

# Magic System in a Parallel World

## Chapter 211: Fighting an S-Rank Adventurer

After spending a few minutes descending the staircase, Leo and his team arrived at the boss room.

Just like a corridor, there was only one path they could walk, and at the end of this path was a massive black metallic door with detailed engravings all over it.

However, there was something else before the boss room— someone— to be more specific.

This person appeared to be a young man in his late twenties. He had short red hair that resembled the color of flames, sharp eyes that give the impression of a gangster, and multiple earrings on his right ear.

He was currently sitting on a foldable chair before the door to the boss room, and he gave off this menacing aura.

When Leo saw this person, he instinctively became alerted even though he didn't recognize this red-haired young man.

However, the others recognized him.

"Isn't that Matthew Hicks? The S-Rank Adventurer." Oscar asked out loud.

"He looks like him, but what is an S-Rank Adventurer doing down here?" Jasper said.

"Matthew Hicks, also known as the Crazy Flame Magician. He's quite notorious for his recklessness in the battlefield." Sarah mumbled.

"He seems to be waiting for someone." Oliver said, and he turned to look at Sarah and asked, "What should we do now?"

"We should probably see what he has planned. If he's here for the boss, there's nothing we can do but go back." Sarah said, as it would be akin to courting death if they dared to fight an S-Rank Adventurer for the boss.

"I'll go ask him! I've always wanted to speak with him!" Oliver said with an eager-looking expression on his face.

"Wai—"

Leo tried to stop him, but Oliver had already started running towards Matthew.

Matthew remained seated when he saw Oliver running towards him.

"A-Are you, by any chance, Mister Matthew— Matthew Hicks?!" Oliver asked him with an excited look on his face.

"What are you doing here?" He continued to ask when Matthew didn't respond.

"And are you Leon?" Matthew suddenly asked.

"Leon? No, I am Oliver. Oliver—"

"If you're not Leon, don't care." Matthew interrupted in a nonchalant voice, and he continued, "And if you're not him, I have no reason to keep you alive."

"What...?" Oliver's eyes widened with shock, his gaze filled with confusion as he watched Matthew send a massive fireball flying at him.

BOOM!

The fireball exploded upon impact, sending Oliver flying away.

"OLIVER?!!!" A look of horror appeared on Jasper's face, and he subconsciously went to catch Oliver's body.

After catching Oliver's body, Jasper could feel his hands and arms burning from the heat that was emanating from Oliver's burnt body, but he ignored all of it and continued to embrace Oliver's body.

In fact, Oliver's body was so badly burned that even his brother could no longer recognize him.

"O-Oliver?! Oliver! Answer me! Oliver!!!" Jasper cried out loud with tears flowing from his eyes.

Oscar and the others were in shock.

"Why did you attack him?!" Oscar snapped out of his daze and shouted at Matthew, who remained seated in his chair with a nonchalant look on his face.

"Q-Quickly! Feed this to him!" Sarah handed a high-grade healing potion to Jasper, who quickly poured it into Oliver's mouth.

However, it was too late, as Oliver's heart had already stopped beating, and no matter how strong the healing potion was, it couldn't possibly revive the dead.

"YOU BASTARD! I WILL FUCKING KILL YOU!" Jasper laid Oliver's body on the ground and immediately began casting his magic spell.

"You idiot! You won't be able to harm him, much less defeat him! You'll only get yourself killed!" Sarah shouted at him.

"I don't care if I die! He's already killed my brother— my only family left in this world!" Jasper said with bloodshot eyes, his gaze filled with intense killing intent.

Sarah tried to stop him, but Jasper was already committed to avenging his brother even at the cost of his life.

Seeing this, Sarah turned to look at the others and shouted, "Let's get out of here!"

Oscar immediately nodded, "There's no way we can defeat an S-Rank Adventurer! Let's get out of here!"

Sarah and Oscar began running away.

However, Leo and Lia remained still.

Leo had a dazed look on his face while Lia was waiting for Leo to act.

"What are you two doing?! Do you want to die?!" Sarah shouted at them as she reached the staircase.

"Leo... What are you going to do?" Lia asked him in a calm voice while tugging his shirt.

Leo snapped out of his daze that was caused by Oliver's sudden death after hearing her voice. Even now, he was still having trouble comprehending the situation.

"He's an assassin sent by Edwin, right?" Leo asked in a low voice.

"Yes, he's one of the Scarlet Family's top assassins who specializes in fire magic. Are you thinking about fighting him?" Lia asked him.

And she continued before he could respond, "I don't support such a decision. You may be powerful, but an S-Rank Adventurer is on a whole different level. He's not someone you can deal with right now. I will reveal my identity and tell him to stop."

Leo turned to look at Lia with an oddly calm gaze, and he spoke in a clear voice, "Normally, I would agree with you. However, he's using fire magic, and I am essentially immune to fire magic. Moreover, I don't like him. The arrogance on his face— I am going to wipe it off."

"Leo..."

BOOM!

"Ah!"

Jasper was sent flying after eating Matthew's fire magic, and just like his brother, he perished in a single hit.

"Go somewhere safe. I will handle this." Leo said to Lia before turning to look at Matthew, who was still sitting on his chair with an arrogant look on his face.

"I will back you up," she said.

"Thanks but no thanks. I won't be able to go all out with you by my side." Leo politely rejected her offer.

"Then I will do so from a place where I won't obstruct you." Lia didn't accept his rejection, and she walked to the end of the room.

Leo shook his head inwardly before approaching Matthew.

"Good luck, Leo. Although he's an S-Rank Adventurer, he's far from Camille or Eve's level, so you might actually have a chance to defeat him." Lilith said to him.

"I can tell. Unlike the Headmistress, he doesn't give me an uneasy feeling even though I am about to fight him," he responded in a calm voice.

"I'm sorry... You got caught up in this because of me..." Leo stopped in front of Jasper and Oliver's corpse and apologized to them.

The attack was so sudden that he couldn't react to it, and even if he could, he wouldn't have been able to protect Jasper or Oliver.

Once Leo was standing about 20 meters away from Matthew, he stopped walking and stared at the red-haired young man with a deep frown on his face.

"You're Leon?" Matthew asked him in a calm voice.

"Did Edwin send you?" Leo asked for confirmation.

"Yes, he did." Matthew did not deny it.

And he asked, "Did you kill the four idiots that came before me?"

"Yes, I did." Leo answered.

Then he asked, "Why did you kill those two? You're an S-Rank Adventurer, right? Killing Adventurers that are far weaker than you— don't you have any morals or shame?"

Matthew smirked at his question, "I killed them because I felt like it. So what if I am an S-Rank Adventurer? I kill whoever I want to kill— that is a privilege given to S-Rank Adventurers like me. The privilege to do whatever the fuck I want, that is."

The frown on Leo's face burrowed deeper when he heard such words.

"..." He was utterly speechless, and he couldn't understand how someone could have such a mindset.

"After I capture you, I will kill the other three. If you don't like it, why don't you do something about it? Why don't you try and stop me, little boy."

Whoosh!

A black projectile suddenly flew at Matthew, but the projectile disintegrated before it could reach him.

"Not bad, but you'll need far more than that to stop me." Matthew said, the smile on his face growing wider and wider with arrogance.

"Can you stop talking? You sound exactly like most generic villains do in books and movies. It's super cringe." Leo spoke in a cold voice.

Matthew's eyebrows twitched a little after hearing Leo's insult.

He suddenly raised his arm and pointed his finger at Leo's direction.

"Flamethrower." He mumbled in a low voice.

A long and wide line of flames that covered the whole corridor spew out of Matthew's finger and flew towards Leo, engulfing his body almost instantly with flames.

"Although Edwin told me to bring you back alive, that might be impossible. I hope he doesn't mind receiving your corpse instead." Matthew said afterward, thinking that he'd killed Leo with his Flamethrower.

Suddenly, Leo's voice resounded from within the sea of flames within the corridor.

"What Tier magic spell is this? It's really warm and comfortable. You'll need something stronger if you want to kill me."

'What? He's still alive?' Matthew thought to himself.

Once the flames died down, Leo's figure was revealed again. Although it was subtle, his body was emitting a fiery aura.

Matthew didn't think too much of it because he thought it was caused by his Flamethrower.

'He must have used a magic artifact to defend against my spell just now. Let's see how much it can endure.' He wondered inwardly as he released another Flamethrower, this time with a little more heat.

However, Leo came out unscathed once again.

"It's so warm and comfortable that I nearly fell asleep just now." Leo spoke in a provocative voice, even yawning afterward.

