

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 221: skeleton Graveyard Raid(4)

"What's wrong, handsome?" Lydia's voice suddenly resounded from behind Leo.

Without turning around, he spoke, "There's so many people here. How will this work? Do we all have to work together?"

"Although that would be ideal and have fewer casualties, it won't happen." Lydia shook her head.

"Why not?"

"Because of greed." Trent said as he walked out of the van.

"Greed, huh... Now that you mention it, how are the rewards split?"

"You will receive what you earn. If you kill a monster, that monster's mana core is yours, but if you're too busy with another monster, someone might steal it from you." Khrome said.

And he continued, "That's why most people bring a mana core slave or two to focus on collecting the mana cores."

"Mana core slaves...? What kind of name is that?" Leo was speechless.

"It's as it sounds. They're slaves whose only purpose is to collect mana cores— even at the cost of their life." Lydia said with a somewhat unpleasant expression on her face.

"How does one become a slave, anyway? They're not common where I was from..." Leo asked out of curiosity.

"There are many reasons why someone would become a slave. Some people become slaves because they are a prisoner trying to get a reduced sentence while others become slaves because they couldn't pay their debt normally, so they all resort to risking their lives instead. Of course, there are those who are forced into slavery. Although it's illegal, it still happens quite often."

"Those branded with a Slave Mark are considered slaves, right?"

"That's right." Lydia nodded.

"You seem very interested in slaves. Don't tell me you're going to get one." Khrome looked at him with narrowed eyes.

"What? Hell no. I'm just curious."

"You know what they say. Curiosity will eventually become reality." Trent smiled.

"There's nothing wrong with owning a slave. Just make sure you follow the regulations and treat them properly. Most of them are no different than ordinary workers with the only real difference being their Slave Mark and the fact that they're more vulnerable, and never contribute to the illegal slave market."

Trent then said, "Believe it or not, but I used to be a slave at one point. When I was young, I made some bad choices and got into some trouble. I was supposed to serve 4 years in prison, but I opted to become a slave, lowering my sentence to 4 months. While I had some bad experiences, it was pleasant overall."

"Is that so..." Leo didn't know how to react to this world's acceptance regarding slavery, as it was an incredibly sensitive topic in his old world.

'Regardless, I will never get a slave, so this won't concern me at all.'

Sometime later, Leo and the others gathered with the other Adventurers.

"What are we waiting for?" Leo asked Khrome as they waited around.

"We're waiting for the Guidmaster to give us the okay. Once we receive the official words, we'll enter the monster's nest and kill as many monsters as we can."

"With this many people here, it's going to be pretty crowded. I'm worried that we might not even get a chance to kill any of the monsters." Leo sighed.

"What are you talking about? The monster nest is large enough to fit all of us with no problem."

"Seriously? The last time I encountered a monster nest, it wasn't that big."

"You must've gotten lucky with a newly born monster nest. When a monster nest is new, they won't have as many monsters. The Skeleton Graveyard, however, is a different story. Due to the nature of the monsters in this area, all of the Adventurers have been

ignoring it, allowing it to grow for over a year, and it has gotten to the point where we can no longer ignore it."

"I see... That makes sense." Leo nodded.

Sometime later, a familiar face appeared before the Adventurers.

"Guildmaster!" The Adventurers greeted Guildmaster Borus when he showed up.

"Thank you all for coming here today. I know the Skeleton Graveyard is a dangerous area, not to mention the monsters that dwell within. Furthermore, we have just received the information that there might be two bosses that we have to kill." Guildmaster Borus said.

"Two bosses?" The Adventurers looked at each other with nervous gazes.

"I thought a monster nest could only have a single boss." Leo mumbled out loud.

"That's because there is only one boss. When people say bosses, they don't literally mean multiple bosses. It just means that there will be an ordinary monster within the nest that could rival the boss' prowess, so it's like fighting another boss." Khrome explained.

"Hey, if I stand out, what are the chances of me being promoted to A-Rank?" Leo suddenly asked.

"You want to become A-Rank already? You just got to B-Rank!" Khrome exclaimed in a low voice.

"So what? Everyone around me is A-Rank. I feel left out. And it's not like I don't have the capabilities." He shrugged.

"Being an A-Rank Adventurer is more than just having strength and talent. You also need to be knowledgeable with the Wilderness, Labyrinths, and all sorts of monsters. Also, you need to learn how to lead a team among other stuff."

"What a pain in the ass..." Leo sighed.

"But don't let my words stop you from going all out, Leon. I want to see what you're truly capable of when you're using magic since I've really only seen you fight with the sword." Khrome said with a smile.

"I will try not to disappoint you." Leo smiled back.

Guildmaster Borus continued to speak about the raid for several more minutes before sending everyone off.

"The raid officially begins now! Good luck and stay safe!"

Once the Adventurers were dismissed, they all began rushing towards the Skeleton Graveyard that was about half a mile away.

"Follow me." Khrome said to his team as he retrieved his hoverboard.

"Alright! Let's go hunt some undead monsters!" Lydia spoke with enthusiasm.

Chapter 222: Skeleton Graveyard Raid(5)

"Hm? Where are we going? The direction to the Skeleton Graveyard should be that direction, right?" Leo asked when he noticed that they were going the wrong way.

"If we approach it from the front, there won't be any space for us, hence why we're going around it, starting from the back. It'll take a little longer to get there, but we'll be able to hunt more monsters this way." Khrome said.

"Is that so..." Leo mumbled.

He looked around them, and sure enough, there were many others that had the same idea.

Sometime later, Leo could see the Skeleton Graveyard. He could see at glance hundreds if not thousands of skeletons roaming around the place, but most of them only appeared to be C-Rank to B-Rank monsters.

'Just how big is this monster nest? The goblins' nest was nowhere near the size of this monster nest.' Leo thought to himself.

Many minutes later, Khrome came to a stop and said to them, "Alright, let's start here."

After putting away their hoverboards, they began making their way into the Skeleton Graveyard's territory.

There were about a dozen monsters before them.

Exploding Corpses, Phantom Ghosts, and these heavy geared skeletons.

The skeletons wielded a large two-handed rusty sword and cracked silver armor, resembling warriors that had perished from a war.

"I will focus on the Exploding Corpses with Lena backing me up. Leon, Trent, you will deal with the Phantom Ghosts. Lydia, since your light magic is extremely effective against skeleton-type monsters, you'll deal with that Skeleton General."

