

# Magic System in a Parallel World

## - Chapter 202: Paralyzing Effect |

### Chapter 202: Paralyzing Effect

"There's something off about this..." Lilith said with a frown on her face.

"Sarah and the others— they're still asleep, and I have been keeping a close eye on them since we entered the Labyrinth. There's no way they could've done this, unless Sarah can somehow Silent Cast her poison magic."

"If not them, then who could possibly be responsible for this poison?! We're the only ones in this Labyrinth!" Leo said.

"Forget it, I need to wake Lia up."

However, his body had become so stiff that he couldn't even lift a finger.

'Fortunately, I have the Magic System and Auto Potion.'

Thanks to the Auto Potion, Leo was able to consume the antidote potion without needing to physically drink it.

After drinking the potion, he quickly regained his movements, and he shook Lia up the following moment.

"Lia! Wake up! We're under attack! They've finally decided to move!"

"Hmm?" Lia slowly opened her eyes and sat up from his legs, seemingly unaffected by the poison.

'This girl... Just how strong is her poison resistance?' Leo realized this, but he was not in any situation to ponder about it.

After waking up, Lia looked around and said, "This poison... It's different."

"Different? From what?" Leo asked.

"From Sarah's poison."

"What are you implying? That Sarah isn't behind this?" Leo became even more confused after hearing Lia's words.

"More like someone beside Sarah is using this poison. Whether or not she's involved, I cannot say for sure."

"Unbelievable... If that is really the case, then we have made a grave mistake and misunderstood them. I'm really glad we decided to wait for them to act first before doing anything, or we could've potentially killed some innocent people."

Leo's back was soaked in cold sweat when he thought about killing innocent people due to a misunderstanding.

However, he still wasn't absolutely certain that Sarah and the others were innocent.

A few minutes later—

"Nothing's happening." Leo mumbled when nobody attacked them.

However, right as Leo finished his sentence, he noticed that about 250 meters away from their tents the space was distorting, and a moment later, four figures appeared out of thin air. Three men and one woman.

"What the hell?! Where did they come from?" Leo pointed at these people and exclaimed.

Lia narrowed her eyes at them and spoke in a calm voice, "It seems like they have been hiding their presence with a magic artifact. They've probably been waiting for us down here."

"So we're not the first ones to enter this dungeon..." Leo gritted his teeth upon realizing this fact.

"What should we do? They don't know that we're still fine, so we can take them by surprise." Lia asked him.

Leo frowned and said, "If we wait too long to deal with them, I'm afraid that the others might get hurt, and it will all be my fault."

"So what do you suggest?" Lia asked.

"I'm going to confront them." Leo said after a moment of silence.

"Why? You'll just ruin your advantage of surprise." Lia couldn't comprehend it.

Leo smiled and said, "Because I don't need any advantages to deal with these weaklings."

"..."

Lia felt a tingly sensation coursing through her body when she saw the arrogant smile on Leo's face.

"You stay here just in case, though." Leo said to her before approaching the door.

Meanwhile, Lilith went to check on the others, and sure enough, they were still asleep, but they all had unpleasant expressions on their faces, almost as though they were having nightmares.

'They're probably awake but can't do anything due to the poison.' Lilith thought to herself.

Long before Leo noticed that he was poisoned and shortly after he set up his camp, four individuals that had turned invisible with the help of a magic artifact poured colorless and odorless towards the direction of Leo's campsite.

"Although this Invisible Numbing Gas is very slow to activate, once it activates, they won't be able to lift a finger, and it will be easier than taking candy from a baby to capture Leon then." One of them, a female assassin, spoke in a low but grim voice.

"What are the chances that he'll have a magic artifact that will protect him from our poison?" Another one asked.

"Even if he's not paralyzed, the others will be. I don't know what kind of magic artifacts Camille Light gave him, but I doubt he will be able to defeat the four of us by himself."

"What should we do with the others?"

"We'll kill them, of course," said the female assassin with a cold smile on her face.

Several hours later, the female assassin spoke, "Alright, even an A-Rank Adventurer should be completely paralyzed by now. I will secure Leon. The rest of you can go kill the others."

"Alright! This is what I have been waiting for!"

The magic artifact that had been keeping their presence hidden and their figures invisible deactivated when they started moving towards Leo's campsite.

However, after reaching within 50 meters of the campsite, they came to a sudden halt when the door to Leo's tent opened, and out came a handsome young man with a playboy face.

"T-That's Leon! He's not affected by the poison, after all!"

"At least we got the others."

"Who are you guys? And why are you attacking us?" Leo asked them.

"Our identities do not matter. What matters is that we're here for you, Leon. Why don't you be a good boy and come with us." The female assassin said to him.

"If you resist, it's going to hurt," said one of the male assassins.

"We were ordered to bring you back alive, but that doesn't mean we can't rough you up a little."

Leo narrowed his eyes slightly after hearing their words.

'Their order is to keep me alive? That's the complete opposite of the bounty that wants me dead. What's going on? Are they not here because of the bounty? Then why else would they be here? Did someone else put a different bounty on me?' He wondered inwardly, feeling puzzled about the whole situation.

## **Chapter 203: Ambush**

"I see. So you're here to capture me. However, you should've brought more people." Leo said with a cold smile on his face. "Those that have to rely on poison to weaken their prey are usually quite weak, after all."

"Weak? Ahahaha!" One of the male assassins suddenly burst out laughing.

"The four of us are all A-Rank Adventurers! What can a mere C-Rank like you do to us?"

"Before you find out what I can do to you, I will give you a chance to keep your life." Leo spoke, and he continued, "Tell me who hired you and about your mission. If you do, I'll keep you alive."

The four assassins turned to look at each other. After a moment of silence, they all laughed together.

"Is this brat serious?"

"Who the hell does he think he is?"

"You must be very confident in your magic artifacts— the ones your sponsor, Camille Light, gave you."

"Magic artifacts? What are you talking about?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"You don't have to hide it. How else are you killing B-Rank and A-Rank monsters at your level?" The female assassin said.

"..."

After another moment of silence, Leo spoke, "Forget it. I will just assume that none of you want to live."

