

# Magic System in a Parallel World

## Chapter 191: Partner

"As long as it's not an S-Rank Adventurer? You're just jinxing yourself, Leo." Eve shook her head.

"I'll be fine, really." He insisted.

Eve pondered for a moment before speaking, "I will let you go to the Wilderness as Leon but under one condition. If you don't accept this condition, I won't let you go. Do we have a deal?"

"What kind of condition?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"You must have a partner with you when you leave the academy, and this person must be approved by me."

"What?! But I will be going as Leon, not Leo! Nobody in this academy besides you and Miss Camille knows about my identity as Leon." He exclaimed.

Eve shrugged, "Then you better figure it out, because if you don't find a partner, you won't be going anywhere. Also, it's not like you have to find a partner from the academy. Don't think badly of me, Leo. I am doing this to keep you safe."

"..." Leo silently watched as Eve left the training room, leaving him alone.

"If you're going to look for a partner, why don't you get Helia to help you? She seems interested in you." Lilith suddenly suggested.

"And reveal my identity as Leon to her? That I can use dark magic as well? That the whole Fruit of Magic Awakening was just a prank? Impossible. I don't know her well enough to be sharing these secrets with her." He quickly rejected her suggestion.

Lilith pondered for a moment then said, "Then why don't you get Lia Scarlet to help you? She said that your partner doesn't necessarily have to be a student of this academy. If you think about it, she's the perfect candidate."

And she continued, "First and foremost, she is aware of your identity as Leon. She also knows you can use dark magic, and she likes you, so it shouldn't take much effort to make her help you. Moreover, she's pretty powerful. I think the Headmistress would agree to having Lia be your partner."

"Lia, huh..." Leo pondered.

While it was true that he could probably get Lia to assist him, he doesn't want to get involved with the Scarlet Family anymore than he already is. There was also Edwin, who would surely try to mess with him if he contacted Lia, as he would see it as 'corrupting' her.

However, he only had a few weeks before Khrome's deadline. Not only does he need to become a B-Rank Adventurer by then, he also needs to defeat Khrome.

Sometime later, after returning to his room and taking a shower, Leo laid on his bed and retrieved his cell phone.

He proceeded to stare at a certain contact for many moments before he steeled his resolve and called it.

Diiiiii...Dii—

Before the second ring could even fully finish, the person on the other end of the phone answered.

"Hello." Lia Scarlet's calm voice resounded.

"Hey... Is this a good time?"

"Yes, it is."

Unbeknownst to Leo, Lia kept her cell phone within arms reach every day after giving Leo her phone number, hoping that he'd call her, hence why she was able to answer it so quickly.

And even a month later, she did not stop such a habit.

After taking a deep breath, Leo spoke, "I know this may be sudden, but I need your help."

"I'm listening," she spoke in a nonchalant voice.

"Due to special circumstances, I cannot leave the city by myself, and I need to become a B-Rank Adventurer as soon as possible. Therefore, I would like to ask for your help. Can you come to the Wilderness and do some quests with me? Of course, I will pay you for your effort."

After a moment of silence, Lia spoke, "I refuse."

Before Leo could even respond, she continued, "Unless you tell me about your situation and your true identity."

Leo had mentally prepared himself for this, and he quickly said, "Alright. I will tell you everything. Can you meet me at the Adventurers' Guild tomorrow? Also, I would appreciate it if you can go in a disguise. I don't think your butler will like it very much if he sees me with you."

"That can be arranged. What time?"

"How about 10 AM?"

"Then I will see you at the Adventurers' Guild tomorrow at 10."

Leo hung up a moment later.

"Wow, you really did it. I thought you didn't want to become more involved with the Scarlet Family."

"I won't. I'm going to ask Lia to disguise herself, after all. If nobody knows I am with Lia Scarlet, I will be safe."

"Will it really work out that well?"

The following morning, Leo approached Eve before she left home, "Headmistress, I have found my partner, but I need to speak with her to seal the deal. I'll be leaving the academy to go to the Adventurers' Guild."

She nodded, "As long as you remain within the city."

Sometime later, Leo disguised his appearance before making his way to the Adventurers' Guild.

"It feels like forever since I last saw this playboy face." Leo mumbled as he looked at his reflection on the taxi window.

"It's been a while, after all." Lilith said.

Many minutes later, their taxi stopped in front of the Adventurers' Guild.

After stepping out of the taxi, Leo was immediately approached by a young girl that he didn't recognize.

This young lady had an ordinary appearance overall, black short hair, and brown eyes with an innocent face.

"Could you be...?" Leo swallowed nervously.

"It's me." Even though her appearance changed, Lia Scarlet's demeanor remained the same.

"Let's go somewhere more private, shall we?" Leo said to her a moment later.

"Okay."

Leo proceeded to take her to a nearby hotel.

When the receptionist saw these two youngsters getting a hotel room for one day, he couldn't help but smile inwardly, 'Young people these days...'

Once they were inside their hotel room, Lia went straight to the bed and sat on it.

Then she glared at him with a solemn look on her face.

"Should I call you Leon or Leo? In fact, which one is the real you?"

Leo showed a bittersweet smile and said, "Allow me to introduce myself again. My real name is Leo— Leo Magnus. Due to some special circumstances, I had to create this fake identity 'Leon'."

"I hope you didn't call me all the way over here just to tell me what you already told me yesterday on the phone."

"Of course not. However, before we start, can you promise me that you'll keep whatever I am about to tell you a secret?"

"I didn't tell anyone about your other secret," she calmly said.

"This secret is countless times bigger and more important than me being able to use mana drain. If you reveal it, it will truly be the end of me."

"I have already promised you that I won't do anything to hurt you. And now that I am yours, it would make even less sense for me to harm you." Lia said, not feeling an ounce of embarrassment about her words that would make people feel second-hand embarrassment.

And she continued, "If you really have a problem trusting me, I am willing to accept your slave mark."

Leo raised an eyebrow at her words, "Slave mark?"

He wondered if it was something like the mark he put on Lilith.

Lia nodded, "Those with a slave mark can never betray or harm their master because they will die before they can do so."

As much as Leo wanted to put a slave mark on Lia so that he could have a peace of mind and not worry about being betrayed by her, especially when they are alone in the Wilderness, it felt morally wrong to enslave a young girl like Lia.

Furthermore, if the Scarlet Family finds out, they will definitely kill him.

When Lia saw Leo's pondering expression, she suddenly retrieved a piece of paper and offered it to him.

Leo subconsciously accepted this paper, and he asked, "What is this?"

"A slave mark."

"Wha—? Why do you have something like this on you?" He couldn't help but ask.

"My family uses these often," she calmly said.

"In fact, I used it on Edwin and all of the servants working under me."

Leo was speechless. He didn't think something this dangerous would be used so casually.

"Are there any side effects? What about risks?" Leo then asked.

"There are no side effects— at least I am not aware of any. There are many risks when it comes to slave marks, but only I need to worry about such risks as the one being enslaved." Lia said.

"What kind of risks?" He continued to ask.

"My life will be in your hands once I accept your slave mark, and I would no longer be able to defy you, so you can literally do anything to me and I won't be able to resist." Lia explained these risks with a tranquil look on her face.

Leo was baffled by her nonchalant demeanor despite the situation. While it was a situation that Lia had put herself in, it still felt really wrong of him if he went ahead and did it.

"Can I ask you why you're going so far?" Leo couldn't help but ask.

"I mean, we barely know each other, and I could be trying to trick you. What if I make you do things that you don't want to do after I enslave you? I cannot comprehend why you're willing to go so far and risk so much."

"..."

Lia fell silent after hearing his question, yet there was not even the slightest sign of confusion or doubt within her calm gaze.

AN: This bonus chapter is sponsored by GamerReader345. All will be much longer than the usual daily chapters. There will be 2 daily chapters every day and 1-3 bonus chapter depending on my schedule. Thank you for your patience and support.

## Chapter 192: Leon's True Identity

After a moment of silence, Lia spoke in a calm voice, "Because it seems interesting."

Leo raised an eyebrow after hearing her puzzling words.

"Interesting? Risking your life is interesting?" he asked in a baffled voice.

She silently nodded.

"Also, I trust you, so I don't mind it."

Leo swallowed nervously, and he sighed inwardly, 'Her head is more messed up than I initially thought...'

Sometime later, Leo handed the slave mark back to Lia and spoke, "I'm not going to enslave you. That seems too wrong and immoral for me."

Lia looked at the slave mark but did not accept it back.

"If you don't put a slave mark on me, will I truly be yours?" She suddenly asked.

"Huh?"

"I was defeated by you, and I promised to become yours if I lost. If you put a slave mark on me, then I will physically and spiritually be yours."