'This little bastard...!' The corner of Matthew's mouth twitched, and he was starting to feel irritated by Leo's presence.

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## **Chapter 212: Fighting an S-Rank Adventurer(2)**

Seeing Leo's smug face, Matthew said, "I want to see just how long your magic artifact will be able to protect you!"

And he started bombarding Leo with more fire magic.

"Flamethrower!"

"Fire Wall!"

"Fire Tempest!"

Matthew threw all sorts of magic spells at Leo, but Leo would emerge unscathed every single time.

Unbeknownst to Matthew, Leo was using a Tier 7 magic spell that granted him 100 percent resistance to fire magic, rendering all fire magic ineffective against him for 30 seconds.

And due to his ridiculous mana regeneration, Leo was able to recast the spell every 30 seconds.

Matthew eventually stopped casting spells to take a breather.

Even as an S-Rank Adventurer, he didn't have near unlimited mana like Leo, so he couldn't continue spamming high tier magic spells nonstop.

"What's wrong? Are you tired already? How pathetic. And you call yourself an S-Rank Adventurer?" Leo continued to mock Matthew from a distance.

"You fucking bastard..." Matthew gritted his teeth in anger.

"Let me show you how it's done!"

Before Matthew could do anything, Leo began tossing magic spells at him.

He started by multicasting over 100 Black Bullets, bombarding Matthew with them.

'Why does his Black Bullet contain so much power?! It's just a Tier 1 spell!' Matthew cried inwardly.

He didn't notice this with Leo's first Black Bullet, but he eventually realized just how powerful Leo's Black Bullets were.

Of course, it wasn't strong enough to break through his barrier.

After casting Black Bullet, Leo immediately cast his second magic spell, Void Spear, and he would continue chucking them at Matthew until he was satisfied.

Twenty Void Spears later, Leo summoned 50 Skeleton Mages and had them bombard Matthew with their magic spells.

While the Skeleton Mages were hard at work, Leo activated Dark Aura and Shadow Clone before filling the room with Dark Mist and Plague of Destruction.

Leo didn't even care if Matthew was still dead or alive. He just wanted to let out his emotions by releasing all of his magic spells.

Meanwhile, Matthew was absolutely gobsmacked by the amount of magic spells Leo was spamming.

'How much mana does this guy have?! He's been casting powerful spells without any breaks for minutes now! Not only that but his casting speed is so ridiculous that I cannot find an opening to retaliate!'

Ten minutes later, Leo stopped casting his spells and waited for the dust and smoke to settle.

'He should be dead by now, right?' Leo wondered inwardly.

Suddenly, Lilith shouted, "Watch out, Leo!"

However, Leo couldn't react in time, and a hand appeared from within the cloud of dust to grab ahold of his face.

Matthew then walked out of the dust with an enraged look on his face, his appearance looking quite disheveled with his clothes torn and bloodied.

Even an S-Rank Adventurer like him couldn't possibly defend against so many powerful magic spells for an extended period of time.

In fact, if Leo didn't stop and continued to bombard Matthew with magic for several more minutes, he would've been able to defeat Mathew.

"Now that I have you in my grasp, I am going to fucking kill you!" Matthew roared in a beastly voice.

However, before he could do anything, he felt an immense pressure suddenly bore down on his body, forcing him to his knees.

'Gravity magic?! Who?!'

Even though he was severely injured, he was still surprised that someone had managed to force him to his knees.

He slowly lifted his head until he could see Lia's calm face.

"That's enough, Matthew." Lia spoke in a cold voice.

"That tone... that demeanor... Impossible!" Matthew's eyes widened with shock when he realized Lia's true identity.



"Why are you here, Lia Scar—"

Right as he opened his mouth to speak, Matthew halted, as his vision had suddenly gone black.

"Thank you, but I would've gotten him even without your help." Leo said to Lia after getting back up.

He then turned to look at Matthew, who was being consumed by the Devourer of Gods.

"What is this?! What is happening?!" In a desperate attempt to escape, Matthew engulfed his own body in flames to try and burn whatever was on him.

However, almost as though it was immune to fire, the Devourer of Gods completely ignored his flames and continued to consume him.

A few moments later, Matthew stopped struggling, and his body went limp.

A few more moments later, Matthew's body disappeared into the Devourer of God's body, becoming one of its many victims.

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

<You have completed a Quest>

[Defeat an A-Rank Adventurer]

[+10,000 Magic Points]

"I hope you don't mind me killing one of your family's top assassins." Leo turned to look at Lia afterward.

Lia calmly shook her head, "He was weak, so he died. It's as simple as that."

"And while it's true that he's one of our top assassins, he's far from being the best."

"That fight was relatively easy. I thought it was going to be much harder to defeat an S-Rank Adventurer since I have never won against Headmistress Eve." Leo said a moment later.

"Matthew is relatively new compared to the Headmistress of the Four Witches Academy. He was promoted only a year ago while your Headmistress has been an S-Rank Adventurer for over 50 years."

"W-Wait... Over fifty years?" Leo's eyes widened with shock after hearing this unnatural number.

"You didn't know? Headmistress Eve is 66 years old, and she's turning 67 in a few months." Lilith said to him.

"How is that even possible?! She looks like she's still in her mid-twenties!" He exclaimed.

"That's just how this world works. It's mostly because of the mana in this world, though." Lilith shrugged.

Sometime later, Leo asked Lia, "What happened to the others?"

"They ran away and never looked back." She calmly said.

"I can't blame them... And I am the reason this all happened in the first place... I should've gone down here by myself. Perhaps Oliver and Jasper would still be alive now." Leo sighed out loud.

"You're not at fault here. If you want to blame anyone, blame Edwin, who sent them here to capture you." Lia said, trying to consult him.

## **Chapter 213: Clearing the B-Rank Labyrinth**

"What now, Leo?" Lia asked him.

"Since we're already here, let's clear the Labyrinth and get some reward from it. It's going to be a breeze, anyway, especially since I could defeat even an S-Rank Adventurer." Leo said with a smug look on his face.

"What's with that smug look on your face?" Lilith suddenly said. "Don't get so smug because you defeated an S-Rank Adventurer. Not only was he quite new as an S-Rank, but he had severely underestimated you as well. Moreover, he used fire magic, which is ineffective against you. If it were anybody else, you would've died many times. In other words, you simply got lucky."

"So what if I got lucky? A victory is still a victory." Leo shrugged.

A moment later, the Devourer of Gods suddenly spat out a ring.

Leo quickly noticed this and went to pick up the ring.

"Isn't this a spatial ring?" He mumbled. "Did this belong to that S-Rank Adventurer?"

Leo peeked inside the spatial ring a moment later to find several magic artifacts and many potions stored within this spatial ring.

"Whoa! There's so much stuff here! As expected of an S-Rank Adventurer! That guy was rich!" A wide smile appeared on Leo's face when he saw the interior of the spatial ring.

'It's a pity that the invisible cloak used by the other assassins was a one-time-use magic artifact. I wonder if I can get one through the Magic System's Artifact Shop...' He wondered inwardly as he stored Matthew's spatial ring inside his own spatial ring. As much as he wanted to pour out its contents to look at them, he decided to wait until he cleared the Labyrinth.

Sometime later, they arrived before the metallic door to the boss room.

'This will be my second time fighting a Labyrinth boss, huh? I wonder what kind of monster is on the other side of this door.' Leo thought to himself.

"Are you ready?" He turned to look at Lia.

"Yes." She calmly nodded.

Leo took a deep breath and proceeded to open the door.

Despite its massive size and metallic material, the door opened with relative ease.

Upon entering the boss room, Leo and Lia were greeted by a small room that had a large waterfall and a pond at the end of the room, and bathing inside this pond was a snake-like entity with silver scales.

This silver snake resembled the Sea Leviathan on the sea floor, but it was much larger and longer, and it also had a pair of translucent wings on its back.

"Wow, that's a Flying Silver Leviathan, an A-Rank monster." Lilith said.

"You recognize this monster?" Leo asked.

"Yes, I have read about them in books. Unlike Sea Leviathans that can only jump in water, Flying Silver Leviathans can fly in the sky for an extended period of time. They can also use water and wind magic." Lilith explained.

"Duo magic, huh?" Leo mumbled. "This is the first time I've encountered a monster that can use two different magic affinities."

"Most of the time, monsters that can use more than one magic affinity aren't really proficient in magic. As for the Flying Silver Leviathan, it can probably use up to Tier 3 magic spells— Tier 4 max since it's a boss."

"What's your plan?" Lia asked him.