"Get him!" The female assassin suddenly pointed at Leo and shouted.

One of the male assassins suddenly sprang into motion and rushed towards Leo.

However, before he could even get close, the sound of a magic rifle being fired resounded, and a bullet came flying out of Leo's tent.

Pew!

This magic bullet went straight through the assassin's head— the one who tried to attack Leo, killing him instantly.

"What?!" The other three assassins exclaimed in a shocked voice when their companion dropped dead on the floor.

Leo's eyes widened with surprise after witnessing this, as he wasn't expecting this outcome either.

They all turned to look behind Leo, where a young girl wielding a magic rifle suddenly appeared.

"S-She's not affected by the poison, either?!"

"L-Lena! What are you doing?" Leo asked her, who calmly responded with, "I will not allow anyone to attack you before my presence."

She spoke in a calm yet cold voice, sending chills down the assassins' back.

"Let me handle the rest." Leo then said.

"Okay."

Leo focused on the other three again and said in a joking tone, "Sorry about the surprise attack just now. Though, you guys tried to do the same, so I guess we're even now."

"Keep him busy! I'll deal with that little bitch!" The female assassin said.

"Yes!"

The remaining two male assassins approached Leo the next moment while the female assassin confronted Lia.

"You little bitch. How dare you kill my friend!"

"All of you have forfeited your life the moment you tried to harm my partner." Lia spoke in a calm voice.

"Die!"

The female assassin created a Tier 3 magic circle and quickly cast her magic.

"Poison Vines!"

Beneath the ground suddenly sprouted vines that wrapped around Lia's legs before restricting the rest of her body.

"Now you're mine!" A cold smile appeared on the female assassin's face.

"I'm going to let you slowly die from my poison. It's going to be very painful, so brace yourself."

Lia looked at the vines restricting her body and spoke, "Your poison is too weak. I don't even feel it."

"W-What? How is that possible?! You're bluffing!"

"Gravity Well." Lia suddenly mumbled.

"Ah!"

The female assassin suddenly felt an invisible pressure bore down on her body, feeling as though she was being forced to carry a mountain on her back.

"G-Gravity Magic?! Why are you using a magic rifle if you can use magic?! Who are you?!"

After getting rid of the vines around her body, Lia slowly approached the assassin and whispered in her ears, "Lia Scarlet. Do you recognize my name?"

'What?! Lia Scarlet?! Impossible! What's she doing here with our target?!' The female assassin cried inwardly after hearing Lia's words.

She was aware that Lia Scarlet had run away from home and disappeared somewhere, but she couldn't understand why she was with Leon.

'Could this be a setup? But why would the Scarlet Family want to get rid of us?! We've been loyal to them for years!'

"Don't worry, I'm not going to kill you yet, since I still have some questions that I want to ask you."

"Yes..." The female assassin gave up any thoughts of resistance after learning Lia's true identity, as she was aware of how futile her efforts would be if she tried to escape.

Meanwhile, Leo was in the middle of dealing with the other two assassins.

When the assassins approached him, he immediately used Void Step to distance himself from the campsite, as he didn't want to hurt the others by accident.

"Where the hell do you think you're going?!"

"How dare you run away after saying those bold words!" The assassins chased after him.

Once he was far enough, Leo stopped moving and chuckled, "Who said I was running away?"

"Anyways, since I am a generous person, I will give you one more chance to keep your life if you tell me what I want to know."

"Fuck you!" The assassins started casting their magic.

"Too slow."

Before the assassins could finish casting, a cloud of black mist suddenly enveloped the field, obstructing their vision.

"W-What the heck is this?! I can't see anything!"

"My mana is being drained!"

"I'll blow this thing away with my wind magic!"

A moment later—

"What?! My magic failed!"

"Fuck! Let's just run out of here!"

"Aaaaah!"

One of the assassins suddenly screamed out loud in fear.

"H-Hey! What happened?! Are you okay?!" The other assassin called out.

"What is this thing?! Help me! It's consuming me! Aaaaaah—"

The assassin's scream halted midway, and then there was absolute silence.

"Fuck this!" The remaining assassin could feel his heart trying to jump out of his throat, and he began running in one direction like his life depended on it.

## **Chapter 204: Ambush(2)**

"Where do you think you're going?" Leo's voice resounded from behind the assassin when he tried to run away.

The assassin suddenly stopped moving when he felt his movements being restricted by an invisible force.

'W-What is happening to me?! Why can't I move my body?!' Unbeknownst to the assassin, its body had just been consumed by the Devourer of Gods.

The assassin suddenly experienced intense pain, feeling as though his body was melting.

His skin, muscles, even his bones felt like they were disappearing.



"Aaaaaaah! What is happening?! Help me! Please! I will tell you everything!" The assassin screamed out loud, but alas, once the Devourer of Gods starts devouring something, it would not stop until it completely consumed its prey.

And within seconds, the assassin's cries came to a complete halt.

When the Dark Mist disappeared, the two assassins that chased after Leo were nowhere to be seen, almost as if they had disappeared into thin air.

Leo turned to look at the Devourer of Gods. After consuming two A-Rank Adventurers, its size had nearly tripled, greatly surprising Leo.

'It's almost as if this thing was created to consume humans... Actually, since this is Lilith's magic and she's a vampire, it would make sense...' Leo thought to himself.

Meanwhile, back at the campsite, Lia questioned the female assassin.

"Who sent you here? Why do you want to capture Leon?"

The female assassin looked at Lia with a surprised look on her face.

"You don't know? It was your Scarlet Family that hired me to capture Leon."

"What?" Lia's eyebrows furrowed into a slight frown when she heard this information.

She then retrieved a red dagger and placed its blade right in front of the assassin's neck, pressing it into her skin slightly.

"Say that again." Lia spoke in a cold voice.

"I-I am not lying! I was really hired by the Scarlet Family! We were told to capture an Adventurer named Leon without killing him! That's all I know!"

Lia was prepared to slice the assassin's throat if she sensed any lies, but she didn't, so she removed the blade from the assassin's neck.

"How long have you been down here waiting for us?" Lia then asked.

"N-Not long. We came here a day before you guys were supposed to arrive— that was the plan."

"What was your plan?"