"It's going to be enticing to collect their mana cores as soon as possible, but make sure you and the others are safe before you do so."

"Let me give you guys a buff before you go off." Lydia suddenly said.

She proceeded to gather her mana.

A few moments later, she pointed her palms in their direction and mumbled, "Divine Aura."

Leo's figure immediately became enveloped in a golden light, and he could feel something warm wrapped around his body, making him feel more safe.

"You'll have increased defense and magic power for the next 5 minutes."

"Go!" Khrome then commanded.

Immediately, Khrome went to the nearest Exploding Corpse and swung his sword at it a few times before falling back before the monster's explosion could get him.

BOOM!

Leo and the others could feel the blast of the explosion even from a long distance.

As for Khrome, although he'd managed to escape the blast, it wasn't completely, and if it weren't for Lydia's Divine Aura, he would've received some minor burns and scratches.

Meanwhile, Lia was shooting Exploding Corpses with her magic rifle from afar. Every single bullet would riddle a hole in their round bodies, and it would take three to four bullets to make them explode.

Lydia would take advantage of her light magic affinity to vanquish the Skeleton Generals by casting healing magic on them, which is more effective than hitting them with actual offensive magic.

When the Skeleton Generals are being healed, they would stop moving and fall to their knees while their body that is made out of bones are burned black.

As for Leo and Trent...

"This guy..." Trent stood there without moving and with a dazed look on his face.

Normally, one would attack Phantom Ghosts from afar.

However, Leo did the opposite by getting close to the Phantom Ghosts with Void Step before hitting them with Death Scythe.

When Leo cast Death Scythe, a large black scythe would appear in his grasp before he slashed it at the monster.

The Phantom Ghost released a sharp and harrowing cry before vanishing into thin air, leaving behind its mana core.

"What magic spell was that?" Trent asked him afterward out of sheer curiosity.

"Nothing special. It's just Tier 5 magic." Leo said as he calmly Silent Cast Needle of Despair on another Phantom Ghost that was further away.

Three pitch-black needles the size of an adult's arm flew at the Phantom Ghost, each piercing its semi-transparent body.

The Phantom Ghost released a painful shriek afterward. Although it didn't really have a physical body, the Needle of Despairs still managed to attach to its body, causing it intense pain.

"Explode." Leo suddenly muttered.

Boom!

The three needles attached to the Phantom Ghost suddenly exploded, killing it instantly.

Although the spell's description didn't mention this, the Needle of Despair can actually be detonated like bombs, dealing even more damage on its target. Leo found this out during his practice before heading out for the raid.

'This guy... He's casting high-level magic spells as though they're nothing... The rumors about him weren't exaggerating!' Trent cried inwardly as he witnessed Leo's prowess first hand.

Leo and his team would spend the next 5 minutes fighting monsters in the Skeleton Graveyard without stopping until Lydia's buff on them expired.

"How are you all feeling? Anyone hurt?" Khrome asked them when they gathered again.

"I'm fine." Lydia said.

"Same here." Trent nodded.

"How about you, Leon? If you're tired, you can leave the battlefield and rest outside until you're ready to fight again, or you can collect the mana cores while you rest."

"It's only been 5 minutes. I can do this for 5 hours and feel fine." Leo smiled.

"That's good to hear. You too, Lena. If you're out of mana. Don't force yourself to stay in the battlefield and go recover somewhere safe. This Skeleton Graveyard is massive and will probably take a few days to clear even if we all worked nonstop around the clock." Khrome said.

Lydia refreshed their buff a moment later and consumed a mana potion before she went to slay more Skeleton Generals.

Khrome and Lia continued to hunt Exploding Corpses while Leo and Trent dealt with the Phantom Ghosts.

Their area was relatively empty at first, but more and more people started showing up as time passed.

Eventually, even people that were not Adventurers started appearing, and these people had no intention of fighting. Despite that, the Adventurers fighting in the Skeleton Graveyard didn't mind their presence and even started fighting with more effort for some reason, almost as though they wanted to show off to these people that were carrying large cameras.

Chapter 223: Skeleton Graveyard Raid(6)

Shortly after the news crew arrived at Leo's area and they set up their station, the journalists approached the battlefield to capture the Adventurers' performance with their large and expensive cameras.

Naturally, since their jobs required them to get up and close with monsters, these journalists were not ordinary people. Most of these journalists were Adventurers themselves with some of them being high-rank retirees.

After they arrived at the battlefield, these journalists used their instincts and accumulated experience to look for potential subjects to be their focus.

These subjects naturally needed to stand out from the crowd to keep the viewers entertained.

There were three points most journalists looked for in their subject. Someone with power, uniqueness, and overall charm.

"Look over there, viewers! That young lady with the magic rifle! You don't see that often!"

A handsome middle-aged man spoke to the camera that was being held by another person while pointing at Lia's figure in the distance.

Although Lia looked like an ordinary girl at the moment, she still gave off the air of someone with authority and power, not to mention her magic rifle that was quite rare and eye-catching amongst the dozens of Adventurers there.

The other journalists also focused their attention on Lia when they saw her.

"Whoa! She just blew away that Exploding Corpse with three mana bullets!"

"My god! She's shooting that magic rifle as if it doesn't require mana! How much mana does she have?! And she seems very young as well!"

Lia's appearance may not be up to standard for the camera, but there was something about her that made it difficult for these journalists to look away. Furthermore, these journalists have never seen anyone utilize a magic rifle with such mastery.

After all, anyone that could use magic would not resort to using magic rifles since it was a waste of mana.

"What the hell is going on over there?" Leo mumbled to himself when he noticed the group of journalists and their cameras.

"They're journalists broadcasting the raid to the world." Lilith said.

"Seriously?" Leo didn't know what to think of this.

"A lot of Adventurers rely on them to gain recognition, you know. If you're lucky enough to receive the spotlight and capture the audiences' attention, these journalists will personally seek you out, giving you more coverage and reputation. If you want to become an S-Rank Adventurer as soon as possible, you should try to attract their attention."

"Attract their attention, huh?" Leo mumbled with a mysterious smile on his face.

When Lilith saw this, she quickly said, "Let's not be so hasty. Although you can be promoted faster with more recognition, you're also putting yourself in the crosshair for those people who are easily envious, so don't go overboard with your magic spells."

"Furthermore, you're still being hunted by some unknown power. It would be wiser to stay lowkey for now. You'll have plenty of opportunities to attract their attention now that you're a B-Rank Adventurer, too."

