

Magic System in a Parallel World

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Chapter 234: Parting With the Party

"Have you ever encountered any vampires before, Miss Camille?" Leo asked her after entering the infirmary.

"Yes, I've had several encounters with vampires before. Why are you asking me these questions?" Camille looked at him with a pondering gaze.

She suddenly frowned when she realized something, "Don't tell me... You encountered a vampire?! Where?!"

Leo quickly put his hands up and shook his head, "No, that's not it. I'm just curious since I have not seen any vampires since I came here even though I keep hearing about them."

"That's a good thing. You don't want to meet them. Trust me on this. If you think it's anything like meeting a monster for the first time, you have no idea how cruel it is."

"Is that so? Can you tell me your first experience with a vampire?" Leo then asked.

Camille closed her eyes and began recalling her first encounter with a vampire.

"I was frozen with fear," she suddenly spoke in a low voice.

"Their penetrating gaze that could see through your entirety and pierce a hole in your heart. Their snow-like skin. Their natural bloodlust, and their oppressive aura. Everything about them sent shivers down my spine. In fact, most people piss their pants during their first encounter with vampires."

"Did you wet your pants?" Leo asked with a smile on his face.

Camille turned to look at him with a frown, and she spoke in a cold voice, "No, but my legs gave out on me and I fell to my knees."

"You don't understand it because you've never met one before in your life, but do not underestimate their presence. They're incredibly fearsome and ruthless entities that will attack you before you can even speak."

"I will keep that in mind. By the way, have you seen any streams lately? Specifically, streams with me in it."

"No, I don't watch that kind of stuff. Why are you asking?"

"Because I was featured in one of these streams while I was at the monster nest's raid."

"Oh? Do you know the journalist that streamed you? You'll get a decent amount of exposure if your journalist has a decent viewership."

"Yes, someone named Luna Flores. Apparently, she's a popular journalist."

"I have heard her name before. She appeared shortly after I retired as an Adventurer."

"How often do you appear in streams?" Leo suddenly asked.

"Pretty much every time I go on a mission," she calmly responded.

"Every time?!" Leo was baffled to hear this.

"I appreciated it at first since I gained a lot of exposure from it, but it eventually became a bother, especially after I reached S-Rank. Well, once you become an S-Rank, you'll be followed everywhere you go, especially in the Wilderness."

After spending some time with Camille, Leo left the infirmary and returned to his room, where he would take a long bath and even a nap.

When he woke up, it was already getting dark outside.

After washing his face and getting dressed, Leo left the academy to meet with Khrome and the others at Stellar Manor, where multiple luxurious restaurants were located.

Once they were all seated inside a restaurant, Khrome said, "Dinner's on Leon since he earned the most!"

"Eh?" Leo looked at him with wide eyes.

"What? Don't tell me you're not going to treat your seniors to a meal after having such a big payout?" Khrome narrowed his eyes.

"I didn't say that. In fact, I was going to suggest that even if you didn't say anything."

"Are you sure about that?" Khrome smiled.

"Of course. I owe you for training me, after all. But please go easy on me. I'm actually quite broke when it comes to having actual money."

"You haven't sold your mana cores yet? I sold them to the Adventurers' Guild the moment I got them." Lydia said.

"No... I have other uses for them."

"Hm? Do you plan on using them for crafting? With a few hundred A-Grade mana cores, you can make a decent B-Grade magic artifact."

"Huh? Only B-Grade? Even though the mana cores are A-Grade?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"Judging by your response, you've never crafted before, huh?" Trent said, and he continued, "A tremendous amount of mana is required to create magic artifacts. Most mana cores under B-Grade are used for potions while A-Grade mana cores and above are used for magic artifacts. In order to craft a single A-Grade magic artifact, you'll need thousands of A-Grade mana cores."

'Yet I am able to craft an S-Grade magic artifact with a single elite monster's mana core? No wonder why they're so valuable.' Leo thought to himself.

"Hey, Leon, do you have any plans now that the raid is over? If you've got nothing else to do, why don't you come with us? We're going to do more missions after a few days' break." Khrome suddenly asked him.

"Sorry, but I will be busy for a while." He shook his head.

"Alright. Then if you ever need a party, call me. I will give you my phone number so you don't need to contact the Saintess to contact me." Khrome handed his phone number to Leo a moment later.

"I will also give you mine. Call me if you need a healer." Lydia also gave her phone number to him.

