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Chapter 41 Crimson Monarch's Strength

The arrogant prince, who now didn't have his previous arrogance, stepped forward. "Let me take the test, senior."

The Crimson Monarch looked at him and said, "Okay, child, Go ahead and introduce yourself."

He hesitated after hearing this and inadvertently glanced back to look at Margaret. He was afraid that she might find him after leaving the legacy ground if he exposed his identity.

The Crimson Monarch saw his hesitation, and his expression grew unpleasant. "What kind of man are you? Before, your arrogance knew no bounds, and now you don't even dare to introduce yourself in fear. Because of the Cowards like you, all men are treated scornfully by women who should adore us. How... are... you... worthy of my legacy?" As he spoke, his voice grew louder, his anger flared up, and he unconsciously released his aura.

Bang!

The arrogant prince staggered back and fell down on his butt when the shockwave caused by the aura hit him. Max was almost sent flying into the magma behind the altar, but fortunately, Schwartz helped him stay still, but even then, he was forced to Crouch down.

After the Shockwave passed, Max stood up, his body aching all over. When he glanced at Schwartz to thank him, he noticed that he and others were panting roughly as if they had just run a marathon. It was clear that only the aura he had unconsciously released had forced them to this extent.

Schwartz coincidentally looked at him and smiled wryly, and noticing the amazement on his face; his voice sounded in Max's ears. "Strong, right?"

Max nodded and asked in a whisper, "Isn't he just a strand of his will? How can he be this strong even now?"

Schwartz shook his head and looked at the Crimson Monarch, who had calmed down after his initial outburst and transmitted his voice to Max's ears. "Kid, Do you know why he was called Monarch by masses even though he was only an Emperor ranked mage?"

Max shook his head. How can he know? He was only able to gather a little information about this world from the library and from what Emily, Anna and Lilly told him, and that too could only be counted as basic knowledge.

Seeing him shaking his head, Schwartz continued, "It was because he was too powerful to be an Emperor Mage. He could fight Monarch mages without any problem, and it is rumoured that he also killed a few Monarchs in his rage. You can't even begin to fathom the extent of his power, even I, as a five-star mage, am incapable of imagining it. But I can confidently say that, although he is just a strand of will now, he can easily kill any King ranked mage."

Max had a look of awe on his face. Although he didn't know how powerful A Monarch ranked mage or even a King ranked mage can be. He was sure that they had enough strength to topple his current understanding. It was because even his father, who was only a three-star mage, could cause such massive explosions that even their mansion, which was large enough to settle a medium-sized village into it, was half destroyed, and he knew that he was holding back that time because he didn't want to kill his own family while fighting that silver wolf.

The arrogant prince stood up, he looked quite battered, and blood was running down from the corner of his lips, but that previous hesitation was nowhere to be seen. He looked at the Crimson Monarch, bowed deeply and said, "My name is Aaron Beruno, third prince of Beruno Kingdom. May I have a chance to test my affinity, senior?"

The Crimson Monarch sighed as he waved his hand and said, "Yes, Go ahead and test."

Aaron walked up to the crystal orb and put his hand on it as he sent out a wave of his mana in it.

Same as before, the crystal orb started shining with bright red light, and after a few seconds, it formed a six-meter halo around it.

Seeing the six-meter halo, his expression twisted as he didn't expect his affinity to be worse than Margaret. Even though he had apologised to her, he still considered himself more talented than her.

The crimson monarch nodded as he said in a clear voice, "Six-meter halo. Your affinity is good." After a pause and seeing his expression, he added, "Reign in your arrogance and use your mind more, and you can accomplish great things with this kind of talent."

Aaron smiled when he heard the first part, but after hearing the later part, his expression became funny as he bowed again and retreated to his altar. Today he realised that the arrogance he had wasn't worth shit, and his talent, although very good, wasn't anything special considering there are many who has better talent than him.

As Aaron stepped back, Without waiting for the crimson monarch to tell them to come, the black armoured man stepped forward and bowed slightly as he said in a gruff voice, "Greetings, Senior Monarch. I'm Black Reaper. Allow me to test myself."

"Go ahead." The crimson monarch looked at him and nodded.

Black Reaper walked up to the crystal orb and put his hand on it as he injected his mana into it. The Crystal orb started glowing bright red, and after a few seconds, a red halo of Slightly more than six meters formed.

The crimson monarch nodded with a smile. "Your affinity is good. I expect good performance in the second trial."

Black Reaper nodded and bowed before returning to his altar. Aaron looked at the Black Reaper and saw that he didn't seem disappointed even though he was a five-star mage and much older than him. He clenched his fists and thought, 'It's okay. I'm young and can still increase my affinity.'

Schwartz looked at Max and chuckled. "I guess I should also test myself." After saying his part, he strolled toward the crystal orb and didn't even glance at the Crimson monarch who was beside it.

Crimson Monarch looked at him curiously as he didn't show any reverence toward him; instead, he seemed to hate him. Therefore, he asked, "Why don't you introduce yourself before the test?"

Schwartz stopped in his tracks and raised his head to look at him, and chuckled, "Yeah, you are right. I guess I should introduce myself. If I don't, you might kill me."

Chapter 42 Schwartz And Crimson Monarch

Schwartz stopped in his tracks and raised his head to look at him; he chuckled and said, "Yeah, you are right. I guess I should introduce myself. If I don't, given your temper, you might kill me."

Everyone looked at Schwartz with incredulous expressions on their faces. Max was also dumbfounded as to why he dared to speak to him like that, even though he clearly knew that he was no match against him if Crimson Monarch grew angry.

He was also slightly worried. Although he didn't know Schwartz for too long and only met him here but after arriving here, he was the one who cleared his doubts and didn't show disdain towards him like others. Max started to like his carefree personality. Although he acted lazy and indifferent, he was, in fact, a caring person. Therefore, he didn't want him to die here.

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Contrary to what he expected would happen, The Crimson Monarch didn't get angry. He looked at him curiously. He chuckled and asked in amusement, "And why do you think so?"

However, Schwartz shook his head and didn't answer him. He looked at him in the eyes and straightened his posture as he said, "My name is Schwartz Darvis, a Citizen of the Crimson Dragon Empire, which you founded. I'm sure now you know why I think like that, right?"

