

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 391: The Blood Bath

Nonetheless, having already confirmed the potential of the other person, nodding in satisfaction, he declared, "Alright, I guess you barely pass. I'll invest in you."

Next, he didn't hesitate to bring forth a legal piece of contract before placing it in front of Hu Yuexin. "You just need to sign here, here, and here. You can also study the terms first."

Nodding in return, Hu Yuexin took a quick glance at the various clauses and terms stated within the piece of paper. The most important term which had been typed very boldly was the fact that the interest rate was a whopping 50% for each month!

An exaggerated additional \$250,000 for each month until she clears the entire debt!

Furthermore, it was clearly stated that if she fails to pay the owed money back, she will need to work for and serve their organization until her retirement, for the entire duration of thirty years, free of charge.

Other than that, there were also many other questionable terms in separate papers such as the one which stated in case she dies, the insurance money from her death and everything else she owns will completely belong to them.

So it was also very unlikely that one would ever get to see the day of her retirement with her life intact.

Of course, none of these terms scared Hu Yuexin in the least, on the contrary, she felt amused at the ignorance of the other party. Thus, paying no further

heed to any of the clauses in any of the pages, they shook hands as she signed every paper they needed to be signed.

Soon, a text was sent over to her phone, informing her of the successful transaction.

"I sincerely hope this investment profits us both." Putting on his most heartfelt tone, the mob leader said while displaying a very expectant smile.

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Exiting the loan shark's office, before anything else, Hu Yuexin's first decision was to go to the hospital and pay some percentage of the bill. Since she didn't know how long what she was about to do was going to take, she wanted to finish this matter first.

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Sometime later, while strolling through a wet market which sold any type of live animal one could think of, taking from chickens and pigs to wolves, Hu Yuexin wondered to herself jovially, 'I'm really lucky to be in this country. A country where you can buy nearly anything you want. Truly a heaven for a person like me.'

Subsequently, taking out the list she had prepared, her eyes fell on the first item, 'Wild Rabbit'.

There were even the names of various kinds of the monstrous beasts of the rifts mentioned within the list. Thankfully, she just needed their blood and luckily for her, their blood happened to be much less expensive and much more abundant in quantity and availability. So getting her hands on them was really trouble-free.

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Returning to her messed up house after her successful round of shopping, now that she was in possession of every material she needed, she began killing the various animals.

While sometimes she mixed the blood of some of them with one another, at other times, she ground those special herbs before blending them with the crushed meat of dead insects and animals.

For instance, she withdrew the blood of a particular type of snake before combining it with the venom of another type. Next, she again fused that with a kind of flower which she was quite confident was extremely similar to a demonic type of flower called Bellblex.

...

SEVERAL HOURS LATER

"Phew, the final materials are ready." She murmured while cleaning the droplets of sweat from her forehead.

Subsequently, picking up the brush she had also bought previously, in the middle of her house, she began the process of drawing strange symbols and formations utilizing the mixture of blood she had prepared.

After that, Hu Yuexin pushed the tub which was now filled with various herbs and blood of creatures right into the center-area of the painted symbols.

As she was finished with the necessary steps, staring at her own piece of work, a chuckle eventually formed on her lips as she started getting undressed and naked while pondering, 'Finally, I can make this body more suitable for me. Though there's still a long road ahead and there are lots of things I need to do in the future, it's a start.'

As she was totally naked now, taking a brief glimpse of her own mesmerizing body, closing her eyes, she entered the tub before sitting cross-legged within it.

For around a minute or two, nothing in particular seemed to be happening until, at last, the blood within the tub began to churn and swirl with her body at its center while the strange formation beneath the tub gradually started to shine brightly in red.

...

Nearly two weeks elapsed very quickly. In the meantime, Hu Yuexin continued sitting within the tub for the entire time... until now.

Anyway, as her eyelids fluttered open at this moment, a cold glint, sharper than ever, passed through her eyes as she stood up prominently.

The next course of action she took was to check the current state of the liquid inside the tub which had changed from its scarlet-red color to a sticky disgusting black.

Apparently, all of the redness of blood had been absorbed into her body resulting in unknown changes and transformations within it. Not only that, but all of the accumulated filth within her body seemed to have been expelled as well, forcing the liquid that should've been nearly clean into the current dark and foul liquid.

Nevertheless, examining the condition of her own body next, Hu Yuexin discovered that the entire exterior of her physique had also been covered in an even darker, stickier, and more repugnant smell.

