

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 231: End of the Raid

"What do you think happened to the mana core?" Lydia asked out loud as they made their way to a new farming location. "Has an Elite Monster ever failed to drop a mana core?"

"No, not that I am aware of, and I have the most experience here." Trent said.

"It was most likely stolen by someone during the chaos." Khrome sighed. "What a waste of time and effort that was. If I ever catch that son of a bitch, I will freaking kill him!"

Leo swallowed nervously after hearing Khrome's terrifying words.

He then spoke, "Wh-What about Ancient Labyrinths? I heard that monsters stop dropping mana cores after they're killed too many times."

"While that is true, that doesn't apply to our current situation since we're not inside an Ancient Labyrinth, and this is an Elite Monster we're talking about." Khrome said.

"I know, but it's not impossible for a monster to not drop mana cores is what I am trying to focus on."

"I guess... But if that's the case, we're truly unlucky. I cannot even begin to imagine the odds of this happening since I've never even heard of this happening before. This might set a precedent."

News of the incident spread throughout the internet like wildfire after Luna's viewers and the other journalists broadcast the situation to the world.

[Somebody definitely stole it!]

[What an idiot. Even if he steals it, he won't be able to sell or use it for a very long time.]

[What about the black market? They will buy anything even if it's illegal.]

[There are things even the black market won't touch, especially if the item has a lot of attention towards it.]

"If the mana core was stolen, whoever stole it must be rich now. An elite mana core from an S-Rank monster... That could fetch hundreds of millions of not billions of dollars!" Lydia sighed out loud.

"No, that may not be the case." Trent said, and he continued, "Now that the Adventurers' Guild is investigating the situation, this person won't be able to sell the mana core because the moment he does is the moment he gets caught."

"They can still sell it to a black market, right? You can sell pretty much everything in the black market these days, and a mana core of this quality is very enticing."

"That might not be the case. While it's true that the black market will buy anything, they also cannot afford to offend powerful backgrounds such as the Adventurers' Guild. People in the black market will only purchase something that will profit them. The mana core won't profit them at this moment since they won't be able to resell it." Khrome said.

"Well, if they wait 10 to 20 years, perhaps they will be able to sell it."

While Khrome and the others spoke about the mana core, Leo was having his own conversation with Lilith.

"If I cannot sell the mana core for at least a decade, what can I do with it? I planned on feeding it to the Magic System at first, but it seems like a waste now, especially since I still have plenty of them." Leo asked her.

"If you cannot sell it, you can just use it as a material to craft magic artifacts." Lilith said.

"Huh? What's the difference? Since I cannot do it by myself, I still need to give it to someone else." Leo raised an eyebrow.

"Go find yourself a private blacksmith. They usually don't care where you acquired your materials from and only care about crafting the best magic artifacts. I bet many blacksmiths wouldn't hesitate to craft something using a mana core from an S-Rank elite monster for you."

"Is that so... What do you think I will be able to make from this mana core? It's so small, too."

"Don't underestimate an elite monster's mana core, Leo. Although it may seem small, the mana contained within the core is very pure and powerful. You can easily create an A-Grade magic artifact with it, perhaps even an S-Grade artifact if the blacksmith is skilled enough."

"S-Grade magic artifact?! Hell yeah! I'm definitely going to look for a blacksmith later, probably after the Labyrinth Examination." Leo gritted his hands in excitement and anticipation.

"You don't feel bad about taking the mana core all for yourself? Some people even died trying to acquire it, you know." Lilith suddenly asked him.

He shrugged and said, "Without my Death Scythe's instant kill ability, who knows how long it would've taken them to defeat it, and there would've been far more casualties too. However, I would be lying if I say that I don't feel any guilt."

Lilith smiled, "You've grown a lot compared to when you first arrived and it's only been half a year. I wonder how long it'll take before you start casting aside your humanity."

Leo looked at her with a raised eyebrow, "Don't say something that ominous. And I am not changing as a person, I am merely adapting to this world— at least that's what I believe."

Sometime later, Luna approached Leo and said, "It's such a pity that the mana core was stolen. You even worked so hard taking the Skeleton Warlord down."

"Huh? I don't think I worked that hard..."

A mysterious smile appeared on Luna's face as she spoke, "There's no need to be humble. I'm willing to bet you did the most damage to the monster. In fact, you probably accounted for over 70 percent of the total damage."

"Over 70 percent? You're over exaggerating. There were hundreds of people there. How can I, a mere individual, deal so much more damage than the others combined?"

"That's why you're so special." She chuckled.

Sometime later, when they arrived at a new location, Leo and the others continued to clear the Skeleton Graveyard.

Time passed quickly, and within the blink of an eye, five days had passed since the Skeleton Graveyard's raid began, and the raid was coming to an end.

Chapter 232: End of the Raid(2)

After five days of fighting in the Skeleton Graveyard, Leo received a notification.

<You have been awarded 150,000 Magic Experience and 20,000 Magic Points for clearing Skeleton Graveyard>

"Looks like we've finally cleared out the monster's nest. This took longer than I anticipated." Leo said to the others.