"You're right. I have no reason to rush my Adventurer rank right now, anyways."

Leo proceeded to ignore the news crew and continued to hunt monsters.

Many minutes later, the news crew went from being surprised to completely baffled by Lia's existence.

"That young lady has been firing her magic rifle nonstop for 45 minutes now! How did she acquire such a tremendous mana pool at such a young age?!"

"Just who is this mysterious Adventurer?! What is her Adventurer rank?!"

The journalists and the viewers were curious about Lia's identity, as they have never seen or heard of her before.

While most of the journalists were focused on Lia, a newly arrived journalist had her attention elsewhere.

This journalist was a young woman and appeared to be around Camille's age. She had long blonde hair that resembled golden silk, azure-colored eyes, a model-like figure, and a naturally bewitching face that would attract attention no matter where she was. She was someone who would stand out even if she stood still in a crowd of tens of thousands of people.

When the other journalists noticed her presence, they swallowed nervously and tried their best to keep their composure.

As for the Adventurers, their blood began pumping with adrenaline after they saw this beauty, and they all began fighting monsters like crazy, almost as though they were in a frenzy.

'That's...!' Khrome also took notice of this blonde beauty.

'What's someone like her doing over here?' He wondered inwardly.

"Holy shit, it's the Queen of Livestream!"

"What?!"

"Seriously?!"

"Whoa! It's really the Queen of Livestream— Luna Flores!"

Luna Flores, also known as the Queen of Livestream, is an extremely popular journalist who skyrocketed in popularity shortly after her debut because of her beauty and flawless figure, and most of her broadcasts boasts an impressive viewership of over 500,000 people with her peak having over a million concurrent viewers.

In addition to being an eye candy, Luna Flores is also a high-ranking Adventurer who was on the verge of being promoted to S-Rank.

Due to her popularity, those that become her subject are bound to skyrocket in popularity and acquire mass recognition, regardless if it's only for a few minutes or a few moments, and because of this effect, countless people dream of attracting her attention.

Pretty much every Adventurer there took notice of Luna's appearance shortly after her arrival— except for two individuals.

Naturally, these two individuals were Lia and Leo.

Although Lia recognized Luna, she simply couldn't care less about it. As for Leo, he was trying his best to avoid attention, and he was too focused on fighting monsters.

Meanwhile, Luna scanned the dozens of Adventurers in the battlefield with a sharp gaze, looking like a jeweler looking for the perfect gem.

Her gaze landed on Lia for a moment, but after lingering for a few seconds, she continued scanning the crowd until someone else caught her attention.

This person blended with the background and seemed insignificant at first, but upon closer inspection, Luna noticed something special about this individual that nobody else there possessed.

A slight smile appeared on her face, and she spoke to the camera, "After an hour of scouring, we've finally found someone decent! Let's all get a closer look at this individual, shall we?"

Chapter 224: Queen Luna

After setting her sights on a certain individual, Luna entered the battlefield and approached this individual.

One huge advantage the stronger journalists had over weaker journalists was their ability to enter battlefields without needing to worry about being attacked by the monsters there because they can protect themselves.

This is why stronger journalists are more desirable by the audience, as they would get to see the action up close.

As Luna got closer to her interest, she would notice his immense mana even more.

"Most of you can't tell through the screen, but this person— this young man using dark magic is actually casting at least Tier 5 magic, and he's doing so with seemingly no effort, even Silent Casting them!" Luna said to her viewers.

Indeed, the person Luna had taken interest in was Leo, who was casting Needle of Despair left and right.

Since Needle of Despair was a relatively subtle magic spell due to its small but fast projectiles, most people wouldn't even notice it unless they paid close attention to him. And with Lia being the focus of attention there, Leo was basically invisible to the rest of the journalists.

However, Luna Flores, who had a sharp sense for people, noticed something different about Leo that stood out amongst the crowd there.

Unlike the others that were fighting monsters with their face full of sweat and serious expressions, Leo was actually smiling while he fought monsters, and there wasn't even a drop of sweat on his face.

Unbeknownst to Leo, he was subconsciously smiling from the Magic Points he was acquiring from this raid, and every time he gained Magic Points from killing a monster, his smile would become slightly brighter.

He had also adapted to the environment and was feeling quite comfortable with the atmosphere there, so he naturally felt relaxed.

However, his comfort would end the next moment when he noticed a presence suddenly appear behind him, which spooked him a little, causing him to react instinctively.

He turned around and was prepared to unleash his magic spell before he could even see this presence.

"Whoa!"

A surprised voice resounded as Leo felt someone grab onto his wrist.

When he finally saw who was behind him, Leo raised an eyebrow and asked, "Who are you?"

"Sorry if I surprised you. I didn't expect you to suddenly come towards my direction." Luna said with a friendly smile in her face.

'What a beauty.' Leo subconsciously thought to himself the moment he saw Luna's peerless face.

While he was accustomed to beautiful girls like Camille and Eve, there was something different— something bewitching about Luna's beauty and aura.

Lilith narrowed her eyes at Luna, her thoughts unknown.

Meanwhile, the people watching Luna's broadcast were in an uproar.

[Who's this bastard?! How can he call himself an Adventurer when he doesn't even recognize the Queen of Livestream!]

[Fuck! The Queen touched him! How envious!]

Hundreds of comments filled her chat every second, most of them cursing Leo for his ignorance.

"Hey, what's your name? I'd like to make you the focus for my broadcast," Luna suddenly asked Leo.

"Is this really the time for an interview? Sorry, but I'm busy with the raid right now." Leo shook his head, as he didn't want to stand out any more than he already was.

[This madman actually refused to be interviewed by Queen Luna!]

[Blasphemy!]

[Who is this idiot?! I am going to beat him up!]

Luna remained calm and professional as she spoke, "Then if you don't mind, I will watch you from a distance. Don't worry, I won't disturb you."

"Just knowing that someone is pointing a big camera at me is enough to distract me. There are plenty of other Adventurers here. Go bother them. Later."

And without waiting for Luna to continue, Leo disappeared into the distance using Void Step.

This left Luna completely baffled, as this was her first time being rejected in such a straightforward manner.

What made it worse was that she was already broadcasting to hundreds of thousands of viewers, intensifying the slap on her face.

[Don't mind him, Queen Luna! He doesn't deserve your attention!]

[Fuck him!]

[I will beat him up for you if I ever see him, Queen!]

Her chat blew up with thousands of angry comments directed at Leo.