'Success! Now I just need to take a shower and relieve myself!' It was at this instant when the block of ice inside Hu Yuexin's eyes seemed to have temporarily melted a little as she acted somewhat cheerfully.

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 392: Liberation Stage

Returning to 4 Times Square, Virus had this strange craving to try the tea prepared by the golden beauty using the 'Water of Life'.

"Here, master. Although I'm not as skillful as the times I was inside my artificial body, it should be still quite good. Unfortunately, my accuracy has fallen somewhat." Putting a cup of tea on the table before him, slightly embarrassed and disappointed herself, the golden beauty admitted.

Holding the cup, in order to experience the taste and quality for himself, Virus took a simple sip while closing both his eyes. 'Hmm, indeed, although it's not on the same level as before. It's not bad either.'

"I like it, thank you, Lil Belle." Nodding in satisfaction, Virus didn't forget to compliment her efforts.

"You're welcome, master. By the way, when are we leaving New York again?"

"I don't know. First, I'll need to wait for two more weeks before I can take the Guardian Exam. After that, we might stay here for a while, I'm not sure yet." Getting a whiff of the mesmerizing fragrance of the tea which was very helpful in calming one's nerves, Virus responded.

"Oh, right, how's your progress in cultivation? Did you spark your internal energy yet?" Recalling the matter of her cultivation, Virus inquired at once.

Hearing this, a jovial shimmer lit up within her eyes as she answered in utter elation, "About that... I think I'm almost there! I can feel it!!!"

"That's great. It seems you're even faster than what I initially had in mind. Anyway, I'll be entering a session of closed-door seclusion for around two weeks. You should do the same and try breaking through before the time of

my Guardian evaluation." Quite satisfied with her progress, Virus patted her head gently.

"Yes, master!" Feeling the tenderness of her master's arm, lowering her head, the golden beauty couldn't stop her cheeks from somewhat blushing.

"Good girl."

"Um, but master, can I ask you something?" Fidgeting her fingers, seemingly curious, the golden beauty opened her mouth.

"Go on."

"U-um, can you please clarify what one needs to do when he or she gets to the stage of [Liberation]? I'm just really curious about it as I keep wondering what I'm going to be doing when I complete my [Energy Disentanglement] stage and breakthrough to the next one. Furthermore, I feel like I'll be able to progress faster if I have a more perfect image of the next stage after the one I'll be entering soon." At this point, her eyes were giving off such intense illumination that Virus couldn't help but smirk helplessly.

"Sure, and it might indeed help a little. So... I'll explain a bit. Listen well and engrave my words to your heart and mind. Is that clear, my beautiful disciple?" Voiced Virus in a teasing tone.

However, hearing this, a strong sense of determination and resolve started to exude from the golden beauty's entire being as she focused her entire attention on Virus' mouth in a very serious yet cute manner. "Yes. Please punish Lil Belle if I don't listen and learn well."

"Cough, alright... well, according to my knowledge of cultivation, it is known that half the pathways of all human beings have the quality of being 'Yin' while the other half is 'Yang'. Meaning, if a person has twelve pathways, six of those pathways are of Yin nature while the other half is of Yang nature, it's like two sides of the same coin."

After a momentary pause as if he wanted the golden beauty to digest his previous elucidation, he went on, "In actuality, if I want to be even more precise, it could be said that a normal human being does not have 12 Energy Pathways, to begin with. Instead, he or she has six divided Pathways, which means when a normal human baby is given birth, he comes to this world with 6 broken and separated pairs of Energy Pathways."

Throwing a brief glimpse at the golden beauty's face and confirming she was still listening very intently, he added after a simple shake of his head, "Unfortunately, for reasons unknown, each of those originally complete and flawless six pathways breakdown to two separate parts of Yin and Yang from the moment a fetus begins to form within a mother's womb. Cultivators believe that this happens because the heavens are jealous of the human race, or that it's a punishment inflicted upon them by the heavens since the times immemorial. Therefore they say the heavens have fragmented mankind's pathways and made them full of flaw."

"What! How can the heavens do that!!! Heavens are really evil then!" Cried the golden beauty while acting in an exaggerated way as if she and humanity have been greatly wronged.

Seeing this, honestly, Virus felt slightly speechless as he swept the beads of sweat from his forehead before continuing, "Calm down. Actually, I don't really believe in the existence of the so-called foolish 'Heavens' which cultivators have blind faith in. So, I won't be commenting on that."

