

the monarch Chapter 41 - Failure

Chapter 41: Failure

Kayden chuckled to himself. He was longing for it. David, once again, doubted the boy's sanity. A child of only 8 years old should not have these types of actions. It was kind of extreme.

It was. For an 8-year-old. But Kayden was not an 8-year-old. He was someone who spent years in a bed just breathing. There was no way to explain the satisfaction of experiencing such intense sensations to David.

A few seconds later, Kayden finished being healed. The process was fast as usual. The arm was like new. Kayden got up and picked up his katana. After thinking for a while, he turned to David.

"I want to fight a 3rd rank wolf again, David." As much as he had won, the boy knew how to recognize his mistakes. It was still too green to fight a 4th rank. Yet...

A few days later, in the same place as their previous fights, Kayden was with David. His strength made another astonishing progress. Life and death struggles were the best teachers.

His blows were fast and efficient. There was no hesitation or unnecessary thought, and if there was, Kayden was hurt. This progress was similar to Darwin's law: survive and pass your offspring or die. Only those who adapted could survive.

"Are you sure, boy? A fourth rank is a colossal step. He will have an absurd transformation between 3rd and 4th rank." David asked the boy again.

"Yes, David, please have Cerberus bring him." Kayden needed to experience the next level. 3rd rank wolves were no longer worthy opponents of their time. He should raise the difficulty or stagnate.

David ordered his companion to bring the 4th rank animal. A few minutes later, the two beasts could be seen coming out of the forest. From a distance, the differences weren't very visible, but as soon as the animal got close, Kayden could tell.

The animal was at least 30 centimeters taller and 50 centimeters longer. In addition, his fur no longer had so many white tones, but small spots. This time, it was possible to see rays drawn on its fur.

His teeth seemed to be even sharper, his body exuded a different aura. He no longer enjoyed being just a wolf but a predator born for combat. Kayden's blood boiled again.

"David, just step in if I am in definite life-threatening or lose the ability to fight." The scientist had already made it clear that, at the slightest sign of danger, he would interfere. Things like arms and legs could be tolerated, but damage near vital organs would not.

As soon as the scientist ordered Cerberus to give the order and attack, he let out a sigh. He felt responsible for the boy's pain. As soon as the wolf heard the dog's command, he lunged at Kayden.

There was no longer a restrained fighting style that expected gaps. It was just primitive instincts. Kayden was already prepared. When the animal reached 5 meters, it threw a concentrated beam that was easily deflected by the beast.

The boy had already expected this and continued using concentrated beams while he kept moving. He was testing the wolf's strength. When there was a small mistake from the animal, Kayden used a Pop Flash catching him by surprise.

With the animal's vision blinded, Kayden approached using acceleration and was ready to deliver a decisive blow with his katana, but at that moment, the wolf opened its mouth and released several rays in all directions.

Kayden knew that from the sheer numbers, they couldn't be very strong, but he chose to play it safe and backed away while dodging the attacks. When he was about to resume the battle, the boy noticed that the wolf's eyes were open again.

He seemed to glint intelligence, and at that moment, Kayden had the feeling that he was missing something. The answer to your question arrived in your right leg. Excruciating pain assailed the boy and a slight numbness was felt at the site.

Kayden finally noticed what was happening. The beast could control the lightning bolts he had already released. That was insane. While the 3rd rank wolf could barely use them on paws or teeth, the 4th rank was already controlling the element.

Seeing the boy's weakness, the wolf attacked with everything. Kayden saw the beast's body fill with tiny sparks. The boy tightened his grip on his sword and left acceleration ready to be activated. He didn't know what was going on, but it didn't look good.

Surprising the boy once more, the wolf increased his speed by 1/4 with those sparks. It was 15% more than his acceleration could take him. The wolf got in front of him again very quickly.

The boy steadied his footing, he was still feeling the numb sensation in his leg. He would still need a few more seconds to recover. The problem is that he didn't have that time.

He kept the beast at bay using several concentrated beams that were rapidly consuming his mana. The beast went for a frontal attack on the boy. Kayden wasn't ready for this. Using acceleration, he brought his sword down on the animal.

Its blade hit the animal's side and, unlike the boy's expectation, the animal only suffered a deep wound. The same strength would be able to cut a 3rd rank wolf in two. Because of this small miscalculation by Kayden, the animal managed to take his arm in one bite.

Before Kayden could think, he saw David holding him in his arms. That was his last memory before everything suddenly went dark.

Sometime later, the boy woke up in his bed. Kayden got up when he was halfway to starting his daily activities, and his memories returned. He was fighting the beast, what happened?

After doing his basic needs, the boy went upstairs to see David. The scientist was the only person who could have saved him. Kayden no longer had any doubts that he had lost that battle.

As soon as he went upstairs, he saw the man with a plate of food and a book in his hands. This was a common view of the boy, David was always learning something different every day. David noticed Kayden and turned his gaze to him:

"Don't even start, Kayden, I'm not going to help you with this anymore", the scientist snapped before the boy could open his mouth.

"Explain to me what happened before, please, David, I just remember being bitten by the wolf this morning", Seeing this, David seemed to have his memories back to that day and he frowned even more.

"MORNING!!?? YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR 1 AND A HALF, YOU BOY", David looked enraged, for the first time in his life, Kayden heard the most elaborate insults that a human being was capable of uttering.

It took Kayden a while to understand why the man was angry, but once understanding hit him, he felt mentally warmed.

David was worried about him, which is why he had such a strong reaction. Seeing that the boy was not knowing what to do, the man said:

"Sorry, I got a little carried away", a little was a word that didn't fit in this scenario. "After you were bitten, the wolf discharged a high amount of electricity inside your body, You are only alive because I prevented him from being able to stick to you for a long time, half of your organs stopped working."

The scientist was silent for a few seconds. This situation made him realize that he cared for Kayden much more than just a research buddy. He didn't know how to express his feelings, but he looked something like an older brother.

"Daisy had to work for almost half an hour just so you could get back to normal, I thought you were going to get better boy", This sentence shocked Kayden.

He almost passed to his 3rd life. Fortunately, the scientist was ready to save him. Kayden should be feeling scared right now, but there was nothing. He didn't regret it. He did what he needed to pursue his goals.

AN:AN: I'm using a new text organizer, so if you see any errors please make a paragraph comment

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the monarch Chapter 42 - Again

Chapter 42: Again

"I would like to fight the beast again, David." Kayden's look was one of pure determination and it enraged the scientist all over again. Kayden went through another round of curses worthy of resetting the penal code from end to end. When the scientist calmed down, the boy blurted out his ultimatum:

"If you don't help me, I'll do it myself, and this time you won't be there to help me." Kayden would do it again one way or another, but he'd rather have David's help with him. David was silent this time, it made no sense to him. Why all this obsession?

"Kayden, why are you so obsessed with progressing like this? To the point of risking your life for small improvements?" His question took the boy by surprise. Kayden expected another round of abuse.

Sitting down in the chair across from David, the boy gave the scientist's question some thought. Why was he trying so hard? With his heart of mana, he could progress slowly and lead a peaceful life.

The minutes it was passed. David didn't interrupt Kayden's thoughts. Minute after minute, Kayden's head tried to search for an answer. It wasn't something that took a lot of time. Turning to David, he said:

"People value their lives above their goals, but what's the point if after living for years you can't achieve it? You chose not to take risks and achieved nothing. I struggle out of fear. Fear of being mediocre. Afraid of wasting the only chance I have."

Kayden's gaze regained lucidity as he solidified his ideas and presented them to David. Today he took another step in knowing himself.

