesterday, the matches after them could not provoke the audience's excitement, and the stadium remained relatively calm compared to the previous few days.

Once the Four Witches Academy was called onto the stage, the audience became more active.

"Hey, even though the tournament is still ongoing and I haven't lost yet, let's stop the game here. I am already satisfied with the amount of matches I got to participate in, and I am starting to feel bad for the rest of you, who are standing out here like some kind of decoration." Leo suddenly said to the magic students.

Kevin narrowed his eyes at Leo and nodded, "You're right. I have been itching to fight for a while now, and since the purpose of that challenge was so that I could see what you're capable of, there's no reason to continue it, as I am well aware of your capabilities now."

"What about the rest of you? If you don't want to fight, just say so. I won't force you to enter the stage." Leo looked at Helia and the other two.

They didn't say anything and silently nodded.

Once the match began, Cora and Julian defeated their opponents without needing Leo to step up.

Once the Magic Tournament began, Kevin entered the stage first, which surprised the audience, as they had expected Leo to enter first like the previous matches.

Kevin went on to defeat three of their opponents before switching out with Valery, who defeated the last two opponents.

The Scarlet Academy was called onto the stage three matches later, but Lia Scarlet wasn't present in their group. In fact, she had left the stadium all together and disappeared somewhere.

The following day, the tournament finally came to an end.

Thalia called the top three academies and their students onto the stage at the end of the day.

"Congratulations to our top academies this year! Ranked third, we have the Sakura Academy!"

"Ranked second, we have the Scarlet Academy!"

"And ranked first for the first time ever, we have the Four Witches Academy!"

"Let's all give them a huge applause for their effort!"

A few moments later, Thalia gave the microphone to the Headmasters and Headmistress of these schools so they could give a short speech.

"First and foremost, I would like to thank the students for their effort and the teachers for assisting these students. Without their effort, none of this would've happened." The Headmaster of the Sakura Academy said.

"Some may see this as a setback for the Scarlet Academy, but that is not the case. Although we may have lost this year's tournament, we will work harder to win the next one for sure." The Headmaster of the Scarlet Academy went next, followed by Headmistress Eve.

"This is just the beginning for the Four Witches Academy! We will continue to strive for the peak!" Headmistress Eve said.

Sometime later, these academies were handed a trophy for their respective ranks. Of course, this isn't the only reward for these academies, as their investors would increase from the tournament, which is one of the biggest incentives for these academies.

"Headmistress, what's going to happen to me now that the tournament is over?" Leo asked her as they made their way back to the Four Witches Academy.

"You're going to continue training, of course." She immediately said.

"Is that so..."

Once they returned to the academy, Eve said to the students, "There will be a gathering at the auditorium tomorrow. Make sure you're there."

She then took Leo back to her living quarters.

"Now then, let's talk about the Divine Flame Fortification, shall we?"

Leo smiled, "How do I share it? Do you want me to draw it or something? I have never done anything like that before, though."



"Don't worry, I will be the one doing the drawing. I just need you to show me the magic circle." Eve said.

"Alright."

Once they sat down, Leo proceeded to show her the Divine Flame Fortification magic circle.

Eve quickly began drawing the magic circle.

Several minutes later, once she was absolutely sure that there were no mistakes, Eve nodded with a satisfied look on her face, "Thank you. Now let's talk about the payment... What do you want?"

Leo pondered for a moment before speaking, "I don't want money. I want mana cores—a lot of mana cores."

"Mana cores, huh? Does the grades matter?"

He nodded, "The higher the better."

"I understand. Is there anything else that you want? What about magic artifacts?"

"If it won't affect the amount of mana cores you give me, I will take a magic artifact as well."

Eve chuckled, "Okay, I got it. Give me a week."

"No problem."

"Oh, before I let you go, I have one more thing that I need to speak to you about." Eve then said.

"What is it?"

"When class resumes next week, I am going to transfer you to the Elite Magic Class."

"Eh? Why?"

"Now that you can use magic, it wouldn't make sense to keep you in the knight class, and I want you to familiarize yourself with the other elite students since things seemed awkward between you guys during the tournament."

"That's because they don't like me. There's nothing I can do about that." He shrugged.

"I wouldn't be so sure about that." Eve showed a mysterious smile on her face.

## Chapter 178: Meeting the Four Celestial Families

"Go get some rest. I'll need you to show up at the gathering tomorrow, too." Eve said a moment later.

"Okay. By the way, how long am I going to stay here?" Leo then asked.

"It would be for the best if you stay here for a little longer. Do you want to return to your dorm?"

"No, not really. This place is much better than the dorms, and there is a training room right next door, too." Leo said.

"Alright then."

Leo returned to his room shortly after.

He stripped naked and went into the bathroom to take a hot bath.