However, despite her setbacks and Leo's refusal to cooperate with her, she did not give up and chased after Leo.

[Forget about him, Queen!]

[He's a waste of time and air!]

[What's so special about him?!]

When Luna saw her viewers' confusion, she smiled and said, "How many S-Rank Adventurers out there have the capability to Silent Cast Tier 5 magic spells like it's nothing? He could also cast multiple Tier 5 magic spells without needing to consume any mana potions, suggesting that he has a massive mana pool. I know every S-Rank Adventurer out there, but he's not one of them."

"If he's not an S-Rank Adventurer, then he's clearly one in the making. Don't blame him for his reaction just now. I bet he's just a shy individual who cannot handle attention."

Sometime later, Luna finally found Leo again, and just like before, he was casually killing A-Rank monsters left and right without breaking a sweat.

'Dark magic and a ridiculous mana pool... This guy... could he actually be...' Luna wondered to herself as she made sure to not get too close to Leo and watched him from afar while talking to her viewers.

The other journalists eventually noticed what Luna was doing, but they didn't dare to broadcast the same subject as her. Due to their somewhat competitive nature, it was an unspoken rule for those with lower reputation to not broadcast the same subject as someone with a much higher reputation, as that could be considered as picking a fight.

With that being said, they were content with having Lia as their focus, as she was plenty entertaining to watch.

Time passed quickly with everyone focused on fighting, and before they realized, four hours had passed since they started the raid, but they were still nowhere near clearing Skeleton Graveyard.

Chapter 225: Queen Luna(2)

"How is everyone doing?" Khrome asked once the team gathered for the 3rd time after 4 hours.

"I'm feeling fine." Lydia said.

"As much as I hate to say this, I've been on mana core gathering duty since Leon deals with the monsters before I can even cast a single spell. This reminds me of my old days as a slave, where I would do nothing but collect mana cores." Trent spoke with a bittersweet smile on his face.

Leo chuckled, "At least we won't have to worry about having our mana cores stolen by the others now."

"What about you? You've been shooting the magic rifle nonstop. Don't push yourself." Khrome said to Lia, who was calmly standing beside Leo with only a few drops of sweat on her face.

"I'm fine," she spoke in a low voice.

"Anyways, the monsters in this area are pretty much all cleared out. Let's move to a new area after a short break." Khrome said a moment later.

"Sounds good." Leo nodded.

"By the way, are you really going to continue ignoring her?" Lydia suddenly asked Leo while glancing at Luna, who was still nearby and focused on him.

And she continued, "In the first place, I can't believe you're actually ignoring her. Do you even know who she is? That's Luna Flores, one of the most popular journalists at this moment! If you upset her, you'll have to face the wrath of her millions of fans!"

"Most people would kill to receive her attention, you know?" Khrome said.

"Yes, I have no interest in her occupation, nor do I want to be part of it. I prefer staying lowkey... at least for now." Leo said.

"You're going to attract countless attention from this regardless if you ignore or cooperate with her, so why not just cooperate with her? This way, you'll at least receive some benefits. Who knows, you might even be promoted to A-Rank afterward." Trent said.

"I am well aware that I will be in the spotlight regardless of my decision and that I might receive a faster promotion if I cooperate with her, but I don't like the sound of it. If I am going to receive a promotion or whatever, I want to earn it through my own effort like I always have. Also, I'm in no rush to reach A-Rank or S-Rank." Leo shrugged at the end of his sentence.

"Are you sure? You'll make a lot of enemies if you keep ignoring her." Khrome said with a worried look on his face.

A mysterious smile appeared on Leo's face as he responded, "That's nothing new."

Sometime later, Leo and his team left the battlefield to set up their camping site so that they could get some rest before they returned to the raid.

They stopped half a mile away from the Skeleton Graveyard.

Naturally, Luna and her cameraman followed them.

After setting down their camps, Khrome approached Luna and said to her with an apologetic look on his face, "Sorry, but he's not very good with cameras, and he's anti-social."

He decided to make up an excuse for Leo hoping that it would be enough to calm some of the flames.

"I understand. I won't force him to cooperate with me if he doesn't feel comfortable." Luna smiled, and she continued, "Then if you don't mind, can I ask you a few questions about him, Sword King Khrome?"

"You know of me? I'm flattered." Khrome began scratching his head in a somewhat bashful manner. Even someone like him felt weak before Luna's deadly charms and peerless face.

"Of course I know you. You're top 100 amongst all A-Rank Adventurers."

"I see... Then what kind of questions do you have? I will try to answer them to the best of my knowledge and ability."

"That young man... who is he?" Luna asked before pushing her microphone towards Khrome.

"His name is Leon, and he's currently a B-Rank Adventurer. Although that might not sound impressive, he was only an F-Rank Adventurer half a year ago. Furthermore, his sponsor is Camille Light."

"Camille Light... As in the Saintess? What's his relationship with Camille Light?" Luna was surprised to hear this information, and her viewers were also quite baffled.

"Beats me." Khrome shrugged. "I only know that she's his sponsor."

"Then can you give me a little more information about his background? What kind of life is he living right now? What made him become an Adventurer?"

"Sorry, but I really don't know much about him."

"What's your relationship with him? Are you acquaintances or something else?"

"I was his master for a moment, and I taught him how to use the sword."

"A sword, huh? I didn't see anything like that during today's raid."

"Anyways, according to Leon himself, he was homeless before meeting the Saintess. I guess that's how they met. She's probably like a foster mother or something like that to him."

"Oh my..." Luna covered her mouth in a surprised manner.

It was at this moment Lydia approached them and said, "Miss Luna! I'm a huge fan of yours!"

"Thank you." Luna smiled at her.

"How close are you to Leon?" She then asked.

"We met for the first time not long ago— a few days before the raid began."

"Then what are some of your impressions of him?"

"Impressions, huh? Well, first and foremost, he's a ridiculously talented fellow— so much so that I feel ashamed to be in the same team as him." Lydia chuckled.

"I can tell. No ordinary person would be able to Silent Cast Tier 5 magic, after all."

Meanwhile, inside his tent, Leo watched Khrome and Lydia speak with Luna through the tent.

"Why is she so persistent?" Leo sighed out loud.

"Do you want me to get rid of her for you?" Lia asked in a calm and serious tone.

"It's fine... She's not harming me or anything. It's just a little bothersome, that's all."

"Okay."

It was at this moment that Lilith spoke, "Even if she wanted to kill her, I doubt she has the capabilities."