"What's the point of leading a life identical to that of millions of others? Being born, growing up, falling in love, graduating from college, getting married, buying a house. It looks like a mouse running around in circles. There is nothing new, just something predictable and commonplace."

The boy's phrase shocked the scientist again. He had never thought of it from that point of view. Unbeknownst to Kayden, David was someone who had been stuck for years. This brief conversation with the boy reignited his teenage desire to conquer the world and rise to the top.

After a few seconds of silence, David looked into the eyes of the boy who had probably changed his life.

"Whenever you want, I'll be there."

"Thank you, David."

The wind was whipping Kayden's robes hard. The sun shone brightly on his sword. The grass shivered with the passage of air. Birds sang in the trees. It looked like a movie scene from a rural area.

This landscape was seen as peace for the boy. There were no problems, everything was calm, and there was a steady flow of life. Kayden was there to fight a 4th rank beast again.

David didn't ask if Kayden was ready. Just asked Cerberus to bring the same beast again. While the two waited, Kayden replayed the last fight in his mind, trying to predict what would happen in this one.

A few minutes later, the same scene as before can be seen. The giant dog was leading the wolf like a sheep being led by the shepherd. As soon as Kayden saw him, he went through something he hoped he'd gotten over.

As in his first defeat, his palms began to sweat. His heart sped up and his throat went dry. His instinct screamed only one thing: run. Run away. Turn around and leave. Don't fight.

Taking a deep breath, the boy drew his katana from its sheath. His body was practically going through a panic attack, but his mind was crystal clear. There was not an ounce of doubt or hesitation.

He knew what he had to do. Either he overcame his fears or they would consume him. Ready for his battle pose, the boy nodded at David. The scientist relayed the signal to the dog and it all started again.

The wolf took off at speed towards the boy. This time, Kayden was ready and he ran towards the animal. It was no use changing his fighting style because the opponent was stronger than him. Kayden must do what he was used to and do his best.

Just before they met, Kayden used a Pop Flash. It wasn't the first time the wolf had seen this trick and he recovered almost instantly. What he didn't expect was the concentrated beam hidden with the spell.

His body was paralyzed for milliseconds and Kayden used that window of time to get even closer to the beast. When she recovered, she saw the katana blade approaching her body quickly.

The beast had small rays materialize in its body and dodged the blow. When she was at a distance that she considered safe, she opened her mouth to shoot lightning at the boy. Unfortunately, at that moment, she received another concentrated beam.

The same scene was repeated, but when trying to move away, the wolf saw another ray coming towards him. He didn't have time to dodge, he was already moving away from the sword. Preferring the bolt over the blade, the wolf continued its retreat.

Kayden took advantage of the beast's embarrassment and, using acceleration, quickly approached it. For a few seconds, this was repeated several times. The wolf couldn't get off the defensive. He was faster and stronger than the average human boy, but he never had an opportunity to attack him.

Kayden was improving the execution of his moves each time this situation came up. After a few seconds and seeing a slight sign of fatigue in the wolf, the boy tried another strategy.

When a concentrated ray was supposed to come out, a Pop Flash came out. The wolf had no time to react and took the spell with wide eyes. This caused the beast to panic and it tried to shoot lightning in all directions again. But before he could open his mouth, he felt a tingle in his throat and the muscle went numb.

Kayden approached using acceleration and passed the katana harmlessly across the animal's neck. The beast, feeling the metal in its throat, lost any will to fight and began to run. If he hadn't been blind, he could have continued fighting.

Kayden looked down at his hands. They were shaking. The boy put the katana away and took a deep breath. His body stilled. He had won. No injuries, it was a practically one-sided fight.

"Congratulations Kayden, that was impressive," David spoke sincerely. A minority of wizards were capable of fighting beasts and of those only a fraction could do what the boy did.

What about 4th-rank apprentices? Probably only those who had early training. Kayden turned to David with a look of realization.

"Again"

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That was the last week of January. The college tests had all come to an end. Or at least almost everyone. There was still the one that everyone was anxiously waiting for.

One that caused dreams in every child in the kingdom and admiration in adults. The Sol Academy. Once again, his entrance test would be shown on national television. This time, Kayden knew what was going to happen and had already scheduled himself to watch the show over the weekend.

The days passed quickly. Without school, the boy would wake up in the morning and train until bedtime. With the day full like this, time seemed to fly by.

Friday, Kayden woke up and went downstairs to the orphanage. He performed his morning training after a hearty breakfast and headed to the backyard. As he arrived early this time, he could see the old man levitating different sofas and food in the same position as last year.

After offering help and being bluntly refused, Kayden sat down on the ground and started cultivating. Every second should be used to the fullest. Seeing this attitude, the old man cracked a small smile to himself.

AN:A small special thanks to ISEKAI Fan , he has been supporting and helping the work for some time , my sincere thanks

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the monarch Chapter 43 - Second test

Chapter 43: Second test

'I don't know what this kid started two years ago, but it has undoubtedly changed him completely, he has already surpassed all of his peers.' That was true, at the orphanage only Heimer could be counted in the sense of talent on par with Kayden.

The minutes passed quickly and soon everyone was sitting on the couches waiting for the program to start. Kayden had Heimer and Ryan glued to him.

"As? I close my eyes for 1 month and you pass rank?" Heimer voiced the two's doubt aloud. Kayden was prepared for that kind of question. Its advance was tremendously fast.

"It's a matter of talent, Heimer, you won't understand." This response resulted in Ryan hitting Kayden in the head.

"You only have a rank 1 innate talent, Kayden, what's the catch? We're friends, aren't we?" Ryan was impressed, but before Kayden could say anything, the screen flashed to Draven as the presenter again.

"Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I am happy to see everyone gathered together again to see this wonderful display of talent from our kingdom. So, without further ado, let's get to the test presentation."

A repeat of last year's explanation appeared, it was the same tests again. Innate talent, the ladder, and the final test. This should be a model that came from years of use.

"Wake me up when I get to the battle part." With that sentence, Kayden closed his eyes and shut out the world around him. He had no interest in watching people climb stairs, his time was limited, not really, but that part of the show was shit to watch.

"Lunatic," Heimer cursed under his breath and started watching the program. Unlike Kayden, the other kids see this moment as entertainment and not something to gain experience.

A few minutes later, the finalists on the ladder appeared. Like last time, there were few on high steps and the biggest was at a staggering 85, topping Beethoven by a full 5 steps.

It was a girl holding a forge hammer behind her back. Her hair was red, and her height of nearly six feet made her look like a Valkyrie straight out of the legends of Asgard. The small offending effect was that his hammer was at least 40 centimeters long and on his belt was another one of only 5 centimeters.

"Kayden, wake up your bum, No more sleeping there!" Heimer threw a glass of water at the boy. Locked in his mind, Kayden snapped back to reality. Glaring at the two beside him, Kayden was about to play the prank back.

Seeing this, Heimer pointed to the old man sitting next to them. Kayden didn't know what to do, on the one hand, it seemed unlikely, but it suited the man's personality. For that reason, the boy just sat comfortably and waited. The girl's information was not passed on and soon Draven appeared on the screen:

"Okay, let's start with our director's keynote speech, and then we'll move on to the third and final test." The image of the narrator was cut and Leonardo Sol appeared.

Unlike the other time, the man was riding a giant golden wolf. Matching the color of its fur, the beast's eyes were molten gold, magnificent to look at. Leonardo began his speech:

"Hi everyone, thank you for coming along for our test this year. Our goal remains the same." The wolf howled and caused a small flutter in everyone watching. Even behind the scenes, that animal was capable of causing fear in viewers.

