

R Cultivator 206

Chapter 206: Elite Academy of Magic and Technology

Tyler's gaze scanned the barren expanse of sand surrounding them as the tram clattered along the rails.

"Why are we in a desert?" Tyler asked, raising an eyebrow. His tone was a mix of confusion and frustration. This wasn't what he'd imagined on the journey to the academy. Instead of lush forests or even a cityscape, there was nothing but endless dunes of sand. He was expecting something like advanced technology all over the streets of academy. But all he saw was sand.

The desert was unlike anything they had encountered before—no cacti, no boulders, not even a single tree to break the monotony. It was just sand stretching as far as the eye could see. The sky above seemed devoid of life too, with clouds swirling around the edges of the desert as if they, too, were avoiding the place.

"Ahhh... Hot...." the girls whined in unison, wiping sweat from their brows as the temperature began to rise.

"If it's so hot, why don't you all sit separately?" Tyler sighed, exasperated. He was sandwiched between them on the tram's narrow bench.

"Nooo... You're like a walking air conditioner," Mathilda whined, sticking even closer to Tyler. Astrid, not to be outdone, subtly inched nearer, making use of the cool air that seemed to radiate off him. Darla is literally sitting between his legs it she turned around she might able to see a bulging beast in his pants. The problem is Tyler can smell the sweat mixed with girly fragrance in the air which made him almost lose control.

Zuzia, having transformed into her adorable winged-cat form, lazily napped on his lap, completely unfazed by the heat. She stretched and yawned, rolling over to get more comfortable.

"You guys could just use your auras to resist the heat," Tyler mumbled, trying to hide his amusement at how clingy they were.

"Nah, that's a waste of energy," Lily murmured, fanning herself lazily. "This desert feels like it's designed to roast people alive. I doubt ordinary mortals could last five minutes here."

"Should I also conserve my energy then?" Tyler asked, pretending to pull back the icy chill surrounding him.

"Nooo!" the girls chorused immediately.

Tyler chuckled, shaking his head. He continued releasing his cold aura, ensuring they were all comfortable despite the heat. He was more than capable of handling the exertion, and it was better than hearing them complain about the heat.

After a few moments, Lily perked up. "Looks like we've arrived."

Tyler leaned forward, peering out the window. In the distance, a massive compound loomed. The walls of the compound appeared ancient, as if they had survived an apocalyptic event. The architecture was odd, mixing futuristic designs with layers of dust and decay that made it seem abandoned.

The tram rattled along, approaching the compound but never actually stopping. Instead, it veered off to the side and continued along a different path.

"Guess this is our stop," Tyler said, leaping from the moving tram as it neared the gate. The others followed him, jumping off smoothly and landing near the entrance.

A massive gate stood before them, slick in design but worn with time. Its once-shiny surface was now dull, and rust crept along its edges. The gate was half-open, hanging slightly off its hinges, as though it hadn't been properly maintained in years.

"Seems like not only the city, but even the academy is suffering from poverty," Tyler commented, eyeing the decrepit state of the entrance. The words 'Elite Academy of Magic and Science' were scattered along the ground like discarded trash, as if no one cared to maintain even the name of the once-renowned institution.

"Seriously, if it wasn't for that Portable Teleportation Device, I never would've considered joining this academy," Tyler muttered loudly, shaking his head in disbelief.

As they walked through the gates, the scene before them was even more surprising. The academy grounds were a chaotic mess, with buildings scattered in disorganized positions. Some buildings appeared to be upside down, as if they had been carelessly thrown around like children's toys. The academy, which should have been a symbol of order and knowledge, now looked more like the aftermath of a child's playtime.

"There isn't even a guard at the entrance," Lily noted, her eyes narrowing.

"Strange..." Tyler replied, but before they could speculate further, a voice interrupted them.

"Huh... we got visitors?" A girl's voice, filled with curiosity, echoed from behind.

Turning around, they saw a figure approaching on a sleek hoverboard. The girl stood out, her vibrant green skin contrasting sharply against the muted surroundings. She had large, pointed ears and striking purple eyes that gleamed with intelligence and curiosity. Her short lavender hair, a rare trait even among goblins, hinted at some special lineage or perhaps powerful magical abilities.

She wore the academy's formal uniform, a sleek combination of white and gold with green accents that represented her magical discipline. The top part of her uniform hugged her figure, while the lower portion gently curved around her waist. The most eye-catching part of her attire, however, was the small gap around her navel, an intentional design choice that exposed just a hint of skin.

"A goblin?" Tyler tilted his head, surprised by her appearance.

Mathilda's eyes, on the other hand, were glued to the girl's exposed midriff. "Okay, I'm starting to like this academy," she muttered, her gaze lingering a little too long.