"We wait for you guys to show up, and during your break, we will poison you guys. Then, we kill everyone but Leon before taking him back to the Scarlet Family." The assassin explained all of her plans in detail for Lia.

"Do you know who within the Scarlet Family hired you?"

"Y-Yes! It was Edwin, the butler!"

Lia's eyebrow twitched slightly after hearing this.

'Edwin... Even though I told you to keep your hands off Leon...'

A cold glint appeared within Lia's eyes, and her mana went out of control for a moment, nearly crushing the assassin to death.

"H-Have mercy!" The assassin cried out loud with blood pouring out of her mouth, nose, eyes, and ears.

Lia snapped out of it and regained control over her mana again, but the assassin was already half-dead by then.

Despite the assassin's horrible condition, Lia's expression remained tranquil as she stared at the assassin's bloodied face, looking as if it wasn't any of her concern.

Meanwhile, Leo almost reached the campsite.

"Oh, I should've left at least one of them alive for questioning. Now I won't know who sent them." Leo realized this a little too late, and he didn't think Lia would leave the female assassin alive, especially considering how much she liked to kill.

However, to his absolute surprise, when he returned to the campsite, the female assassin was still alive, and she was on her knees before Lia, looking like someone who was repenting before god.

"Great job keeping her alive! I have some questions for her!" Leo rushed over to her with an excited face.

"I have already extracted all of her information, but if you want to ask her yourself, go ahead." Lia calmly said.

"Really? Then do you know why she wants to capture me alive, or who hired them?" Leo asked.

Lia nodded, "Apparently this was Edwin's idea."

"What?! Your butler?!" He couldn't help but cry out loud after learning of this information.

Then he realized something, "D-Does this mean he knows about my true identity?! Why else would he suddenly send assassins to capture me?!"

"No, I don't think he knows about your true identity. I believe this is about that time you provoked him during my rampage."

"Seriously? That was months ago! And I only poked him a little! Is he really that petty?"

"Now you know why nobody dares to offend the Scarlet Family." Lia calmly said.

"Anyways, what should we do with her?" Lia then asked.

"What do you suggest?"

"Kill her." She answered immediately and without any hesitation.

"Of course you would say that..." Leo sighed, but he didn't find anything wrong with it, as it would only be natural to kill this assassin who tried to kidnap him— at least according to this world's logic.

"..."

The assassin didn't utter a single word despite hearing Lia's words. She knew that she was doomed no matter what the outcome was. Even if she survived this ordeal, the Scarlet Family will hunt her down for failing her mission, and Lia had no reason to protect her.

Sometime later, Leo said, "If you want to kill her, do it. I've already killed 2 people today. I don't want to increase the body count anymore, and if you kill her, we'll be even."

"Okay." Lia immediately decapitated the assassin without even the slightest hesitation.

Once Lia killed the assassin, Leo had the Devourer of God clean up the two corpses left outside their campsite.

'Oh? It grows even if the prey it consumes is already dead? Or maybe these corpses are fresh, hence why it works...' Leo wondered inwardly after seeing the black slime grow another size or two after consuming the last 2 assassins.

"Now then, what should we do about your butler, Edwin? As your butler, he's your responsibility, so I will let you handle it. However, if he tries to come at me again, I will personally take care of him myself."

Lia nodded, "Don't worry, there won't be a second time."

'She's not going to kill him— her own butler, is she?' Leo wondered to himself after noticing killing intent from her tone.

Knowing Lia's personality, Leo didn't cross off that possibility.

"Alright, now that the assassins are dealt with, what should we do about the others?" He asked a moment later.

"Although they're also a victim of this ambush, we cannot say for certain that they're innocent and won't try to attack us later." Lia said.

"I know, but we cannot attack them without any reason. I say we should continue watching them."

"Okay."

Sometime later, Leo and Lia fed their teammates antidotes for the paralyzing poison.

"I cannot believe that I was poisoned and did not notice it until it was too late... How embarrassing..." Sarah sighed out loud after regaining her ability to move.

"To think there were people who entered this Labyrinth before us..."

"Why did they attack us, anyways?"

"They were probably trying to loot us."

"If that's the case, they should've done so in the lower floors when we've collected more loot."

"In any case, thank you, Leon and Lena. You really saved us today." Sarah said to them.

"By the way, how come you two weren't affected by the poison?" Jasper asked them out of curiosity.

"I wasn't asleep, and I consumed a potion the instant I noticed my body stiffening. As for Lena, she has a pretty high tolerance to poison, so it doesn't affect her as much."

"You weren't asleep?" Oscar raised an eyebrow after hearing this, and almost as if he realized something, he started chuckling, "I get that you're partners, but you shouldn't be doing that kind of stuff inside a Labyrinth."

Leo frowned and said, "Whatever you're thinking in your head— we weren't doing anything like that. I was just a little too excited and anxious about the Labyrinth and couldn't sleep well. This is my first time doing a Labyrinth raid, after all."

"Oh? So you're a Labyrinth virgin, huh?" Sarah smiled.

Sometime later, Sarah said, "I won't be able to go back to sleep after what just happened, but Leon, if you need some extra time to rest, don't hesitate to say so. You deserve it."

"I'm fine."

"Then let's continue moving forward. Everyone agrees?"

"Agreed."

"Me too."

After putting away their tents, Leo and the others continued their raid.

"Umm... If you don't mind, can I take care of the monsters from this point forth?" Leo suddenly asked Sarah.

"Huh? Are you asking me to let you fight all of the monsters that we encounter starting now?" Sarah asked for confirmation.

"Indeed, that is exactly what I am asking." Leo nodded.

"But why would you want to do that?" Sarah had a puzzled look on her face.

"I just feel like it." He smiled.

Naturally, he had several reasons for wanting to hunt the monsters.

Not only would he be able to acquire more Magic Points, but he also wanted to compensate Sarah and the others for misunderstanding them and treating them as though they were trying to harm him.

"If you want to kill all of the monsters, I won't stop you. Let me know when you're tired." Sarah said a moment later, as she wasn't expecting for him to last too long.

"Thank you." Leo said.

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## Chapter 205: Monster Stampede

Sometime later, they encountered a large boar with red skin and massive tusks that could lift a bus with ease.