"You don't need to take that bet so seriously... You can just consider yourself mine. There's no need to do something like this."

"No." Lia said, her gaze filled with resolution. "I am a member of the Scarlet Family. I will keep my promise no matter what. This is also a condition if you want me to become your partner."

"..." Leo was speechless.

"Why are you so reluctant to enslave her, Leo? She's practically begging you to do so. There's no need to feel guilty about it, and this will be safer for you too, since she won't be able to betray you." Lilith suddenly said.

"Perhaps you're a sadist and you feel thrilled to have a girl beg you to enslave her. If that's the case, you cannot call me a pervert anymore!"

Leo felt like cursing out loud, but he resisted it.

After a moment of silence, Leo took a deep breath and spoke, "Sorry, but I don't like it—the idea of enslaving someone. If I cannot trust you without putting this slave mark on you, then I wouldn't have come to you and ask you to be my partner in the first place."

Contrary to Leo's expectations, Lia didn't seem to be annoyed by his answer. In fact, the edge of her lips even curved upwards slightly.

She then snatched the slave mark from him and stored it back inside her spatial ring.

"Now then, isn't it about time you tell me about your identity?" Lia spoke a moment later, acting as though the situation with the slave mark had never happened.

Leo took another deep breath before speaking, "Even though I told you that I am Leo, I am not the Leo you knew."

"What do you mean?"

"I'm not sure if you know about this or not, but several months ago, I had disappeared for 3 months and was considered dead."

"I know about it. The whole city was talking about it, after all. You returned with amnesia, right?"

"Yes, but that's not true."

"So you didn't lose your memories?" Lia raised an eyebrow.

"No, I never had them in the first place. I may look and sound exactly like the Leo who disappeared, but I am not him. I am actually from another world— a 'Leo' from another world."

Lia's eyes widened slightly after hearing this shocking revelation.

"You're an Otherworlder...?" She mumbled in a low voice.

He nodded with a serious expression, "Yes, I am, and don't bother asking me how I came to this world because I don't know. When I woke up, I was already in this world."

"I see... Then why did you decide to become Leon?" Lia then asked.

"Honestly, I didn't even make that identity. Someone else made it for me, and it's only purpose was for training. After all, when I came to this world, I could already use magic, but the Leo of this world can't use magic, hence why I had to use a new identity."

"So the Fruit of Magic Awakening was fake?"

"That's right. It was just an excuse for me to be able to use magic." He nodded.

Lia then spoke, "As for why Leon suddenly disappeared, is it because of the bounty?"

"Eh? How did you know about that?" Leo was surprised to hear this.

"I did some research on you because I wanted to know more about you," she said, admitting to spying on him.

"However, I couldn't find any information on you, so I had a feeling that Leon was a fake identity."

"That makes sense... But how did you know I was Leon when I was Leo?"

"I just had a feeling," she calmly said.

"Now that doesn't make any sense at all..." He shook his head with a bittersweet smile.

"Anyways, that's my true identity. Do you have anything else you want to ask?"



"Not a question. A condition."

"Another one?"

"Since you refused to put a slave mark on me, I have another condition before I agree to be your partner."

"Alright, let's hear it."

"I want you to use Mana Drain on me at least once a day when we're outside the city," she said.

"You want me to use Mana Drain on you while we're in the Wilderness? That's a little dangerous, don't you think? What if we get attacked by monsters and you're out of mana?"

"I will only request it when it's safe. This is a condition that I will not back down from. If you refuse, I will refuse to be your partner. After all, I am going to be causing my family trouble by helping you."

"How are you causing them trouble?" Leo frowned.

"I came here without telling them, so they'll be looking for me."

Leo was speechless, as she basically ran away from home.

"Don't worry, I do this often, and they have never caught me before," she said with a confident look on her face.

"I don't think that's the issue here... They'll probably be suspicious of me if I suddenly show up after a month of absence with a female partner right after you disappeared." He sighed.

"It'll be fine," she insisted.

## **Chapter 193: Devourer of Gods**

"Alright, if you say it'll be fine, I will trust you." Leo nodded.

"When are we going to do this?" Lia then asked.

"I still need the Headmistress' approval before I can leave the city, but I will let you know."

"Okay."

Sometime later, Leo asked, "By the way, before I leave, I have one question... Did your family talk to you after the tournament? About our relationship, specifically."

"Yes, my father asked about my relationship with you." She nodded.

"And what did you tell him?"

"I told him that it was none of his business," she calmly said.

"Seriously...? He wasn't angry?"

"No."

"I see... Anyways, I will contact you once I receive permission to leave the city."

"Okay."

They left the hotel room shortly after and checked out of the hotel.

'Looks like they had their fun.' The receptionist chuckled inward after seeing them check out so soon.

Sometime later, Leo returned to the academy.

However, when he reached outside of Eve's residence, Leo was halted by Helia, who had been waiting for him.

"Here is your payment." Helia handed him an S-Grade mana core.

"Are you sure? This thing is worth at least a few hundred thousand, right?"

"More like a few million, but yes, it is fine." She nodded.

"..."

Leo felt that he was being paid too much money just for spending a day with her, so he asked her, "Want to train with me again today? I won't ask for additional payments."

"Sure." She nodded.

They went to the training room and started training with each other until Eve came back to start her training.

"Thank you for the training again today, Headmistress." Helia bowed to her before leaving.

Once they were alone, Leo said, "I have found my partner."

"Already? That was quick. You must really want to leave the city." Eve said.

"I am on a timer." He shrugged.

"Alright then. Let me hear it. Who is your partner? And if it's some stranger you picked up in the street just so you have a partner, I won't approve of it. Your partner must qualify to protect you, after all."

"Lia Scarlet. She's going to be my partner."

Eve's eyes widened with shock after hearing his words. "Lia Scarlet? Are you insane? The Scarlet Family would never allow her to enter the Wilderness with you."

"I'm serious. I have already spoken with her today, even going as far as telling her about my true identity— that I am an Otherworder."

"That's so reckless! Why would you tell the future leader of the Scarlet Family something like that?! If she tells her family, that will be the end of you!"

"She won't. I trust her." Leo said.

Eve rubbed her eyes in a stressed manner.

After a moment of silence, she spoke, "Since you already told her about your secret, there's no choice but to allow her to be your partner, but how will you take her to the Wilderness with you?"

"She told me that she will sneak out and come with me in a disguise, just like me."

"What? The whole Scarlet Family will be looking for her if she suddenly disappears!"

"I know, and that's what I said to her too. However, she told me that she does this often and that it'll be fine."

"Let's hope that's really the case." Eve shook her head. "Anyways, when do you plan on leaving the city?"

"Tomorrow if that's possible."

"Alright. Camille will show up tomorrow morning. You can leave after speaking with her."

"I was planning on speaking with her before I left, anyway." He nodded.

Later that night, Leo laid on the bed and called Lia to tell her the news.

"Yes, the Headmistress has approved of you to be my partner. I will be moving out as soon as tomorrow. If you need more time, let me know."

"I am prepared to leave tomorrow."

"Great, then I will meet you in front of the Adventurers' Guild at the same time."

He then studied the ancient magic circle for a few hours before going to sleep like usual when suddenly—

<You have learned the Magic Spell: Devourer of Gods>

[Devourer of Gods]

[Affinity: Dark/Unknown]

[Tier: Ancient]

[Mana: 50% of total mana]

[Mastery Rank: F]

"I-I learned it! I finally learned the Ancient Magic!" Leo exclaimed after seeing the notification.

"Really?! Congratulations! It only took around two months, but you have finally managed to do it!" Lilith congratulated him.

And she continued, "You know, it took me nearly 7 years to learn this magic spell even with my talents, and I was considered one of the most talented vampires in my generation."

"It has such an ominous name, though. Devourer of Gods? What kind of magic spell is this?"

"You will find out once you use it in the Wilderness." Lilith chuckled.

Leo couldn't wait to return to the Wilderness and quickly went to sleep the next moment.

The following morning, Leo woke up and did his morning routine before waiting for Camille to show up.

When she showed up, she handed him a spatial ring and said, "I have heard about your plans to return to the Wilderness. There are many necessities in this ring that will help you out there."

"Thank you, Miss Camille!" Leo accepted the ring with a bright smile on his face.

"Also, this is for you." Camille handed him another ring and said, "If you are before an enemy that you cannot defeat or run away from, activate this ring with your mana immediately. It will take you back to the academy. However, remember that this magic artifact will not work in the Labyrinth."

[Ring of Transportation]

[Grade: A]

[Description: Teleports you and another individual to a set location. 72 hours cooldown.]

"One more important thing— don't die." Eve said with a smile on her face.

"I understand." Leo nodded with a serious expression on his face.