"I don't mind being your mana core collector again." Trent chuckled as he handed his phone number as well.

The food arrived a few minutes later, and spending an hour eating their food and chatting, Leo received his bill.

'Holy shit! 5,000 dollars?! What the hell did they eat?!' He cried inwardly when he saw the bill. Although 5,000 dollars was akin to a drop in the ocean compared to his total

wealth at the moment, it was still mind boggling to see that he'd spent so much money on a single meal for 4 people.

"See you later, Leon. It was nice meeting you." Lydia said to him before leaving.

"Stay safe." Trent added.

"Until next time, pipsqueak." Khrome waved at him.

"See ya." Leo waved back.

Once they were gone, he made his way back to the academy.

Chapter 235: Transfer Student

"Hey, Leo, I want you to attend class tomorrow." Eve said to him when he returned home.

"Sure. How long do I have to stay?" He asked.

"Just until homeroom is over."

"Huh? That's it? Is there something special going on during homeroom?"

"You'll find out tomorrow." Eve said with a mysterious smile on his face.

"Good night then."

Eve left him alone before he could even ask any questions.

"I wonder what's going to happen tomorrow. It's probably a briefing about the Labyrinth Examination." He mumbled out loud.

Leo went to sleep shortly after.

The following morning, Leo went to the auditorium for breakfast before going to his class, and just as he'd expected, every student in his class was present.

'They were probably told to attend homeroom today as well.' Leo thought to himself as he walked to his seat.

After sitting down, Leo proceeded to wait for their homeroom teacher to show up.

About ten minutes later, their homeroom teacher Ethel walked into their classroom with a nervous look on his face, looking as though he was on the verge of a mental breakdown.

This left the students confused, but nobody said a thing.

"First and foremost, I appreciate all of you showing up today on such short notice. We normally don't do this, but this is a special occasion." Ethel said to them after taking a deep breath.

"I know we've just had a transfer student, but we have another one today, and this person came from a different school." Ethel's gaze fell on Leo as he said this.

'A transfer student?' Leo and many students in the classroom raised their eyebrows upon hearing this.

And before they could even ask any questions, Ethel continued, "Let's welcome your new classmate. Enter!"

The door opened, and three figures walked into the room.

The first figure was a tall beauty with fiery red hair— it was Eve, their Headmistress. The second person to enter the room was a petite young lady with a doll-like face and silky black hair that flowed to her knees.

When Leo and the students saw this petite girl, their eyes widened with shock, some with intense fear.

'Lia! She's the transfer student?!' Leo cried inwardly.

Indeed, Lia Scarlet had decided to transfer to the Four Witches Academy, leaving her school that was managed by her own family.

Unbeknownst to Leo, Lia started her preparations immediately after the tournament.

The third person to enter the room was a young woman wearing a maid outfit. She had short golden hair and emerald eyes, and her face was similar to that of Lia's in the sense that it was void of all emotions, almost like a doll.

"Is that her new servant? She seems crazier than the last one." Lilith mumbled out loud.

Sometime later, Lia stood in front of the class while her maid stood behind her.

Eve then spoke, "I don't think any introduction is needed for her, but in case you don't already know her, this is Lia Scarlet. She's the youngest daughter of the Scarlet Family. The one behind her is..."

Eve turned to look at the maid with a signaling gaze.

"I am Lady Scarlet's personal servant, Seven. My only purpose here is to satisfy the Lady's every need and protect her from all harm, so do not bother trying to form a relationship with me and act like I do not even exist."

'Seven? What an odd name.' Leo thought to himself.

After Seven's cold introduction, Eve said to Lia, "Do you have anything to say to your new classmates?"

Lia, who had been staring at Leo since the moment she found him, spoke without looking away, "Now we can be together even more often."

"..."

The already quiet classroom somehow became even more silent. The students recalled Leo and Lia's kiss on the stage during the tournament. There was already a rumor going around that called them a couple, and Lia's decision to transfer to their academy only solidified that rumor.

Leo felt like facepalming, but he resisted his urges.

Meanwhile, Seven glared at him with a cold gaze.

"You haven't done anything yet and you're already hated by her new servant. You must have a talent for pissing off servants." Lilith chuckled.

Once the introduction ended, Eve said to them, "The Labyrinth Examination will begin in four days. If you haven't already registered your team, you have three more days to do so. That's all."

"If you need help, you can bother Leo. If he cannot help you, he'll come to me."