"This Enraged Tusks is all yours, Leon." Sarah said to him as she and the others came to a complete halt.

Leo stepped forward and calmly approached the monster.

When the monster noticed him, it started pawing the ground with its feet, looking like a bull right before it charged at its target.

Right as the monster charged forward, Leo calmly pointed his palm at it in one smooth motion before casting over a dozen Black Bullets without uttering a single word.

The Black Bullets soared through the air and reached the monster almost instantly before riddling holes all over its body.

The monster fell to the ground the next moment, causing dirt to scatter all over the place.

"..." Sarah and the others were speechless.

'Silent cast and multicasting...? Something is different about him compared to before...'  
Sarah thought to herself, as it felt like Leo had suddenly become many times stronger.

Seeing their expressions, Leo smiled and said, "I would like to apologize to all of you. Due to special reasons, I've been holding my strength back."

Oscar swallowed nervously before asking, "How much have you been holding back?"

"Not much. About 90 percent." Leo responded with a calm smile on his face.

"N-Ninety percent...?" His teammates were utterly speechless.

"Anyways, let's continue, shall we?"

Leo continued moving shortly after. The others exchanged glances with each other before following him.

As they walked, they asked Lia, "Are you also holding back?"

"Maybe." She responded in a nonchalant manner.

"But why are you two hiding your true power?"

"Who knows." She shrugged.

The others stopped asking any more questions at that point as they could tell that Lia wasn't going to tell them anything.

Over the next several hours, Leo would kill over 50 monsters, and he would kill all of them with ease.

"Are we supposed to just keep walking in one direction? What if the staircase to the next floor is somewhere in the middle of this vast floor?" Leo suddenly asked.

"That's possible, but it's not likely, as most stairs to the next floor exist closer to the edge." Sarah said.

"And there's really nothing we can do except wander around aimlessly until we find the staircase. Fortunately, most floors with this kind of layout are usually smaller than usual."

"Is that so..." Leo mumbled.

A few minutes later, Leo suddenly noticed the ground trembling, and he asked, "Is it just me or is there an earthquake?"

The others stopped moving upon hearing his words.

"Don't tell me..." Sarah suddenly fell to her knees and pressed her ear against the ground.

"T-This is—! It's a monster stampede!" She said with a panicked look on her face.

"Monster stampede?" Leo raised an eyebrow, as this is his first encounter with such a term.

"A monster stampede is when a large group of monsters are all traveling in one direction. It's incredibly dangerous. We need to avoid it."

"It's just a bunch of monsters grouped up together, right? It's fine. I can handle it." Leo calmly said.

"You don't understand. A stampede usually consists of over 100 monsters! There's no way we can fight all of them at once! We'll immediately be overwhelmed!"

Leo smiled and said, "Don't worry, I got this. If you don't trust me, you can watch from a safe distance."

"Say no more..." Oliver immediately began running away.

"Good luck." Jasper and Oscar said to Leo before following Oliver.

"You... Whatever." Sarah also left his side shortly after without saying much.

"I guess it's too much to ask a group of strangers to entrust their lives to me." A bittersweet smile appeared on Leo's face after seeing his teammates leave his side, not that he blamed them, as he would've done the same if he was in their shoes.

He turned to look at Lia and said, "You should also go with them."

"I trust you," she responded without hesitation.

He shook his head and explained, "It's not about that. I'm going to use a pretty powerful magic spell and I don't want you to get caught up in it by accident."

"What are you going to do?" She couldn't help but ask.

"I'm going to kill all of the monsters in one go." He said with a confident smile.

Lia nodded and left his side shortly after.

Meanwhile, Leo could feel the earthquake growing stronger and stronger.

He could eventually see many black dots in the distance, and they were all rushing towards his direction.

"Wow, that's a lot of monsters. Reminds me of the monster nest." Leo mumbled out loud after seeing the scene.

"There's at least 200 monsters." Lilith said from the sky.

"Good. I've been wanting to let loose my dark magic for a while now." An excited smile appeared on Leo's face.

After taking a deep breath, Leo's body suddenly began emanating a dark aura, and the space around him became distorted.



'I can feel my magic power soaring...!' Leo thought to himself as he prepared to cast his next magic spell.

Once the monster stampede was close enough, Leo released his magic spell, Plague of Destruction.

A thick fog that was pitch black suddenly appeared, meeting with the monster stampede a moment later.

Almost as though it was a tsunami, the black fog submerged the whole monster stampede within seconds, and all of the monsters within the Plague of Destruction had their mana eroded every second and their health being drained.

Moreover, the fog stripped away half of the monsters' defenses.

Leo secretly used the Elder's Orb of Restraint while the monsters were hidden within the fog, restricting all of the monsters' movement.

He entered the fog the following moment and summoned the Devourer of Gods.

"It's a feast! Go ahead and consume all of them!" Leo said to the black slime with a somewhat sinister smile on his face, and the slime happily obeyed to his command.

## **Chapter 206: Monster Stampede(2)**

"What the hell is that black fog? I cannot see what's happening inside!" Oscar exclaimed as he watched the situation from many meters away.

"I don't have the slightest clue as to what is happening over there, but I know that I don't want to be anywhere near that area right now." Jasper swallowed nervously.

"Dark magic... How ominous..." Oliver sighed, feeling chills all over his body just from looking at the black fog in the distance.

"The amount of mana coming from that fog... I'd say it's at least Tier 5 magic— probably Tier 6." Sarah said.

"Plague of Destruction. It's a Tier 6 spell." Lia calmly said.

"Plague of Destruction?! Isn't that an ultra rare magic spell?! Just who are you guys..." Sarah was speechless.

She has heard of the magic spell before, and from what she heard, it was only accessible to very few people in this world.

Meanwhile, the monster stampede was halted completely by Leo.

And even though he wanted the Devourer of Gods to consume all of the monsters, his Plague of Destruction was simply too strong, killing most of the monsters before the Devourer of Gods could even consume them.

Leo deactivated both the Elder's Orb of Restraint and the Devourer of Gods before removing the Plague of Destruction.