Leo looked at her with raised eyebrows.

Lilith showed a mysterious smile and said, "There's more to that Luna girl than meets the eyes. Of course, I might be wrong about this, but if I am not... This is going to be interesting."

Chapter 226: Queen Luna(3)

"Interesting? Why is it going to be interesting? Who is this Luna?" Leo asked her with a raised eyebrow.

"Take a guess." She said with a mysterious smile.

Leo proceeded to stare at Luna with a pondering gaze. However, he couldn't think of anything.

"No clue. I give up." He shrugged.

Lilith turned to look at Luna and spoke, "As I said, I'm not 100 percent certain about this, but that girl... I think she's a vampire."

"What?!" Leo exclaimed upon hearing this information.

"What happened?" Lia asked him with a puzzled look on her face when he suddenly shouted out loud.

"O-Oh... It's nothing." He showed her a stiff smile.

Once Lia returned doing her own thing, Leo turned to look at Lilith again and asked her, "She's a vampire? What makes you say so? Is there something about her that gives it away?"

"No, it's just a feeling. If she really is a vampire, her disguise is perfect."

"Why would a vampire disguise as a human... a journalist, at that?" Leo asked.

"Who knows." Lilith shrugged.

"Is this how vampires infiltrate human society? They pretend to be human and damage us from within? At least this is how they usually do it in movies and stuff." Leo said, recalling some books and movies with this kind of setting.

"I will admit that many vampires disguise themselves as humans to enter your city, but the majority of them actually hate the idea of looking like a human, as they see it as reducing themselves to being livestock."

"Hm? I thought there were magic barriers around cities that prevent vampires from entering. Does a mere disguise bypass that?" Leo realized this and asked.

"Of course it doesn't work like that, but it doesn't completely block all vampires either. There are some vampires with special bloodlines that could bypass the magic barriers, and there are some vampires that are so powerful they can force themselves inside the city. However, with that being said, not every city out there is protected by magic barriers." Lilith said.

And she pointed at herself, "For the record, I am a vampire with a special bloodline that allows me to ignore these magic barriers, else I wouldn't have been able to enter Stellar City even as a soul, but vampires like me are one in ten million, so you don't need to worry too much about them."

"Though, the main question here is why she's interested in you. I have a theory, but I'm not sure."

"Let's hear it," said Leo.

Lilith nodded and said, "I think she can sense the smell of a vampire from you because of me, so she's checking you out. Not all vampires can do this, but we vampires have a different smell than humans, and we can find each other using this smell."

"However, I'm not too sure about this since I am merely a soul right now and I don't know if souls have a smell. As for that Luna girl... I cannot sense the smell of a vampire from her, but my instincts tell me otherwise."

After learning this information, Leo started sniffing Lilith, causing her to frown.

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Isn't it obvious? I'm trying to see if I can smell anything from you."

"I don't smell! And even if I do, a human does not have the capability to smell the difference!"

Leo shrugged, and he asked, "So, what should I do? If she can really smell the vampires on me, she might try to communicate with me as one. Do I pretend to be a vampire at that point or deny it?"

"Deny it." Lilith said, and she continued, "Vampires are not obligated to reveal their business to each other. And it's not like she will attack you because you claim to be human. However, you also shouldn't avoid her so obviously, as that could cause misunderstandings.."

"Alright."

Sometime later, Leo and Lia returned outside and gathered with everyone after their break had ended.

"How does everyone feel?" Khrome asked them.

"Great!" Lydia said.

"Normal." Lia said.

"Fine." Trent and Leo said.

"Good, then I have some news for us. At the request of Luna Flores, I have decided to let her spectate us as a team. If you don't want to be on the camera, let me know now and I will speak with her." Khrome said, and he turned to look at Leo, almost as though such words were specifically for him.

"I don't mind as long as she doesn't get in my way," he said.

"Alright, I will let her know." Khrome nodded.

"I can't believe that we're going to be covered by that Luna Flores! This has never happened before!" Lydia said with an excited look on her face.

Even an old man like Trent couldn't help but feel excited about their situation.

Luna appeared before them a moment later and said, "Hello, everyone. I'm Luna Flores, and I will be covering your team for the rest of this raid. If you have any questions, let me know."

Lydia immediately raised her hand and asked, "Can I have your autograph later?"

"Of course." Luna nodded with a smile.

"I will also be asking you all questions from time to time. If you don't want to answer a question, feel free to refuse." She added.

"I have a question." Leo suddenly said.

"Go ahead!"

"Why did you choose to cover us specifically?"

"My intuition and experience tells me that there's something special about your team, and I want to confirm it," she quickly gave him an answer.

"Is that so?" Leo didn't say anything else.

Once they were prepared, Leo and his team started making their way to another section in the Skeleton Graveyard.

When they found an appropriate area that had plenty of monsters and was not too crowded, they stopped wandering and started to fight these monsters.

Meanwhile, Luna would follow them around and spend some time with each member, starting with Khrome.

Chapter 227: Interview

"Can you introduce yourself?" Luna asked Khrome as he slashed his sword at an Exploding Corpse multiple times before escaping to safety.

Although some may say that she was distracting him from the fight, most Adventurers actually prefer getting interviewed while they were in a fight, as that made them seem more capable since they were able to fight and speak at the same time.

"My name is Khrome, an A-Rank Adventurer. Some might recognize me as Sword King Khrome."

"How long have you been an Adventurer?"

"Almost 23 years now. I have been an Adventurer since I was only thirteen years old."

"Why did you decide to become an Adventurer? And I heard that you prefer the sword even though you're talented in earth magic. Why?" Luna asked her second question.

"My mother suddenly became sick one day, but since our family was poor, we couldn't afford her treatment, so I became an Adventurer to earn money for her treatment. As for why I prefer the sword, it's quite simple. I have always admired and wanted to be a Knight, but nobody would accept a Knight at my age into their team, forcing me to learn magic. Once I became financially stable, I started training with the sword and have been using it since then."

"Oh... That's very interesting. Then are you better with your sword or with magic?"

"Honestly, I'm better with my sword when it comes to pure experience and skills, but at the same time, I am stronger with magic, as magic allows me to have more accessibility."

Luna continued to ask Khrome several more questions about his career before moving onto Lydia, who was focused on healing and buffing Khrome now.

"I've been an Adventurer for only 10 years, and I started my journey at the age of 16. I decided to become an Adventurer because it just felt like the right thing to do, especially since I was born with Light Magic Affinity." Lydia introduced herself with a beautiful smile on her face.

