

BEYOND THE BLAZE

#Chapter 31: Qualification test - Read BEYOND THE BLAZE Chapter 31: Qualification test

Chapter 31: Qualification test

They delivered themselves into the school. They spent half a day learning then after some time, the professor mentioned the combat qualification test.

"Hey guys, I hope you are all ready to show us what you've got. The winners will qualify for the real battle next week...."

"{Ohh dear, by that time I'll be gone, I won't be attending this school anymore, so it's better not win or not to participate here, because if I win, I'll be like I broke everyone's hearts.}"

"So get yourselves in the ground and do some warm-ups , I'll be coming there in a blink of an eye." The professor said his words and left. Everyone got happy that they chatted louder going to the ground.

They happily ran to the ground with their enthusiasm at the highest level while Akirion ran with depression and lost minded. His eyes starred at the same angle when he was walking, and he wasn't blinking.

"Hey Akirion, watch where you are going". Anda, one of Akirion's classmates, woke him up from the day dream.

"Ohh sorry, I was a little lost, sorry ".

He went and stood alone in the middle of nowhere. Elina noticed Akirion's loneliness as she was happily chatting with one of her classmates, she then went to cheer him up.

"Hey, Akirion."

"Ohh Elina, what are you doing here, aren't you supposed to be playing with your friends, sharing fighting tactics?"

"Ohh, I thought of sharing them with you....!"

"What? Me? Why me?"

"Sup with all the questions, I thought of helping you and then you help me, just like that".

"It's ridiculous to hear that from you, don't you remember that I'm super weak?"

"who told you that? I'm the one to choose, you aren't that weak to me and you wouldn't have been in class A if you were weak."

"Oh that, it's ridiculous, maybe your class was in need of one student and that's how I got in."

"Obviously there's nothing like that, only you and me know that you are strong."

"Wait, why are you saying 'me' mentioning yourself?"

"Come on Akirion , it's super obvious. Easy way to say it is that I know that you are strong, look at those muscles hidden under your uniform."

"Come on, stop teasing me."

"Hahaha, I'm not, actually, I'm.... Ohh, here comes the professor, let's go to the others.

They went to the others and created a single group.

Everyone was happy, with their hearts beating happily, in their thoughts with some words like, " I'm going to win". Their hearts were leaking, full of happiness and their faces glowing with charming smiles as the professor spitted out the challenge rules.

"I know you've all been waiting for this, and as class A, you were lucky to train and do the test first. So... I wonder how to say this. Okay, it will be a one on one fight, fighting one of your classmates, if you win, you'll qualify to the competition."

"Ohh that's easy, I can fail easily, who cares, I'll be gone anytime soon."

"So I'll announce your opponent, listen very carefully because I won't repeat myself, if you don't hear your opponent's name, you'll be disqualified."

The professor happily announced the names and Akirion was called at first, fighting with Liberty, who was known for his strong and fast magic casting. The others gasped, thinking that Akirion was toasted but he was not even astonished or frightened. The two got to the ring, the others cheered for Liberty mostly, because the outcome was predictable. There were no chances of winning for Akirion in everyone's minds except for Elina, who was cheering for Akirion.

"Hey Akie, I'm going to win, ready to surrender?"

"Don't call me that and yeah, sure why....."

"You can do it Akie!" Elina screamed, giving Akirion only one option.

"Ohh sorry about that, I got a fan who's busy screaming my name so that I win, so I won't disappoint her."

Liberty made the first move, he rushed to Akirion to use close attacks cause it was the most effective way of fighting. Akirion barely dodged the attacks, hiding his power from the whole class. Akirion made a small level fireball and shot Liberty who was a fire magic user. It only disappeared in Liberty's clothes as if he absorbed it.

"ohh dear me, is that all you've got Akie? Attack like a five year old hahaha. Let me teach you magic, you can't win with fire magic while I'm using it, hear that?"

"Tsh, really? You almost sound scary do you know that?"

"Ohh really? If I'm not, then why do you look so disturbed?" the two started fighting, Akirion dodging while Liberty attacking. After some time, Akirion barely dodged, causing him to get blasted to the ground. Elina gulped as she saw Akirion getting blasted.

"What is Akirion doing?" The Professor muttered.

"What's wrong Akie, and what happened to your fan, I no longer hear her. And you called her your fan instead of your girlfriend. What's wrong, embarrassed of calling her your girlfriend?"

"Akie, what are you doing, I'm going to kill you if don't win!" Elina screamed to Akirion.

"{ouch, kill me? Why and how did you come up with that Elina} I told you not to call me that!" Akirion stood up with anger burning on his face as he clenched his fist.

"What are you going to do?"

"Ahh, bury you if you like?"

"Hahaha, you are so funny, but it's time to end this, it's either you'll survive..., yeah but you'll survive because there are a lot of healers in hear."

"Please call the med's before we start Liberty, cause you've crossed it if you ask me, so it's time for your sleep."

"Ohh, really, let's see you try to put me on a death bed "

Liberty happily attacked Akirion thinking that it was his final attack unknowing that the table's can surprisedly turn on him. Akirion realized Liberty's attack and he dodged him, and left everyone surprised, he used his strong fire ball and blasted Liberty.

"Akie! He did it..."

"Hey sis, why are you this happy?"

"Come on Erlin, is that a question that you should be asking. I'm happy that Akirion won obviously!"

"What if Libert wakes up?"

"No he won't, Akirion won this one! "

"Do you know that Liberty is my friend?"

"Ohh, sorry for your friend, but it's game over."

"Okay, who cares, cause I don't, as long as I win, I don't have problems with other matters".

Elina chuckled, making Erlin to bloom with a smile too.

"That's my younger sister". Said Elina as she hugged her younger sister.

"That's what I expected from Akirion". The professor said.

Akirion got off the ground with no smile no anger, just emotionless. Elina rushed over, a bottle of water in her hands to give him.

The air was thick with hushed whispers about Elina and Akirion's rumored romance, their classmate exchanged glances and speculative murmurs. The professor was left out in the middle of the dark full of whispers. He decided to approach Akirion and Elina to talk to Akirion about his talent.

The two didn't care about what the others said but Akirion was concerned about Elina's friends.

"Wait, aren't you going to lose your friends?"

"That can happen Akie, but if I'm with you, I don't care." Elina said, her voice barely above a whisper with her eyes locked at his. Akirion's eyes glowed, glued at Elina's , sending shivers down his spine, and his body catching the cold in the middle of the sunny day. His heart raced, beating as if it was going to go out.

"{Wait, what is this feeling? And my heart, my heart beat. She's super close that she can hear or almost hear my heart beat.} Akirion silently said, while his eyes still locked at Elina's.

The professor disturbed the moment by clearing his throat looking at the other side. The two jumped in surprise and they saw him, then they looked aside with embarrassment, avoiding eye contact with the professor.

"Hey love birds, may I have a bit of your time please? Akirion's face turned red when he heard those words, but his face was hidden.

"We, we are not lovers." Elina replied positively.

"Oh, okay sorry for that, but see that crowd over there, (pointing at the murmurers.) they are busy blabbering about you guys being lovers and I thought maybe they were right, sorry." Akirion's face got normal as he heard that the professor wasn't sure.

"It's okay professor, you don't have to apologize." Akirion replied.

"Akirion, why were you hiding such a power from the start, if you used that, you should have won without taking a hit and fast too."

"{OHH dear, which means that was too much}. Ahh, that one wasn't intentional, I'm also shocked on how and where did I get that power."

"Ohh, really, okay, but that was a good game, keep it up." The professor said while he was leaving the two and going to put the others on the ground for the next battle. Akirion sighed in relief and also from exhaustion.

Chapter 32: Feelings

The qualification test went by so quickly like a bullet that everyone craved some more fights. 15 students were said to be selected and the other 15 were losers. The day time went by and the dismissal bell did it's job. A lot of students were happy, talking about the test which took place. Akirion got himself outside, in a boring motion, but Elina came to him from the back and surprised him by sounding weird. Elina happily congratulated Akirion with a soothing smile on her pretty face.

"Congratulations Akirion, that was great."

"mh hh, great, I wonder why I did...."