"It's quite simple, really. We just bombard it with magic until it dies." Leo said with a calm smile.

"Whenever you're ready." Lia said as she readied her magic rifle.

"Why are you still using that magic rifle? We're alone, so you can use your magic again." Leo said.

Lia glared at the Flying Silver Leviathan and said, "My gravity magic won't affect a monster of that size— at least not in my current state, and my dark magic isn't that strong yet. In other words, using the magic rifle is the best choice right now."

"I see... Then I will bombard it with magic and you'll shoot it from afar."

"Okay."

Once they were prepared, Leo started casting his magic spells.

Summon Skeleton Mages, Dark Aura, Shadow Clone— once they were all prepared, Leo released his magic spells on the Silver Flying Leviathan that was still relaxing within the pond beneath the waterfall.

BOOM!

The entire room shook as magic spells bombarded the pond.

The Flying Silver Leviathan was immediately enraged by the surprise attack, and it tried to fly into the air.

However, Lia was already prepared for this and pulled the trigger the moment the Flying Silver Leviathan's head appeared from the smoke.

The Flying Silver Leviathan released a pained cry as Lia's mana bullets exploded on its face, causing it to fall back down from shock.

Even with Lia's amount of mana, she was unable to penetrate the Flying Silver Leviathan's thick skin.

A few minutes later, Leo stopped when he received several notifications.

[+128 Magic Points]

<You have cleared a B-Rank Labyrinth>

[You have completed a Quest]

[+300 Magic Points]

"I think it's dead." Leo said to Lia afterward.

They went to check on the Flying Silver Leviathan's condition, and after confirming it was dead, Leo harvested its mana core.

"Alright, let's quickly look for any treasures before getting out of this place." Leo said a moment later.

Fortunately for them, the room was quite empty and small, so there weren't many places for the treasures to hide.

"It's either in this pond or behind the waterfall." Leo said as he stood before the pond that had been dyed red from the Flying Silver Leviathan's blood.

Lia looked at the red pond and spoke in a calm voice, "I will search inside the pond. You can search the waterfall."

"Are you sure? The pond is filled with the monster's blood..."

"Exactly." Lia said, and without saying anything else, she jumped into the water.

Leo couldn't do anything about it, as he didn't have the ability to swim.

As someone who had spent all of his time inside a room studying books, he's never had the chance to learn how to swim, not to mention that there was nobody to teach him, hence why didn't know how to swim.

Leo turned to look at the waterfall and approached it.

Meanwhile, one floor above them, Sarah and Oscar were still running away.

"Damn it! I hope Matthew isn't going to chase after us!" Oscar cried out loud.

"I think he was there for Leon, so we're probably safe... for now." Sarah said.

The two of them have been running nonstop since they ran away from Matthew.

Sometime later.

"There's nothing behind the waterfall." Leo sighed out loud as he walked out of a small cave that was hidden behind the waterfall.

When Leo could see the pond again, he noticed that Lia had also finished with her search.

"I found something." Lia showed him a necklace that had a blue gem attached to it.

However, Leo wasn't looking at the necklace. Instead, his gaze was on Lia's body, as her clothes were sticking to her skin due to it being soaked in water, revealing her slender figure.

Leo quickly snapped out of it and cleared his throat, "Can I see it? The necklace."

"Here." Lia casually handed the necklace to him.

"Let's see..."

[Necklace of the Sea]

[Grade: B]

[Description: Increases the effects of all water magic by 50%. All water magic will require 10% less mana to cast.]

'Water magic, huh? It's pretty useless to me.' Leo thought to himself after seeing its description.

"You can have it if you want it." Lia suddenly said.

"Eh? I don't really need it. I will sell it for some money and then we can share it."

"I don't need the money. I already have plenty," she calmly said.

"..."

Leo suddenly recalled that she was from one of the most powerful families in the city and that she could probably acquire as many B-Grade magic artifacts as she wants.

"If you say it like that, then I won't be humble and take it. Thanks." Leo tossed the necklace into his spatial ring without any hesitation.

"By the way, do you have spare clothes?" Leo pointed at her wet clothes.

"Yes, give me a moment. I will change right now."

Without even the slightest hesitation, Lia stripped herself down before Leo, who quickly turned around to give her some privacy.

"Why are you acting so embarrassed? It's not your first time seeing her naked." Lilit chuckled.

Sometime later, after Lia changed clothes, they began making their way out of the boss room after double checking there were no treasures left behind.

"Alright, let's get out of here before this place collapses. It's almost time for the monster nest raid, as well." Leo said before they left the boss room.

Thus, over the next several days, Leo and Lia would retrace their steps and make their way back up the Labyrinth.

"Hm? Isn't that Sarah and Oscar over there?" Leo noticed their figures in the distance, and they appeared to be fighting a monster together.

"Shit! This Labyrinth is so much more difficult without Leon! At this rate, we might not even make it back outside alive!" Oscar cried out loud as he distracted the monster while Sarah cast her spell from a safe distance.

And before Sarah could finish her spell, another magic spell came flying at the monster, killing it in an instant.

This startled Oscar and Sarah.

"Y-You! You're alive!" Oscar exclaimed after seeing Leo's face.

"What happened to Matthew?! How did you escape him?!" Sarah asked.

"Escape? I didn't run away. I killed him." Leo said with a calm look on his face.

"You killed him? An S-Rank Adventurer...? Impossible..." Sarah muttered in a dumbfounded voice.

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## Chapter 214: Leaving the Labyrinth

Neither Sarah nor Oscar wanted to believe that Leo, a C-Rank Adventurer, had managed to kill an S-Rank Adventurer like Matthew Hinks, but the fact that he was alive and well proved that Matthew could not defeat him.

Sarah and Oscar turned to look at each other with a dazed expression on their faces.

"W-What about Jasper? Where is he?" Oscar asked Leo after snapping out of his daze.

Leo shook his head and sighed, "He didn't survive. He died to Matthew."

"Is that so... What a tragedy..." Oscar sighed.

Leo suddenly lowered his head to them and spoke in a sincere voice, "I'm truly sorry! The two incidents that have occurred in this Labyrinth is all because of me! The four assassins and the S-Rank Adventurer— they were all here to capture me, and you all simply got caught up in this mess!"

A bittersweet smile appeared on Sarah's face as she spoke, "Why are you apologizing? You aren't responsible for the twin's death, and you're a victim as well. Also, we're probably alive because you managed to stop Matthew, so you saved our lives in a way."

"She's right, Leon. Don't beat yourself too much from this. I don't know why they wanted to capture you, but I have a feeling that it's not your fault." Oscar said the following moment.

Leo nodded, "Thank you. Anyways, let's hurry up and get out of this Labyrinth. I have killed the boss, so this Labyrinth is cleared, and it will collapse soon."

"What?! You managed to clear the Labyrinth all by your—" Sarah suddenly halted her sentence when she recalled that Leo had managed to kill an S-Rank Adventurer.

An S-Rank Adventurer could easily clear a B-Rank Labyrinth alone, so it wouldn't be weird for Leon to clear the Labyrinth since he had the prowess to defeat an S-Rank Adventurer.

Now with Leo and Lia back in the party, Oscar and Sarah no longer had to worry about the monsters on the way out, and they focused on navigation while Leo focused on dealing with the monsters.

Eventually, they made it out of the Labyrinth.



"We're finally out. What an experience that was." Oscar wiped the sweat from his forehead and took a deep breath after exiting the Labyrinth.

"I have explored over a dozen Labyrinths in my career and this one is definitely the most unique experience I've had." Sarah said.

"What are you guys going to do now?" Leo asked them.

"Well, we still have to make a report for the Adventurers' Guild, so why don't we return to the city together?" Oscar suggested.

"Sure." Leo nodded.

As they walked, Leo suddenly realized something.

'Wait a minute... If Aaron is behind the assassins, doesn't that mean he never intended on promoting me to B-Rank?' Leo realized that he might have potentially wasted his time by clearing this dungeon, and he'd spent over a week doing so.

'Fuck! I'm not going to have enough time to do other missions and reach B-Rank at this rate! Damn that Aaron! I'm going to fucking kill him if he doesn't give me my deserved promotion!' He cursed inward.

Meanwhile, Sarah and Oscar noticed their phones trembling.

'A message?' Sarah thought to herself as she retrieved her phone and looked at the message.

The message had been sent to her several days ago, but since she was inside the Labyrinth, it didn't actually reach her phone until she left the Labyrinth.

And when Sarah read the message sent to her, she immediately stopped walking, and her eyes widened with shock.