After introducing himself, he didn't wait to see his reaction or anything and stepped forward as he put his hand on the crystal orb and injected his mana into it.

After a few seconds, a bright red halo of seven and a half meters formed around the crystal orb. Aaron, Black Reaper and Margaret looked at Schwartz as if they were looking at a monster.

Max was also impressed by the affinity, which from his point of view, was very good. He thought like that because he noticed when Margaret tested and A seven-meter halo formed; Crimson Monarch looked at her as if he had found some treasure. Therefore, it was clear that Schwartz, who had half a meter more halo than her, should be a very rare talent.

Schwartz didn't look happy or sad by his result; instead, he looked at the Crimson Monarch and sneered, "And I've better affinity than you had for the fire element, just as my ancestors had. We, the darvis, have always been superior to you and your family."

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The crimson monarch stared at him, but his eyes were not focused at all. It seemed as if he was staring at something or someone else through him. Even after a few minutes passed since Schwartz stopped speaking, he didn't speak or move. Not even his eyelids moved even a bit. It was like he was frozen in place.

"Hahahahahaha..." Schwartz laughed loudly and pointed at him as he said, "What a fascinating expression you have there! Are you surprised to see a Darvis still alive? Let me tell you, there is not only one Darvis, but many who are still living and my family is even stronger than what it was in the past.

And the Empire you created is now half under my Darvis family's control, and soon it will fall under our complete control. I'm here only to tell you that your shameless betrayal and massacre of my family, we haven't forgotten it. Your efforts have gone down the drain even though it took many years, and we will surely repay the 'kindness' you showed to us and will utterly destroy your Crimson Family. Hahahahaha..."

Sigh!

A sigh rang out in the cave. The Crimson Monarch heard his monologue in silence and sighed a sigh of regret. He looked at him with sorrow, regret, bitterness and even affection and many more emotions.

"Your name is Schwartz, right?" He asked, looking at him as if he was looking at his own son.

Schwartz wanted to curse, but as he saw his expression, which was the same ever since he revealed his name. He didn't understand why The Crimson Monarch, who was famous for his hot temper and would kill for even a small grievance, wasn't even showing any killing intent or didn't even release any murderous aura even after he talked about the past events and possible destruction of his family.

Although Schwartz hated him to the core due to past events but that didn't cloud his thinking. He was sure something fishy was going on.

He stopped laughing like a madman, and after calming himself, he nodded.

The Crimson Monarch sighed again and continued after seeing him nod, "Schwartz, you look the same as your ancestor and my dear friend."

Schwartz grew angry when he heard him and shouted, "You still dare to call him your friend? Even after you betrayed and killed him. How shameless can you..."

Swoosh!!!

The Crimson Monarch waved his hand, and a few fire chains came out of magma and restricted his movement and stopped him from speaking but didn't hurt him in any way. This showed that he has reached a level where he can easily manipulate fire any way he wants.

He looked at Schwartz and said in a calm voice, "Child, let me speak first." He paused for a few seconds and continued, "As your family or others may think, I didn't betray my friend, let alone kill him. He was my only friend back then, and when almost the whole world was against me, only he supported me. He was like a brother to me. I was cruel but not to the point of taking the life of my only friend."

After saying his part, he retracted the fire chains when he saw that Schwartz had calmed down, and he knew that he would have many questions to ask him.

Schwartz didn't speak for some time as he processed what he had just heard. He then looked at him and frowned as he asked, "You didn't betray him, and neither killed him; then how did he die when he went to fight with you against enemies. Not only that, most of my family members were slaughtered not long after."

Chapter 43 Monarch's Past

Crimson Monarch sighed and started speaking, "In my peak days, Just as you said, my personality was very carefree, and I would kill anyone who dared to antagonise me. I was proud of my strength as even a few Monarch ranked warriors started to avoid fighting me.

That time, even though my strength was nearing the Monarch realm but it was actually not in the monarch realm. I had made many enemies throughout my life. Sometime later, the son of one of my enemies, who I killed a few years back, came to avenge him.

He was only a King ranked mage and was no problem to me, so I also killed him and a few others who were with him in a fit of rage.

This is where everything started. One of the people I killed was actually a prince of the Black dragon empire. After the Black dragon empire came to know this fact, they got angry and sent many people to hunt me down, but all were killed by me.

The then Emperor of the black dragon empire was forced to appear. His strength was slightly less than mine, but with the help of a treasure, he fought me. We fought For three days and three nights which resulted in the black dragon emperor and me being severely injured. Thus we decided to stop fighting in fear of someone else taking advantage of it attacking us.

After that, there was a peaceful time for me when I roamed around the world with my friends, one among them was your ancestor. But when we returned after our journey, we found that the places where our families lived were destroyed, and many were killed by the black dragon empire.

We were angry and wanted to demolish the black dragon empire, but that would result in many innocent and possibly our deaths. At That time, my best friend, Hellfire, who was your ancestor, suggested that I should establish my own empire and settle down to prevent more innocent people from getting killed.

After deciding it, I overthrew the current rulers of the kingdom and established the Crimson empire. The name was also suggested by hellfire. Just in a few years, My empire was able to stand against the Black dragon empire, thanks to hellfire and others who supported me and the black dragon empire was forced to stop its harassment. For a few years, there was no conflict between our empires.

But we didn't expect the black dragon empire to be this stubborn. They started killing the people close to me one by one in secret. By the time the news reached me, many of my friends and their families had been exterminated.

This time even hellfire, who previously stopped us from killing our way into the black dragon empire, was angry. We, along with some of my trusted subordinates, launched the attack and killed many members of the authority.

But somehow, the Black dragon Emperor already knew of our intentions and invited a Mid-Monarch level Mage to support him. I could fight Initial level Monarch mages, but against a mid-monarch level mage, there was little I could do. I could only hold him off while hellfire and others fought with the black dragon emperor and his subordinates.

We were in the enemy territory; therefore, we started losing members, forcing me to order the retreat. Just as others had retreated and only Hellfire, my prime minister, who was a relative of mine and I, were left and going to withdraw. That bastard Prime minister betrayed us and pierced hellfire's heart who, was unguarded against him.

I was furious at that time, and I attacked to kill that bastard, but The monarch and black dragon emperor teamed up with him and severely injured me. I had to use a forbidden art to flee, but in return, it worsened my injuries.