"Excuse me?!"

"Nothing, nothing really." Akirion wasn't happy for his decisions. He wanted to keep his power hidden but he showed it off and it was surprising to the others when they saw his marvelous skills. Nobody can defeat a fire magic user while that person is a same magic user. So it got him under people's nose, exchanging from mouth to ears.

The two went home just as always, separating in a certain spot where Akirion went to his hidden spot to create a portal to his house.

Magic powers Akirion got during the last 5 years.

Arope - a spell that creates powerful gust of winds, whirlwind or vacuum blades.

Hydrokinesis - a spell that controls water to form ice shield.

Pyrope - manipulates fire, creating blazing inferno, waves of flames and explosive burst of heat .

Graviton (*gravity spell*) - **they** take a high amount of **arcana**. It contains a lot of types.

Gravitational slam - pull and then slam enemies causing a lot of damage.

Gravitational trap - trapping enemies in one spot, forcing them down. They can't even move a finger.

Gravitational portal - manipulating the world gravity to create a portal.

AND many more.

He also got some more magical skills and he was still learning, discovering, uncovering the hidden and unveiling the unseen. Akirion proved to be less than a human and more of a monster because he used multiple types of magic and he used a lot at once and a lot of them couldn't. They were a few of them who got more than one skill cause a lot of them had one type.

Akirion arrived home with an unidentified emotion. He was a bit upset and on the other side he looked happy. Thaneiros fired some questions regarding his health but he said he was fine.

"You can't tell me that you are fine with that angry like face. What happened?"
Thaneiros asked with a smile on his face so that Akirion would open up.

"It's complicated Master, and my head....."

"come here and let me massage your head!"

"I didn't say it's painful ".

" It's okay, as long as it's unexplainable come, I can be a professional."

"Don't worry about me Master...."

"Why wouldn't I?"

"Haaaa(sighed), like I said master, it's complicated."

"tell me, I'm all ears son." Thaneiros listened to what Akirion wanted to say.

"I'll be out of here soon,(Thaneiros nodded, his eyes glued on Akirion.) and there are these competitions, no it's a competition. I was in a qualification test and I got driven by my heart's happiness that I ended up winning."

"Ohh , so you didn't want to win?"

"Yes!"

"Then what drove you?"

"Ahh, I, I'll like to keep it private please."

"Okay I won't stuck my nose on that, tell me what you were about to tell me before you jumped to this one."

"Ohh right. I won the test and I'm sure that I got selected."

"That's good ".

"No, it's not".

"Huh, what do you mean by that Akirion?"

"When I leave this place, (he paused for a second and took a deep breath then, he continued.) I won't be able to go to that school."

"Ohh that, I see, so your mind is busy on that. Okay."

The two had a long family talk with no one to interrupt them cause the house was still called a private land and no threat should lay a hand on it. Akirion couldn't change his face even after talking to Thaneiros, his mind was still flooded, unable to get some air. He went to his room lied on his back, his eyes on the ceiling, his mind flooded with school and living the house thoughts.

"{Haaa, this is so boring, I can't even have a piece of mind, and Elina, what's up with her? I accept I don't have a friend and she wants to keep me company. But those chilly feelings I'm feeling nowadays are in a whole different level. Are they the friend feelings, ahh maybe getting close to someone of your age and in a different gender. Yes , maybe that's it, but, wait.....(his eyes widened, facing the ceiling.) what if it's, it's , it's love feelings . No No No.}" He took his blanket and covered his reddish face.

The days went by fast, living only dust behind. Suddenly it was the day before the competitions and everyone was happy for that. The competition chats were all over school grounds. The whole day was about the school competitions. They didn't even get any gossip topics, only the happiness was on their heads and faces, glowing like a clear crystal. Akirion sat down, consumed by his thoughts, only doubts and what ifs were ringing in his mind. He didn't hear anything from the world, he was attacked by his overthinkingness. Erlin looked at Akirion's lost eyes and realized the boredom in his black eyes. She then approached her sister Elina and showed her how Akirion was doing.

Elina felt disturbed, then she thought of approaching Akirion. She then saved him from his thoughts. He surprisedly woke up and found Elina's beautiful face in front of him. He looked aside with embarrassment and he was also, like, blushing.

"What are you doing here Elina?"

"Come on, is that a question that you should be asking me?"

"Nevermind, how is this noise coping up with you?"

"I'm good with it, loving it actually."

"Are you sure?"

"Of course I am. Everyone is enjoying, talking about the tomorrow's event. And I was also deep in the noise too."

"Mhhh, that's totally great. (Elina happily nodded. Akirion looked at his classmates and noticed some who darted glances at them, their eyes quickly drifting away with a hint of guilt.) so what do you say about the murmuring I'm getting from the crowd, the chills going down my spine, indicating some gossip about me or you."

"Ohh, you are right, I guess I was wrong, my approach gave them a new topic. But who cares, as long as you are happy, I'll be too."

Akirion's eyes were crystal clear, glaring at Elina's, sending shivers around his body, the uncontrollable face reddish started to approach on his cheeks. The class's eyes glued at them and the noise was going quieter by a second, all the eyes on Akirion and Elina who's face were too close to each other.

"{What's going on with my body's, this feeling, I can't even move my eyes away from hers.}" Akirion silently said, hardly breathing, his body consumed by shaking but his body had a feeling that made him forget about shivering.

"{Wh,wh What's going on here, my body, I, I can't even feel it. I feel like getting closer to his face, ohh, what's wrong with me. His eyes, his eyes are so cute.}"

Elina's face started to move to Akirion slowly and for a response, Akirion's was on the move too. All the noise faded, all the eyes glaring at the two. The quietness of the class was surprising because the other classes were too noisy. The silence was broke by the Professor who got in the classroom and screamed good afternoon. All the eyes went to him in a flash and as for Akirion and Elina, they jumped in surprise and as for the surprised Elina, she found her way back to her seat.

"Wow, you guys are quiet today, surprising. The other classes are too noisy like birds singing in summer morning. That gets me to a question because the other classes are happy and they are busy talking about the competition, aren't you happy for the competition?" the professor asked without thinking of the outcome. The whole class screamed excitedly except for Akirion who was staring at the window. The professor was taken aback.

He used his two hands to calm the noise in order to give an announcement.

"Wow, you are super loud, I thought you guys were super quiet today but you astonished me and I was taken aback. So, tomorrow is a great day for you guys isn't it? So I am here to tell you about the competitions. This is a magic school that's why it got a name of magic, the '**MYSTIC HAVEN INSTITUTE**'. So the competition will be all about showing off your skills, not with your classmates but with the other 3 classes. So you should make a group of 6 members, I want 5 groups cause you guys are 30 so 5 groups only. Submit your group's names after you are done teaming up. I'll love to see your group first before getting into the battle field. See you, good luck in choosing your team mates."

The professor left, leaving the class thunderstruck. They were happy at the same time surprised about the twist they heard, they were not sure but the ones who lost, had some hope of competing in the game.

So they selected their group, and many of them chose themselves from friendship and as for Elina's team got 4 members. They were two boys who were left without any group. The first one was Erlin's friend and the other one was Akirion. Erlin approached her friend and asked him to join their team. He happily agreed and joined the team. As for Akirion, he denied, said that he can't join the competition. Elina asked her many times, and because of the feelings he felt around Elina, he ended up being trapped by Elina's beauty and then he joined the group.

Their group consisted of Akirion, Elina, Erlin, Liberty, Anda and Renn.

Chapter 33: Sorrows

The professor saw all the groups and he was happy that Akirion joined one of the groups.

"He's such an intelligent guy but his hiding his potential. Everyone thinks that he's such a lowlife but in my eyes, he's a monster in disguise. He will show his true self one day, and they will all be shocked when they see his real power. During the enrollment test, he showed an intriguing power, but his not showing it here, I wonder why is he hiding it. Or maybe he mistakenly showed us."

The professor had a flashback of Akirion's enrollment test.

"Which magic group are you in". One of the enrolling instructors asked Akirion.

"Ahh, fire."

They went and set a test for fire magic users.