The same went for Oscar, as there was a look of disbelief on his face.

"What's the matter?" Leo asked them when they suddenly stopped, and he noticed their shocked expressions.

Sarah turned to look at Leo and said, "N-Nothing. I just received a prank message from one of my buddies."

"A prank?" Leo raised his eyebrows.

"I-I got yelled at by my girlfriend for not responding to her messages..." Oscar said with a stiff smile on his face.

"Is that so?" Leo didn't say anything else and continued walking, leaving the two of them behind.

"I just checked their phones. They were lying just now, and the truth is that they've received information about your bounty." Lilith said to him.

"I thought so." Leo sighed. "Do you think they'll attack me? I don't want to harm them after everything that's happened, but if they decide to attack me, I am left with no other choice but to defend myself."

Lilith turned around to look at Oscar and Sarah, who had begun mumbling to each other, and she said, "They would have to be pretty stupid to decide to attack you after seeing what you're capable of."

"Right? But who knows. The people of this world are crazy and unreasonable, after all." He shrugged.

Meanwhile, behind him, Oscar and Sarah mumbled to each other about the message that they'd just received.

"Hey, did you also receive the same message?" Sarah asked him.

"Did you also receive... a bounty?"

"Yes. A billion dollars for Leon's head." Sarah nodded.

"First an assassination, now a bounty? Why does this person or these people want Leon dead? I don't see anything wrong with him." Oscar asked himself out loud.

"There are questions that shouldn't be asked in this world, and I feel like this is one of them." Sarah shook her head.

"So what are you going to do about this message?" Oscar then asked.

He knew what he was going to do, but he still wanted her opinions.

"Do you really have to ask that question? I'm not going to do anything and ignore the message, obviously. Unless you're confident about defeating him, who essentially cleared the whole Labyrinth and defeated an S-Rank Adventurer, you should do the same."

Oscar chuckled, "Naturally, I am not stupid enough to attack him while knowing what he's capable of."

"Looks like they're not going to attack you." Lilith relayed this information to Leo, who merely smiled in silence.

## Chapter 215: Confronting Aaron

"Finally, we've arrived back at the city." Oscar said as they could see the city walls from a distance.

Sometime later, they entered the city and made their way straight back to the Adventurers' Guild.

"We've cleared the B-Rank Labyrinth at this location..." Sarah went straight to the front desk and spoke to the staff member behind it.

After receiving the coordinates for the Labyrinth they cleared, the staff said, "Thank you, I will notify the guild and have it investigated. Your reward will be handed out once we have confirmed the clearing. In the meantime, please write a report of what you have experienced, the monsters, and the environment inside the Labyrinth."

"Also, please hand me your IDs so I can put your name in the system."

Sarah, Oscar, and Leo handed their IDs to the staff, but Lia did not do so, which puzzled Sarah and Oscar, as well as the staff, who thought she was part of the Adventurers' Guild and their team.

"What are you waiting for? If you don't show your ID, you won't receive any credit." Sarah said to Lia.

"I don't need it." Lia calmly said.

"Seriously...?" Oscar mumbled in a low voice, his face filled with disbelief.

Who in their right mind would raid a B-Rank Labyrinth and not want to receive any credit or reward for it?

'Is she actually Leon's slave? That would make her actions more logical...' Sarah thought to herself before speaking out loud, "Suit yourself."

The staff handed the IDs back to them shortly after.

"Thank you."

Right as Leo and the others left the front desk, a shocked voice resounded, "L-Leon?! What are you doing here?!"

Leo and the others turned to look at the person who just spoke, and standing by the staircase was a man with a shocked look on his face, looking like he'd just seen a ghost.

"Aaron!" Leo immediately frowned upon seeing him.

A cold smile suddenly appeared on Leo's face, and he approached Aaron.

"What's wrong with me being here? You make it sound like I don't belong here. Is there any reason as to why I am not supposed to be here?" Leo asked.

"You..." Aaron was speechless.

How was he supposed to answer Leo's questions? That he wasn't supposed to be there because he should've been captured by the assassins sent by the Scarlet Family?

"By the way, you told me that if I cleared the Labyrinth that I would be promoted to B-Rank. I have done just that. Now give me my promotion." Leo prioritized his Adventurer's rank over punishing Aaron for sending him into a death trap.

"T-That's..."

"Don't tell me you're going to go back on your own words, Mister Aaron. You're the vice-leader of this Adventurers' Guild, right? It wouldn't look good on you or this Adventurers' Guild if you break your promise, not to mention the other stuff."

"L-Let's talk somewhere more private, shall we?" Aaron asked with a stiff smile on his face.

Leo turned to look at Sarah and Oscar and said, "You guys can go ahead without me."

"Alright." Neither Sarah or Oscar knew that Aaron had assisted in the assassination, so they didn't think too much about it and left.

Leo and Lia followed Aaron to another room shortly after.

Once the door was closed, Aaron spoke, "Please take a seat. I'll prepare some tea for you."

However, Leo scoffed, "Tea? How will I know it's not poisoned?"

"I beg your pardon? Why would I poison you?" Aaron decided to play the innocent role.

"Acting ignorant now, are we? You sent me to that Labyrinth so the Scarlet Family could capture me. Do I need to say anything else?" Leo said in a cold voice.

"W-What?! That's outrageous! I would never—"

"Shut up!" Leo suddenly roared. "Two innocent people died because of your bullshit—seven if we include the bastards you sent to get me!"

Aaron's eyes widened with shock upon hearing Leo's words, his gaze filled with disbelief.

"W-Wait... You killed them...? The four A-Rank Adventurers and Matthew Hicks? You actually killed them?"

Leo smiled and said, "Damn right I killed them. What were you expecting? That I would let them go after what they tried to do to me?"

"Are you insane?! Those people were from the Scarlet Family! How could you kill them!" Aaron exclaimed.

"So what if they're from the Scarlet Family? I don't care where they are from. If they try to harm me, I won't go easy on them."

"I don't know why the Scarlet Family wanted to capture you, but they did not want to kill you! At least that's what I was told! I only agreed to help them because I knew that you wouldn't die!"

"What the hell do you know about my situation?" Leo frowned.

"Anyways, let's ignore the pointless details for now. I only care about one thing right now— am I going to be promoted to B-Rank or not? If you promote me to B-Rank, I will act like you weren't involved in the kidnapping attempt. If you don't, however, I will let the Adventurers' Guild and the whole world know of your involvement. You should know who my sponsor is, right? The last time someone tried to harm me, she went straight to the Adventurers' Bureau for answers."

Aaron swallowed nervously after hearing Leo's words that were basically threats.

Naturally, he has heard about what happened between Camille and the Adventurers' Bureau, as it was all over the news.

After a moment of silence, Leo spoke again, "Well? What's your answer, Mister Aaron? I have somewhere else that I need to be, so I don't have much time left here."

Aaron lowered his head and sighed, "Alright, you win. I will make sure that you're promoted to B-Rank for your effort."

Leo smiled, "Good, then I will forgive you for your involvement."

However, Lia suddenly stepped forward and said, "Now you will answer my questions."

She glared at him with killing intent in her eyes, "Where is Edwin?"

## Chapter 216: Confronting Edwin

"Edwin...? Scarlet Family's butler? I'm sorry, but I really cannot disclose his location, as I could be killed for it." Aaron shook his head. "Please understand—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Lia suddenly raised her magic rifle and aimed it straight at Aaron's face.

"What are you— hmm?!" Aaron was forced to stop speaking when Lia suddenly shoved the muzzle of the magic rifle straight into his mouth.

"And if you don't tell me what I want to know, I will blow your brain all over the walls," she spoke in a cold voice.

'Lia...' Leo swallowed nervously, as he could tell that she was quite angry at the moment, and he didn't dare to interrupt her.

"Y-You dare to kill me?! I am still the vice-leader of this Adventurers' Guild!" Aaron spoke in a muffled voice due to the muzzle in his mouth.

"I don't care if you're the Guildmaster. Answer me. I will give you ten seconds." Lia placed her finger on the trigger, causing Aaron to sweat profusely.

"L-Leon!" Aaron turned to him for help.

"Leon may have forgiven you for your actions, but that isn't the case for me. If you want to live, tell me where I can find Edwin." Lia said, her gaze getting colder.

Seeing Aaron's pleading gaze, Leo sighed, "Just let her know what she wants to hear and she'll let you go. Stop being so stubborn. The Scarlet Family won't touch you for this, I promise."

After a moment of silence.

"Three... two..."

"Okay! I will tell you!" Aaron said. "Please put down your rifle first!"

