

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 181: Meeting the Scarlet Family

When the Light Family arrived at the office, an old man with an unfathomable aura appeared before Leo.

Camille narrowed her eyes when she saw this person.

The old man glanced at Camille for a brief second before ignoring her and turned to focus on Leo, who was his reason for being there.

"I am Adam Light, and I am here in hopes to recruit you to our Light Family." The old man said after sitting down.

"Unlike the Tempest Family and the Thorns Family, the Light Family's influence and fame isn't restricted to this Stellar City. Our name reaches every corner of the world with connections in almost every city. If you join our Light Family, we will turn you into one of the most powerful magic users in this world within 10 years."

"However, I am going to be honest with you. Our Light Family is very strict and disciplined. If you are lazy or unwilling to train everyday, you are not going to like our family very much."

"Countless people wish to join the Light Family but only very few would get that chance. If you join our Light Family, you won't ever have to worry about money again, and you will receive the best support this city has to offer."

"If you have any questions, ask away."

Leo then asked, "What are the rules and restrictions? And what do you expect me to do in the Light Family?"

"The rules are as follows— You are not allowed to harm any member from the same family. You are not allowed to badmouth the Light Family. You are not to do anything that could disgrace our name. You are not allowed to do anything that will harm our reputation as a righteous family, which means any criminal activities are a big no-no. If you are caught doing anything illegal, we will punish you severely. And obviously, you are not allowed to do anything that could be considered as betrayal towards the family."

"As for our expectations for you— We will give you a goal that you must fulfill within a limited time. If you fail, we will punish you accordingly. You will be going on missions actively, and you will be participating in Labyrinth raids."

"Naturally, we do not expect you to raid Labyrinths with us the day you join the family. In the beginning you will only be training, and after a year of training or earlier if we think you're ready, we will put your talents to use."

And before Leo could even say anything, Adam retrieved two items and placed them on the table before them.

"S-Rank magic artifact 'Flame Emperor's Sword' and a Tier 7 fire magic spell 'Phoenix Rising'. We will give these two items to you if you join our family."

'Two items? The Light Family is obviously far more generous than the previous two... However, they are also far more hardcore.' Leo thought to himself.

"I won't ask you to give me a response right away, but I won't wait forever either. You have three days to decide whether you want to join our Light Family or not. Until then." After gathering the two treasures, Adam stood up and left the office.

Compared to the other two families, the Light Family seemed to be more dignified and prideful, and they were far less desperate to recruit him.

"The Light Family truly is something else." Leo said while looking at Camille.

"I forgot to mention— they're incredibly arrogant."

"Well, arrogance isn't necessarily a bad thing. I can be very arrogant at times myself." Leo admitted.

He then asked Eve, "When's the Scarlet Family going to show up?"

"They won't show up for another few hours, so you can go back home for now." Eve said.

"Alright. I'm going to train my magic then."

And for the next several hours, Leo would spend all of his time practicing his fire magic spells, increasing most of their mastery ranks to Rank A, and the only ones that hadn't reached Rank A was his Tier 6 and Tier 7 magic spell.

Leo stopped his training when he received a call from Eve.

"Get ready. They'll be here in half an hour."

"Okay."

Leo went to take a quick shower before making his way back to Eve's office.

When he arrived, there was only five minutes until the Scarlet Family's arrival.

"This is going to be the real deal, Leo. There's a good chance the Scarlet Family won't be here to recruit you. You should also choose your words carefully when you speak with them, as they are easy to offend."

"I know." He nodded. "However, I doubt they will do anything to me."

"What makes you say that?" Camille asked him.

"Because of Lia Scarlet. She won't let them."

Camille narrowed her eyes at him, "And why would she do that for you? Because you're lovers?"

"No, it's because she promised that she wouldn't hurt me."

"Even if that's true, what's going to stop her family from hurting you?" Eve raised an eyebrow.

"Well, I'm not 100 percent certain about that, but I think Lia would stop them if they do. She's the future leader of the Scarlet Family, right? That means she should have at least some authority within the family."

Eve shook her head, "While it's true that Lia Scarlet is a very important individual within her family, I wouldn't say that she's very influential— at least not until she fully awakens her Scarlet Eyes and becomes the leader of the family. Until then, she's just a young lady of the family."

"Is that so..."

Sometime later, the Scarlet Family arrived at the academy, and there were two of them.

The atmosphere in the room changed the moment they stepped foot into it, making the air feel stuffy and unpleasant for them to breathe.

Out of these two people, Leo actually recognized one of them, and his eyebrows twitched when he saw Edwin's old face.

'Fuck... Why does he have to be here?' Leo sighed inwardly.

Chapter 182: Meeting the Scarlet Family(2)

The Scarlet Family sat down before Leo and Eve shortly after they entered the room with Edwin being the only one standing, as he was a servant.

Sitting before Leo was a middle-aged man wearing a pair of sunglasses on his head that was covered in dark black hair. He had a naturally cold face, sharp, sword-like eyebrows, brown eyes, and a disgruntled expression on his face, giving off the feeling of a gangster.

"Leo Magnus, correct?" The middle-aged man asked.

"Yes, that is correct."

"I am Xander Scarlet, and I came all the way here to receive an answer for one question."

He sat forward and glared at Leo like a lion staring at its prey.

"Leo Magnus, what is your relationship with my daughter, Lia Scarlet?"

'He's Lia's father?!' Leo cried inwardly after learning this information, as he looked nothing like Lia.

And instead of her father, he looked more like her bodyguard.

Leo could feel an invisible pressure bearing down on him at this moment.

After forcefully swallowing, Leo spoke, "My relationship with Lia Scarlet? I don't have any relationship with her. In fact, my first encounter with her was during the tournament."

Xander's body suddenly began trembling, and his face flushed with redness.

When she saw this, Eve prepared to defend Leo from any sudden attacks.

"You bastard..." Xander growled in a low voice.

"How dare you kiss my daughter when you have no relationship with her... Are you looking down on my Scarlet Family?!" Xander roared, causing the whole room to shake.

"Lord Xander, please tone down your anger." Eve said to him in a calm voice.

"Calm down?! This bastard, he—!"

"Please wait a moment." Leo suddenly interrupted with a frown on his face.

"I never kissed your daughter, Lia Scarlet."