"See that doll over there?(pointing at a human like doll, binded by many clothes. Akirion looked at it and nodded.) Good , you are supposed to burn it to ashes. We call it , the pyropuppet."

"Sure thing, why not." Akirion agreed to the test with no second thoughts and he left the enroller astonished, taken aback for sure, because many kids cried of running out of energy (arcana) when they used a lot of power because according to it's look, it was hard to burn but he agreed like it was a piece of cake.

Akirion went to the stage and as for the enrollers, they stood away from the stage but their buttons glaring straight at Akirion.

Akirion made an angry face, an unapproachable face and it got the enrollers curious on what he was planning. He fired a firearrow that put the whole stage in flames as if there was a bomb thrown in a place full of gas tanks and Akirion was inside of the burning place. He got out of the fire with a perilous face that made the enrollers to gulp while they were still taken aback by Akirion's power that filled the whole room. He then terrifyingly asked.

"Done, any other pyropuppets?" He got no response, only the enrollers who had their mouths widely open. He then cleared his throat, and they started moving.

"Done!"

"ohh okay , very good, what was your name again?"

"Akirion"

"Yes Akirion, very good, you got potential and you have gotten a class.(Akirion gasped in astonishment, his mind racing on how did he get a class so easily.) Just take a left turn from here and then right and you'll see class A's classroom."

"Ohh, okay, thank you sir!" Akirion bowed, and happily thanked the enrollers.

The enrollers were left speechless, with nothing to say. After seeing such an explosion, they thought maybe he was a monster. They agreed to keep a close eye around him. They were astonished by the way he agreed to the challenge and his power which was burning both him and the pyropuppet. But he didn't burn because he was a fire user, and surprisingly, his clothes were still new, only the doll that turned into ashes. The professor was defending Akirion, telling the others that, 'maybe he's a strong guy not a monster.'

Present day

"So, let's see your power tomorrow Akirion." the professor happily said, waiting to discern what Akirion was going to do during the competition since he joined.

The day went by as if it was a minute and the dismissal bell rang, signaling the end of the day in school. As always, Elina went with Akirion, and as for Erlin, she waited for her friends. The two went together with the thoughts of what they did in the classroom flashing in their heads. The two were quiet for a while, with their faces red in color.

"I'm sorry". Elina started a conversation.

"Huh!? For what?!"

"For what I did at school."

"I'm sorry too, I didn't mean to shout , and....."

"It's okay". They said the same words at once and they laughed. Their faces showing happiness.

The warm chuckles turned into silence. They had no topics until Akirion said something.

"Hey Elina".

"Mhhh?"

"I got something to say, but if you want to be angry with me, then it's okay, I won't ask you."

"Why would I?"

"Okay, listen very close. When I met my master, I was 10. We agreed that I will stay with him for the next 5 years then after that I'll go where ever I want."

"You are fifteen aren't you? Then that means you will be leaving your master."

"Yes, and leaving my master's house means that I'll be leaving this school too!"

"What? Are you for real Akie, or you are joking with me?"

"It's true Elina, and that's the reason why I wasn't friendly with anyone and the reason why I didn't want to compete in the upcoming event because I knew that I'll be leaving anytime soon. I'll be leaving either before or after the event but now it seems like after."

They stopped, Elina was speechless, with no word from her mouth, her eyes filled up with tears which were not flowing on her cheeks. Akirion felt really sorry for Elina who looked betrayed and left alone.

"I'm sorry Elina! You have tried your best to be friends with me but I ruined that friendship that took you, like 3 years, I'm really sorry."

"Ohh that's..... it's okay, you can go and I'm really sorry for disturbing you".

"Wait what? You didn't even disturb me, you were the first true friend I ever had and I feel comfortable around you, but living, will really cause a rift inside of me."

Elina's eyes teared up to the point when the tears started flowing like water in the river. She cried, and Akirion thought of hugging her for comfort. She started punching Akirion's chest asking him why he didn't tell her sooner.

" Akirion, why, why, answer me why didn't you tell me about it sooner? I would have prepared for the moment.(She cried like a baby and Akirion was speechless, bullying himself inside on why did he make someone cry.) Now I feel like you left me in a dessert without a map. Why Akirion, why?"

Those words made Akirion's eyes to tear up. His eyes flooded with tears and he helped Elina in crying.

"I'm sorry Elina, I didn't mean to make you cry like this (sniffs) I'm really sorry."

The two sat down with tears flowing down their cheeks. Akirion pleaded for forgiveness until Elina forgave him. The two separated, Akirion headed to the other side while Elina went to the other. Their heads were full of depression, feeling like they lost a piece of theirs.

Regrets filled Akirion's head.

" {I'm really useless, totally. I let my dad die just like that and ran leaving my mom to die and if it wasn't for this magic power(he clenched his fist), master was going to die. I can't even make someone happy around me. Now I've made Elina cry so much. Someone who sacrificed her reputation just to be friends with a loser like me. Honestly,

I don't deserve to be friends with anyone, my life should be like, me, I and myself, with no one else. It's better to be alone than to make her cry}."

He went to his house with his eyes flooded with tears.

On the other hand , Elina saw her mistake before she was too far. She understood what Akirion felt. She listened Akirion's words ringing from her head. The way Akirion said it, it showed that he was mostly concerned about Elina's feelings. She then took it to consideration and she realized that she was wrong to Akirion.

"What if he left without telling me, how was I going to feel? He took his time and that surely took some guts to come out from his mouth. He was mostly concerned about me but what did I do, treat him like a betrayer. Damn it, I'm such a loser." Elina felt sorry for what she did but Akirion was gone when she looked back and that made her eyes to tear up because of regrets.

Akirion reached home and sat down at the living room and Elina did the same. They both opened their eyes but their visions were blurry that they couldn't see something that was in front of them.

Thaneiros sat in front of him and woke him up from the bad day dream.

"What's wrong Akie?"

"I'm a loser".

"What do you mean you are a loser? The Akirion I know is a wi...."

" Not anymore, he's the past and I'm the future. I'm a loser and he was a winner , see, there is a difference."

"What are you talking about? What happened?"

"I messed up, I'm sure I broke someone's trust."

"Hohoho, here comes the love story, depression already?"

"It's not like that. Do you remember the girl who wanted to be friends with me?(Thaneiros nodded) Yes, I gave her a chance and I felt good when I got to be her friend. So I told her about me leaving the school and she got really upset that I didn't warn her sooner and I guess she's right, I'm a loser, I lost her."

"Ridiculous!"

"What?"

"You did nothing wrong, you were telling her sooner by that time."

"What do you mean? I don't understand anything."

"How long have you been friends?"

"Started this month!"

"See, you were telling her earlier than you expect!"

"Yeah, you are right. But I'm still a loser".

"What?"

"Yeah, I shouldn't have gave her a chance or after a chance, I should have warned her."

"Mhh, that's up to you." Thaneiros gave up and left.

Erlin got home and found her sister lost in thoughts. She woke her up and she started firing questions.

Elina said everything to her little sister including what she realized.

"It's better you realized your mistakes sister, now there's one thing to do."

"What's that?"

"Asking for forgiveness tomorrow before the competition because if you don't, we will lose for sure".

"What if he doesn't come."

"OHH, that's another thing, let's just hope that he shows up."

Erlin helped her sister Elina to apologize to Akirion before the event.

Chapter 34: Forgiveness

The new morning was born, Akirion woke up, stretched himself and silently left to do his morning run. As always, Thaneiros found Akirion running then he started preparing breakfast for Akirion in order to have something before leaving to school.

On the other side.

"(Stretches her self) Good morning me, good morning Erlin." said Elina with a smile on her face.

"Morning sister".

"Rise and shine, big day today, with the fresh golden sun rise. Let's make use of it's golden color and have golden energy to make the house spotless."

" You got it."

"No way, you are waking up right now". Elina said to her little sister who was still enjoying the warmth of the blankets.

"By the way sister, why are you so energetic today?"

"Big day today, so in order for it to be a genuine big day, we are supposed to be energetic, and make use of the morning to exercise our bodies."

"Ohh, good point. Okay then, I'll wake up."

"Good!"

"So, what should I do first?" the energized Erlin asked, ready to work.