Lia pulled her rifle out of Aaron's mouth and lowered it.

"Where is Edwin?"

Aaron took several deep breaths before speaking, "Edwin is currently staying at the Red Calm Hotel. I don't know which room, though."

Lia turned around and began making her way towards the door.

Leo then said to Aaron, "I will be back later. If I am not promoted to B-Rank by then, I won't go easy on you."

"I will do my best to not disappoint you." Aaron nodded.

After Leo and Lia left the room, Aaron fell back on his chair and sighed out loud, "What have I gotten myself into? Just who are those two? They don't seem afraid of the Scarlet Family, and they're even willingly approaching them."

Aaron felt trapped in-between two enormous powers. On one side was the Scarlet Family, and on the other side were two unknown individuals with mysterious backgrounds.

"Fuck it. Whatever happens, happens."

Meanwhile, after leaving the Adventurers' Guild, Lia said, "Leo, do you mind if I take care of this alone? Edwin is my responsibility and mine alone, after all. But if you want to poke a few holes in his body as revenge, I won't refuse."

Leo smiled and said, "Although that sounds like fun, I don't want to be responsible for whatever happens. I'll leave everything to you."

Lia nodded, "I promise you, he won't bother you again after today."

"I'll trust you."

Lia took a taxi to the Red Calm Hotel shortly after.

Meanwhile, Leo went back into the Adventurers' Guild to type up his report regarding his experience in the Labyrinth.

"Is everything okay?" Sarah approached him when she was done with her report.

"Yes. Why do you ask?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"I thought you were in trouble with the vice-leader. The atmosphere between you two was pretty bad."

Leo chuckled, "Don't worry, I'm not in trouble. If anybody is in trouble, it's the vice-leader."

"Huh? What do you mean by that?"

"It's a secret."

"Is that so? Then I will stop bothering you now..."

Meanwhile, at the Red Calm Hotel, Lia approached the receptionist.

"I'm looking for someone named Edwin. I was told that he's staying at this hotel." Lia said to the round middle-aged woman behind the desk.

"I'm sorry, but we do not give out information about our guests to strangers."

"I'm not a stranger. Edwin is my slave." Lia corrected her.

"Uhh..." The middle-aged woman was dumbfounded by Lia's words.

She quickly looked up the name Edwin, and sure enough, he was in their database. However, he was an honorable guest at their hotel.

'How can someone staying in our hotel as an honor guest possibly be a slave?'

"I'm sorry, but I'll have to ask you to leave." The middle-aged woman said, trying to remain as polite as possible.

Lia didn't say anything else and retrieved her ID and placed it on the desk in front of the lady.



"If you dare tell anyone that I was here, I will kill you." Lia said as she glared at the lady, who swallowed nervously as she picked up the ID on the desk.

"T-This is—!" The middle-aged woman's eyes widened with shock after she saw the name on the ID.

'Lia Scarlet! She's the Blood Princess of the Scarlet Family?!

There were multiple nicknames out there for Lia. Blood Princess, Scarlet Princess, Goddess of Blood, and Scarlet Eyes were among the most popular.

"Please forgive me! I was being rude just now!" The middle-aged woman quickly lowered her head and begged for forgiveness after realizing Lia's identity, as Lia could kill her on the spot and nobody would be able to stop her.

"I don't care about that. Just give me Edwin's room number."

"Right away!" The woman said, and after taking a moment to look at Edwin's information, she spoke, "Room 621!"

Lia immediately left the woman and went to take the elevator.

Once she was on the sixth floor, Lia walked out of the elevator and looked for room 621.

Lia stood before room 621 a minute later.

\*Knock\* \*Knock\*

Lia calmly knocked on the door.

"Matthew, is that you? It's about damn time you returned!" Edwin's voice resounded from within the room, his voice filled with excitement and anticipation.

The door opened a moment later, and Edwin appeared before Lia.

"Huh? Who the hell are you?" Edwin frowned when the person he was expecting was nowhere to be seen, and all of his anticipation died down instantly.

Lia didn't say anything and silently stared at Edwin.

The frown on Edwin's face grew deeper, and he spoke, "If you're here to sell your body to me, I don't want it. Get out of my face before I call the security."

Unbeknownst to Edwin, he'd just signed a death warrant with that sentence.

BOOM!

Lia suddenly kicked Edwin in the stomach, sending him flying into the room.

She followed him inside and closed the door before locking it.

"Y-You fucking bitch... How dare you dirty my uniform..." Edwin gritted his teeth in anger when he saw that his clean uniform now had a food imprint on it.

"Have you lost your fucking mind, Edwin?" Lia suddenly spoke in a cold voice, and on her face was a calm yet sinister look.

"What...?" Edwin's eyes widened with shock, and he had an uneasy feeling about what was going to happen next.

"You still don't recognize me?" Lia continued to speak, "What happened to you, Edwin? You used to be my most loyal and reliable servant."

Edwin's eyes widened with shock upon hearing Lia's words, as even a senile old man would realize his situation.

He fell to his knees with a look of disbelief on his face, "Impossible... Young Lady...?"

It was at this moment that Lia removed her disguise, revealing to Edwin her real appearance.

Long silky black hair, a beautiful and delicate face that resembled a doll, and her most distinctive feature, a pair of crimson eyes that strike fear into everyone that faces it.

"Y-Young Lady... I-I can explain..." Edwin was so shocked that he didn't even know where to begin.

"Save your breath, Edwin. You'll need it later." Lia said.

"From this point forth, I only want answers coming out of your mouth, do you understand?"

He nodded in a dazed manner.

"Did you send four assassins and an S-Rank Adventurer to capture Leon?" Lia asked.

"Yes, I did."

"I recall telling you to not touch him. Why did you disobey my order?"

"I have no excuse." Edwin said.

A vicious glint appeared in Lia's eyes, and after a moment of silence, she spoke in a cold voice, "This is an order. Raise your right arm."

Edwin could feel the Slave Mark inside his body reacting to Lia's commands, and his body subconsciously responded to it.

Once Edwin raised his right arm, Lia retrieved her dagger, and without even the slightest hesitation, slashed at it, severing Edwin's entire right arm off his body.

Edwin gritted his teeth and tried his best to endure the pain, and in the end, he did not utter even a single noise.

He was used to being injured by Lia, and he has almost died several times before because of her. However, this is the first time that she's done something this savage, and he could feel her anger from her dagger.

"I am deeply sorry for causing you this trouble, Young Lady. I have severely disappointed you and the Scarlet Family. My actions are inexcusable, and I deserve the death penalty for it. But before you kill me, can you please enlighten me? Why are you protecting Leon? What's so special about him? What can you see from him that I cannot see?"

"I don't need to explain anything to you, Edwin. If you cannot see something, you can only blame yourself for lacking the ability. And I won't kill you— at least not right now. Killing you right now will be too lenient of a punishment, after all." Lia said, sending chills down Edwin's back.

'Alas... I have truly screwed up this time...' He sighed inwardly, as he's never experienced such a hopeless situation before.

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## **Chapter 217: Promotion to B-Rank Adventurer**

"Stop the bleeding." Lia spoke a moment later.

"Yes."

Edwin retrieved a high-grade healing potion with his available arm and chugged it down.

Immediately, his open wound began to close, and within seconds, the bleeding stopped.

"Edwin, this is an order. You will return straight to the Scarlet Family and await your punishment. Also, you are forbidden from ever getting involved with Leon again."

"Yes, Young Lady."

Edwin slowly stood up and walked to the door.

He didn't forget to bow to her before leaving the room.

After leaving the room, Edwin went downstairs to check out of his room.

When the receptionist saw his missing arm and the blood that stained his clothes, she swallowed nervously and asked, "A-Are you okay, honorable guest?"

"I'm fine. Check me out." And without saying anything else, he walked out of the hotel.

'Holy fuck... Did Lia Scarlet do that to him? As expected of the Blood Princess... How brutal...' The middle-aged woman sighed inwardly.

Lia reapplied her disguise and made her way back to the Adventurers' Guild, where Leo had just finished writing his report.

"Oh? You're back already? How was it? Did you find him?" Leo asked her.

"Yes, I found him."

"Did you... kill him?" Leo swallowed nervously.

"Not yet. Did you want me to kill him? I plan on punishing him first, but I'll kill him when I return home if that's what you want." Lia calmly spoke.

Leo shook his head, "No, I will let you decide how you want to punish Edwin."

Lia nodded, and she asked a moment later, "What are we going to do now?"

"I plan on staying in this city for another day to see if I can receive my promotion tomorrow, and for the rest of the day, I am going to rest at a nearby hotel."