"So you're calling me a liar now? The entire city has been talking about that incident since the tournament ended, or are you going to tell me that I had been hearing things?"

The invisible pressure on Leo became heavier.

"Edwin! Tell me what you saw!" Xanders spoke in a commanding voice.

"Yes! This humble servant witnessed this scoundrel taking advantage of the Young Lady during her confusion and defiled her lips with his dirty mouth!" Edwin said in a loud and clear voice.

Leo felt like punching Edwin in the face after hearing his exaggerated words.

"Fucking bullshit! It was Lia who initiated the kiss! She kissed me, not the other way around! Get your damn facts straight, you senile old man!"

Edwin's eyes flickered with killing intent after hearing Leo's words, and his eyebrows twitched uncontrollably, which only happens when he's filled with anger.

'I didn't think I would find someone more obnoxious than that little brat Leon!' Edwin cursed inwardly.

"Edwin, is this true?" Xander suddenly asked him in an awfully calm voice.

Edwin swallowed nervously before speaking, "Yes, it is true that the Young Lady kissed him first, but that doesn't change the fact that they have kissed."

"..."

Xander turned silent.

'Just what does she see in this boy?' He wondered inwardly.

When he heard that Lia had kissed someone, he couldn't believe it at first, and when he tried to ask Lia why she kissed him, she replied with 'because I want him', which had greatly puzzled him.

After a long minute of silence, Xander looked at Leo and said, "Let's have a spar."

"What?" Leo couldn't believe his ears and turned to look at Eve, who also had a surprised look on her face.

"Are you seriously trying to fight a student, Lord Xander?" Eve asked him with a slight frown.

"Fight? I will not be fighting him. It's more of a test than anything. I want to see what he's capable of. Although I've heard rumors about his prowess, I want to confirm it myself."

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

"First I have to ask— what do I get out of this? Why should I spar with you?" Leo said.

Xander showed him a cold smile and spoke, "You can get two things out of this— my approval, or my disapproval."

"If you don't spar with me, I will consider you as an enemy of the Scarlet Family. When that happens... I don't need to explain to you what will happen to the enemies of my family, do I?" Xander glared at him with killing intent in his gaze, causing Leo's body to stiffen up from fear.

Xander's killing intent was so powerful that it surpassed the strongest monster he has fought, rivaling that of an S-Rank monster.

"I would appreciate it if you stop threatening my student in my presence, Lord Xander." Eve spoke, emitting her own pressure that countered Xander's pressure.

"Alright, I will spar with you." Leo suddenly said.

Xander nodded with a solemn expression, and he said, "Take us to your strongest training room."

Sometime later, Eve brought the Scarlet Family to the training room behind her living quarters.

"Master... There's no reason to test him. He should be eliminated as soon as possible before he corrupts the Young Lady any further." Edwin said to him while they prepared for the spar.

"Are you questioning my decision, Edwin?" Xander suddenly glared at him with a cold gaze, causing his body to tremble.

"This lowly servant has overstepped his boundaries, Master. I deserved to be punished."

"Open your eyes, Edwin. The purpose of this spar isn't to test his capabilities. It's to see how much of a threat he could be to our Scarlet Family if he decides to go against us. And since he appears to be in a good relationship with my daughter, we could potentially acquire his power for ourselves."

The Scarlet Family prioritizes power over everything else, so it made sense for Xander, the head of the family, to covet Leo's power.

"I am ready to spar." Leo said a few moments later.

"Good." Xander approached Leo and stopped a few meters away from him.

"Before we begin, let's lay down some ground rules." Xander said.

"Sure." He nodded.

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"First and foremost, I won't use any magic for this spar. This will reduce the risk of me accidentally killing you. I will also use no weapons, meaning that I can only use my fists." Xander spoke in a calm voice.

"Second, since I don't have much time left here, this spar will end in five minutes or when you hurt me."

"If you can hurt me before three minutes, I will give you a reward."

"I like where this is going." Leo smiled.

"Edwin, timer." Xander said without looking at him.

Edwin proceeded to take out a stopwatch and said, "I am ready."

Xander then looked at Eve and said, "I will let you start the battle, Headmistress Eve."

Eve nodded, "I will cast a fireball. The spar will begin the moment the fireball explodes."

She summoned a fireball and tossed it between them.

This fireball hovered in the air between Leo and Xander for three seconds before it exploded.

Whoosh!

Xander's figure instantly disappeared from his location.

Leo couldn't even see where Xander had gone, and before he could react, he felt an intense pain coming from his stomach. Then he was sent flying by the impact of Xander's fist.

Boom!

Leo's back slammed into the wall a moment later.

'How the hell can he move that fast without magic?!' Leo cried inwardly, as it looked like Xander had teleported beside him just now.

Xander looked at his fist with a puzzled look on his face, and he spoke in a confused voice, "How did you defeat my daughter when you're so weak? Did she purposefully go easy on you?"

When Leo heard such words, his blood began boiling in anger.

He quickly summoned a flame wall around Xanders before blasting him with dozens of Fire Blasts.

However, Leo stopped midway when he realized that Xander had somehow escaped the Flame Wall and appeared behind him.

Whoosh!

Leo was sent flying again after being punched in the back by Xander.

Camille and Eve watched their fight with extreme focus to make sure that Xander wouldn't kill or heavily injure Leo.

"Hey... Camille, I have a question for you..." Eve suddenly spoke in an awkward tone.

"Did you, by any chance, not teach him about mana enchantment...?"

"..."

After a moment of silence, she spoke, "By the looks of it, neither did you..."

"My god. How could we have forgotten to teach him something so simple?" Eve facepalmed when she realized this.

"Mana enchantment is common sense in our world, so we subconsciously thought he would know about it." Camille said.

"We've been too focused on training him with advanced techniques that we forgot the most basic ones. Looks like we still have a lot of work to do." Eve said with a bittersweet smile.

A minute later—

"Four minutes left." Edwin announced.

"Leo, he's boosting his physical capabilities with his mana. You should do the same." Lilith said to him when she saw how badly he was getting beaten.

"I wasn't taught such a thing yet!"

"It's very simple. Do you know how you feed your magic circle mana during casting? Instead of feeding your magic circle, feed it to your body instead. They didn't teach you this probably because it's common sense and something everyone can naturally do."