After talking for a little longer and saying his goodbyes to Camille and Eve, Leo changed into Leon and made his way to the Adventurers' Guild to meet up with Lia for their new adventure.

## Chapter 194: City Teleporter

After getting out of the taxi, Leo approached the black-haired young lady waiting outside the Adventurers' Guild.

"Sorry I'm a little late. Did you wait long?" Leo asked her after showing up 10 minutes late.

"No, I just got here myself. Edwin was keeping an eye on me after I disappeared yesterday." Lia said.

"Is that so? Then let's hurry up and get our mission and leave the city as soon as possible before they track you down." Leo said as he approached the door to the Adventurers' Guild.

Lia silently followed him inside.

Once they were inside, Leo went straight to the computers to look at the available quests.

"What mission do you think we should do, Lia?" Leo asked her.

"You're trying to get a promotion as soon as possible, correct? If that's the case, then I suggest doing territory control. You will easily receive a lot of recognition from these missions, especially if you stand out amongst the crowd." Lia suggested.

"How long do they usually take?" He then asked.

"They usually take a few weeks, but they can last for months depending on the objective."

"Months? I don't have that much time..."

"That's fine. We can leave whenever we want, anyway. Territory control is quite flexible when it comes to time management, because you can leave or go on breaks whenever you want. Though, if you're going to participate, it most likely won't take that long, since you can spam your Fire Blast and kill everything with ease."

"Fire Blast? Now that I can use dark magic again, I'm not going to use fire magic! And nobody knows Leon can use fire magic." He said.

"I see..."

Leo returned to looking at the computer, and he asked a moment later, "It appears that none of these territory control missions are near our city. What should we do about this?"

"We can just teleport there using the City Teleporter."

"City Teleporter? There is something like that here?" This was Leo's first time hearing about such a convenient tool.

"All major cities have one, and they allow you to teleport to other cities almost instantaneously, but you have to pay for it."

"Alright, then it's decided. We're going to do territory control and use the City Teleporter to get there."

Leo picked the mission that gave him the best reward.

After accepting it, he left the computer room with Lia.

However, right as they reached the reception desk, a familiar voice resounded that instantly halted Leo's movements.

"Leon! You're still alive!" Guildmaster Borus approached them with a relieved smile on his face.

"I haven't heard from you in weeks and you weren't on any mission, so I was worried that you might have kicked the bucket!"

"I was just taking a break..." He said.

"Where are you heading to now? And who is this young lady beside you?" Borus asked him.

"Oh, this is—"

"Hello, I am called Lena, Leon's partner." Lia spoke in a totally different manner than usual, which caught even Leo off guard, as it was as though she had turned into a different individual.

"Leon's partner, huh? Are you two going on a mission?" Borus didn't suspect anything and continued to ask.

"Yes, we're going to do a territory control mission at the City of Tethoris. I'm trying to become a B-Rank Adventurer within a few weeks so that I can participate in an A-Rank monster nest raid." Leo explained.

"A-Rank monster nest raid?" Borus began pondering for a moment before speaking again, "Do you mean the Skeleton Graveyard raid that will be happening in a month?"

"Skeleton Graveyard?" Leo raised his eyebrows in a questioning manner.

"You don't even know the raid you're trying to participate in?" Borus was speechless.

"No... I actually heard it from Khrome, but he didn't tell me any details."

"Sword King Khrome? Then it's definitely the Skeleton Graveyard." Borus nodded.

"Anyways, good luck, and it's good to see you back. I can't wait to see what you'll achieve this time."

"Thank you. I'll see you later, Guildmaster."

Leo left the place with Lia shortly after.

They proceeded to take a taxi to the City Teleporter.

The City Teleporter was located within a large building that had all sorts of purposes. There were restaurants, shops, and other businesses within it, almost like a mall. However, the main purpose there was obviously the City Teleporter that operated on a schedule, almost like how airplanes work, but there is only one teleporter.

Once Lia and Leo entered the building, Leo followed Lia since he was new to this kind of thing.

Lia brought him to look at the schedule.

"The City Teleporter will teleport to a new city every 15 minutes. There's still two hours until it's Tethoris' turn." Lia said to him.

"Two hours, huh? What is there to do until then?" Leo asked her.

And without hesitation, she spoke, "We can rent rooms in this place. I want you to use Mana Drain on me while we wait."

"Alright..." Leo said with a bittersweet smile on his face.

Once they rented a room, Lia immediately laid on the bed and closed her eyes.

Leo sat beside her and began absorbing her mana.

A blissful expression appeared on Lia's face, and she began moaning softly a few moments later.

'This feeling... I have been waiting for this...' Lia thought to herself as she fell into a trance of bliss.

Sometime later, Leo stopped, and he said, "There's only half an hour left until it's our turn, but we still haven't purchased our ticket yet."

Lia opened her eyes with a satisfied look on her face, and she sat up and said, "Let go."

When she got off the bed and started walking, her movements were wobbly and unstable, almost as though she got ants in her legs.



After making it to the ticket booth with much difficulty, Lia said, "Two tickets to Tethoris."

"That would be 10 million dollars." The ticket seller said in a calm voice.

"T-Ten million dollars?!" Leo exclaimed when he heard this absurd price, which was akin to daylight robbery.

The worker looked at him with an unfazed expression and asked, "Is this your first time using the City Teleporter?"

"Yes..."

"The City Teleporter requires a tremendous amount of mana every time it functions, hence its price tag. If the tickets were cheap, we won't be able to make any profit, much less keep it running." The worker explained to him.

"I will pay for it." Lia said as she casually retrieved a black credit card and placed it before the worker.

The worker's eyes widened with shock when he saw the black card.

'O-Obsidian Card!' He cried inwardly.

His reaction was normal considering the importance behind the card. After all, only the richest people in the city could possibly possess such a card.

"Sorry for making you pay for my ticket as well. I have mana cores, but I don't have money." Leo said to her afterward.

"Don't mind it. It's only 10 million." Lia calmly said.

'As expected of the wealthy Scarlet Family... They treat 10 million as though it's loose coins.' Leo sighed inwardly.

"Why do you look down? You're actually quite rich yourself, Leo. The mana cores you have are worth hundreds of millions." Lilith suddenly said to him.

"I know, but I need most of it for the Magic System. Though, I will sell some of it later for some money." He said.

After getting their ticket, Leo and Lia went to the City Teleporter and waited for their turn.

Once the destination was set to Tethoris, they showed their tickets to the worker and entered the room.

"Hey, Lilith, I should've asked you this sooner, but will you be able to use the teleporter? You're a spirit, after all." Leo asked her.

"I will be fine, since the teleporter uses mana, and I am still affected by mana."

"Hm? Does that mean you're not invincible while in that state?" He realized this and asked.

"Of course not. I can also be damaged if one uses the correct magic spell and aims it directly at me."

"Is that so... This is news to me. I always thought you were invincible since nobody can see or touch you."

"If only that's the case." She shrugged.

Sometime later, the worker there announced.

"Last call! The destination is the City of Tethoris! If that is not your destination, please leave this room and check the schedule again!"

When nobody moved or said anything, the worker activated the teleporter, and everyone in the room disappeared the following moment.

Leo felt a warm feeling enveloping his body, and before he realized, the scenery flickered for a split second.

"Welcome to Tethoris!" The worker there announced.

Everything from the room to the people there remained the same, but the worker there had suddenly changed.

However, he didn't get much time to think about anything, as he suddenly started feeling nauseous.

He quickly covered his mouth to prevent himself from puking.

"That feeling of nausea is a side effect of long-distance teleportation. You'll get used to it. The first time is always the worst. If you cannot hold it in, you can just let it out. It's a common occurrence, anyway." Lia said to him, seemingly completely fine.

Just as she finished her sentence, several people within the room couldn't resist their nausea and puked all over the floor.

Leo, on the other hand, barely managed to hold it in.

As for the others, nobody seemed to care about those that had puked and simply walked out of the room. Once everyone was out of the room, the workers there proceeded to clean up the mess with magic.

This bonus chapter is sponsored by Magorias. Than you for your support.

## Chapter 195: Territory Control

After leaving the room, Leo and Lia left the building and entered the streets of Tethoris.

It only took a glance for Leo to notice the difference between Stellar City and the City of Tethoris. Their atmospheres were vastly different from each other, not to mention the building structures and the peoples' fashion were also different.

'Despite being another world, Stellar City actually looked not much different than the city I knew, but this place... It's completely different. It actually feels like I have come to another world here.' Leo thought to himself.

They took a taxi to the city walls shortly after.

When they arrived at the city walls, the guards there stopped them.

"What is your purpose outside the city?"

"We're here to partake in the territory control mission." Leo said before showing the guards his Adventurer ID.

