

Magic System in a Parallel World

Chapter 74: Lia Scarlet |

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Edwin knocked on their door about two hours after sundown.

"Young Lady, is the young Adventurer still alive?" he asked her from outside.

"You're so annoying! I am still alive!" Leo responded to him this time.

"..."

"I see... What about the Young Lady's condition?" Edwin spoke a few moments later, clearly surprised to hear Leo's voice.

"I am fine." Lia replied.

"Please excuse me. I am coming inside for a moment for a quick inspection."

Edwin opened the door and entered the room shortly after.

He then walked to the bed and quickly looked at Lia to make sure there were no injuries on her body.

After seeing that she was unharmed, Edwin turned to look at Leo with a profound expression.

"You don't seem harmed either, and the Young Lady's bloodlust ended much quicker than usual. To be completely honest, I wasn't supposed to check up on her for another three hours, but I really wanted to see the situation. How did you do it?" Edwin asked Leo.

"Sorry, but I don't have any intention of telling you." Leo calmly responded.

Edwin narrowed his eyes at him, but he didn't say or do anything.

After a moment of silence, Edwin turned to look at Lia with a puzzled expression on his face.

'The Young Lady isn't saying anything, either?'

"By the way, my body is all sweaty from all that exercise. Can I leave to take a quick shower?" Leo suddenly asked.

"There's a bathroom here. You are not allowed to leave this room until the end of your mission." Edwin said.

"You want me to clean myself in a bathroom that's filled with blood? I'll come out even dirtier than before I went inside!"

"That is none of my concern—"

"Let him." Lia suddenly said.

"E-Excuse me?" Edwin turned to look at her again, his eyes slightly widened.

"I will not repeat myself." Lia said in a nonchalant voice, yet it sounded very authoritative and threatening.

"Yes, Young Lady."

Edwin then looked at Leo and said, "There's a bathroom in the room right next to this one. You have half an hour to get yourself cleaned up."

"Thanks." Leo didn't linger in the room for even a second longer and rushed to take a hot shower.

"Is everything okay, Young Lady? He didn't do anything weird to you, right?" Edwin asked Lia once they were alone.

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"What are you trying to say, Edwin?" Even though her face showed no changes, after working for her for 18 years, Edwin could tell that she just got a little annoyed by his question.

"I apologize, Young Lady. Please ignore my random rambling. I am truly getting old."

"You may leave," she then said.

"I understand." Edwin bowed to her before leaving the room and shutting the door.

However, he didn't leave completely, as he had to make sure that Leo wouldn't run away.

Sometime later, Leo came outside the room with a refreshed look on his face.

"It's been 35 minutes. You're 5 minutes late." Edwin said the moment he saw Leo.

"Cut me some slack. You're using me as a sacrifice. I might even die soon. The least you can do is let me relax a little before I die." Leo said in a sarcastic voice.

Edwin's eyebrows twitched a little after hearing Leo's words.

"You're getting a little too comfortable, young man. Don't forget your place. As long as you're within the Scarlet Household, you're at our mercy. If I want you to die, nobody can save you." Edwin spoke with a hint of killing intent within his gaze.

Just by his aura alone, even a novice like Leo could tell that Edwin was stronger than Lia. However, he was not scared of Edwin, and the reason was simple.

"Kill me? You'll need permission from your Young Lady first." Leo sneered.

The killing intent within Edwin's eyes intensified after Leo used Lia's presence to threaten him.

"I'm going back to the Young Lady now. She's probably getting lonely without me." Leo turned around and walked towards the metal doors.

"I swear, if you do anything weird to the Young Lady, I will not only take care of you but everyone you hold dear." Edwin spoke in a low but cold voice.

Leo stopped in front of the metal door, and he spoke a moment later, "How fortunate for me then. I don't have anyone like that in this world."

He opened the metal door and entered the room afterward.

However, when he went inside the room, Leo couldn't see Lia's figure anywhere.

'Is she in the bathroom?' he wondered to himself as he took a seat on the bed.

"That old man is most likely an A-Rank Adventurer or has the strength of one. Why are you picking a fight with him?" Lilith suddenly asked him.

"Does it look like I am picking a fight with him?"

She nodded.

"I'm not doing it on purpose. I just don't like him. It feels like he cannot wait until I am dead, and my survival somehow irritates him." Leo shrugged.

"Maybe he thinks you're doing something weird to his young lady? After all, a young maiden and a young man staying inside an enclosed room could only mean one thing." Lilith chuckled.

"You mean it can only mean one thing inside your perverted head?" Leo frowned.

"I mean, your playboy-like face doesn't help with your situation at all."

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"This is a face that Miss Camille had picked for me!"

"So what? That's not how others see you." Lilith shrugged.

"Damn it... I should've asked Miss Camille to change my face before I became an Adventurer..." he sighed.

"It's too late to change now. You're already in the Guildmaster's crosshair, not to mention the Scarlet Family."

"I know that..."

Sometime later, the door to the bathroom opened, and Lia walked out with her body dripping wet with red water. However, the most shocking part of her appearance was the fact that she was completely naked as of this moment. There was a towel on her head, but it didn't block her most important areas.

"Y-You! Why did you walk out like that?! At least wrap the towel around your body!" Leo immediately turned around when he saw her appearance. Of course, he still saw everything.

"I don't mind being seen by you," she said in a calm voice.

"Wow, she's very bold. Is she really that innocent, or is she just teasing you? Even I cannot tell what's on her mind." Lilith chuckled when she saw the situation.

Sometime later, Lia finished drying her body and wore her one-piece dress again.

"It's getting late. Let's go to sleep." Lia said to him as she entered the bed.

Leo grabbed one of the pillows on the bed and placed it on the floor beside the door.

"What are you doing?" Lia asked after seeing his actions.

"What else? It's not like I can sleep on the same bed as you."

"It's fine. I don't mind sharing the bed with you. There's plenty of room too."

'Is she doing this on purpose...?' Leo couldn't help but wonder inwardly.

He was hesitant to sleep on the bed not because Lia was a beautiful girl and he was a healthy young man. He was simply afraid of the risks. After all, he wouldn't have any time to react if she suddenly decided to slit his throat while he slept.

"Are you worried that I might hurt you in your sleep? Don't worry, I won't do such a thing, and I have already decided to never point my weapons at you."

"It's not that I don't trust you, but what if you suddenly lose control? You won't be able to stop yourself if that happens." Leo said.

"You worry too much. I only lose control once a day. I don't have to worry about it until tomorrow," she said.

"Just go sleep with her, Leo. You don't get to share a bed with such a beauty very often. I'll keep watch to make sure nothing happens to you." Lilith said to him with a smile on her face.

Leo sighed.

"Alright, I'll sleep on the bed."

Leo entered the bed shortly after, but he made sure to sleep near the edge of the bed.

Lia stared at him with a nonchalant look on her face from the center of the bed.

"Goodnight," he ignored her gaze and closed his eyes.

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"Goodnight," she responded.

Despite his situation, Leo actually fell asleep very quickly. Using Mana Drain for the entire day had really drained him of his energy.

As for Lia, she would silently stare at Leo's sleeping face for many minutes before eventually falling asleep as well.

The following morning, Leo woke up to the sensation of something pressing against his chest.

When he opened his eyes and saw Lia sleeping on his chest, his eyes widened with shock.

However, he didn't dare to move.

He then noticed Lilith floating right above him with a smug look on her face.

"She couldn't sleep last night, so she tried using your body as a pillow. It seems to have worked wonders."

And before Leo could say anything, she continued, "By the way, that butler is on his way to this room. He'll be here in a few moments."

"What?! He'll definitely kill me if he sees me like this!"

Leo gritted his teeth and gently rolled Lia off his body, sighing in relief when he saw that she was still sleeping.

He then got off the bed and walked to stand beside the door.

Knock *Knock*

"I have prepared breakfast. Excuse me." Edwin opened the door and entered the room with breakfast.

He immediately noticed Leo, who was standing right beside the door when he opened it.

"She's still sleeping," Leo said, trying to act like he's been awake for a while.

Edwin turned to look at the bed after hearing Leo's words.

He frowned when he saw how Lia was still sound asleep on the bed.

'She's never slept this late before...!' Edwin thought to himself with a small frown on his face.

However, he didn't say anything and still prepared their breakfast nevertheless.

Once everything was set, Edwin looked at Leo and said, "You are not to touch the food until she wakes up, nor are you allowed to disturb her rest."

"What if the food turns cold? Are you okay with letting her eat cold food?" he asked.

Edwin's eyebrows twitched slightly after hearing Leo's words, and he said, "She will wake up very soon. If not, I will just prepare it again."

'So his eyebrow twitches every time he's irritated, huh? That's good to know.' Leo smiled inwardly after understanding Edwin a little more.

Edwin left the room shortly after.

In the end, Lia would not wake up for another two hours, so Edwin had to prepare breakfast again from scratch.

Chapter 75: A Bad Influence

After breakfast, Lia requested for Leo to use Mana Drain on her again.

Leo didn't even bother trying to talk her out of it and treated it as though it was part of his daily routine.

Several minutes later, the two of them would lie on the bed to rest until Lia wanted more.

The two of them would continue this routine until lunch, where they took a short break, then they would continue until it was sundown.

Once Lia felt her body heating up, she warned Leo, who would proceed to drink a high-grade energy potion before using Mana Drain on her.

Leo quickly realized how much easier it was to absorb Lia's mana compared to yesterday, most likely because of his increased Mastery Rank with Mana Drain. With that being said, it was not an easy task to constantly use Mana Drain, and he would still be on the verge of passing out by the end of their session.

Furthermore, his Mana Drain Mastery Rank increased to 'C' towards the end.

"How are you feeling?" Leo asked her after their session.

"I'm fine. My bloodlust is under control," she responded in a calm voice.

"Great. Do you mind if I go clean myself?"

"Go ahead."

"Thanks."

Leo exited the room and went to take a hot bath.

Edwin came to check up on them shortly after Leo left.

"D-Did you finally kill that brat?" Edwin trembled in joy when he couldn't see Leo inside the room when he entered.

"No, he's still alive. He's just cleaning himself in the other room." Lia nonchalantly said.

Edwin's eyes widened with shock after hearing her words.

"You allowed him to leave this room by himself?! What if he ran away?!"

Upon realizing this, Edwin rushed out of the room and went to the other room to see if Leo was actually using the bathroom.

Meanwhile, Leo was enjoying the experience of taking a hot bath inside a luxurious bathroom that was the size of a spa, not to mention the bathtub that was also a jacuzzi.

However, his peace would not last long, as Edwin would suddenly barge into the bathroom without warning.

"Hey! Don't you know how to knock?! What if I had been doing some private business here?! Are you trying to kill me with shame?!" Leo exclaimed.

"You didn't run away...?" Edwin muttered in a dazed voice.

"Why would I run away?" Leo frowned.

"Although I may be a sacrifice, I am enjoying life right now. Not only am I being fed first-class food three times a day, but I even get to be with a beautiful girl like the Young Lady all day long. Of course, these bathtubs are also great. It's like a massage chair and a bathtub combined!"

Edwin's eyebrows twitched, and he spoke in a cold voice, "Once again, you're getting way too comfortable. Don't you dare treat this place as though it's your own house! Now get out and return to the Young Lady at once!"

However, Leo remained in the bathtub, and he said, "I would love to leave, but I can't do it with you standing there and watching me like a hawk. Also, I don't understand why I must be with her at all times. Her bloodlust has already been quenched for the day, so we don't have to worry about it until tomorrow."

"You don't need to understand anything. You only need to follow orders and do your job properly!" Edwin growled in a low voice before leaving the bathroom.

Leo got out of the bathtub and returned to Lia's room shortly after, and once again, she was nowhere to be found.

A few minutes later, she would come out of the bathroom with a towel on her head.

Leo quickly turned around and asked, "Are you really cleaning yourself in that red water? Isn't that... unhealthy?"

"The water is clean. The water is red because it's dyed."

"Seriously? What's the point? To make it feel like you're bathing in blood?"

"No, I just like the color red."

"I see... What about the blood? Are they fake—"

"They're real."

"..."

Leo immediately regretted asking her that question.

"Anyways, let's go to sleep. Tomorrow is the last day of your rampage, right?"

She nodded.

Once Leo entered the bed and laid his head on the fluffy white pillow, Lia approached him and rested her head against his chest without asking, almost as though it was a natural thing to do.

"..."

Leo didn't say anything, mostly because this was his last night in this place.

'Just one more day... Endure it...' he convinced himself as he tried to sleep, but the fragrance coming from Lia's body made it a lot harder for him to sleep that night.

The following morning, Leo woke up before Lia and gently moved her head off his chest.

Edwin showed up at the same time with breakfast, and his eyebrows twitched a little when he saw how Lia was still sleeping.

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'Two days in a role... Something is wrong here.' Edwin thought to himself, but he couldn't imagine what was happening to Lia.

'If only the Young Lady didn't forbid security cameras inside the room...' he sighed inwardly.

Fortunately for Edwin, Lia woke up shortly after he entered the room, so he didn't have to make breakfast for a second time.

After breakfast, Edwin returned to clean up the mess.

"Young Lady, how are you feeling? You haven't satisfied your bloodlust for two days now. I'm afraid that you might go on a random rampage later." Edwin asked her after cleaning up their breakfast.

"I am fine," she calmly said.

"That's good, but just in case, I have brought another sacrifice for you."

Leo raised his eyebrows after hearing Edwin's words.

"I don't need another sacrifice." Lia spoke with a slight frown on her face.

"If that's your decision, you can get rid of him. However, he's already here, so there's no point in sending him back now. I will send him here in a bit."

Edwin glanced at Leo before leaving the room.

"Are you going to kill him?" Leo asked her once they were alone.

"You can't use Mana Drain if he's here, right? I will give him a swift death." Lia said in a nonchalant voice.

"That old man is doing this so Lia could recall the thrill of shedding blood and hope that she might lose control and kill you as well— probably." Lilith said.