'During this tournament, I got to defeat many high-ranking Adventurers and acquired a small amount of Magic Points.'

[Defeat B-Rank Adventurer]

[Reward: 1,000 Magic Points]

After he defeated 3 F-Rank Adventurers, his quest shop upgraded to E-Rank Adventurers, then D-Rank, C-Rank, and now he was at B-Rank.

However, besides Lia, nobody else was a B-Rank Adventurer, so he only managed to finish it once, and he still had to defeat 2 more B-Rank Adventurers before his quest could be upgraded to A-Rank.

'Seven thousand Magic Points... That's not enough to buy any upgrades or passive skills. Looks like I will have to wait for the Headmistress to give me the mana cores before I can do anything.'

Camille showed up a few hours later.

"Miss Camille? What's wrong?" Leo was pleasantly surprised to see her in front of his room.

"I wanted to check up on you, and I have some news for you," she said.

"The Light Family will be sending a representative to the academy tomorrow to meet with you. I'm sure the other Celestial Families will be doing the same, so be prepared."

"Why would they want to meet with me? What is their purpose?" He asked with a raised eyebrow.

"There's only one reason why these big families would want to approach you— they want to recruit you into their family," she said.

And she continued, "That's how these families continue growing faster. If you're lucky, you might even be able to marry into their family."

"Marry into their family...?" Leo repeated in a low voice.

Inside his head, he imagined joining the Light Family and getting married to Camille. Then he recalled that she had left her family so that wouldn't happen.

"I'm surprised that they're willing to accept me into their family, considering how bad my reputation is right now." Leo asked a moment later.

"Your reputation? You may not know this, but you're the main topic in the whole city right now." Camille said.

"Really? Is it because of my performance during the tournament?"

"That's right."

"What do you think I should do? What are the benefits of joining them?"

"First of all, you will only be able to join one family unless you receive approval to join another. The benefits are vast, but there are also cons. The most obvious benefit would be protection. If you join one of the Celestial Families, you will naturally be protected by them so people will be less likely to mess with you."

"Another benefit is that you'll get their support, whether it be financial support or something else, almost like how an Adventurer is supported by their sponsor."

"Also, you could get to learn special magic spells available only to their family."

"However, all of this benefit comes with a major disadvantage, and that is you'll have your freedom restricted, not to mention the strict family rules that you'll have to abide by."

"If I were in your shoes, I probably won't join any family at the moment. You're still too young and inexperienced. The benefits may seem great at first, but knowing your character, you'll probably hate all of the restrictions."

"If you're seeking protection, the Four Witches Academy will be enough for now."

"I see..." Leo digested all of this information with a pondering face.

"Is that why you left the Light Family? Because they're too restrictive?" He suddenly asked.

"Something like that, I guess."

"Anyways, I will be with you tomorrow when the Celestial Families come. They'll probably be pressuring you to join their family, so I will be there just in case."

"Thank you, Miss Camille." He nodded.

The following day, Leo went to the auditorium with Eve for the gathering, and just like the gathering after the Wilderness Training Course, Eve spoke about the participants' achievements and how proud she was of them. Furthermore, the 8 participants were given a prestigious badge for their achievement.

The gathering lasted for about an hour.

After dismissing the students, Eve approached Leo and said to him, "I forgot to tell you this earlier, but the Celestial Families will be coming here later today to speak with you."

He nodded, "I am aware. Miss Camille told me yesterday."

"Do you plan on joining any of them?" She then asked.

"Probably not, but it's not a bad idea to keep an open mind. If the conditions are right, I just might."

"That's a good mindset. However, I must warn you about the Scarlet Family. They might be up to no good because of what happened between you and their little princess."

A bittersweet smile appeared on Leo's face as he spoke, "They won't go as far as attacking me, will they?"

"I will also be there to protect you, so you don't need to worry about such things. Also, while you're on school grounds, they cannot attack you, or they will be punished severely, regardless of their background and influence, so the chances of them attacking you are slim to none. Though, they will probably threaten you."

"I'm used to being threatened." Leo chuckled.

Leo returned to his room shortly after.

Not long later, Camille showed up before him and said, "The Thorns Family is here. They're waiting for you in the Headmistress' office."

"I understand."

He followed Camille to the office.

Inside the office were two individuals— Eve and the representative from the Thorns Family, both of them sitting before each other on the couch with a cup of tea in their grasp.

The representative from the Thorns Family placed her teacup down and turned to look at Leo with an enchanting smile on her face, "I've been waiting for this moment since I witnessed your performance at the tournament, Leo Magnus."

## **Chapter 179: Meeting the Four Celestial Families(2)**

"Hello... Umm..." Leo greeted this beautiful woman with a slight head nod.

"I am Gloria Thorns from the Thorns Family, nice to meet you."