"C-Rank Adventurer... Are you aware that there could be B-Rank and even A-Rank monsters out there?" The guard asked him.

"Yes, I am well aware." He nodded.

"Alright then. Good luck out there." The guards allowed them through the gates a moment later.

Once they were in the Wilderness, Leo took a deep breath and sighed out loud, "I can't believe I am saying this, but I miss this desolate atmosphere and dry air."

A few moments later, Lia asked, "How far away is the location of the mission?"

Leo looked at his phone and said, "According to the direction given to me, it's about 150 miles from this direction."

"We'll have to get a motorcycle then."

"Motorcycle? I don't know how to drive them..." Leo quickly said.

"It's okay, I do." Lia calmly said.

"..."

Sometime later, they arrived at the vehicle vendor and Lia rented out their best motorcycle.

Lia got on the motorcycle first and sat behind her.

'Damn, I really need to learn how to ride a motorcycle. I cannot continue sitting behind a girl in situations like this!' He cried inwardly, as he felt somewhat embarrassed by his situation.

"Hold on." Lia said to him as she revved the engine.

Due to Lia's petite body, when Leo held onto her body, it felt like he was hugging her.

Sometime later, Leo said, "Wait, can you stop here for a minute?"

"What are you trying to do?" She asked him.

Leo looked around to make sure they were alone, and he said, "There's a new magic spell that I want to try out. It won't take long."

Lia silently nodded and proceeded to watch him.

"Are you going to use the Ancient Magic?" Lilith asked him, as it was kind of obvious.

"That's right."

There was even an E-Rank monster in the distance for his testing.

After taking a deep breath, Leo began casting the ancient magic.

Despite having a complex magic circle that rivaled Tier 9 magic spells, it didn't actually take him that long to cast it.

Suddenly, the sky turned black, and a pitch black magic circle appeared on the ground in front of Leo.

'What is this chilly feeling...?' Lia's body trembled when she sensed a dreadful feeling coming from the magic circle and the atmosphere, and for the first time ever, she was feeling intense fear.

A moment later, a black substance that resembled slime began oozing out of the magic circle.

This black slime grew bigger and bigger until it was the size of an adult human head.

Leo narrowed his eyes at this black slime, and upon closer inspection, he could see multiple flickering within the slime, almost as if there were stars living inside.

"What the hell is this?" Leo asked Lilith.

"It is the Devourer of Gods. Go ahead and command it to attack the monster." Lilith said.

Leo did just that and pointed at the E-Rank monster in the distance and said, "Go."

The black slime trembled a little before it shot itself towards the monster like a rocket.

Once it reached the monster, the black slime attached itself to the monster.

When that happened, the black slime began growing bigger and bigger, quickly consuming the monster's figure.

The monster panicked and tried to struggle, but such effort was in vain, and within seconds, it stopped moving.

A few more seconds later, the black slime returned to its original size, but if one looked closely, it was slightly larger than before.

"The Devourer of Gods is a mythical entity that will consume its prey to gain strength. The more it consumes the stronger it gets, and there is no limit to its strength. If it is strong enough, it could even consume gods, hence its nickname."

Leo swallowed nervously after hearing Lilith's words. An unknown entity with limitless strength and could even consume gods? Why does such a powerful magic spell exist? And for what purpose?

"Leo... What is that... black glob of slime?" Lia asked him a moment later.

"Hm? Oh, it's my new summoning spell." Leo said.

"What tier of magic is it?"

"It's uh..."

"You can tell her." Lilith suddenly said.

"Ancient magic." Leo said.

"Ancient magic..." Lia was dumbfounded to hear this.

Ancient magic is considered even more valuable than Tier 9 magic spells, and there are less than 10 of them in this world. Even the Scarlet Family doesn't own one.

Sometime later, Leo had the Devourer of Gods consume several more E-Rank monsters.

Ding!

Seven monsters later, the Devourer of Gods had doubled its size.

"Alright, let's continue our journey." Leo said to Lia once he was satisfied.

"Okay."

She started up the engine again, and they continued moving towards their destination.

A little over an hour later, Lia came to a stop before a camp that was set up by the Adventurers' Guild.

After parking their vehicle, Leo and Lia approached the camp to notify the people there of their presence.

"We're here to help with the territory control." Leo handed his ID to the worker there.

"Is this your first time doing this kind of mission?" The person asked him.

"Yes."

"Then I will give you a brief explanation about how we operate things."

"First and foremost, you are forbidden from attacking other Adventurers. If a monster is already being attacked by another Adventurer, you cannot attack it unless that Adventurer asks for help."

"You can leave the battlefield whenever you want, but keep in mind that your reward will be based on your contribution. Keep these watches on you. It'll track your contribution." The worker handed them each a watch that resembled the ones the Four Witches Academy used during their Wilderness Training Course.

The worker proceeded to hand them a tablet and continued speaking, "This is our objective. Once all of the monsters in this area are cleared, we will end the territory control."

Leo accepted the tablet and looked over the map.

"300 square miles? This is actually pretty huge..." Leo mumbled after seeing the map, and he understood why it normally takes weeks if not months to complete these missions.

"There are several hundred Adventurers partaking in this mission, and we have already completed half of the objective. At this rate, we will finish in about half a month." The worker said.

"Is there anything I should know about?" Leo then asked.

"Nope. You can go ahead and start."

Leo and Lia left the tent shortly after.

"Monsters will continue spawning even after they are killed, right? I don't understand what this will achieve." Leo asked Lilith as they made their way to the battlefield.

"Actually, there are magic beacons that can prevent monsters from spawning. You have probably seen them in Stellar City. This is how humans regain their territory from monsters. However, since they require a lot of resources and time to set up, they need people to clear out the monsters first." Lilith said.

Sometime later, they arrived at the battlefield, where they could see many Adventurers fighting C-Rank monsters.

"Lia, what are you going to do? You don't need to fight since I only intended for you to follow me around. Moreover, if you use your magic, you will only reveal yourself to the Scarlet Family." Leo said to her.

"I will fight too, but I won't use any magic."

She proceeded to take out a rifle and said, "This is more than enough for me."

"A gun?" Leo raised his eyebrows.

"This is not an ordinary gun. It's a magic rifle. Instead of using live bullets, it uses my mana as bullets. After all, normal guns don't affect monsters," she explained.

"That's pretty neat. Why am I just learning about them now?" Leo mumbled to himself.

"Because very few people use them, as magic rifles are only used by people who cannot use magic, and they require a tremendous amount of mana to use, which limits its user base even more."

"I see..."

Once they were prepared, Leo and Lia entered the battlefield.

"It's about time to let loose!" Leo said out loud as he started casting Black Bullets, killing all of the monsters in a single hit.

The other Adventurers there were shocked when they saw how effortlessly Leo was killing these C-Rank monsters with a Tier 1 magic spell.

"Dark magic? How rare."

"What is his Adventurer Rank? He's treating these C-Rank monsters as though they're ants. Only top B-Rank Adventurers could possibly do that."

"Why would someone that powerful come here?"

"Look at that young lady beside him! She's actually using a magic rifle!"

"Wow, I haven't seen one of those in a while."

Leo and Lia's presence quickly attracted the attention of the Adventurers and the Adventurers' Guild there due to their dominance in the battlefield.

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## **Chapter 196: Territory Control(2)**

Within just half an hour of Leo and Lia's arrival to the battlefield, hundreds of monsters had been slain, which took the other Adventurers several days to achieve, and the progress for territory control had skyrocketed.



Soon, they started encountering B-Rank monsters, but that didn't stop or slow down Leo's progress, and he would use Void Spears to kill all of them with one hit.

"Hey, who is that couple? I want their names." One of the higher ups from the Adventurers' Guild asked for Leo and Lia's information since he doesn't recognize them.

"That young man is named Leon, he's a C-Rank Adventurer from Stellar City. As for that female with him, her identity is unknown. She didn't give us her ID."

"He's only a C-Rank Adventurer?! How is that possible? He's killing B-Rank monsters with Tier 2 magic spells!" The higher up was shocked when he learned this information.

"That young lady, too! Even though she's only using a magic rifle, she can kill B-Rank monsters with a single shot! That takes a tremendous amount of mana! At this rate, we'll finish the territory control in less than a week!"

The higher up's voice was filled with excitement, which was to be expected.

Meanwhile, inside the Scarlet Family's household, Edwin stood before a dozen people, "Have any of you found the Young Lady yet?"

"Not yet. However, we have received information that Leon had showed up again, and he's currently participating in a mission at the City of Tethoris."

"Leon? What bad timing. I would love to take care of him, but finding the Young Lady takes priority. He'll get to live a little longer." Edwin cursed in a spiteful voice.