I didn't know where I was going and coincidentally entered this Fire Mountain range. I recuperated here for a few months, but due to the severe injuries to my mana core, my strength plummeted considerably and could only be comparable to a peak King realm mage.

I realised that in that condition, I could not do anything to the black dragon empire or that bastard who, even though he was my relative, betrayed me because before we attacked, he had broken through to the Emperor mage realm.

Although I had realised this fact but my anger and sadness of losing a brother like friend got better of me, and I went to confront him. A few days after, the link to my soul was cut off, and I knew that I was killed. I didn't regret my decision, and the only regret was that I didn't know if I was able to kill him or not."

Speaking till here, he stopped talking and closed his eyes. Everyone looked at him with pity. Even Margaret, who didn't seem to like men in general, was gritting her teeth. After staying silent for a while, he suddenly smiled and said.

"Fortunately, I left my legacy before going here and along with my will. I forged five rings which will help me find suitable successors, who hopefully tell me the result of my final battle to me and threw them toward the neighbouring empires and kingdoms."

He sighed again and continued, "I didn't expect it to take so many years, and this strand of will was about to run out of its energy. But maybe destiny didn't want me to die like this, and just today, the final ring found its successor."

He then looked at Schwartz and asked, "If you still think that I killed my best friend and your other ancestors, you are free to loathe me or do whatever you wish. As for killing my family, I'm sure nobody related to would-be alive as that bastard won't let any future threat live."

"..."

Schwartz looked at him with a serious face. After hearing this side of the story, The foundation of his hatred was shaken. He knew that his words didn't have a single lie in them. As for the reason, it was simple. He didn't have anything due to which he would lie, and most importantly, he knew how arrogant and the prideful person he was and such people disdain lying.

Chapter 44 Outstanding Affinity

"No, I don't blame you anymore." Schwartz shook his head and continued, "To tell you the truth, I was also suspicious about this whole thing. Because I read in my family records that the black dragon empire was our empire's enemy, you were alive. But the current empire had a friendly relationship with it, and the royal family would ignore even when the black dragon empire's people humiliated or killed our empire's people and exploited our lands. It all seemed unnatural to me, and after learning the truth, I don't have anything to blame you."

The crimson monarch sighed and murmured, "It seems that bastard turned my empire into a plaything of black dragon empire."

He then asked Schwartz about the current situation in more detail and asked about his family etc.

While they chatted, everyone waited patiently, and no one showed any dissatisfaction after learning about their story and knew that they had a lot to talk about.

Max looked at them chatting and noticed that there wasn't any tension between them any longer, and as his thoughts trailed off, he sighed, "Worst that can happen to someone is to be betrayed by the person you trusted in."

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...Viscount Mansion, Max's room...

Lilly came back with her stuff in the room. Although she didn't take caiyi's words to her heart and tried to ignore them, Her mood undoubtedly soured. She wanted to hug and talk to Max to calm her agitated heart but was disappointed when she didn't find him in the room.

She then looked toward the bathroom, and after arriving near it, she asked aloud, "M-Max, are you in the bathroom?"

When she didn't hear any response, she peeked inside to see whether he had fallen asleep in the bathtub because he was tired after walking around the market. Unfortunately, the Bathroom was also empty.

"He must have gone out." She sighed and lay on the bed, exhausted. "He loves me, right? Or Would he not care about me anymore after he got bored of my body?" She murmured, and a tear slipped down her cheek.

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Max didn't know that a young maiden's heart who loved him the most and had given her everything was feeling weak and was having doubts regarding their relationship after someone pointed on their relationship.

He was waiting for Schwartz and Crimson Monarch to finish their talk so that he could also take the test and check his affinity. For some reason, he had a feeling that his affinity would not lose out to Schwartz.

If any of the people present knew what he was thinking, they would surely laugh at him. It was already good to have a six-meter halo of affinity, let alone seven meters or more, and he was thinking that he had affinity surpassing Even Schwartz.

After chatting for a while, Schwartz came back to his altar. The crimson monarch then looked at Max and said, "Come, kid, It's your turn." His voice wasn't rigid like before, and his expression was also not too serious.

Max jumped down and walked toward him and bowed slightly in respect, and introduced himself. "My name is Max. An unofficial two-star mage."

The crimson monarch looked at him with slight surprise. "I didn't expect the successor ring to choose a two-star mage. You must have outstanding talent, kid. Go on, test yourself."

Max walked forward and put his hand on the crystal orb. After that, he controlled his mana and directed it towards the orb. His control wasn't good, but fortunately, he was able to insert his mana.

The Crystal orb started glowing with red light and slowly became brighter. Max took a few steps back and watched as the halo expanded around the orb.

Half meter... one meter... two meters... four meters... five meters... six meters...

Crunch!

Max clenched his fists so tightly that it made a crackling sound. "Keep expanding..." Max muttered in a low voice.

Six and a half meters...

Aaron gritted his teeth when Max's halo reached six and a half meters. He didn't expect a little two-star mage to have such high affinity. Even though he knew that age or strength level had little effect on one's elemental affinity. Moreover, the red halo didn't show any sign of stopping yet.

Seven meters...

Margaret stared at the seven-meter halo and then Max's back, who was focused on the halo. She couldn't see the expression he was making, but she was sure that he must be ecstatic now. "Well, he deserves to be happy when his affinity is comparable to mine." But she was shocked to realise that the halo was still slowly expanding.

Seven and a half meters...

"Haha, I knew this kid had good talent, but it seems he is even brighter than I expected." Schwartz laughed.

A little less than Eight meters...

Boom!

Everyone felt a shock similar to before, but this one didn't send anyone flying. Schwartz and others looked at the source to see the Crimson monarch with an ecstatic face looking at Max as if he was a priceless treasure.

After reaching eight meters red halo stopped expanding, and the crimson monarch's face had a little disappointed look for a second before it returned to a happy one again.

Phew!

Max exhaled the breath he was holding in. He was satisfied with his result as his affinity turned out to be higher than the rest of the successors. But at the same time, he was a little disappointed as it couldn't reach eight meters.

He had realised the fact that his affinity with the fire element was quite good when he made the [Fireball] spell without anyone's help. That time anna and Emily were very surprised by the fact that he could cast an attack spell without learning it before.