"That is not going to happen. I am not going to let Lia shed blood before me. That old man is going to be disappointed." Leo said with a resolute expression on his face.

"And how are you going to stop her from killing this sacrificial lamb?" shed asked.

Leo suddenly approached Lia and said, "Lia, can you do me a favor and not kill this person?"

Lia tilted her head in a puzzled manner.

"Why?"

"Well... You may like killing, but I actually don't like to see dead people. If I see corpses, I might not be able to use Mana Drain even if we're alone."

"Oh. I see. Then I won't kill him."

'That was easier than I thought...'
Leo thought to himself, but he didn't complain.

"Thank you."

Sometime later, somebody knocked on the door.

"Hello, I am Devin, and I am here for the special quest." A young male voice resounded after the knocking.

The door opened the next moment, and a young man who had many semblance to Leo with his dark blonde hair and hazel eyes walked into the room.

Leo was speechless after seeing this new sacrifice.

'That old man is definitely doing this on purpose!' he cried inwardly.

Once the door closed, Lia left the bed and turned to look at Devin, whose eyes widened with shock upon seeing red eyes.

"Y-You?! A vampire?!" Devin subconsciously withdrew his weapon.

Leo felt like facepalming at this moment, but he had to keep an eye on Lia so she doesn't kill him.

Lia narrowed her eyes slightly, seemingly annoyed by Devin's presence.

"You're lucky that I cannot kill you. However, I can still torture you." A cold smile appeared on Lia's doll-like face as she retrieved her black dagger.

Leo swallowed nervously after seeing this, and he said, "Lia... I dislike torturing more than killing..."

Lia's body froze when she heard his words, and she turned to look at him with a profound expression on her face.

"Just endure it for today, okay? I will make it worth your effort." Leo continued.

Lia turned to look at Devin, who was trembling from fear.

"Get lost before I change my mind."

"Thank you!" Devin immediately turned around and ran outside the room.

However, he didn't get very far, as Edwin was waiting in the hallways.

When Devin saw Edwin, he stopped and shouted in a panicked manner, "W-Why is there a vampire here?! What is going—"

Edwin's arm disappeared for a second.

The next moment, Devin's body fell to the ground, his head removed.

After decapitating Devin with his bare hands, Edwin stared at the corpse with a pondering expression, 'The Young Lady allowed him to run away? No... This wasn't done by the Young Lady! It's that brat! He's the reason she's been acting weirdly recently! He's a bad influence on her! I must remove him before he could defile her any further!'

Edwin's eyes emanated intense killing intent.

Back inside the room, Leo said to Lia with a smile on his face, "Thank you for holding yourself back. As a reward, I will Mana Drain you as much as you want today."

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"Okay."

Although her expression remained nonchalant, Leo had a feeling that she was happy.

They entered the bed shortly after and Leo began using Mana Drain on her.

Chapter 76: Apology

Over the next several hours, Leo would spend most of his time using Mana Drain on Lia.

Not only did he consume a high-grade energy potion before starting but Lia also consumed a high-grade mana potion, so she would have more mana to let Leo drain.

"She's definitely addicted to the feeling of her mana being drained." Lilith said as she stared at Lia's dazed expression.

"There won't be any side effects to Mana Drain, right?" Leo asked her.

"No, there isn't, but you can kill your target if you drain all of their mana. However, being addicted to the feeling of Mana Drain could be dangerous for the girl. Once you leave, she will seek other ways to experience the same feeling. Who knows, she might even look for a vampire who can use Mana Drain."

"Seriously? There's no way that she would do something that outrageous, right?"

"Who knows. She's a weird girl, and humans are unfathomable creatures that are capable of doing anything." Lilith shrugged.

"I mean, even if that's the case, it has nothing to do with me. Once I finish this mission, I will no longer have anything to do with the Scarlet Family."

"Let's hope that's the case." Lilith said with a slight smile on her face.

Sometime later, Edwin knocked on the door.

"It's time for lunch, Young Lady."

Edwin entered the room shortly after with a cart, but there appeared to be less plates on the cart than usual.

Once he set up the table, it became obvious to Leo why it seemed that way.

"Where's my food?" Leo asked when his side of the table was empty.

"The mission doesn't state that we have to provide nourishment to you. The previous time was a privilege that you no longer have." Edwin calmly said.

"Seriously? You're being that petty? Is it because of what I said the other day in the bathroom? What are you, a child?" Leo scoffed.

Edwin's eyes flickered with killing intent.

"Imprudent! Know your place, you damned brat!"

"Leo! Watch out!" Lilith shouted.

Edwin's right arm suddenly flickered, his grasp shooting straight for Leo's throat at lightning speed.

Despite Lilith's warning, Leo was unprepared for the sudden attack. In fact, even if he had known that Edwin was going to attack him beforehand, he still wouldn't have been able to react fast enough to block it.

Leo's eyes widened, but there were no emotions behind it, as it was too sudden.

However, Edwin's hands suddenly stopped right in front of Leo's neck, his fingernails penetrating slightly into the skin.

Feeling the sharp sensation on his neck, Leo didn't even dare to swallow.

"Young Lady... You..."

Edwin slowly turned to look at Lia, who had a deep frown on her face, and her hand was holding onto a black dagger.

He retrieved his hand after a moment of silence. He then looked down at the right side of his stomach to see the black dagger wielded by Lia stabbing into his body.

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"Who gave you the permission to attack him?" Lia spoke in a cold voice, her eyes flickering with killing intent.

"I-I apologize... I acted on my own accord just now. Please forgive me, Young Lady. It will not happen again." Edwin spoke with a pale face, ignoring the pain in his sides.

Lia didn't say anything and suddenly yanked the dagger out of Edwin's body without any warnings, causing his blood to spray all over the food.

Edwin gritted his teeth at the initial pain, but besides that, his expression remained relatively calm. He quickly pressed his palms against the injury, slowing down his blood loss.

"I have lost my appetite. You may leave now." Lia said to him in a nonchalant manner.

"Yes."

Edwin, still with one hand pressed against his injury, began cleaning up the mess.

Meanwhile, Leo just stood there with a dazed face. He was still trying to comprehend the situation. Everything had happened so quickly that he didn't know how to react.

After cleaning up the table, Edwin bowed to Lia and said, "Once again, I apologize for my blunder. I will further discipline myself later."

He turned around and started walking towards the door.

However, before he could take two steps, Lia's soothing voice resounded, "Wait."

"There is still someone else waiting for your apology."

Edwin's eyebrows twitched violently after hearing her words. He didn't feel any anger when he was stabbed by Lia, but the thought of apologizing to Leo made his blood boil.

Unfortunately, he had no choice but to obey, as it was an order from Lia, who would be the future head of the Scarlet Household.

After taking a deep breath, Edwin turned around and bowed to Leo.

"I offer my utmost sincere apology for attacking you just now. I had acted too rashly."

'Sincere, my ass...!' Leo sneered inwardly, not bothering to respond to him.

Edwin left the room shortly after.

The moment the metal door closed, Edwin quickly retrieved a high-grade healing potion and chugged it down.

The wound in his body immediately started healing.

He then leaned his back against the wall, slowly falling to his butt, and he proceeded to sit there with a dazed look on his face.

'The Young Lady not only protected that brat, she even punished me for trying to hurt him! That was incredibly dangerous!'

Edwin couldn't comprehend why Lia was acting in such a manner. He couldn't comprehend why she would protect Leo, nor why she attacked him for Leo.

This was not Edwin's first time bleeding because of Lia. In fact, he's suffered many injuries from her before, but he has never felt puzzled by her reason for hurting him, as they were all quite simple— because she wanted to see blood.

'I cannot touch that brat as long as Lia is with him. I will need to deal with him after he leaves this place... He's a dangerous being who could potentially affect the Young Lady's position as the next head of the Scarlet Family!' he cried inwardly.

After leaving the hallways, Edwin began planning his next attempt at taking Leo's life.

Meanwhile...

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"Are you okay?" Lia asked Leo once they were alone again.

"Yes... Thanks to you. You saved my life just now." Leo said after wiping the cold sweat from his forehead.

'I was brought here to be killed by her, yet she saved my life... What an unexpected turn of events...' he sighed inwardly.

"You're bleeding." Lia pointed at his neck.

Leo subconsciously touched his neck, and sure enough, there was blood on his neck, as Edwin's fingernails had managed to penetrate just enough to cause him to bleed.

"Here's a high-grade healing potion." Lia handed him a luxurious-looking bottle that was even decorated with gold.

"It's fine... A low-grade healing potion will do for this kind of injury."

Leo retrieved his own low-grade healing potion and drank it.

As much as he wanted to taste the high-grade healing potion, he was someone who hated wasting resources, even if those resources are not his own.

"Then let me clean up the blood for you." Lia said.

She suddenly approached him, and in one swift movement, she held his face with her small hands. At the same time, she moved her head towards his neck.

Once she was close enough, Lia opened her mouth and stuck her tongue out, licking the leftover blood on his neck.

Leo's body froze after feeling the soft and wet sensation sliding across his neck. He wanted to step back after snapping out of his daze, but Lia's grasp on him was much stronger than he'd anticipated.

When she finished licking all of his blood, Lia released him and took steps back until she reached the bed and fell on it, and she would lie there with a dazed look on her face for the next few minutes in complete silence.

"You must be feeling pretty happy right now. Is this your first time being licked by a girl?" Lilith chuckled with a wide grin on her face.

Instead of replying to her, Leo used his clothes to wipe the saliva left behind by Lia.

A few minutes later, Lia sat up on the bed and beckoned him.

"It's going to be sundown in a few hours so I want to avoid spending any energy until then." Leo said to her, thinking that she wanted him to use Mana Drain on her.

"I just want to talk to you," she calmly said as she patted the space beside her.

"Okay..." Leo nodded and sat on the bed next to her.

"I will get straight to the point. I would like you to work for me in the Scarlet Family."

"What?" Leo raised his eyebrows.

"I want you to stay here even after your mission is over. Your only job is to use Mana Drain on me, and I would like you to provide me some of your blood every once in a while. In exchange, I will give you everything you want, as long as it's within my power, and as the future head of the Scarlet Family, I have plenty of power and influence, especially in the future."

Leo swallowed nervously after hearing her enticing offer.

However, he knew that it was impossible to work for her or her family.

"Can you give me some time to think about it? I will let you know my answer after I am finished with my mission."

Despite already deciding that he won't be working for her, Leo did not immediately give her an answer, as he wanted to finish his quest before potentially offending her.

"Okay, I will wait." Lia did not rush him for an answer either.

Several hours later, Edwin returned with dinner, cooking Leo's share as well.

When Edwin saw the way Leo looked at the food, he calmly said, "Don't worry, I didn't poison your food."

"I can eat it first if you don't trust him, which is understandable after what he did to you." Lia added.

"It's fine. I trust that he didn't poison it." Leo said with a stiff smile on his face.

Sometime later, Edwin returned to clean up the mess.

"Once the Young Lady has her last outbreak, your special mission will officially be completed, and you will be allowed to leave this place." Edwin said to him before leaving the room.

"I can't wait to get this over with so that I can finally get some proper rest." Leo said with a calm face.

Once Edwin left, Leo waited until sundown before he consumed a high-grade energy potion and started using Mana Drain on Lia.

However, since this was Lia's final outbreak before she returned to normal for another 6 months, her increased mana regeneration would last longer than usual. Fortunately for Leo, his Mana Drain Mastery Rank increased to 'B' towards the end, allowing him to push through the last few minutes.

Leo collapsed on the bed at the end of their session.

"How do you feel?" he asked her after catching his breath.

"It's finally over," she said in a low voice.

"That's great..."

Ding!

<You have completed a Special Quest>

<+150,000 Magic Experience, +750 Magic Points>

'It's finally done...' Leo released a sigh of relief.

However, Lilith suddenly said, "It's not over yet, Leo. You still have to deal with her offer. If she decides to kill you for rejecting her offer... Anyways, good luck."

"I know... You don't have to tell me that..."

Sometime later, Leo stood before Lia with a serious expression on his face.

"I have given many thoughts about your offer, Lia. Unfortunately, I cannot work for you."

"..."

Lia's expression remained unchanged even though she'd just been rejected.

"Is it because of Edwin? If you want me to get rid of him, I will permanently remove him." Lia spoke a moment later.

"No, it has nothing to do with Edwin, you, or the Scarlet Family." He shook his head.

"Then why? Explain your reasoning." Lia said, her eyes narrowing a bit.

Seeing this, Leo swallowed nervously, as he could tell that she was unhappy about his decision.

And he nodded, "Of course. That was my intention in the first place."

Chapter 77: Returning to the Adventurers' Guild

"Anyways, the reason I cannot stay here and work for you is because I am already an Adventurer. I simply won't have the time." Leo said.

"If it's just that, you can be an Adventurer while working for me." Lia said.

"I know, but it just won't be the same... I care about my freedom above all. I don't like to be restricted, even if it's just a feeling. Furthermore, I have other things that I want to do. Maybe in the future I will change my mind and come work for you... If you're still willing to accept me at that time."

Lia closed her eyes and became silent for the next few moments.

Still with her eyes closed, she asked, "Is there really no way that I can make you stay with me?"

"I'm sorry...." Leo mentally prepared himself just in case Lia suddenly decided to stab her black dagger at him.

"Since you have already made a decision, I won't continue to bother you. However, that does not mean I am going to give up. Leon, I want you, and when I want something, I always get it. It may not be today or even a year from now, but I will not give up until you're mine." Lia slowly opened her eyes to look at him with a resolute gaze.

Leo showed a relieved smile and said, "Thank you for your understanding."

"Before you leave, can I see your phone?" she suddenly asked.

"Sure." Leo immediately handed his phone to her, as he wanted to leave this place as soon as possible.

After fiddling with his phone for a few moments, Lia handed it back to him and said, "I have put my contact information in there. Call me if you ever change your mind. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask for help."

"Thank you."

Lia left the bed and said, "I will show you the way out."

Leo nodded and followed her outside the room, where Edwin could be seen approaching their room from the hallways.