After placing her teacup down, Gloria stood up and approached him for a handshake.

"Leo Magnus. Nice to meet you."

"Why don't we sit down first?" She gestured for the couches.

Leo sat down beside Eve.

"Since you're here, I can leave." Camille said to Eve.

"It's okay, you can stay here if you want, Camille Light." Gloria said to her with a profound smile.

Camille didn't say anything and silently nodded before taking a seat at the table nearby.

"Now then, let's get straight to the point, shall we? Leo Magnus, I am here to recruit you into our Thorns Family." Gloria looked at him straight in the eyes with a solemn face.

"As you already know, the Thorns Family is one of four Celestial Families— the most powerful families in Stellar City. If you join us, we will protect you from all harm within the city, and if you wish to travel outside, we will provide you with our best bodyguards."

"Furthermore, we will cover all of your expenses— as long as it's a reasonable purchase."

"In exchange for our support, we only ask for you to join our family. If you have any questions feel free to ask them."

Leo began pondering in silence. Neither Eve or Camille said anything thus far, as they wanted to see how Leo was going to handle this.

Sometime later, Leo asked, "I have several questions. First of all, when you ask me to join your family, what exactly do you mean? Are you asking me to marry into your family?"

Gloria smiled and said, "No, when I say join our family, I mean in the sense that you'll be working for us, sort of like how Adventurers work for the Adventurers' Guild. You'll become our force and strength. However, if you wish to marry into our family, that can be arranged as well. We currently have fifteen ladies within the Thorns Family that you can choose from as of this moment, all of them ranging from 16 years old to 24 years old."

Leo was dumbfounded by her words.

'They have people ready to be married at a moment's notice? Just how ridiculous are these families?'

Leo wasn't sure how he felt about the Celestial Families, as they were treating their own family members as though they were products meant for business.

'Their children must be living a miserable life if they can't even decide who they get to spend the rest of their lives with.' Leo pitied them inwardly.

"Sorry, but I think I am too young to get married." Leo said with a stiff smile on his face.

And he continued, "By the way, let's say I join the Thorns Family. What kind of restrictions and rules would I need to follow? And can I leave the family afterward?"

"The rules are quite simple. You are not allowed to talk badly about the Thorns Family, and you are not allowed to be associated with those we deem to be our enemies. For example, if the Scarlet Family is our enemy, you wouldn't be able to stay with Lia Scarlet. Of course, this is just an example. We're not actually enemies with them. Furthermore, you are not allowed to betray our family or harm those within our family."

Leo was speechless. Why would she use Lia Scarlet in her example? And why does it seem like she thinks he has a relationship with Lia Scarlet?

"As for leaving the family, that is possible. However, if you do so before the contract ends, you will have to pay a penalty fee." Gloria continued to speak.

"Contract?" Leo raised an eyebrow upon hearing this word.

"Indeed. You will sign a contract with the Thorns Family. This is just a precaution on our end so that you can't just abandon us without any consequences. The time for the contract varies, but the lowest time is 4 years."

"Four years..." He mumbled.

If it was just a year, he might have considered it as some kind of trial run. However, four years was simply too long.

"What about my freedom?" Leo didn't reject just yet and continued asking more questions, as he wanted to understand more about his situation before he had to speak with the other 3 families.

"Don't worry, we won't restrict your freedom. You are free to do whatever you want and go wherever you want, but we will send you on missions from time to time. That's about it."

Leo nodded, "I understand. Can you give me some time to think about this? I also have to speak with the other families after this."

"The other families?" Gloria raised an eyebrow.

"Yes, the other three Celestial Families. They also want to speak with me today."

"I see... Considering your talents, I'm not surprised that they're approaching you as well." Gloria sighed.

"Then before I leave, I have one more thing I want to tell you."

Gloria proceeded to take out something from her Spatial Ring before placing it on the table before them.

Leo looked at the bright red staff on the table and swallowed nervously, "This is..."

"This is an S-Rank magic artifact. It's called Eternal Phoenix Staff. Not only will it boost your fire magic power tremendously, but it also reduces the mana required to cast your fire magic spells by 50 percent. Moreover, it has a special effect that enhances your fire magic to become phoenix flames. If you join our Thorns Family, this staff will be yours."

"S-Rank magic artifact..." Leo's breathing quickened as he glared at the beautiful red staff.

Gloria retrieved the staff a moment later and said, "I await your response, Leo, and I hope it will be good news."

She looked at Eve next and smiled, "Thank you for having me here today despite my sudden appearance."

"No problem." Eve smiled back.

Once Gloria left the room, Eve said to Leo, "How do you feel about the Thorns Family?"

"They seem nice and reasonable," he gave her his honest opinion.

## **Chapter 180: Meeting the Four Celestial Families(3)**

"Nice and reasonable, huh?" Eve chuckled at Leo's words.