"Kid, you have a great affinity with fire. There are only a rare few who has such high affinity without practising any special technique. I expect good performance in the next trial too." The crimson monarch praised.

Chapter 45 Second Trial

"Yes, senior. I'll try my best." Max nodded and returned to the altar.

The crimson monarch waved his hand the crystal orb disappeared. He then looked at everyone and said, "You guys have more than enough affinity with the fire element, and some of you even exceeded my expectations. Now prepare yourself for the second trial, the trial of strength."

"In this trial, you have to fight the earth golems. These golems do not possess any magic skills but their bodies are very hard. Your rank will be decided by the number of the golems you kill. Any questions?" He asked as he finished explaining.

Aaron asked, "Senior, I think this trial is not fair. I mean, Some of us are strong while others are weak. Doesn't this is favourable to strong ones as they will be able to kill more than others?"

Max also nodded at this. He was the weakest of them and thus fated to lose.

"Oh, you are right. I forgot to mention that to make it fair, your mana cores would be sealed, and you'll have to fight as a two-star mage." The crimson monarch said as he nodded in Aaron's direction.

Max visibly relaxed, hearing this. If everyone has the same level of strength, then he might have a chance to compete against others or possibly win.

The crimson monarch threw some crystal beads toward them "Here, take them. Crush it when you think you will not be able to continue and it will teleport you back here."

"Okay, now I'll send you guys to your battlefield. Remember you have only two hours for this trial." The crimson monarch said and waved his hand. All the altars glowed with crimson light, and they disappeared before they could react.

After the cave was empty, The crimson monarch waved his hand once more, and a mana screen appeared in front of him. As he watched the five contenders on the different parts of the battlefield, he muttered, "I didn't expect to have five people whose talent isn't worse than mine to contend for my legacy. It seems this era has many geniuses. The world is going to get stormy. Let's see who will get my legacy." He then focused on the battlefield.

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Max suddenly found himself standing on the scorched ground. He looked around and saw no one. He could only see small red hills in the distance and many pitfalls on the ground. The temperature here was no less hot than in the cave. It was like a real battlefield.

"It seems we all were sent to different locations." He thought and then checked his body to see if he had any side effects of sealing his mana core.

"I don't feel any different; my mana core is the same as before. It seems mine was not sealed as I am already a two-star mage." Max thought. He then opened his status window with a thought.

[Name: Maxwell Garfield]

[Age: 18]

[Strength: 10]

[Agility: 10]

[Stamina: 15]

[Vitality: 13]

[Intelligence: 15]

[Mana: 1331/1331]

[Element: Fire]

[Lust Points: 0]

"Yep!" He nodded in satisfaction when he saw his stamina and mana were full. He looked around to see if he could find any golem. But he couldn't spot any. "Are we supposed to search around for them? Won't it waste too much time?"

Shua~

Just as he was thinking this, mana in his surroundings became agitated, and many golems made from earth element appeared in front of him. With a rough glance, he spotted over a hundred of them.

"Let's see how many I can kill before my mana runs out." He stretched his body and closed his eyes to focus, and shouted [Fireball]. Five fist-sized fireballs appeared above him. He had used ten mana points in each to conjure them.

He opened his eyes and hurled them toward the golems' head. With a bang, three of the five golems' heads were cracked, and they collapsed lifelessly while the remaining two used their hands to smash the fireballs away. He frowned at this.

"It's still not easy and takes a lot of mental energy to control several fireballs at the same time. On top of that, they have quite a good agility to defend themselves even though they are made of earth."

"Let's try two then." Max conjured two fireballs and controlled them to the best of his ability as he sent them at the two golems who were nearest to him.

Bang!

Although the golems swung their arm to defend their heads, but one was a second late while the other was a second fast, and fireballs struck them on their 'faces', although they didn't any facial features, and exploded. Their stony heads cracked, and they fell on the ground.

"Two is good for me. I can control them to some extent simultaneously. This is fun. These golems are the perfect practice target for me. hehe." Max grinned. He calculated that he should be able to kill around 70-80 golems if he only cast two ten mana point fireballs before his stamina ran out. He wanted to get better control over this skill as this was his only skill before he could learn more skills, and these golems provided him with the best opportunity.

He wanted to learn a few more skills but there weren't any good skills in their library, and only basic skills were available. There was not any fire elemental skill, so he didn't pay any attention to them.

Magic skills were scarce everywhere, and only common skills were available in the market and not some good ones, let alone elemental skills. Even these common skills were too much expensive for most of people, so very few could afford them. If someone wants to learn good skills and doesn't have enough money, they have to either enrol in the kingdom's magic academies or join the kingdom's Knight force, where the kingdom will provide you with all kinds of skills according to your rank and contributions.

As he was the son of a Viscount, he could just request his father, but the recent situation didn't allow him, and he himself almost forgot about it. Therefore, he decided to get a better control over his [Fireball] skill. As for more skills, he had decided to join a magic Academy.

"Fireball! Fireball! Fireball!..."

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Max cast his fireballs continuously and kept destroying earth golems. He wasn't able to hit with 100 percent accuracy as these golems weren't some immovable targets but actively dodged and tried to rush at him and attack.

He kept dodging and attacking with his fireballs. When almost half of the golems were destroyed, his breathing became a bit laboured, and only one-fourth of his mana remained while his stamina almost bottomed out.

Chapter 46 Second Trial (2)

Huff... Huff... Huff...

Max panted like a dog. After fighting and killing for more than an hour, he has exhausted his stamina, and most of his mana was also spent.

[Name: Maxwell Garfield]

[Age: 18]

[Strength: 10]

[Agility: 10]

[Stamina: 2/15]

[Vitality: 13]

[Intelligence: 15]

[Mana: 250/1331]

[Element: Fire]

[Lust Points: 0]

Max smiled bitterly after seeing that his stamina would run out in a few minutes. Continuously casting his magic spell and trying to evade the golems' attack, he had used all his stamina, even after trying to fight in such a way that he could save some.

"Thankfully, I only cast ten mana point fireball. If I had tried to use more of my mana in them, I would have fainted from fatigue long ago." Max thought.

If you used more powerful attacks, they would take a great toll on your mind and body, thus, depleting your stamina quickly.

Max looked at the golems charging toward him. Although their speed was slow, it was still comparable to his. Fortunately, their overall agility was worse than him, or he might not have been able to kill them.