"Okay." She calmly nodded.

Once Eve left the room, Ethel said to the students, "You may leave now if you wish."

However, nobody moved from their seats, and their gaze were all on Lia, who was walking to sit beside Leo.

"You... Isn't it a bad look for your own family to transfer out of your own academy?" Leo asked her once she sat down beside him.

"It's fine. I received Father's approval," she calmly said.

"But why would you even do such a thing in the first place?"

"Why not?" She rebuked, leaving him speechless.

He sighed a moment later and said, "Whatever. Just don't cause any trouble while you're here. I heard about how you treat the students in your school. You absolutely must not harm the students here just because they look at you wrong, okay?"

The other students swallowed nervously after they heard Leo's words, as that was what they all feared the most— Lia's tyrannical behavior that left many students injured and even some dead.

"Who are you to make such demands for Lady Scarlet? Only the Masters of the Scarlet Family may give her orders." Seven suddenly spoke out loud in a cold voice.

When Leo turned to look at her, there was an indifferent expression on her face.

Without saying anything to her, Leo turned to look at Lia again and said, "Are all of the servants in the Scarlet Family this unpleasant?"

The atmosphere in the room instantly turned ice-cold when Seven heard Leo's words.

Chapter 236: Transfer Student(2)

Leo shivered when he felt the temperature in the room suddenly dropped, and it wasn't just a metaphor. The temperature literally dropped, and the students could even see mist coming out of their mouth and nose when they breathed.

'This is... Ice magic?' Leo thought to himself.

"Seven." Lia's nonchalant voice suddenly resounded.

The temperature in the room immediately stopped dropping, but it didn't instantly return to normal either, and the cold continued to linger in the room.

"My apologies, Lady Scarlet." Seven said with her head slightly lowered.

"I will forgive you since you are new and you don't know Leo, but he is very important to me. You are to respect him the same way you respect me."

Seven's eyebrows twitched upon hearing Lia's words, but she didn't utter a single complaint.

"I understand."

Seven turned to look at Leo and lowered her head slightly, "I apologize for my rudeness just now."

"No problem..." Leo was a little taken aback by Seven's obedience and self-control.

"I'm amazed." Lilith suddenly said. "Compared to that old man, this new servant is definitely more tolerable. However, don't be fooled by her, Leo. She's even more dangerous than that old man in terms of strength. I dare say she might even be as strong as an S-Rank Adventurer."

'S-Rank...' Leo swallowed nervously.

Lia then said, "Don't worry, I won't harm any students here if they don't deserve it."

"Lady Scarlet won't need to lift a finger because I will take care of them for her." Seven then said.

"..."

"Whatever, I'm going to train." Leo stood up and proceeded to leave the classroom.

Naturally, Lia followed him without any questions.

"Your Ex is really something else, Valery. To think he'd go for the Scarlet Princess and succeed." Jennifer nudged her after Leo and Lia left the room.

Seeing the frown on her face, Kevin chuckled, "He has not only returned from the dead but he can even use magic now. Do you regret moving on so quickly now?"

"Kevin. Are you provoking me?" John said with a cold look on his face.

"I'm just saying. Everybody was shocked at how quickly she moved on." Kevin shrugged.

"I do not regret anything. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to prepare for the Labyrinth Examination." Valery said in a low voice before making her way to the exit.

John didn't say anything and followed her.

"She's definitely feeling some sort of regret." Kevin said.

"Obviously, but why are you reminding her of that?" Jennifer sighed.

"The hell are you talking about? You started it!"

The two of them started arguing with each other.

"That Leo... I really hope he dies in the Ancient Labyrinth." Erik sneered with a cold look on his face.

Conan, who was sitting beside him, merely shook his head in silence.

After leaving the classroom, Leo made his way to Eve's living quarters.

"Why are you following me?" Leo asked her.

"To spend more time with you," she calmly said.

Leo's body shivered upon hearing her cringy words, and he wondered how she could say such words without feeling any shame.

"I'm just going to be training."

"I will train with you."

Leo pondered about her offer. Since Lia is now the second strongest student in the academy, she would make for a good training partner for him, and since she is aware of his true identity, he won't need to hold back on her.

Sometime later, they arrived at the training room.

Once they entered the room, Leo turned to look at Seven and asked her, "Do you mind waiting outside while we train? I don't want to be watched because I won't be able to focus."

Since he didn't trust her, he didn't want to risk revealing any secrets to her.