The goblin girl's green skin darkened into a shade of red as she blushed. "Y-you're that pervert!" she accused, pointing at Tyler. Her voice wavered slightly, though she tried to keep a stern expression.

Tyler blinked, confused. "Huh? Pervert?"

"She means you," Lily snickered, clearly enjoying the moment.

The goblin girl huffed. "I... I saw you kissing girls on the tram this morning!" Her words tumbled out, and with that, she turned and sped away on her hoverboard before Tyler could even respond.

"Wait, what? I didn't— They are the one who violated me...." Tyler began to explain, but the girl had already disappeared into the distance.

"How does she know you're a pervert?" Lily teased, nudging him.

"Hehe... Uncle Horny strikes again," Silvia said with a laugh.

That earned her a playful bonk on the head from Tyler, but the damage was already done. The crew was laughing, leaving Tyler to sigh in exasperation.

Soon a green streak flew from the sky and landed before them.

"Look, Head, this is the pervert that trespassed our academy." The goblin girl came back with a girl with fair skin who had green hair and dark circles around her eyes. She also had purple eyes, but unlike the goblin's, which shone like a gem, hers were a light purple, barely visible.

"Who is the pervert? They are your juniors," Serena said, giving a light knock to the student. She is the one who made offer to Tyler before.

The girl rubbed her head in an exaggerated way and asked, "Juniors?"

Her eyes lit up as she asked again, "I finally got juniors? And all of these?" She gestured excitedly toward Tyler and the others.

Tyler and the others stepped back a little, surprised by her enthusiasm.

Meanwhile, Serena scanned the newcomers, a gentle smile gracing her features.

'Oh, all these kids are so cute. Is that an elf? She is so pretty and pale. Is she an albino?' Serena thought as she ruffled her own green hair.

Albinism.

The term refers to a genetic condition in which the skin and hair turn snow-white due to a lack of pigmentation in the body. Silvia's pale skin looked exactly like one.

"Hello, I am Serena, Head of Elite Academy of Magic and Technology. Thank you so much for choosing this academy. I am sure you will never regret choosing our—" Thud. Serena, who was bowing and giving the speech, fell down.

"..."

An awkward silence hung in the air, only to be broken by a wisp of air carrying dirt across the scene.

"Is she okay?" Astrid asked as she stepped forward to help her.

"She is probably tired from doing her experiment," the goblin girl said awkwardly.

A white light appeared on Astrid's hand as she gently placed it above Serena's head, channeling a calming energy.

Serena comfortably settled on Astrid's lap, sleeping soundly.

"Huh...? What now?" Tyler asked, confusion evident in his tone.

Tyler stood awkwardly with his crew as Serena, the Head of the Elite Academy of Magic and Technology, lay fast asleep on Astrid's lap. The goblin girl fidgeted, clearly embarrassed by the scene.

"She'll wake up soon, I think," the goblin said, her voice wavering slightly. "Head Serena is a genius, but sometimes she... uh... overworks herself."

Tyler sighed, looking around. The academy they had finally reached after their long journey was in disarray: buildings in odd positions, the dusty streets devoid of students. This was supposed to be the academy they are going to join.

Chapter 207: About the Entrance Exams

In the Ixalaria Continent, several countries thrived alongside independent cities managed by Academies, Sects, Clans, and Guilds. Among these, one name stood out—a name that echoed through the halls of power and ambition. It was the Starfire Academy, one of the top three academies in the North. Though not as dominant as the Bank of Atlantis, the Federation, or the Overlords of the North, the academy was a formidable force, having produced countless immortal practitioners. Every aspiring mage or scholar dreamed of joining its ranks, drawn by the promise of knowledge and prestige.

Inside the hallowed halls of the Starfire Academy, an urgent meeting was underway. A council of the most influential figures convened, each representing the essence of the academy's power.

"These are the lists of colleges that we intend to ban permanently," a treeman said, his voice deep and resonant as he passed a scroll to the figure seated at the head of the table.

The figure, cloaked in shadows, reached out with a skeletal hand and took the list.

"What list? There is only one name," the principal of Starfire chuckled, amusement dancing in his hollow eyes.

There was only one name was inscribed on the parchment—Elite Academy of Magic and Technology.

A flicker of fire appeared in the skeletal hand, consuming the paper within moments. The treeman stared in confusion, unsure of the principal's intentions.

"Principal, this is serious!" the treeman exclaimed. "Their license to operate should be revoked!"

"I heard that little Serena enrolled a few students in her academy. So, according to the rules, she has indeed welcomed new students. We are not going to banish the academy. Their license remains intact," the principal declared, his tone final.

The treeman fell silent, knowing better than to challenge the principal's decision, even though he is dissatisfied on how the principal defending that lower rank branch. As the meeting continued, the air was thick with tension and the unspoken fear of competition. Another teacher stood up and started taking, "Principal, About the Entrance Exams....."