"I think I've killed enough. After one last attack, I will withdraw. Hopefully, killing more than eighty golems would be enough for this trial." Max muttered as he took a deep breath and straightened his posture.

"Fireball!'

He raised both of his hands above his head and shouted in a weak voice. Two fireballs around one foot in diameter appeared above his hand after a few seconds.

"Go"

His vision started getting blurry as he tried to squeeze all of his remaining mana into them and hurled them where golems were in close proximity to each other.

Boom!

Boom!

Both fireballs exploded upon contact, but he didn't have time to see how many were killed because one golem was punching at his head, and if this punch connected, then his head would explode like a watermelon.

Max clenched the small bead in his hand, which the crimson monarch gave them before sending them here, and he vanished from the battlefield.

Whoosh!

Golem's punch hit nothing but air. As Max vanished, the remaining golems stopped moving and then disintegrated into the mud.

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"Dammit. It's not comfortable to fight with my strength sealed." Aaron yelled in frustration. He was having a hard time destroying the golems with his strength restricted.

"Fire arrows"

He shouted, and more than ten fire arrows of one-meter length appeared around him. He looked toward the golems and sneered, "Here, take my farewell gift." He said, and fire arrows flew through the air and penetrated the golems' bodies.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Golems fell to the ground making thudding sounds. As for Aaron, he had also consumed all of his mana and therefore crushed the crystal bead and disappeared from there.

•••

Whoosh!

One altar shimmered with light, and Max appeared. Max was barely conscious and looked very haggard. He collapsed on the altar and gasped for air.

Whoosh!

After a few minutes, one more altar glowed with light, and Aaron appeared. His condition was slightly better than Max's, but he was also panting heavily and had minor injuries all over his body.

Aaron looked toward Max, and, seeing him almost unconscious, he smiled, but that smile froze when he saw that he had barely any injury. He secretly gritted his teeth 'Dammit, I came out the same time as this trash, and he is only slightly injured. Did he even fight?'

Max lay on the altar without moving. After a few minutes, his breathing became steady, and he also recovered some stamina, but he didn't move and continued to lay there with his eyes closed.

Aaron also didn't speak and continued to recover. He had some medicine pills, and after eating them, he recovered quickly. As he looked at Max again, he saw him sleeping on the altar and smiled with disdain. 'It seems this little shit doesn't even have any recovery pills.'

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The crimson monarch and Aaron watched the rest of them fighting in the mana screen. After a while, Max also opened his eyes and struggled to sit up. He then watched them fighting with interest. He knew that this would be beneficial for him if he could watch more powerful people in action.

Black reaper was fighting in close combat. His sword was burning with flames, and he was dashing amidst the golems swinging his sword around. With every swing, one golem's head would detach from its body.

Schwartz was using fire chains which looked as if they were made of red crystal. He was controlling them with great dexterity and destroying the golem in the range of his chains.

Margaret, the only woman among them, was the most ferocious one. Any golem that came close to her would melt by her and turn into lava.

"Doesn't this consume more mana? Wasn't her mana core sealed? How is she able to sustain this consumption and fight until now?" Max couldn't help but say his confusion out loud after watching this.

Aaron heard him and shot a disdainful glance at him. Although Max didn't like it when he was treated with disdain nh, he couldn't blame him for it as he really didn't know anything that might be common knowledge for the people like him.

Surprisingly, Aaron started speaking, "Her mana core is undoubtedly sealed, and she can only use the same amount of mana as us. Although I didn't like her, I have to admit that her control over mana is much greater than the rest of us. Because of that, she can easily cast her spell with the minimum possible amount of mana without reducing her spell's power, thus, saving a lot of mana and fight longer."

"Oh, I understand now. Thanks for the explanation." Max exclaimed after hearing his explanation and thanked him.

For example, if your car model is old, it will consume more petrol for travelling a certain distance. Whereas, if your car is the latest model, it will consume less petrol and give you better performance. It was something similar in the case of mana too. If you can control it better, then with less mana, you can cast a spell which would generally consume more mana. Better control will result in better efficiency.

After less than ten minutes, the Black Reaper and Schwartz also appeared on the altar and not long after, Margaret also came back.

"Hey kid, how did you do?" Schwartz asked Max in his usual lazy tone.

"I think I performed the best I could, but I don't think I was able to destroy more golems than you guys," Max said, a little disappointed.

Schwartz looked at him with a surprised look. According to Max, he was able to destroy enough golems but wasn't sure whether he destroyed more than them.

"Kid, it's normal if you couldn't destroy more than us. After all, we are more experienced at fighting, and your mana control is only at the basic level." He said, smiling wryly.

Chapter 47 Rewards

The crimson monarch nodded in satisfaction after everyone returned.

"You guys did well. I'll now choose my successor from you guys and give you my 'Crimson Dragon Spell.' But before that, I would like to tell you that although only one might get my Crimson Dragon spell, the rest of you won't go empty-handed." The crimson monarch said with a smile.

"For real?"

"Oh"

"Very nice."

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Everyone exclaimed with delight. Previously, Everyone had a lingering fear that they won't get the legacy and their efforts would be in vain, but now it was different as he promised to reward everyone.

"Before that, let me tell you the result of the second trial." The crimson monarch spoke. Everyone became silent as they wanted to hear who was the one to ace the second trial as it represented their real talent.

"Black Reaper destroyed 95 Golems." The crimson monarch started announcing their result.

"Aaron Beruno destroyed 93 golems."

"Schwartz Darvis destroyed 110 golems."

"Margaret Adler destroyed 116 golems."

"And lastly, Max destroyed 99 golems."

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"Dammit, I am last in this round, too," Aaron shouted in frustration. His previous arrogance where he felt he was superior to everyone slowly vanished.

Black Reaper was only slightly disappointed, but his expression soon returned to normal.

"Man, I still lost to her by six golems. She is indeed worthy of her reputation." Schwartz ruffled his hair with one hand and sighed but he wasn't disappointed. On the contrary, he was happy that the difference between them wasn't as big as he imagined.

Margaret didn't show any expression after coming top in this trial, but her posture relaxed quite a bit and if someone were to look at her in the eyes he could tell that she was also excited.

"99 golems. It's not too bad, I guess." Max wasn't happy or sad by his result as he knew that he wasn't a match for these monsters even though they were restricted to his level.

