

The Crafts 231

Chapter 231: Career Change

The K1 drift racing league's first of thirteen races kicked off and the crowd was high. Although he wasn't influenced by the crowd or the announcer, Lucas did enjoy the event.

Drift racing wasn't as straightforward as the motorsport racing back on Earth. Maybe it was because the target of the sport was adrenaline-pumped spectators, those who desired dopamine-high and other similar characters, but there were unique elements added to the races.

Of the K1 league's thirteen races, only four of them were standard like those of motorsport racing competitions on Earth. The other nine had their uncommon points that made them special. Some of these races had the tracks littered with obstacles like land mines, peculiar potholes and so on. Others were held on bizarre tracks that weren't straightforward or simple to manoeuvre.

The whole point of these distinctive features was to test various qualities of both the drivers and the sare shuttles. For a driver, manipulating a shuttle at very high speeds wasn't enough. While for a shuttle, rapid acceleration, an insane top speed, and maintaining operation in those scenarios wasn't enough.

It was demanded of the drivers to be able to have high reflexes, good decision making, and creativity within the tracks. On the other hand, the racing shuttles were expected to be able to work on different terrains and situations, to some extent at least.

The first race was a four hour race with the first two hours being a typical standard track. However, midway into the race, the track would begin to change, and obstacles would appear on it. Even for these top class drivers, they had to be cautious and alert, otherwise, they would fall prey to the abrupt changes on the track.

A few hours later, the race was over and the results were then published. Unsurprisingly, the drivers Luka had mentioned to be tipped to win had appeared in the top 5. At first place was team Red Mouse's Red Devil. Second place was Yoko-bunny's driver, while third was the driver from Lugo Vido Autos.

Joker, who was nicknamed the black horse, had not even gotten into the top ten. This was shocking especially since he had appeared in the top five in two of the three test circuits, while scoring seventh place in the third one. Many of the spectators were stunned by his performance in the first race, but the professionals and experienced spectators didn't find it surprising.

Joker was an individual who hired a few people to form a makeshift drift racing team. Compared to the other drivers who were supported by wealthy tycoons, scions, companies or vestige-smith businesses, he could not compare.

In the end, there was only so much being an independent driver without a backer could get him. However, Joker did perform well compared to the other two solo drivers in the league.

"Coming for the next one?" Luka glanced at Lucas as he saw the latter rise to depart.

"Probably." Lucas replied.

He has attended this race just to understand more about drift racing and to see the shuttles used. It wasn't like Lucas was a fan of races, but that didn't mean he hated them either. However, the cost was just too much. Excluding the ticket fees alone, the prices of food, drinks, and other products were absurd. Lucas even believed that if they could, they would have also charged people to use the restroom.

With the current state of his finances, it wasn't wise to frequent this place often.

"Okay then. Well, next time you're here. Let me know. Save my contact details for that."

Luka swiped his hands in midair, generating a black and white projection of a 3-d cube. The cube consisted of weird lines that looked like a mixture of batch codes and QR codes, and it looked like it would fade out of existence in a few seconds.

Lucas nodded and extended his hand midair into the code, following which it disappeared.

This was a method used for passing information with communicators which Lucas found out about after getting a new communicator. In other city-states, one's contact details or other information would be projected into midair using a communicator for another to then scan. However, communicators in Belfargos city-state were more advanced than that.

Data and information could be compacted and 'written' into those unique data cubes. The sender would then utilise a gesture to project the cube from their communicator. The receiver would

then use a gesture to copy the digital cubes into their own communicators for translation and storage.

Unlike codes back on Earth that were two dimensional, these three dimensional cubes could contain more data and information. This was achievable due to their detailed and intricate structure made of both straight and curved lines with pictured patterns. But information and data could also be written on them through their colours.

For 'smaller' bits of information and data, the cube would maintain a monochrome colour, or be a mix of black and white. Said information would then be written using lines and patterns to create the three dimensional cubic form. However, the more detailed and bulky the information was, the need for a new format to write and store information, otherwise, the cube would become bigger. Hence, cubes could then take on various colours as a form of code.

After exchanging contacts, the duo then separated. Luka planned to hang around at the stadium whereas Lucas decided to return back to the shop as Melissa was waiting.

On his way back, Lucas replayed the scenes of the race. He now has a much better idea of the capabilities of racing shuttles, and was confident he could make on that was better, but not too much. Standing out wasn't good especially without a backer.

However, making racing shuttles just wasn't enough.

Like the other vestige-smith stores, Lucas wanted to create a team for the drift racing league to advertise his shop.

Although crafting weapons was a lucrative business, Lucas wasn't someone who went crazy for money. Deep down, he was just a craftsman that loved to create and explore the limitless possibilities of crafting. Having spent so long in making weapons, and over half a year in this new world, he decided to try a different industry.

This didn't mean that Lucas was abandoning making weapons; that was a stupid idea as it would cut off a significant means of earning for him. Instead, Lucas wanted to expand the field of operations and activities for the Heavenly Demonic Shop.

In Baylands City, Lucas had only focused on making weapons. However, this created a problem. The first was that when he needed stellar processors for his new model of vestiges, Lucas lacked the ability to produce them and had to outsource. As such, when the deal with the Legacy Crafts

dealership and Novanio Tech broke off, he was unable to continue producing those vestiges that required modified stellar processors.

Another issue was that when he was targeted, it was by a certain branch in the vestige-smith industry. This then cut off Lucas means of earning money. If he had other means and operated in different areas, he might have been able to make some cash even if the top factions were after his store, although the chances were low.

Even so, Lucas felt it was better to be diverse and create an entire ecosystem around his products.

Lucas wanted to make it such that his store would cover all forms of vestige-smithing and be able to produce its own materials, eliminating the need to outsource them from others.

In the business world, the first was called horizontal expansion while the second was vertical expansion. However, Lucas was unaware of this. After all, he never bothered to study business management back on Earth.

While Lucas returned back to the store, Luka went to meet with one of the drivers.