"First, stretch your self".

"Huh??"

"Of course, you are supposed to awaken your body from the deep rest in order to feel more rested and energetic."

"If you say so." She took her sister's words to action and then she asked again about what she was supposed to do. Surprisingly, her sister pinpointed something that was unexpected in Erlin's head.

"Tide up your bed!"

"What?"

"You've woken up, nobody is going to sleep here, so fix your bed in order for you to feel more energetic not sleepy because if you leave your bed like this, everything you do will be sleepy, so, move it."

"Hraaa, you are getting me more than tired already." a robotic voice sounded from Erlin when she was replying Elina while tiding her bed.

They prepared everything and they headed to school, with their heads up with happiness for the competition. Before they reached school, something astonishing happened. In a blink of an eye, Akirion appeared infront of Elina and Erlin. The two

gasped, taken aback by Akirion's fast appearance. Akirion immediately noticed the two without showing that he saw them and he thought of something to say when they asked about his appearance.

He then looked forward, pretended as if he didn't see them. But Erlin's voice echoed behind him and he was forced to look back because it kept coming around and around.

He saw the two sisters running towards him then he paused, waiting for them.

"Good morning Akirion". Erlin greeted Akirion with a happy voice and a cute smile.

"Morning you two, how are you today."

"Very good, thanks for asking". Erlin replied and her sister's mouth was like shut by an invincible hand. Akirion flashed his smile and looked at Elina who was looking aside.

"{Maybe she's still upset. It will be better to keep things cool, I don't want to destroy the day before the competitions even starts.}" Akirion muttered under his breath and turned to go to school.

"Ahmm...!" Elina's voice echoed in Akirion's head. He gasped after hearing it and his heart raced and his eyes widened as if he saw a ghost. He was forced to look back. He then saw the beautiful Elina looking down.

"{Wait, was I hallucinating or something like that or I heard Elina's voice? Mhh, who knows....}"

"G g good morning A - A - Akie.....". Elina said with a low voice that Akirion barely heard.

"{Huh? What did sh..? Ohh, I guess it's 'good morning', let me act calm and cool.} Good morning Elina, how are you doing today?"

" {Huh? His voice is calm and happy, he's not even angry I guess}" Elina silently said, with a bit of astonishment in her head.

"{She ignored! Okay, maybe I heard wrong, but no. So, what now, what should I do, I stopped, it'll be awkward if I start moving. ("Ahmm".) Huh? She said something again, what was it, I didn't pick it up?}"

" I, I,"

"Huh?"

"I, I'm I'm sorry Akirion."

Elina's words left Akirion in astonishment, probably taken aback. His mind raced, thinking of the right words to say before he replied because any silly mistakes with his words, would turn the tables to the unknown side. He knew that saying awkward things was going to be like open up the healing wounds and add salt and end everything in a blink of an eye.

"Ahh, I'm sorry too. I was surely late and that was the wrong of me."

"No Akie, you don't have to be sorry, I'm the one who thought of my own feelings and forgot about yours. I was surely dumb. I'm sorry." Elina's eyes teared up.

"You didn't do anything wrong, but I forgive you!"

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!" Elina hugged Akirion with happiness and a warm chuckle formed in Erlin's face with her eyes flooded by tears.

"wow, you guys are so cute, you made me cry and I'm also happy that your faces can bloom with smiles when you are looking at each other."

They continued with their journey, everyone happy only one obstacle was left, which was the competition. Erlin started asking about Akirion's flashy appearance and he turned the story around and said that he was running so that's why he appeared in the road in a blink of an eye.

They reached the school grounds. Astonishment attacked their hearts as they saw a big crowd in the school gate.

"Ohh great, it didn't even come to my head." Akirion said, with a bit of like, regret in his words.

"What's that?" Elina asked.

"The competition."

"What do you mean?"

"If there's a competition, only the teachers are going to watch?"

"Ohh, that, it didn't come to mine either."

"So this is the meaning of this big crowd." Erlin uncovered the story behind the crowd which was troublesome.

"Yeah obviously, because they didn't even come during the other normal days, so it's all because of the competition."

"I guess it's better to go through because we are students of this place, we are supposed to be inside."

"Yeah probably."

The crowd outside the MYSTIC HAVEN INSTITUTE was super noisy and disturbing. Luckily, the RPU was there, guiding their moves. They were not allowed to go in before they were called, so the unit soldiers were blocking them from disturbing the school.

Akirion and the others went and met their classmates who were standing in a big stadium like place. It looked beautiful with a lot of wooden chairs around, at the center lied a big space that was as big as an airport.

"Whoa, what is this place?" Erlin blowed up with amazement.

"Wait, wasn't there a wall over here". Akirion surprisedly asked.

"We are all asking the same question, and this beautiful ground is a surprise for us." Anda, one of their classmates replied.

"Yeah, as for the wall, it was shaky and nobody was allowed to go around it, it was rated 'OFF LIMITS'." Elina added a point.

"scary". Akirion made a scared reaction.

"Ohh, that surely explains that guy's condition." Erlin said, looking at a man who collapsed, surrounded by some people who were comforting him.

"He must have used a lot of arcana." Akirion who knew about the word arcana added a point.

"What's that?" Elina asked.

"Ohh nevermind!"

"Which means, that crowd over there will be fitting over here." Erlin said.

"Yeah, this place is huge, it can fit around 10 000 people." Anda expanded Erlin's point.

"Yeah totally!"

The kids got amazed by the look of a big stage that they never saw. They admired it until the professor popped up.

"Good morning guys. (The kids greeted him back and they paid attention to his words.)I see you are all happy and surprised at the same time. Happy about the event and

surprised about the stage. I will be , if I were you because there was a wall over here. It was placed on off limits because it wasn't a temporary wall, I'm sure some of you knew about the off limits invincible label. So , that guy, over there,(pointing at the tired, collapsed guy) he is the one who made this place clean with his magic. ('wow', was the word that came from the students.) Okay, I'm sure you are all ready for today's competition. So let's go to the classrooms and discuss the event and leave this place to be crowded."

The professor led the way and all the kids who were in the ground followed him to the classrooms to get the announcements about the event.

After the ground was clear, the RPU let the water flow to the ground, the other soldiers of the RPU were already inside to control the crowd to their seats. The whole ground was crowded. The place was flooded with no space to breath. It was full like ants searching for food. The RPU soldiers got busy in making everyone to sit down.

"Okay you guys, I'm sure you still remember your friends in your groups. Now, straight to the point, about the competition. We don't have those magic powers to teach you making an example but our magic is using the books cleverly. So we want to see how you guys have improved by putting you in a competition.(The kids loudly cheered.) So the competition is like this -_____.

We start with a tricky Game. It's easy to win, if you follow the rules and protect yourself as a team.

Second, it will be a power show off contest, easy to win if you have a lot of arcana, I mean energy.("Arcana again." Elina curiously said.) So it's easy.

Lastly, one on one competition with other classes, and I'm sure it will be fun.

So get ready (the kids started cheering)and wait a second, (they stopped and put their concentration on the Professor's words.) I heard that the Prince and the Princess will be coming, so impress them!!"

Chapter 35: Competition Day : The Royal Ones

The kids got ready for the event, the crowd buzzing like flies in their sitting spaces. After a while, there were sounds of trumpets, everyone moved their eyes to where the sound was coming from but they saw nothing.

"It sounds like a royal trumpet sound." a stranger who came to the event said with her neck stretched long like a giraffe's.

"Yeah, you are right, but what will they be doing here?" The other one asked, her eyes searching for the trumpet players.

As the golden wagons rolled into view, accompanied by the imposing castle guards, the crowd erupted with whispers and gasps. The sun flashed on the wagons' Golden - shiny edges, casting a dazzling glow. The wagons stopped and the red carpet was rolled over, and Prince Kaid emerged first, his sharp blue eyes scanned the crowd with a hint of curiosity. Princess Fiana followed, her silky blonde hair gleaming in the sunlight, a beautiful smile gracing her lips. The air was thick with tension as they walked gracefully toward the VIP spot, the crowd busy murmuring while the others cheered.