"Okay."

They left the Adventurers' Guild shortly after and rented a room at a nearby hotel.

Once they entered their room, Leo pulled out his cellphone and called Eve to let her know that he was safe and that he would be returning soon.

After calling Eve, he called Camille and did the same, but he also told her about the bounty.

"Was the Adventurers' Bureau able to find anything about the culprit?" Leo asked her.

"They are still investigating when I asked them about it a week ago." Camille said.

"Alright, then I will see you later."

Afterward, Leo began looking through his loot from the Labyrinth.

He'd acquired several hundred B-Grade mana cores, but they were akin to a drop in the ocean when compared to what Eve gave him, so he didn't really care much about them. There were several A-Grade mana cores inside Matthew's spatial ring, but once again, they were nothing impressive.

Matthew had about fifty different high-grade potions, but he only cared about the energy potions, he had no use for mana potions due to his ridiculous mana regeneration.

The items he anticipated the most from Matthew's spatial rings were definitely his magic artifacts, as there are almost a dozen of them.

However, after analyzing them with the Magic System, he felt a little disappointed.

"Most of his magic artifacts are not even B-Grade, and he only has a single B-Rank artifact. I thought this guy was rich, but he was actually pretty poor. How embarrassing for an S-Rank Adventurer."

"You can still sell those magic artifacts for decent money, and you can probably use the B-Grade artifact." Lilith said to him.

[Embar Staff]

[Grade: B]

[Description: Increases the potency of all fire magic by 30%]

"It's decent, but it's pretty useless for me." Leo shook his head, as he could easily get something better through the Artifact Shop.

"Also, Lilith, can you teach me some more dark magic? I kind of feel like I am lacking in variety. For example, I have many spells that attack a large area, but I lack powerful single-target spells."

"I see... Alright, I will teach you some more dark magic spells. When do you want to learn them?" Lilith said.

"Let's do it now."

"Okay, but you have to do something for me." Lilith suddenly said.

"Huh? Like what?"

"That depends on what you want to learn. If you want to learn a Tier 5 magic spell, you'll need to..." Lilith pointed at her cheeks and smiled, "Kiss me."

Leo was speechless.

"Seriously?"

"Seriously."

"..."

"Fine. Get over here." Leo beckoned.

Lilith immediately approached him with a bright smile on her face.

Since it was just a kiss on the cheeks, Leo didn't really care about it. He may be bad with women, but he wasn't so bad with them that he wouldn't kiss one for a Tier 5 magic spell.

Leo gave Lilith a gentle kiss on the cheeks a moment later.

"You call that a kiss? There was no passion in it!" Lilith complained afterward.

"That's what you get for using such a method." Leo shrugged.

"Whatever. Since you're a poor virgin, I'll let you go with that." Lilith sighed.

Leo's eyebrow twitched after hearing her words, but he resisted talking back.

"The magic spell I am about to teach you is called Death Scythe. It's a single-target magic spell that has a chance to instantly kill your enemy." Lilith said a moment later.

"Instant kill? Isn't that a little overboard?"

"Do you want to learn it or not?"

"I do..."

Lilith showed him the magic circle the following moment.

Sometime later.

<You have learned the Magic Spell: Death Scythe>

[Tier: 5]

[Mana: 25%]

[Mastery Rank: F]

[Description: Inflict massive damage in a small area in front of you. There is a 5% chance to instantly kill your target. The chance increases the lower your target's health. This effect is lowered to 1% for boss monsters]

"Do you have any long range single-target magic spells?" Leo then asked.

"I sure do. Tier 5? Tier 6? Tier 7?"

"Let's do another Tier 5 since I don't have the time for Tier 6 or above."

Lilith nodded, and she proceeded to point at her lips.

"What happened to the cheeks?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"That's clearly too easy for you, so I'm upgrading the difficulty."

However, to Lilith's surprise, Leo managed to do it without any hesitation.

After receiving Leo's kiss, Lilith chuckled, "Maybe we should do something even more intensive next time..."

"If you do that, I will stop giving you more mana." Leo immediately said.

"I-I was just joking..." She quickly said.

Sometime later.

<You have learned the Magic Spell: Needle of Despair>

[Needle of Despair]

[Tier: 5]

[Mana: 5,000]

[Mastery Rank: F]

[Description: A small but deadly projectile that will stick to your target, increasing the damage they take by 1%. This effect is stackable. Maximum stack(25).]

"This magic spell will become more powerful as you keep using it on the same target." Lilith said.

"This spell is pretty neat, especially for bigger targets like bosses and such." Leo agreed with her. "I cannot wait to use it."

The following day, Leo and Lia returned to the Adventurers' Guild to look for Aaron.

"Here. I managed to push your promotion ahead because of your mission result. If it weren't for your teammates, even I wouldn't have been able to do such a thing." Aaron said as he handed Leo his new ID card.

"What do you mean?" Leo asked after accepting it.

"Your teammates praised you to no end in their report, stating how you basically carried them through the raid and even defeated the boss by yourself."

"Did they mention the assassins?" Leo then asked.

"Of course. Though, the Adventurers' Guild will have to investigate that issue separately since this involves an S-Rank Adventurer. You'll probably be visited by someone in the Adventurers' Bureau soon." Aaron said.

"How troublesome." Leo sighed.

"Anyways, since you managed to fulfill your promise, I won't continue causing trouble for you. However, I won't forget about it either." Leo said as he glared at Aaron, who apologized again with a stiff smile on his face.

Leo and Lia left the Adventurers' Guild shortly after, and they made their way to the teleporter.

Several hours later, they returned to Stellar City.

"I'm going to return to the academy for a bit and then meet up with Khrome so that I can become part of the monster nest raid. What are you going to do?" Leo asked Lia.



"I'm going to return home for now. Call me when you have to leave the city again."

He nodded, "Thank you for the help. I couldn't have done this without you."

"If you want to thank me..." Lia suddenly pointed at her lips.

"..."

Leo was speechless.

He was someone who never got to kiss a girl for 18 years, but after coming to this world, he's already kissed two, and they were both extreme beauties.

"It's not good to keep a girl waiting, Leo." Lilith chuckled.

Leo sighed inwardly. He approached Lia, stopping in front of her.

Lia calmly tilted her chin towards the sky and waited for Leo to kiss her while keeping her eyes wide open.

After taking a deep breath, Leo leaned forward and kissed Lia on the lips.

Lia kept her eyes open the whole time, almost as if she wanted to engrave this moment into her mind.

"See you later." Lia said before disappearing from his sight a moment later.

Leo returned to the academy shortly after.

"Welcome back." Eve said to him, who'd just entered her office.

Leo proceeded to give her a more detailed report about his experience.

"I see... The Scarlet Family, huh? This is quite troublesome, indeed."

"I think it'll be fine. Lia's already dealt with it." Leo said.

"If you say so." Eve nodded.

"What are you going to do now?" She then asked.

## **Chapter 218: Skeleton Graveyard Raid**

"I'm going to join the monster nest raid with Khrome." Leo said. "That's the whole reason why I even became a B-Rank Adventurer."

"Alright. Have you spoken to Camille yet?" Eve asked.

"Not in person, but I will speak with her after this. I need her to contact Khrome for me, after all."

"Okay. Have fun."

Right as Leo turned around to leave, Eve said, "Oh, right. One more thing. Helia has been looking for you. I told her that you had some business outside the city so that you won't be back until the Labyrinth Examination."

"I see. Thank you." Leo left her office and went to the infirmary to look for Camille.

Once he reached the infirmary, Leo knocked on the door and said out loud, "It's me, Leo."

"Enter." Camille's calm voice resounded.

Leo opened the door and entered the room a moment later.

Camille was sitting in front of her small desk with the sunlight basking her figure, and she was wearing her medical coat again.

"It's been awhile, Miss Camille." Leo greeted her with a bright smile on his face.

Every time he sees her, it would feel like he was meeting with an old friend for some reason, and it would always bring a smile to his face.

"Are you okay? Any injuries that you need me to take a look at?" Camille asked him.

"I'm fine. Thank you for your concerns."

"Is that so? Anyways, why are you here?"

"I'd like you to help me contact Khrome. I have been promoted to B-Rank as an Adventurer, so I qualify to join the monster nest raid with him."

"Alright, I will give him a call."

"Thanks."

Camille retrieved her phone and proceeded to call Khrome.

"Are you at the Adventurers' Guild right now?" Camille asked after he picked up.

"When can you get there? Leon would like to speak with you in person."