Meanwhile, in a secluded corner of the academy, the treeman's clone opened its eyes, the essence of its creator flowing through it.

"Teacher," a young student greeted, bowing respectfully before the clone.

The clone nodded, its expression unreadable. "Find out who is joining that broken academy," it commanded, its voice echoing with authority. "Also, ensure they will leave that branch and join any other branch."

The student nodded vigorously. He had anticipated the target of his teacher's ire. The treeman, the vice principal of Starfire Academy, had a deep-seated hatred for the Elite Academy of Magic and Technology.

Back in the Elite Academy of Magic and Technology, the atmosphere inside Lab 1 was a peculiar mix of excitement and uncertainty. In the center of the lab stood a huge machine, its intricate alignments reflecting the ambition of its creator, Serena. Surrounding the machine were giant robotic arms, poised as if waiting for their next command, giving the place an almost futuristic aura. The faint hum of energy filled the air, hinting at the potential power that lay within Serena's inventions.

As Tyler and the others observed their surroundings, they couldn't help but notice the stark contrast between the advanced machinery and the disarray that pervaded the lab. Dusty corners and scattered blueprints told tales of an ambitious headmaster whose dreams were perhaps bigger than the academy's budget could sustain.

In the far corner, Serena lay asleep on a makeshift bed, her chest rising and falling rhythmically, a peaceful contrast to the chaos surrounding her.

"It's been a while since I saw Head taking a rest," The Goblin Girl remarked, a hint of affection in her voice. She then turned her attention to Tyler and the other newcomers. "Hello, juniors! I'm Grizzle Griffin, but you can call me Senior GG. Our academy may look a bit rough around the edges, but trust me, once our Head's project is finished, even the main academy will beg us to share the glory!"

"Oh? What's this project?" Tyler asked, intrigued.

Senior GG's smile faded slightly. "I have no idea," she admitted, her tone almost sheepish.

"..."

The sudden shift left Tyler and the others momentarily speechless, their faces reflecting a mixture of confusion and disbelief.

"Uh... Senior GG, do you know someone named Hawk?" Tyler asked, hoping to shift the topic.

"Huh? Senior Hawk?" she replied, her eyes lighting up again. "She's probably attending classes at the main academy. The senior semester already started, so we can only see her on weekends or in the main academy campus."

Just as she finished speaking, the two robotic arms on the ground levitated, whirring to life as they began lifting parts from the ground. The spectacle surprised everyone, their eyes widening in awe. However, GG looked back at the commotion with a sigh. "Head Serena... you were literally exhausted. Why are you working again?"

The others turned to see Serena, now awake, wearing a peculiar helmet that covered half of her face. She appeared completely absorbed in her task, manipulating the robotic arms with deft precision. Tyler's interest piqued as he observed the technology at play. It seemed like an advanced interface for controlling machinery, something he had never seen before.

With a reluctant sigh, Serena removed the helmet, revealing her frazzled hair and tired eyes. "What's up?" she asked, blinking as if just coming out of a dream. She reluctantly removed the helmet because of Grizzle Griffin's nagging.

"So, how do we join the academy?" Tyler asked, eager to understand their next steps.

"Well," Serena began, her voice slightly slurred from sleep, "joining the branch academy is easy. You just need my permission. But attending classes at the main academy requires all of you to pass the entrance exam. Except for Tyler."

"Because of the Recommendation Medal?" Tyler clarified.

"Yes, because of the Recommendation Medal," Serena nodded, her expression changed a little. She was glad that Tyler chose her Academy to represent. If he wanted it he can join the main academy directly with the recommendation medal.

"Wait, he has a Recommendation Medal?" GG exclaimed, her surprise palpable. She looked back and forth between Serena and Tyler, an array of thoughts swirling in her mind. 'Did the Head seduce the little boy? Why did he choose this academy?'

As if reading GG's mind, Serena playfully knocked her head. "What are you thinking?"

"Tell us about the entrance exam," Lily interjected.

"It's random every time," Serena explained, her tone becoming more serious. "You just have to pass all of it to join the main branch. It doesn't matter if you're an Aura user or a Prana user. You can select different classes from Starfire Academy according to your interest if you pass. If you fail, you'll only be able to study in the branch academy. But don't worry! I'll hire some of my old friends to teach you if you guys don't make it."

"Call your old friends?" Lily blinked in surprise.

"..." A thick silence fell over the group as they processed this information. "You mean there are no other teachers in this academy?" she finally asked, skepticism lacing her words.

"Haha... most of them left because of delayed salaries," Serena admitted, her laughter awkward and strained.

Tyler and the girls exchanged glances, their minds racing with a singular thought: Can we leave?

GG's watch suddenly rang with a notification tone.

"Ah, it's a message from Senior Hawk," GG said as she clicked on the watch.