"We want true geniuses, we want those capable of guiding the future of humanity." His voice rose in pitch and gained emotion. "We want people who can hold our entire country against the world if need be, and we will spare no effort to do so. Good luck to all competitors."

The man's speech was short but managed to convey all the feelings that should have been conveyed. It was clear what the academy was after. It wasn't just the best, it was the best of the best. The champions of champions.

After Leonardo's image left the screen, Draven appeared again. With his friendly smile, the man began to pass on the information about what would happen now. In the same model as last year, the best candidates could make a presentation on the platform.

The first candidate rose and, like last year, was the winner of the second challenge. The girl with the hammers took the stage. His walk was just a thrill. Trust. The purest confidence that only geniuses would have.

His presentation started on the screen. Her name was Honoka Hoshizaki, his name meant something similar to glowing flames. The girl was at the impressive peak of the ninth realm. The ninth realm was not rare in this competition, but those at the peak of it were an absolute minority among the competitors. His innate talent was incredibly high as well, he was ranked fifth.

When the girl reached the middle of the stage, a voice could be heard:

"What are you going to show us?" It was a voice without gender or any distinguishing characteristics. That was the voice of the competition judge. Honoka answered directly and confidently:

"Forge, I would like an elder to test the quality of my equipment." The request surprised the viewers, unlike the previous year there were no highlights in the secondary classes, but the combat ones always had a focus and were presented first.

"Very well, use this space to forge." Various instruments were presented on the stage, from different anvils to weapon molds. Some instruments had their obvious use, such as cooling barrels, but others were very different, anyone who was not used to the procedures of this branch of magic had no idea what they were used for.

Various materials were placed on a workbench, from ordinary materials to gigantic bones of magical beasts, it was truly a test worthy of the greatest academy in the realm. The judge continued:

"Take your time, the longer the forging time, the better your result should be. The test starts in 1 minute, Good luck." As soon as she heard the command, the girl started to go to the forge and choose the equipment she would use.

Her choice of material was a simple-looking ore, it didn't appear to have anything out of the ordinary. Then she took some pieces of noble wood and started to heat the furnace.

The process was done slowly and carefree. The girl put the metal on the fire and took a book out of her pocket... sitting on the bench, she began to read as if she were walking in a park on a sunny afternoon.

Her behavior was not befitting that of a candidate for the greatest university in the kingdom. Every few seconds, she would kick the metal or turn it over with her toe. Her behavior caused laughter in some and anger in others.

A few minutes later, she got up, the material was already red due to the high temperature, even so, it still had a hardened appearance, which proved that it was not a normal metallic alloy.

Taking her two hammers out of her pocket and using the big one with her two hands and the other with mana, the girl started hammering the material. Her beats seemed to be random, there wasn't a very regulated pattern

. While the big hammer hit a few times and very hard, the small one was rhythmic with weak and constant hits. A few minutes later, she placed the material on the fire and opened her book again.

At some point that few noticed, the girl put on a small earphone and started humming the most played songs of the moment. At the same time, he opened his book again.

This time, it was possible to see what the girl was reading. It was certainly something aimed at deepening knowledge about forging, a material worthy of a genius, viewers thought. The title of the great work was... An Erotic Romance Story for Single Adults. Well... it was a bit of an offbeat read, no doubt.

the monarch Chapter 44 - Impressive

Chapter 44: Impressive

This cycle lasted for at least 3 hours, according to the program timer. After 5 minutes, the program sped up the video several times, as it would be extremely annoying to see the girl repeating the same thing for so long.

Each cycle made it clearer what the girl was trying to do. Little by little, a giant sword took shape, even its sharp part was made of hammers, strange as it was. When the sword was molded into a good shape, the girl left it to cool in the cooling barrels.

The girl took a knife out of her pocket and began to carve into the wood she had selected. Like the metal alloy, the weapon's handle slowly began to take shape. Little by little, the image of a Chinese dragon coiled around the cable was seen.

Viewers did not know about Honoka's blacksmithing skills, but undoubtedly her artistic gift was present. The dragon was beautifully sculpted, from its eyes to its scales, a museum-worthy work of art.

After a few minutes, the girl fitted the two parts together and, when everyone thought she was going to finish her test, people saw her taking a brush and several bottles of paint from her pocket. It was a lot to have in a pants pocket, but that was okay. The girl had already done so many strange things that it didn't even surprise anyone anymore.

She started by applying red paint to the blade, it was dark red. He spent his brushstrokes as if it were a hobby. As soon as he finished the blade, he started painting the handle black. The contrast left the weapon looking beautifully crafted.

"I finished my work", the girl placed the completed sword on the table and announced nothing. The judge's voice materialized like magic: "One of our elders will check your work, your identity will remain hidden." Once the voice ended, a male figure was seen climbing onto the dais. I couldn't identify any of its features.

The figure slowly walked towards the forging space. It had neither a fast nor a slow step, and it quickly arrived in front of the sword. Taking it in his hands, the old man asked: "Have you given it a name yet...?" The figure stopped his sentence in mid-sentence. "That... Mage rank, impressive." As soon as that sentence came out of the figure's mouth, the audience split in two. Those who knew about forging were speechless and those who didn't continued as if it was nothing. The screen froze and Draven appeared: "Those who understand what's going on here, please explain to the ignorant how awesome this was." The man had a smile as if he knew what was going to happen in a few seconds.

At the orphanage, no one understood about forging. It was a profession rarely chosen by children, as it required a lot of patience and willpower to make even the simplest of weapons. Seeing the children's silence, Han said: "Normally, blacksmiths can only make weapons one level below their rank. That is, a level 9 blacksmith will only be able to make level 8 weapons. It is difficult to get something at his level and practically impossible to make something above. And I have never seen a blacksmith capable of overcoming the difference in realms." Everyone was paying attention to the man's words, his voice imposed a tone of silence on the little ones.

Draven appeared on the screen as soon as the man finished speaking.

"Looks like you guys have already seen how impressive this was, let's continue with the video." The image returned to the old man observing the weapon. The girl didn't seem to be paying much attention and continued reading her book in a carefree manner.

"My verdict is that the candidate is approved." With that sentence, the recording ended.

At the orphanage, the children began to spread out and go do other things. Kayden was no different. The boy went to train in the clearing with Heimer. The day was without sun and with cold winds, an uninviting climate for training.

"Heimer, have you ever fought in school championships?" Kayden asked something that had been on his mind lately. Heimer was taken aback by this question and, after thinking for a few seconds, replied:

"Yes, I entered the 5th year and won the state championship consecutively for the last 3 years, only now in the ninth year that I lost." Heimer still seemed not to have accepted defeat.

"What rank are you, Heimer?" The last time they discussed their ranks, Heimer was ranked 8th, but that was a long time ago. Without a doubt, the boy must have progressed.

"I already told you that this kind of question is rude, Kayden", the boy tried to lecture Kayden, the same way he did every time he was asked the same question. "But I am ranked ninth," Heimer said with a twinge of pride.

Kayden was shocked for a few seconds. Heimer was only 12 years old and already ranked ninth. This once again demonstrated the difference innate talent can make to cultivation speed.

"And how do you fight, Heimer? You once told me you use matrices, but I have no idea how that works." In all of the boy's friendly battles, he never saw anyone using arrays like his friend.

"It's very simple. You draw a picture in your mind and place mana at different points with different strengths. Depending on what you did, something happens." Heimer explained it simply, his tone made it seem like it was child's play.

"I see..." Kayden started practicing his sword movements and Heimer took out a book to read.