In the end, Leo acquired around 45,000 Magic Points in total throughout the whole raid, and he hunted around 1,000 monsters.

"How's everyone doing? If you're injured, let me know." Khrome said to them after the raid.

Once everyone was accounted for, Khrome said, "Alright, this marks the end of the raid. Great job you guys, especially Leon and Lena. You two basically carried our team. We'll split our loot once we return to Stellar City."

"Thanks to Leon, I didn't even break a single drop of sweat during the whole raid. I'm ashamed to be called your senior," said Trent with a bittersweet smile on his face.

"It's fine. I wanted to kill the monsters, anyways." Leo smiled.

"Do you guys want to head back now, or should we rest a little before we leave?" Khrome asked them a moment later.

"Let's get out of here as soon as possible. I haven't been able to take a decent bath for almost a week now. I want to go home and relax already." Lydia said.

Everyone there agreed with Lydia.

However, right as they prepared to leave, Luna approached them and said, "Please wait a moment."

"I would like to thank you all for the last few days. I was able to acquire a good amount of amazing footage, and my audience seemed very satisfied by the results as well."

"No, we should be thanking you for featuring us in your popular media." Khrome said.

"Oh! Right! Before we part, can I get your autograph?!" Lydia suddenly recalled this and asked her.

"Of course. Do you have anything specific that you want me to sign?" Luna asked.

"Here!" Lydia retrieved her weapon and handed it to Luna, who quickly signed her name on it in an elegant manner.

"Can I ask you to sign this sword as well?" Khrome asked with a somewhat bashful smile on his face.

"Naturally." Luna nodded.

Khrome proceeded to hand her a brand new sword that has never been used before.

Although Trent wasn't much of a fan, his grandchildren were huge fans of Luna, so he asked her to sign several things for them.

"What about you two?" Luna turned to look at Leo and Lia afterward.

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

"Me neither." Leo said.

"..."

Luna was speechless. This was the first time someone refused an autograph from her, and it was from two people to boot.

'Many people out there would kill to get my autograph...' She sighed inwardly.

"Alright. Then I hope to work with you all again in the future." Luna gave them a slight bow.

"We would like that as well." Khrome nodded.

And just as they began walking again, Luna stopped them for a second time— "W-Wait!"

They stopped and turned to look at her with raised eyebrows.

"Sorry, but can I speak to you in private, Leon? It won't take more than a few minutes, I promise."

"I guess." He nodded.

Inwardly, he was wondering what she wanted to talk to him about.

Leo followed Luna to another location, but they didn't go so far away that he couldn't see Khrome and the others. It was just far enough so that they could speak to each other openly without needing to worry about eavesdropping.

"What do you want to talk about?" Leo asked her once they stopped moving.

"..."

The expression on Luna's face was drastically different than just moments ago, and she appeared less approachable for some reason.

"I will get straight to the point, 'Leon'. What are you doing here?" Luna asked him in a voice that somewhat lacked emotions, sounding almost like Lia when they first met.

"Huh? Sorry, but I'm not following."

"Don't play dumb. The cameras are off if you're worried about that." Luna frowned.

Leo raised his eyebrows once again and said, "I really have no clue what you're talking about."

The frown on Luna's face grew deeper, and she suddenly started walking towards him.

Leo swallowed nervously and subconsciously stepped back, but Luna quickly caught up to him.

Once she was close enough, Luna grabbed his arm to prevent him from moving, and she moved her head closer to his head before taking a deep breath.

"As I thought. You smell like a vampire." Luna suddenly said, leaving Leo speechless.

'This woman! She's actually a vampire!' He cried inwardly.

"I noticed your smell the moment I got close enough, and after spending the last few days with you, the smell of a vampire on you only grew stronger, and it's not an ordinary smell, either."

"Who are you? Which clan do you belong to? What are you doing here?"

"Wh-Whoa, whoa, whoa! Hold up!" Leo said in a somewhat panicked manner.

"I smell like a vampire? Are you seriously saying that? I think there's something wrong with your nose, you should probably get it checked out..."

"Are you mocking me?" Luna's eyes flickered with killing intent, and she tightened her grasp on Leo's arm.

Leo gritted his teeth as he felt a crushing force in his arm. He knew that if he didn't say something, Luna would crush his arm.

"If you're here for me, I advise you to turn back and go back to where you came from."

"I think there's been a misunderstanding. I am not a vampire, nor am I here for you... In fact, I didn't even know your identity until today."

"If you're not a vampire then why do you smell like one?!" Luna growled in a low voice.

"I really don't know!"

"Hey! Look over there! Luna Flores is holding that man's arm!" The people still in that area noticed them and began murmuring to each other.

"Che." Luna sucked her teeth before releasing Leo's arm.

"Forget our conversation just now. If I hear even a word about it after this, I will ruin your fucking life, you hear me?"

"Yes..." Leo quickly nodded.

"Hmph." Luna fixed her expression before walking away, leaving Leo baffled.