When the black fog disappeared, all that was left behind were the monsters' bones and mana cores.

"Holy fuck... Am I seeing things, or did he just kill over 200 B-Rank monsters by himself and in just a few minutes?" Oscar mumbled in a baffled voice.

"Is he really a C-Rank Adventurer? He's not an S-Rank Adventurer fooling us, right?" Jasper mumbled.

"How can he have so much power at such a young age? I'm envious." Oliver sighed out loud, feeling a little dejected after comparing himself to Leo.

If they knew that Leo had only started learning magic a few months ago, who knows how they'll react.

After dealing with the monster stampede, Leo beckoned for his teammates.

"I can't believe you actually managed to do it. You're one crazy bastard, Leon." Oscar said to him with a stiff smile.

"It's not much." Leo smiled back, but his smile was much more relaxed.

"How do you feel? You must have used up most of your mana just now, right? I can take over for you until you recover your mana." Jasper said.

Leo chuckled, "I'm fine."

After all, his mana returned to full capacity before they even arrived.

They continued to explore the 2nd floor of the Labyrinth shortly after.

Two days later.

"Are we walking in circles or something? We've been walking like this for two days now." Leo said.

"No, we've been going in a straight line. I marked our path with poison so that we wouldn't encounter such a problem." Sarah said. "Are you tired? We can take a break if you need one."

"No, I was just wondering since we still can't see the end of this floor."

They continued walking for another 24 hours.

During this time, they encountered a second monster stampede, but the group of monsters wasn't as big as the previous one. Naturally, Leo made short work of them.

Then, eight hours later, they encountered a third monster stampede.

"Another monster stampede? Just what is going on? Why are there so many stampedes in this Labyrinth?" Sarah mumbled to herself.

"We'll leave this one to you as well, Leon." Oscar said before running to a safe distance without needing anyone to tell him.

A minute later, Leo could see a massive group of monsters running towards their direction.

It only took a glance for Leo to tell that this monster stampede had more monsters than the previous two combined.

"400... No, there are over 500 monsters this time." Lilith said after a quick glance at the monsters.

"Just in case, I'm going to get a little help this time." Leo said with a slight smile on his face.

The next moment, he summoned a clone of himself.

This shadow had the exact same height and figure as Leo. If it weren't for its shadowy appearance, it would've been a splitting image of Leo.

After summoning his clone, Leo activated Dark Aura before he started overcharging Plague of Destruction.

Once the monsters were close enough, Leo released his weapon of mass destruction, consuming the whole monster stampede with Plague of Destruction.

And just like before, he used the Elder's Orb of Restraint before summoning the Devourer of Gods to devour as many monsters as it could before the Plague of Destruction killed everything.

<You have been awarded 4,129 Magic Points for your killing spree of 682 monster kills>

'It was definitely a good decision to participate in this Labyrinth raid. I am getting so many Magic Points.'

In just the last few days, he has acquired almost 10,000 Magic Points just from killing monsters, and he still had plenty more floors to clear— at least he hoped so.

"How are you not running out of mana? Do you have a magic artifact that gives you improved mana regeneration or something?" Jasper asked him out of curiosity.

He nodded, "Yes, something like that."

"Do you know how rare and sought after magic artifacts like that are? Even a low-grade magic artifact could be worth a fortune if it can increase your mana regeneration." Oliver sighed.

Leo smiled and said, "I got most of my magic artifacts from my sponsor."

"Your sponsor must be hella rich, then."

Leo nodded. "She's Camille Light, after all."

"What?! Your sponsor is that S-Rank healer, Camille Light?!" The others were surprised to learn this information.

"No wonder... Camille Light is one of the most respected Adventurers in this part of the world. It's a pity that she's retired at such a young age, though." Sarah sighed.

After walking straight for a few more hours, Leo and the others finally reached the end of the Labyrinth, as they were able to see the Labyrinth's wall in the distance. However, they still needed to find the staircase to the next floor.

Once they reached the wall, they picked one direction and started following that path until they eventually found the staircase.

## Chapter 207: Reinforcement

Once they found the staircase to the third floor of the Labyrinth, Sarah spoke, "We've been wandering for days now. Let's take a break here before we enter the next floor."

"I agree. I'm tired even though I didn't do anything but walk." Oscar said.

Thus, they set up their tents right next to the staircase and began their second break.

"You can sleep this time." Lia said to Leo. "I'll watch over you."

"Alright. Thanks." Leo didn't refuse and immediately set up his sleeping area, as he was mentally exhausted after casting so many spells.

Once Leo laid in his sleeping bag, Lia walked beside him and sat down, causing Leo to open his eyes.

"What are you doing?" Leo asked her.

"I'm watching over you," she said.

"Like... literally?" Leo was speechless.

She silently nodded.

"..."

Leo decided to ignore her and closed his eyes to sleep.

One would think it would be harder for Leo to sleep while knowing that there was a beautiful girl staring at him, but he was already used to it with Lilith doing it to him almost every single night.

Leo quickly fell asleep within minutes, and he even started snoring a little.

Lia would stare at Leo's sleeping face with a pondering look on her face.

Even though she believed Leo when he told her that he was from another world, it was still hard to believe.

As for Lilith, she went to check on the others.

Oscar was fast asleep just like Leo. The twin brothers were eating food, and Sarah was taking a shower.

Meanwhile, inside Aaron's room at his own residence, an old man stood before Aaron with an intimidating aura around him.

"Where is Leon?" Edwin asked Aaron in a cold voice.

"They left for the Labyrinth several days ago."

"Then where the hell is he? The assassins should've returned by now!"

"Maybe Leon and his team are taking longer than expected to clear the first floor. It's a huge maze, after all."

"It would take them three days maximum to clear that level of maze. Also, they stopped contacting us completely. I'm starting to think they're all dead. What a useless bunch." Edwin sucked his teeth in an annoyed manner.

"What? That's not possible! Leon may be strong, but he shouldn't be able to defeat a team of A-Rank Adventurers! One of them was even a poison expert!"

"What about his teammates? He's not alone."

"Even if his teammates assisted him, they only have a single A-Rank Adventurer amongst their team. I find it hard to believe that Leon and his team were able to defeat a team of A-Rank Adventurers picked out by the Scarlet Family." Aaron said.