1st day of 5th grade class

Kayden woke up early and went about his routine as usual. He took the train and headed to school. He wouldn't pay much attention in class, the boy only went because he was forced by the old man. As soon as he arrived, he headed to his usual place.

Over time, more students arrived. Kayden was cultivating while the teacher didn't arrive, this prevented him from hearing the small murmurs that started around him.

"Is he ranked 4th?"

"How is this possible?"

"Wasn't he useless?"

Things like this started to spread like wildfire among the kids. One of them, who was in rank 3 and was considered the strongest in the room, couldn't take it and went arrogantly to Kayden's table.

With a loud slap on the table, he got Kayden's attention. The boy didn't understand what the other wanted and asked:

"Some problem?" Kayden never really had contact with anyone in his class and didn't know how he could have offended the child in front of him.

"I order you to tell me what you used to reach 4th rank." The boy felt entitled to demand things from others just because he was considered the strongest in the room. Kayden realized that the boy in front of him was nothing more than a spoiled brat.

"Get out, I don't have time to waste on you." Kayden returned to cultivating and ignored the boy's existence. This infuriated the child even more. He reached up and slapped Kayden across the face.

AN: I'm traveling and won't release chapters tomorrow, sorry /:

the monarch Chapter 45 - Dispensed

Chapter 45: Dispensed

AN: Sorry for the delay, I didn't have time to write these days,

"A waste of talent who thinks he has the right to retort something I..." The boy couldn't finish what he was going to say. After feeling the slap, Kayden reacted automatically, using a concentrated beam and punching the boy in the chin.

Before the boy could even think about what happened, Kayden already had his sword pointed at the boy's neck.

"You...". Kayden slapped the blunt part of the blade across the boy's face.

"Still! I don't mind you being funny like the little shit you are, but if you touch me again, I'll cut your throat like a chicken." The blade's edge passed lightly past the boy's neck, close enough for him to feel the cold air of the metal.

Before the boy could start crying, the teacher appeared at the door. All the noise in the room quickly fell silent. The boy on the floor was still in shock, but when he saw the teacher, he started shouting:

"Teacher, help me! Kayden went crazy and tried to kill me!" The boy made a scene worthy of an Oscar, unfortunately for him, the teacher saw everything that had happened.

"Kayden, come with me." His tone of voice was calm . "And you," she looked at the crying child on the floor, "go to the principal's office. His attitude was outrageous. We expect more from our students than that."

His tone of voice was indisputable. Kayden was not anxious. He already expected his actions to have consequences, but they probably wouldn't be very serious since he didn't do anything. It was just a warning not to bother him again.

Upon leaving the room, the teacher asked Kayden to follow her. It was a few minutes of silence until she opened her mouth:

"Boy, I don't know what to do with you." His tone seemed to express several feelings, but the most prominent one was tiredness.

"I will accept any punishment, teacher, don't worry." Kayden had affection for her tutor, she always tried to teach the boy what she could and never despised him like other people.

"It's not about that now, kid. I say about your teaching. Students normally only reach 4th rank when they are 10 years old or older. I could send you to the best classes in our school, but no teacher will accept you."

The question wasn't about Kayden's talent, but rather his potential. A level 1 innate talent was something no teacher would want to take on, as the boy would likely not progress. Reaching the fourth rank was already considered a miracle by many.

The teacher sighed and said:

"I can't give you private lessons just because you're in front." His face had a look of conflict. "You're free, kid, until 7th grade at least. You can still look for me to ask questions."

The teacher expected to see a look of joy on the boy. Normally, children didn't like studying the theoretical part of magic. But there was nothing. Kayden didn't show any significant reaction.

"Okay, teacher. Could you tell me who I can talk to about getting on the high school competition team?" His question surprised the woman.

"Of course, Kayden. You should look for Professor Nila on the deepest floor of the gym." The teacher was happy to help the boy, even with something as simple as that. Kayden bowed to his first teacher.

"Thank you, teacher. I will take your teachings to life." His words were sincere. In 5 years, she was the only one who reached out to him at school.

"Don't be silly, boy. I did nothing but my duty." The teacher smiled. Kayden said goodbye to her and continued looking for teacher Nila. The path was not strange to him.

He went down the first flight and saw the conventional magicians fighting each other. It seemed to be the same scenario as always. Kayden went down one more flight. He didn't know what was below. The boy never came down or was curious to know.

The second floor was filled with warriors training, from swordsmen to knights. It was similar to the gym Ryan first introduced him to. Kayden went down one more flight. The third floor surprised him. It was a gigantic counter with several counters and cauldrons.

He didn't even know this existed at school. He paid attention for a few seconds and soon lost his curiosity. He went down another flight of stairs. This time, it was a place full of furnaces and people hammering different things. There were strong air exhaust fans to remove smoke from the place.

Kayden went down another floor and this time... there was nothing. It was just an empty place, in its center a woman was sitting at an office table. She seemed to be bored.

His attention was on a computer screen. She didn't even notice Kayden's steps towards her. The woman appeared to be in her 20s and seemed out of step with the other prehistoric students at the school.

"Hello?" Kayden tried to speak in a low tone so as not to scare the woman. But it did not work. The secretary jumped up from her chair and let out a small cry of surprise. The woman quickly regained her calm and pretended nothing happened.

"Hello, I am the secretary of the elite team. How can I help you?" His speech surprised the boy. Even a team from a random school had an office for themselves.

"I would like to speak to Professor Nila, please." Kayden tried to be as polite as possible. The woman's eyes sparkled in understanding.

"You want to join the team, don't you?" The woman didn't give Kayden a chance to speak and continued: "The process is very simple. You need to beat the last-placed team and you will be entitled to a place. It's a simple 1-on-1 fight, with the same rules as a duel." The woman seemed to have said that a thousand times.

Kayden thought for a moment about what she said. It seemed to be very simple. He expected a few more tests or another assessment method. But it made no difference to him. His intention was only to join the team and not to prove his abilities.

"When can I fight the last-placed team?" The boy directly expressed his will. The woman appeared to check something on her computer before turning to Kayden.

"Right now, but I must warn you that if you lose, you must stay 4 months without challenging anyone. We need to prevent incessant challenges. I hope you understand."

"Very well, I want to fight right now, please." Kayden didn't feel like he needed to prepare. He was at his best. Hearing the boy's request, the woman asked him to wait a moment.

A few minutes later, the floor opened up, revealing another staircase. Out came a girl wearing heavy cold clothes. It looked like I was going to face a blizzard. His hair was blue and so were his eyes.

But what surprised Kayden was the amount of clothes. It wasn't even cold that day. The girl headed towards a circle that appeared behind the secretary. Kayden hadn't even noticed when he appeared.

"Boy, please come to the circle. Your fight will start 10 seconds after stepping on it." The process was carried out quickly. It seemed like the intention was to avoid wasting the elite students' time. Kayden walked to the edge of the circle and positioned himself with the katana.

After 10 seconds, the secretary clapped her hands and the two took that as a sign to start fighting. Kayden instantly started with a Pop Flash. This was one of his strongest weapons.

The girl was attentive, but not for something simple like that. Kayden charged at her. His opponent threw several icicles to slow his movement. There were so many that Kayden couldn't even see the person behind them.

"That almost got me, What a scare!" The girl wiped the cold sweat from her forehead. Kayden took every battle seriously and didn't say a word. His response was a concentrated beam shooting out from his sword.

The girl erected a wall of ice and hid behind it. His attacks began to rain down on Kayden. Spikes and spikes of ice were thrown out without stopping. Kayden had faced opponents of this style before.

The boy waited for the girl to make a mistake. It was dodging and throwing lightning from time to time. But the girl's defense was solid. After a few minutes, the ice wall she was standing on collapsed from wear and tear.