"We can send someone to kill him for you," said one of the people there.

"That's a good idea, but I don't want you to kill him. Capture him. I want to take my time to slowly torture him." Edwin said in a grim voice.

"I understand."

Over the next several days, Leo and Lia would completely shock the Adventurers at the City of Tethoris with their performance during the territory control. In less than a week, they have killed several thousand monsters ranging from C-Rank to A-Rank just by themselves.

And even when facing A-Rank monsters, Leo confronted them with no fear, killing them all with ease.

In fact, they were killing monsters so fast that they started casting magic while on their hoverboards, which allowed them to travel the Wilderness much quicker.

"That was much easier than I had anticipated." Leo said after the Adventurers' Guild called an end to the mission.

"It would be weird if it wasn't easy, considering your current prowess." Lilith said.

Not only did Leo finish his 5,000 monster kill quest for 15,000 Magic Points, but because of his Magic Hunter passive skills, he was able to acquire Magic Points from killing monsters.

Each F-Rank monster gave him 1 Magic Point. E-Rank monsters gave him 2 Magic points. D-Rank monsters gave him 3 Magic Points. C-Rank monsters gave him 5 Magic Points. B-Rank monsters gave him 10 Magic Points, and A-Rank monsters gave him between 15 to 30 Magic Points.

Although it didn't give much, they added up, and by the end of the mission, Leo had acquired 23,000 additional Magic Points.

After acquiring a total of 38,000 Magic Points, Leo's total Magic Points returned to being over 100,000, which he used to purchase Increased Mana Regeneration from the Magic Shop.

<Confirm purchase 'Increase Mana Regeneration' for 100,000 Magic Points>

"Confirm."

<You have purchased 'Increase Mana Regeneration' from the Magic Shop>

<Your Mana Regeneration has been increased by 20,000>

'20 thousand mana regeneration!' Leo nearly collapsed from bliss after seeing how much mana regeneration he gained.

He now had so much mana regeneration that he would completely recover his total mana pool of 175,000 from 0 in less than 10 seconds.

[Mana Regeneration: 21,325]

"Hey, Lilith, I got a surprise for you." Leo said to her as they made their way back to the tent.

"What is it?"

"I can increase the amount of mana I give you again. How does 5,000 mana every second sound?" He said to her with a grin on his face.

"F-Five thousand?!" Lilith exclaimed, her eyes flickering with excitement.

"Yes, I just upgraded my own mana regeneration, so I have plenty to spare." He nodded.

"I really cannot thank you enough for this, Leo!"

"Let's do this later."

"Okay!"

Sometime later, they returned to the camp, where the other Adventurers from the mission were gathered and awaiting their rewards.

When the Adventurers noticed Leo and Lia's presence, they all turned to look at them and started mumbling to each other.

"That's the power couple that swept through the monsters, right?"

"Yes. I heard that they could kill even A-Rank monsters with a single hit."

"What? That's impossible unless they're top A-Rank Adventurers! Why would they be wasting their time out here if they're that strong?"

"I saw that young man killing a B-Rank monster with a single Tier 2 spell."

"He also uses dark magic."

"Look at his partner. She's using a magic rifle. What an unusual pair."

The person running the whole operation showed up a minute later and gave a short speech.

"Thank you all for your effort. Because of you, our city has regained a good amount of territory, allowing us to expand our city even further!" A middle-aged man said to them.

"You will all be rewarded for your effort based on your contribution. Leave behind your watches and give us your name. You can pick up your rewards at the Adventurers' Guild within three days."

The Adventurers lined up to return their watches.

Once it was Leo's turn, the middle-aged man said to him, "Leon, right? Do you mind staying behind a bit after this? I would like to speak with you a little more."

"Sure." Leo nodded.

Lia handed over her watch after Leo.

"Can I see your ID?" The worker asked.

"You can give my portion of reward to Leon." Lia calmly said.

"If that's what you want..." The man nodded.

After all of the Adventurers there handed in their watch, they made their way back to the city.

Some of the Adventurers there wanted to start a conversation with Leo in hopes to become his friend, but they were all turned away by Lia's cold gaze that sent chills down their spine.

"Sorry for the way, Leon. Do you have any time after this? I would like to treat you two to dinner. Oh, my name is Aaron Lornson, and I am the vice-leader of the Adventurers' Guild for Tethoris. After seeing your performance, I was hoping to request for your help for another mission."

"Another mission? What kind?" Leo asked, his interest piqued.

"It's a Labyrinth mission. We recently found a B-Rank Labyrinth and formed a team to clear it, but at the last minute, one of their members died in an accident. We tried to replace that person but couldn't find anyone that qualified— until I met you. What do you think? We'll greatly compensate you for your time and effort."

'A Labyrinth, huh? I have been wanting to clear one for a while now.' Leo thought to himself.

He turned to look at Lia and asked her, "What do you think?"

"I will do whatever you decide," she calmly said.

"Then we'll do it." Leo nodded.

"Really?! Thank you! I will give you the details later! Come find me at the Tethoris' Delights at 7 PM tonight. I will treat you to the best restaurant in the city." Aaron said.

"Sure." Leo had no reason to refuse a free dinner.

"By the way, when is the Labyrinth raid?"

"It'll happen in two days."

"Alright, then I will see you later tonight."

Leo and Lia returned to the city shortly after.

"What should we do for the next two days?" Leo wondered out loud.

"Mana Drain." Lia immediately said.

"For two days straight...? Give me a break, please..."

After pondering for some time, Leo said, "Actually, I'm going to the Wilderness to practice my new summoning magic."

Naturally, it was actually more like feeding his new magic than anything.

"But first, we need to find a place to stay."

Leo took out his phone and began looking at nearby hotels on the internet.

Once they found a decent one, they went to rent the rooms.

"We'll take two rooms." Leo said to the receptionist.

"I am fine staying in the same room with you." Lia said to him.

"That's a little inappropriate... And there's no reason to cramp two of us in a room when we can have our own."

However, Lia ignored his words and said to the receptionist, "We'll take your best room."

And before Leo could say anything, she handed her black card to the receptionist, who had a sweet smile on her face, as she thought they were a couple that just had a fight.

"Here is your room key. Thank you for visiting our Diamond Hotel. All food and drinks are for free, and we have room service around the clock if you need."

"Let's go." Lia accepted the key and said to Leo, who had a bittersweet smile on his face.

Once they arrived at their room and saw how spacious it was, Lia spoke, "Now you don't have to worry about being cramped."

"I guess so..." Leo sighed.

"You should give up, Leo. You won't be able to beat her. She's someone who can act boldly and feel no shame." Lilith chuckled at his situation.

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## Chapter 197: Labyrinth Mission

After entering the room, Leo said, "You can use the bathroom first if you want."

"There are two bathrooms in this room." Lia calmly said.

"Oh..."

"Then I'll go take a bath. We have about 3 hours until we meet Aaron, so we can take our time."

Leo went into one of the bathrooms while Lia used the other bathroom.

About an hour later, Leo walked out of the bathroom with a refreshed look on his face.

"Leo. Mana Drain." Lia said to him from the bed the moment he walked out.

"Can I do it when we come back from dinner? I need to relax a little after fighting for days without rest." He said as he sat on the couches and began watching television.

Lia didn't pursue this matter any more and laid on the bed to take a nap.

"Alright, Lilith, you can request for the additional mana now." Leo said to her a moment later.

"Are you sure you want to give me 5,000 mana? I will be happy even with 1,000." Lilith asked.

"It's fine, really."

"If you say so..."

<Soul Slave 'Lilith' requests for 4,700 additional mana to strengthen her soul>

"Accept."

<In order to sustain Soul Slave 'Lilith', you will now 5,000 mana every second>

Lilith could feel her soul strengthening at a rapid rate after receiving so much mana from Leo.

After taking a few minutes to familiarize herself with the new feeling, Lilith flew in front of Leo and proceeded to grab his cheeks with her soft hands.

"I can touch you with much more ease now. Is there anything you'd like me to do? I'll do anything as a thank you! Even perverted things!" She said with a seductive smile on her face.

"Is that all that's inside your head...? Or are all vampires weird like you?" Leo sighed.

"You're the weird one! Don't you feel any urges when you're always surrounded by beauties? Or do you actually prefer men over women? If that's the case, I can't blame you."

"How the hell did you come to that conclusion?! I like women! 100 percent! Just because I am surrounded by women doesn't mean I need to behave like a horny teenager!"

"I see... Basically, you're a virgin who's not good with women." Lilith said with a teasing smile.

Leo snickered, "I will admit that I am not good with women, but that is because I had spent the majority of my life dedicated to studying for exams and whatnot, and whenever I am around women, these women are all rich young ladies that live in a vastly different world than me, not to mention that they all have a rotten personality, so I tend to avoid them like the plague."