Their foot steps echoed into the air, all eyes on them, with little whispers, admiring the Prince and the Princess.

Women were saying, 'isn't he cute?' smiles blooming on their faces. They also fixed themselves to look presentable in front of the Prince's eyes. Bummer, he didn't even realize that they were there. His gaze was fixed ahead with a smile on his face because of the cheers that he was getting from those who were happy to see him.

"{Wow, they are still some who still love me, that's better, I thought maybe they hated us for being quiet.}" Prince Kaid silently said, with his feet heading towards their designated seats.

On the other side, many guys were admiring the Princess who was into the crowd, waving and saying 'hi' to everyone, her teeth shining like a pure silver.

Some lovely words about the princess were sprayed by men around the ground, admiring her beauty.

"Ohh man, look at the beauty of all times, I wish I can just get married to her." one of the guys admired the princess with his mouth dripping wet.

"I'm sure you know that you'll never feel her glowing skin, not in a million years." another guy said with a crazy smile.

"Come on dude, instead of supporting my wish you are going forward and saying all that?"

"How can I support yours, while I've unfulfilled wishes about the princess too?"

"Ohh you do?"

"Obviously...."

"Ohh man, I won't sleep tonight, after seeing the princess this close." the other guy said his thoughts from nowhere.

"Hey hey hey, don't haunt her sleep please."

"Ohh come on, I'll just have a good time with my thoughts. Her lighten up skin, a golden hair"

"It's called blonde!"

"What ever it is, I don't think I can forget about her anytime soon".

"Just be quiet, the events are about to start, let's see these kids on how strong they are with the magic we don't have."

The Prince and Princess settled in their seats which were the most comfortable of all and they got ready for the event.

The announcers where located in the eastern side of the stage, near where the royal ones were. They started to announce about the event but firstly, they greeted the crowd including the Royal ones.

On the other side, the competitors were in their classrooms in groups, waiting for the call. The voice of the announcer was echoing in the school walls because the announcer was using a megaphone in order to be heard by everyone. The kids were on their feet with their intestines vibrating in fear but their bodies looking fine. They were mostly nervous about the event and also happy.

"Nervous?" Elina asked, her eyes glued on Akirion.

"Oh yeah, my inner parts are trembling, and I never done this before and again, there are a lot of people watching." Akirion replied, clenching his fist, trying to find his bravery.

"Wait, your inner parts too? I thought maybe I was alone feeling that!" Erlin added a point while bending down, tired of standing. They all proved that they were trembling when they made it a topic.

" By the way, did you hear that the royal family will be here watching?" Liberty asked, folding his hands.

"Yeah, I even heard the cheers outside, maybe it was them". Renn replied.

The professor popped up and found everyone standing.

"Hey, ready for a game?" the professor said shaking his body. The kids replied and some nodded. He continued saying, "I'm sure you are nervous, but you can't be that silent, you should show some enthusiasm and impress the royal family who were the planners of this competition. They are the ones who invested in making that big stage, now they want to see how you guys are progressing. I'm sure you all know that you will be eliminated and being eliminated means you won't be in the competition anymore. So

now shake those bodies and get ready to move out." the professor said with a smile on his face while shaking just as he was saying.

The students got out of the rooms in a line, heading to the secret passage that they didn't know.

The announcer continued.

"Ladies and gentlemen, get ready for the first event that will be taking place in a few minutes. We will start with a game."

The crowd started whispering, doubting the announcer's words. They were like, 'huh, game, for real, we didn't come here to watch a game!' but the announcer didn't care what they were saying. He continued.

"The game will eliminate the losers, sending us to the next step of this competition."

"I hope for a good time, watching these younglings. Can't wait to see their fight after all the work I've been doing." Prince Kaid said with his gaze on Fiana.

"It will be better if they don't disappoint you in this maze game that you plotted ". Fiana said, also using her hands.

"Don't worry, they won't, I'm sure of it. According to what the teachers of this school told me, I'm sure it will be fun to watch." Kaid said with a lot of trust.

"Ohh okay, good luck."

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome, our entertainment to the stage!!"

Chapter 36: The Beginning Of The Competition

The royal ones continued with their conversation as the announcer called in the competitors. The crowd erupted with happiness and cheers as they saw many kids coming from different fronts. Class A,B, C and D where the school classes. The kids started looking at the cheering crowd. The audience was on top, watching the game from the top where they were seeing everything.

"Wow, so many kids (yawns). Can't wait for the start of this game." said Prince Kaid with his mouth wide open, stretching himself.

"Can you show some, you know, some respect for the atmosphere and close your mouth." The princess said, disgusted by Prince Kaid's actions.

"Give me a break, will ya?"

"I'm sure you all have been waiting for this. It was invented by Prince Kaid's team. He invested a lot of money for this stage. So, testers, step back, group yourselves as you know it, stand on the lines that you see(meaning some lines that we're drawn down), if you don't reach that place on time, you will be eliminated." The announcer's words boomed from the megaphone , creating a loud sounds that everyone in the school heard. The crowd was busy cheering for the competitors. As for the Princess, she had her gaze pointing at a certain person among the competitors. She wasn't blinking at all. Meanwhile, the Prince caught a glimpse of Fiana's gaze on someone on the field.

"Did anyone catch your eye?" The Prince curiously asked, with his foot tapping on the ground.

"No! Actually, yes. There's a kid who got some cold eyes. He gave me chills when I first sat my eyes on him." The princess said, pointing at Akirion and his group.

"I don't see anything from there, and there are three boys and three girls in that group, so which one?" He thought that his sister had a crush on one of the young boys. "Wait wait, how did you see his cold eyes?"

"The time when they got in, he looked around the stage and that's when I saw his eyes."

"Ohh, okay, so tell me, which one of the boys in that group is scary enough to scare you."

"(sighs) Nevermind, it's nothing. {That black her kid is almost like strongly looking. (Meaning Akirion.)} So when is it starting, I want to see your st....."

"Shhhhh, in a sec....." A big rumbling noise came up from the underground, sending shivers to everyone, leaving them in astonishment.

" {What's this, magic, no, I don't even feel like it's magic.}. Akirion silently said, his right hand holding his chin, with his eyes staring down wards, lost in thoughts.

Erlin tested by touching whether it's a wall or not."Whoa a wall, is it their game?"

"Yeah probably, it's part of their game, but I'm only taken aback by the wall that came from the ground, how is it possible?" Elina replied with curiosity on her face.

"So what is it all about, I'm curious?"

"Listen to the announcer, he will say everything, I'm sure of it."

"Welcome contestants, this is your first of three stages. Many teams will be eliminated from here. So use your brains wisely because you can end up losing. We will be watching your every move. Remember, we are on the top, so everything will be right

infront of our nose. And I forgot to mention about the clock, you will be timed, if you get out when the time's up, you will be eliminated with your teams."

"Sup with him, why is he beating around the bush instead of going straight to the point?" The princess asked with anger levels on her neck, while rubbing her hands on her clothes.

"Calm down Fiana, he's an announcer, he wants everyone to understand everything he's saying." The Prince tried his best to calm his little sister down, but she was already about to blow up. He realized that trying to touch her will be an unescapable death because the bomb was already about to explode.

"I've understood everything, why does he keep on saying a lot of words instead of going straight and tell the kids about the game then they'll start!"

"Calm down Fiana, please!" Said the Prince. His hands on the air, afraid to touch her.

"The worst part is that he's next to us, all the noise he's making is coming direct to us while he keeps on going around and around." The Princess continued angrily. Her eyes blazing with rage and Kaid ended up giving up on calming her down.

The announcer continued, "Okay, now listen and listen very close contestants. This is a game. All the teams are supposed to find a golden key, which easy to use for your team's escape. If you find silver keys, you are supposed to find three of them, in order to make your escape from the box. To be straight with you, it's like a maze, you'll be luck if you find an escape door fast. Now listen for a clue."

Everyone was all ears, including the loudy crowd. Even whispers were not detected, only the natural breeze blown around. Then the announcer continued.

"Safety lies where shadows fall, but danger is in the light of all. That's all." the crowd erupted, question marks in their heads, trying to figure out what that clue meant.