"I refuse. It is my job to watch over Lady Scarlet. I will not let her out of my sight, especially around someone like—"

"Seven, you are dismissed for now." Lia suddenly interrupted, halting Seven's words.

"But Lady Scarlet... What if he does something weird to you while I am not watching? The Masters would be furious..."

"Leo can do whatever he wants to me— he has the right to." Lia said with a nonchalant look on her face.

Seven's emotionless expression finally broke apart after she heard Lia's baffling words.

Although she's never worked under Lia before, Seven has heard and been taught many things about Lia. She learned that Lia was someone who was ruthless and unforgiving. She heard that Lia was the type to kill someone just for looking at her wrong. However, the Lia before her at this moment was nothing like the rumors and what she was taught by the Scarlet Family, and she wasn't sure how to react to it.

In the end, Seven decided to do what she was taught— to listen to Lia's orders without question unless she was in obvious or imminent danger.

Thus, Seven left the training room in a reluctant manner. However, she would not completely leave. Instead, she would guard the door outside until their training was done.

"What happened to your old butler?" Leo couldn't help but ask Lia.

"After his punishment ended, he was sent back to the main family to be trained from scratch." She said.

"Isn't he too old for that? Why doesn't he just retire?"

"That was Edwin's own desire. I won't question it."

"Fair enough." Leo said.

"Anyways, I am going to practice with my sword first."

He proceeded to pull out the Vampire Vanquisher.

Lia's body trembled slightly at the sight of the Vampire Vanquisher. Perhaps it was due to her Scarlet Eyes that was related to vampires, but she felt instinctive fear towards the ominous-looking sword.

Fortunately, that feeling of fear lasted for only a moment, and once it was gone, she took out her dagger and proceeded to spar with Leo without using any magic.

Leo would lose most of their matches simply because he still couldn't control the sword, not to mention he wasn't strong enough to wield it properly, and Lia would overwhelm him with sheer speed.

Chapter 237: Transfer Student(3)

After losing multiple times to Lia in a row, Leo finally achieved his first victory against her when he managed to master the movements.

Even though he had a passive skill that granted him incredible mastery over a certain sword technique, there was just something special about the Vampire Vanquisher that required him to actually practice with it.

However, even though he'd managed to defeat Lia, it was a bittersweet victory due to Lia running out of stamina.

After taking a short break, they consumed an energy potion before they continued their training, using magic this time around.

The training building would shake every few seconds with the two of them bombarding each other with powerful magic spells that would, without doubt, demolish the regular training buildings.

At the end of the day, Lia still won the majority of fights due to mistakes and bad decisions from Leo's part.

"It appears that I only defeated you out of luck during the tournament." Leo sighed out loud at the end of their training.

"That's not true. I can tell that you're still holding back some strength, and you're only using fire magic for some reason."

"I can only use fire magic when I am 'Leo', after all. As for holding back... I admit that I am not going all out, but that's only because I don't want your servant to see you in a messy state, as she would definitely start complaining and threatening me for hurting you."

"You shouldn't pay so much attention to her. If she tries anything, I will stop her."

Leo nodded, "Fine. I will start going all out tomorrow."

They left the training room shortly after, and they were immediately greeted by Seven the moment they stepped outside.

"Is everything okay, Lady Scarlet?" Seven asked her.

"Yes." She calmly nodded.

"Then I will see you tomorrow. I start training after breakfast if you're wondering when you should show up." Leo said to her before making his way towards Eve's living quarters.

However, he stopped walking when he noticed Lia following him.

"You're still following me? Don't you have your own living quarters?" Leo asked her with raised eyebrows.

"It's fine, Leo. She'll be staying with us."

A voice that wasn't Lia suddenly resounded, and it came from the direction of his living quarters.

When he turned to look at the building, he could see half of Eve's body popping out of the window from her room, and she was wrapped in a white towel, suggesting that she had just gotten out of the shower.

"You mean she's living with us?" Leo asked for clarification.

"Yes. She insisted on living near you, and as you already know, there isn't any residence near this place, so I decided to let her stay with us. There are plenty of available rooms, anyway." Eve said.

Leo didn't say anything else and entered the building.

Sometime later, Leo arrived at his room, and to nobody's surprise, Lia had chosen to live in the room that was right beside his room.

After taking a hot bath, Leo went to the dining room to eat dinner. While he ate high-quality MRE, Lia sat beside him and ate the food that was prepared by Seven.