Chapter 233: Splitting the Rewards

"What the hell was that about...?" Leo mumbled in a dazed voice as he watched Luna's tall and slender figure quickly disappear from his sight.

"As I figured, she's a vampire." Lilith said with a slight smile on her face.

"Should I be worried?" Leo asked.

"Not right now. She approached you thinking you're a vampire, and judging by her questions, she probably thinks you're following her or something. As long as you keep your distance, she won't seek you out. After all, she's disguised as a human for a reason."

Leo sighed, "Are most vampires like this?"

"Like what?" Lilith raised an eyebrow.

"Luna... She would make a great actor if she tried."

"Oh, so that's what you mean. Honestly, I have no idea. Even though I call myself a vampire, I never had much interaction with them." Lilith shrugged.

"Is that so..."

Leo glanced at her and sighed inwardly, 'I really hope you're not a good actor.'

Sometime later, Leo returned to the others and they began making their way back to Stellar City.

Once they returned to Stellar City, Khrome brought them back to the Adventurers' Guild to report their raid.

After that was done, Khrome and everyone there gathered in one of the private rooms and began splitting their share.

"We acquired 2,100 A-Grade mana cores during the raid. Since there are five of us, we would normally split it 20 percent for each person, but that wouldn't really be fair to Leon, who acquired half of the mana cores alone." Khrome said as he stared at the pile of mana cores before them.

"Since I barely did any work and only had to collect mana cores, I will give half of my share to Leon and settle with 10 percent." Trent suddenly said.

"I will also give 5 percent of my 20 percent to Lena, who killed twice as many Exploding Corpses as I did." Khrome said.

In the end, Leo received 30 percent of the mana cores for his effort, acquiring 630 A-Grade mana cores. Lia received 25 percent, acquiring 525 mana cores. Khrome received 15 percent, Trent received 10 percent, and Lydia, who was mostly on buffing and healing duty, received her full 20 percent.

Under normal circumstances, healers like Lydia would receive more than the others even if they didn't put in as much effort purely because of her role that is much more valued in general. However, she didn't try to haggle her reward and accepted it as it is.

Once everyone received their reward, Khrome said, "Why don't we all celebrate our victory tonight with dinner at the Stellar Manor?"

"That sounds like a good idea." Trent said.

"I will go as well." Lydia said.

"Sure." Leo nodded.

"I have something to do after this, so I won't be going." Lia said.

"We can go on another day if you're busy tonight. I don't want you to feel left out, after all." Khrome said.

"It's fine. I don't mind." Lia shook her head.

"I see... Then let's meet at 7 PM." Khrome said a moment later.

Sometime later, they went their separate way after leaving the Adventurers' Guild.

"Thanks again for tagging along, Lia." Leo said to her once they were alone.

"I'm just upholding my promise to you." She calmly said.

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

"The Labyrinth Examination will begin soon. You'll also be participating in that, right?"

"Yes, I will."

"Guess we'll be seeing each other again soon, huh?"

"It might happen sooner than you think." A mysterious smile suddenly appeared on her face that disappeared a split second later.

Sometime later, Leo returned to the academy.

"Welcome back, Leo. How was the raid?" Eve asked him when he entered her office.

"It went quite smoothly. I can handle A-Rank monsters with ease now." He said.

"I know— I was watching you through Luna Flores' stream." Eve smiled.

"Huh? You were watching her stream? What do you think of it?" Leo asked with anticipation in his eyes.

"Although most people won't notice it, your performance was brilliant. The way you move around in a carefree manner, the way you cast your spells— any expert could tell at glance that you're having the time of your life in that place. Though, it is a real pity that the Elite Monster's mana core was stolen. One could easily craft an S-Grade magic artifact with it."

"Speaking of crafting... Do you know any expert blacksmiths that can craft S-Grade magic artifacts?" Leo suddenly asked.

"Huh? Why do you want to know? Are you trying to craft something?" Eve raised an eyebrow.

"I'm just looking into it for now..." He said with a stiff smile.

"If you're just looking into it, why are you starting from the top? There are very few blacksmiths that can craft S-Grade magic artifacts in this world— less than 5 people."

"If I am going to craft something, I want it to come from the very best, after all."

Eve began pondering, and after a moment of silence, she spoke, "I know of two S-Rank blacksmiths, both with different expertise. One of them is an expert weapon blacksmith while the other is an expert armor blacksmith. What do you want to craft?"

Leo didn't immediately respond, as he didn't think this far yet.

'I already have an S-Grade sword. I should get some armor or accessories...' He thought to himself.

"The one who can craft armors. I'd like to know more about this person."

"I can set up a meeting for you, but with the Labyrinth Examination occurring in a few days, I will do so afterward." Eve said.

"Really? Thanks! Oh, I am going to eat dinner with some people later tonight as 'Leon'. Don't worry, I will be staying in the city." Leo said.

"Sure." She nodded.

After talking with Eve for a little longer, Leo left her office to meet with Camille.

"Miss Camille, I have some questions regarding vampires." Leo said.

"Vampires...?" Camille looked at him with raised eyebrows.