[Wow! What a beauty!]

[Not as beautiful as our Queen, though!]

"Do you have any ambitions or goals as an Adventurer?"

"This may sound boring, but I am striving to become an S-Rank Adventurer, hopefully before I hit 40 years old." Lydia said.

"It's not boring at all. In fact, I also have the same goal." Luna smiled.

"You're guaranteed to become an S-Rank. It's only a matter of time."

Luna went to speak with Lia next since she was the closest.

"Can you introduce yourself?"

"Lena."

"How old are you?"

"19 years old."

It was obvious to Luna that Lia wasn't very talkative, but she continued to question her.

"What is your Adventurer's rank? And why did you become an Adventurer?"

"I am not an Adventurer."

"Eh? Really? But you're so powerful... If I were to give you a rank, you'll definitely qualify as an A-Rank. What kind of training did you undergo to have so much mana? And why did you decide to participate in this raid even though you're not an Adventurer? You won't receive any official rewards for your effort since you're not an Adventurer, you know."

"Normal training. I'm here just to help out my partner, that's all." Lia calmly said.

"Partner? Who is your partner? Is it Leon?" Luna asked with great interest.

"Yes." She nodded.

"So you're his girlfriend?"

"No." Lia responded without hesitation.

"Is that so..."

"Then where are you from?"

"Stellar City."

"That's pretty far away from here. Is Leon also from Stellar City?"

"I don't know." She shrugged.

And she continued, "If you want to know, go ask Leon himself. You seem more interested in him, anyway."

Luna asked a few more questions before going to where Leo and Trent were.

Since Leo was a little further ahead, Luna decided to interview Trent first, who was taking his time collecting mana cores.

"How old are you? And how long have you been an Adventurer?"

"I have been an Adventurer for over 100 years now, and I am currently 139 years old." Trent said with a calm smile on his face.

If Leo had heard such words, he would definitely be surprised. However, Luna didn't show any signs of being surprised and acted as though it was a normal occurrence.

"Why did you become an Adventurer, Mister Trent?"

A sorrowful look suddenly appeared on Trent's face.

"My son... My only son was killed by monsters, and in order to calm my rage and avenge my son, I hunt monsters nonstop." Trent said in a sighing voice.

"You have my condolences..." Luna said with a pitiful look on her face.

As tragic as Trent's story sounded, it was a very common story for many people in this day and age.

Sometime later, Luna approached Leo, who took a break from slaying monsters to answer her questions.

[It's this guy again!]

[Is this the bastard that almost attacked the Queen?!]

[Something like that happened? When?!]

[A few hours ago.]

"What is your name? How old are you?"

"Leon. 18 years old."

"How long have you been an Adventurer? And what's your rank?"

"I've been an Adventurer for half a year, and I'm currently a B-Rank Adventurer."

"R-Really? You became a B-Rank Adventurer in just 6 short months?"

[What?! That's impossible!]

[He's lying! There's no fucking way he went from F-Rank to B-Rank in half a year!]

[What a bad liar, this guy!]

[It's so bad that it's hilarious!]

The chat went wild with mockery towards Leo and understandably so.

"If you don't believe me, you can just ask the Adventurers' Guild later." Leo shrugged.

"There's no need. I believe you." Luna smiled.

"Then why did you become an Adventurer?" She then asked.

"No particular reason. In fact, it wasn't even my idea."

"What do you mean by that?" Luna raised an eyebrow.

"My sponsor wanted me to become an Adventurer, so I became one. That's all."

"Your sponsor?"

"Camille Light. She's my sponsor." Leo said with a profound smile on his face.

Since this was public information, he didn't bother trying to hide it, and it might make Luna reconsider whatever she had planned if she knew he had an S-Rank Adventurer behind him.

Chapter 228: Elite Monster

[Camille Light, the Saintess?! She's his sponsor?!]

[That's impossible! He's lying again!]

[This guy is full of lies!]

The viewers watching Luna's broadcast did not believe what Leo said. However, after some of them searched it up, they were immediately slapped in the face with the truth.

[It's true! I just took a look at the database! Camille Light is truly his sponsor!]

Although all Adventurers' information are public, it's only to the extent of their name, rank, and the name of their sponsor. If one wanted to look deeper into an Adventurer's background, they would need to have access to the private database, and only the Adventurers' Guild and the Adventurers' Bureau would have access to that.

Of course, the date they first became an Adventurer is also available, and when the viewers saw that, they were baffled once again.

"What is your relationship with Camille Light?" Luna asked him a moment later.

"She's something like a friend and a guardian, I guess."

"Hmm... Is that so..."

"Can you tell me a little more about your magic? What's your strongest magic spell? What is your favorite?"

"My strongest magic spell? Logically, it should be my highest tier magic spell, but I feel like that's not right, so I can't really say. My favorite magic spell has to be Black Bullet. It's one of my first magic spells and it's very versatile." Leo said.

Since all magic spells have a limit to how strong they can be for ordinary people, it would only be natural for their strongest magic spell to be their highest tier magic. However, that wasn't the case for Leo, who seemed to have the ability to overcharge his magic spells to heights that defies logic.

"What do you think of dark magic? Many people find it ominous since it reminds them of vampires, and some are even hunted just for being able to use dark magic. Do you regret being born with a dark magic affinity?" Luna asked him with slightly narrowed eyes and a penetrating gaze.

"Why would I feel regret?" Leo sneered. "I think dark magic is great. Even if it's a common trait for vampires, there's no reason to discriminate against a type of magic because of such a reason. Those who think otherwise are quite foolish if you ask me."

A wide smile appeared on Luna's face after hearing his answer, and she spoke, "That's a fine answer. I—"

The ground suddenly began shaking, halting Luna's mouth.

"What's happening?" Leo looked around trying to find the source for the shaking.

Eventually, he found the source, and many people at the Skeleton Graveyard were staring in the same direction at the same thing.

In the middle of the Skeleton Graveyard and about a mile away from Leo's location was a colossal skeleton that stood as tall as a skyscraper, and it was wielding a massive sword and golden armor.

"Is that a boss? Are we close to clearing this raid already?" Leo mumbled out loud.

"Are you seeing this my dear viewers?! That's an Elite Monster! And it's even an S-Rank monster!" Luna said in an excited voice.

"Elite Monster? Didn't you mention them before?" Leo asked her.