"How are you feeling, Young Lady?"

"Normal."

"That's a relief. By the way, where are you going?"

"I'm showing him the exit."

"I can—"

"No, you can clean the room." Lia immediately rejected his proposal before he could even finish his sentence.

"I understand..."

Edwin stood in the hallway and watched as Leo and Lia's figure disappeared from his eyes before entering another room to continue watching through the windows.

Once they were at the front door, Lia said, "Can you come back in six months to help me again?"

"If I am still alive by then." Leo nodded.

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

"First and foremost, I am going to return to the Adventurers' Guild to let them know that I have finished the mission so that I can finally be promoted to C-Rank. After that... I don't know. I will probably continue doing missions for more promotions."

"I see... Then maybe I will see you sooner than six months."

"Maybe... Anyways, see you later, Lia. It was actually nice knowing you. You're a very unique girl." Leo said to her with a smile on his face before walking out the door.

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Lia didn't say anything and silently watched Leo until his figure could no longer be seen before returning inside the building.

"Edwin."

When she returned to Edwin, she called for him.

"What are your orders, Young Lady."

"I want all the information you can find on Leon. I don't care how small."

"I understand. I will have them ready as soon as possible." Edwin said.

And he thought inwardly, 'This is perfect. I was going to look up on him anyway. This will just allow me to do it more openly.'

However, before leaving, Lia spoke in a cold voice, "Edwin, I also forbid you from harming Leon."

"Young Lady...? What do you mean—"

"Do you think I am an idiot, Edwin? I can see your killing intent even now." Lia's crimson eyes emanated a profound aura.

And she continued, "He will be part of the Scarlet Family in the future. I won't allow anyone from my family to harm him. Do you understand?"

Edwin's eyebrows twitched, and he responded in a calm voice, "I understand, Young Lady. I swear that I won't lay a single hand on him."

Lia turned around and disappeared from his sight shortly after.

Edwin gritted his teeth and muttered in a low voice, "As long as I don't personally kill him..."

After leaving the Scarlet Family's household, Leo released a loud sigh of relief, "Thank god I am finally out of that house! It was only three days, yet it felt like I had been there for weeks!"

"I am not surprised, considering that you had been confined inside a small room and had to use Mana Drain most of the time." Lilith said.

"Anyways, now that I am free, let's head to the Adventurers' Guild and get my well-deserved C-Rank promotion!"

"I bet the Guildmaster will be very surprised to see you." Lilith chuckled.

"Let's just hope that he won't attack me out of the blue like that damn old man."

Sometime later, Leo arrived at the Adventurers' Guild.

After taking a deep breath, he entered the building and walked straight to the front desk.

"I am here to report."

He handed his ID to the worker and waited for his reward.

"Thank you. I have confirmed the completion of your special mission. However, the reward for the mission is currently still pending, so you will have to return at another time for it." The worker said.

'Pending? Is it because they didn't expect anyone to survive it, so they decided to not put a reward?' Leo wondered inwardly.

"Where is the Guildmaster? I would like to speak with him."

"I'm sorry, but that is not possible. The Guildmaster left the city about two days ago due to an emergency. He won't be back for another month or two." The worker said.

"Seriously? What about his investigation into my bounty?" Leo asked.

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"Give me a moment to look this up..."

The worker proceeded to look through his information on the computer.

Chapter 78: Investigation Results

Several moments later, the guild worker said to Leo, "Thank you for waiting, Leon. I have taken a look at all ongoing investigations on your profile. Indeed, there was an investigation about your bounty, and I am here to tell you that the investigation has already been concluded."

'It's done already? They work faster than I anticipated.' Leo thought to himself, but he wasn't complaining.

"After looking at the details of the investigation, it appears that there was no bounty on you."

"Wait. What did you just say? That there is no bounty on me?" Leo doubted his ears.

"That is indeed correct. The guild has looked into all active bounties but found no bounty on you." The worker confirmed.

"That's impossible! I had multiple people attack me and confirm that there was a bounty on me! Could they have removed the bounty before the investigation could find it?!" Leo asked.

"We are able to look through all active and inactive bounties, including completed and deleted bounties, so there is no way that we could've missed it. There is only one explanation for this— that the bounty isn't an official bounty. Unofficial bounties are much harder to track, but our investigators have gone through multiple sources and were unable to find anything about your bounty. I'm sorry, Leon, but there is nothing else we can do for you."

Leo was left speechless by the results of the investigation.

"Ask him about the special mission." Lilith suddenly said to him.

Leo snapped out of his daze and asked, "What about my special mission? Who assigned me to it? Was it the Guildmaster?"

"No, the Guildmaster doesn't have the authority to assign Adventurers to specific special missions. Most of the time, it's all randomized by the system. However, if you think that you'd been chosen for your special mission, then it was most likely done by someone at the Adventurers' Bureau." The worker explained to him.

'The Guildmaster wasn't behind my mission? And what the hell is the Adventurers' Bureau?' Leo was dumbfounded by the results once again.

"It appears that we have jumped to conclusions and mistook the Guildmaster as the culprit behind your bounty and the special mission. However, this raises even more questions. Why would someone at the Adventurers' Bureau mess with you? They don't usually interfere with matters unless it's an emergency," Lilith said with a pondering look on her face.

"Let's talk about it later." Leo said to her.

"I understand. Thank you for the information. By the way, I am now a C-Rank Adventurer, right?"

"Indeed. I am currently working on your new ID as we speak." The worker nodded.

A couple of minutes later, the worker handed Leo his new ID.

[Name: Leon] [ID:1505737101]

[Adventurer Rank: C]

[DOB:04/29/2022] [Blood: O+]

[Sponsor: Camille Light(ID:646090913)]

[Expiration: 01/01/2050]

Leo thanked the worker one last time before leaving the Adventurers' Guild and removed his disguise before calling a taxi.

"Four Witches Academy." Leo said to the driver.

While he waited, Leo asked, "Hey, Lilith, what's the Adventurers' Bureau? What do they do?"

"They're basically the political version of the Adventurers' Guild. They also work directly with the government to keep the cities in this world safe, so they're more influential than the Adventurers' Guild. They also handle most of the high-rank missions and special missions."

"And they're the ones who assigned me to the special mission, right? Why? There was no way that I had been randomly chosen by the system because Lia seemed surprised that the Adventurers' Guild would send someone with my talents to become a sacrifice."

"You're asking the wrong person, Leo. I don't know much about the Adventurers' Bureau besides the general stuff that most people know. You should speak with Miss Camille about this matter. She'll definitely have more insight." Lilith said.

"That's what I plan on doing."

Sometime later, Leo returned to the academy.

After going back to the dorm, Leo took a long shower before heading straight to bed.

The following morning, Leo went to the cafeteria for breakfast before going to the infirmary to look for Miss Camille.

"She's not here... Where could she be?" Leo mumbled.

He decided to wander the academy until he found another teacher.

"Excuse me, do you know where I can find Miss Camille?"

"Did you try the infirmary?"

"I did."

"How about the teachers' lounge?"

"No, I will try that next. Thank you."

Leo went to look at the teachers' lounge next, but Miss Camille wasn't there either.

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However, one of the teachers there knew about her location.

"Miss Camille is currently in a meeting with the Headmistress."

"I see... Thank you."

Leo returned to the infirmary and waited for Miss Camille to return.

Meanwhile, inside the Headmistress' room, Miss Camille and Headmistress Eva sat before some tea.

"How are Leo's injuries? Will he be able to participate in the Wilderness Training Course?" Eva asked.

"He's recovering just fine. I also believe he's ready to participate in the training course."

"That's great to hear. What about the tournament? Think he'll be able to handle the top students from the other academies?"

Miss Camille pondered for a moment before speaking, "Unfortunately, I don't think he's ready to fight with the top students from the other academies at his current state. However, it's hard to say how much he'll improve between now and then."

'Of course, if he could use magic, that would be a different story.' Miss Camille thought to herself.

Sometime later, Miss Camille asked, "How is the investigation on Leo's disappearance going? Do we know what happened to him? He may be alive, but I can't shake this uneasy feeling in my guts. After all, this incident was dangerous enough to heavily injure someone like Leo, even causing him to have amnesia."

"The investigation is still progressing. However, we should get an update after the Wilderness Training Course." Eva said.

And she continued, "It's actually taking longer than I'd anticipated. There are just so many unanswered questions and things that don't make sense. Honestly, there might be someone out there trying to hinder our investigation."

Miss Camille frowned upon hearing this, but she wasn't surprised.

"Thank you for the information. I'll try to look into it as well."

"If you find out anything, let me know. I don't want you doing anything rash, Camille. Your main focus right now is to help Leo recover from his injuries and amnesia."

"I know," she nodded.

"Anyways, what is Leo doing now?" Eva suddenly asked.

"He's training."

"By himself?" Eva raised an eyebrow.

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"He'll be fine."

After talking for a little longer, Miss Camille left the room and returned to the infirmary to find Leo lying on one of the beds.

"What are you doing here...?" she asked him with a weird look on her face.

Leo sat up with a smile on his face.

"Look at this."

He displayed his new Adventurers' ID for Miss Camille.

"You actually managed to achieve C-Rank in such a short time...?" Miss Camille's eyes widened with surprise.

"Yeah, but it wasn't easy. I almost died multiple times." He shrugged.

Miss Camille locked the doors before taking a seat in her chair.

"Tell me about it."

Leo nodded and proceeded to tell her everything about his recent experience, greatly shocking her.

After two hours of nonstop talking, Leo took a deep breath and ended his story with, "To end it all, it's about my goal for this world. Although it's nothing grand or ambitious, I think it's a fairly important one, which is to survive this world. Honestly, I wouldn't blame you even if you don't consider this a real goal. However, this will be my focus until I find something that I want to achieve even at the cost of my life."

"..."

Miss Camille closed her eyes and started rubbing her eyes.

Sometime later, she released a long sigh.

"I left you alone for barely two weeks and you've managed to get yourself in so much trouble. I'm afraid what might happen to you if I leave you alone for even a little longer..."

"You can't blame me for this! I am a victim here!" Leo exclaimed.

"I know. However, this bounty of yours is quite troublesome."

"Do you have any idea about who might be behind it? I thought it was Guildmaster Borus at first, but that no longer seems like the case..." Leo sighed.

"Give me a moment to think about it." Miss Camille began pondering in silence.

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Chapter 79: Adventurers' Bureau

After spending several moments to ponder in silence, Miss Camille spoke, "If there had been an official bounty placed on your head, whether it be official or not, you wouldn't have been able to walk in the street without being attacked."

"There's only one reason I can think of that explains your situation. Leo, there's a personal hit on you."

Leo raised his eyebrows.

"What?" he muttered in a dazed voice.

"It means that someone had disguised an assassination attempt as a bounty. The person who wanted you dead had specifically picked your teammates to become assassins without letting them know the truth by disguising it as a bounty. That's why the Adventures' Guilds couldn't find anything during their investigation. The bounty was

only available to your teammates and the team of Adventures that had chased you." Miss Camille explained.

And she continued, "For example, let's say I want someone dead, so I send you a fake bounty, hoping that you'd accept it and kill the person for me."

"This way, only you and I know about the bounty, leaving almost no evidence behind, unless they find whatever we used to contact each other, like phones with texts. Do you understand now?"

Leo nodded.

"So the bounty was fake, and my teammates had been tricked to attack me...? Why would anybody do such a thing? I don't recall offending anybody! Hell, this Leon identity is brand new as well! Unless you, Miss Camille, used someone else's identity and they mistook me for that person?"

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"No, Leon is a fake identity that I personally made up. Unless they have already met you, there's no way anybody would know about you." Miss Camille shook her head.

Leo frowned and said, "Besides Guildmaster Borus, Khrome, those Adventurous that had gone on the mission with me, and you, nobody else should know about Leon's identity."

"Khrome wouldn't do something like this. As for Guildmaster Borus, he can do unpredictable things at times, but he would never harm one of his own Adventurers, especially not someone with your talent."

"As for this Tami guy, he has no reason to kill you."

"And if I wanted to kill you, you would already be dead by now, as I had countless chances to do so."

"If none of these people are suspects, who else could possibly want to kill me? Do people in this world have a habit of killing strangers for fun?! This makes no sense at all!" Leo exclaimed.

"You're forgetting someone else—or should I say something? The Adventures' Guild and the Adventures' Bureau also know about you." Miss Camille said.

"And considering that you had been picked for a special mission that normally wouldn't be assigned to Adventurers, there is a good chance that the culprit behind your bounty is from the Adventurers' Bureau."

The frown on Leo's face deepened, and he asked, "Why would the Adventurers' Bureau want to kill me when I have never even heard of them until recently? Aren't they basically the government?"

Miss Camille suddenly showed a worried expression on her face.

After some hesitation, she spoke, "To tell you the truth, I might be the reason you're being attacked."

Leo's eyes widened with shock.

"Let me explain. As an S-Rank Adventurer, my role as a healer is very valuable and almost irreplaceable. When I wanted to retire, everyone one was against it. Whether it be my own family or the Adventurers' Bureau, none of them supported it, especially considering my age. I am not even 30 years old, yet I am already retiring. Meanwhile, most Adventurers would not retire until they are well past that prime age or they have suffered an injury that prevents them from fighting."

"My retirement was frowned upon by everyone, and it had upset many powerful people. Despite that, nobody dared to touch me because they didn't want to be responsible for the death of an S-Rank healer."

"I still don't understand how that's related to me..." Leo shook his head.

"You're my first sponsor. They probably see this as an opportunity to finally mess with me."

"Seriously? I'm being hunted because of such a petty reason?" Leo was in disbelief.

"This is just a theory, but it's the only one I can think of. Otherwise, there is no reason why anyone would want to kill you."

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"I'm sorry, Leo. This is all because of me..." Miss Camille sighed.

"There's no reason for you to apologize. You're not at fault here. The only ones at fault are those unreasonable bastards that decided to kill me, an innocent man, just to mess with you!" Leo exclaimed.