"Leo, you haven't registered any team for the Ancient Labyrinth as far as I'm aware. Do you plan on soloing it? I know you're strong, but I don't recommend it. The Ancient Labyrinth is a dangerous place. More students have perished inside than the Wilderness Training Course— three times as many." Eve said to him after dinner.

"Three times...? Why is the school even allowing such a dangerous event to take place? I understand that training must be done, but there are other options— far less dangerous ones."

"I guess it's something like a tradition now. Even though it's dangerous, the vast majority of students still decide to participate. Of course, this means that it's not mandatory to participate in the Labyrinth Examination, unlike the Wilderness Training Course, the main reason being that teachers won't be allowed inside, so we cannot save you."

"If it's not mandatory, why do students still risk their lives? For the grades? I doubt they're doing it merely for tradition."

"Grades are one reason that students participate. However, what incentivizes them the most is definitely the fame one could gain from this. Unlike the tournament and the Wilderness Training Course, the Labyrinth Examination is an extremely important event that essentially determines many of the students' futures." Eve said.

"Let me explain. The deeper you delve in the Ancient Labyrinth, the more attention you'll receive from the media, and this is international media that I am talking about. If you receive a good result, powerful Guilds and Families from all over the world will flock to recruit you, and some of them might even fight for you."

"Sounds like something I don't want to deal with..." Leo said with raised eyebrows.

He was already fed up from being recruited by the Four Celestial Families. He cannot imagine having to go through that experience again.

"You might not care about it, but the majority of students do. Even members of the Four Celestial Families aren't an exception." Eve said.

After a brief moment, she continued, "Except for Lia Scarlet, of course."

"I guess..."

Leo and the others retired to their rooms shortly after.

"Looks like you won't be able to avoid the Scarlet Family as much as you'd hoped. At this rate, you'll be part of the Scarlet Family within another half a year." Lilith chuckled, throwing some jabs at him back in their room.

"Yeah, right. That won't happen." Leo was quite dismissive of it.

"We shall see..." Lilith smiled.

The following day, Leo began practicing his swordsmanship shortly after arriving in the training building.

Lia showed up a few minutes later and started training with him.

However, half an hour into their training, someone else showed up.

A red-haired beauty wearing the school uniform approached Seven, who was guarding the door.

'This is Lia Scarlet's servant... What is she doing here?' Helia wondered to herself as she stopped before Seven and spoke, "Excuse me, I'd like to pass."

Chapter 238: Preparing for the Ancient Labyrinth

"Excuse me, I'd like to pass." Helia spoke as she stood before the tall Seven.

"What purpose do you have here?" Seven asked her with a nonchalant expression on her face.

"I'm here for Leo."

"He is currently busy with Lady Scarlet. Come back at another time."

"Sorry, but I do not have much time to spare. I want to speak with him now." Helia refused to budge.

"Unfortunately, that will not happen." Seven said, her expression turning colder by the second.

Because she was essentially forced to wait outside by Lia, Seven was subconsciously acting petty by doing the same thing to Helia.

"Get out of my way. I will not repeat myself." Helia's expression also turned cold, and the atmosphere around them changed drastically.

"The only ones that can command me are the Scarlet Family and Lady Scarlet. If you want me to move, you'll have to force me."

"Then don't blame me for being rude." Helia suddenly raised her arm and pointed her palm at Seven.

'Flame Burst!'

Boom!

A powerful flame exploded out of Helia's palm, consuming Seven's figure.

However, Helia could feel a sudden cold breeze caress her body, and she subconsciously reacted by jumping backward.

The next moment, spikes made of ice emerged from the ground where Helia had just been standing.

Once the flames from the explosion settled, Seven's figure was revealed again, and she was still standing before the door like a guard, seemingly unaffected by Helia's attack.

'This servant... She's stronger than she appears.' Helia could tell at glance that Seven was a formidable opponent—one that even she might not be able to defeat.

"Since you attacked first, what I do next can only be called self-defense..." Seven spoke in a low voice, and her jewel-like emerald eyes began changing colors and glowed a light blue color, one that resembled the color of ice.

Furthermore, the ground around her quickly became frozen in ice.

However, before she could do anything, the door behind her opened, and Leo's voice resounded, "What are you doing?"

Seven turned around to see Leo and Lia standing behind her.

'How did they...?' Seven wondered how they noticed the commotion outside even though nothing had really happened yet.