"However, it is indeed true and irrefutable that each of our originally flawless 6 energy pathways is now broken down into two parts of Yin and Yang. It's the same for me." He also said, "Anyway, you asked what we do in the [Liberation] stage, right?"

Seeing her nod repetitively just like a cute cat, he got to the main point of all of his explanations, "Well, it's simple really, we just need to connect each of

those divided pairs of Yin and Yang and create a complete whole for every one of them."

"Moreover, the moment we fuse and unite each pair, we would be able to release and liberate our Internal Energy from those respective pathways. That's what the [Liberation] stage is all about."

As if she had been finally enlightened, the golden beauty threw her own new insight into the middle of the conversation too, "Hmm, then, if I'm guessing correctly, that means, for normal people, there are 6 levels to the [Liberation] stage, right? Each time we bond a pair into a single whole, we progress in our cultivation and breakthrough properly."

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 393: My Design

"Yep, that's right. My Lil Belle's really smart! Every time someone connects a divided pair into a perfect single pathway, he or she breaks through to the next level." Patting her head again, Virus praised the snuggling cat.

After Virus was done patting and touching her head, recalling something very important and relevant, the golden beauty queried, "Then... doesn't that mean unlike other people, master's [Liberation] stage will have 9 levels?! Wow, master's really amazing then! Since you will be naturally a lot stronger than the other cultivators of the same stage!"

"..." Catching these delighted words of her, however, furrowing his brows, Virus denied in some disappointment. "Regrettably, that's not going to happen since only the pathways that have been successfully disentangled can be fused together."

"Eh! Isn't that simple, then? Can't master just disentangle all of them before breaking through?" Feeling lost, the golden beauty suggested.

"Unfortunately, I already broke through after untwisting twelve of my pathways, so that's impossible now." He notified her of the implausibility of the situation.

"Ah! Why did you do that, master?! Why didn't you wait?" In fact, this news came as a big shock to the golden beauty since she knew exactly how fond of perfection Virus was.

Staring at the empty cup before him, Virus provided the answer that was confusing the golden beauty, "Sadly, even untwisting the knot within my 13th energy pathway was going to take a few decades at least... I think. Now let's not talk about the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th Pathways. I even had this gut feeling and notion that perfecting the stage would be nigh impossible even for me, now however much time I spend in it."

"Therefore, I decided... why should I feel greedy and waste my precious time over something that's perhaps not even attainable? And as you can see, I finally let go and broke through." To the golden beauty, the unshakeable resolution emanating from his facial expression was very clear at this point.

"Oh, I see." Even though she was feeling somewhat sad for her master, being the intelligent girl she was, she didn't hesitate to change the subject. "Alright, master! Thanks for your elaboration! It was really helpful. Now, let's enter our session of closed-door training. Also, please let me know when you're hungry, I'll be cooking or ordering something from outside if that's okay with you."

"Sure, let's-" Just as he was about to end their conversation, a familiar voice interrupted the two, "Master."

"Oh, what's up?" Locking eyes with the CEO ugly, Virus proclaimed.

"I'm here to report some of the company affairs." He said respectfully.

"Un, please go on." Wanting to end the report as quickly as possible before entering seclusion, Virus didn't waste any time before permitting him to talk.

"First, I want to notify you that our Mining sector is already in the production phase as we are extracting massive amounts of nearly every type of ore, taking from iron, silver, copper, gold, and molybdenum to rough diamonds."

"That's great. And what about it?"

"Well, due to the exaggerated number of our mines, our production is simply too much, therefore, if we want to sell our ores indeed, we need to lower the price of those minerals to an extent so the customers of other mining corporations would be drawn to us."

"In order to do that, I want to sell them at 50-60% price of other mining corporations throughout the world. Like this, we wouldn't need to do anything as everyone would come flocking to our doorstep wanting to form a type of contract with us. What do you say to that, master?" At this point, gazing at his master's dependable figure, he patiently waited for Virus to open his mouth.

"En, a good plan indeed, though that would most likely upset the rest of the mining sector and would definitely come to affect the entire price market of the globe since, in a way, ores are commodities without which a modern industrialized economy can not exist. But... why the hell would I bother myself with that? So, go on and break the balance." Displaying an amused grin of expectation, he didn't forget to add, "Now, I'm slightly looking forward to what reactions that would derive from the economic world."