Edwin began pondering in silence.

A moment later, he spoke, "You're right. Leon doesn't have the capabilities to do such a thing— at least not to the assassins I'd hired. Although they were not the best, they were above average and more than enough to deal with someone like Leon."

After a slight pause, he continued, "However, just in case, I have sent reinforcement inside the Labyrinth to see the situation. They should've already reached the second floor by now."

"Reinforcement?" Aaron swallowed nervously when he saw the creepy smile on Edwin's face.

"Yes, he's been with the Scarlet Family for over 2 decades now— Matthew Hicks."

"What?! That S-Rank Adventurer who is known for being crazy?!" Aaron couldn't believe it.

Why would the Scarlet Family go through so much trouble to capture Leon, even sending out an S-Rank Adventurer? He couldn't comprehend it.

However, he did know that Leon wouldn't be able to escape the grasp of an S-Rank Adventurer.

'Although Matthew Hicks isn't the strongest S-Rank out there, he's definitely more than enough to capture Leon and deal with his team. What did I get myself into?' Aaron sighed inwardly.

Nine hours have passed since Leo and the others began their break, and it was about time for them to enter the 3rd floor of the Labyrinth.

After taking down their tents, Leo and his team began descending to the 3rd floor with Oscar in the lead.

Upon entering the third floor, they were greeted by a blue scenery— one that was filled with water.

"What the hell is this?" Leo muttered in a dazed voice after seeing the scene before him.

Similar to the second floor, the third floor consisted of mostly one color— blue. And before Leo and his team was a massive sea with a single path in the middle.

"I guess we have no choice but to go this one path, huh?" Oscar mumbled.

"I have a feeling that we won't be able to rest until we reach the end of the floor for this one since there's a good chance that we'll have to deal with sea monsters jumping out of the water." Sarah said to them.

"Sea monsters, huh? This is my first time encountering them. How are they any different from land monsters?" Leo asked.

"If they're not jumping out of the water to attack us, they'll be attacking us from afar using water magic, and they're much harder to notice compared to land monsters, so they're pretty annoying to deal with." Sarah said.

"I see..."

"Anyways, we just need to keep our eyes out for monsters, and make sure you alert the others if you see one."

"Alright."

Once they were prepared, they began walking the only path they could take.

"I don't like the sea, especially the things lurking inside." Leo suddenly sighed out loud a minute later.

"Oh? Then you'll hate the underwater floors." Sarah chuckled.

"What? Underwater floors?" Leo raised his eyebrows.

"Yes. There are some floors in the Labyrinth that are submerged in water. Fortunately, they only appear in A-Rank Labyrinths and above." Sarah explained.

"That sounds like a pain in the ass. How do people even prepare for that?"

"When you're an A-Rank Adventurer, you have to prepare for every possible scenario. That's how we stay alive, after all."

The first several minutes were quite peaceful and they felt like they were walking alongside the ocean, but unbeknownst to them, they would encounter some terrifying entities soon.

## Chapter 208: Infancy Stage

About thirty minutes into their journey on the third floor of the Labyrinth, Oliver suddenly shouted out loud, "I see a monster! It's coming from the east!"

Everyone turned their heads simultaneously, and they could see a large fin approaching their direction.

Seeing this, Leo immediately cast Void Spear and tossed it at the monster while it was still in the water.

BOOM!

The explosion caused a slight drizzle, and the monster's guts flew all over the place.

<+24 Magic Points>



When he saw the notification, Leo knew that he'd killed the monster.

"Hm? We can't collect their mana cores like this, can we?" Leo asked after realizing this.

"That's why most people hate sea monsters, as it's incredibly difficult to collect their mana cores. But there's nothing we can do about it, especially not in this situation." Sarah shook her head.

However, Leo wasn't too saddened by this, as he had a method to collect the mana cores through the Magic System's Auto Loot.

The only reason he had it turned off was because he didn't want to raise any suspicions. Now that he could use it without worrying about the others, he turned it back on without any hesitation.

A few minutes later, Jasper alerted him.

"Monster to the east again!"

Leo tossed a Void Spear at the moving fin.

Boom!

<+18 Magic Points>

Sometime later, Leo suddenly thought of something.

"Hey, Lilith. Can the Devourer of Gods survive under water?" He asked with a curious expression on his face.

"Don't tell me you're thinking about letting it wander in the water...?" Lilith looked at him with a dumbfounded face.

"That is exactly what I am thinking. The water is pretty dark, so it won't be easy to notice the Devourer of Gods, and it can feast on the sea monsters. So? Can it swim?"

Lilith nodded in a dazed manner, "Yes, it can swim, but it'll be weaker than usual—about 50% weaker."

"50 percent? That's a lot weaker." Leo was surprised to hear this.

"What did you expect? Your Devourer of Gods is still in its infancy stage, and it's never swam before." Lilith shrugged.

"Wait... Infancy stage? Even though it's so big?"

"Yes. Until your Devourer of Gods takes a form, it will be considered as an infant."

"Takes a form? What kind of shape can it take?" Leo asked, his eyes filled with curiosity and interest.

"That will depend on its personality and how you feed it. For example, if you feed it only boar-type monsters, it might take the form of a boar. It might even take the form of a dragon if you feed it enough dragons. Oh, it can also take the shape of a human."

"How much do I have to feed it before it transforms?" Leo then asked.

"It really depends on how much mana the thing you feed it contains. The more mana it contains the faster your Devourer of Gods will grow."

"Wouldn't it be disastrous if my Devourer of Gods takes the form of a fish if I feed it too many sea monsters?" Leo began having second thoughts about letting it roam in the waters.

"Also, can the Devourer of Gods die? What if it encounters a monster or entity that it cannot consume?"

"The Devourer of Gods is almost immortal. You can burn it or slice it, but unless you destroy every cell of it at once, it will simply regenerate back to normal, so it's incredibly difficult to kill and you don't need to worry about that at all. And if it happens to die, you can create another one, but you will have to start from scratch." Lilith explained.

"As for your other worries... Even if it decides to take the form of a fish, you can always tell it to change its form since it's not a permanent thing."