"Maybe in this world, but it's definitely not common sense back in my world!"

Leo immediately followed Lilith's advice and began pumping mana into his body, and he suddenly felt a profound strength emerging from somewhere within his body.

"I-I can see it! I can see his movements!" Leo was pleasantly surprised when he could finally see Xander's movements.

However, even though he can now see his opponent, he was still having trouble following Xander's speed.

'More! I need more mana!'

Leo began pouring mana into his body like crazy, causing his aura to skyrocket.

"Leo! Calm down! If you overflow your body with too much mana, you could seriously injure yourself!" Lilith warned him.

'This fool! If he continues pouring so much mana into his body, he will self-destruct!' Edwin laughed inwardly when he saw this, and he silently hoped for Leo to kill himself.

However, to everyone's surprise, not only did he not overflow with mana, but he appeared to be completely fine despite having an abundant amount of mana in his body.

"The real fight starts now!" Leo roared as he rushed at Xander.

Due to the mana influencing his body, he was able to move at a speed that was multiple times quicker than before, and it looked like he'd cast Flame Dash. However, because this is his first time using mana enchantment, his control was all over the place.

"Your power is useless if you cannot control it!" Xander said as he started attacking Leo again.

While it was true that Leo couldn't control his new power at first, he quickly got the hang of it, and in less than one minute, Leo was able to block Xander's attacks.

"Three minutes left." Edwin announced.

'I have less than a minute to defeat him for a reward!'

Under this pressure, Leo started moving faster and faster, and his magic spells were also being cast faster.

'How is this guy casting spells so quickly?! Just how powerful are his mental capabilities?!' Xander was quite shocked by Leo's mental prowess, which is arguably the most important aspect for a magic user.

"Fifteen seconds until three minutes." Edwin announced.

When he heard this, Leo's eyes flickered with a profound light.

Then, a massive dragon head appeared behind him.

Xander's eyes widened with shock.

'Tier 7 magic?!'

However, Leo didn't aim the Dragon's Breath at Xander. Instead, he aimed it at the floor, and when the dragon released its flames, it spewed all over the floor, covering the entire training room with flames. This way, Xander wouldn't have anywhere to run.

The Dragon's Breath would continue until Leo eventually ran out of mana.

Once the dragon disappeared, Leo kneeled on the floor, experiencing mana fatigue for a few seconds until he regenerated enough mana.

Chapter 184: Meeting the Scarlet Family(4)

The training room resembled that of purgatory with flames everywhere, and if one looked closely, the walls in the room appeared to have melted a little.

Furthermore, since Leo intended on covering the whole room with his magic, he had attacked Eve and the other spectators.

Of course, he was confident that neither Eve or Camille would get hurt by it. As for Edwin, he didn't care if the butler got hurt or not, as he has been wanting to mess with him for a while now.

Once the flames died down a few moments later and Leo could see the others again, he turned to look at Xander, and to his surprise, Xander appeared to be completely unharmed despite eating most of the Dragon's Breath.

However, when he looked closely, he could see a distortion around Xander's body.

"You bastard! How dare you drag me into your attack!" Edwin suddenly shouted in an angry voice.

When Leo turned to look at Edwin, he saw that Edwin's butler uniform was burned a little by the flames, which had inflicted more harm to Edwin's heart than any physical damage could inflict.

He then turned to look at Eve and Camille, and sure enough, neither of them seemed to be injured.

"Hey, you used magic to protect yourself just now, didn't you?" Sometime later, Leo said to Xander with a slight smile on his face.

Indeed, Xander had subconsciously used gravity magic to protect himself after feeling the threatening pressure from the Dragon's Breath. Of course, he quickly deactivated it when he noticed it, but it was already too late by then.

"Since you broke the rules, I win by default, right?" Leo continued.

"You crazy bastard." Xander muttered in a cold voice.

As much as he hated losing, he hated being a sore loser even more, so he had no choice but to admit defeat.

"You're right. Even though it wasn't my intention and I immediately deactivated it after realizing it, that won't change the fact that I had broken my own rule by using magic." Xander said.

And he continued, "I have a few questions for you before I leave, Leo Magnus."

"How do you feel about my daughter?"

"About Lia? I think she's one crazy bitch." Leo said, not sugarcoating his words.

"How dare you insult the Young Lady before her father!" Edwin exclaimed.

However, instead of getting angry, Xander actually burst out laughing.

"A crazy bitch, huh? I won't deny that she's a little crazy at times."

"Then what do you think about my Scarlet Family?"

Leo pondered for a moment before answering, "I don't know much about the Scarlet Family, so I cannot say."

"Then would you like to know more about us?"

Leo immediately shook his head, "I'd rather not. I feel like that would be a headache."

"Is that so?"

Xander proceeded to reach into his Spatial Ring.

A moment later, he retrieved a red medallion and tossed it at Leo.

"This is your reward for defeating me. As long as you have that medallion, the Scarlet Family will assist you one time. Whether it be money problems or you want us to kill someone for you, we will do it. Of course, this doesn't mean we'll do literally anything. For example, if you want us to destroy one of the other Celestial Families, we won't be able to do that. And I have the right to take back that medallion if you do anything that will harm the Scarlet Family, so keep this in mind."

After saying these words, Xander turned around and began walking towards the exit.

Seeing this, Edwin quickly followed him.

Once he reached the door, Xander stopped for a moment and said, "Right. Regarding your relationship with my daughter. Even if my daughter approves of you, I will not approve of your relationship until your name has some worth to it— enough so that you won't embarrass my Scarlet Family."

And without waiting for a response, Xander left the training room with Edwin following behind.

"Why does everybody think we're in a relationship when that isn't the case?" Leo mumbled in a dazed voice.

"That's because you kissed. Duh." Lilith said.

"She did that on her own."

"That's not how people see it." Lilith shrugged.

"That wasn't as bad as I thought it would be." Eve suddenly approached him and spoke.

"Yes, it could've been far worse." Leo had to agree with her.

"In fact, Xander Scarlet didn't really seem that bad."

Camille shook her head, "You have no idea."

"Eh? What's wrong with him?" Leo asked.