"Leon? Don't tell me that he actually managed to reach B-Rank in such a short time..." Khrome had a good idea why Leo wanted to speak with him.

"Indeed, he's a B-Rank Adventurer now."

"Unbelievable... I said that to him as a joke, but I really didn't think he would do it."

"Anyways, I will be at the Adventurers' Guild in about two hours. Let Leon know."

"I understand."

After hanging up, Camille said to Leo, "Two hours."

"Got it. Thanks!" Leo nodded

"Now then, why don't you tell me more about your adventurer?" Camille suddenly asked.

"Sure."

Sometime later, Camille asked him, "How's your Magic System? Any changes?"

"Besides some convenient upgrades, not really." He shook his head.

"Upgrades? Such as?"

"Such as letting me consume potions without physically drinking it, and collecting mana cores for me when I kill a monster," he said.

"That is very convenient... Especially the potion one..."

Leo then asked, "By the way, I have a question. Where can I go to sell magic artifacts or exchange them for mana cores?"

"If you're not in a hurry to sell them, you should try selling them at an auction house. They provide the best profit, and you can even set your own price. If you're in a hurry and don't care about earning more money, you can just sell them to general stores."

However, just know that you usually get 50 percent more from auction houses— at the very least."

"At the very least 50 percent...? That's a lot." Leo mumbled.

"If you want mana cores, you can simply ask the auction house to convert your money into mana cores. It's more convenient than buying them yourself, but you'll have to pay more than usual— about ten to twenty percent more."

"Do you have an auction house that you can recommend to me?" Leo then asked.

Camille didn't immediately respond and retrieved a card from her spatial ring.

"Here. Go to this place and show them this. You won't get ripped off that way," she tossed the card to him a moment later.

Leo looked at the card in his hand, and his eyebrows raised in a baffled manner as he read the large words on the top out loud, "Super Duper Amazing Auction House? What kind of name is this?"

[Super Duper Amazing Auction House]

[Diamond VIP]

[Camille Light]

[Expiration: N/A]

"I know the auction house has a weird name, but it's one of the best auction houses you can find in this continent. They usually sell rare magic artifacts and treasures, too."

"Are you sure I can use this? It has your name on it, too. I can already see people misunderstanding this as a case of identity thief." Leo sighed.

"Don't worry, they will contact me for confirmation. Just give me a call before you go so I know."

"Alright. Thank you, Miss Camille."

Leo left the academy shortly after and made his way to the Adventurers' Guild.

He was about 30 minutes early, but he didn't care and decided to enter the computer room to see what kind of missions had unlocked for him now that he's a B-Rank Adventurer.

The moment he opened the mission list, a certain mission name stood out to him because it was in the 'urgent' tab, and it had a familiar name.

[Skeleton Graveyard Raid]

[Difficulty: A-Rank]

"This must be the one Khrome is participating in. I remember Guildmaster Borus mentioning it before." Leo thought to himself.

He clicked on the mission and read through the description that basically talked about what they could expect and the type of monsters they can encounter there.

"Hmm? Exploding Corpses and Phantom Ghosts? Isn't this the place Nina and I decided to avoid during the Wilderness Training Examination? To think we'd go back there..." Leo sighed.

"You should be fine since you're much stronger now compared to before, and you won't be alone, either." Lilith said.

"I guess you're right." He nodded, and he proceeded to study all of the notes he could find for the mission. In the end, he accepted the mission without waiting for Khrome's approval, as he qualified to partake in this raid regardless of Khrome's thoughts.

## **Chapter 219: Skeleton Graveyard Raid(2)**

Once it was about time for Khrome to arrive at the Adventurers' Guild, Leo left the computer room to wait outside for him, and after about 10 minutes of waiting, Khrome finally arrived.

Leo watched as Khrome got out of a taxi with two other individuals. One was an old man with short white hair and the other was a beautiful young woman with long black hair.

"Khrome!" Leo waved at him once he got close enough.

"Oh! Pipsqueak!" A wide smile appeared on Khrome's face when he saw Leo's face.

"I heard from the Saintess! You've become a B-Rank Adventurer, correct? I'm impressed! Truly! When I told you to reach B-Rank, it was mostly a joke, as it hasn't even been half a year since you reached C-Rank, after all."

"Well, I did clear a B-Rank Labyrinth." Leo smiled back.

"Hey, who's this youngster?" The old man that came out of the taxi with Khrome asked as he gazed at Leo with interest.

"Let me introduce you guys to Leon. I taught him how to use the sword several months ago, so he's somewhat my student. He also only became an Adventurer recently. However, don't let his appearance and seemingly lack of experience fool you, as this pipsqueak is actually a monster in disguise." Khrome said to the other two while pointing at Leo.

"Monster in disguise...?" Leo mumbled in a dumbfounded voice.

"In less than half a year, he'd gone from being an F-Rank Adventurer to being a B-Rank Adventurer. Crazy, right?"

"What? Are you sure that's right? Going from F-Rank to B-Rank in less than half a year is impossible..." The young woman said with a doubtful look on her face.

"That's slightly behind the world record, isn't it?" The old man said.

"About a week behind, I believe." Khrome nodded.

Unbeknownst to them, Leo had only completed four missions since he became an Adventurer, and going from F-Rank to B-Rank in four missions is more than a world record— it was literally unimaginable.

"Hmm? Wait a minute. Your name is Leon? Do you, by any chance, use dark magic?" The young woman suddenly asked him.

"Yes, I do. How did you know?" Leo was surprised by the young woman's words.

"Are you serious? All of the Adventurers in Tethoris have been talking about you nonstop lately! A mysterious young man and a mysterious young woman who swept the Wilderness during a territory control mission! And despite being a C-Rank Adventurer, the mysterious young man had the prowess to kill B-Rank monsters with a single magic spell, as well as A-Rank monsters!"

"My friend was part of that territory control, and I heard about you from him. I can't believe you're really that mysterious young man! What are you doing here in Stellar City?"

"Uhh... I'm here to participate in the Skeleton Graveyard Raid with Khrome," he said.

"The Skeleton Graveyard Raid, huh? So you'll be part of our team." The old man said.

"Then let me introduce myself. I am Lydia Cross, an A-Rank Adventurer who specializes in light magic. I'm this team's healer! Nice to meet you!"

"I'm Trent Meyer, also an A-Rank Adventurer. I specialize in wind magic, and I am the damage dealer."

"Leon. I have a dark magic affinity, and I am mostly a damage dealer as well." Leo introduced himself again.

"Hey, where's your partner— that mysterious female who uses a magic rifle?" Lydia suddenly asked him.

"Are you talking about Lena? She'll show up a little later, probably when we leave for the raid." Leo said.

"I see..."

"By the way, do I still need to defeat you to join the team?" Leo suddenly asked Khrome.

"Nah, you're good. I was going to make you fight me only if you couldn't reach B-Rank." He shrugged.

"Alright then. What is the plan?" Leo then asked.

"Let's go get some food while we talk, shall we?"

"Sure."

They proceeded to find a nearby restaurant.

While they waited for their meal, Khrome went over their plans.

"Since this is a public raid, there really isn't much we need to plan. Once we arrive at the Skeleton Graveyard, I will deal with the Exploding Corpses and Leon and Trent will take care of the Phantom Ghosts and the others. Lydia, since your light magic is super effective against these monsters, especially the skeletons, you will be our backup. However, I still want you to focus on healing me since I'll have to deal with the explosions."

Khrome then turned to look at Leo and continued, "Your friend... She can only use a magic rifle, right?"

"That's correct." He nodded.

"Then she can help me with the Exploding Corpses. Although magic doesn't work on them, they can be damaged by mana attacks for some reason. However, it requires a tremendous amount of mana to kill an Exploding Corpse, so I won't expect too much from your friend."

Leo smiled and said, "Don't underestimate my partner. I won't say much now since you'll understand it later."

"Partner? Is she your girlfriend or something?" Khrome couldn't help but ask.

"Huh? No... She's just an ordinary partner. Her role is to keep an eye on me and make sure I don't get into trouble, I guess..." He said with a stiff smile.

"I see... By the way, how's the Saintess doing?"

"The same as usual."

"How do you know the Saintess, Leon?" Lydia suddenly asked with a curious look on her face.

"Oh, she's my sponsor." Leo calmly said.

"What?! Really?! I thought she had never sponsored anyone before!" Lydia exclaimed, and she continued, "I'm actually a huge fan of hers, you know! How lucky of you!"

"How did you meet the Saintess?" Khrome asked. "If I recall correctly, she said that she'd 'picked' you up."