"I see... There's still a lot that I don't know about the Devourer of Gods."

After contemplating for a few more moments, Leo decided to let the Devourer of Gods enter the water and catch its own food, but he waited until they encountered a monster.

About 20 minutes later.

"West!"

While everyone was focused on the monster in the distance, Leo summoned the Devourer of Gods and had it enter the water before killing the monster with Void Spear.

After that, he proceeded to ignore the Devourer of Gods, eventually forgetting about it.

Over the next several hours, Leo did not encounter another monster.

"What's going on? We haven't encountered a single monster in a while now." Oscar said out loud after realizing this.

"I have a bad feeling about this." Jasper said.

"Remain alert. We might encounter a 'school' soon." Sarah said.

"A what?" Leo raised his eyebrows and looked at Sarah with a questioning gaze.

"A 'school' refers to a group of sea monsters. It's basically a monster stampede but with sea monsters instead." Sarah explained.

"Oh... A 'school' as in a school of fishes?" Leo didn't know whether to laugh or cry after realizing this.

A few hours later, Oscar suddenly stopped walking when he noticed a wave appeared in the distance, and this wave grew taller and wider with every passing second.

"I-It's a school!" Oscar exclaimed when he realized the situation.

"Prepare yourselves!" Sarah shouted as she began casting her magic spell.

However, before anybody there could even finish casting one spell, Leo already sent over 50 Black Bullets flying towards the sea of monsters swimming towards their direction.

<+21 Magic Points>

<+22 Magic Points>

<+17 Magic Points>

<+19 Magic Points>

And again.

<+25 Magic Points>

<+13 Magic Points>

<+20 Magic Points>

The wave quickly died down as the Devourer of Gods consumed the rest of the monsters.

Despite being weakened by 50%, the Devourer of Gods remained a menace and threat to the sea monsters. Furthermore, due to its unique body, the monsters were unable to deal any real damage to it.

Although they tried eating it, the Devourer of Gods would regenerate what was eaten almost instantly, rendering their efforts futile.

"I know I have said this multiple times by now, but you're really something else, Leon..." Oscar swallowed nervously afterward.

"It's nothing much." Leo smiled.

## **Chapter 209: Matthew Hinks**

Over the next several hours, Leo would encounter and eliminate three more schools of sea monsters.

His teammate wanted to assist him, but they were simply too slow in casting, and when they tried casting anything weaker than Tier 3 magic, their spells would not harm the monsters at all, unlike Leo, who could kill the B-Rank monsters with his Tier 1 Black Bullet.

The third floor of the Labyrinth was much shorter than the previous floors, and it only took them about 12 hours to reach the end.

However, right as they could see the staircase to the next floor, Sarah noticed a massive fin sticking out of the water.

"Watch out! That's an A-Rank monster— Sea Leviathan!" Sarah alerted everyone there.

The Sea Leviathan jumped into the air after Sarah spoke, revealing its long and large body.

The Sea Leviathan resembled a snake with sharp and hard scales. Its body was mostly blue with subtle green around the tip of its scales, and its eyes were bloodshot red. It also has three large fins, two one each side and one on the top. As for its size, it was between 80 to 100 meters long.

Water splashed everywhere when the Sea Leviathan returned to the water.

"All of you go ahead! I will stay here to stop it!" Leo said to the others shortly after noticing it.

"Alright! Good luck!" Oscar was already used to leaving everything to Leo by now and immediately started dashing towards the staircase before Leo even finished his sentence.

The twin brothers and Sarah followed Oscar.

"Leave this one to me, Leo." Lia said to him once the others were gone.

"Huh? Are you sure?"

She nodded, "Your magic might not hit it at that speed, but my magic rifle definitely will."

Naturally, she didn't know about Leo's tracking projectiles.

Lia proceeded to take a knee, placing her rear knee on the ground with the other leg supporting the elbow of her forward arm that was holding the magic rifle.

Once she was in position, she began charging the magic rifle with her mana.

Leo could see the mana around her distort slightly, gradually becoming more distorted with every passing second.

The Sea Leviathan reached their location about 5 seconds later, and it jumped into the air before falling towards Leo and Lia with its mouth wide open.

Seeing this, Lia released her mana and pulled the trigger, releasing a massive beam of light, just like a laser.

This laser went straight into the Sea Leviathan's open mouth and came out at the top of its head.

However, despite its grave injuries, it wasn't completely dead just yet.

Pew!

Another magic bullet left Lia's magic rifle, then another, and another.

In less than a second, three more magic bullets assaulted the Sea Leviathan. The bullets were much weaker than the first bullet, but it was still enough to riddle holes in the Sea Leviathan's mouth.

The Sea Leviathan collapsed right before the path, slowly submerging into the depths of the water, and that's when the Devourer of Gods consumed its corpse.

Ding!

<Devourer of Gods Mastery Rank has increased from F → E>

"Not bad... I kind of feel like using a magic rifle now since it looks kind of cool." Leo mumbled afterward.

"Do you want to try it?" Lia offered her magic rifle to him.

"Maybe later. Let's see what's on the next floor."

Leo and Lia met up with the others at the end of the floor.

"Amazing job, Lena. You're also quite extraordinary even though you cannot use magic." Sarah said to her.

"Thank you." Lia calmly said.

Sometime later, they descended the staircase and entered the fourth floor of the Labyrinth.

"We're back to a maze?" Leo sighed out loud after seeing the familiar scenery.

"Well, there's only so much variety a single Labyrinth can have. Let's do what we did previously."

Thus, Leo and his team began wandering the fourth floor maze.

Meanwhile, the S-Rank Adventurer that Edwin had sent as reinforcement was halfway through the second floor.

"A monster stampede, huh?" Matthew remained calm as he waited for the monster stampede to show up.

A few moments later, he could see nearly 300 monsters rushing towards his direction.

Once they were close enough, Matthew released his magic spell, creating a massive wall of flames that blocked the monsters' path and burning those that dared to challenge his flames, halting the monster stampede in less than a minute.

After killing all of the monsters, Matthew continued moving without bothering to collect the mana cores.

'That Edwin... Sending me to capture a mere C-Rank Adventurer. How desperate is he?' Matthew wondered inwardly.