Unbeknownst to her, there was a ghost-like spirit that could go through walls and see things, and this ghost noticed the situation outside and reported it to Leo.

"Helia? What are you doing here?" Leo ignored Seven and focused on Helia.

"I... I thought you needed a sparring partner, so I came here... But from the looks of it, you already have one..." Helia spoke as she looked at Lia.

"Lady Scarlet... She attacked me first, so this is self-defense." Seven explained their situation before Lia could even question her.

"That's because she refused to let me see Leo, and she even provoked me to force her to move out of the way." Helia sneered.

"Let's just say that both of you are at fault..." Leo sighed.

He looked at Helia and asked, "Did you come here just to spar with me?"

"Not exactly. I was hoping to join your team for the Labyrinth Examination. You're in one, right? The both of you."

Leo and Lia exchanged looks with each other.

"Actually, we're not in a team..." Leo said after a moment of awkward silence.

"Wait... Seriously? We only have 2 days left to register, you know? Or do you really intend on challenging the Ancient Labyrinth by yourself? That's reckless even for someone of your prowess."

"Do you plan on forming a team?" She then asked.

"I don't know. What about you? Why aren't you in a team yet?" Leo asked her.

"I don't have one yet..." She said in a somewhat shameful manner.

"What happened to the students you teamed with during the Wilderness Training Course?"

"The Labyrinth Examination is nothing like the Wilderness Training Course. I cannot fool around for such an important event. My future depends on it, after all." Helia said.

"Fool around? You were fooling around during the Wilderness Training Course?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"Not literally fooling around. It's more like I wasn't taking it seriously, hence why I had a weak team. I could afford getting a lower grade for the Wilderness Training Course, but I cannot do so for the Labyrinth Examination, and this year, I want to team up with you, the strongest student— students in our academy. With the three of us working together, I have confidence that we would be able to reach at least 20 floors, perhaps even 30 floors."

After a moment of silence because Leo didn't know how to respond, Helia continued, "Please... The result of this examination is very important to me... I refused every other offer because I wanted to be in your team. I know I am being unreasonable, even a little reckless, but I have no other choice."

"Uhh... Can you give us a moment to talk about it first?" Leo asked.

"Of course. Take as long as you need— at least before the registration ends."

Leo went back inside the training building with Lia and closed the door, giving them some privacy.

"What do you think? Do you want to team up with Helia for the Labyrinth Examination?"

"I will do whatever you decide to do. If you decide to team up with her, I won't refuse."

"Are you sure? You don't have to force yourself, you know."

"It's fine, really. I don't mind it."

Once they— Leo came to a decision, they went back outside to let Helia know of the results.

"I don't mind forming a team with you, but I have one condition." Leo said.

"I will do anything as long as it's within my power."

"While we are inside the Ancient Labyrinth, if I ask you to stay behind, you will do exactly that, no questions asked." Leo said.

"That's it...?" Helia was baffled by how simple his condition was, not could she understand the reason behind it.

Chapter 239: A Fourth Member

"Are you sure that's all there is to your condition?" Helia asked for confirmation.

"Yes." Leo calmly nodded.

"Okay, I have no problem agreeing to it."

"Good. Then let's train together. The more the merrier, after all."

Thus, Helia joined Leo and Lia in their training section.

When Eve returned home later that day, Leo told her about his team.

"Helia Barnett and Lia Scarlet, huh? This is possibly the strongest team ever created since my team when I was still a mere student in this academy." Eve spoke with a nostalgic smile on her face.

Helia Barnett by herself is already a genius that comes around only once in a hundred years, then there's Lia Scarlet, a true magic prodigy that appears once in a thousand years. As for Leo, he was a special entity that might never appear in this world ever again.

With a powerful team like this, it was almost a guarantee for them to dominate the Ancient Labyrinth.

"Leo, with such a powerful team, if your result is any less than mine, I will beat you up." Eve said to him with a half joking and half serious smile on her face.

"What was your result?" He asked.

"37 floors," she calmly said.

"Wow, that's pretty impressive, especially when you're still just students. The furthest anyone ever got was 52 floors, right?"

"That's right, and that was achieved about 50 years later, when I returned as an experienced adult."

"50 later..." Leo swallowed nervously.

"Has anybody tried to clear the Ancient Labyrinth since?" He continued to ask.

"No, but there has been talks about it recently. Perhaps a new team will be sent down there in a few years."