"Lord Xander's nickname is the Blood Emperor. He's killed tens of thousands of people and is one of the most fearsome individuals in this world. The only reason he's acting so tamed is probably because of Lia Scarlet. She's his only weakness, after all."

"Blood Emperor... What an ominous name..." Leo shuddered.

Meanwhile, inside their car, Xander said to Edwin, "Edwin, don't think I can't sense the killing intent in your heart. I forbid you from killing that boy."

"Master... Please forgive my insolence, but I cannot fathom why the Young Lady and the Master are treating him like that. In my eyes, he's not worthy." Edwin sighed.

"Your wits aren't as sharp as they used to be, Edwin. Is this due to your old age? Perhaps it's about time you start thinking about retirement." Xander shook his head.

And he continued, "That boy... In just a single month, he's managed to learn up to Tier 7 magic spells and forced me to use magic. Although his status is worthless at the moment, it will eventually soar, as his talents are one-of-a-kind in our era— as long as he survives, that is."

Edwin was speechless. He didn't think Xander held Leo with such high regards. The last time he praised someone to such an extent was when he learned that his daughter, Lia Scarlet, was born with the Scarlet Eyes.

However, when he really thought about it, he began to understand Xander's thoughts.

Xander was someone who greatly valued talent and power, so it would only be natural for him to favor Leo, who had immense talent.

Chapter 185: New Uniform

"What about the medallion, Master? This is the first time you've given someone that young our Scarlet Medallion." Edwin then asked.

"There are two reasons why I gave him that medallion. The first one is because I lost to him. The second is to ensure that he doesn't become our enemy and joins our family in the future. As long as he has the medallion and the rumor that Lia Scarlet is his lover exists, the other families will have to think twice before they approach him." Xander said.

"Do you really plan on letting the Young Lady start a relationship with that child, Master?" Edwin swallowed nervously.

"That will depend on the boy. If he becomes strong enough, I don't see a reason to refuse their relationship. In the end, it's all about making my Scarlet Family the strongest in the world, and if he can help me achieve that goal, I will give him whatever he wants, even if he wants my most precious treasure— my daughter Lia." Xander spoke with a profound smile.

'Fuck... If the Master is this interested in that bastard, there's nothing I can do about him.' Edwin sighed inwardly.

'Fortunately, I still have another bastard that I can kill. Leon... Once I find you, I will have you endure my wrath for Leo Magnus as well!'

Back at the academy, Eve said to Leo, "By the way, there are several more families that want to meet you, but they're not as important as the Four Celestial Families, so you don't really need to meet them, and I'm pretty sure that most of them will be saying the same thing— to ask you to marry their daughters."

"Forget it. I have had enough with meeting families now." Leo immediately rejected.

"Then we will immediately go back to training." Eve said.

"Okay."

Thus, over the next several days, Leo continued his training with Eve, until it was time for classes again.

During these past few days, Leo's name was spread throughout the entire city like wildfire.

They spoke about how he'd dominated the entire tournament with mostly just a Tier 2 magic spell; they spoke about how he participated in both tournaments; they spoke about how he'd defeated Lia Scarlet; they spoke about how he could use Tier 6 spells after just a month of training.

When the Leo haters learned of this news, there were two responses.

On one hand, they would stop hating him as much with some even beginning to admire him.

On the other hand, however, there were people who became even more jealous and angry at Leo because they believed that all of his miracles were caused by the Fruit of Magic Awakening.

A week later.

"In the end, you didn't accept any of the Four Celestial Families' offer, huh?" Eve said.

"Nope. I want to keep my freedom, and as you'd said, I don't need their protection while I am in the academy. I can think about it after I graduate."

"If that's your decision. Anyways, here is your new uniform and new class." Eve handed Leo four sets of uniforms for magic students and then his new student ID.

"After class, I will have your monster cores ready."

"Okay."

Leo changed into his new uniform and looked at his new class.

"Wait... This class is..." Leo looked at Eve with wide eyes, seemingly in disbelief.

"Good luck." Eve smiled at him without explaining anything.

And before he could say anything else, she left the place and disappeared from his sight like a ghost.

"Let me see..." Lilith peeked at his new class.

"Oh? You're being transferred to the top elite class? The one with Valery and the others? This is going to be interesting..." Lilith chuckled.

Indeed, Leo had been assigned to be in the top magic class in the academy, and it just happened to be the same class as Valery and the other elite students.

"If you think about it, this is to be expected. After all, it wouldn't make sense to put you in a weak class."

"I can only imagine how awkward the atmosphere will be there." He sighed.

"You're worrying too much, Leo. Do you even know how the elite class operates? It's nothing like the ordinary classes that you had been attending." Lilith shook her head.

"How are they different?" He asked.

"Let's see... The classes are shorter, and there are fewer classes in general. Furthermore, the classes are much more practical than your ordinary classes, so you'll be sparring a lot with the teachers."

"Oh yeah, the classes are also optional, meaning you don't even have to attend it. Most of the students only show up once a week and spend the rest of their time training by themselves or with teachers."

"Hey, I like the sound of that. This will give me more time to train. In a world where your strength is more important than studying books, it makes no sense for me to study anymore." Leo shrugged.

Sometime later, Leo arrived in his new class.

"Lilith, you said that most of them don't attend these classes, right? Then why is this room full of students now?" Leo asked her after he saw the scene inside the classroom.

"It's probably because of the upcoming event," she said.

"Upcoming event?"

"You'll find out about it later."

Meanwhile, his new teacher introduced him to the class.

"I'm sure you already know him, but this is Leo Magnus. After his magnificent performance at the tournament, the academy has decided to reassign his class so that he could receive proper training and education."

The classroom had 21 students, and sure enough, Valery's team and Helia were there, alongside several faces that Leo recognized from his old world.

"And I will be your new homeroom teacher starting today. My name is Ethel Rex, and I am an expert with earth magic."

His new teacher was a tall old man with a refined appearance that made him seem more like a butler than teacher.

"Go ahead and introduce yourself to your new classmates, Leo." He then said.

Chapter 186: Labyrinth Examination

"Since everyone already knows about me, I am going to keep my introduction brief. I'm Leo Magnus, and I acquired the ability to use fire magic recently. Nice to meet you all." Leo introduced himself to his new classmates.