"Kid, It's an excellent result considering you are only a two-star mage and should not have any battle experience." Schwartz heard his murmur and praised. He was quite

satisfied with his judgement. When he first saw him, he had guessed that he wasn't any ordinary guy and thus talked to him despite his lazy personality and now that his assumption turned out to be true he was naturally happy.

Not only did he outperform two mages who were above him in the mage realm, even though they were restricted, as Even with restrictions, no two-star mage could accomplish what he accomplished, but also, his affinity with his element was stronger than theirs. Given enough time, Schwartz was sure that Max would become a very formidable mage, even more than Crimson monarch or others.

"Schwartz! If I didn't know you are a darvis; I would have chosen you as my successor after seeing your outstanding talent." The crimson monarch looked at Schwartz and said with a hint of regret.

Schwartz didn't have any reaction after hearing that he would not be able to get his legacy. "It's fine. I didn't come here for legacy anyways." He lazily waved his hand and said.

The crimson monarch smiled and waved his hand, and a scroll flew toward Schwartz. He caught the scroll and opened it. After looking at the content of the scroll his mouth was open in 'O' shape. He pointed toward the scroll and stuttered when he tried to speak "Th-This... This... "

Max stared at him acting like as if he had seen a ghost. He was surprised to see him behave like this because when he confronted The crimson monarch and knew that he could be killed, even then, he wasn't flustered like this.

Margaret and others also stared at him and the crimson monarch, who had a slight smile on his face they didn't know what was in the scroll.

"Yes you are right. This is the skill invented by Hellfire. He had planned to pass this on to your family after the war with the black dragon empire, but unfortunately, he didn't have the opportunity. He had given this to me before in case something bad happened and he couldn't make it out alive from the war." The crimson monarch paused as he closed his eyes for a second and then continued,

"Fortunately, you have come here before my last bit of will vanished from this world along with this art. Remember, although Hellfire was slightly weaker than me but this 'Hellfire emperor art' is equally if not more powerful than my 'Crimson Dragon spell.'

Schwartz was dazed for a while. He felt many emotions surging in his heart. He grew up hearing about how great his ancestor was and heard about his life exploits. Hellfire gradually became his idol. Now that he had the art that he had invented himself, he was very excited and sad at the same time.

Thud!

Schwartz kneeled in front of the crimson monarch and said, "Thank you, senior; now my family won't bow down to anyone with this skill, and I apologise for my previous behaviour."

"It's alright." The crimson monarch said casually and then looked toward Margaret and said, "Little lady, You are indeed impressive. Even though you are in the same realm as this kid, who has more affinity than you, you still beat him." Crimson monarch praised.

Margaret nodded her head but didn't say anything. The crimson monarch then continued, "I've chosen you as my successor. Do you agree to inherit my legacy?"

Hearing his words, none seemed too surprised. Even Aaron didn't say anything as he knew she was qualified to receive his legacy.

Margaret stepped forward and bowed in front of him and said, "Yes, senior monarch."

"Good. Step back for the time being." The crimson monarch nodded, satisfied. Margaret retreated to her altar.

He then waved his hand, and five rings flew toward him from Max, Schwartz and others' possession and merged into one.

He then took out A crimson sword which looked majestic and emitted an aura of dominance, and it flew towards Black Reaper.

"I bestow my Crimson slayer to you. I hope you will use it well." The crimson monarch said.

Black Reaper accepted the sword with both hands and bowed to him to express his thanks.

Chapter 48 What Happened?

The crimson monarch turned to Aaron, who straightened his back and looked at him with expectations in his eyes.

The crimson monarch noticed this and laughed "You are not bad, little guy, and it seems you found out that arrogance is not worth anything. Take pride in who you are but don't be arrogant."

Aaron nodded as he held his head down. He was embarrassed. Now that he thinks back, his arrogance was useless, and it only made him look foolish.

"Good. One should know their deficiencies and work to eliminate them. Here, this is your reward." The crimson monarch flicked his finger, and a thumb-sized green crystal bead flew toward him.

"Just like my crimson slayer, this is also a powerful emperor artefact which I acquired after killing one of my enemies. Use it well." The crimson monarch commented.

When Aaron saw that it was only a crystal bead, he was disappointed, but after hearing that it had equal value to his crimson slayer and was an emperor artefact, he was so happy that he wanted to shout because even in his kingdom, there was only one Emperor artefact.

But when he caught it, his expression changed to become one of shock. Even though he was sure that no emperor artefact would be useless and would have great value, he didn't expect to get such a great treasure. He quickly collected himself and bowed. "Thank you, Senior."

The crimson monarch nodded and then said, "Okay, now you guys should go."

"Go? But he hasn't received his reward yet." Schwartz pointed at Max and asked. But before he could say anything more, their altars glowed, and Aaron, Black Reaper and He disappeared from the cave.

Max thought he was also going to be teleported out, but he was still in the cave along with Margaret. He looked at the crimson monarch with confusion.

The monarch glanced at him and grinned. "Did you think I would send you out without giving you your reward?" He paused and then said, "Don't worry, kid, I just sent them out because I didn't want to let them know what I gave you."

Margaret looked at him in confusion and asked, "Senior monarch, if that was the case, then why didn't you send me out along with them?"

"Little lady, how could I send you out when I still haven't passed my legacy to you. And I don't believe you would harm him because of the reward I would give him because you will have the same things as him." The crimson monarch smiled.

"You mean he would also get your 'Crimson dragon spell'?" Margaret asked in surprise.

The crimson monarch nodded and looked toward him as he asked, "Little boy, do you want to inherit my legacy?"

Max was dazed for a while as he did not expect him to receive his legacy, but he didn't directly agree. instead, he asked, "Senior, may I know why I'm also eligible?"

The crimson monarch was surprised to hear his question but smiled after thinking about something, and Margaret finally looked toward Max. In her opinion, Most Men are too greedy and want everything without working for it themselves. But Max proved her wrong as he didn't agree as she thought he would.

"It's because among all the successors, you have the highest affinity, and your performance during the second trial is way better than the rest of them comparatively. Although your control over mana isn't worth mentioning and you don't have any fighting experience, but these will change in the future as your strength increases." The crimson monarch explained.