A voice message played, "Hey GG, I couldn't reach Big Sis. So just inform her this: that old tree Bark appealed to cancel our academy license. Thankfully, I already informed the principal about the new students. I am pretty sure they will turn away once they see our academy, so make sure to seduce that boy. If you are not enough, ask Big Sis to join—"

Before it could continue, GG stopped the audio.

"Haha, probably a wrong number," GG laughed.

"I don't mind being seduced, but you have to try harder," Mathilda said with a serious face, wiping away the drool from the corner of her mouth.

Serena sighed and said, "Well, as promised, I will show you our Waypoint Terminal. Trust me, even the Federation doesn't have this technology."

There was a hint of pride in her tone as she signaled to GG.

GG took another watch and wore it. She activated it, and a portal appeared before her, along with another portal at the farthest corner of the room.

Tyler had already seen how it worked, but seeing it again still surprised him. In both his previous world and this world, teleportation arrays were not portable devices that could be taken anywhere.

This is the technology that once made the Elite Academy of Magic and Technology prosper.

Chapter 208: Buying Terminals

Once upon a time, there was a princess. Her cage was so beautiful that others saw it as a splendid castle. She was weighed down by many responsibilities that seemed to define her every day... blah blah blah. One day, she longed to see the outside world and asked her father, the King, for permission. The King agreed, but on one condition: she must return to her castle before nightfall. Tempted by the freedom she found, the princess became greedy and decided to stay outside a little longer...

"Ahhh... Why are we even studying this stuff?" Mathilda grumbled, her frustration evident as she sat in a building that looked precariously stacked atop another. It was a library, though it slanted slightly, giving it an unstable look.

"It's the story of the founding members of Starfire Academy," GG explained patiently. "It's best to know this, because they might ask about it during the final interview."

"Grizzy-chan, it's not like they're definitely going to ask these questions, right?" Mathilda asked, leaning back in her chair with a huff.

"Grizzy-chan?" GG blinked in surprise at the sudden nickname, but after a moment of consideration, she decided she liked it. "Alright, I'll allow it. But seriously, what are you interested in?"

"Take me to the Alchemy Lab," Mathilda said with a glint of excitement in her eyes.

GG let out an awkward laugh. "Uh... the Alchemy Lab was actually flipped upside down... outside."

Mathilda sighed, her disappointment palpable. "Seriously, how is this Academy even surviving?"

GG shrugged. "There is an Alchemy Department in the main Starfire Academy. If you pass the entrance exam, you won't have to worry about these things."

"But I wanted to blow something up today," Mathilda muttered under her breath.

GG chuckled thinking that she is just joking around.

Inside the lab, Tyler sat amidst a sea of scattered books, each one more complex than the last. He was deeply engrossed in the pages, trying to make sense of the theories, formulas, and blueprints that were a staple of the Elite Academy of Magic and Technology. It had been three days since he and the girls had arrived at this forgotten, run-down academy branch, and while the place appeared to be on its last legs, Tyler found it fascinating.

Next to him, Serena, the head of the academy, lay in a reclining chair with a helmet on her head, her eyes closed as if napping. The helmet was connected to a set of robotic arms that moved and assembled components with quiet efficiency. Tyler was intrigued by the machinery, but he decided not to involve himself too much just yet. He had resolved to learn about the technology and mechanics behind these machines once they entered the main academy, where he could properly dive into his studies.

Serena stirred, removing the helmet and rubbing her tired eyes. She placed a pair of sleek glasses on her nose and tapped her watch, bringing up a holographic screen that displayed various feeds and data streams. One of the images showed a vehicle moving quickly across the barren landscape toward the academy.

"Are there cameras in the desert?" Tyler asked, peering over at the screen with curiosity.

Serena sighed, her eyes clouding with distant memories. "Only a few still work. Three or four, maybe. But it wasn't always a desert." Her voice softened as she spoke, her thoughts drifting back to a time when the area surrounding the academy was lush and full of life. "There used to be gardens, flowers, trees... It was beautiful once. Now it's all just dust."

Tyler glanced at her, sensing the weight of her words but not prying further. Instead, he focused on the approaching vehicle. "Looks like a delivery guy. Did you order something?" Serena asked, shifting the conversation back to the present.

"Yeah, I asked GG to order some terminals for me and the girls," Tyler said with a nod, not taking his eyes off the screen.

Serena raised an eyebrow. "Terminals, huh? They're pretty useful—communication, productivity, data management. Good choice. Some models are affordable, though their performance is lacking. Which ones did you get?"

"Yeah, they're cheap. Just 150,000 Lydia ." Tyler replied casually, returning to the book he was reading.

"See pretty affordable. That's why everyone has a Terminal with them-- ..."Serena froze, blinking in disbelief. "Wait... 150,000 Lydia? For all the terminals?"