"If you have any questions, feel free to ask—"

Before he could even finish his sentence, one of the students there raised his hand and asked, "Hey, Leo, do you still have amnesia?"

"My memories have not yet returned if that's what you're trying to ask." Leo quickly answered.

Another student raised her hand and asked, "What did the Fruit of Magic Awakening taste like?"

"It was sweet and very juicy," he replied with a calm smile.

Then another question— "What's your relationship with Lia Scarlet? Is it true that you're lovers? Since when?"

Leo turned to look at the person who just spoke, and it was Jennifer, who was part of Valery's team during the Wilderness Training Course.

"No, we're not lovers." Leo said in a sighing voice.

"Eh? Then why did you two kiss during the tournament?"

"I didn't kiss her. She kissed me. And I'm done answering these questions." Leo said.

"Where do I sit?" He then asked the teacher.

"You can sit wherever you want." Ethel said.

Leo looked around the room for a moment before walking to the back of the room, where there was a whole row of empty seats.

Once he was seated, the teacher began speaking, "Now that the tournament is over, we will focus on the next big event that will be happening in 3 months— the Labyrinth Examination."

None of the students seemed surprised when they heard this news. As for Leo, he was more puzzled than surprised.

'Labyrinth Examination?'

It was clear that it had something to do with Labyrinths, but he couldn't imagine what.

'Perhaps it's another examination like the Wilderness Training Course but with more focus on Labyrinths?' He pondered.

When Ethel noticed Leo's expression, he said, "Since there is someone who doesn't know— or remember about the Labyrinth Examination, I will give a brief explanation."

"The Labyrinth Examination is as its name implies— it's an examination that involves Labyrinths. However, this Labyrinth is a little different than the ones you normally know."

"Located underneath the Four Witches Academy is one of four Ancient Labyrinths in the world. This Ancient Labyrinth has existed for hundreds of years, and it has over 50 floors. We don't know the exact amount of floors because we have never reached the

true boss room, and every year, our students— as well as other students will be sent into this Labyrinth for their examination."

"Your goal is simple— go as far as you can in the Labyrinth."

"You can also team up with 3 other people during the examination."

"Any questions, Leo?" Ethel asked him a moment later.

"What is an Ancient Labyrinth? And what's so different about it compared to the other Labyrinths besides having a higher amount of floors?"

"Unlike ordinary Labyrinths, Ancient Labyrinths have far more floors, and they also have increased monster spawn rate. Furthermore, they have more than one boss room, and these bosses respawn like normal monsters unless you clear the true boss room at the very end of the Labyrinth." Ethel explained.

"Multiple bosses that respawn...? Isn't this place a treasure trove for mana cores then?" Leo couldn't help but ask.

"At first that was the case, but the monsters eventually stopped giving mana cores, so if we want more mana cores, we'll need to go deeper." Ethel said.

"This Ancient Labyrinth hasn't been cleared for hundreds of years right? How dangerous is it?" Leo asked his next question.

"It gets progressively more difficult the deeper you delve. For example, there will only be F-Rank monsters for the first five floors, then for the next five floors, it would have E-Rank monsters. The furthest we have gone is 52 floors, and at that level, there are only S-Rank monsters."

"S-Rank monsters..." Leo muttered in a nervous voice.

"Any more questions?"

"One more. You mentioned that students from other schools will be participating in this examination as well, right? How does that work?"

"You don't need to mind the students from the other schools since they have their own thing going on. They'll only be showing up to use the Labyrinth, that's all."

Leo raised an eyebrow and asked, "What if we encounter each other and a fight starts?"

"Fights are strictly prohibited within the Ancient Labyrinth, and this applies to everyone even if the students are from the same school. If someone tries to start a fight with you, immediately report it to the teachers."

"However, with that being said, fights between students still happens every year, so be prepared for it."

The teacher continued to talk about the Labyrinth Examination afterward.

"The Labyrinth Examination this year will be a little different. I won't go into too much detail since they're still being planned, but you can expect rewards from it."

After talking for a few more minutes, Ethel said, "This is all for homeroom today. You are all dismissed. Oh, Leo, you stay behind for a bit. There are still a few things that I need to explain to you."

"Okay."

Once all of the students in the classroom beside Leo left, the teacher approached him and said, "Since this is your first time in a magic class, I will teach you about how things usually go around here."

"After homeroom, the students are allowed to go off and train by themselves. They can go anywhere they want as long as they remain in the school premises. Most students train by themselves, but there are those that want to train with a teacher. If you want to do the latter, you can check out the schedule here. It will show you which teachers are available at what time and what they specialize in."

Ethel handed Leo a touchpad, its only function used to check the teachers' schedules.

"Thank you." Leo said as he accepted it.

Chapter 187: Accident

"Though, since you're already being taught by Headmistress Eve, I doubt you'll need to be trained by another teacher. After all, she's the best trainer in this whole academy." Ethel said with a smile.

"Now that classes have started again, she won't have as much time to train me, so I will need to rely more on other teachers." Leo said.

"I see. Well, good luck. If you need me, you can find me at the teacher's lounge. If I'm not there, I will be at the training center or the training field."

"I understand. Thank you."

Once the teacher left the room, Leo mumbled to himself, "Ancient Labyrinth, huh? I can't wait."

"What are you planning?" Lilith asked after seeing his weird face.

"Isn't it obvious? I am going to farm monsters there! Three months... Do you think I will be strong enough to hunt S-Rank monsters in that amount of time?"

"Probably." She nodded.

Leo left the classroom shortly after, but he was stopped immediately after by someone that had been waiting for him outside.

"What do you want?" Leo asked the red-headed beauty standing before him.

"I want to spar with you," she said in a calm voice.

"Why?"

"To see who is stronger, obviously."

Leo pondered for a moment before asking, "Are you an Adventurer? What rank are you if you are?"

"B-Rank."

"Alright, I will spar with you." Leo said with a smile.

He needed to complete his quest, and she was perfect for it.

Helia found his behavior a bit odd, but she didn't say anything since she got to fight him anyway.

Sometime later, they entered a private room in the Training Center.

"Any specific rules?" Leo asked as they stood before each other.

"Let's use the same rules as the ones from the tournament, so no magic artifacts and no potions."

"Alright."

"The match will start the moment this coin hits the floor." Helia took out a coin and flipped it into the air.