"Anyways, is there anything we can do in this situation? Or should I just create a new identity? I don't mind climbing back to C-Rank for a second time. It wouldn't even take that much effort if nobody is trying to sabotage me."

"You'll have to register in another city if you want to become an Adventurer under a new identity. Don't forget, they know that you have an S-Rank Dark Magic Affinity and Wind Magic Affinity. Do you know how many people out there have S-Rank Dark Magic Affinity? They'll realize it's you right away if you register in this city." Miss Camille said.

And she continued, "There's no need to be hasty. Until we figure out a solution, stop being Leon. The Wilderness Training Course is next week, too. You won't need to become an Adventurer for a while."

Leo nodded, "I understand."

"Anyways, you should spend the next week preparing for the Wilderness Training Course. I bet you'd barely used your sword the last two weeks. Go brush up your swordsmanship. You won't be able to use magic with so many students around."

"I understand. What about you, Miss Camille? Are you going to train with me?"

She narrowed her eyes slightly and spoke in a cold voice, "No, I have some business at the Adventurers' Bureau, so you'll have to train without me for a little longer."

Leo's mouth dropped after hearing her words.

Chapter 80: Fully Geared

"Don't tell me you're going there to..." Leo swallowed nervously.

"There's only one way to confirm a theory. To go directly to the source," she calmly said.

"I appreciate your consideration, but I don't want you to do anything rash and get in trouble... The Adventurers' Bureau is part of the government, right? Nothing good will come out of messing with them."

"Who said anything about messing with them? I am just going there to ask some questions. And you are underestimating the influence of an S-Rank Adventurer. Thank you for worrying about me, but I will be fine. This isn't my first time visiting that place, either."

"If you say so..." Leo nodded.

"One last thing before you leave... This is about the Scarlet Family. You should stay away from them. They're more dangerous than you think. I don't know much about this Lia Scarlet, but their family is surrounded by bad rumors, especially the main family."

From corruption to illegal assassinations, the Scarlet Family seems to have connection to all of them."

"Don't worry, I have already told myself to never be involved with the Scarlet Family ever again." Leo smiled.

"Good. Then I will see you later."

Sometime later, Miss Camille left the infirmary and Leo went to the Training Center to continue his training with the sword.

After leaving the infirmary, Miss Camille went to find Headmistress Eva.

"Camille? Did you forget something?" Eva asked her.

"No, I just want to let you know that something came up, and it requires me to leave the city for some time."

"What? What about the Wilderness Training Course? Your presence is essential there!"

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"Don't worry, I will be back before then. I'm just making a quick trip to Celestial City."

"Celestial City?" Eva's eyebrows raised with surprise.

"Why are you going to such a depressing place? There's nothing but bureaucracies there."

"I have some business with the Adventurers' Bureau. Anyways, I will leave now."

"Alright. I will keep an eye on Leo while you're gone." Eva said with a smile on her face.

"Don't do anything weird to him..." Miss Camille frowned slightly.

Eva chuckled, "I will try not to."

Miss Camille left the academy shortly after and returned to her own home.

"You're back early." Sophie said when she saw Miss Camille.

"Yes, and I will be gone for a few days."

"Where are you going?"

"Celestial City."

Sophie's eyes widened with surprise.

"Don't you hate that place? Why would you suddenly go there?"

"I don't have a choice." Miss Camille said as she opened the doors to a certain room.

However, when she opened the door, there was no room on the other side. In fact, there was nothing on the other side. It was pitch black, almost as though it was the void.

"I will be right back."

Miss Camille entered the door and disappeared into the darkness.

Sophie didn't follow her inside and stood outside with a pondering look on her face.

'Why is she visiting the treasure vault if she's just going to Celestial City?' Sophie wondered to herself

Several minutes later, Miss Camille came out of the darkness, but her appearance was completely different, and she was fully dressed in a fancy pair of white and golden robes and accessories, not to mention the golden staff in her grasp, looking like a fantasy character out of a video game.

"You're going to the Celestial City fully geared? You're even weaning your S-Rank artifacts... Don't tell me you're going there to start a war?" Sophie swallowed nervously after seeing Miss Camille's appearance, as she was wearing all of her best equipment that she used to wear when she was an active Adventurer.

In fact, she was wearing things that she normally wouldn't wear even in Labyrinths!

"A war? Well, that will depend on their response." Miss Camille calmly said.

"Whose response?" Sophie couldn't help but ask.

"The Adventurers' Bureau."

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Sophie's jaw dropped after hearing her words.

"The Adventurers' Bureau?! Why are you— You know what? Forget it. I already feel a headache coming, so I am going to stop here." Sophie said as she rubbed her temples.

Once Miss Camille was outside in front of her house, she stopped walking and began activating her mana.

The cloak on her back suddenly began fluttering, and Miss Camille's body started levitating off the ground.

"Stay safe! And don't do anything rash!" Sophie said to her.

"See you later." Miss Camille said before shooting into the sky and flying towards the city walls like a rocket. Of course, this was only possible due to her artifact, which allowed her to use the Tier 5 wind magic spell known as 'Flight'.

Meanwhile, back at the academy, Leo stopped swinging his sword after he was all out of energy.

"Although using the sword isn't as fun as using magic, there's just something about swinging a sword. It feels kind of cool." Leo muttered out loud as he laid on the cold floor.

"Really? I don't see how it can be cool." Lilith said.

"If you came from a world without magic or monsters, you would understand my feelings. Before coming to this world, I was just an ordinary student with no experience in magic or fighting. Forget about swinging a sword, I would feel cool even with a kitchen knife."

"I still don't understand." Lilith shook her head.

"Forget it. I'm going to see if there is anything in the Magic System that will help me with the Wilderness Training Course."

'Since I cannot use magic, I should buy some artifacts that will increase my physical capabilities...'. He thought to himself.

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He looked at his available Magic Points.

'I have over 1,000 Magic Points right now. Although that's nowhere near enough to purchase anything in the Magic Shop, I can buy any F-Rank artifacts I want now, including a weapon. The Artifact Shop will also level up if I purchase five more artifacts. Maybe I should buy 5 cheap artifacts and see what the level 2 Artifact Shop has to offer first.'

Thus, Leo began looking through the Artifact Shop while he rested.

Chapter 81: Headmistress

After spending some time looking through the Artifact Shop, Leo decided to purchase 5 cheap artifacts to level up the shop before investing anymore.

[Bronze Helmet: Minor physical damage mitigation]

[Leather Cape: Minor magic damage mitigation]

[Green Crystal Earring: Minor boost to energy regeneration]

[Green Crystal Earring: Minor boost to energy regeneration]

[Red Coral Necklace: Minor boost to strength]

Leo had used 35 Magic Points in total for these 5 artifacts.

Ding!

<Artifact Shop has leveled up>

Leo immediately went to see what changes had been made to the Artifact Shop, and to his surprise, he could now see E-Rank artifacts being sold in the shop. However, the prices were much higher, around three to four times more expensive than F-Rank artifacts.

He wanted to look through each artifact to see if there was anything he wanted, mostly the weapon category, but before he could do so, he noticed the door to his training room opening.

'Huh? I'm pretty sure that I locked the door...' he wondered inwardly as he turned to look at the door.

His eyes widened with surprise when he saw the tall figure walking into the room, recognizing her identity immediately.

He quickly stood up to greet the red-haired beauty, "Good morning, Headmistress."

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"Tsk, tsk, tsk." Eva sucked her teeth three consecutive times in a quick succession, and she continued, "It hasn't even been a day since Camille left you alone and you're already slacking? Even without your memories, I guess you can't change your bad habits as a slacker, Leo."

"Huh? Actually, I was just taking a break..." he said.

"But what are you doing here, Headmistress?"

"I'm just checking on you. Since Camille won't return for a few days, I decided to take her place and oversee your recovery until she returns."

"Uhh... I appreciate your consideration, but don't you have more important things to do? As the Headmistress of the academy, I'm sure you have a lot of work to do." Leo said to her.

He didn't know why, but he had an uneasy feeling about her.

"That would normally be the case, but with the Wilderness Training Course already prepared, I have some free time until the next big event."

Leo raised an eyebrow and said, "Then you should take this time to rest. I can train by myself."

Eva narrowed her eyes at Leo.

"I have other reasons to be here. I want to see for myself just how much you have recovered. Catch."

Eva suddenly tossed a potion into the air at him.

"It's a medium-grade energy potion. Drink it and spar with me for a bit."

"You want to spar with me?" Leo swallowed nervously.

'Since she's the headmistress of this academy, she's probably even stronger than Miss Camille, right?' he wondered inwardly.

As much as he wanted to refuse, he couldn't possibly refuse the most authoritative person in this academy.

Furthermore, he was a little curious about her strength.

Leo chugged the energy potion and pointed his sword at her.

"Whenever you're ready."

Eva smiled and said, "I should be saying those words."

She suddenly raised her right hand to the left side of her face before swinging it back down, and a sword made out of flames materialized in her grasp.

"Fire Magic Affinity?" Leo muttered. He could feel the heat of the sword even though he was a dozen meters away from it.

"Come at me with everything you've got, Leo." Eva beckoned him with a provocative smile on her face.

Leo gritted his teeth and immediately rushed at her.

Once he was close enough, he started unleashing every combo he knew from the Formless Sword Dance.

However, Eva would either block or deflect all of them, and she would do so with seemingly no effort.

'Hmm... His technique isn't bad, but it's not as decisive and sharp as before. Is this due to his injury? His strength is also lacking...' Eva was a little disappointed by the results.

She was hoping that Miss Camille had downplayed Leo's progress, but it is now clear to her that Leo truly wasn't ready to fight the top students just yet.

Several minutes later, Eva suddenly went on the offensive.

This caught Leo off guard because she had been on the defensive since the beginning, so he thought that she was only going to defend.

He tried to fight back as much as he could, but Eva eventually dominated him, and she did so in just three strikes.

Leo froze his movements when Eva's flaming sword was right beside his neck, and it felt like he was standing right in front of a blazing hot oven.

Eva retrieved her sword a moment later and said, "You have a lot of work to do, Leo."

"I know..." he sighed.

"Just knowing isn't good enough, Leo. At this rate, you won't hold a candle against the students in the other school."

"Huh? What do these students have anything to do with me?" Leo asked with a raised eyebrow.

"You're going to fight them in the upcoming tournament, so you have everything to do with them."

"Wait... Tournament? This is the first time that I am hearing about this."

"There's going to be a big tournament after the Wilderness Training Course, and all of the prestigious academies in this city will be participating in it with their strongest students. I have already entered your name as a participant."

"What?! You entered me into this tournament without even asking for my permission?!" Leo exclaimed.

"Of course. Camille told me that you'd be ready for it, and I trusted her. Also, news of your return has already spread to the other academies, and they're all expecting for you to show up. If you don't, they'll ridicule you and the academy, and I won't have that."

"However, at this rate, you'll be ridiculed even if you participated in the tournament. Therefore, I will be training you for the next few days. And disclaimer— I have a higher standard than Camille, so whatever you do with her, expect something worse." Eva said with a sadistic smile on her face.

'At this rate, I will die from training too much...' Leo sighed inwardly.

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Chapter 82: Passive Skills

"How long do you plan on sitting there? Hurry up and stand back up. The training has just started!" Eve said to him.

"Yes!"

Leo immediately stood up and pointed his sword at her.

However, Eve didn't summon her flaming sword and instead raised her fists in front of her.

"I won't kill you, but it's going to hurt." Eve said with a wide grin on her face.

Leo swallowed nervously, but he didn't even have the time to complain, as Eve started rushing at him.

Whoosh!

Eve dodged his sword before thrusting her fist straight into his stomach, sending him flying back.

"Don't hesitate to strike me with your sword! You won't be able to hurt me!" Eve shouted at him as she chased after him.

"Yes!"

Upon hearing her words and feeling the pain in his stomach, Leo tossed aside all of his hesitation and started going at Eve as though he was seriously trying to kill her.

'This brat! He was hiding this much strength?!' Eve was a little surprised by Leo's sudden explosive power. Not just his speed, but even his strength increased drastically compared to their first spar.

However, despite that, Eve would still trash him with ease.

Sometime later, Eve stopped moving and said to Leo, who was on the ground groaning in pain, "Camille's been too soft on you, Leo. But I don't blame her. After all, you look like—" Eve suddenly halted her sentence and cleared her throat.

"Anyways, get some rest. I will be back in an hour with some training equipment for your training." Eve left the training room shortly after.

"Damn it... The Headmistress is ruthless even in this world... She doesn't even care about the fact that I am supposed to be injured..." Leo muttered after she left.

"I'm not surprised. The Headmistress has a very strict personality. If she decides to do something, she will do it to the best of her abilities." Lilith said.

Sometime later, Leo sat on the floor and opened the Magic Shop.

'I have been ignoring this for a while now, but when the Magic Shop reached level 3, there were several new options in the shop.'

[Acquire Random F-Rank Passive Skill: 100 MP]

[Acquire Random E-Rank Passive Skill: 500 MP]

[Acquire Random D-Rank Passive Skill: 1,000 MP]

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'What are passive skills? I've been avoiding it because I didn't have enough Magic Points before, not to mention the random aspect, but now that I have plenty of Magic Points, I should purchase one of these and see for myself what they are...'

After pondering for some time, Leo decided to purchase an F-Rank Passive Skill.

'Let's hope this gamble pays off...'

<Confirm purchase 'Acquire Random F-Rank Passive Skill' for 100 Magic Points>

"Confirm."

<You have purchased 'Acquire Random F-Rank Passive Skill' from the Magic Shop>

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Novice Combat Expertise>

[Passive Skill: Novice Combat Expertise]

[Description: Increases your combat experience]

Leo raised an eyebrow at his new passive skill.

'Novice combat expertise...? What kind of—'

Leo was forced to stop thinking when a load of information suddenly rushed into his head, most of this information being related to combat, such as martial arts, and the information binded with his memories, almost as though they had become his own.

"Leo, are you okay?" Lilith called out to him when his face suddenly became blank, looking dazed.

However, Leo was too occupied with the information to even hear her voice.