"Yes, master's truly wise." In fact, the CEO ugly had this weird premonition that Virus had already predicted his next hundred steps before he himself had even made the decision. So a simple analysis on the matter of the price didn't really amaze him in any way. Still, that didn't stop him from throwing a sentence of brief praise at his anticipated insight. It was always good to try to become the object of Virus' favor.

"Anyway, that was the first part of my report." After a simple pause, he continued, "I also wanted to inform you that I'm about to initiate the second part of my design."

"Hoh, and what would that be?"

Witnessing his master's evil grin that was clearly saying 'I'm interested, continue', the CEO ugly began to talk, "Now that we have the mining sector functioning without any issues, as I'm sure you're already aware, what we lack is the capability in being able to turn those ores into their respective metals ourselves. Thus, I would like to spark the process of setting up our Basic Metal Production sector."

"Explain your thoughts more extensively."

"Yes, master. The first part of my plan is to make use of those numerous wide fields which we bought near the various mining grounds with the initial plan of stopping others from discovering that the lands we buy are rich in minerals. Anyhow, since they are in very close proximity to our mining grounds, I would like to utilize them and set up our basic metal production factories there."

"Not only would that save a lot of transportation time and price, but those useless lands would also come to be economic and extremely profitable. To be honest, other than trying to mislead others and cover the potential of our fields, that was my plan all along. I never had any intention of leaving them as useless fields."

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 394 Tearful Yet Full of Happiness

Clap~ Clap~ Clap~...

The sound of applaud resounded within the hall all of sudden. "You are a crafty and wise CEO indeed."

"Thanks for the great compliment, master." Truly happy to hear those words which felt nothing but encouraging to him, the CEO ugly bowed thankfully.

"That's not your entire plan, right?" All of a sudden, a piercing glint that could see right through the CEO ugly was directed at him.

"Y-yes, of course. As expected of Master." Stuttering a little, a shiver went down the CEO ugly's spine as he confirmed, 'See! Just as I had assumed, he knows every step of my plan, he just enjoys hearing about them.'

Subsequently, he blurted the rest of his devious plan, "Also, by selling our ores at half the original price to rest of the world, not only is my goal to attract customers to ourselves, more importantly, I'm going to be snatching many basic metal production factories using this particular strategy. You know, since setting up factories takes some time, getting our hands on already prepared factories besides those we're building would save a lot of our precious time, money, and energy and would instead add to our efficiency."

"To be more specific regarding my plan. When we start selling our minerals and ores that can probably sustain the world at half the initial price, naturally the price of metal would plummet alongside with it. This means that if those metal production factories want to continue running without any loss and going bankrupt, they would need to procure ores from us."

"However, I'm going to be choosing a selective few of those factories and refuse to sell them any ores. Like this, while the rest of those factories who we sell our merchandise to would naturally survive. The selected others would be having a rather difficult time making a living. I'll be making my move then by offering them a satisfactorily high price in exchange for their factory. That's my entire plan."

Of course, that wasn't everything he had in mind. "Now I know there are going to be many variables and problems popping alongside this plan of mine. But

I'm confident that by acting at the appropriate time and place, by utilizing each piece at its most suitable location, I would be triumphant in achieving my goal."

By the side, truly sensing the extent of the CEO ugly's intelligence for the first time now that she was within a real physical body, the golden beauty couldn't refrain from uttering, "Wow, you're a genius, CEO ugly!"

Meanwhile, hearing her complimenting him while still calling him 'CEO ugly', the CEO ugly didn't know whether to laugh or cry. All he knew was that he had just felt an arrow piercing through his metallic heart.

Still, he didn't forget to reply, "T-thank you, little sis."

Hearing him call her 'little sis' out of the blue, however, the golden beauty was stumped and caught off-guard for a while as she murmured, "L-little sis?"

"Eh, did I perhaps cross the line here? I apologize if that's the case, miss Bella." Feeling extremely pressured at the notion of making a mistake at the presence of their master, the CEO ugly was quick to apologize and fix his manner of addressing her.

"N-no, no, no. Actually, it's okay. Taking from a certain perspective, you're not wrong either since we five did indeed come to exist in this world from the invaluable hands of the same master. So you're not making an error here by calling me 'little sis', I was just slightly surprised, is all."

"Anyway, since you called me 'little sis' already, I won't be holding back and call you 'CEO ugly bro' from now on. Is that okay?"

Once again, the CEO ugly was simultaneously on the verge of both tears and ecstasy while he pondered powerlessly, 'The word ugly is still in there though...'

'But it's a start at least.' Shaking his head in the end, he agreed, "Yes, that would be great, little sis."