Leo nodded and said, "I was homeless and hopeless before meeting Miss Camille. She gave me a purpose in life. If it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here right now. As for how we met... It was fate, I guess."

"..."

The others quickly became speechless, as they didn't expect such a sad backstory from him.

## Chapter 220: Skeleton Graveyard Raid(3)



Sometime after Leo told the others about his background, Khrome spoke, "Alright, we'll meet up at the city teleporter in two days. Make sure you're ready by then because we will be heading straight to the Skeleton Graveyard from there."

"Then I will see you guys in two days." Leo nodded.

They left the Adventurers' Guild shortly after.

Leo called Lia right after to tell her about the raid.

"Hey, we'll be leaving in two days for the raid. We're gathering at the city teleporter at 9AM. Will you make it?"

"Yes, I will be there." Lia responded in a calm voice.

"Then I will see you in two days." Leo hung up the phone.

Meanwhile, Lia casually placed her cellphone in her pocket before returning her focus to the situation before her.

"Haaa... haaa..."

Kneeling before Lia was Edwin, who was currently covered in blood, and scattered around him were fingers and limbs— his own body parts.

Anybody would be terrified by the scene, but Lia's eyes were extremely calm.

"Show me your right hand." Lia commanded in a tranquil voice.

"Yes, Young Lady." Edwin raised his hand and placed it before her with his fingers spread out.

Seeing this, Lia swung her dagger without even the slightest of hesitation, severing three of Edwin's fingers.

Edwin gnashed his teeth and tried his best to resist the pain.

"Heal him." Lia suddenly said.

"Yes, Young Lady."

A young woman who was standing beside Edwin proceeded to use healing magic on Edwin, stopping his blood and even growing his fingers back.

However, before Edwin could even catch a break, Lia swung her dagger again, severing his entire hand this time.

"Heal him," she repeated.

"Yes, Young Lady." The healer did as she was told without questioning Lia.

A few moments later, Edwin's hand was fully healed. However, his severed hand and fingers still remained on the floor before him.

Edwin had been tortured in this manner nonstop since Lia returned home. Clearly, her anger did not lessen after severing his arm at the hotel that had also been healed after he returned.

"Tell me, Edwin, what did you do wrong?" Lia asked him.

After taking a quick breath, Edwin answered, "This useless subject had disobeyed the Young Lady's orders and even said some unforgivable things to her."

"Is that all?" Lia then asked.

"..." Edwin was speechless, as he didn't know what else to say.

He opened his mouth a moment later, but before he could speak, Lia swung her dagger again, severing his entire arm.

"Too slow. Let's try this again." Lia said, and she proceeded to torture Edwin some more before asking him again, "What did you do wrong?"

"I... I caused trouble for the Young Lady, the Scarlet Family, and... Leon."

"Hmph." Lia quietly snorted.

She turned to look at the healer and said, "Continue torturing him for another 7 days. If he dies, he dies."

"Yes, Young Lady."

Meanwhile, back at the academy, Leo would spend the next two days practicing his new dark magic spells.

'These two magic spells feel great to use, but I will need to use them in an actual battle against real enemies to really get a feel for it, especially for the Needle of Despair.' Leo thought to himself after his training.

Once it was time for the gathering, Leo went to say his goodbyes to Eve and Camille before leaving the academy and going to the city teleporter.

"Stay safe." Eve and Camille said the same thing to him.

When Leo arrived at the city teleporter, Khrome and the other A-Rank Adventurers were already there.

"Hmm? Where's your girlfriend?" Lydia asked him.

"I told her the time and location, so she should be here soon." Leo said.

Sure enough, Lia showed up as Lena a few minutes later.

"Meet Lena, my partner." Leo introduced her to the team.

"Lena, this is Khrome, Trent, and Lydia." He then introduced the team to her.

"Hello." Lia gave them a calm nod.

"You look more ordinary than I thought..." Lydia inspected Lia's face closely.

Since Leo was so talented, she was certain that he would have a top beauty as his partner, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

"So the rumors of you being a magic rifle user is true." Trent said as he gazed at the large rifle strapped behind her back.

"Yes, I cannot use magic, after all."

"Anyways, let's hurry up and get our tickets. Our destination is in half an hour." Khrome said to them.

They all went to buy their tickets together.

Half an hour later, they entered the room with the teleporter and teleported out of Stellar City.

"Ugh... It doesn't feel any better than before..." Leo almost puked again after the teleportation.

Of course, several other people in the room had puked.

"Let's go." Khrome and the others didn't seem fazed by the nausea.

After leaving the building, Khrome called a large taxi, and they all went to the city wall together.

While they were in the taxi, Khrome would brief them about the mission again, especially since Lia wasn't there the first time.

Once they arrived at the city walls, they went straight into the Wilderness.

Then they traveled on their hoverboards until they reached the vehicle renter, where they would rent out a large traveling van.

"We're about 7 hours away." Khrome said to them as he stepped on the accelerator.

"Hey, Lilith... I don't think we're going to the same graveyard as the one from before..." Leo realized this shortly after the car started moving.

"I wasn't there with you so I wouldn't know, but according to what you told me, it didn't look like there was a monster nest there at that time, so I wouldn't be surprised if that was the case." Lilith shrugged.

"The monsters should still be around A-Rank though, right?"

"Yes." She nodded.

"Alright."

Meanwhile, Lydia tried to start a conversation with Lena.

"Are you Leon's girlfriend? He denied it when we asked him before." Lydia asked with a teasing smile on her face.

Lia looked at Lydia with a calm face and said, "I am not his girlfriend. I am his property."

"..."

Lydia's jaw dropped to the floor after hearing Lia's shocking words. The van even swirled a little when Khrome heard it and lost control of the steering wheel for a second.

"Y-You're his slave?" Lydia swallowed nervously.

"No. I gave my everything to him, so I am his property." Lia explained with a still face.

"Y-You! What are you saying?! You're causing a huge misunderstanding here!" Leo exclaimed after snapping out of his daze.

Lia tilted her head in a puzzled manner, "But it's true."

"Don't listen to her... She likes to joke around like this a lot..." Leo said with a stiff smile on his face.

"I see..." Lydia also had a stiff smile on her face.

"If you're not his girlfriend, who are you? And what rank are you?" Lydia continued to ask Lia the following moment.

"I'm a B-Rank Adventurer, and I'm an orphan who decided to follow Leon after he helped me." Lia said, giving them a fake background.

"Oh... So you're just like Leon, huh?" Lydia said with a somewhat pitiful look on her face.

After talking with Lia a little longer, Lydia switched target and began speaking to Leo.

"Are you single?" Lydia suddenly asked.

"Why are you asking me that?"

"Just wondering." She said with a mysterious smile on her face.

Leo sighed and silently nodded his head.

"Oh! Lucky!" Lydia said in an excited voice.

"Lucky?" Leo raised an eyebrow in a puzzled manner.

"You wanna be my boyfriend? I'm looking for a partner right now, preferably someone younger and more talented than me!" She said.

"Uhh... I'll have to decline..." Leo quickly gave her a response.

"Eh?! Why not? Are you worried that I am too old for you? I am only 26 years old this year! And if you're worried about my purity, then I am still a virgin!"

"That's not the problem here..." He shook his head.

"Then what is the problem? Is it my looks? I'm pretty confident in my appearance, though."

"We just met..."

"Oh... Good point." Lydia nodded as though she understood something.

A smile appeared on her face, and she continued, "Then let's get to know each other better."

Lydia proceeded to drag Leo into a long conversation that lasted until they arrived at their destination— Skeleton Graveyard.

"Hey, we're here." Khrome said to them as he parked the van beside another car.

'Thank god...!' Leo cried inwardly as he quickly stood up and left the van, as he was almost on the verge of going insane because of Lydia.

"Whoa..."

After getting out of the van, Leo uttered a sound of admiration when he saw the scenery.

There were hundreds of vehicles parked around them, and the sky was dark for some reason even though it was still in the afternoon— at least according to their phone.

There were also hundreds— thousands of Adventurers grouped up about 500 meters away.

And although most of the people there looked like actual Adventurers, there were a few that looked like journalists, as they were carrying large cameras and other equipment.

This was Leo's first time doing an official monster nest raid, and he wasn't expecting for there to be so many participants.

'No wonder why Nina said it was suicide when we raided that goblin's nest with just the two of us...!' He finally understood Nina's feelings and why she was so nervous at that time.

However, he also realized that despite being in such a dreadful situation, she trusted him enough to agree to raid the monster nest with just the two of them, which took incredible guts.