Several minutes later, Leo suddenly snapped out of his daze and began gasping for air.

"Leo! What happened to you?!" Lilith, who was constantly calling out to him for the last several minutes, exclaimed with a worried look on her face.

After catching his breath, he said, "I-I don't know... I did something with the Magic System, and then my mind was suddenly flooded with information..."

"Huh? I don't get it." Lilith said.

But before he could explain any further, Eve returned to the training room.

"Leo, wear this armor." Eve handed him a silver armor the moment she returned.

"What is this?" he asked.

"It's an artifact that will greatly reduce all physical damage done to your body. You'll be training with this starting now. This way, you'll last longer, not to mention your injuries."

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"So you actually remember about my injuries..." Leo narrowed his eyes.

"Don't tell me you're upset that I hit you. It's just a few light punches. There's no need to be angry." Eve smiled.

"Anyways, go ahead and wear it. Despite its appearance, it's actually quite light."

Leo nodded and wore the armor, and sure enough, it felt incredibly light, almost as though he was wearing a sweater.

"Heads up!" Eve suddenly shouted before throwing a fist at him.

Leo's eyes widened at the surprise attack, but his body somehow managed to react to it before his mind could even process the situation, deflecting her attack.

Eve's eyes also widened when Leo had managed to deflect her surprise attack.

Not only was this his first time avoiding her attack, but he'd even done so with such fluid movements, almost as though he had done it countless times before.

"Not bad... I wanted to test out the armor, but you have managed to dodge it—"

Eve suddenly threw another fist at him.

However, just like the first time, Leo's body subconsciously moved by itself, narrowly dodging her strike for the second time.

"..."

Eve's body froze as she stared at Leo with a look of disbelief on her face.

"I see... So you're still hiding your power, huh? You think you have the luxury to hold back against me?"

A cold expression suddenly appeared on her face, causing Leo to swallow nervously.

Of course, he wasn't holding back. However, his new passive skill had improved his combat experience more than he'd anticipated, and there was no way he could explain that to Eve without revealing to her about the Magic System.

Thus, over the next several hours, Eve would slowly push Leo to his limits to see just how powerful he was.

At the end of the day, Eve said to him with a smile on her face, "It's been a while since we last sparred with each other, Leo. Although you're not as powerful as before, it's still as entertaining."

'Maybe it's entertaining for you, but it's definitely not fun for me...' he sighed inwardly.

"Get some good rest tonight. I'll see you here tomorrow after breakfast hours."

"Whatever happened, it really improved your fighting prowess." Lilith said to him afterward.

"Yes... Even I was surprised by the results."

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Leo explained to her about the passive skills as he walked back to the dorms. Once he returned to his room, he took a shower and went straight to bed.

However, he didn't immediately go to sleep. Instead, he opened up the Artifact Shop and started looking at the new E-Rank artifacts.

After spending an hour looking through the shop, Leo found an artifact that he wanted to purchase.

[Diamond Sword: Increases the power of your swords by 50%. Increases the sharpness of your swords by 100%]

Although the Diamond Sword had set him back 450 Magic Points, he truly believed that it was worth it.

After that, he returned to the Magic Shop and pondered if he should purchase another F-Rank passive skill.

'The F-Rank passive skill Novice Combat Expertise helped me tremendously. I wonder what I can get from an E-Rank passive skill...'

After pondering for some time, Leo decided to gamble pretty much the rest of his Magic Points.

<Confirm purchase 'Acquire Random E-Rank Passive Skill' for 500 Magic Points>

"Confirm."

<You have purchased 'Acquire Random E-Rank Passive Skill' from the Magic Shop>

<You have acquired the Passive Skill: Formless Sword Dance>

Leo's eyes widened with shock after seeing the passive skill.

"Formless Sword Dance?! That's the name of the sword technique that I am currently using! Why is it a passive skill? Does this mean I wasted my—"

Once again, Leo stopped talking when information about the Formless Sword Dance started flowing inside his mind.

However, Leo quickly realized that there were some differences between the two Formless Sword Dance. The Formless Sword Dance in the form of a passive skill seemed to be a superior version of the one taught by Khrome with more refined movements and combos, and there were even 100 combos instead of 99.

Leo suddenly jumped out of his bed and walked to the living room, where there was much more room.

He closed his eyes and started swinging his arms around, acting as though there was a sword in his grasp, and he was practicing the Formless Sword Dance. However, he was not conscious of his current actions, almost as though he was sleepwalking.

Lilith watched him with an entertained expression on her face.

Two hour later, after repeating all 100 combos of the Formless Sword Dance nine times, Leo stopped moving and opened his eyes.

He took out a real sword from his Spatial Ring and started swinging the sword around, performing the Formless Sword Dance again and for the 10th time, his movements unbelievably smooth and natural, almost as though he'd been practicing this technique every day for hundreds of years.

After his performance ended, Leo fell asleep on the floor and wouldn't wake up until the following morning.

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"Huh? Why am I sleeping on the floor in the living room?" Leo sat up and looked around with a puzzled expression after waking up.

"You don't remember what happened yesterday? You practiced with the sword until you fell asleep on the spot." Lilith recalled what happened last night to him.

"That wasn't a dream?" he muttered with a dumbfounded look on his face.

Chapter 83: Mastery Rank A

After getting off the floor, Leo retrieved his sword and started practicing the Formless Sword Dance, and to his surprise, he was suddenly able to perform all 100 combos with incredible ease and smoothly.

"Wow! It's almost like I have practiced this technique for my entire life! It feels so natural that it's like my body is subconsciously moving on its own, something like muscle memory!"

Leo swung the sword with excitement.

"While it's true that your movements with the sword are more refined, your strength and speed is still the same. You'll need to work on your actual body if you want to utilize the sword technique to its fullest potential." Lilith said to him.

"I know." He nodded.

Sometime later, Leo went to eat a light breakfast before making his way to the Training Center. Since it was getting close to the Wilderness Training Course, more students were returning to the academy to form their teams.

"Go get yourself warmed up first." Eve said to him when she arrived shortly after he did.

Leo nodded and started swinging his sword around.

"Hey, Leo, do you have a team for the Wilderness Training Course yet? Are you going to pick struggling Knights that you don't even know to help their score like previously?"

Leo raised an eyebrow.

"I'll probably go alone this time," he calmly said.

"I would help those in need of help if I could, but I can barely handle myself right now. I don't have the capability to worry about others."

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"There's no need to feel guilty if you are. I respect your decision. In this world, it's every man for himself, and it's no different even for the strong."

After warming up, Leo started training with Eve.

'This guy! His movements are much smoother and precise than yesterday! Even the power behind his strikes are on another level compared to yesterday! If he continues to recover his strength at this rate, he'll definitely be strong enough to participate in the tournament!' Eve smiled after seeing Leo's vast improvements compared to yesterday, and she couldn't help but become more passionate about training him.

Several hours later.

"Let's stop here for today. I won't be here tomorrow morning because of a meeting, so we'll move our training to the afternoon. This doesn't mean you can sleep in, alright?"

"I understand." Leo nodded.

Unlike Miss Camille's training that would last throughout the day, Eve's training only lasted half a day, but the intensity of her training makes up for it. One was like training for a marathon and the other training for a short sprint— that was the difference between these two women.

Once Eve left, Leo sighed, "I want to train magic, but Miss Camille isn't here... And I don't want to risk getting caught by the Headmistress."

Lilith pondered for a moment.

Her face suddenly brightened, and she spoke while pointing at his chest.

"Why don't you just disguise yourself? This way, you won't need to worry even if you're caught using magic."

Leo's eyes widened with disbelief after hearing Lilith's suggestion.

"You're a genius, Lilith! Why didn't I think of this sooner?! To think there was such an easy solution this entire time!"

After resting for some time, Leo left the training room and entered another training room before using the artifact that can change his appearance.

After pondering for some time, Leo decided to use the face of a certain main character in a fantasy novel that he'd previously read, and his face began changing to resemble the face in his imaginations.

"How do I look?" Leo asked Lilith after the transformation.

"You look like a naive child who would be an easy target to take advantage of." Lilith immediately said.

Leo smiled, "Alright, then let's start practicing magic. I will take this time to increase the Mastery Rank of all my existing magic spells."

"Wait." Lilith suddenly stopped him.

"Since we've returned to the academy, I don't need your mana to keep my soul safe, so I will stop absorbing it to allow you to regenerate your mana much quicker."

"Thanks. This will definitely allow me to spam my magic spells much more often." He nodded.

After borrowing a Magic Absorbing Dummy, Leo returned to the training room and proceeded to spam magic spells at it.

He started with Black Bullet, multicasting over 20 of them every few seconds, bombarding the dummy.

Even though every cast would consume around 500 mana, he had plenty of mana to spare, not to mention his 125 mana regeneration that would completely recover his spent mana within seconds.

After spending just a little over an hour on Black Bullet, its Mastery Rank increased to A.

When that happened, he stopped using Black Bullet and moved onto the next magic spell— Black Flame.

After taking a deep breath, Leo would spew black flames from his palms like a flamethrower, and he would keep it active at its maximum output.

His mana quickly drained, but it also recovered just as quickly.

Several hours later, Leo took a seat on the floor and began resting after his Black Flame also reached Mastery Rank A. Furthermore, he finally finished his 100,000 mana quest, acquiring 20 Magic Points, and then he proceeded to purchase another one for 5 Magic Points.

"Even if they are just Tier 1 magic spells, to reach Mastery Rank A in a single day, not to mention two of them... What terrifying speed..." Lilith mumbled with a dumbfounded look on her face.

Leo returned to his room after changing back to his original appearance.

The following morning, he would return to the Training Center and begin practicing Dark Shield, not stopping until he reached Mastery Rank A.

However, since Dark Shield couldn't be spammed like the previous magic spells, his progress was naturally much slower.

Once it was almost time to train with Eve, he removed his disguise and waited for her to show up.

Meanwhile, several hundred miles away from Stellar City, after flying for two days straight, Miss Camille could finally see the city walls of Celestial City.

Once she reached the entrance, she descended to the ground and began walking towards the gates.

Chapter 84: Visiting the Adventurers' Bureau

"Identify yourself!" The guards at the gates gestured for Miss Camille to stop when she got close enough.

Miss Camille didn't say anything and tossed her ID at them.

"How disrespectful! Who do you think you—" The guard suddenly stopped speaking when he laid eyes on the ID card he's just caught.

"C-Camille Light! Forgive me for not recognizing you, Saintess!" The guard quickly returned her ID.

"I have some business with the Adventurers' Bureau, so if you'll excuse me."

"Open the gates!" The guard shouted at the people working the gates.

Once Miss Camille entered the city and disappeared from the guard's view, another guard approached him and asked, "Who was the beauty just now? I have never seen you act so nervous before."

"You don't recognize her? She was Camille Light— the famous S-Rank Adventurer!"

"I think I have heard that name before, but didn't she already retire? What is she doing here?"

"Who knows, but she looked angry."

After entering Celestial City, Miss Camille walked straight to the Adventurers' Bureau.

The Adventurers' Bureau's headquarter was a massive oval-shaped building that took up multiple streets, almost like a stadium, but it had many floors and gave off the atmosphere of an office building.

Upon arriving at the entrance, Miss Camille was stopped again by the guards there. After all, she was fully geared in artifacts.

"What is your business at the Adventurers' Bureau?" The guard asked.

Miss Camille handed her ID to the guard and said, "I'm here to speak with Chairman Gerard."

"C-Camille Light!" The guard's eyes widened.

After snapping out of his daze, the guard spoke, "Do you have an appointment with the Chairman? He only accepts meetings through appointments now."

"It's an emergency. I need to speak with him right now. Tell him I am here and he will agree to meet with me." Miss Camille said in a calm voice.

"I'm really sorry, but the Chairman is currently in an important meeting that will last all day. Nobody can disturb him right now. Please understand my position."

Miss Camille narrowed her eyes, her gaze turned cold, causing the guard to tremble in fear.

"I understand. Then I will notify the Chairman of my presence without bothering you."

Miss Camille turned around and walked away from the building until she gained a good distance.

The guards there watched her weird movements with raised eyebrows, having an uneasy feeling in their guts.

Their uneasiness grew when Miss Camille stopped walking and turned to face the building again.

"He-Hey! What do you think you are doing?! Saintess!" One of the guards there shouted when Miss Camille suddenly summoned a golden spear in her grasp.

However, she ignored the guard and continued to focus on the building.

A vicious light flickered in her eyes, and after taking a calm breath, she lunged the golden spear at the building.

"Ahh!" The guards there exclaimed in shock after seeing her actions.

The spear exploded with golden light the moment it collided with the building, causing the entire place to tremble. However, the building appeared to be completely fine.

Of course, the headquarters of the Adventurers' Bureau was protected with magic to prevent situations like this one. Miss Camille knew about it in advance, hence why she dared to attack the building. There was only one reason for her actions— to call out the Chairman of the Adventurers' Bureau.

"Y-You! What are you doing?! How dare you attack the Adventurers' Bureau!" The guards there immediately surrounded Miss Camille.

However, Miss Camille remained calm despite her situation.

In fact, she even tossed a second golden spear at the building, causing it to shake again.

"S-Stop it! Even if you are an S-Rank Adventurer, there is a limit to your jokes! You can still be punished for your actions!"

Despite Miss Camille's actions, the guards didn't dare to approach her, as the difference between her power and theirs was far too great. The only thing they can do is try to convince her to stop until backup arrives.

"Saintess! Why are you doing this?! Why are you suddenly attacking the Adventurers' Bureau!"

The guards asked her, but she ignored all of them.

"Call Chairman Gerard out here! I want to speak with him!"

More and more people gathered at the scene.

"Isn't that the S-Rank healer, Saintess Light?! What is she doing here? And why is she attacking the Adventurers' Bureau?!" The spectators were baffled by the situation.

Sometime later, a group of well-dressed individuals with unfathomable auras around them came out of the building and approached Miss Camille.