"You can call me 'Lil Belle', 'Bella', 'Little sis', or whatever's convenient for you, either one would be fine with me, CEO ugly bro." Beaming a bright radiance of happiness, the golden beauty suggested.

Meanwhile, during the entire awkward conversation between the two, Virus was simply chucking as he did not say anything in rejection or agreement. This was because he never intended to butt in or interject in the matters regarding the relationship between the five.

Unless it was necessary, of course.

"Is there anything else you need to report or want from me?" Finally, Virus opened his mouth again at this point.

"Um, the report is over, master. But... I'll need some capital for my plan to work, so-"

Before he could even finish, however, a pitch-black card was thrown on the table. It was his personal [Virus] debit card.

"Take as much as you want and just return the rest to me."

"Yes, master." Bowing reverently, the CEO ugly turned around before leaving the presence of the two.

"Shall we begin the session then?" Grinning at the golden beauty, Virus declared.

...

Afterward, returning to his own grand room, Virus sat on the couch cross-legged before closing both his piercing eyes.

Soon, he could sense the entirety of his 12 Energy Pathways as clear as the day itself.

"Sigh..." Thinking about his remaining three pairs of pathways that were going to stay locked forever, he couldn't help but release a sigh. 'That's such a shame indeed. But... since there was no helping it, let's move on.' And with that, it seemed as if the entire feeling of pity had vanished from his heart as he no longer felt anything regarding the matter.

Instead, focusing on the network of complex pairs of pathways, he began to deliberate, 'Hmm, now that I'm already in the initial phase of the 1st level of [Liberation], what I'm required to do is to start the fusion of the first pair of Yin and Yang Pathways.'

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 395 Without A Warning!

Nearly two weeks flew by quickly. During this time, other than eating the food that had been placed in front of his doorstep and sleeping for the least amount of time necessary every day, Virus was extremely persistent in his cultivation.

And today, at last, like a thunderbolt, his eyelids fluttered open. 'Hmm, the union rate between my first pair of Yin and Yang pathways ended up only around 30 percent after two weeks of diligent cultivation. Although this is still quite fast for normal cultivators, to me, it's quite the opposite.'

'It seems I would need to make some stuff that would hasten the process. But today's the day of Guardian Examination, so I leave it for later.' Having concluded this, he didn't hesitate to pick up his phone as he called both the CEO and the Island ugly as he commanded the two to find him some crucial materials.

'I wonder if Lil Belle was successful in breaking through to Energy Disentanglement stage.' A broad smile was displaying itself on Virus' face at

this point. He was indeed looking forward to hearing all about the golden beauty's progress now.

...

TWO WEEKS AGO

As the golden beauty returned to her own personal room which was right beside her master's suite, she didn't hesitate to walk before her queen-sized bed before sitting on it cross-legged.

Next, prior to actually beginning, the golden beauty picked up many mini Virus dolls as she surrounded herself with them. It was only then that she closed both her eyes as she started her cultivation session.

...

Three days later.

Presently, the golden beauty's forehead was filled with perspiration as she continued persevering. She was clearly so tired that she was feeling the utmost limits of her tolerance at the moment. Still, she wasn't one to give up easily.

'I'm almost there!'

Crack~

The instant that notion was just flickered in her head, within the interior of her physique, a cracking sound resounded. It was also in that very second when she felt as if an unbreakable wall that had been keeping her from progressing any further had been finally shattered!

And then, she naturally began to sense the motes of energy within herself!

"Eh?" However, it was what she sensed afterward which dumfounded her a great deal.

'Am I hallucinating perhaps? How could this be?'

The word 'disbelief' could no longer even begin to describe what she was experiencing right now.

'Perhaps I'm not sensing the entire interior of my body? Yes... that must be!'

And she was feeling this way, because, examining the interior of her own body, her eyes were witnessing something which simply did not make any sense to her. No sense at all!

'Didn't master say even the most normal human beings possess twelve energy pathways?'

'But then... why?'

'Why am I sensing only nine pathways within my body? This isn't right!' In the meantime, she was panicking a lot already since she didn't understand why she had a fewer number of Energy Pathways than even a normal human being.

Subsequently, she tried convincing herself that maybe since she had just broken through to the first level of Energy Disentanglement, just maybe she couldn't feel the entirety of her energy pathways due to that reason. But deep down, without a shadow of a doubt, she was quite certain that anyone would be able to at least count the number of his or her own pathways from the moment that person breaks through to the Energy Disentanglement stage!