Margaret stared at him intently as if she wanted to engrave his face in his mind.

Max didn't speak after hearing him. He had expected some other reason for choosing him; for example, he was special or something like that.

"Okay senior, I accept your legacy." Max bowed.

"Good, Don't resist." The crimson monarch nodded, and golden light shot out from him and entered Margaret and Max's forehead.

"I've transmitted My Crimson dragon spell to you two." He said and then looked toward Max and said with a serious voice, "Max, you should not try comprehending it before you become a four-star mage at least; otherwise, your body won't be able to bear it." The crimson monarch said and then flicked his finger in his direction. "Go now."

The altar glowed, and he disappeared.

The monarch then looked at Margaret and said, "Little lady, I have a small request before I disappear from this world."

"Please say, senior monarch."

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Max suddenly appeared in his room. Lilly wasn't in the room, so he thought she was out. He was too tired after all that had happened. He laid on the bed and quickly entered deep sleep. He didn't even bother to change his clothes which were tattered and had blood stains on them.

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He didn't know how many hours he slept. He opened his eyes. His body was sore. "I've to increase my basic stats to avoid being in this situation after every fight."

"Huh? It seems Lilly has taken care of me. How caring!" Max smiled when He stood up to take a bath and realised that he was wearing clean clothes and he had medicine paste over the bruises and cuts that had almost disappeared.

He quickly took a bath and went out. He was starving right now. The reconstruction was done, and everything was clean and shiny once again. You could not say that a few days before, there was only destruction.

"Magic is really great and makes lives much easier." He was still in awe of the fact that he was in a world where magic existed.

Viscount manor had also hired more guards and maids while Knights were gradually being recruited.

As he walked toward the dining hall, all the guards, maids, whoever saw him greeted him with respect. He didn't know what brought this change

He ordered some maids to prepare food for him and waited. After a few minutes, food was served; he gobbled everything up. When he was done eating, he went to find Esther.

Esther, Mina and Amelia were gathered together and were talking with grave expressions. When they noticed Max coming, they stopped whatever they were talking about and put on smiles on their faces.

Max noticed this and frowned but chose to ignore it and asked after greeting them, "Do you know when my father will come back? I need to talk to him about something."

Hearing his question, their smile disappeared, and their expressions sank. Seeing their reaction, his expression hardened, and he asked, "What happened? Tell me. Is he alright?"

Chapter 49 I Want To Become Strong Too

"Tell me, what happened? Is father alright?" Max urged.

Esther looked at him and said, "Yes, he is fine. We just received his message that the team to hunt three-starred beasts had formed but there are only a few three-star mages in the team and judging from the reports on Beast tide there are more than a dozen three-starred beast in the magical forest."

She paused and looked toward Amelia, who seemed too worried, and continued "So we are slightly worried even though we know that nothing would happen to your father as he is also a very powerful three-star mage."

"Ohh! This is the case." Max let out a sigh of relief.

He then looked at them and smiled beautifully. "Don't worry, father is indeed very strong. He can handle those beasts easily with other mages, and there is less chance of them encountering all the beasts at the same time. Even if they did, they can just retreat. You guys don't have to worry so much." He tried to ease their worries.

"Mhm... You are right." Esther and Mina nodded and looked at Amelia who was the most worried and talked to her to relieve some of her tension.

After talking to them for a few minutes, more, Max came out of their room. He wanted to talk to his father, but he still haven't returned. However Esther told him that, before going into the forest to hunt, he will come home first. So Max decided he would talk to him then.

When he returned to his room, he saw Lilly sitting on the bed. She was wearing a purple coloured one-piece dress which was clinging to her body on the chest and hips but covered her completely, barely showing any skin, Making her look even more charming. Max stared at her, pleasantly surprised. Although he knew that Lilly was beautiful, he didn't expect her to look so much more beautiful in different clothes. He patted himself inwardly for buying her these. Her current beauty could easily make any man fall in love with her.

When Lilly saw him entering the room, she stood up with her head down. She blushed when Max kept staring at her, but she felt good in her heart. Any girl would feel good when the one she loves looks at her like that, and Lilly was no exception.

She looked up when she remembered how worried she was when she returned to his room and saw him passed out with small injuries all over his body. She asked sternly, or she tried, "Wh-Where did you get those injuries? I was so worried when you didn't wake up even in the morni..."

She couldn't complete her sentence when Max walked up to her and embraced her. Her mind went blank being embraced by him so suddenly, but she quickly came to her senses and pushed him away.

She rebuked in a soft voice, "I'm asking something. Why do you have to worry me like this? I was so worried when I couldn't find you anywhere in the mansion and found you here passed out, injured." Her eyes teared up.

Max felt bad seeing her worry like this, but at the same time, he felt good that she genuinely cared about him.

He cupped her face lovingly and said as he looked her into the eyes, "I'm sorry for worrying you." He apologised and then explained to her what had happened.

"Remember the ring I bought from that merchant. It turned out that it was a legacy item. It suddenly teleported me to the legacy ground. There..."

After listening to him, she stared at him in awe. She knew a little about the powerful beings such as Kings, Emperors and Monarchs. Max had told her occasionally when he spent his time studying. She knew that they were almost godlike beings and The strongest ruler of their kingdom was only a King ranked mage who established the green leaf kingdom.

Now the man she loved has received the legacy from a powerful being like the crimson Emperor. Naturally, She was happy, so happy that she couldn't speak, but at the same time, she felt worry growing in her heart.

Now that Max has already become a two-star mage at such a young age and inherited the legacy from an Emperor ranked mage, he would no doubt become more powerful in future, and many women would try to court him.

Although she already knew that he would have more women beside her and he had promised her that she would be his Main wife, she was still worried. Worried about the fact that she was weak and might continue being weak and become a burden on him and won't be able to accompany him in his future adventures, which would undoubtedly be dangerous. Some strong woman might take his heart, and he would no longer love her.

Lilly shook her head and suddenly slapped her cheeks and thought 'No, I will also become strong so that I will be with him always and won't let anyone steal him from me.'

Max was dumbfounded by the sudden change in her behaviour and asked, "What happened? Are you alright?"

"Yes, I'm fine. I'm happy that you had such a fortunate encounter." After saying this, she suddenly put her arms around his neck and kissed him on the lips.