Kayden found his chance. Using a well-aimed Pop Flash, the girl was blinded. Kayden also used a concentrated beam that hit the girl's legs. With the entire path prepared, he used acceleration at maximum speed.

His body quickly approached his opponent, but his instinct told him something was wrong. It seemed to be very simple. Kayden ignored that nagging voice in his head and continued with his assault.

When he reached 2 meters from his opponent, the boy understood what was wrong. The ground was icy. Unfortunately, it was too late. Several ice spikes exploded at the boy. Kayden tried to defend the most critical parts of his body.

"Very silly, boy." Kayden could hear the girl mocking.

Several cuts could be seen dripping blood on his arms. His clothes became rags. But his will was still firm. He prepared to continue but felt his body being healed and the girl turning to leave.

"Wait, this isn't over yet!" The boy screamed. His body still had adrenaline coursing through it.

"Unfortunately, it's over. You are only conscious because she spared your vital parts." The secretary's voice could be heard. The penny finally dropped for Kayden. His body slowly cooled down. His mind began to think about what had happened. Where did he go wrong?

the monarch Chapter 46 - The invitation

Chapter 46: The invitation

'Impatience. I despaired and didn't follow my instinct.' After reflecting for a few seconds, he already had the answer. The secretary let the boy reflect while the girl left. As soon as the girl disappeared up the stairs she came in, she turned to Kayden.

"That was a good fight, kid. She was at the peak of the 5th realm. Try your luck again in 3 months." She walked closer as she spoke. "I think you dropped this here during the fight."

The woman slid a small envelope over to Kayden. The boy was sure it wasn't his and tried to give it back to the woman, but she started pushing him and stopping him from talking. When Kayden was already on the first step to leave, the woman stopped talking motivational nonsense and lowered her tone.

"Open it when you are alone. I promise it will help you." The boy finally understood what was happening. The envelope was given to him on purpose. His curiosity was piqued.

"What is that?" He asked her directly. His response was a smile and an expression of disagreement.

"I don't know what you're talking about. Please remove yourself from this floor, candidate." With one last push at Kayden, she returned to her desk. Kayden stood still for a few seconds. This was very suspicious.

Snapping out of his stupor, he began to climb the flights of stairs. It went like a rocket through the floors. As soon as he reached the ground, he headed towards the bathroom. It was the only place he could have some genuine privacy.

He went as far away from the classroom as possible. He checked that no one was there and entered one of the cabins.

'It doesn't hurt to be cautious, does it?' The boy thought as he opened the envelope. His eyes fell on a folded paper. As he unfolded its contents, he felt his vision go black for a moment and his head throb.

As soon as he regained consciousness, he saw that the paper was filled with words. As he read, his expression of pain turned to surprise. He never imagined this was possible.

'Supported by the government? What the fuck? This is just too gigantic to hide.' His blood boiled in anticipation. He left the bathroom and headed home. Unfortunately, it wasn't time to participate yet. He would have to wait for the weekend.

It was still only Wednesday. As soon as he returned home, the boy waited for Heimer, maybe the boy could give some answers to his questions. As soon as Heimer arrived in the orphanage's living room, he found himself being pulled out of the house by Kayden.

"Hey, calm down, what do you want, Kayden? Why this urgency?" Regardless of the boy's protests, Kayden continued taking him away from the house. After a few minutes, Kayden stopped and turned to Heimer.

"I have a few questions, but this should stay between us, okay?" His tone was as serious as possible and made Heimer put aside any tantrum he had. The genius nodded and waited for Kayden to continue:

"Have you ever heard of a contract automatically forced when seen by someone?" This question would confirm the authorship that the person who said she had written the letter was herself.

"Yes, but normally only the government has access to this. A few centuries ago there were cases of enslavement using this means. Since then, the authorities have been the only ones with the means of manufacturing. Even noble families are not free from execution if they are caught."

This confirmed Kayden's suspicions. The government had a hand in this, probably after profits. Something this size must generate a lot of money. His anxiety increased over the weekend.

"Have you ever received an unusual offer from an envelope?" Kayden was unable to provide more information because of the contract he signed against his will. He appreciated that his heart sank every time he tried to put into words what happened.

"No, why? You're being weird today, Kayden. Has something happened that you need my help?" Heimer was suspicious of his friend's specific questions. Kayden quickly diverted the topic.

"It was nothing, Heimer, just my paranoia. Now that you've cleared my doubts, I know it's nothing to worry about." Kayden disguised himself and began to lead the boy to other matters.

After a while, Heimer no longer paid attention to what happened and Kayden was able to return home. Even if there was no chance of Heimer finding out something, he didn't want to risk his life on it.

Kayden headed to his room and began cultivating on his bed.

"This will be a good opportunity to earn some money and experience." The boy was excited for the weekend, but first, he needed to study economics.

It seemed silly, but Kayden had no idea about the value or what money was used in this world. The old man always paid with a card, so the boy never had experience with money.

The next day, Kayden woke up early and headed to one of the city's large swap markets. He could ask the old man or Heimer about money, but he didn't want to give any kind of hint about his new opportunity.

Kayden arrived at the market very early. It was a street with several stores selling different common items. From clothes to technological gadgets, it almost seemed like there was no magic. Kayden began to circle the vendors.

Over time, it became simple for him to get a sense of the value of things and which currencies were used. It was different from his previous world. In this, they used ancient connotations of bronze, silver, and gold.

The lowest was bronze and the highest was gold. Most things were purchased using silver coins, but foods and things considered cheap were purchased with bronze coins.

A hundred bronze coins formed one silver coin. The model was the same for silver to gold coins. Kayden didn't even see a gold coin as he watched. It was probably a very high monetary range.

The contract said that Kayden could earn 1 to 10 silvers depending on his performance. And over time, it could reach higher values. There was nothing the boy wanted to buy at the moment, but saving money never hurt.

There will probably be spells in the future that would need money to purchase or upgrade your katana. He couldn't use low-rank weapons forever.

Kayden went about his day normally. He went to train at school and then returned home to a farm in isolation. Slowly, the weekend arrived. Kayden woke up on a normal day and went to school.

This was the meeting point the letter mentioned. Kayden got there around 9 a.m. and waited on a random bench on the street. It took about 1 hour and there was no one there.

Kayden decided to wait until noon, during that time the boy simply continued cultivating without worrying, this was a good opportunity for him, patience was a virtue.

the monarch Chapter 47 - The club

Chapter 47: The club

About 20 minutes later, Kayden felt a hand on his shoulder. The boy was startled and stood up like a rocket. When he turned around, he came across a masked man. He wore a white mask with a smile that went from ear to ear. Matching his look, he wore a black suit.

"Hello? Can I help you?" Kayden began their interaction in a friendly manner. A genderless voice could be heard from the figure.

"Hi Kayden, I'm part of the club." The club was the name of the organization that sent the letter. Kayden remembered that perfectly. The boy asked his next question:

"What happens next?"

"I will take you to the meeting point, but you must sign another contract, this time promising to keep everything you see a secret." The man took out a parchment from his suit, which Kayden promptly signed. Since he was into it, he would go head first. The terms were simple, they just told Kayden to keep it a secret.

"Very well, come with me. When we get there, I'll show you around." The masked person started walking. It didn't take long for them to arrive at one of the best hotels in the city. Kayden wondered where there was room there for the club.

It was a huge building with at least a few dozen rooms. Its golden tone gave a feeling of high quality. The reception had some sofas and a counter with 5 attendants. The man walked towards one of the receptionists, not caring about the guests' strange looks at his mask.