Tyler shook his head. "Nope, for each."

Her jaw dropped slightly. "High-end model... I didn't know you were this rich."

Tyler shrugged nonchalantly. "It's not a big deal. I needed something reliable, so I just got the best ones available."

Serena's tired eyes widened in surprise. She had heard about Tyler's wealth from Hawk, but hearing it firsthand and seeing how easily Tyler spent money was a different matter. '150,000 Lydia is cheap, huh?' she thought to herself, half in amazement, half in resignation.

She recalled how Hawk asked them to seduce him. The academy had been struggling for funds for years now, barely able to afford maintenance, let alone upgrades. Serena quickly pushed away thoughts of how useful that kind of money would be for her own projects. She wasn't about to ask a student for financial support, no matter how tempting it might be.

Tyler and the girls received their terminals, sleek devices that wrapped snugly around their wrists. Tyler paid for them without hesitation, using his Queen Card, which caused GG's eyes to widen in surprise.

'What kind of family is he from? Is he from a big merchant clan?' she thought, her mind racing at the sight of the high-end card. It's very rare to see people with those cards. For a second she also recalled the words Hawk said before. Seduce him.

GG quickly snapped out of her thoughts and proceeded to explain how to set up the terminals, guiding the group through the basic functions like communication, data storage, and how the devices could sync with the academy's systems. The process was straightforward, and it didn't take long for them to get the hang of it. Tyler, in particular, was a fast learner, immediately exploring the more advanced features.

Once the terminals were fully set up, they all took a moment to admire the devices, impressed by their functionality and sleek design. However, one person hadn't left yet—the delivery guy. Instead of heading back, he stood outside, staring intently at the direction of the lab.

"Huh... It's you?" GG's voice broke the silence, a note of surprise in her tone as she recognized the delivery man.

Tyler looked over at her, curious. "A friend of yours?" he asked.

"Huh... That's Mr. Ciel, a professor from Starfire Academy. But why are you here as a delivery guy?" GG asked, her suspicion growing as she crossed her arms.

Ciel coughed awkwardly, glancing down at his feet before looking back at GG. "Huh? Did my disguise not work?"

"What disguise?" GG asked, her confusion deepening.

Ciel puffed up slightly, as if proud of what he was about to reveal. "Look, I'm wearing a fake mustache," he said, pointing at the small, clearly fake mustache glued to his upper lip.

"...."

GG stared at him, utterly speechless. Tyler, standing nearby, couldn't help but twitch his mouth slightly in an effort to suppress a laugh. 'He genuinely believes that is a disguise?' Tyler thought, trying his best not to show his amusement.

After a moment of uncomfortable silence, Ciel removed the mustache with a flourish. Prana, the magical energy of this world, gathered around his fingers as he put the mustache back on. In an instant, he seemed to transform into a completely different person. His appearance, voice, and even his posture changed ever so slightly.

"Huh, it's working now," Ciel nodded, his tone slightly deeper, as though this transformation had changed even his personality. He then removed the mustache once more, reverting to his original form.

GG let out an exasperated sigh. "Why are you here, Mr. Ciel?"

Ciel shifted nervously, glancing around before answering, "Well... I thought it was Serena who ordered those terminals. So, I decided to come see her... Hehe..." His awkward laugh was accompanied by a faint blush creeping up his cheeks.

Tyler raised an eyebrow, and everything clicked into place. 'Head Serena is really popular,' he thought, amused by the professor's obvious crush. It was clear that Serena, despite her hard-edged demeanor and dedication to her work, had managed to attract quite a bit of attention from men, Ciel being no exception.

"Well, I'll go get Head Serena for you. But I doubt she will see you." GG said, her voice a bit more resigned. She clearly had seen this kind of thing before.

Ciel gave a small, grateful nod, still looking somewhat sheepish. GG headed off to find Serena, leaving Tyler and Ciel standing in the lab's entryway.

Only then Ciel looked at Tyler, "New student?"

Tyler nodded and said, "Hello I am Tyler White."

"I am Ciel. You can call me professor Ciel." He smiled and greeted him back.

But there are somethings that is bothering Tyler. How does he knows that they ordered terminals?

Chapter 209: Arriving at Starfire Academy

Ciel's life was full of hardship, a tale marked by relentless struggle and resilience. Ciel's father had once been an aristocrat, but due to political tensions, he had fallen from grace. Left with little choice, Ciel's father had married a commoner and retreated to a humble village, hoping for a fresh start. That was where Ciel and his younger brother were born, in a modest household far removed from the luxuries of high society.