Max felt odd because he could feel that she was worried about something but didn't think more and kissed her tasty lips back.

When Max was getting into the mood, Lilly suddenly broke the kiss and said while looking at him, "I don't want to be left behind. I want to become strong too so that I can accompany you always."

He was momentarily stunned and then smiled when he saw the determination in her eyes. "Oh, Okay. Come with me then." Max grabbed her hand and crossed his fingers with hers as he led her out of the room.

She didn't resist and let him drag her with him. She had made resolve in her heart to face reality.

Max led her towards the library. Many maids and guards saw them and started whispering among themselves.

"Who is that lady with the young master? She is too beautiful."

"It seems young master has found himself a good lady."

"But why does she looks familiar? It seems I've seen her somewhere."

"Hey, isn't that Lilly? Young master's personal maid."

"Yeah, she is. I didn't think she would be so cunning and make her move on the young master."

"Yeah, you are right. I heard she started living with him in his room recently."

"Her life is set now. Young master isn't like before. He has become a two-star mage at such a young age. Maybe I should also try my luck on him."

"You? Have you seen your face in the mirror? He won't even give you a second look. Hehe."

"..."

Some maids recognised Lilly and started gossiping. Some started defame her while some became jealous of her.

Lilly bit her lower lip hard that it started bleeding, and her eyes became wet. She tightened her grip on his hand to feel his warmth.

Max suddenly stopped in his tracks when he felt her hand tremble and looked toward the maids who were badmouthing her and said coldly, "Don't you have anything else to do? She is my woman, and if I hear any of you talking bad about her, I'll kill you." His eyes burned with flames, and the temperature around him started to rise.

"I'm sorry young master. Forgive us." Every maid felt scared under his cold gaze and hurriedly apologised and went away.

Chapter 50 Lewd Intentions

He ignored them and walked toward the library with Lilly. Soon they were in front of the library hall. He entered with Lilly and led her to the corner where Esther had found the mana formation scroll for him.

"Stop right there." A cold voice sounded out from behind. Lilly tensed up, thinking that she might not be allowed to enter. The librarian, who was an old man, came toward

them. Max stopped and waited for him to come because he knew that the librarian was only doing his duty. Only the Garfield family could enter this section. Apart from them, everyone had to take special permission, and the librarian had to verify their identities.

But when the librarian saw Max, he bowed respectfully and said, "It's young master Maxwell. Forgive me; you can enter." He moved aside and let them enter the skill section.

It was a big hall with many shelves arranged in rows. There were many skill scrolls and skill books neatly arranged on the wooden shelves. Lilly was looking around with a dazed expression.

Before, as a maid, she wasn't even allowed to enter the library and could only read the books Max occasionally gave her, but now she could choose any book or skill which even the Knights weren't usually allowed to touch. Although She knew that there were many skills in the library, She was surprised to see these many books in one place.

"You can choose any skill you want, and there should be some ice spells too because Esther is also an ice mage. Find those which you think would suit you. I'm going back; for now, take your time." Max pointed to the shelves and said. He then kissed her and went out.

After exiting the skill section, he walked to the old librarian "Librarian, Let her stay here as long as she wants and choose her skills. If you can, help her find some suitable ones but remember, treat her respectfully." Librarian hurriedly nodded. At this point, everyone knew that Max wasn't like before and has already become a two-star mage showing great potential for the future. Max had to warn him because he noticed that the librarian had a cold personality, and he didn't want him to be rude to her.

When Max returned to his room, he found Eva standing outside his room. Seeing Max coming, She put on a charming smile and greeted him, "How are you, Max? If you have some time, can we talk?"

"Oh, sure. Come inside." Max smiled and led her inside.

He sat down on the bed and gestured for her to sit. "Sit wherever you like." After saying those words, he suddenly became embarrassed because in his room there was only the bed and one stone chair which wasn't near the bed.

When he was about to get up and let her sit on the bed instead, she was already seated beside him. Max looked at her from head to toe. She was wearing a yellow dress which exposed her hands and legs. He could even see her deep cleavage.

When Eva noticed that he was peeking at her boobs, she slightly stuck her chest out.

Max moved his gaze away, thinking she might feel awkward if he kept staring at her. Eva was a beautiful girl around his age, but her beauty couldn't be compared to Lilly. Her breasts were slightly bigger than Lilly's, and she looked attractive in her revealing dress.

Max couldn't help but nod his head. The women here were really of good quality. He had to fight his urge to look at her plump breasts.

"So, what do you want to talk about?" He asked, looking at her face and appreciating her beauty.

Eva secretly let out a sigh of relief when she noticed that he seemed interested in her body. She sat closer to him and smiled at him, and said, "I wanted to thank you for saving our lives from the beasts. But I couldn't find you before, so I came today to thank you."

"It's okay. We are family. Naturally, I will do whatever is necessary to ensure your safety." Max said, trying to avoid looking at her cleavage, which was tempting him very much now.

"I also wanted to apologise for my husband's rude behaviour to you. I hope you won't take that to heart and forgive him. Because in future we might have to depend on you to live a safe life." Eva put her hand in his and stroked it lightly.

Max suddenly realised why she had come to talk to him. It was because, after witnessing his strength and talent, she was worried that in future, if he became the viscount, he would make their life hard, given that her husband was the one who mocked him the most. Therefore, she wanted to seduce him, or why would she wear such revealing clothes and be so defenceless.

Max was partially correct. Eva came here for that too, but her main reason was not that. She wanted to seduce him. After the day she heard him having sex in his room and the woman's pleasure-filled moans, she couldn't stop herself from imagining having sex with him.

It's been more than a year since she married William. Initially, She wasn't interested in sex and only saw it as the process of making babies. But after the first she did it with William, she became obsessed with the pleasure it brought her. But after some time, she wasn't satisfied with him, and he then joined the magic academy, leaving her alone.

When William came back for Max's birthday celebration, he didn't pay attention to her, which made her even more frustrated. But after the beast tide, when she came back to thank Max and heard him having sex, her last line of resistance broke, and all she could think of was sex.

And when she found out that the woman he was having sex with was only a maid of the house, she thought he was also a pervert. Therefore she decided to make her move on him.

Max also noticed her intention and chuckled inwardly. 'What a cunning and lewd woman. Well, It's great if you are asking for it; I'll give it to you; I also need some lust points anyways.