When it landed, both Leo and Helia cast their first spell.

BOOM!

They both used Fire Blast, causing the room to shake slightly from the massive explosion.

And before the explosion could even go away, Helia cast another Fire Blast.

Leo did the same.

'Oh? Is this a challenge?' Leo thought to himself.

In order to test out his theory, Leo cast Fire Blast for the third time, and as he'd expected, Helia also did the same.

A smile appeared on Leo's face as he continued to spam Fire Blast.

Not wanting to lose to him, Helia also spammed Fire Blast.

'I have trained my fire magic even before I could walk! I am not going to lose to someone who started training a mere month ago!' Helia gritted her teeth as she tried her best to keep up with Leo, who was clearly at an advantage due to his faster casting speed.

However, as much effort as she gave, Leo would eventually overpower her with Fire Blast and send her flying.

<You have completed a Quest>

[+1,000 Magic Points]

Defeating a B-Rank Adventurer gave him a thousand Magic Points.

"Want to go again?" Leo asked her, who was lying on the floor with her arm covering her face.

"This time, let's use other magic besides Fire Blast."

Helia nodded her head and got back on her feet.

Leo quickly purchased the quest again before fighting Helia for a second time.

This time, Helia stopped being stubborn with Fire Blast and actually used her other magic spells.

The two of them went back and forth, engulfing the entire room with flames.

Eventually, they decided to end it with their strongest magic spell.

"Hephaestus' Flaming Sword!"

Helia summoned her massive flaming sword.

Not wanting to look down on her, Leo also decided to use his strongest fire spell.

A dragon's head appeared behind Leo while Helia's flaming sword materialized above her.

"T-That magic spell..." Helia was immensely shocked when she saw the dragon head, as she recognized it.

She wanted to ask him why he knew Eve's signature spell, but she wasn't in the situation to do so.

They released their magic spells a moment later.

Whoosh!

The dragon's head released a fiery breath while the sword slashed at it, splitting the breath in half.

However, Helia wanted to slice more than just the flames— she wanted to slice Leo and the dragon's head behind him.

Unfortunately, the Tier 7 Dragon's Breath was simply too powerful for Helia's Tier 6 spell, and she was overwhelmed for a second time after a few seconds of struggle.

"Aaah!"

Helia cried out loud when the flames engulfed her body.

Leo quickly stopped his spell when he saw this.

"Are you okay?!" He quickly ran to her.

Once the flames died down, Leo could see Helia lying on the floor, but there was something odd about her appearance.

"Oh!" Leo immediately slowed down and closed his eyes, as Helia's uniform had been completely burned away by the Dragon's Breath, resulting in her being naked.

"Hey, are you okay?" Leo asked her as he slowly approached her.

"..."

There was no response from Helia, which made Leo panic a little.

'Fuck... I hope she's not dead...' He swallowed nervously.

Leo opened his eyes and rushed to Helia again after thinking that she might have died.

He placed his finger underneath her nose.

"Thank god, she's alive." He released a sigh of relief when he could feel her breath on his finger.

He removed jacket and covered Helia's naked body with it.

"Can you look after her while I call for a teacher?" Leo said to Lilith before leaving the room.

A few minutes later, Leo returned with a female teacher.

"What happened here?" The teacher frowned when she saw Helia's condition.

"Uhh... We had a spar and I ended up accidentally burning her clothes..." He said in an awkward voice.

The teacher proceeded to wrap a large blanket around Helia's body before carrying her out of the room and into the medical office that was located a few rooms down for a checkup.

"You wait right here." The teacher said to Leo before leaving.

Chapter 188: Vampire Vanquisher

While Leo waited for the teacher to return, he looked at his quest.

'I didn't get the reward even though I clearly defeated Helia. Does it only work once per individual?' He wondered when his quest didn't finish.

Sometime later, the female teacher returned and said to him, "Helia is fine. She's not in any danger, but her body received minor burns. Tell me, what happened?"

"I already told you. Helia requested to spar with me and I agreed. I guess things got a little heated and we used our most powerful spells." Leo explained.

The teacher looked around the room that had burned marks all over the place and said, "Didn't you know that only Tier 5 and below spells are allowed in the Training Center?"

"Really? I didn't know that..." Leo said.

Naturally, he knew about it, but he lied in order to escape punishment.

The teacher thought that it was due to his amnesia that he doesn't remember so she didn't pursue this matter any further.

"Now you know. If you do this again, we can ban you from coming back here." She warned him.

"Sorry, it won't happen again."

The teacher left shortly after.

"What are you going to do now?" Lilith asked him.

"I'm going to practice back at home, where I can use my magic spell without any limitations," he said as he made his way out of the Training Center.

About two hours later, Helia woke up in the infirmary inside the Training Center.

"Ugh..." She slowly sat up on the bed and looked around in confusion.

"How do you feel? Do you feel pain anywhere?" The nurse asked when she noticed Helia waking up.

"No... I don't feel any pain... What happened?" Helia asked.

"According to the teacher that brought you here, you were knocked unconscious during a spar with another student." The nurse explained.

Helia's head cleared up after hearing this, and she recalled Leo using Dragon's Breath.

"L-Leo! Where did Leo go?!" She asked for him.

"Leo? I'm sorry, but I don't know."

Hearing this, Helia jumped out of the bed and rushed for the exit, but she stopped when she noticed something off about her body.

She looked down to see that she was no longer wearing her school uniform.

"What happened to my clothes?" She turned to look at the nurse with a weird look on her face.

"They were burned during the spar."

"N-No way... So I was naked?" Helia asked for confirmation.

"That's right. When the teacher brought you here, you were already naked." The nurse nodded.

Helia's face immediately flushed with redness.

"Leo!!!" She shouted his name before storming out of the infirmary while still wearing her white patient clothes.

However, she didn't know where Leo was, nor did she know where to start.

Thus, she had no choice but to give up on looking for Leo for now.

After returning to her dorm, Helia changed her clothes and started investigating Leo's whereabouts.

Later that day, when Eve returned home, she went to look for Leo.

Upon finding him in the training room, she called for him, "Leo! Come over here for a bit!"

Leo stopped his training and approached her.

"Here you go." Eve handed him a spatial ring when he stopped.