Strangely, the employees seemed to be more alert once they noticed the guy. It seemed like it wasn't the first time they had seen him.

"Room 000." The masked man asked directly. He didn't appreciate being willing to waste so much time. As soon as the employee heard this, he brought out his best smile and took out a key from his pocket.

"Of course, sir, here is the key. Anything, we are available." The man even bowed. The masked man said nothing and pulled Kayden into the elevator. The man clicked the zero button and the emergency button at the same time.

In the meantime, Kayden remained silent. He knew he would only have his answers at the end. There was no point in trying to get something out of the man. He didn't like being very communicative. The elevator took a few minutes to reach the floor. It was, without a doubt, deep in the earth.

As soon as they left, they found themselves facing a door. The key was placed and turned in the lock, revealing a long tunnel lit by torches. The strange thing was that this tunnel had tracks in it. The man took an amulet out of his suit and Kayden could feel a good amount of mana being poured into the object.

The two waited patiently. A few minutes later, a small cart containing two seats can be seen. Its seat was red and its bodywork was light gray. What surprised Kayden was that no wheels or anything were connecting to the tracks. The vehicle was simply floating.

"How is this floating?" Kayden was so curious that he broke the silence that had lasted since they met. The man responded simply.

"Controlled mana repulsion, is done by a matrix. The cart carries a type of mana that is incompatible with the rail, causing it to float. The same man is on the walls, and the bodywork there are wind arrays to move."

1

The explanation made Kayden understand the theory. It was truly something magical. It was the first vehicle he saw using mana for its operation. Sitting in one of the seats, Kayden felt the cart start to accelerate insanely. His body did not feel the inertia. It seemed like the speed wasn't being increased, but it was obvious when he saw the lamps, or rather, tried to. The lamps were already a blur in his vision.

"How fast are we? I can't even feel like we're moving." Kayden expressed his doubts again.

"We are traveling at about 400 kilometers per hour and our destination is about 20 kilometers from where we picked up the cart." This was insane. Kayden couldn't even feel himself moving.

The trip would be quick if it weren't for the immense number of curves and stops that the cart made periodically.

About 15 minutes later, the cart stopped in front of a door identical to the hotel's. Again, the man in the suit took out the same amulet and injected mana. The door opened, revealing its interior.

2

There were at least a few hundred people gathered in different places. There were everything from chairs to sofas in the place. There appeared to be small groups gathered around tables, some were drinking and others were playing cards.

It appeared to be a large open living room, with drinks counters set up in some spots, with bartenders pouring glasses. Above, there were small stations similar to those on the ground. But what surprised Kayden was the amount of people.

Wasn't this supposed to be something secret? How were there so many people in this place? Kayden turned to ask the man and didn't see even a shadow of him. It seemed as if the masked man had evaporated.

Before he could start looking for someone to help him, he heard a voice behind him:

"Hello, Kayden, right?" Kayden turned around and was faced with a blond man dressed in a yellow bathrobe. The color of his hair and clothes caused an overdose of gold, it was eye-catching.

"Yes, and would you be?" Kayden tried to be as respectful as possible. This was not a place conducive to games, or so he thought.

"Lord is your father." The man had a small episode. "Do I look old to you? Look at that smooth, clean skin, see?" Kayden was silent. He didn't know how to react to the man's outburst.

1

"Well..." The man coughed. "Sorry about that. My name is Shang and I am your patron at the club. Come with me, I'll show you around." Kayden didn't quite understand the term patron.

1

The two walked between the different tables and groups in the place. There were all types of people, from adults to children, even though the latter were a minority. After walking for a while, they arrived at one of the beverage distribution points.

Shang sat at a table and pointed to another chair at Kayden. As soon as the two sat down, the man shouted to the bartender:

"Two glasses of whatever is strongest!" The man turned to Kayden. "I don't care that you're a child, you're going to go through my alcoholic baptism." The man gave a devilish smile.

"Can we get straight to the point, Shang? I'm really curious about everything here." Kayden tried to divert the topic from drinks. If the old man detected the slightest hint of alcohol in the boy, he would be crucified alive in front of the orphanage as an example for other people.

"Sure, but you're still going to drink." The man seemed to have a hallucinated look when he said this. "Well, you may have already noticed, but this is an underground fight club. The spectators are diverse people from society, from ordinary workers to big businessmen, the latter are the majority."

At this moment, the bartender arrived with two glasses containing a purple liquid, undoubtedly expressing a dubious appearance.

"Here are two guaranteed hangovers." The man joked. Shang took the two glasses and dismissed the man.

"Here, take it." Shang directly offered Kayden the drink.

"Sorry, Mr. Shang, but I can't drink. My father wouldn't want me to do that." Kayden was more afraid of Han than anything else.

the monarch Chapter 48 - Rules and preparation

Chapter 48: Rules and preparation

"I told you not to call me sir, you shitty brat," the man freaked out again. "Sorry, I'm a person who believes in signs, and all my fighters, I do this ritual. Please cooperate, I can clean up any trace of alcohol later with magic," the blonde explained his point of view. Kayden found it acceptable, and since it could be cleaned up later, he picked up one of the glasses.

Turning the glass down his throat, Kayden felt his body start to catch fire, the liquid went down, setting every inch on fire. After a few seconds of pain, Kayden recovered, he didn't feel the effect of the alcohol.

"Now I'm going to remove the effect of..." Shang noticed the boy's lucidity. "What the fuck? Are you an old drinker in disguise?" Even the blonde, who drank 24 hours a day, showed some signs of drunkenness after that drink.

"I'm fine, we can continue, Shang." Unbeknownst to man, Kayden's heart was practically a poison bomb, his metabolism was insanely accelerated.

"Demons... okay, let's go," the man took out a booklet from his robe. "First you should know that you were referred by one of my informants, but you don't need to sign a contract with me..." Kayden interrupted him.

"What would this contract be? And what would a patron be?"

"I had forgotten that you are a newbie," Shang collected his thoughts for a moment and continued. "A patron is the one who organizes the fights for the fighters, he is also responsible for managing the money."

In short, the patron was the fighter's resource manager.

"Usually fighters are over 18, you're a special case," the man muttered. "Shang, I can't jump many levels to fight," Kayden was being honest, at most he could face a 6th rank with low skill.

"Don't worry too much about it, you will fight in a special category. We only have low-talent fighters or crippled people. This category only goes up to the ninth rank, but we will be fighting the lowest in the rankings for now." Kayden finally understood, that his category was probably just for entertainment. The public wasn't expecting anything spectacular, probably just raw carnage.

Corrected text:

"His fights aren't to the death either. If you sign a contract with me, our division will be 40% to me and 60% to you, and I will be responsible for helping you with your combat training." The man tore out a page from his little book and handed it to Kayden. The boy read.

The terms of this contract were quite simple, actually:

- 1) Division of 40% and 60%.
- 2) Shang should not accept life-or-death fights without the fighter's authorization.
- 3) Shang should provide combat tips when asked.
- 4) Shang should find the right fights, with a similar level to the fighter.
- 5) The fighter must not miss fights for trivial reasons.
- 6) The fighter cannot fake fights if he bets on his opponent.

"The terms are quite simple, as you can see. What's up, kid?" Shang asked with a smile on his face.

"Before I sign the contract, I want to ask you a question." One thing didn't add up for Kayden in this whole story.

"Sure, go ahead." The man pulled a bottle of liquor out of nowhere and started drinking straight from the bottle.

"Why did you choose me? There must be several better 18-year-olds." Kayden hadn't revealed anything spectacular so far.