Despite his family's circumstances, Ciel had worked harder than anyone, clawing his way through the ranks of one of the academy's branch schools. He had studied relentlessly, day and night, barely sparing time for anything else. His dedication paid off, and eventually, he secured a position as a professor at the main academy. For many, this accomplishment alone would be a pinnacle of success, but Ciel was driven by something deeper—an intense loyalty to the academy and a desire to prove himself worthy of his father's legacy. His ambition had not gone unnoticed. Rumors had circulated among students and faculty alike: one day, it was said, Ciel might even become the Vice Principal of the academy.

As GG told story about Ciel. Tyler could feel the weight of Ciel's story settling over him.

GG noticed Tyler's quiet observation of Ciel and decided to offer some insight. "Mr. Ciel probably has a crush on our Head. That's why he always finds a reason to come by," she whispered, a smirk on her face.

Tyler turned, glancing toward where Ciel and Serena were engaged in conversation at a distance. Serena looked as weary as ever, her expression disinterested, while Ciel spoke animatedly, his gestures lively

and his tone enthusiastic. Yet something didn't quite add up. Ciel's apparent enthusiasm felt almost... performative.

"Something seems odd," Tyler murmured, his gaze narrowing. "It doesn't really look like he's that interested."

GG shot him a skeptical look. "Are you really a kid?" she asked, though she quickly dropped the question. After recalling how Tyler had confidently kissed the girls on the tram, she decided to leave her suspicions unvoiced. He was no ordinary kid.

"Maybe he's just hiding his feelings," she said instead, trying to rationalize it.

"Maybe," Tyler muttered, still unconvinced.

Once Ciel finished his conversation with Serena, he took his leave, offering a polite nod in Tyler and GG's direction as he passed. Shortly afterward, Serena called GG over and spoke in a low tone, asking her not to allow any further interruptions. GG nodded, understanding the underlying frustration Serena held toward Ciel's visit.

As Serena turned to go, she noticed Tyler's thoughtful gaze following Ciel's retreating figure. "Are you suspicious of him?" she asked, a note of curiosity in her voice.

Tyler looked back at her, nodding slightly. "Yeah... Does he normally do delivery work?"

"Oh... so that's what it is." Serena let out a weary sigh, glancing off in the direction Ciel had gone. "He's here under the pretense of delivering those terminals, but really, he was sent to check on our academy."

"Why?" Tyler asked.

"Probably because Suddenly our academy is buying High end devices. So they thought I got some funding. They probably panicked and sent him to check on us." Serena said as she ruffled her green hair.

"They?" Tyler echoed, tilting his head in curiosity.

Serena's gaze darkened, and her tone turned bitter. "The other branches. They're like wolves circling around us, waiting for to devour this Academy. And our technology. They'll do anything to keep us underfunded, restricted, and struggling."

Tyler took a moment to absorb her words, a frown forming on his face.

"I am really glad you decided to join this academy. If we fail to enroll new students, it could mean the end of the academy," Serena said, noticing his frown and feeling slightly amused.

"You don't have to worry about them, I have been Handling them for years." Serena said as she patted Tyler's head and left.

Tyler was dumbfounded getting patted like a kid.

'Oh wait. I am a kid now.' He sighed.

But he also inwardly nodded, feeling a sense of admiration for Serena he hadn't anticipated. He saw her now as more than just a head of the academy; she was a guardian, fiercely protective of her academy and her work. And despite all the obstacles, she was willing to keep fighting for something she believed in.

It reminds Tyler of how he worked hard when he was just a mortal.

Tyler and the group were now riding in a sleek, high-tech flying cab as they soared towards the Teleportation Hub. The city skyline stretched beneath them, buildings glinting in the sunlight. Tyler gazed out the window, wondering aloud, "Why can't we just use the Waypoint Terminal?"

GG, who sat beside him with an air of authority, turned to explain. "The Waypoint Terminal can be used anywhere for teleportation, but if there's no receiving end, you'll just be randomly teleported in that direction. It's a gamble. Do you know how a Teleportation Array works?"

Tyler thought for a moment, then nodded. "It's pretty simple. The coordinates are set based on direction and distance. Both arrays—at the sending point and receiving point—are connected by those coordinates, and teleportation happens seamlessly. No mishaps, as long as everything's correctly calibrated."

GG smiled approvingly. "Good. Now, do you know what would happen if there was no receiving point?"

The other girls leaned in, intrigued. They knew the basics of teleportation but hadn't heard the intricate details. Tyler took a deep breath, realizing this might surprise them. "If there's no receiving point, then you'll still teleport in the set direction, but there'll be a slight gap between the designated distance and where you actually land. You could end up at the bottom of the sea, inside lava, or worse—teleported into solid objects like rocks, trees, or even inside a mountain."

GG's nod became more enthusiastic. "Exactly. It's incredibly risky to teleport without a set destination point. Plus, there's an additional danger to consider—hijacking."

Tyler raised an eyebrow, intrigued. "Hijacking?"