"I see... By the way, I don't think this was ever mentioned, but how long do we get for the Labyrinth Examination? Is it like the Wilderness Training Course? A month?"

"No, you will have 60 days to clear as many floors as you can."

"So two months, huh? I will need to restock my inventory tomorrow."

"Do you intend on adding another person to your team? You can have up to 4 people per team, so you still have room for one more." Eve suddenly asked him.

"Well... I don't know anyone else." Leo shrugged.

And he continued, "If Helia didn't come to us, I would've probably just entered with Lia."

"I suggest you find someone who can use light magic. The difference between a team with a healer and a team without is like heaven and earth. However, at this point, I highly doubt anyone that can use light magic is still available, since they're incredibly valuable and almost always taken even months before the Labyrinth Examination."

"Then that settles it, I guess. We're going to be a three-man team."

"Four if you count me." Lilith said.

"Actually, I have a recommendation— a very talented student who might fit in quite well in your team." Eve suddenly said.

"If this student is very talented, why isn't this person already in a team?"

"There are a couple of reasons, but one of them is because she's a timid one, and she doesn't like fighting. However, the biggest reason is definitely because she has an intense fear for monsters, hence why she always refuses to do anything."

Leo raised an eyebrow after hearing this information, and he said, "Sounds like this student won't even participate in the Labyrinth Examination, so what's the point of introducing her to me?"

"We won't know until we ask her." A mysterious smile appeared on Eve's face.

"I'll set up a meeting first thing tomorrow morning."

"I guess."

The following morning, Eve made a phone call that lasted about five minutes.

"So, what do you think?" Eve asked the person on the other side of the phone.

"I will meet him." A gentle voice filled with resolution resounded through the phone.

A bright smile appeared on Eve's face, and she spoke, "We'll see you in an hour."

After hanging up, Eve met up with Leo.

"The meeting's been scheduled. We'll meet her in the 'garden'."

"Sure."

Sometime later, Leo and Eve walked to the 'garden', which is also known as the Witches' Garden, a hotspot amongst female students due to the flowery environment and the sweet scent.

"This place is more amazing than the one in my head." Leo mumbled out loud.

There was also a Witches' Garden in his old world, but it had a different name, and it wasn't as lively.

After navigating the garden that was also a slight maze, Leo and Eve approached a small pavilion that was surrounded by flowers, and sitting under this pavilion was a beautiful young girl with silky light golden hair that flowed down her back, and near the end of her hair was tied by a red ribbon.

Leo's eyes widened with surprise after seeing this person.

"Is that...?" He mumbled in a dazed voice.

"You know her?" Eve asked him as they approached her.

"Not personally." He shook his head.

Once they reached the steps, the female student turned to look at them, revealing her angel-like face and golden eyes that flickered with excitement.

She stood up and greeted them with a bow, "Good morning, Headmistress, and... L-Leo."

Leo's eyebrows raised slightly.

"Hello, Celeste Light." Eve returned her greetings.

'Celeste Light...' Leo mumbled inwardly.

Celeste Light was the most popular girl in his old world because of her angelic features and kind nature. However, unlike his old world, Celeste had a different last name in this world.

'She's from the Light Family in this world? Is she Miss Camille's younger sister or something?' Leo wondered inwardly.

"Please, sit down." Celeste gracefully showed them their seats.

After sitting down, Eve nudged Leo and said to him, "Introduce yourself."

"Oh, right. Hey, I'm Leo Magnus."

"Hello..." Celeste responded without eye contact, and it looked like she was avoiding him on purpose.

'I heard that she wasn't good with men. Looks like the rumor was true.' Leo thought to himself.

Chapter 240: Celeste Light

"I must ask, how are you related to Miss Camille?" Leo suddenly asked Celeste.

"Sister Camille... She's my cousin." Celeste said, still trying her best to avoid eye contact, but she would glance at him every few seconds, almost like a bashful child meeting her parents' friend for the first time.

"I see..."

"Now that your introductions are over, let's talk about the reason for our meeting today. Leo, I will let you do the honors." Eve suddenly spoke.

"Really? You were the one who came up with this idea."

"And you're the leader of the team."

Leo raised an eyebrow.

"Am I? Either Helia or Lia seems more fitting to be the leader than me, though."

"You can always learn." Eve smiled at him.

Leo released a quick sigh before turning to look at Celeste, who quickly avoided eye contact again.

"Umm... Can I call you Celeste?"