"What's up with him, is that supposed to be a clue? Elina surprisedly asked.

"Oh, I forgot another clue!"

"Wait, what is it now, is he going to pull another riddle?" Princess Fiana predicted the next clue.

Prince Kaid mockingly said, "Come on, calm down. When I was plotting, you were not paying attention and you didn't bother. If you did, you were going to get a spoiler."

"I don't really need spoilers, I need the real thing."

"Then be patient."

The clue was continued, "The keys. They are a bit big, not hard to find, especially the silver ones, so get ready for the game, in 10, 9." the crowd started helping the announcer during the count down and the competitors got ready to get in a certain door that was in front of them.

"3 , 2 , 1 , GOOOOO!" The door opened and the competitors found their way into the unknown land.

"See, now it's starting, enjoy it Fiana and calm down." Kaid said with his lips stretched out by smiling, happy for the contest.

Chapter 37: Key game 1

Every competitor ran inside to find the key before the time ran out. Akirion stopped his friends to think more about the clue.

"Hey hey guys wait. Did you hear that clue? (The others nodded) It sounded out there but it can be helpful if we think about it."

Liberty interrupted Akirion while in a hurry to find the key fast, "Hey Akirion, we don't have time, time's running out, we can't afford to be standing here doing nothing ".

"Yes Akirion, I guess Liberty is right". Renn supported Liberty.

"Wait wait Renn, are you for real? Where are you going to go? Didn't you hear about the traps? If you want to go then go, we are not going to fall for that easy little trap of theirs, running around searching for the unknown." Erlin fired up the questions and that Renn and Liberty speechless.

"Thanks Erlin, you guys, if you want to go, then feel free, we will wait for you here if you get the keys." Akirion said, trying to come up with a clue on the meaning of the phrase they were given as a clue.

Elina supported Akirion's idea, "Akirion is right, we are a team, aren't we? Then we will catch you later."

"{What can you say Elina? Blinded by love for Akirion.}" Liberty said under his breath, mocking Elina.

Liberty and Renn took two steps and saw that the others were concentrated on Akirion's plan. They then reversed and Liberty was surprisingly the first one to ask Akirion's plan.

"So, What's the plan?"

"It's good that you asked, we will need all those brains together to come up with a clue on the meaning of that phrase,' Safety lies where shadows fall, but danger is in the light of all.' it's a bit complicated but it can be easy to explore."

"Wait, sup with that group, why are they standing there doing nothing while the others are searching?" a visitor asked after seeing Akirion and his group standing doing nothing.

As for the others, they ran around the place, some were absolutely bewildered by the maze. Some ran into traps, and running into them means,'DISQUALIFICATION'.

The princess kept her gaze on Akirion. She got curious when she saw him standing, doing nothing. That's when she asked.

"Hey Kaid...." Kaid cut her off when she was asking.

"Who's Kaid?"

"You are!"

"Who? Me?" Fiana nodded. "I always tell you to call me brother not by disrespecting me by mentioning my name!"

"Ohh sorry b-b-brother". She slowly said brother but Kaid didn't mind.

"Good, so what is it".

"So how many groups are participating in there?"

"I was told that each class got an approximate number of 30. So each group got six students. And they are 4 classes."

"I see, so I need to do mathematics to get the answer.(Kaid nodded starring at Fiana because he didn't want to calculate it.) Mhhh, according to my calculations....."

"Ahaa...!". The Prince was curiously waiting for Fiana's answer.

"I'm not sure, but I guess it's 20 groups because they are six in each group. They are too many!"

"Wow, you are good as always in math."

"So, how many keys are there?" Fiana got more curious, she wasn't relaxed anymore, she was busy rubbing her legs.

Kaid cleared his throat, "I don't know if you can grasp this but.... there are few of them, in 20 groups, there are 8 of them who will be able to get outside."

Fiana gasped in surprise, feeling the cruelty of her brother.

Akirion and his team brainstormed the phrase and got some ideas on how it meant.

Class A's second strongest group was on a run, searching for the keys.

The group consisted of Kaito, Akira, Naomi, Daisy, Reyna and Sophia.

Kaito who was the strongest of all in the group, stopped and said, "guys, we need to find those keys fast. Did you see Liberty's group? It got all the strong guys except for Akirion, so we will have to surpass them and we don't have to fight with them in the upcoming events".

Sophia chuckled after hearing Kaito's suggestions. "that's a good one Kaito, we are supposed to do something not following each other like ants."

Kaito was going with Sophia's idea. "Exactly, we are supposed to split up in two and try to get more keys."

They were all good with the idea, so they splitted up in twos to search for keys.

Sophia ran into a trap with Naomi as they were rushing to the unknown place searching for keys. As for the others, they continued searching.

Surprisingly!! One of the group in class C made it out. The crowd boomed in cheers after seeing a group that got out first. The announcer's voice boomed too, as he announced the ones who got out.

"What a surprise, class C has made it out by using the silver keys!!" the noise erupted.

"Calm down guys, we want your ideas . You can't come up with ideas if you keep on thinking of getting out." Akirion said,comforting his friends.

"I got something, 'Safety lies where shadows fall, but danger is in the light of all.' it can also be a trap. Shadows fall can be hard to brainstorm, but it can be a clue about our shadows." Elina came up with her idea.

"Nice one Elina, if we go where shadows fall, we will succeed." Akirion supported the idea. "And I got my own idea too!" everyone glared at Akirion, waiting for an idea.

"Safety can be in a dangerous place too. You know, find a key in a dangerous place, or the right door in a cliff."

"Yeah, you can be right Akirion."

"What are they doing, the time is ticking."

"Who knows, ask them, haha." the prince laughed at Fiana.

"Ohh dear, one golden key was wrongly used!" the announcer said, and the crowd erupted with the 'ahhhhh' sound.

"Two out of 8 keys are gone, and those ones are still standing there, are they for real?" the princess said in pain for those were still brainstorming about the clue.

"Okay guys, it's time to move out, going as a group is better than one, in order to be helping each other in traps." Akirion said , as they started moving out.

Chapter 38: Key Game 2 : the conflict

The time kept on ticking, second by second the time vanished. Akirion and his friends moved around, searching for keys. They found a place that was like a trap, hard to go through but Akirion used his body skills and he found a silver round ring which was big like a necklace, bold and it was also light.

"What's this? He asked as he showed his friends the ring.

"Necklace, no ring but..." Liberty said, trying to find the real way to call it.

"Do you think it's worth it to go with it?" Elina asked.

"Yes, I guess it will be useful."

The group continued searching in a place where shadows were down and in a place where it was unsafe to go through. The other teams continued the search. A lot of students fell into the traps leaving a few to win. Mostly, the traps were of falling in an unsteady floor or using the wrong gate and sometimes getting locked in a room. In 20 groups, that time there were only 13, the other seven were trapped or disqualified. In groups that remained, they were not enough, their groups were reduced due to traps that were planted through out the stage.

"At last, they have started moving."

"Why are you so concerned about that group?"

"Huh, what do you mean?"

"At first, you pointed at that group, saying that you were surprised by some guy in that group. You were also stressed when they were not moving. But now you are happy, all because they've started moving!"

"No, it's not like that ."

"Ohh really?"

"Yes".

"Okay , you can lie if you want and as for me, this game is interesting."

"All because you plotted it?"

"No, because it's amazing."

"Ridiculous."

"No, look at that, I'm sure something is about to happen soon."

Akirion and his group searched for the keys but they struggled to see one. They took lefts and rights, but nothing was spotted. The time couldn't wait for them too. After a lot of scouring, they found a door. The announcer announced the other ones who got out and as for Akirion and his group, they didn't have the required equipments of using the door, so they only observed the door.

"Wait, sup with those 4 rounds at that door." Erlin said with her eye closely observing the door.

"Yeah, nice point, and the 3 rounds looks exactly like the ring like necklace Akirion found"

"You are right Elina , it totally resembles this ring." Akirion said, holding that ring.

"Easy, which means that this is the key, so we've found 1 of 3 silver keys."

They were happy for the key but little did they know, the key danger was approaching.