"Potential." Shang's eyes lit up. "We've been watching you since your fight against Elisabeth." That was a long time ago. "There are better options, but I saw his struggle to make the elite team. His fighting style is designed to finish the opponent quickly and lethally. Not only that, but I see that you have the will to fight that can only be gained with experience."

Kayden was startled by how long he had been watched. He never even realized that.

"Very well, I accept," Kayden said and signed the contract. Shang reached out to Kayden with a smile.

"I hope we have a good partnership, Kayden. Come with me, I have already booked your first fight."

The man got up and headed towards a trap door. Kayden noticed that there were several of them on the floor spread out in different places. Shang noticed the boy's curiosity and explained while opening the trapdoor.

"Everyone should leave this way. This is done to maintain the anonymity of fighters and spectators. Through this trapdoor, you can either leave or enter the ring." The blonde finished lifting the wooden sign and revealed a staircase leading to another corridor.

The two went down and came across two doors, one on the right and one on the left. They were identical to those in the hotel. Shang took out a small compass from his pocket and turned to the right.

"All club members receive this compass. The competitors' area leads to the area below the arena, while the spectators' area leads to one of the club's exits." Kayden was curious about the exits. He expressed his doubt to Shang.

"No, we have dozens of points. After you finish your fight, I will give you a list of them all. The one at the hotel is only used by the administration." The man explained all the details about the club.

After a few doors, the two found themselves facing a completely white door, it seemed to be made of marble. The man knocked twice on the door and waited. A voice can be heard from inside:

"Who?" It was identical to the voice of the figure who brought Kayden to the club.

"Shang, I fight in 15 minutes." As soon as the blonde gave his information, the door was opened, revealing a square room with several masks on the walls.

"You must choose a mask to hide your identity. And don't worry, they are made using matrices that don't get in the way of the fight." Shang began presenting the models to Kayden.

Kayden chose one that referenced a very popular anime from his past life. The mask was white with cat ears, on the side it had three stripes looking like mustaches and the eyes were black with a red rim.

4

(AN: I hope you know where this comes from lol)

As soon as the boy put it on, he felt... nothing. It looked like he wasn't even wearing a mask. There was no heaviness or limitation of his peripheral vision. His only feeling was when he touched her with his hands.

"Impressive, isn't it?" Shang expressed in words what the boy was feeling. "Now let's mask your sword." Then the man went to a small altar in the middle of the room. It was made entirely of stone, completely smooth, without any details, it almost seemed natural.

"Here you place your weapon and the altar will put a small filter on it." Kayden did as the man said and saw his sword transform into an entire golden blade, the handle turning blue.

"The colors were horrible..." Kayden commented. The blade was beautiful, but the handle was simply deplorable.

"The altar is random." Shang led the boy to a door on the other side of the room. It was the same white door, only this time it led to a room full of different clothes.

the monarch Chapter 49 - Fight

Chapter 49: Fight

"Pick an outfit, Kayden. You will probably use it whenever you fight, almost like a brand, so choose wisely." Kayden didn't even need to think, to match he chose a completely black cloak with a hood and was once again surprised.

He wasn't able to feel the fabric weighing down his body or even obstructing his peripheral vision. Seeing that the boy finished getting ready, Shang began to explain some details as he headed towards the third white door.

"Kayden, all my fighters were kids when I picked them. I plan for the long term, so it's okay if you lose this fight or the next few hundred. I want you to learn as much as you can now, okay?" Shang said with a serious look on his face.

"Yes, Shang, leave it to me." Shang opened the door and came across a staircase. The sound of loud voices could be heard. Due to the architecture of the place, all sounds converged in the arena. Kayden's blood began to boil.

Kayden didn't have many certainties in his troubled life, but one of them was, without a doubt, his taste for fighting, for the feeling of living between life and death. As strange as it seemed, the boy felt more alive the closer he got to death.

"Your fight is until one side gives up or can no longer continue. You're just a kid, Kayden, so I'm going to ask the judge to step in as soon as I think you've reached your limit, okay?" Shang patted Kayden on the back and sent the boy forward.

Kayden was anxious, but not nervous. He already knew what he was coming here to do when he received the letter. Slowly, the light from the ceiling was revealed in his vision. In just a few steps, he was inside the arena.

It was similar to a UFC arena, the difference being that it was at least 30 meters in radius. On the other side of the arena, Kayden saw an unmasked figure. He was at least 7 feet tall and had muscles on every inch of his body. He carried a sledgehammer of at least 1.5 meters.

Kayden did not doubt that the man was a knight and not only that, he was used to fighting in the ring. A presenter was flying on a platform above the ring and began to introduce the fight:

"On one side we have the experienced fighter Marreta, a level 5 apprentice wizard. It was a nickname. Fighting the nameless newbie at the 4th rank. I hope to see a beautiful battle. Who are you going to bet on?"

With his introduction, a small bag began to pass through the groups of people. As soon as someone placed an amount of money, a note would come out with the amount and who the person bet on.

A few minutes later, the confusion ended. Everyone had placed their bets on Muppet. Who would be the crazy person who would bet on a newbie one rank lower? As soon as the betting ended, the presenter started again.

"I hope everyone bet well, let's start the fight." As soon as the man said this, a judge appeared in the middle of the arena. He wore the same mask as the administration.

"The fight is not to the death, when this coin falls from my hand you can begin." The judge threw a coin in the air. Kayden got ready, it was starting.

The coin fell to the floor. Kayden was about to use Pop Flash when his opponent said:

"Are you a dwarf by any chance? It barely reaches my shoulder." He laughed along with the crowd. The man knew how to entertain the audience, unfortunately, Kayden's only response was silence.

"Anything? Not a reaction, so let's go..." He couldn't finish his speech, as Kayden blasted a Pop Flash directly into his vision. Even blind, the man didn't lose his cool and swung his sledgehammer in an arc to keep Kayden away.

The boy shot a concentrated beam at the man and used acceleration to approach his opponent. The Muppet continued making circular movements with his weapon until his vision returned.

Unfortunately for him, Kayden wasn't someone who was intimidated by size. He got close enough to release a concentrated beam directly at the man's chest. This made it impossible for the other to continue swinging.

Kayden took this opportunity to attack the man's arm, his sword opening a deep cut. Driven by adrenaline, the knight moved away from the boy, his vision had returned to normal.

"Looks like you're not a newbie, huh?" Even with his arm bleeding, the Muppet was still calm. He shot at Kayden, even with his size he was still extremely fast.

Kayden charged head-on at him. When the knight tried to make a side swing, Kayden thought about escaping to the side with a feint. But life was not a strawberry, the sledgehammer came down with full force on his rib.

Kayden spun a few times before slamming into the arena wall. His head was ringing, his vision started to go black. He broke some ribs. The knight started to come after him, walking slowly.

The crowd started to go crazy, and shouts of "finish him" started to be heard. When he got close enough, Kayden released a Pop Flash directly into the eyes, the knight did not expect a reaction from his opponent. One of Kayden's arms was hanging down.

Kayden quickly utilized acceleration along with concentrated lightning. This time the knight couldn't even raise his weapon. Using the katana with one hand, Kayden used the giant sledgehammer to propel himself upwards.

He was practically struggling subconsciously, his vision was compromised, and his organs were in the wrong place due to the impact.

With acceleration at its maximum, Kayden brought his weapon down on his opponent's neck. Along with the blow, he also unconsciously imbued lightning into his blade. The lightning bolts were licking his opponent's jugular.

The blade entered, and blood began to flow out like a river. Kayden was scared, he thought someone was going to stop him from giving the man a fatal blow, but he heard nothing. The boy fell to the ground unbalanced and looked at the man dying next to him.