The Scarlet Family has only summoned him for important matters before, yet he was chosen to kidnap a C-Rank Adventurer whom he considers a child. It baffled him. However, he was being paid handsomely for this mission that he considers extremely easy, so he didn't complain.

Sometime later, he arrived at the end of the second floor, and he immediately descended to the third floor.

His expression remained unchanged when he saw the sea and the single path, and he began threading it without any hesitation.

A few minutes later, a snake-like monster jumped out of the water and aimed its fangs at Matthew's neck.

Without even looking, Matthew surrounded himself with a flame barrier, and when the monster touched this barrier, it quickly burned and turned into ash.

Matthew proceeded to walk the path without stopping for a second and even kept his flame barrier active the whole time.

Once he reached the end about 10 hours later, a Sea Leviathan tried to attack him.

Seeing this, Matthew casually waved his arm at the monster, spewing out a wave of flames that consumed the Sea Leviathan, killing it in an instant.

As an S-Rank Adventurer, this B-Rank Labyrinth was akin to a child's playground to him.

Meanwhile, Leo and his team managed to reach the 5th floor of the Labyrinth after spending 5 short hours in the maze.

"We got lucky with that one." Sarah said as they entered the fifth floor.

## **Chapter 210: Matthew Hinks(2)**

Leo looked at the scenery on the fifth floor with a look of awe. The scenery before him was a mixture of blue and green. There was a green field before him, but there were also ponds of all sizes scattered all over the place.

"We might be getting close to the boss room." Sarah said after seeing the fifth floor.

"I have a feeling that monsters will jump out of these ponds." Leo mumbled.

"It's probably not even a pond." Oscar said, and he continued, "Although it may seem like there are multiple ponds, they might actually be connected with each other underground."

He proceeded to swing one of his axes into the ground before bringing it back up.

"See? We're just standing on a layer of ground. There's actually a whole ocean underneath us."

"..." Leo had a somewhat anxious look on his face.

What if he accidentally fell into the water? He couldn't swim, so he'd be in deep trouble, not to mention the unknown amount of sea monsters swimming around.

"Let's follow the wall and avoid the middle. It might take a little longer, but it's much safer than going straight through it." Sarah suggested.

"Alright." Leo had no complaints about avoiding the ponds.

Thus, they began walking the right side of the Labyrinth, keeping close to the wall.

While the others weren't paying attention, Leo slipped the Devourer of Gods into one of the ponds to allow it to hunt the monsters underneath them.

Sometime later, Oscar would notice a black dot in the sky, and it was getting bigger with every passing second.

"It's a flying monster!" Oscar warned them.

This flying monster resembled an eagle, had metallic-looking feathers, and a large black parrot-like beak.

Seeing this, Leo immediately tossed a Void Spear at it.

"Ah! It dodged!" Oscar exclaimed when the monster dodged the Void Spear.



However, to everyone's surprise, the Void Spear suddenly changed directions and chased after the monster like a homing missile.

This surprised not only his teammates, but it also freaked out the monster, as it has never seen anything like this before.

The Void Spear eventually struck its target, causing the flying monster to plunge into one of the ponds.

When that happened, Leo could see multiple sea monsters fighting to consume the monster's corpse, acting like a bunch of piranhas.

"How did you do that just now?" Jasper asked Leo afterward.

"Do what?" Leo acted ignorant.

"Change the direction of your magic spell when it's already sent out! That's my first time seeing it!"

"I don't know." He shrugged, "It just happened naturally, I guess."

"..." Jasper was speechless.

"You need extreme control over your mana in order to do something like that." Sarah suddenly said, and she continued, "I have met several S-Rank Adventurers before and only one of them had the capability to do what Leon just did."

"Just how much more power are you withholding, Leon? You're like a bottomless pit of power." Oscar said in a joking tone, yet his face was dead serious.

They continued moving forward shortly after.

Leo and Lia would take turns shooting down the monsters, mostly because Lia was getting bored of just walking.

The others were also getting bored, but there was nothing they could do in this situation but rely on Leo and Lia.

About two hours after Leo and his team arrived at the fifth floor, Matthew Hinks also entered the fifth floor. However, unlike Leo's team, he went straight across the floor without a care in the world, and all monsters that dared to attack him were burned until there was nothing left.

Several hours later, he arrived at the end of the floor, and without any hesitation, he proceeded to go to the next floor, unaware that he'd passed Leo's team.

Matthew would continue moving forward without stopping until he reached the boss room.

"They're not here yet? How slow." Matthew proceeded to take out a chair and placed it right in front of the boss room. He then sat on it and began waiting.

Meanwhile, after arriving at the sixth floor of the Labyrinth, Leo and his team noticed something odd about the scenery, as they noticed burn marks all over the place, almost as though a fire had occurred here recently.

Furthermore, there were burnt corpses that belonged to monsters that scattered all over the place.

"This is... Did someone come here ahead of us and kill these monsters?" Oscar asked out loud.

"That's not possible... The previous floors had no indication that someone had shown up before us." Sarah said.

"What about those assassins that tried to ambush us? They were ahead of us." Jasper said.

"That's true... But why would they leave no traces in the previous floors but leave so much evidence of their presence here? That doesn't make any sense."

"Let's keep going and see how things go." Leo said, "We might get ambushed again, so we need to stay on alert."

"Let's do that."

They had planned on taking a break after arriving at the sixth floor, but now that there's a chance that they're not alone, they decided to give up resting to avoid being ambushed like what happened on the second floor.

"Let's also follow the trail left behind by whoever killed these monsters. They might lead us straight towards the next floor." Sarah suddenly suggested.

Thus, they began moving forward, but they followed the traces left behind by Matthew, unaware that they were walking towards an S-Rank Adventurer.

Over the next two days, Leo and his team would clear 2 more floors not including the sixth floor, mostly because they followed the trail and there were barely any monsters left to attack them.

When they started descending the staircase that led them towards the ninth floor, they noticed a change in the atmosphere, making it harder for them to breathe.

"The next floor will most likely be the boss room." Sarah warned them, as she has felt this exact feeling multiple times before, and all of them led to the boss room.