And that's why this illogical piece of news came as a big shock and even a hard blow to her.

Not that she was expecting to awaken a full set of eighteen energy pathways like her master, but at least she was hoping to possess the most common twelve pathways which even the most normal humans had!

"W-what should I do? Would Master be disappointed in me?" As her eyelids fluttered open, it was clear she was very worried that Virus might get greatly disappointed in her.

Still, after a while of fidgeting, finally being successful in briefly calming herself, she decided. "It doesn't matter if I have nine pathways or twelve pathways. Regardless, I'll get a lot stronger and be of great help to Master one day! I swear on it!"

Following that, as if she had been at last triumphant in convincing herself, shutting both her eyes, she could only proceed with her training. Her goal now was to break through to the 2nd level of Energy Disentanglement in one go!

Just like that, soon, every ounce of internal energy within her 1st pathway were concentrated on the very first knot blocking her path of progress.

If Virus was currently able to witness that knot within her, however, he would've been definitely amazed at how slack and loose the knot obstructing her 1st pathway was! Next, he would have definitely concluded untwisting that kind of entanglement was sure to be extremely easy and time-efficient.

...

In the blink of an eye, an entire week was gone.

Right now, the golden beauty who had been diligently focusing her internal energy on the knot blocking her path for the past week had a mesmerizing grin drawn on her face.

This was because after checking the current condition of the twist, it was clear to her that the twist would be gone at any seconds now.

And indeed, half an hour later, the twist was disentangled at last as a smooth path revealed itself in front of her!

Noticing this, grinning from ear to ear, without any delay whatsoever, the golden beauty pushed every drop of energy within her 1st pathway to the 2nd! As a result, she obviously entered the 2nd level of Energy Disentanglement! Yet, just as she was about to open her eyes and celebrate her breakthrough, something strange happened. Something which forced her to shudder in confusion again.

Hua~ Hua~...

Within her physique, just as she entered the 2nd level of Energy Disentanglement, the internal energy within her seemed to begin bubbling and churning as it started to shoot up and go through a qualitative change without a single warning!

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 396 Test of Knowledge

This was a sign that the quality of her energy was increasing!

Nonetheless, soon, the transformation reached its ending point as many thoughts began to race within the golden beauty's mind, 'Hmm? What's this? If I'm not mistaken, nothing like this should've happened, right?!'

She remained addled for a long time after that. However, in the end, the only probable possibility she could think of was "Maybe it's because I only have nine energy pathways which make it somewhat special? Hope that's truly the case here.".

That was indeed the best deduction she could make with her limited amount of knowledge at the moment. And to be honest, the thought of being somewhat special made her a lot happier and even less pressured compared to the time when she had just gotten to know she had only 9 Pathways.

Notwithstanding, in the end, she could only put the matter aside while an even more intense determination flickered through her eyes as she became resolved to break through to the 3rd level of Energy Disentanglement. 'I need to cover my lack of talent with my efforts!'

Therefore, shutting down her eyes, she proceeded with her cultivation.

...

Several days later.

Knock~ Knock~

Pounding on the door twice, Virus patiently waited for the golden beauty to open the door. And as expected, less than thirty seconds, the door was pushed open as he was greeted by her, "Master! Good morning!"

"Hey, Lil Belle. Did you breakthrough?" Not trying to beat around the bush at all, he directly jumped at the question he was currently very curious about.

"Ah, yes. I'm already in the Energy Disentanglement stage." Replied the golden beauty nonchalantly. However, recalling the complexities of her breakthrough, she seemed to turn a little despondent. And of course, Virus noticed this slight change in her mood.

"Great! But is there perhaps something bothering you, Lil Belle?" Inquired Virus casually. He was determined to help her resolve the problem she was facing. If he could of course.

However, shaking her head in the end, the golden beauty denied, "Not really, I'm just a little tired, is all."

'I-I'm really sorry for not telling you master. It's just that I'd hate to let you down.' She pondered as sadness filled her cute eyes while a sensation of guilt dominated her heart.

Seeing her refusing to answer and clarify, Virus, of course, did not insist and instead changed the subject even, "Anyhow, I'm leaving to take my Guardian Exam, do you wanna tag along perhaps?"

"Umm, if it's okay with you, master, I'd like to continue my closed-door cultivation."

Even though he did not admit it, this response of the golden beauty shocked Virus somewhat. He never imagined he would see a day where Bella would reject his invitation to tag along.