"What the hell is this commotion?! Who dares to attack the Adventurers' Bureau in broad daylight?!" A deafening voice rippled throughout the area.

The guards there turned to look at the person who just spoke. He was a tall and bulky middle-aged man with short black hair and blue eyes and a stern-looking face. They immediately made a path for this person when they saw his face.

"Chairman Gerard!" They all greeted him.

"Y-You see... What had happened was—"

"Took you long enough." Miss Camille suddenly spoke in a cold voice.

"You... What the hell are you doing here?" Chairman Gerard frowned after seeing Miss Camille's face.

"It's been a while, father." Miss Camille said with a calm expression on her face.

"W-What? Did she just call the Chairman 'father'?" One of the guards there muttered.

"You didn't know? Chairman Gerard's full name is Gerard Light. He's Saintess Light's father."

"Seriously?"

"You better have a good reason for your actions, Camille. Even if you're my daughter, you have assaulted the Adventurers' Bureau today." Chairman Gerard narrowed his eyes on her.

"Allow me to repeat those words to you. Even if you are my father, your Adventurers' Bureau nearly got my friend killed. If I don't receive a proper explanation, I will tear this whole place down."

"..."

The entire place was dead silent as this father and daughter pair stared daggers at each other.

After a moment of silence, Chairman Gerard sighed, "Follow me. Let's talk in my office."

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Chapter 85: Chairman Gerard

"I apologize for this inconvenience, but let's take a break for our meeting." Chairman Gerard said to the group of people following him.

"Don't worry, we understand. After all, family matters should be above everything else."

"I needed to stretch my body, anyway."

"Then let's all return tomorrow at the same time."

"I don't mind."

Sometime later, Camille followed Chairman Gerard into the Adventurers' Bureau.

Once they were inside his office, Chairman Gerard sat behind his office table and stared at Camille with a frown on his face.

"I thought you'd never come back to the Celestial City after your retirement, especially after all that fuss you made before you left."

Camille sneered, "You think I wanted to be here? My friend nearly got killed because of someone in the Adventurers' Bureau."

"Hmm..."

Chairman Gerard placed his hands before his mouth and pondered.

"That's some serious accusations, Camille. Where did you get the idea that someone in my Adventurers' Bureau tried to harm your friend?"

Camille narrowed her eyes and spoke in a cold voice, "There are plenty of people who want to get back at me for opposing the Adventurers' Bureau and retiring. However, they cannot harm me, so they decided to harm my friend instead. Of course, these people include you, father."

"You think I had something to do with your friend? I may despise your decision to retire, but I would never do something this petty! Are you looking down on me, Camille?!"
Chairman Gerard slammed the desk in front of him, causing it to jump.

If the desk hadn't been enforced with magic, it would've shattered just now.

"And you still haven't said anything about your 'friend'."

Camille sneered in disdain, "Still acting like you don't know anything, huh? There's no way the Chairman of the Adventurers' Bureau hasn't heard about the Adventurer that I am sponsoring. In fact, I am willing to bet that you heard about it the same day I signed the papers."

Chairman Gerard's eyes slightly.

"So this whole thing is about that boy, Leon... Indeed, I heard about him. His name was being mentioned practically everywhere I went for the first two days in the bureau. However, so what if I know him? What does that prove?"

"He took a special mission recently to be promoted to C-Rank. However, this special mission was related to the Scarlet Family, and as far as I am aware, this special mission was a death trap for him. He was sent there as a sacrifice, and only the Adventurers' Bureau can assign Adventurers to specific special missions!"

"The Scarlet Family's special mission..." Chairman Gerard finally understood the full situation.

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Due to the nature of the special mission, the Adventurers' Bureau had blacklisted it so that their system wouldn't automatically assign any Adventurers to it.

However, the fact that Leo had been selected to do the mission meant that someone had purposefully assigned it to him.

"I want you to investigate the person who assigned him the special mission and find out why this person did it. If you don't find the person responsible, I will hold you and the entire Adventurers' Bureau accountable, and you can forget about our agreement."

"You!" Chairman Gerard stood up with a deep frown on his face.

"That agreement was the only reason we allowed you to retire!"

"And what about your part of the agreement? That the Adventurers' Bureau would never bother me if I agreed to it? Your party was the first to break the agreement, so it would only make sense for me to do the same."

Chairman Gerard gritted his teeth in anger, but he quickly composed himself and sat back down.

"Very well, we will investigate the person responsible for assigning your protégé to the Scarlet Family's special mission. Is this all?" he asked.

"No, I am not done. Someone had also placed a 'bounty' on him. It could be the same person who assigned him to the special mission, but it could also be a different person."

"A bounty? I understand the special mission case, but anybody could've put a bounty on him! Why would you suspect that we're also part of it?"

"Because the bounty appeared right before his special mission, and the bounty hunters that had been selected were his teammates during an ongoing mission, or do you expect me to believe that it's just a coincidence?" Camille spoke.

And she continued, "Furthermore, only very few people know about the existence of Leon. If not the Adventurers' Bureau who could access his information at will, who else would try to kill him?"

Chairman Gerard pondered for a moment before speaking, "We will investigate the person behind the special mission, but we will not entertain you with the bounty issue unless you have concrete evidence that my Adventurers' Bureau was involved. If you're not satisfied, you can do the investigation yourself."

"When you find the culprit, lock him in a cell for me. I want to personally question him."

"I understand. Then about our agreement..."

"That will depend on the result of your investigation." Camille said in a cold voice.

"I'm leaving now. I will stay in the city for two days. Let's hope you find the culprit by then."

"Wait." Chairman Gerard said right as Camille turned around.

"There is going to be an award ceremony for your brother next month. Will you be attending?" he asked.

"I only have one brother, and he's already dead." Camille said in a calm voice before she left the room.

"..."

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Chairman Gerard laid back on his chair and rubbed his eyes.

"What a troublesome daughter..." he muttered in a sighing voice.

After leaving the Adventurers' Bureau, Camille went to a nearby flower shop and purchased a bundle of flowers before making her way to the graveyard.

At the graveyard, she approached a certain tombstone with the name 'Leon Light' engraved in it.

She placed the flowers she'd just bought in front of the tombstone and silently prayed to it.

Meanwhile, Chairman Gerard ordered the Adventurers' Bureau's intelligence unit to investigate the person responsible for Leon's special mission.

It didn't take long before Chairman Gerard received a name.

"Marden Graves... I see... This makes sense. Thank you for your hard work. Lock him up in a cell for now." Chairman Gerard dismissed the team shortly after.

He called Camille and notified her of the news.

"Marden Graves? So it was that bastard..." Camille gritted her teeth in anger after hearing his name.

"Where are you keeping him? I want to speak with him."

"He's currently behind bars in one of our cells in the Adventurers' Bureau. However, we can't keep him locked up for too long. If you want to speak with him, you must come now."

"I am already on my way there." Camille hung up the phone and flew straight to the Adventurers' Bureau.

Sometime later, Chairman Gerard led Camille to their in-house prison. They stopped walking once they were in front of a certain cell, where a young man was locked up.

"Camille! You really came back!" The man inside the prison immediately jumped out of his seat and rushed to her with a blissful look on his face, clearly very happy to see her. However, he was quickly stopped by a thick layer of enhanced glass that would remain unscathed even if it was struck by a tank.

Camille frowned when she saw this, and she turned to look at Chairman Gerard with a cold gaze.

"What is the meaning of this?" she spoke in a cold voice.

"Did you think I would let you see him without ensuring his safety? I don't care if he tried to kill your protege, you're not going to kill him. I don't need you stirring trouble with the Graves Family again."

Camille sucked her teeth with an annoyed face.

"Camille! I am so happy that you came to visit me!" The person behind the glass wall exclaimed.

Camille turned to look at him with clear killing intent in her gaze, but the man didn't seem to mind it.

"So you were the bastard behind Leon's special mission. I should've known it was you, Marden. Although I can guess why you did it, I am still going to ask you— why did you target Leon?" she asked him.

"Leon? Oh, you mean that little brat who dared to get between our relationship! I won't let another man be close to you when you already have me! I won't have it, Camille my dear!"

"This delusional fucker!" Camille suddenly smashed the glass wall with her fist that was gushing with mana, but her fist was repelled without leaving any marks on the glass.

"Get him out there! I am going to kill him!" She turned to look at Chairman Gerard, who shook his head.

"You know I cannot allow that to happen. And don't even try to threaten me. It's not going to work. The relationship between our Light Family and their Graves Family is already bad enough as it is. If you kill him, it will cause a full-blown war between our families."

"So what?! This bastard has been harassing me for years and I have endured all of it! However, he crossed the line when he tried to harm Leon, who is completely innocent! He even thinks we're in a relationship! This world is better off without this delusional bastard! I'm going to kill him today whether you like it or not! If you think this glass wall can stop me—"

Camille's body suddenly began emanating a golden aura, and her eyes flickered with intense killing intent.

"CAMILLE!" Chairman Gerard suddenly roared. "This isn't just about our family! If you kill him, the Graves Family will do everything in their power to avenge him! This means that everybody close to you will be in their crosshair, including the academy! Our family might be able to handle them, but I can't say the same for the others."

Camille gritted her teeth in frustration, "So you're just going to let him go?"

"The Adventurers' Bureau will punish him accordingly for his violations. You have my word."

"If only your words are trustworthy." Camille sneered.

She turned to look at Marden and asked, "Are you also responsible for the bounty on Leon?"

However, he spoke with a puzzled expression, "Bounty? What bounty?"

Camille immediately frowned.

'He's not responsible for Leo's bounty? But who else would want him dead beside Marden?' she wondered inwardly.

She spoke again a moment later, "Marden, this is your last warning. If you dare mess with me or Leon again, I will kill you even if I have to start a war with the Graves Family!"

A malicious grin suddenly appeared on Marden's face, and he spoke in a crazed voice, "If you want me to stop, you'll have to kill me."

"This crazy bastard..."

"Let's go. His family has learned of his detainment and is already demanding his release. We won't be able to keep him locked up for much longer. We'll figure out something later, but for now..." Chairman Gerard said to her after seeing the text on his phone.

"Che!"

Camille turned around and left the in-house prison with Chairman Gerard shortly after.

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Once they returned to Chairman Gerard's office, Camille said to him, "I was serious about what I said. If you don't want me to start a war with the Graves Family, it would be in your best interest to keep them in check."

"You make it sound so easy. The Graves Family is on par with our Light Family in terms of influence and power, and they're growing stronger every day. You think I don't want to get rid of their family that is nothing but an eyesore to me? I would've done so already by now if it was that easy! Anyways, you should leave the city before the Graves Family arrive, unless you want to make our situation even more complicated." Chairman Gerard said to her.

Chapter 86: Attack in Broad Daylight

"It's not about power or influence, father. You just don't have the spine to fight them. However, I am different. I don't care even if I lose. I will fight the Graves Family if they continue messing with me." Camille said with a stern expression on her face.

"If that's what you want to do, I won't stop you. After all, even though you bear the surname Light, you're no longer part of our family. I only wanted to look out for you as your father, but there's nothing I can do if you won't listen to me." Chairman Gerard shook his head.

"Go ahead and start a war with the Graves Family. However, my Light Family won't be there to help you."

"You speak as if the family has always been there for me. How laughable. I am leaving." Camille walked out of the office and disappeared from the Adventurers' Bureau.

About an hour after Camille left, the Graves Family showed up at the Adventurers' Bureau to demand the release of Marden Graves, the eldest son of their family.

The Adventurers' Bureau had no choice but to release Marden Graves, especially considering that his violation wasn't that serious to most people there.

"I heard that your daughter, Camille Light, was responsible for locking up my son! I demand an explanation, Chairman Gerard!" Marden Graves' mother, Elizabeth Graves, exclaimed.

"I don't need to explain anything to you. Your son's actions have violated the Adventurers' Bureau's code of conduct by abusing his authority. There have also been many reports that complained about his inappropriate behavior at work. Therefore, as the Chairman of the Adventurers' Bureau, I am removing Marden Graves from his position, effective immediately."

"You dare?!" Elizabeth pointed at him with a trembling hand.

"We have already released Marden. If you want to cause a scene, do so outside." Chairman Gerard said with a nonchalant expression.

"This isn't over, Gerard Light! You will be hearing from the Graves Family soon! Let's go!" Elizabeth said to her son before leaving the Adventurers' Bureau together.

Once they were outside, Marden said, "Mother, I—"

"You don't need to say anything. That vixen Camille Light is at fault here." Elizabeth sneered in disdain.

And she continued, "Let's go home first. We'll see what your father can do."

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"Okay." Marden nodded.

They began approaching their car parked nearby.

However, before they could take two steps, Marden's eyes suddenly widened with shock, and he shouted while pushing his mother aside, "Watch out!"

"Marden?!" Elizabeth exclaimed as she was sent flying.

BOOM!

A black spear suddenly fell from the sky and landed right where Marden Graves was standing, causing a massive explosion.

The people outside the Adventurers' Bureau scattered like ants after the explosion.

"That was dark magic! Are we being attacked by vampires?!" Someone there shouted.

"That's impossible! Even if they somehow snuck into the city, they wouldn't attack the Adventurers' Bureau in broad daylight!"

The guards working in the Adventurers' Bureau rushed outside and prepared to defend the place, but a second attack did not come.

Once the smoke cleared up, Elizabeth rushed to her son, who was now lying unconscious inside a large crater.

"MARDEN!!!" Elizabeth jumped into the crater and checked Marden's condition.

'He's still alive!' She sighed in relief after feeling his heartbeat.

However, Marden was in a bad condition. His body was badly damaged with burn marks all over his body, looking as though he'd been struck by a truck at full speed before landing in a pit of fire.

"H-Healer! Who here is a healer?! Hurry up and heal my son!" Elizabeth began looking around frantically, almost as if she was being possessed by a demon.

"I-I am a healer. However, I don't think I have the capability to—"

"I don't care! Hurry up and start healing him!"

Sometime later, Chairman Gerard came outside with a frown in his face.

"What the hell happened here?! Who dares to attack our Adventurers' Bureau?!"