GG looked out the window thoughtfully, recalling the stories. "When the Teleportation Array was first popularized, some... unsavory individuals, let's say, saw an opportunity. Evil array masters would set up teleportation arrays in their lairs, specifically tuned to intercept travelers in transit. Imagine someone thinking they're about to reach their destination and suddenly finding themselves in a bandit's den instead. Those intercepted would be helpless, robbed, or worse."

The group absorbed this new information with a mix of awe and dread. The teleportation was far more dangerous than they'd realized. GG continued, "That's why encryption arrays, authentication sequences, and numerous security measures are now part of any legitimate Teleportation Array setup. It's also why our Portable Waypoint Terminal is so unique. There are layers upon layers of encryption embedded in the design—no one can copy it easily." GG's tone was one of pride.

"My question is, why didn't you guys build Waypoint Terminal in the city?" Tyler asked.

"Haha... That .. We have no fund." GG said Awkwardly.

Tyler didn't want to comment on that.

As they neared the Teleportation Hub, the cab began its descent, gracefully swooping down to street level. They could see people bustling around, and Tyler caught sight of a familiar face—a grumpy dwarf riding a self-propelled skateboard that zoomed around effortlessly, thanks to the engraved arrays. He appeared to be scolding some kids who had been chasing after him but stopped in his tracks when he spotted Tyler and the group.

Inside the Teleportation Hub, Tyler approached the counter and paid for the array. Their destination was set: Meteorite City. The name alone held a mystical weight to it, and as GG had described before, it was aptly named. The city was, indeed, built atop a massive meteorite, and it held the prestigious Starfire Academy—a school famous throughout the lands for its innovative approach to magical studies and its unique connection to celestial phenomena. The huge Meteorite City is floating without any Flying stones nor any arrays.

After a brief calibration, the group stepped onto the array platform, and Tyler felt a subtle vibration beneath his feet as the array activated. Moments later, a flash of light engulfed them, and they were transported instantaneously, the world around them dissolving and reforming as they arrived at the gates of Starfire Academy in Meteorite City.

The air was different here—crisp and filled with a faint, mineral-rich scent. The academy sprawled out before them, a mix of ancient architecture and modern arcane design, with towering spires and walkways suspended by magic alone. It was a campus like no other, set against a backdrop of stardust skies that seemed to shimmer with an ethereal glow.

Tyler's gaze wandered, taking in the bustling atmosphere. Everywhere he looked, Tyler saw a mix of ages, races, and even species—proof of the academy's reputation as a haven for talent from all corners of the world.

"Welcome to Starfire Academy," GG announced with a hint of smile.

Tyler and the girls finally arrived at the Starfire Academy.

Chapter 210: Senior Cyan

The Floating Meteorite Island wasn't anything particularly magnificent at first glance. Tyler had already visited his fair share of floating islands during his travels, and this one seemed no different—at least until he looked closer. Unlike the others, which used floating stones or arrays to maintain their altitude, this island levitated purely on its own. No visible enchantments, no mystical ores, just an island defying gravity for decades, hovering in place like a natural miracle.

GG led the group to a raised platform. As they stepped onto it, translucent bubbles began to appear in the air around them, each one containing various facilities and locations across the academy. GG tapped one of the bubbles, and in an instant, they were whisked away in a flash of light.

"Not everyone can use this feature," GG explained as they reappeared at their destination. "Only students and teachers can use it regularly. But since it's admission time, it's open to everyone."

They arrived at a bustling registration center filled with people of all ages waiting to sign up. Some were young, just beginning their journey, while others looked older, as if they'd come to gain new skills or knowledge. Here, age didn't matter—it was all about learning.

The girls, with the exception of Tyler, lined up to register. Darla looked around nervously before turning to Tyler. "Huh? Me too...?"

"Yeah," Tyler nodded, reassuring her. "Don't worry about the fees. I've got it covered."

Darla smiled, looking both nervous and excited. She was a novice-level warrior and a talented cook, but the thought of becoming a student at an academy for mages made her anxious.

"There are even ways to transition from a warrior to a mage if you're only at the novice level," GG chimed in, trying to reassure her.

Darla perked up at the idea, while Lily, already a master-level warrior, seemed skeptical. "Would there really be a place for someone like me here?"

"It's alright," GG replied with a grin. "Even if you're already skilled as a warrior, there are departments like Engineering, Alchemy, and others you might enjoy. Plenty of warriors come here just for the knowledge, so you'll find your place."

As they chatted, Tyler observed the registration process. Each person who stepped up to the booth would pause briefly, entering a dazed state before their eyes cleared, and then they would proceed further into the facility.

"Can I try it too?" Tyler asked, intrigued.

GG raised an eyebrow. "You? With a medal like yours, you don't have to. You can enter freely. Are you sure you want to try?"