"Yes. They're basically special monsters that have a super rare spawn rate. These monsters have modifiers, similar to a boss inside a Labyrinth. They can also give monsters a unique appearance and abilities that normal monsters don't have." Lilith explained.

"They're very powerful. Don't underestimate it."

After the Elite Monster spawned, essentially every Adventurer in the Skeleton Graveyard began rushing towards the Elite Monster to take it down.

"Leon! What are you waiting for?! Let's go get that monster!" Khrome said as he and the others from the team rushed over.

"Elite Monsters have a special mana core that will fetch for hundreds of millions, especially if the monster is an S-Rank monster! However, Elite Monsters will also de-spawn after a limited time, so we must kill it before it disappears!" Lydia said.

Leo raised an eyebrow and said, "Even if that's true— that it's worth hundreds of millions, how do we decide who gets to keep it? The other Adventurers will probably try to kill it as well."

"The reward will be split amongst those that fought it. Once we kill it and collect the mana core, we will give it to the Adventurers' Guild. They will review the video footage of the fight and determine who will get the reward. It's not a perfect system with many flaws, but it's the best one we've got." Trent explained.

A mysterious smile suddenly appeared on his face, and he thought inwardly, 'If I kill it and use the Magic System to collect it, won't I be able to monopolize the whole thing? And with so many people there, nobody will know what happened to the mana core. In fact, they will probably think it's some kind of rare phenomenon! This is perfect!'

"Alright! Let's hurry up and kill that Elite Monster!" He spoke out loud a moment later with an enthusiastic look on his face.

"You... What are you planning?" Lilith asked him after noticing his weird behavior.

Thus, Leo and his team began making their way towards the Elite Monster in the distance.

"From its appearance alone, that Elite Monster appears to be a variant of the S-Rank monster Skeleton Warlord." Khrome assessed the Elite Monster as they approached it.

"I've only fought it once before. It has tremendous strength and above average speed, but it lacks any magic at all. However, that might no longer be the case now that it's an Elite Monster." Trent said.

"What's the plan?" Leo asked.

"It's simple. Stay as far as you can and hit it with your magic until it falls." Lydia said.

"It sure sounds simple enough, but is it really going to go so smoothly?" Leo wondered out loud.

Sometime later, once they arrived at the combat site, Leo and the others started showering the Skeleton Warlord with their magic spells.

Chapter 229: Elite Monster(2)

The Skeleton Warlord was about 150 meters tall. It looked exactly like the skeleton warriors that Leo could summon, but their figure was much wider, and they were wearing golden armor. Furthermore, it wielded a massive two-handed sword, its blade was pure white, almost as though it was made of bone.

The Skeleton Warlord was currently being bombarded by hundreds of Adventurers at once, but it barely had any reactions, almost as if it couldn't even feel the damage.

"It's attacking! Dodge!"

Someone there suddenly shouted.

The Skeleton Warlord proceeded to raise its bone sword into the air before slashing it to the ground.

BOOM!

The ground shook intensely for a good moment, and a large fissure appeared in the ground, making it seem as though the world was split into two.

Although nobody died during that attack, many people were injured from the splinters that scattered everywhere after the impact.

'Holy shit... What destructive power...!' Leo swallowed nervously after seeing the Skeleton Warlord's attack.

Fortunately, his team was located behind the Skeleton Warlord, so the attack didn't affect them at all.

"Keep it up! I will keep you guys buffed!" Lydia spoke out loud.

"Tornado!" Trent summoned a large tornado around the Skeleton Warlord, feeling quite refreshed that he could finally use his magic spells.

"Colossal Stone Spear!" Khrome also started using magic for the first time, creating a 20 meter-long and 2 foot thick spear before tossing it at the Skeleton Warlord.

The spear slammed directly into the Skeleton Warlord's golden armor, releasing a loud and muffled 'dong' sound.

The Stone Spear shattered after the impact, leaving behind a noticeable dent in the Skeleton Warlord's armor.

Meanwhile, Lia was casually shooting bullets every second at the Skeleton Warlord's head.

Leo summoned his shadow clone and proceeded to rain Needles of Despair onto the Skeleton Warlord until there were 25 needles sticking to the monster's body, increasing the damage it received by 25 percent.

'Alright, now I just need to keep spamming Death Scythe until I hit that 1 percent lottery and instantly kill it...!' Leo used Void Step to get closer to the Skeleton Warlord so that his Death Scythe could reach.

"Hey! Where are you going?!" Khrome exclaimed in a shocked voice when he saw this.

"You idiot! I told you to stay as far away as possible!" Lydia cried out loud.

Luna suddenly smiled and chased after Leo.

"Eh?! Miss Luna?!"

"Calm down. Leon will be fine." Lia said to them.

"What are you planning?" Luna asked Leo as she chased after him from behind.

"Huh? Nothing special."

"I will be the judge of that." Luna winked at him.

Leo felt a shiver in his spine after seeing it.

Once he was close enough, Leo started using Death Scythe left and right on the Skeleton Warlord.

The Death Scythe would leave behind no injuries on the monster, but the Skeleton Warlord would feel something off every time the Death Scythe went through its body—something ominous.

It started ignoring everyone in the Skeleton Graveyard and started focusing on Leo, who would dance around it using Void Step.

One Death Scythe... Two... Three...

After using Death Scythe 6 times and without any success, Leo chugged down a mana potion even though he didn't need to, as he was still being watched by thousands of people through Luna's camera.

At his current level, after many months of training, Leo's body could handle one mana potion every five minutes. When he started training, he was only able to consume one mana potion every hour.

Sometime later...

'Damn! How unlucky! I have used Death Scythe over 50 times now and the monster is still alive! Death Scythe has a 5 percent chance to instantly kill normal monsters but only 1 percent for boss monsters. Either I have extremely bad luck or this Elite Monster is considered a boss monster. How long do we have before it de-spawns?' Leo cursed inwardly at his bad luck.

"Why the hell does this monster have so much health anyways?" Leo complained out loud.

"That's normal for an Elite Monster." Lilith said.

Eventually, after 111 tries, he managed to kill the Skeleton Warlord using Death Scythe's unique passive ability.

<+50,000 Magic Points>

Leo's eyes widened with surprise after seeing how many Magic Points he acquired from killing the Skeleton Warlord.

'Fifty thousand Magic Points... This was definitely worth it!' He laughed inwardly.

Furthermore, the Magic System automatically collected the Skeleton Warlord's mana core, storing it inside its storage.