His mind had a little meltdown, had he killed someone else? For a few bucks? The boy tuned out the sounds around him, his eyes focused on his hands, had he done this?

Kayden saw the blood on his katana dripping onto the floor, the drops having a hypnotic effect on the boy. The sound of them hitting the ground began to eat away at his mind. Almost like clockwork. Tick ... Tac ...

"Fighter, exit the ring through the trapdoor" Kayden finally came to, the man in front of him was sitting while a medical team healed him, there was no hatred in the knight's eyes.

"Come on, newbie, don't be surprised, death is common here, don't blame yourself so much" As an experienced fighter from the club, Muppet managed to see what was going through Kayden's mind.

Probably all new fighters went through the same sensation at least once in their lives. Some took a long time to recover or even never returned to normal, while others simply had no reactions.

"Sorry," Kayden said as he quickly passed his opponent, the boy ran to the trapdoor, he needed to digest everything that had happened. Before he could start going down the stairs he heard the crowd scream.

"Grim Reaper " someone shouted the nickname and it spread like wildfire, within seconds the entire place was shaking with the voices sounding together. This lasted until the boy went down the stairs and closed the trap door.

1

the monarch Chapter 50 - Help from a friend

Chapter 50: Help from a friend

Silence. The environment was completely silent, it didn't even seem like there was a crowd a few meters above. Kayden automatically started going back the way he came. His mind was still going through what just happened.

More specifically, your feelings and emotions in the fight. Little by little, he realized that it really wasn't intentional on his part. His fighting style aimed to disable his opponent quickly and lethally.

"Fighter, place your sword on the altar." Kayden was ready to leave when he heard the genderless voice call out to him. His mind was so clouded that he forgot that little detail.

Placing his sword on the altar and injecting mana, his katana returned to its normal appearance.

"Sir, what about the clothes and the mask?" Kayden asked politely.

"They are yours until you retire or need to replace them. We want our competitors to maintain the same image to the public." Kayden thanked him automatically and went back on his way.

After returning to the entrance, Kayden found himself lost. He decided to wait for Shang and continued reflecting on what just happened.

A few minutes later, a drunk blond can be seen appearing down the hall.

"Kayden, boy!" The man smiled from ear to ear and sobbed. "You made me a rich, filthy rich man, boy!" Shang was laughing to himself as if it was the happiest day of his life.

we 'll talk later , okay?" Kayden asked bluntly. His tone was enough for Shang to realize something had happened. The moment the katana hit his opponent's neck, Shang started celebrating like a lunatic.

He didn't get to see the moment when the boy was lost on stage. Getting rid of his drunkenness with a simple spell, he acquired a serious tone.

"Come with me." The blonde began to lead the way without saying anything. He was going over what happened in his mind. The silence lasted until they reached the cart.

"Do you want to tell me something, Kayden? I'm open to anything you need." Shang broke the silence after being unable to think of what could have affected the boy.

Kayden thought for a few seconds. He didn't feel comfortable enough to open up to Shang. Kayden probably only had one person in this world with whom he could fully open up.

"There is nothing, Shang, thank you. I just need a little time." Kayden forced a smile that they both knew was fake.

"Okay, Kayden, but just know that I'm here, okay? I take care of mine." Again, silence was imposed between the two. This time, it lasted until they found themselves facing a door identical to the hotel's.

Shang stood up and began to lead the way. The door led to what appeared to be a fully furnished underground apartment. Without a doubt, they were not in the same place Kayden came from.

It was a small space, with just a living room and kitchen. Strangely, there was no bedroom. Everything seemed to be artificial, it did not appear to have been inhabited by people in recent times.

"Don't be surprised, there are several such spots in the city." Shang said with a smile and handed a booklet to Kayden. "Here are the entry and exit points, when you have time, take a look at them all."

"Don't I need an amulet to get in or out?" Kayden remembered perfectly that all doors needed to be opened with the object and mana. Shang made a face like he messed up.

"I forgot about that, I will find you tomorrow and take you to make your amulet. You've already been validated by the administration, so you can enter without one of those strangers in masks." Shang apologized with an embarrassed smile.

"I won't be in town tomorrow, Shang. Leave it for Monday, ok? I'll wait for you in front of the school." The blonde didn't force Kayden, the two headed towards the exit. The residential building faced a train station, it was probably designed by Shang to make it easier for the boy.

"Thank you for everything, Shang. I hope we have a good collaboration." Kayden thanked him for the offer as he said goodbye to the man.

"It's okay, Kayden. Monday we'll talk about money, right?" Kayden didn't even remember that detail and thanked Shang again with a smile. As soon as he turned to enter the train, his smile disappeared.

As he walked home, Kayden thought about what to do now. He only had one person who could help him in this situation, someone he had come to trust with his life in recent years.

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A man along with a child could be seen sitting at a table, on one side there was wine and pizza and on the other just pizza. The two were in a small isolated mansion outside the city.

"You can start, Kayden." David poured himself a glass of wine and focused his attention on the boy. He had never seen his friend so upset since he met him. Kayden organized his thoughts and began:

"For some reasons I can't say, I almost killed someone and it's playing on my mind." Kayden said it directly and quickly, his words shocked the scientist, he didn't expect something like that.

"Was it a fight? What did he do to deserve this?" David tried to get more information.

"It was a struggle, I can't say much more, David." The penny dropped for the scientist that it was probably because of a contract. He was silent before continuing:

"What do you feel? Fault? Repentance?" The scientist expressed some plausible emotions the boy might have.

"No, I don't feel anything, just that I did something wrong, but it wouldn't exactly be guilt or regret." It was difficult to express feelings in words, even the ones humans made did not fully express what they meant.

"This is normal, Kayden. I remember when I killed for the first time." David seemed to be overcome by memories. "I had nausea, headaches and panic attacks." Kayden never imagined that the scientist had gone through something like this.

"I killed just because I was offended and I was stronger, like a hot-headed idiot. Of all the people I killed, that was the only one that haunts me..." Before he could continue, Kayden interrupted him.

"I thought you were just a scientist, David." The image of David fighting and killing other people seemed strange in Kayden's head.

"The higher you go in the magical world, the more you need to fight, Kayden. No matter what class or what you chose to do, at one time or another you will need to demonstrate strength or they will eat you alive." The scientist's eyes sparkled as he replayed his memories.

The two remained silent for a few minutes, David while remembering his past and Kayden while respecting his friend's moment of reflection.

"The first is the hardest, then it gets easier and easier until a moment when it no longer means anything to you." His voice had a certain regret. "But your problem is time, Kayden. Just give it time and you will improve."

It seemed like an ambiguous answer, but they both knew that time could heal much of the pain. In Kayden's case, it was more of a reality check really. It was a situation he had never been through.

"You're going to kill someone at one point or another, Kayden, and you're going to have to live with it." David muttered to a quiet Kayden.

"I know, David."

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Kayden returned Sunday from David's house after spending time with his friend. Talking about his experiences helped Kayden understand what he needed to do and how to react if it happened.

On Monday, the boy woke up normally and did his usual routine. Then he headed to the school. He still needed to talk to Shang. Last time, he was so upset that he forgot many details.

Kayden arrived at 10 am and waited for his patron. The hours passed while the boy cultivated. Around 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a groggy Shang appeared in front of Kayden.

His clothes were all bulging and his hair looked like a rat's nest. It looked like the man had just woken up after a long night of drinking. Letting out a yawn, he greeted Kayden:

"Good morning, Kayden. I hope it has improved." The words came out elongated along with the yawn.