"Is there any harm in it?" Tyler asked, genuinely curious.

Before GG could answer, a low voice interjected. "Usually, those with a recommendation medal don't take the entrance exam. It'd be an insult if they failed."

Turning around, Tyler found himself face-to-face with a figure draped in a dark cloak. The newcomer's bright red eyes glowed under his hood, revealing sharp, wolf-like features—a mix of human and beast, complete with ears, claws, and a tail.

"Ah, Senior Cyan," GG greeted him stiffly, her eyes narrowing.

"Not really your senior, am I?" Cyan replied with a smirk. "You never joined the main academy, after all."

"Head Serena did a lot for you," GG said, a note of annoyance creeping into her voice, "yet you betrayed her and joined another branch."

"Tsk, I made the best choice for myself. I trust you'll do the same, Junior Tyler." Cyan looked at Tyler with a sly grin.

"You know who I am?" Tyler asked, taken aback.

"Oh, word of you has been circulating for days," Cyan replied, eyes gleaming with interest. "A branch student holding a recommendation medal and wanting to join the main academy from that broken branch... I wonder who gave you that medal?"

GG leaned in to whisper, "Don't tell him. He might run to the vice principal and threaten them to revoke it."

But Tyler didn't hesitate. "A witch from the far south. Elowen is her name."

Cyan's eyes widened slightly, while even GG looked surprised. Tyler could tell that Elowen had a formidable reputation around here. Cyan knows that vice principal cannot do anything to Elowen due to her background so he decided to go for other approach.

"Then how about joining my branch. It is one of the Top branch. Unlike the broken branch in Dusk City. This one can offer you anything." He said proudly.

"Really? Then I want Portable Waypoint." Tyler said with 'expectations' filled in his eyes.

"..." Cyan was dumbfounded while GG giggled.

Cyan gave GG a glare but GG didn't care, He continued "If you don't join that branch then they will be forced to close. After that they will have no choice but to submit the Waypoint Terminals Technology to the Academy. They even have a huge debt."

Cyan said confidently.

"Well... That looks like lot of pain in the neck. I will just join them and get the waypoint." Tyler waved his hand.

"Interesting," Cyan said with surprise, he couldn't understand why Tyler wants to stay in that broken branch, but he recovered quickly from the surprise and said "In that case, how about taking the entrance exam anyway?"

This is the only way. If Tyler fails then it means he is first person to who attended the Entrance Exam and Failed in it.

"Why?" Tyler raised an eyebrow.

"Why not?" Cyan countered, his tone taunting. "Don't you want to prove yourself?"

Tyler smiled slightly. "The medal already proves I'm qualified."

"A coward, huh?" Cyan sneered. "Guess that's to be expected of someone from a backwater branch—"

"Not quite," Tyler interrupted smoothly. "It's just that I could easily pass the entrance exam, but I won't do it for you. If you want me to do something, you'd better make it worth my time. Ever heard of this phrase? If you are good at something, Never do it for free."

Cyan blinked, taken aback by Tyler's audacity. "You want money?"

"Money's the last thing I care about," Tyler replied while using his pinky to clean his ear and he blow the non existing dust on his finger and continued. "I want something valuable, something that makes it worth my while."

A few moments passed as Cyan considered the demand. He decided to give up taunting. Then, as if hearing instructions, he closed his eyes and summoned a glimmering silver fruit, which appeared in his hand as if out of thin air.

'Looks like someone is sending instruction through voice transmission. Someone in the dark is targeting us, because we chose the Branch academy.' Lily who is observing everything send a voice transmission to Tyler.

Tyler nodded inwardly. Looks like Elite Academy of Magic and Technology is really on last rope.

"Is that a Mercury Fruit?" GG gasped, her eyes widening as she looked at the silver fruit on Cyan's hand.

Tyler recognized it as well. The Mercury Fruit was a rare treasure, known for its potency in helping one break through to the master level warrior or mage. Grown in the layers of the Abyss, it was infamous for its sensitivity—it would dissolve instantly upon contact with any material that wasn't protected.

"I'll give you thi—" Cyan began, but before he could finish, Tyler had snatched the fruit from his hand.

"Alright. Deal." Tyler's voice was calm, though his eyes sparkled with satisfaction.

High above them, three figures observed the exchange. A middle-aged woman with a captivating presence her huge breasts will make any men look at her more than once. A skeletal figure in a tattered cloak, and an ancient tree spirit with branches and leaves that flickered with a faint green glow. Though these were merely clones of their true forms, they were as attentive as if they were there in person.

"I didn't expect you to go so far as to offer the Mercury Fruit," the woman murmured, crossing her arms.
"All this effort, just to crush a branch?"

"Don't worry about my effort." Vice Principal said.

The skeleton let out a dry chuckle. His red light shined brightly from his socket as he was seeing something interesting.