Suddenly, a group of 4 members in class Cs appeared infront of them. They were surprised but astonishment proved to be useless. The group had 2 silver coins, only one left. While Akirion was carrying one key , the other groups leader asked for the it but Akirion wasn't read to give it up, so it became a conflict.

"Hey there, class A, would you mind sharing? Sharing is caring, so that ring is mine!" the leader of the group said. And he was believed to be the strongest.

"Over my dead body, that can't be done. How about you, share those keys." Elina jumped to the front trying to defend the key.

"Hahaha, you are so funny (changed the face in an instant.) So, the easy way, or the hard way?"

"Ohh yeah, that's what I'm talking about baby, the hard way is mine, so how about you, the hard way or the hard way?" Erlin said, as she jumped around, ready to fight with her fists clenched. Renn touched Erlin a bit to let her know that fighting wasn't going to help.

"Okay girl, I'm going with the hard way, so come on!"

"Wait, you said the hard way or the hardware?" Erlin mockingly asked.

The class C's leader's eyebrow went up in confusion. "grrrrrr, are you mocking me?" the boy's eyes blazed with rage as he slowly and fiercely moved towards Akirion's group.

"They call me Thane, and I'm one of the Lords in here, I'm the land owner just like my name means, now it's time to shut you up, punks!"

Akirion wanted to interfere but Liberty held him back and said that he will fight if he had to, not the weakling Akirion.

"Hey, you said the hard way or the hardware?" Erlin repeated the question with a crazy smile on her face.

"I said the hard way, no the hardware no, grrrrrr, I'm going to kill you little...."

"Let's see you try." Erlin flashly ran towards Thane who was furious.

"{Ohh dear, what is she doing, even though close combat got some hit effects it doesn't mean that it is the best way to fight someone.} Akirion silently said, with his eyes burning with rage, his body ready to fight.

"Hey guys, step back, let me finish this, we don't have time, if we stick around we will be doomed." Liberty said, with his hands ready to fly around.

The crowd erupted with happiness as they saw Erlin fighting with Thane. While the princess wasn't collected.

"Tell me, b b brother, is that the amazing thing you were talking about?"

"Oh yeah baby, that's the thing I was waiting for!"

"{Cruelty is all over the world nowadays.}" Fiana silently said.

Erlin had some strong Earth magic powers, so she was using them. She was creating pikes from the ground, attacking Thane but he was a water magic user, so he made ice blocks to protect himself.

"Tsk, sneaky bastard, so that's your ability? Okay then, let's see you block this with your ice, hahaha" Erlin said, while happy for fighting Thane.

The announcer announced the 4th group which luckily got out. But Thane and his group also Akirion and his, didn't care about that.

The fight continued, Thane on defense while Erlin attacking.

"So only 2 keys left?"

"Wow, you are too observant. You are right, two keys left to be used and they are a few minutes left, I wonder how this is going to end!" the prince replied the princess with a smile on his face.

Erlin used a lot of pikes and she was running out of arcana so she stopped using her magic and by that time, Thane got a chance of finishing Erlin with the ice but suddenly, the ice was instantly melted!

Chapter 39: The End Of The Key game

Liberty interfered sending the fight to the climax. He shot Thane with some fireballs and by that time, he wasn't able to block because his magic was being melted in an instant. So he got a hit and he was down. The crowd erupted with happiness of watching a good fight.

Akirion then called Liberty and Erlin to move out.

They all left without taking the keys from Thane's team.

"Wait , what are they doing, the time is about..." the princess surprisedly asked because Akirion and his group were supposed to take the two keys and find the escape door.

"They are just stupid like you!" the prince mocked Princess Fiana.

"What? You want to fight like two year olds again around many people?"

"Ohh sorry, I was just joking, hahaha." the prince proved to be joking because it was going to be a war in front of the crowd.

Thane and his team searched for other keys while Akirion and his team did the same.

Akirion continued to search according to his principles of the clue. They searched for a place where shadows will be down and also a place where it will be dangerous to pass through.

The professor silently said, "{The time is about to be up, what are they up to? They are supposed to win because they are the most strong guys in the school. They are supposed to qualify in the fighting contest. Wait a minute.(His eyes widened) That group, at the beginning..... they were up to something. I'm sure of it. Maybe about the clue, who knows, let me watch what he's up to!}"

Akirion and his friends found a very dangerous place to cross. The others said that it was too risky to cross. They denied even though he pleaded.

"Guys, this place can be a jackpot, let's try it."

"Sorry Akirion, but no!" Anda denied without a second thought.

"Yeah Akie, I'm with Anda on this one, we will lose if we risk it like this."

"Come on Elina, just a bit of trust, this can be our last chance."

"No!" Elina completely denied.

"Okay, I'll go on my own. Just do me a favor and wait for me here!"

"Yeah sure, why not?" Liberty confidently said with his face glowing with a smile.

Akirion turned his back on them and he vanished into the traps leaving them waiting.

"This is a risky place, we can't afford to lose here". Renn said with his deadpan face.

The others agreed with him while the time ticking.

They waited until they started asking themselves about him.

"He's taking so long, where's he?" the questions came up in Elina's head.

"Maybe he fell into a trap!" Erlin's head came up with something else.

"Yeah, that's a good point, but what if...."

"What if he's struggling to save himself from a trap?" Renn used his stupid thought into a useless ridiculous point.

"That's stupid enough". Elina heard that it was surely stupid.

"Come on, that can surely happen!"

"Not in real life, only in bedtime stories." the two started arguing, until Liberty was tired of waiting;

"Great, I'm tired of waiting for that loser."

"Don't call him that Liberty."

"Ohh sorry, boss lady Elina."

Akirion scoured the thick dark place only for a key. After sometime, the crowd erupted in happiness. Akirion's allies got surprised by the noise. They thought that maybe they were happy because Akirion was disqualified since he was in class A. So they decided to leave because time was running out. Akirion went back up running holding a golden ring like necklace but bigger and with a different shape than the silver one. He found an empty place, with no trace of a human.

"Great, I told them to wait, silly humans." Akirion angrily dropped the silver key and left to the other side where he thought his allies went.

After sometime, he saw them searching a lot. He witnessed a clear empty spot, with no trap or anything, just a bit of a torn carpet. His eyes widened and the clue rang in his head. '....but danger is in the light of all.'

"{Light of all?} Nuts" Akirion silently said, with an angry face following his allies who left him behind.

Elina was in front of the group, busy searching for the key, and Akirion became a life saver!

Elina stepped on top of the carpet and a glimpse of Akirion was seen and his voice calling out ' Elina' was surely away.

He flashly ran to Elina's rescue because the torn carpet was a big trap. Akirion jumped and grabbed her away from the trap.

'Akirion??' his team who thought that he was disqualified got surprised when they saw him grabbing Elina.

Thane and his group made it to where Akirion was left alone and they found the key that was thrown down by Akirion.

"Wait, this is the key that those class As were carrying, then why is it here, in the middle of the road?" Thane's team said that maybe they dropped it. So they were up for the door, searching like searching for a needle.

"There are some groups inside but only 2 left with keys. Do you think that those with keys will make it out or not?"

"Don't worry Fiana, they will..." Prince Kaid mentioned some calming words but he was cut off by the loud noise from the announcer.

The announcer started the count down from 60 going down.

"60 59 58 57..."

"Oh dear, we might have to run guys." Akirion said to his friends, ready to scoure for the door.

They agreed with him and they started running.

"Ohh dear, the time, I'm sure they won't make it to the door."

"Don't worry Fiana!"

The crowd started helping the announcer to do the count down.

"50 49 48..."

The professor sat idle with nothing to do, and a bit worried. He started eating his hands.

"45 44 43..."

The crowd continued until the count down turned into,'ahhhhh'.

The announcer announced the others who wrongly used the silver keys. Thane and his team fell into a trap door.

"Akie? Where is the silver key?" Elina asked Akirion after hearing about the silver keys.

"Ahmm, you guys left me behind, my mind wasn't functioning well, so I left it."

"Why?!"

"Because I got the golden one ." Akirion took out the golden key.

"What!" Everyone's eyes widened in astonishment, all the rage instantly disappeared in their eyes. They were about to stop running...