"Huh? Uh, I mean, sure. No problem, then you can stay in your room and proceed with your training."

"Thank you, master! I'll see you when you return then!" Uttering that, she shut the door close right in his face.

"..."

"This girl." Eventually, these two words were the only things Virus muttered before he turned around and left with a helpless chuckle.

...

After strolling into New York's Abnormals Association, Virus directly walked over to the counter as he inquired from the familiar woman. "Hello, again. So... where should I be going in order to take the exam?"

Taking a close look at Virus' face, the woman promptly remembered the familiar dark-haired youth as she replied, "Oh, hi, you're here!"

"You need to go into that class there and take the Test of Knowledge first. Only if you can pass that test can you move on to the next parts of the examination? Hope you studied well."

After expressing her brief concern, she also didn't forget to warn him, "Also, don't try to cheat, you'll be discovered."

"Oh, see you soon then." Muttering this, Virus didn't dilly-dally in the least before walking toward the relevant door.

As he approached the door, he was asked for the piece of paper he was granted at the time of signing up for the examination. After handing that over, someone guided him to his own respective desk.

By the sides, there were around ten other people who were occupying some of the seats already.

...

Around fifteen minutes later, someone ambled into the classroom in a leisurely manner before he distributed the papers among the Guardian candidates. The man also didn't forget to mention a very strict rule. "All those who cheat will be disqualified without any second chances. Bear that in mind."

Grabbing the paper in front of him, Virus couldn't prevent an amused grin from forming on his face as he thought, 'Test of Knowledge, was it?'

To be truthful, not even once did he open a single book that was part of the required syllabus. In actuality, this section was an extremely important part of being a guardian since reading those recommended books would be very helpful in increasing the chances of Guardians in various harsh conditions.

Now a few of those books were respectively "Survival in the Wild", "Encyclopedia of Herbal Medicine", "What to Eat When There's Nothing to Eat?", "A Compilation of Various Martial Arts", "Strategic Battle", "Everything about the Rifts", "Everything You Need to Know about the Abnormals", etc.

Such essential books were part of the required syllabus that one 'had' to learn before trying to become a Guardian. But indeed, Virus had studied none of the aforementioned.

Of course, that was the case since there was no need for him to study in the first place.

As his eyes fell upon the first question, his mind directly connected to the world. Subsequently, after effectively finding the relevant book and referring to its requested information, he directly copy-pasted the answer without anything more or less.

This process went very smoothly as Virus proceeded to answer the questions one after another.

Meanwhile, the exam invigilator seemed totally out of it as he was currently reading a certain book without even checking if the examinees were cheating or not.

Due to this odd behavior from the invigilator, everyone was just about to bring their guards down and start cheating one way or another. However, it was exactly in this moment, when abruptly, standing up, the invigilator ambled before a certain examinee as he picked his answer sheet and ripped it apart.

"Get out. You're disqualified." He said expressionlessly.

While on the other hand, seeing his answer sheet ripped into shreds, the angered examinee barked, "Why did you rip my paper!!!"

"Isn't that clear? Because you cheated." Still as relaxed as before, he mouthed casually.

"Who says that!? Then prove that I cheated!" With his saliva splashing around, the examinee screamed. It was clear he was not going to be convinced unless there was some kind of proof that proved him guilty.

Not even bothering to respond, the invigilator simply reached out his arm as he plucked something out of that examinee's ear.

"Here." Putting the small communication device on the examinee's palm, the invigilator no longer bothered himself with the stunned man as he twirled around and returned to his seat before picking up his book once again.

Watching the entire play, a shiver went down everyone's spine as many of them immediately decided against cheating. Of course, that wasn't the case for Virus, who instead of shivering, chuckled in response while deducing, 'Some kind of trait which can sense everything that's happening within a certain range.'

'Alas, you still can't discover my connection to the world which is literally the best tool for cheating.'

Frankly, Virus could've memorized everything in less than even a single nanosecond before entering the class in order to take the exam. He could do it even now.

However, for the mere entertainment of it, he wasn't willing to do it. Instead, currently, he was directly writing everything he saw within the book without bothering to even understand what exactly it was saying.

'Cheating is amusing indeed, hehe... now discover me cheating if you can.'

That notion of his was also followed by another.

'To be able to cheat without being caught red-handed should also be an important skill good Guardians need to master in their own unique way. Though I admit my method of cheating is a bit of a cheat in itself. Haha...' A provocative smirk was now clearly hanging from the corner of his mouth.

