

Chapter 1429 A Desperate Gamble

Liam had set his mind to staying at the bottom of the lake for just ten minutes.

If, after those ten minutes, he came up empty-handed, he would have to return to shore, no matter what.

With his resolve firm, Liam wasted no time. Keeping a sharp eye on the clock, he began his meticulous search on the lakebed.

He moved slowly, determined not to miss a single spot, leaving no stone unturned. He scoured every crevice where the elusive Heart of Life might be hidden.

But time slipped through his fingers, and soon, nine minutes were up. His search had yielded nothing.

The weight of the lake's crushing force combined with the relentless gravitational field was already taking a toll on his body.

He was hanging by a thread now.

His breaths came in ragged gasps, dizziness clouding his vision, and he teetered on the edge of losing consciousness.

A wave of desperation crashed over him. He knew that if he returned to the shore now, while he could dive again, this would make the matter more complicated.

Besides, going back to recover would chew up precious time.

He kept pushing himself, refusing to give in. But with the final minute of his limit closing in fast, Liam was about to throw in the towel and swim back to shore. That was when, from the corner of his eye, he spotted

something—a faint, eerie green light shimmering from the lakebed.

It was a strange glow, and in that split second, Liam sensed something amiss.

His heart kicked into overdrive. To move faster, he quickly deactivated the gravitational field.

Freed from its force, Liam shot forward like a bolt of lightning.

Without a second thought, he reached out and grabbed at the ground where the glow was.

His fingers made contact with something.

But in the heat of the moment—his body weakened, the lake's repelling force pushing him upward—Liam didn't even have a chance to check what he had just seized. He was catapulted back to the surface before he knew it.

He dragged himself onto the shore, utterly spent, collapsing as his body gave out.

The relentless pressure of the lake's repelling force coupled with the crushing force of the gravitational field had pushed him to his breaking point. He had managed to hold on through sheer willpower.

Though Liam's spiritual power surpassed that of even the most seasoned ninth-level Primogem Expert, he was now reduced to a frail shadow of his former self, barely hanging on to life.

Had he stayed even a second longer at the lakebed, the repelling force would have surely crushed him to death.

Liam's heart raced in his chest, and sweat dripped down his face as he lay sprawled on the shore, gasping for air. He muttered breathlessly, "That was way too close! One more second down there and I'd be done for."

The thought of almost perishing at the bottom of that lake sent chills through him, making his heart race.

He never wanted to feel like that again.

Minutes passed, and as Liam's strength slowly returned, he cautiously opened his fist to see what he had snatched in his desperate grab.

His breath caught in his throat.

If the object in his hand wasn't a fragment of the Heart of Life, then everything—his struggle, his risk—would have been for nothing.