"What's so funny about that?" He frowned.

"They only seem that way because they're trying to recruit you. Do you even know anything about the Thorns Family—their true nature?" Camille suddenly asked him.

"No, I don't, and I was just about to ask you."

"The Thorns Family is run by women that treat men as though they're trash. It didn't seem like it because she was doing a good job at hiding it. If you join the Thorns Family, you'll be ridiculed and treated like a dog by them." Camille calmly said.

"Seriously...?" Leo was in disbelief when he heard this information.



Meanwhile, Eve was trying her best to not burst out laughing.

"They're also mainly earth magic users, so you'll stick out like a sore thumb with your fire magic."

"I highly advise you to stay away from the Thorns Family if you don't want your pride as a man to be destroyed." Camille said a moment later.

"I understand." He nodded, and then he asked, "Who am I meeting with next?"

"The Tempest Family." Eve said after looking at her schedule.

"Oh..." Leo suddenly recalled Opal Tempest, who he stripped naked during the tournament.

'I really hope they won't say anything about that...' he sighed inwardly.

Half an hour later, two people from the Tempest Family showed up, and to Leo's surprise, there was a familiar face amongst them.

"You are... Opal Tempest..."

Indeed, Opal Tempest, the one he'd stripped during the tournament, was there for some reason.

"If you're here to guilt trip me into joining the Tempest Family, it won't work." He said to her even before they sat down.

"I have no intentions of doing that," she said in an annoyed voice.

"Then why are you here?"

"Because my family told me to be here."

Once they sat down, the middle-aged man with Opal spoke with a friendly smile on his face, "Hello, Leo Magnus. I am Gabriel Tempest. I'm sure you already know her from the tournament, but this little one beside me is Opal Tempest, and she's my daughter."

"Hello."

"We're here today for one simple reason— we want you to join our Tempest Family." Gabriel spoke.

"I heard that the Thorns Family has already spoken to you, so I am going to cut down to the chase. If you join our Tempest Family, I will give my daughter's hand to you, and you will receive the Tempest Family's full support."

"W-Wait a minute. You're asking me to marry your daughter?" Leo asked with a baffled expression on his face, but Opal didn't seem surprised by her father's words, mostly because she was told about it in advance.

"That's right. If my daughter is not good enough for you, or you have a different taste, there are other ladies within the Tempest Family that will not hesitate to become yours."

"Also, we have this for you."

Gabriel retrieved a magic artifact and placed it on the table.

"This is a Phoenix Necklace, an S-Rank magic artifact. It will boost the power of your fire magic significantly, and it can even summon a phoenix to aid you in battle for a brief moment."

'Summon a phoenix...?' Leo was really intrigued by this artifact, but it wasn't to the point where he'll join their family just for it.

"Can you tell me about the rules in your family and my purpose there?" Leo asked a moment later.

"Of course." Gabriel nodded, and he proceeded to explain everything, "The rules are simple. You cannot talk badly about the family, and you cannot do anything that will cause our family to lose face. You also cannot harm anyone in the same family, and we do not tolerate betrayal. If you betray our family while you're with us, we will punish you with death."

'They have pretty much the same rules as the Thorns Family but with the addition of being executed if I break the more severe rules... No, the Thorns Family probably has the same rules and forgot to mention it.' Leo pondered inwardly.

"As for your purpose in the family— since you'll be marrying into the family, your main priority will be to increase the family members."

"Umm... Do I have to marry into your family? What if I don't want to get married yet? Much less have children..." He asked.

"That is perfectly fine as well. You can simply work for our family under a contract until you feel comfortable enough to have a family of your own."

Leo continued to ask several more questions before ending their conversation.

"Give me some time to decide. I will let you know my response soon," he said to them.

"I understand. Have a good day."

Once the Tempest Family left, Leo looked at Camille and asked, "So what's wrong with them?"

"The Tempest Family is actually pretty normal compared to the Thorns Family. If there's one major flaw about them, it's their strictness. If you do anything wrong, they will punish you for even the slightest mistake."

"Also everyone in their family is expected to have at least 5 children. That's why they're the biggest family amongst the four Celestial Families."

"F-Five children?" Leo swallowed nervously. He couldn't even imagine having a single child, much less five.

Inside his head, he imagined having five children with Opal Tempest, which made him shudder.

"Yeah... I think I will pass..."

"Up next is the Light Family." Eve said a moment later. "They'll be here in ten minutes."

"Can you tell me about your family before they show up?" Leo asked Camille.

"They're a bunch of workaholics who always strive for perfection, and they won't accept anything less than that. Also, they are all selfish bastards that only care about themselves. If you don't benefit them, you might as well be trash." Camille spoke in a cold voice, leaving Leo speechless.

Sometime later, the Light Family showed up to the office.