" Hey hey let's go, the time is not waiting for anyone!"

The count down didn't stop to take a break or a breath.

"25 24 23 22..."

" Kaid, they won't make it on time, do something." the princess said, shaking the prince.

"What do you want me to do Fiana?"

"I don't know, something to help them win."

I can't do that... but on second thoughts....(A glimpse of hope appeared in Fiana's eyes.) ...you called me Kaid again.....!" the prince got furious.

"15 14 13 12" the count down couldn't wait, not even for the ones carrying a golden key.

Akiron and his friends kept on running until they saw two doors, the other one on the left and the other one on the right. They stopped and checked the doors while the clue on their minds. 'Safety lies where shadows fall, but danger is in the light of all.' the other door was flooded with the shadow that there were no shadows fall to it and on the other side, the door was flashed by the sun so shadows were down to it.

Akiron turned his back to that door and they chose it.

"5 ,4 ,3 ..."

Suddenly, the crowd cheered for the end of t

he first event and the stage was flooded with the noise.

"Did those guys get out brother?"

Chapter 40: Cheated

"sup with your eyes?" Prince Kaid asked looking at Fiana who had her eyes woeful. The bright lighten gaze turned into despondent as she felt bad for the trapped ones.

"What do, do you mean?"

"Your eyes are flooding tears to my eyes." Prince Kaid's voice cracked slightly as he spoke with his eyes a bit tearing. His cheeks were a bit red.

"Ohh sorry!" The princess fastly turned her head away, and her pure sweet voice echoed in Kaid's head. She continued by muttering to her self, "{so that guy lost? I thought of checking him out after the event but now, (sighed) how can I even start a conversation with him?}" her eyes were hanging in the middle of nowhere, lost in thoughts. While the Prince muttering to himself too.

"{What was I even saying, human emotions, that's cute. Seems like I've got true love for my little sister.}"

"we got 3 keys lost in traps and 5 successful got out." the announcer loudly and happily said. The stage rumbled, the cheers turned into noise. Everyone was happy to proceed to the next event.

As the princess heard about the keys that got out, her eyes snapped wide open, her mouth forming a perfect 'o' of shock, as she gasped in astonishment. Her voice barely got through her lips, her words splattered and the Prince's ears couldn't catch it.

"Th,th, tho, those g,g,gu, guys got ah, ah, out!" the princess's word's stuttered, her words spouting out in a rush. Fastly breathing as if she was chased by a lion.

"Huh? {What did she just say? Wait, her facial expression changed , and... sup? Is she, is she sweating?} Hey hey hey, calm down, calm down Fiana. Take a deep breath, breathe in, hold, then out. Good, now tell me."

"The announcer said they were 5 keys that were used to go out..."

"Yeah, why not, 5 not 8 , only 4 los.... wait a second, 5?"

"Yeah!"

"Who's the fif.....?"

Akirion and his team were lying down, heavily breathing, listening to all the cheers the crowd was making.

" E, e , e , it's th....(She took a deep breath again.) It's them them!"

"Who?"

"Those guys, just forget it, you don't know them."

The princess's facial expression transformed. Her face glowed with a smile, her eyes filled up with tears. While the Prince was confused, his gaze on the thrilled Fiana whose face bloomed with a merry smile and also flowing with tears.

"Wait, why are you crying?" the astonished Prince asked with his left eyebrow up.

"Wait what? I'm not crying!" the princess denied, shaking her head.

"Your eyelashes are dripping wet!"

"Huh? Oh you mean these, they are just tears of joy."

"Humanic". His voice growled , a bit unclear but mostly heard.

"What?"

"Nothing."

Akirion and his team stood up, all eyes on the crowd and they left to take a break.

"We will go for a break, then continued after a break!" the announcers voice boomed all around the school premises.

During the break.

All of the winners went to their classrooms also, they sat in their groups. Some groups were few, with 3/6 members and some were many with 6/6.

In class A's classroom, there was a guy who was standing alone, lost in thoughts....

Akirion's hand was holding his chin, his eyes glaring at the unknown, while lost in thoughts. He was busy thinking about the event.

"{8 keys huh? They cheated the game, I'm sure of it. Nobody was announced,'trapped' with a key, so they only made it hard, so that they will be a shortage of keys then cause conflict. That's totally dumb...}"

Elina caught a glimpse of Akirion's lost eyes and she was moved by the way Akirion looked. Her heart pounded like a drum, only the sounds were mute. She thought of approaching Akirion but her heart increased the speed, sending shivers down her spine.

"{Really? Am I really afraid of Akirion? But no, I'm not, I should cheer him up for the next event. What should I do, think Elina, think, think...}" her silent words were super loud in her head, making her hold her mouth. She continued saying, "I can do this". Everyone's eyes were glued on Elina, making her regret her mistake of speaking out loud instead of going.

She searched for bravery in every corner of her body and suddenly, the professor popped up while she was about to take a step forward.

"{Ohh god, grrrrr, why is he here at a time like this?}" she was filled with rage inside of her body. Her brows furrowed into a deep crease, her eyebrows drawn together in a fierce scowl. Her teeth were gritted and she clenched her fist, surprising her little sister because her aura was darkly blazing around her, making the magic users afraid of her.

Erlin thought of calming down her sister who had her gaze filled with rage.

"Hey sister". Erlin said, her hand touching Elina's shoulders. Elina got surprised when she felt Erlin's sweet touch.

"Huh?" she surprisedly reacted, turned her furious face towards Erlin. Erlin's heart fastly pounded for a second.

She found her bravery by saying, " what's wrong sister? You look angry, what's wrong?"

"Nothing Erlin, I'm good, totally". Elina flashed her smile, hiding her livid face making Erlin believe that.

"Ohh, the professor is here." Erlin loudly said, and everyone looked at him, and Akirion woke up from his day dream.

"{Yeah yeah yeah, the professor is here, who cares.}" Elina silently said, while her anger was still burning in her eyes.

"Ohh, hey guys, good job there, that was totally impressive." the professor said, with a glowing smiley face. He continued chatting with all of the kids.

After sometime, Elina's rage instantly melted as she had a new idea.

"{Ohh, there's that word that I wanted to ask those two.}" she silently said, looking at the professor who was chatting with Akirion. She bravely approached the two, her mind racing, trying to think of the word.

"{What was the word again? Arc, arhh... arhh.... Arca... yes around that , maybe arcala.}" she muttered under her breath , and wrongly found the word she was brainstorming.

"Ohh hey Elina!" the professor happily greeted Elina. And she was happy to reply.

They started by talking about the event until she found a correct spot in the conversation to ask about the word that was troubling her.

"I have a question for the two of you."

"What is it ". Akirion asked.

"Fire it up ".

"Okay, what's the meaning of ar.. arcala?"

"Wait, what? Arcala?" Akirion surprisedly asked, with his eyes narrowed, trying to get the right word.

The professor started laughing.

"Why are you laughing professor?" Elina asked, with a question mark in her head, also astonished by the professor's reaction. Suddenly, Akirion exploded with a giggle making Elina a fool.

"Hahaha, you are so funny, I can't stop laughing." the professor said.

"Me either!"

They both said the same words, "it's called arcana not arcala."

"Yes, something like that!" Elina felt totally embarrassed.

The professor started by asking questions because he wanted to keep it a secret but Elina proved to have heard the two of them talking the same word.(Akirion and the professor).

"Seems like you've got some good ears. Let me briefly explain. It's arcana and it's the same as energy. If you use a lot of magic powers , then we always say that you ran out of energy. Then it's real name, from the ancient books, they called it, 'arcana'. It's the fuel of magic powers. If you run out of it then you won't be able to use magic powers and you won't be able to move a finger too, because it's the same as energy." the professor explained the word arcana.

"Okay, now I get it." Elina proved to have understood the word arcana.

"Surprisingly, I never thought that Akirion would have known about it."

"I.. I am a bit of a researcher Sir, that's all."

"That's good."

The time flew by with the audience screaming for the next event. The break took longer for the audience but as for the participants, they wished for more time.

The announcer announced about the next event and the crowd erupted with cheers, looking forward for a good time.