"These are your mana cores. Is this enough?"

Leo, who had completely forgotten about the mana cores, immediately became excited when Eve handed him the spatial ring.

Once the ring was in his grasp, he took a look inside, and to his surprise, it was filled to the brim with mana cores.

"H-How many mana cores is this?!" He looked at Eve with wide eyes.

"There are 150 S-Rank mana cores and 3,000 A-Rank mana cores in total. This cost me about 2 billion dollars."

"T-Two billion dollars?!" Leo exclaimed.

"I would've gotten you more, but that is literally all the market had in stock, and I even purchased some in the black market."

"This is more than enough... Thank you!" Leo said. He was so excited that he couldn't even begin to count how many Magic Points he'll be able to acquire from these mana cores.

"No, I should be the one thanking you, Leo." Eve shook her head.

"Also, I have one more surprise for you."

She proceeded to retrieve a majestic sword with a red blade from her spatial ring and held it in front of her, offering it to him.

"Do you know what this is?" She asked him.

Leo used his passive skill to analyze the sword before him.

[Vampire Vanquisher]

[Grade: S]

[Description: Increases the power of your sword attacks by 300%. Increases damage to vampires by an additional 200%. Increase Sharpness by 500%. The more vampires you vanquish with this sword, the stronger it becomes. Inflicts 'Unhealable' on damage.]

[Unhealable: Restricts all healing effects]

"Uhh... I have never seen this sword before..." Leo swallowed nervously when he saw the stats of this magic artifact.

"I'm not surprised. This is an S-Rank magic artifact. Vampire Vanquisher— it was the old Leo's sword. We found it when we were looking for him. I wanted to give you this sword sooner, but there were some complications. Don't worry, it's all dealt with now."

"Are you sure you want to give this to me? I'm not the real owner of this sword, you know."

"It's okay. You may not be the same Leo, but you're still Leo." Eve smiled.

Leo grabbed the sword and took it off Eve's hand.

He began swinging it around the next moment.

"Wow, this sword is heavier than it looks. I won't be able to use this for now," he said after a few swings.

"You'll get there eventually. With your talents, I'm sure it won't take long either."

Leo decided to stop his training and return to his room shortly after so that he could convert his mana cores into Magic Points.

"With this many mana cores, I will definitely have enough Magic Points to go on another shopping spree!" He laughed out loud.

Chapter 189: Monthly Limit

After returning to his room, Leo immediately poured all of the A-Grade mana cores from his spatial ring onto the floor.

Three thousand A-Grade mana cores. With this many mana cores, he could get at least 150,000 Magic Points, considering that each A-Rank mana core could fetch him a minimum of 50 Magic Points.

<Convert all mana cores in front of you?>

"Confirm."

However, only a third of the mana cores disappeared.

<1,220 A-Grade mana cores has been converted into Magic Points>

[+100,000 Magic Points]

<You have reached the monthly limit of 100,000 Magic Points for the Magic Converter>

Ding!

<You have received a Unique Quest>

[Quest: Magic Converter Limit Increase]

[Description: Kill 200 A-Grade monsters]

[Time Limit: N/A]

[Reward: Magic Converter monthly limit increases to 200,000 Magic Points]

'What the hell? There's a monthly limit to this thing?' Leo cried inwardly when he saw the notifications.

Although he was a little disappointed by the results, 100,000 Magic Points was still a lot.

'With 100,000 Magic Points, I can upgrade both my mana capacity and magic power, but I don't really need it right now. The same goes for mana regeneration. It would be convenient, but it's not necessary for me right now. Moreover, I have plenty of mana cores left, so I can buy them next time when my limit resets in a month.'

After pondering for some time, Leo decided to purchase more passive skills.

<Confirm purchase 'Acquire B-Rank Passive Skill' for 20,000 Magic Points>

"Confirm."

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Magic Guard>

[Magic Guard: Completely negates the effect and damage of any one magic spell. 60 minute cooldown.]

Leo's eyes widened when he saw this passive skill.

'Does this mean I can survive even a Tier 9 magic spell as long as it's active? This passive skill could be a lifesaver!'

He became convinced that prioritizing passive skills was the right thing to do.

Then he purchased another one.

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Magic Eyes>

[Magic Eyes: Locate your enemy's weak spot to deal fatal damage. Increase damage dealt to weak spots by 100%]

'So this passive skill essentially doubles my damage if I can hit their weak spot. Not bad.'

<You have purchased all available B-Rank Passive Skills>

After purchasing all available passive skills, Leo still had over 60,000 Magic Points left, and he didn't know where to spend them.

In the end, he decided to wait on spending these Magic Points for when he really needed them.

Over the next several days, Leo would spend most of his time training by himself in the training room. Since classes were optional, he no longer bothered with them.

Eve and Camille would occasionally spar with him when they had the time.

A week later, after morning practice, Leo went to the cafeteria for some food.

The closest cafeteria near his place was the one meant for magic students.

A figure approached Leo halfway into his meal.

When he looked at this person, his eyebrows raised slightly.

"I have been looking for you, Leo." Helia said to him with a cold expression on her face.

"If you're looking to spar, I won't do it." Leo immediately said.

After all, even if he defeats her, he won't complete his quest.

Helia took a seat in front of him without asking and said, "I'm not here to spar with you. I have a question for you. How long have you known— and why do you know Dragon's Breath? That is the Headmistress' signature magic spell!"

Leo looked around to see people staring at them with interest, mostly because of Helia's presence.

"I don't know what you're talking about. Please don't bother me while I am eating."

"I see... So you're trying to keep the fact that you know a Tier 7 spell a secret? Why would you try to hide something like that? It would benefit you more to reveal it than to keep it a secret." Helia subconsciously lowered her voice when she noticed this.

"I'm her student, so it's only obvious that I learned it from her. Why do you even care?" Leo asked.

"I can't be curious as a fellow fire magic user?" Helia said with a slight frown on her face.

"As long as you stop bothering me." He said as he started eating again.

"Is that how you treat a lady who got stripped naked by you?" Helia suddenly said.

Leo nearly choked on his food when he heard her words.

"T-That was an accident! Flames burn stuff. It's just how nature works."

"That doesn't change the fact that you'd seen me naked."