"I see... Then let me help you with that!" Lilith suddenly said.

"Huh? With what?"

"Help you get better with dealing with women, of course! And the best way to do that is— to spend more time with women!"

Lilith suddenly sat in front of him and on top of his legs, and she wrapped her slender arms around his neck.

"How do you feel?" She asked him.

"I feel like pushing you off." He said in a cold voice.

"But you didn't. Which means you're not as bad with women as you think! Now let's kick it up a notch and—" Lilith suddenly pouted her lips and approached his face with it.

Seeing this, Leo grabbed her face with his hands and pushed her away.

But Lilith was persistent, and she tried to push back.

"What do you think you're trying to do?!" Leo exclaimed.

"Kiss you, of course!"

"Hell no!"

"Why not? You let Lia kiss you!"

"She forced herself on me!"

"I am doing the same! This is discrimination, Leo! Is it because I am a vampire?!"

"Damn it, I am regretting giving you more mana now!"

"What are you doing?" Lia's calm voice suddenly resounded, halting Leo's movement.

He turned around to see Lia awake and staring at him with a puzzled look on her face.

"I-I'm stretching..." Leo said with a stiff smile.

"Is that so?" And without saying anything else, she laid back down and closed her eyes again.

"Stop messing around already." Leo glared at Lilith, who was chuckling nonstop.

"Just like Lia, I am a very stubborn girl. I won't give up until I have what I want, Leo!"

"And what do you want exactly?"

"That's a secret." She winked at him.

Leo ignored her and proceeded to watch television until it was time to eat dinner.

Sometime later, Leo and Lia left the hotel and made their way to the Tethoris' Delight to meet up with Aaron, who was waiting for them outside the building. He was dressed up nicely in a black suit and was even wearing dress shoes.



Meanwhile, Leo and Lia were wearing casual clothes.

"Is there a dress code or something here?" Leo asked, "If so, you didn't tell us about it."

"Don't worry, your appearance is just fine. I am dressed up because I felt like it."

"Let's go inside. Our table is already ready."

Leo nodded and followed him into the building.

Once they were seated, Aaron said, "Go ahead and order whatever you want. It's my treat. We'll talk more about the mission afterward."

"Okay."

Leo proceeded to order some steak with mac and cheese while Lia ordered grilled salmon and a salad.

While they waited for their food, Aaron began telling them about their mission.

"As I'd already mentioned, the Labyrinth is a B-Rank Labyrinth that was recently discovered, so we don't know the layout or how many floors it contains. Besides the two of you, there will be 4 other people in the team, three of whom are B-Rank Adventurers with one A-Rank."

"The rewards for clearing the Labyrinth will be 200 million dollars, and this is not including the bonus that the Adventurers' Guild will be giving you for accepting this sudden mission."

"If you have any questions, feel free to ask. I will try to answer them to the best of my knowledge."

## **Chapter 198: Four Major Continents**

"Then here's my first question. How long do these B-Rank Labyrinths usually take to clear?" Leo asked.

"It depends on how many floors it has and how fast you're willing to progress, but it normally takes about a week or so if you rest 4 to 6 hours a day."

Leo nodded, and he continued to ask, "If I do this mission for the Adventurers' Guild, what are the chances of me being qualified to be promoted to a B-Rank Adventurer?"

Aaron chuckled and said, "Your recent performance is already enough to qualify you for a promotion. If you complete this mission, I will request for a direct promotion for you to become a B-Rank Adventurer. How does that sound?"

"That sounds great! Thank you!" Leo said in an excited voice, as it appears that he will be promoted much quicker than he'd anticipated.

The food arrived at the table shortly after and they began eating.

An hour later, Aaron paid the bill and said, "Here is my contact information. Call me if you have any questions between now and the mission. I will give you the location of the Labyrinth the day before the mission."

"Alright. Thank you for the dinner, by the way."

"No problem. Have a good night." Aaron gave him a polite bow before walking away and disappearing into the crowd.

"Let's go back home." Leo said to Lia, who silently nodded.

Once they returned to the hotel, Lia entered the bed and laid there while staring at him.

"I get it. Mana Drain, right?" Leo said with a bittersweet smile and he approached the bed.

He began absorbing her mana shortly after.

Meanwhile, inside a secluded basement somewhere in the City of Tethoris, Aaron stood before four individuals, three men and one woman.

"I have successfully convinced the target into joining the Labyrinth mission. It's up to all of you now to finish the rest. My involvement in this is done here." Aaron said to these four figures.

"You'll be done when we say you are, Aaron." One of them said in a cold voice.

"I only agreed to this because I owed the Scarlet Family a favor. That favor has been paid just now. Now if you'll excuse me, I have other work that needs to be done." Aaron left the basement and disappeared somewhere.

Once Aaron left, these four people continued their conversation.

"I will brief us about our mission again. The target is Leon. He's a C-Rank Adventurer who showed up suddenly a few months ago. According to Aaron and several people,

he's as strong as an A-Rank Adventurer, but that won't matter to us as long as we do our job correctly."

"Remember, we cannot kill him. Our client, the Scarlet Family, stressed that we have to capture him alive."

"I doubt he's really as strong as an A-Rank Adventurer. I heard he's being sponsored by Camille Light. She's probably spoiling him with all sorts of powerful artifacts, hence his unnatural strength. Without his artifacts, he will be useless."

This group proceeded to spend the rest of the night planning their real mission.

The following day, Leo woke up early and said to Lia, "I'm going to practice my magic in the Wilderness. You don't have to follow me. I can go by myself."

"No, I will go with you." Lia said as she got off the bed.

Sometime later, they left the city and went to where D-Rank monsters were roaming.

Leo proceeded to summon the Devourer of Gods and allowed it to consume every monster they encountered.

Lia was still fearful of the Devourer of Gods at first, but she eventually got used to it.

The Devourer of Gods grew rapidly in the beginning, but it began to slow down after eating about 20 monsters.

"Looks like it's about time you feed it something stronger." Lilith said as she hugged Leo from behind while embracing his neck with her arms.

Ever since she regained the ability to touch him, she would stick to him like how a koala sticks to a tree.

Leo tried to push her away many times, but Lilith was incredibly persistent. Eventually, Leo gave up and decided to ignore it.

Sometime later, they went to hunt C-Rank monsters, and sure enough, the Devourer of Gods started growing rapidly again.

By the end of the day, the Devourer of Gods' size was akin to that of two adult humans standing beside each other.

"Can this thing transform? It's a slime, so it would make sense if it could." Leo asked Lilith.

"Yes, the Devourer of Gods can transform into the entities it consumes, and it can even use their powers, including magic."

"Seriously?! This magic is more ridiculous than I thought!"

"Well, it is my family's heirloom." Lilith chuckled.

"Speaking of vampires, how rare are they? I have been in this world for several months now, but I have yet to encounter a vampire, and you don't count."

"Because most of the vampires in this world are located in the Dark Continent. You will rarely find any vampires in this part of the world."

"The Dark Continent? Where is that?"

"This world consists of 4 major continents— the Magic Continent and the Golden Continent, where most of the humans in this world reside. Then we have the Forgotten Continent, a place the humans abandoned after it was overrun by powerful monsters. Last but not least, we have the Dark Continent, which is occupied by the vampires."

"By the way, we're currently in the Magic Continent, where magic is the most common. The Golden Continent prefers swordsmanship, but that is not to say they're not good with magic because they have more than half of the most powerful magic users in the world over there."

"Anyways, vampires are a rare occurrence here so you don't really need to be too worried about them." Lilith explained.

"Is that so... What a pity. I kind of want to meet another vampire." He sighed.

## **Chapter 199: B-Rank Labyrinth**

"You want to meet a vampire? Now why would you want to do that? They'll rip your heart out before you can even utter a full sentence. Vampires hate humans, in case you didn't know." Lilith said after hearing his words.

"Are they really as unreasonable as you claim? And why are you talking bad about your own species? That doesn't make any sense."

Lilith shook her head and said, "As much as I dislike humans, I hate vampires even more. They're all selfish beings that only care about getting stronger, no matter the cost."

"Sounds like you had your fair share of troubles with vampires." Leo said.

"You have no idea..." She mumbled in a weak voice, her eyes emanating a somewhat sorrowful feeling.

Shortly after they returned to the hotel, Leo received a text message from Aaron regarding the location of the Labyrinth.

"It's about 9 hours from here and they want us to show up by 10AM. We'll need to set out now if we want to make it there in time." Leo said, thinking how odd it was for Aaron to send him the location so late.

"Okay."

After taking a quick shower, Leo and Lia checked out of the hotel and started making their way outside the city.