"Y-Yes!" She immediately responded.

Even though it seemed like she subconsciously answered out of surprise, her voice lacked hesitation.

"Then Celeste, I would like you to join our team for the —"

"Yes! It will be my pleasure!" Celeste responded before Leo could even finish his sentence.

Leo stopped talking to stare at the weird golden haired girl before him with a questioning gaze.

"Uhh... You should calm down. I will void your answer and ask you again."

Celeste nodded her head in an awkward silence. "Then... Would you be willing to join my team for the Labyrinth Examination? We could use a healer like you." Leo asked her again.

"..."

With her head lowered, Celeste silently nodded her head.

"Seriously?" Leo couldn't believe how easy it was to convince her to join their team.

"Seriously?" Even Lilith couldn't believe how smoothly it went.

Leo turned to look at Eve, who was just as surprised as him, and asked, "I thought you said she was not comfortable with monsters and fighting."

"That's what I thought as well." She responded in a mumbling voice.

In fact, she had almost no expectations for this meeting.

"Are you sure about this, Celeste? Perhaps you didn't hear correctly because you're nervous, but—"

"I heard him properly, Headmistress. The Ancient Labyrinth, correct? I am willing to team up with L... Leo." Celeste stuttered towards the end.

"Wow, I am truly surprised, Celeste. You haven't participated in the Wilderness Training Course or the tournament since you joined the academy, but you're willing to enter the Ancient Labyrinth that is filled with monsters? Why the sudden change of heart?" Eve asked her.

Celeste's eyes glanced at Leo for a split second, and she spoke in a low voice, "I know an opportunity when I see one."

Eve raised an eyebrow, "An opportunity for what?"

"That is... I apologize, Headmistress, but I don't have the courage to say it right now."

"No worries." Eve smiled, and she continued a moment later, "Well then, since we've already come to an agreement, we will see you at the Ancient Labyrinth in two days."

"Good day, Headmistress, and Leo..." Celeste bowed to them before disappearing from the garden.

Leo and Eve remain seated under the pavilion even after Celeste's figure could no longer be seen.

"Well, that went much easier than I thought it was going to. Are you sure she's scared of monsters?" Leo looked at Eve.

"I'm not sure what happened to her, but there's something different about her today. Are YOU sure you don't have any prior relationship with her?" Eve said.

"This is my first time seeing her in this world. Even in my old world, I've only seen her figure from afar. We both lived in two vastly different worlds, after all."

"Perhaps the old Leo had a relationship with her. Who knows." He shrugged.

"Anyways, I need to go shopping now. I have been running low on supplies since the monster nest's raid."

"Who will you be going as?" Eve asked him.

"Leo. Will that be a problem?"

"No, it shouldn't be, but you should still be careful. You're the most hated man in the city, after all."

"Thank you for reminding me."

Leo left the academy shortly after.

Meanwhile, after leaving the garden, Celeste returned to her room.

Once she was inside her room, she opened her closet and retrieved several sets of school uniforms before placing them on her bed, almost as though she was replacing her bedsheets with them. However, these weren't her school uniforms. In fact, these uniforms weren't even made for women.

Then, she laid her body on the bed while burrowing her face into the uniforms.

She took a long and deep breath, and a sense of euphoria spread throughout every inch of her body.

Once her senses were satisfied, Celeste released her breath, breathing all over the uniforms.

"It's not the same..." She mumbled in a low voice.

"No... these are no longer enough... It's not strong enough... Compared to the real one..." She released a somewhat dispirited sigh.

Celeste would proceed to spend the rest of the day sleeping on her bed and surrounded by these uniforms.

Outside the academy, Leo took a taxi to the Adventurers Guild.

"What are you doing here?" Lilith asked him.

"I need money and I have mana cores, so I am going to sell some of them to the Adventurers' Guild."

"Shouldn't you have gone as Leon if that was the case?"

"I'm just going to sell some mana cores. I don't need to be an Adventurer to do so." Leo shrugged.

After a moment of silence, he mumbled, "Wait... The previous Leo was a B-Rank Adventurer, right? If that's the case, I am also a B-Rank Adventurer."

A slight smile appeared on his face, "It appears that I can still be an Adventurer even when I am not Leon."

He entered the Adventurers' Guild sometime later, and he walked straight to the counter.

"Hello, I am here to sell some mana cores. A-Grade mana cores." He said to the receptionist with a smile on his face.