Leo took a peek inside his storage while the other Adventurers cheered for their victory, unaware that they'd just worked their butts off and risked their life for nothing.

'Huh? This is it?' Leo was baffled after seeing the mana core inside the Magic System's storage.

Since the Skeleton Warlord was absolutely massive in size, it was reasonable for him to expect a large mana core from it. However, contrary to his expectations, the mana core inside his storage was not any larger than even a B-Rank monster's mana core.

The only difference between this mana core and the other mana cores was the color of its mana with the liquid inside being a golden color instead of azure.

Shortly after the Skeleton Warrior collapsed on the ground, the Adventurers there swarmed its head like ants, and they all started to dig into its skeleton head for its mana core.

Unbeknownst to them, the mana core was already gone.

"Aren't you going to look for the mana core, too?" Luna asked Leo.

"Huh? Why should I? We have to give it to the Adventurers' Guild anyway, so it doesn't matter who finds it. And I'm exhausted." He shrugged.

Luna was speechless.

'This guy... how lazy...'

Sometime later, when the Adventurers took apart the Skeleton Warlord's whole head and couldn't find the mana core, they began to panic.

"Have we found the mana core yet?!"

"It's nowhere to be found!"

"What?! That's impossible! The mana core must be here somewhere!"

"Let's keep looking just in case we missed it!"

Thus, the Adventurers started going through the pile of bones scattered all over the place for a second time.

Chapter 230: Body Search

Many minutes have passed since the Skeleton Warlord fell to the ground, but the Adventurers still couldn't find its mana core that would fetch a fortune and reward them for their effort.

"Where the fuck is its mana core?!"

"Somebody must have found it and kept it for themself!"

"That must be it! Everybody! Halt! Don't you dare leave!"

A huge commotion started within the Skeleton Graveyard while the raid was still ongoing with everyone that participated in eliminating the Elite Monster blaming the person next to them for hogging the mana core.

After arguing back and forth for many minutes, they eventually decided to do a body search on everyone for the mana core, and this included their spatial ring.

"Whoever leaves from this point forth will receive my wrath! You will all stay here until we find the missing mana core!" A bulky man shouted out loud, his voice echoing in all directions."

"What a pain in the ass..." Khrome sighed out loud.

"Well, this isn't the first time something like this has happened before." Lydia shrugged.

This was one of many flaws when many groups that do not know each other fight the same Elite Monster. Someone could easily take the mana core for themself and not hand it in to the Adventurers' Guild, profiting all of the reward alone.

"Are you responsible for this mayhem?" Lilith asked Leo, who was trying his hardest to not laugh out loud.

"Perhaps." He said with a cunning smile on his face.

A group of people from the Adventurers' Guild showed up at the scene about half an hour after they were called for assistance, and they proceeded to search everyone's belongings.

Before they began their search, one of the staff members from the Adventurers' Guild spoke out loud, "This is your last chance to hand over the Elite Monster's mana core!"

What you're doing is illegal! If you're caught with the mana core after we begin our search, you'll be stripped of your Adventurer Rank and be sentenced to at least 50 years of confinement! If you hand it over now, we will only give you a fine and a rank reduction! I will give you 10 seconds!"

"Ten!"

"Nine!"

"Eight!"

"..."

"Zero! Alright! We will begin the search now! All females will go to the tent on the left side and the males will go to the tent on the right! Line up and wait for your turn to be searched! Once you are done, stand over here!" A middle-aged man with a serious look on his face spoke to the Adventurers with a speaker.

Thus, the hundreds of Adventurers at the scene began lining up.

"Fuck that bastard who stole the mana core... He's wasting our time..."

"Right?! He'll be caught, anyway!"

The Adventurers kept cursing the culprit while they waited.

"Do I also need to be checked?" Luna asked the Adventurers' Guild.

"Eh? Of course not, Miss Luna. We trust your reputation, and you have been in front of a camera this whole time. If you somehow managed to take the mana core without being noticed, you deserve it." The people from the Adventurers' Guild laughed.

"I understand. Thank you."

After many minutes of waiting in line, Leo entered the tent and began his body search.

"Place all of your spatial rings here," said a bulky man.

Leo followed the instructions and placed his golden spatial ring into the box.

"That's all?" The bulky man raised an eyebrow, finding it a bit weird. Most Adventurers carry at least three to four spatial rings in the Wilderness, especially when they're entering a raid.

One might argue that it isn't reasonable to expect everyone to be able to afford multiple spatial rings since they're quite expensive, but only B-Rank Adventurers and above could participate in this raid, and buying several spatial rings shouldn't be a problem for any B-Rank Adventurers even if they were bad with money.

Naturally, since Leo had the Magic System, he didn't need to waste any money on spatial rings, as his Magic Storage had unlimited room. The only reason he kept the golden spatial ring with him was because it was a present from Camille.

"Hands up." The bulky man said to Leo a moment later.

Leo raised both of his hands into the air, and the bulky man proceeded to scan his body with some kind of magic device.

"Clear." The bulky man said as he turned to look at the person inspecting Leo's spatial ring.

There was a decent amount of potion inside Leo's spatial ring, but what surprised the inspector the most was the sheer amount of A-Rank mana cores inside.

'There's at least a few hundred million worth of mana cores in here... Why is he carrying such a tremendous amount of wealth to a raid? Is he crazy?' The inspector wondered inwardly.

After looking through the mana cores to make sure there wasn't a golden mana core amongst them, the inspector returned the spatial ring to Leo and said, "Cleared."

Two hours later, after searching every Adventurer there, the Adventurers' Guild was baffled by the result.

"What?! You couldn't find the mana core even after searching everyone?! How is that possible?!" The person in charge exclaimed in a shocked voice after learning this information.

"An S-Rank Elite Monster's mana core is worth a fortune! We cannot fuck this up! Go search the Skeleton Warlord's corpse again!"

"Yes!"

The Adventurers' Guild proceeded to comb through every inch of the Skeleton Warlord's corpse with a fine brush until they looked literally everywhere, but alas, the mana core was still nowhere to be found.

"Could the culprit have already fled the scene after stealing the mana core? We didn't force people to stay until many minutes later, after all..." The Adventurers lost all hope at this point, and they all had terrible expressions on their faces, almost as though they'd accidentally eaten a live fly.

In the end, the Adventurers' Guild had no choice but to give up on the mana core for now and investigate at a later date. They also made everyone there record their name down before dismissing them.