Once they were outside the city walls, they rented a motorcycle and drove towards the location given to them by Aaron.

"Leo, there's something off about this whole mission. I would be careful if I were you." Lilith said to him.

"Do you think Aaron is working for the person who wants me dead?" Leo asked her.

"I'm not sure, but the way he looked at you gave me an uneasy feeling, and my instincts are never wrong."

"I'll keep an eye on the situation."

Several hours later, Lia parked the motorcycle about 10 minutes away from the location of the Labyrinth.

"We still have a few hours until the scheduled meeting. Let's get some quick rest before we deal with the mission." Leo said to Lia as he set up the tent.

And for the next five hours, they would spend it sleeping inside the tent.

When they woke up, Leo and Lia went to the location of the Labyrinth.

'Looks like there is actually a Labyrinth here and it's not some crappy ambush.' Leo thought to himself when he saw the Labyrinth entrance.

And standing outside this Labyrinth were four people, three men and a woman, which reminded Leo of his first team in this world that he ended up killing because they tried to kill him.

One of the men was a bulky middle-aged man with a red mohawk and brown eyes, two large axes on his back, looking like a barbarian from video games. The other two men had black hair and blue eyes, and they appeared to be twins, as they wore similar clothes and even had a similar face. The only thing that differentiated them was their hair length, as one had short hair and the other had long hair. They were also wielding swords.

The last member was an enchanting young woman with brown hair and brown eyes, and she had a short wand strapped to her thick thighs.

"Are you two the substitutes Aaron mentioned about?" The bulky man asked them when they got close enough.

"That's right. I'm Leon, and this is my partner, Lena." Leo introduced himself and Lia to these people with a friendly smile on his face.

"I heard that you're only a C-Rank Adventurer. Will you be fine in this B-Rank Labyrinth?" One of the twins asked him.

"Aaron wouldn't have asked me to come here if he didn't think I qualified." Leo calmly said.

"You're right. Sorry for doubting you." The man then apologized.

"Hello. I'm Sarah. Nice to meet you." The woman said with a smile on her face.

"I'm Oscar, currently a B-Rank Adventurer," said the bulky man with the mohawk.

"Jasper, also a B-Rank Adventurer," said the twin with the short hair.

"Oliver, same as my brother," said the other twin, who had long hair.

"So you're the A-Rank Adventurer?" Leo turned to look at Sarah, as he remembered Aaron telling him that there was an A-Rank Adventurer amongst this team.

"Indeed, and I am ranked 750 amongst all A-Rankers."

"There's a ranking?" Leo said, as he wasn't aware of this.

"Only for A-Rank Adventurers and above." Sarah nodded.

Oscar then spoke, "Rank 750 may seem low, but you have to consider how many A-Rank Adventurers are out there. Out of over 100,000 A-Rank Adventurers, she's in the top 1,000, so she's in the top 1 percent."

"Eh? There are that many A-Rank Adventurers out there?"

"That's where most Adventurers' careers come to a halt, as the requirements for S-Rank Adventurer is ridiculously high." Sarah shrugged.

"Anyways, what can you do? If we know more about your capabilities, we will be able to coordinate with each other better." Sarah then asked them.

"I can use dark magic up to Tier 4." Leo said without any hesitation.

"Dark magic? How unusual." Oliver mumbled.

"Knowing a Tier 4 magic at your age isn't bad. What about you, little girl?" Jasper turned to look at Lia.

"Magic rifle," she calmly resounded.

"That's all? You don't know any magic?" Oscar asked. "It might be a little dangerous for you..."

"She'll be fine." Leo said with a smile, "Although she may not be able to use magic, she was gifted with a tremendous amount of mana, which allows her to use magic rifles proficiently. She will be able to kill the monsters inside the Labyrinth without any problems. I can guarantee it."

"Is that so? I'll take your words for it. Don't disappoint me." Sarah nodded.

A moment later, she continued, "Take 15 minutes to double check your gears and supplies. We'll enter the Labyrinth once we're ready."

"Alright." They all responded.

Lia suddenly tucked Leo's shirt and spoke in a low voice, "Can I speak to you for a moment?"

He nodded and said to Sarah, "My friend seems a little nervous. We'll be right back."

"Take your time." Sarah nodded.

## Chapter 200: B-Rank Labyrinth(2)

Once they had walked far enough from the team, Leo asked, "What's wrong, Lia?"

"Those guys... They're assassins." Lia revealed this information outright.

"Wha—?! How can you tell? Do you know them?!" Leo asked her with a shocked expression on his face.

She nodded, "I know one of them. Sarah, she's worked for my family several times in the past."

"She must be after the bounty on me." Leo gritted his teeth in anger.

Neither Leo nor Lia could have expected that Sarah was actually hired by Edwin to capture Leon, and they assumed that she was there for the bounty.

Even though Sarah worked for the Scarlet Family before, she doesn't work exclusively for them, so she could accept other jobs as well.

"What do you want to do? Should I kill all of them right now?" Lia asked him with a slightly excited glint in her eyes.

"Wait. If she is an assassin, we can assume that the others are also in this together, and this includes Aaron, who conveniently introduced us to them. Aaron is the vice-leader of the Adventurers' Guild. It would be bad if we kill them here before they show any signs of aggression because they will surely investigate it."

"Then what do you suggest?" Lia asked.

Leo pondered for a moment before speaking, "Let's kill them inside the Labyrinth. This way, once we clear it, the Labyrinth will collapse and all evidence will disappear. I also want to see what they're going to do. Even though there are four of them, I'm pretty confident in our abilities."

"Of course, I cannot say for sure that they're all trying to kill me. I will act once I confirm my enemies."

" ... "



Lia looked at Leo with slightly widened eyes.

"I didn't know you were capable of saying such things," she said with a slight smile on her face.

"Those who wish to harm me will receive no mercy from me," he spoke with a cold glint in his eyes.

He then asked, "What else do you know about this Sarah? What does she specialize in?"

"Sarah is a poison specialist. She even has a poison magic affinity. She will most likely try to poison us in a subtle way so that we won't notice it until it's too late."

"Poison? That's very troublesome. Thankfully, I have some antidote with me." Leo said.

"I have a strong resistance to poison, so you don't need to worry about me." Lia then said.

"Strong resistance doesn't mean immunity..." Leo shook his head.

"Here, take some of these antidotes just in case." He proceeded to hand over four bottles of high-grade antidote to her, something Camille gave him.

Fifteen minutes later, Leo and Lia returned to the rest of the team.

"Are we all ready?" Sarah asked them.

"Yes." They all nodded.

"Then let's go inside. Oscar, since you're the tank, you'll be in the front. Jasper, Oliver, the two of you will be in the middle with me. As for our newcomers, we'll let you protect our rear for now until we know your full capabilities." Sarah gave them instructions.

"I'm surprised. Why would they let us stay in the rear? If they're assassins and trying to kill me, it would make sense if they made us stay in the front." Leo said to Lilith.

"They're probably trying to lower your guard by letting you feel safe with them, or they have something planned."

"So they're trying to gain my trust, huh? Unfortunately for them, I am already aware of their intentions."

"Aren't you glad that you chose Lia as your partner now?" Lilith chuckled.

Sometime later, they arrived at the first floor of the Labyrinth.

"Looks like it's a maze-type Labyrinth." Sarah spoke after seeing the interior of the Labyrinth.

Upon stepping into the room, they were greeted by a long path that had walls that reached the ceilings.

"This is my first time seeing this kind of Labyrinth. What can I expect?" Leo asked.

Sarah then spoke, "This kind of Labyrinth is called a Maze Labyrinth. Just like a maze, we will have to find the path that reaches the next floor. Besides being annoying and time consuming, it's really not that difficult, especially if we mark the dead ends. However, this means we won't be able to avoid monsters and have to fight our way through, so be prepared for that."

Leo suddenly went to the wall and knocked on it.

"Is it possible to destroy the walls?" He then asked.

Sarah chuckled and said, "You can try, but you'll only be wasting your mana. Also, you'll alert the nearby monsters."

"Oh... nevermind then."

They proceeded to follow the only path they could walk until they reached a second path.

"We'll check every path we encounter. It's time consuming, but this guarantees that we will eventually find the exit." Sarah said.

A few minutes later, they all came to a halt when their path was blocked by a monster that resembled a golem, but its body was covered in green stuff.

"That's a B-Rank monster, Mossy Rock Golem. Oliver, I will leave this to you." Sarah said to him.

"Alright."

Oliver proceeded to cast a Tier 4 magic spell.

"Ice Barrage!"

Many large ice shards appeared above Oliver before he shot them at the Mossy Rock Golem, penetrating many holes into its body.

However, the monster did not die despite that.