He couldn't believe it. This

"We don't know, Chairman! Someone suddenly attacked Marden!"

Chairman Gerard rushed to Marden and his mother's side.

"Gerard! This is all your fault! It must be that damned daughter of yours who assaulted my son!" Elizabeth started pointing fingers.

Chairman Gerard stared at Marden with a pondering gaze.

After a moment of silence, he spoke in a nonchalant voice, "The person who attacked your son used dark magic. My daughter uses light magic. I understand that you're angry, but you shouldn't throw around baseless accusations like that."

"Bullshit! She must have hired an assassin or something! She's the only one who has a motive!" Elizabeth roared.

"Hmph. Your son has a pretty bad reputation, and this is a well-known fact in the city. I wouldn't be surprised if there are many people out there who want to kill him. Anyways, I have already called for the police and the paramedics. I hope for the best for your son." Chairman Gerard said as he turned around.

"WAIT!!! You can use light magic as well! Why aren't you healing my son?!" Elizabeth suddenly shouted.

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Chairman Gerard halted his movements and turned around to stare at her with a cold gaze, "You want me to help you right after threatening me? Who do you think you are? And unlike my daughter, I am not very experienced with healing magic. I won't be able to heal him even if I want to. Just wait for the paramedics and hope for the best. I still have to find the person responsible for this so I won't bother you any longer."

"You'll regret this, Gerard! I swear that you and your family will regret this!" Elizabeth stared at his disappearing back with intense killing intent in her gaze.

The police and paramedics arrived shortly after.

While the police spoke with the people there, the paramedics treated Marden. However, even a high-grade healing potion wasn't enough to completely heal him. Although it would make all of his external injuries disappear, his internal injuries will take much longer to heal, not to mention the shock he'd received from the attack had put him in a coma.

News of the attack quickly spread throughout the city, shocking everyone that heard it.

The Graves Family tried to make the Light Family responsible for the attack, but without any evidence to back up their claims, the accusations remained as nothing more than accusations.

As for the perpetrator responsible for the attack, they were still at large, and the chances of this person being caught was slim to none, as nobody had seen or knew the attacker.

The whole incident shook the whole city, and it would remain a hot topic for the next few days, but people eventually forgot about it, except for the Graves Family, who would continue to look for the culprit until they were found.

Several days later, Camille returned to Stellar City.

"Miss Camille! How was your trip? Did you figure out anything?" Leo was happy to see her return safely.

She nodded, "Yes, I found the person who was responsible for assigning you to the special mission."

"Really?! What happened to this person?!"

A mysterious smile appeared on Camille's face as she spoke, "I will tell you more about it once we sit down. Follow me."

"Okay." Leo nodded, and he followed her to the infirmary, where she would tell him about her findings.

Chapter 87: Significant Improvements

Once they were seated in the infirmary, Camille explained the whole situation to him.

"Marden Graves! That lunatic! He tried to kill me because he thought I'd get in the way of his imaginary relationship with you?! This reason is even worse than I'd anticipated!" Leo exclaimed after learning the truth.

"Is there anything we can do to him? He will definitely try to harm me again if he's left alone!"

Camille shook her head and said, "Unfortunately, he is from the Graves Family, one of the more influential families in the world, so they have a lot of people supporting them. If we want to get rid of him, we will need the help of multiple families that are as influential if not even more influential than them."

"Or... you can assassinate him."

"Assassinate him?" Leo raised an eyebrow.

"I'm just saying that it's a possibility."

"Anyways, it would be for the best if we avoid the Graves Family for now. They're probably going to cause trouble for me later, too."

"Why?"

"I did get their son locked up, even if it was just for a bit. The Graves Family is infamous for returning favors, especially when they feel offended, which happens more than they breathe."

"D-Don't worry, Miss Camille! If they try to do anything funny, I will deal with them for you! I also have a favor to return to them for trying to kill me!" Leo quickly said.

Camille smiled and said, "Then you should hurry up and grow stronger, because you'll need to be stronger than me if you want to deal with them."

Leo swallowed nervously, "I will try my best."

Sometime later, Leo asked her, "By the way, what about my bounty? Is Marden also responsible for it?"

She shook her head, "No, that doesn't seem to be the case— at least he refuted it. Marden is someone who would admit to something even if it could get him in trouble. He admitted to assigning you to the special mission without hesitation, so it wouldn't make sense for him to refute the other claim."

"I see... So there is another person out there who wishes to harm 'Leon', but why...?" Leo mumbled with a pondering face.

"We'll figure it out as we go," she said.

"Alright." He nodded.

"Anyways, I am going to speak with the Headmistress to let her know that I have returned. I will meet you in the Training Center in an hour."

"Actually..." Leo stopped her, and he continued, "If you want to meet with the Headmistress, you should come with me to the Training Center. She's going to be there in half an hour."

"Why would she be there? And how do you know that?" Camille raised an eyebrow.

"She's been training me since you left..." He sighed.

"Really? So she wasn't joking when she said that..." Camille muttered in a surprised voice.

"Yes, and she's like a devil during training. I thought I had it bad when I trained with you or Khrome, but the Headmistress is many times worse. I am always on the verge of death after our training. She doesn't know how to hold back!"

"While that may be true, the Headmistress knows what she is doing. She's trained three S-Rank Adventurers, and they're all monsters. Most people would consider it an honor to be trained by her, even if it's just for a single day." Camille said.

"Come with me to the Training Center now. I want to see how much you've improved."

Leo nodded.

Sometime later, Leo and Camille stood before each other with several meters of distance between them.

Leo was wielding his sword while Camille wielded her light spear.

"Here I come, Miss Camille!" Leo warned her before he rushed at her.

Whoosh!

Leo quickly closed their distance and started swinging his sword at her.

Camille's eyes widened with surprise after blocking the first strike, but she would only become more surprised as Leo continued to swing his sword.

It only took a few strikes, but Camille could tell that Leo had improved significantly since the last time they had sparred with each other.

'It's not just his strength and speed! Even his swordsmanship and general movement is countless times better than before! How did he improve so much in such a short time?!

Camille didn't think it was caused by the Magic System at first since Leo wasn't using any magic, and she didn't know about his passive skills or invisible artifacts.

It has only been a little over three weeks since Camille sparred with Leo. Although that is plenty of time for one to improve, Leo's improvements were something that could only be achieved after years of training, especially with his swordsmanship with Formless Sword Dance that seemed to have surpassed even Khrome.

'Is this the result of the Headmistress' training? No... that's not possible... Then could it be his Magic System? I thought it only improved his magic talents...'

Due to her pondering, Camille wasn't completely focused on the fight, so Leo had almost managed to land a strike on her for the first time.

However, Camille became serious at the last second and summoned a second light spear to block his attack before kicking him away from her.

Boom!

Leo flew and slammed his back on the wall after the kick.

'Oh shit!' Camille cried inwardly after realizing that she'd gone a little too hard on him.

"Are you okay?" She quickly went to check on him.

"I am fine." Leo stood back up as if nothing had happened.

"You've really improved since our last spar... Is this due to the Magic System?" Camille couldn't help but ask him.

He nodded and spoke with a bittersweet smile on his face, "Yes, but the Headmistress' training also plays a big part in my improvement. When I train with her, it's like I am fighting a boss that was programmed to never lose. Of course, it's also like that when I train with you, but you don't hit me as hard and actually know how to hold back."

"I see... Anyways—"

"Oh? Camille, when did you come back?" A familiar voice suddenly resounded in the room.

Leo and Camille turned to look at the door simultaneously to see Headmistress Eve walking into the training room.

"I just got back today," Camille said.

"And the first thing you do after coming back is train with Leo? You're really dedicated to him. I'm a little envious." Eve said with a teasing smile on her face.

"I was going to see you first, but he told me that you'd show up here, so I decided to wait." Camille said.

"I see... Anyways, you really made a mess when you went to the Celestial City. Do you have any idea how many calls I got during the last two days? Especially the Graves Family. They're really bothersome."

"They called you? Why?" Camille asked.

"Their son, Marden Graves, was attacked right outside the Adventurers' Bureau, and they think you're responsible for it." Eve shook her head, and she continued, "But that's impossible since he was attacked with dark magic, unless you used some kind of artifact."

'Dark magic?' Leo raised an eyebrow.

"I don't know anything about the attack, and unless they have proof that I attacked him, they can't do anything to me." Camille said in a nonchalant voice.

Eve chuckled, "Even if you did attack him, I won't let them touch you as long as you're in this academy."

"Anyways, you sparred with Leo, right? What do you think? Has he improved in your eyes?" she then asked.

Camille turned to look at Leo and nodded in a stiff manner, "He's improved a little, I guess."

"Just a little, huh? Anyways, today will be our last day of training since the Wilderness Training Course is in two days. Do you want to train him instead now that you're back?"

"No, you can continue training him. I'd like to watch as well." Camille said.

"Alright then. You heard her, Leo. Let's not disappoint her with your performance." Eve said as she approached Leo with a sadistic grin on her face.

'Looks like I am really going to die today...!' he sighed inwardly.

After wearing all of the artifacts for training, Leo began his training with Eve.

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Several hours later, Eve squatted beside Leo, who was groaning in pain on the cold floor, his body soaked in sweat, looking like he'd just come out of the sauna.

"Congratulations, you are the fourth person to have survived my week-long training," she said to him with a smile on her face.

"The last three to survive my training managed to become S-Rank Adventurers. Though, I'm sure you have the potential to do the same even without my training."

"Camille, can you check on him? I might have broken a bone or two in his body." She beckoned for Camille the following moment.

"I wouldn't be surprised even if every bone in his body is broken after all that..." Camille shook her head and went to cast her strongest healing magic on Leo, quickly reducing the pain he felt.

"Get some rest for the next two days, Leo. I have high expectations for you." Eve said to him.

"By the way, come to my office tomorrow morning, Camille. I have something to ask you."

"Okay."

Eve left the training room shortly after, leaving Leo and Camille alone.

Once Leo was completely healed, they both returned home to rest.

"There is an assembly tomorrow at 3PM in the auditorium. They're going to talk about the Wilderness Training Course. Make sure you're there." Camille said to him before letting him go.

"I understand. Good night, Miss Camille, and thank you for your hard work."

"Good night."

The following morning, Camille went to meet up with Eve inside her office.

"Is this about my business in the Celestial City?" Camille spoke after sitting down, and she continued, "I left the city before Marden was attacked if that's why I am here."

Eve shook her head and spoke, "No, this has nothing to do with the Graves Family or you. I want to talk to you about Leo."

"Leo? What about him?"

Eve narrowed her eyes on Camille, and after a moment of silence, she spoke, "Camille, you're not hiding anything from me, are you?"

Camille raised an eyebrow in a puzzled manner.

"What do you mean?"

Eve sighed, "I was suspicious at first, but I have confirmed it after spending the last few days with him. Leo... He's not the same Leo that we knew, is he?"

Camille's eyes widened with shock after hearing Eve's words, subconsciously clenching her fists.

"Judging by your reaction, I guess I am right. Tell me, Camille. What the hell is going on? Who is he if he's not Leo?" Eve sat forward and stared at Camille with a serious expression on her face.

Chapter 88: Gathering at the Auditorium

A drop of cold sweat appeared on Camille's forehead after hearing Headmistress Eve's words.

"L-Leo? What are you—"

Eve suddenly interrupted, "Stop it, Camille. I don't know why you're protecting his identity, but you can trust me."

And she continued, "I was suspicious about him the moment I saw him when you brought him to my office. For someone with amnesia, he didn't look lost or confused, not to mention his sudden loss of strength."

"Although it's possible that he had been injured during the time he went missing, I have confirmed it myself during these past few days that isn't the case. During our spar, there were no signs of him being injured. Furthermore, his progress every day doesn't make any sense, especially since I'd gone pretty hard on his body. I thought he was just recovering his strength at first, but it was more like he was progressing his strength than recovering it. If he was truly injured, he wouldn't be progressing so fast."

"Last but not least, albeit faint, I can sense traces of magic from his body, almost as if he'd used it recently. I believe that he had been practicing his magic before training with me. However, that shouldn't be possible considering that Leo doesn't have the ability to use magic."

"Now tell me, Camille, who is this Leo with you if he's not the Leo I knew? And what happened to the previous Leo?" Headmistress Eve stared at her with narrowed eyes and a sharp gaze.

After a moment of silence, Camille sighed out loud, "Alright, fine, you're right. He is not the same Leo that died several months ago—the same Leo that we knew. However, he is still Leo."

"Please explain." Eve spoke with her hands in front of her mouth, and on her face was a serious expression.

"I don't know what happened to the Leo we knew, but this Leo... It appears that he'd come from another world—a world where 'Leo' still existed." Camille explained.

Eve's eyes widened with shock after hearing her words.

"He's from another world?"

Although she was shocked, Eve didn't seem to be in disbelief.

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"I don't know how he came to this world, but it's true. I thought he was a zombie at first, or someone pretending to be Leo, but that's not the case. He's really Leo— just not the one we knew. And unlike the previous Leo, this one can use magic. In fact, he has tremendous magic talents that even we cannot compare to. I reckon that he will be one of the most powerful magicians in this world in a few years despite having never used magic before coming to this world."

"Seriously...?" Eve muttered with a pondering look on her face.

"So the Leo we knew is most likely still dead..."

"Dang it, Camille! Why didn't you tell me sooner?! Do you have any idea what his existence means in our world?! He's going to be hunted if news of his existence is leaked to the world!" Eve exclaimed.

Camille frowned, "That's exactly why I didn't tell you. I didn't want his existence to be leaked. The fewer people that know about it the better!"

"Where is Leo right now?" Eve then asked.

"He's either going to be in his room or at the Training Center." Camille said.

"Let's go! I need to speak with him!"

Eve and Camille left the office to look for Leo.

They stopped by his dorm first since it was on the way to the Training Center. When he couldn't be found in his room, they made their way to the Training Center.

However, the person working at the front desk said that he didn't see Leo enter the building when asked by them.