"So what if I saw you naked? It's not like I touched you. If it'll make you feel better, I'll let you see me naked as well."

"Why would I want to see you naked?" Helia frowned.

"Then stop making a fuss about it."

"...You're a lot different than before, Leo."

"You mean before I lost my memories? Sorry, there's nothing I can do about that."

Helia ended up staying with Leo until he finished his meal.

"If you have nothing else to say, I'll be leaving now." Leo said as he stood up and went to throw out his trash.

"Wait."

Helia followed him.

"What is it?"

"Let's spar."

"I refuse. I will just end up burning your clothes again, and then you'll continue making a fuss about it."

"I-I don't mind it..." Helia said in a low voice.

"What did you just say?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

With a slightly rosy face, she spoke, "You've already seen me naked once. It won't make a difference if you see it again. I also want to train with you and see what you're doing that's different from my training. I'm clearly doing something wrong if I compare myself to you."

"Why don't you train with her?" Lilith suddenly said, and she continued while chuckling, "She's a beauty with a voluptuous body, which you'll get to see naked if you keep burning her clothes."

"You... Is that all you ever think about?" Leo shook his head inwardly at her remarks.

Chapter 190: Going Back to the Wilderness

"I won't ask you to do it for free. If you train with me, I will pay you for your time." Helia then said.

"Now we're talking. How much are you paying?" Leo suddenly became more interested in her offer.

"What do you want? Money? Artifacts?"

"Mana cores," he calmly said. "The higher quality the better."

"I understand. I will pay you in mana cores." Helia nodded.

"Follow me. I will bring you to my training area." Leo said as he walked out of the cafeteria.

Sometime later, they arrived at Eve's living quarters.

"This is... Isn't this where the Headmistress lives? Even teachers are forbidden from coming here!" Helia exclaimed when she realized where Leo was taking her.

"Yes, and I currently live and train here." Leo calmly said.

"..." Helia was speechless.

Just how much is the Headmistress spoiling him?

Though, she didn't blame Eve for spoiling Leo, especially considering his talents. If she were in Eve's shoes, she would also be spoiling him.

Once they entered the training room behind Eve's house, Leo said, "This place is much more durable than the Training Center, so we can go all out and not have to worry about destroying this place."

Helia nodded, and she asked, "How do you normally train?"

"Nothing much. I just use magic spells until I run out of mana."

Leo casually said, greatly underplaying his own training.

As for Helia, she was unaware of Leo's immense mana regeneration, which allowed him to train tens if not hundreds of times faster than ordinary people.

"You want to spar right? I'm ready whenever you are."

"Okay."

The two of them started training with each other shortly after.

Several hours later, Eve showed up to the training room after her work was done, and to her absolute surprise, Leo wasn't alone, and it wasn't Camille that was with him.

Instead, it was a red-haired beauty that Eve was too familiar with.

"Helia? What are you doing here?" Eve approached them after their spar had ended.

"Good evening, Headmistress. I asked Leo to train with me."

Eve turned to look at him, who spoke, "Was it not okay for me to bring her here? If we trained at the Training Center, we wouldn't be able to go all out, and the teacher there will scold me again for damaging the place."

"No, it's fine. I just wasn't expecting it," she said.

And she continued, "Since you're here, want to join our training?"

"R-Really? You'll train me too?" Helia almost couldn't believe her ears.

Eve would always refuse to train her when she asked before.

"Yes, I don't mind it. It won't make a difference, anyway."

After some preparations, Eve started training Leo and Helia together.

A few hours later.

"Haaa... haaa... haaa..."

Both Leo and Helia laid on the floor gasping for air after the training session.

"You... You train like this everyday with the Headmistress...?" Helia asked him in a weak voice that sounded as though she was on the verge of death.

Helia had been through some rough training before, but it could not be compared to Eve's intensive training, and she was already out of breath a few minutes into it.

"Pretty much, and it never gets easier..."

'No wonder why he's so powerful... If I get to train with the Headmistress for a month, who knows how much stronger I will become— No... Even with the Headmistress training, Leo's growth is still too fast. Is there something else that's assisting his growth?'

The only explanation would be the Fruit of Magic Awakening, as it was a legendary treasure that nobody but Leo has experienced before. However, Helia felt that it was too convenient.

'What if Leo had this talent even before consuming the Fruit of Magic Awakening, and the treasure only allowed him to fully spread his wings? A treasure that can give one the ability to use magic and become extremely talented... Would the gods allow such a powerful treasure to exist?'

"Thank you for the training, Headmistress." Helia said to her before leaving the place.

"And I will have your payment ready by tomorrow." She looked at Leo afterward.

"Okay. Take your time." He nodded.

"Why is she paying you?" Eve asked him after she left.

"She's paying me to train with her." He shrugged.

"Oh? Maybe I should start charging you for these training sessions." Eve suddenly said in a joking voice.

"I'm dirt broke, so I can't pay anything." He immediately said.

"You have 2 billion dollars worth of mana cores, yet you're somehow broke?" Eve raised an eyebrow. "Why do you even need that many mana cores, anyway? Do you plan on crafting a magic artifact?"

"That's a secret." He said with a smile.

"Well, if you can't pay with money, you can pay with your body." She said with a teasing smile on her face.

"..." Leo was speechless.

"By the way, I have something I want to talk to you about." He said a moment later.

"What is it?"

"Since I no longer need to attend classes, I would like to use this time to strengthen myself, and I want to go back into the Wilderness to hunt monsters."

Eve frowned and said, "Have you forgotten about your current situation? It's too dangerous to leave the academy now."

"I know, but I am not going as 'Leo'. I will be going as 'Leon', my other identity. I also need to become a B-Rank Adventurer before the A-Rank monster nest raid."

"Monster nest raid? I have never heard about this. What are you trying to do?" Eve asked.

Leo proceeded to tell her about the raid that Khrome had told him about.

"Trust me, I will become stronger much faster if I hunt monsters," Leo said.

After all, he could get Magic Points by doing so.

"In case you forgot, 'Leon' is also being hunted, and it's by an unknown party. What are you going to do about that?" Eve said.

"I think it will be fine. 'Leon' hasn't appeared for over a month now, and since I will be able to use dark magic, I will be fine even if I am attacked— as long as my enemy is not an S-Rank Adventurer." Leo said.