The Mossy Rock Golem began running at them when it noticed their presence.

Oliver quickly cast another spell, "Shatter!"

The ice shards that were stuck in the golem's body suddenly exploded, killing the monster.

"Phew. That thing was stronger than I anticipated." Oliver said as he wiped the sweat from his forehead.

'Ice magic, just like Valery, huh?' Leo thought to himself.

'Although he has decent magic power, his casting speed is a bit slow. I don't need to worry about him.' He also assessed this Adventurer.

After taking a moment to harvest the monster's mana core, they continued moving forward.

## **Chapter 201: B-Rank Labyrinth(3)**

An hour has passed since Leo and Lia entered the B-Rank Maze Labyrinth. During this time, they have encountered 7 B-Rank monsters and 12 dead ends. Whenever they encounter a dead end, they would turn around and trace their steps until they return to the entrance of that path, and Sarah would mark the path so that they won't accidentally enter it again.

"This one is yours, Jasper." Sarah said to him when they encountered another monster.

"Water Prison!" Jasper created a large sphere made of water, trapping the monster before them, suffocating it to death, which took almost 5 whole minutes.

Although Water Prison was a safe and easy method to kill monsters, it only worked on animal-type monsters, and it required a lot of mana since most monsters could hold their breath for a long time. Moreover, this kind of cheese strategy would not work if there were multiple enemies.

"Leon, you're up next." Jasper said to him after chugging down a medium-quality mana potion.

"Alright." He calmly nodded.

Half an hour later, they encountered another Mossy Stone Golem.

"Go ahead. Show us why you qualify to be here." Sarah said while looking at him with a curious gaze.

Leo proceeded to step in front of the group and took a moment to cast Void Spear, even showing its magic circle on purpose.

A moment later, he shouted out loud, "Void Spear!"

Boom!

The Void Spear struck the Mossy Stone Golem, blasting it into many pieces.

"Wow, not bad. I finally understand why Aaron recruited you." Oscar said with a smile on his face.

"It's not much." Leo smiled back before returning to the rear of the formation.

"So you purposefully did not Silent Cast to lower their guard as well, huh? That's not a bad idea." Lilith chuckled.

Over the next two hours, Leo would continue to kill monsters.

"Are you alright? You've killed over 20 monsters now. Aren't you running out of mana?" Sarah asked him.

"I guess I've been pushing myself. Lena, it's your turn now." Leo nodded before turning to look at Lia.

He then chugged a low-quality mana potion.

A few minutes later, they encountered a monster that resembled a monkey with silver fur, and it had four arms.

"That's a Crazy Silver Macaque. They're B-Rank monsters, but some of them are as strong as an A-Rank monster. If you cannot handle this, I will do it." Sarah said to Lia, who was already aiming her magic rifle at the monster.

"I'll be fine," she spoke in a calm voice.

The following moment, she shot over a dozen bullets at the Crazy Silver Macaque, riddling its body with holes.

The Adventurers swallowed nervously when they saw Lia's performance.

'That must have consumed most of— if not all of her mana... How wasteful...' Sarah thought to herself.

However, to their surprise, Lia didn't show any signs of experiencing mana fatigue.

They kept silent and continued to move forward.

Fifteen minutes later, they encountered another monster for Lia to kill.

This time, it was a Mossy Stone Golem, which has a higher defense rating than the Crazy Silver Macaque.

However, Lia still penetrated its rocky physique with ease, killing the Mossy Stone Golem with 14 bullets.

'Impossible... Just how much mana does she have?' Sarah swallowed inwardly.

Magic rifles are not popular amongst Adventurers because they use too much mana and deal too little damage, yet Lia was showing the complete opposite.

"Hey... Aren't you showing off a little too much? We're trying to lower their guards." Leo whispered in her ears afterward.

"That's too much?" Lia mumbled in a low voice.

"I'm not certain, but looking at their dumbfounded expressions, I think so."

"Okay... I will tone it down."

When they encountered another monster, Lia used her magic rifle to kill the monster with a single bullet, shocking the Adventurers.

However, she fell to her knees afterward and said in a weak voice, "Leon... I'm out of mana..."

"That's what happens when you push yourself too far..." He shook his head.

"Carry me. I cannot walk," she suddenly said, dumbfounding Leo, who wasn't expecting her to take advantage of their situation.

Seeing how the others were staring at him, he had no choice but to carry Lia.

He bent his knees and allowed Lia to climb on his back, giving her a piggyback ride.

'She's quite light.' Leo thought to himself after standing up with Lia hugged his neck.

"Sorry for the trouble." He said to the others afterward.

"Don't worry about it. Let's continue moving forward."

The next person to deal with the monsters was Oscar, who would enchant his weapons with wind magic, allowing him to slice through the enemies as though they were tofu.

"Since the both of you are weakened right now, they might attack you soon. Be on guard." Lilith said to him.

"I know."

However, neither Sarah or the others made a move on them.

Several hours later, Leo asked Sarah, "What kind of magic do you use?"

"Me? My magic isn't very effective against the monsters on this floor, if you're wondering why I am not fighting."

"That's not it. I was just curious." Leo said, pretending to not know that she has poison magic affinity.

"Is that so? I use poison magic," she said, not lying about her magic affinity, which surprised Leo.

"Wow, really? I have never seen anyone with your magic affinity until today. How rare is it?"

"It's exceptionally rare. I think only one out of a million people are born with poison magic affinity. However, it's still not as rare as your dark magic affinity." Sarah said.

And she continued, "Now let me ask you a question. How long have you been an Adventurer?"

"Less than half a year," he said.

"And you're already this powerful? I am surprised." Sarah looked surprised.

"I don't think I am that powerful." He shook his head.

"No, you're very talented. Most people require two to three years before they can reach C-Rank, yet you're already as strong as a B-Rank Adventurer. I cannot imagine how strong you'll become in a year or two from now."

Several more hours later, Sarah asked them, "Do you guys need a break?"

"I can still go." Oscar said.

"Me too." The twins said simultaneously.

Leo and Lia silently nodded their heads, agreeing with the others.

"Then we'll continue."

In the end, they would remain on the first floor of the Labyrinth for a little over 26 hours.

"It's the staircase to the next floor! We've finally reached the end!" Oscar exclaimed in an excited voice when he saw the exit.

They began descending this staircase a moment later.

Upon arriving at the second floor of the Labyrinth, they were greeted by a green scenery.

"A plain area, huh? This is a stark contrast to the first floor." Sarah mumbled.

The greenery stretched all the way into the horizon without any obstructions, almost as though it was an endless floor.

"Let's take a break here and get some sleep before we continue." Sarah suggested.

"Sounds good."

Everyone there proceeded to set up their own tent.

Leo did the same and shared his tent with Lia.

"Then I will see you all in 10 hours." Sarah said to them before entering her tent.

Once they sealed their tent, Leo activated the transparent mode and said, "There's a good chance they'll attack us during our rest. You can go to sleep. I have plenty of energy potion."

"We can take turns sleeping," said Lia.

He shook his head, "No, it's better to not have any sleep at all than having not enough sleep. I'll be fine with energy potions."

"If you say so." Lia said as she sat beside him and laid her head on his legs.

"What are you doing...?" He asked her with raised eyebrows.

"I'm sleeping."

"You don't have a sleeping bag?"

"I sleep better like this," she calmly said with her eyes closed.

"..."

Leo was speechless.

'At least it'll be easier to wake her up like this if anything suddenly happens.' He sighed inwardly.

"I'll go spy on them for you." Lilith said to him before going into their tents.

He proceeded to spend the next several hours staring at the other three tents intently.

Lilith returned two hours later and said, "They're all asleep. I don't think they'll be attacking you now."

"Seriously? What the hell are they doing? How long are they going to keep delaying the inevitable?" Leo felt like begging them to attack him already so that he could fight back and deal with them as soon as possible.

"I know this is going to sound weird, but I cannot sense any ill intents coming from them or Sarah. Do you think there's a chance that we've misunderstood them?" Lilith suddenly said.

"There's no way. Lia confirmed that Sarah is an assassin who worked for her family. Coincidences like this just don't happen."

"Let's hope you're right."

Four more hours later, Lilith came back after another round of spying and said, "They're still sound asleep. I don't think anything is going to happen."



Leo frowned upon hearing this.

'Just when are they going to move?' He wondered inwardly.

Suddenly...

"Eh?" Leo's eyes widened with shock.

"What's wrong?" Lilith asked him when she saw his surprised face.

"My body... It's feeling stiff. I cannot move it very well."

"That's a paralyzing effect! You've been poisoned!" Lilith exclaimed.

"What?! I knew it! So they have finally decided to attack! It's about damn time!" A cold smile appeared on Leo's face.

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