'He's not here? If he's not in his room or at the Training Center, where could he be?' Camille pondered.

Unbeknownst to these two, Leo was actually in the Training Center. However, he'd gone in a disguise, so nobody knew that he was there.

"There's no point in looking for him now. Let's just wait until the gathering at the auditorium. He'll definitely be there." Camille said.

"Alright..."

Once it was lunchtime, Leo left the Training Center to get some food at the cafeteria before making his way to the auditorium for the gathering.

The majority of the students in the academy would be there, so it was immensely crowded when he arrived.

"There's too many people here..." Leo, who was not good with crowded places, sighed.

"It's always like this every year." Lilith said as she hovered above Leo.

They entered the massive building some time later.

The moment he stepped inside, Leo noticed something odd about the scenery inside.

'The normal students and the magic students are split in half, like oil and water...' he thought to himself.

All of the normal students were sitting towards the back of the auditorium while the magic students sat in the front.

There was a clear division between the students, but there was nothing the teachers or the academy could do about it. If they forced the two sides together, it would definitely have the opposite effect, so the only thing they can do is wait for the day they naturally come together, which might never come.

Sometime later, Headmistress Eve entered the stage and began speaking through the microphone on the stand before her, "Good afternoon, students. This year, just like every other year, you will all go into the Wilderness to acquire real combat experience as part of your examination. The Wilderness Training Course will last for 30 days. During these 30 days, you can do whatever you want, but you must stay in the

Wilderness. If you return to the city, that will mark the end of your examination. The points you have collected during your examination will still be counted, but you cannot gain any more points."

"In order to acquire points, you will need to slay monsters and clear Labyrinths if you come across one, but you must notify a teacher before you enter the Labyrinth."

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"During the Wilderness Training Course, all of you will be given a watch and camera. The watch can count the amount of monsters you have killed, and the camera can be used to record whatever you encounter. It is not required to have your camera active the entire time, but it is recommended that you use it during fights for evidence."

"Now onto the rules. It should be a given that you are not allowed to attack other students in the Wilderness. It is a different matter if you encounter students from another academy, but if you are caught harming or sabotaging a fellow student, you will be expelled from the academy and be punished accordingly. Other than that, you are free to do whatever you have to to survive the Wilderness."

"If you enter the Wilderness in a group, only those in an official group will be able to share points with each other. In other words, if you decide to partner up with another student after the training course starts, the points you acquire won't be shared with each other, unless you notify a teacher about your changes, but you are only allowed to change your team one time for the whole training course."

"Of course, you will acquire less points if you are in the group, and the bigger the group, the more points you will have to share with each other. However, we still recommend that you form a team of at least 4 people, as you can all work together to survive, which will greatly reduce your risk of dying out there. Keep in mind that today is the last day for you to form a team and change it as many times as you want. Also, a team cannot surpass six people."

The Headmistress continued to talk about the Wilderness Training Course for several more minutes before ending her sentence with, "If you have any questions, your teachers will stay in their classroom for the next few hours. I will see you all tomorrow at the East Gate at 9AM. And student Leo Magnus, go wait for me in my office. I need to speak with you. You are all dismissed now."

The students in the auditorium scattered shortly after.

'I wonder what the Headmistress wants to talk about... ' Leo pondered as he made his way to the school building along with many other students that had questions for their teachers.

When he arrived at the staircase leading to the school building, Leo noticed a distinct figure standing at the top, and she appeared to be searching for someone.

'What is she doing there?' Leo wondered to himself as he climbed the staircase.

Once this figure noticed Leo in the crowd, she stopped looking around and stared right at him.

When Leo arrived at the top of the staircase, she approached him and said, "Leo, do you already have a team for the training course?"

"No, I don't. Why?" Leo asked her.

"Then can I be part of your team?" She asked.

"You want to be teammates with me? Why?" Leo raised his eyebrows in a puzzled manner.

"I want to repay you even if it's a little before I leave the academy. I have decided to leave after the training course, and since I won't have any need for the points, I will give them all to you at the end. I promise that I won't be a burden. If I do end up being a burden, I will leave you alone." Nina Wraith said with an earnest expression on her face.

Chapter 89: Fruit of Magic Awakening

"Why don't you accept her help? I don't think you're ready to wander the Wilderness for a whole month by yourself. She's a witch and can use dark magic as well. I think she'll be a good addition." Lilith said to Leo as he pondered Nina's offer.

After pondering for a few moments, Leo nodded, "Alright, fine, I'll make you my teammate."

"Okay. Let's go tell a teacher to form our team."

Leo nodded, "Let's speak with my teacher since it's on the way to the Headmistress' office."

The two of them entered the school building. A few minutes later, they arrived at Leo's classroom.

Inside, a few students could be seen talking to Jasmine.

When Leo entered the classroom with Nina, the students there stopped talking to stare at them with wide eyes.

"Do you need something, Leo?" Jasmine asked him.

"Yes, I'd like to form a team with Nina here for the Wilderness Training Course."

"A team with Nina Wraith?" Jasmine's eyes also widened after hearing such words, as they were a pair that nobody could've expected.

Nina Wraith was known for being antisocial and weird, not to mention the unpleasant rumors surrounding her. She was someone who would never team up with another student, so it was shocking that she would agree to partner up with Leo, who was the opposite of her.

After snapping out of her daze, Jasmine handed them a piece of paper and said, "Just put your names on here and sign beside it."

After signing their names, Leo handed the paper back to Jasmine.

"I will submit this at the end of the day. If you decide to change your mind, you have another three hours." Jasmine said to them.

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"I understand."

Leo and Nina left the room shortly after.

"Thank you. I will do my best to assist you." Nina said to him afterward. "Here is my phone number. Call me if you need anything. I will see you tomorrow then."

After giving her phone number to Leo, Nina disappeared from the school building.

As for Leo, he made his way to the Headmistress' office.

"What's up with Leo and Nina? Since when were they friends?" The students in the classroom mumbled to each other about the bizarre scene they'd just witnessed.

"Do you think he'll let us into his group now?"

"I don't think I can be with Nina for too long. She gives me the shivers..."

"Right? She's a cursed child with a dark magic affinity, after all."

Meanwhile, Leo knocked on the door to the Headmistress' office.

However, nobody answered.

'It'll probably be a while before she returns since she was also at the auditorium...' Leo sighed inwardly.

However, to his surprise, the Headmistress showed up only five minutes later, and walking beside her was Camille.

"Miss Camille? You're here too? What is this about?" Leo asked with a raised eyebrow.

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But she didn't respond to him and entered the office with Eve.

Once they were inside the office, Headmistress Eve retrieved a weird device and placed it on the table before them.

She then activated it using her mana, creating a barrier around the room.

"This room is now soundproof." Eve said to them.

And she turned to look at Leo before continuing to speak, "Leo, you're from another world, aren't you?"

"Huh?" Leo's eyes widened with shock after hearing such words, and he turned to look at Camille, who had a bittersweet smile on her face.

"I had suspected that you were not the Leo I knew even before she told me the truth, and my suspicions were confirmed recently after training with you." Eve suddenly said.

"How...?" Leo mumbled in a dazed voice.

"You're a hundred years too young to try to fool me, Leo. Anyways, tell me, Leo from another world, how did you end up in this world?"

"I don't know. I went to sleep one night and then woke up already in this world."

Eve narrowed her eyes, "Do you have any idea what your existence means for our world?"

"Every time someone comes to our world from the outside, the world is tossed into mayhem, mostly due to these individuals that have tried to dominate the entire world. In other words, you guys have a really bad reputation, and if people learn that you are from another world, they will most likely try to kill you before you can become strong enough to threaten the world."

Leo was left speechless by her words.

"There have been other people besides me who came from another world?" Leo asked after snapping out of his daze.

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"Yes, six people— at least six that we know of." Camille said.

"And all of them attempted world domination...?" Leo raised his eyebrows.

"That's right."

"Unbelievable..." Leo was once again speechless.

"This is another reason why you should never reveal the fact that you came from another world. The entire world would come together to kill you if it's revealed." Camille said to him.

"As long as we cover for him, his secret will remain safe." Eve said.

And she continued, "Let's continue onto another topic. Leo, I heard that you're quite talented in magic. Not only do you have S-Rank dark magic affinity, but you also have a magic affinity for wind magic as well."

"Yes, what about it?"

"I know that you're hiding your magic talents on purpose and your reason for doing so, but I want you to use magic openly." Eve suddenly said.

"What?!" Both Leo and Camille exclaimed.

"You know it would raise suspicions if Leo can suddenly use magic! Why do you even want him to use magic?" Camille said with a frown.

"Why not? If he has the talents for it, he should utilize it properly. Although the old Leo cannot use magic, we have a way around that." Eve said.

"What way?" Leo asked with great curiosity.

"Have you ever heard of the Fruit of Magic Awakening?" A profound smile appeared on Eve's face.

"Y-You don't mean..." Camille's eyes widened with realization.

"That's right. Leo's going to eat one. This way, nobody will suspect him even if he uses magic." Eve nodded.

"Fruit of Magic Awakening?" Leo mumbled in a low voice.

Chapter 90: Fruit of Magic Awakening(2)

"The Fruit of Magic Awakening is a legendary artifact that can grant someone a new magic affinity, whether they already have one or not. In other words, if someone who cannot use magic consumes this artifact, they will be able to use magic, and if someone who can already use magic consumes it, they will have a new magic affinity." Eve explained to Leo with a smile on her face.

"I see... If I consume something like that, I will be able to explain why I can suddenly use magic..." Leo mumbled.

"Wait a minute!" Camille suddenly said. "The Fruit of Magic Awakening is just a legend. It doesn't actually exist— at least nobody has been able to prove its existence before."

"Really?" Leo looked at Eve with raised eyebrows.

Eve nodded, "Yes, she's right. The Fruit of Magic Awakening is just a legend. However, while nobody can prove it exists, nobody can prove that it doesn't exist either, and there are many people out there who believe in its existence. In order to 'prove' that you've consumed the Fruit of Magic Awakening, you're going to do it in front of the students!"

Leo's jaw dropped to the ground after hearing her last sentence.

"You want me to eat something that is supposed to be a legend in front of the students?"

"Indeed. Of course, it's not going to be a real Fruit of Magic Awakening. It's just a fake meant to fool everyone."

"And where am I going to acquire something like that? Or are you going to tell me to eat an apple in front of everyone and claim it's the Fruit of Magic Awakening?"

Eve chuckled, "That would work as well, but in order to convince the students, you'll have to consume something that nobody will recognize. Don't worry, I will handle the fake Fruit of Magic Awakening. I'll let you know when it's ready, and until then, continue to keep your magic a secret."

"Okay..." Leo nodded.

"Are you sure this is a good idea? I should've told you this earlier, but there are people out there who are hunting him..." Camille suddenly said.

"Huh? What are you talking about?" Eve asked with a questioning expression on her face.

Camille proceeded to tell Eve about Leo's fake identity 'Leon' and how he is being hunted by an unknown party.

Eve stared at Camille with a dumbfounded gaze as she listened.

"I see... It would definitely raise some eyebrows if two people with S-Rank dark magic affinity show up in the same city in such a short timeframe. However, I wouldn't be too worried. The chances may be low, but it's not impossible. Also, Leo already has a reputation in the city. Those people after Leon won't suspect Leo."

"Why don't we let the person himself decide? What do you think, Leo? Do you want to use magic openly, or do you wish to continue using magic in secrecy?" Eve turned to look at him.

"I..."

Leo pondered for a moment before speaking, "I want to be able to use magic without needing to sneak around like I am some kind of criminal. It's not good for my heart, and I'm sure that the truth will be revealed in the future, so I might as well do it now to get it out of the way."

Eve nodded and turned to look at Camille, "You heard him, Camille. What do you have to say?"

Camille sighed, "What is there to say? He's already made up his mind. Not to mention you're here to help as well."

"Then it's decided." Eve said with a smile.

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"Anyways, now that all of this is out of the way, tell me more about your world, Leo! What is it like?"

"Well..."

Leo proceeded to tell Eve about his original world, how it was basically the same as this world but without magic and monsters.

"Wait... So you never used magic or fought monsters before coming to this world? It hasn't been that long since you came to this world, yet you're already this powerful? Your potential is even higher than the old Leo..." Eve swallowed nervously after realizing just how ridiculously talented Leo was.

After pondering for a moment, she continued, "Leo, want to continue training with me?"

"Huh?"

"You saw how much you've improved after training with me for a week, right? If you continue training with me, I can guarantee you that you'll become an A-Rank Adventurer within three months."

"But Miss Camille is training me..." He looked at Camille, who was calmly sitting beside him.

"Leo, I have nothing more to teach you. Besides giving you some advice, I really don't know what else to teach you. You're my first student, so I don't really know how to teach people. However, Headmistress Eve is a different story. She's trained multiple S-Rank Adventurers before, and she's even the Headmistress of the Four Witches Academy, one of the most prestigious academies in the city. You'll definitely acquire more experience if you train with her." Camille said to him.

However, Leo still remained hesitant for some reason.

Seeing this, Eve smiled and said, "Don't worry, Camille will still be in charge of taking care of you even if you train with me. That's what you're worried about, right? That she might leave you."

Leo immediately blushed after hearing her words.

"W-What are you talking about!? Of course that's not it!"

"Then you'll accept my training?"

He nodded with a red face, "Yes."

"We will begin your training after the Wilderness Training Course, got it?" Eve said.

"I understand."

After talking for a little longer, Leo and Camille left the Headmistress' office.

"Are you prepared for the Wilderness Training Course?" Camille asked him.

"I'm not sure. What do you recommend I bring with me?" he asked.

Camille stopped walking and looked at him with a puzzled face.

"You know that you'll be staying out there for the whole duration of the training course, right? This means you'll camp out in the Wilderness. You'll need to prepare your own tent and other stuff."

"Now that you mention it..." Leo began sweating when he realized just how unprepared he was for the training course.

Camille rubbed her eyes and sighed, "Alright, let's go shopping."

Thus, they left the academy to go shopping at the Stellar Terminal.