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 397 The Lis

During the rest of Test of Knowledge, another cheater was discovered and thrown out by the invigilator. Afterward, no longer did anyone dare to cheat as

they finally understood the invigilator must be some type of Abnormal with a trait that helps him prevent others from cheating.

To that, they could only think helplessly, 'Damn it, isn't his trait a cheat for being an invigilator?!'

...

It had been only thirty minutes since the start of the two hours long examination when suddenly, noise arose from a certain desk.

And looking over, everyone noticed the dark-haired youth going ahead as he handed over his answer sheet to the invigilator. This promptly shocked everyone at first before they shook their heads while various thoughts of disappointment went through their mind.

'There's no way anyone would be able to answer everything in just half an hour. Even within the entire two hours, some would be barely able to answer more than half of the questions. The only possibility is that he must be leaving since he hasn't studied at all.'

'Sigh, that dude Victor Goodwin, what a disappointment he is. He should've studied a little at least.' Obviously, this person knew Virus's name since everyone's identity was attached to their own respective seats in a very large font.

'Must be another one of those people who had come to the class with the hope of cheating. What a loser.' These were some of the notions that popped into the examinees' head. However, the point was, no one reasoned that Virus might've been truly finished with his examination.

They all assumed he was merely leaving after experiencing the horrifying level of Test of Knowledge for himself!

Nonetheless, as the invigilator received his paper, he couldn't help himself but throw a deep glance at Virus' face. He could've sworn he had previously sensed a wicked yet challenging smirk from this man as he appeared to be the only one who was totally unfazed by him catching cheaters one after another. Unfortunately, no matter how hard he studied all over this participant's physique in secret, he could not find anything wrong with him.

But now that he saw him standing up and coming over in order to hand his paper over to him, he couldn't help but shake his head in some disappointment and regret. 'Sigh, so he wasn't anything special after all. What a let-down, I expected more from him.'

Of course, he didn't hesitate to accept his piece of paper before telling him to wait or return in two hours in order to receive the results of Test of Knowledge and to see whether he advances to the next test or not.

Throwing a simple nod at the man, Virus exited the classroom as he strolled toward the counter casually.

"Eh, you're done already?" Next, he was faced with the surprised and soon regretful face of the lady in charge of reception.

"Sigh, don't lose hope, you can pass the exam next month if you study well." She said. Still, she couldn't stop herself from lowering the image of this young man in her heart. It was also at this exact moment when she decided that she was not going to give him any chances to court herself.

Beaming a casual grin at her, Virus didn't argue or deny. Instead, he unfussily decided to not bother himself with her as he exited the Abnormals Association at once.

He was leaving because he wanted to make the best out of these two hours.

Soon, he was walking on the crowded streets of New York as he enjoyed the various sightings he was perceiving. People calling a taxi, buying food from

the various food trucks, and couples walking side by side were the most unique sights that attracted his attention to themselves.

A while later, feeling hungry himself, he also didn't hesitate to walk over as he ordered a burger from a certain busy food truck.

...

Just like that, in what felt like a simple snap of one's fingers, two hours flew by. Throughout this time, Virus continued to enjoy his burger to its very last bite.

And in the end, as he was done, it was finally time for the announcement of results, thus, he strolled back into the Abnormals Association.

...

"Huh? He's back?" One of the examinees cried, attracting the attention of the rest of the examinees together with even the receptionist's awareness to himself.

"Eh, why would he come back?" Deliberated the receptionist in confusion. She could not understand why he would bother returning.

"Does he want to be a laughing stock among us by being an utter failure?"

"Hahaha, that must be it. What a loser."

"You guys, lower your voices! How can you be so rude right into someone's face!" A certain tempting Asian girl voiced while furrowing her brows. She was one of the several people who never mouthed a single word of ridicule about Virus.

"So what if he hears? Are we saying anything wrong? We're just stating facts! Facts, you hear me?" Another replied in return. Right now, visible contempt was radiating from his eyes since what he hated the most in the world were failures.

"The results are out!" Suddenly, a piece of paper was attached to the wall, alluring everyone to itself like moths to a flame.

Of course, Virus also walked over. But unlike others who wanted to check their own personal grade, he wanted to find out if there was anyone else who he might find interesting.

Notwithstanding, as the group of moths walked before the flame, suddenly, as they took a look on top of the results paper, an absolute silence descended upon the room. It was as if all of the moths had died tragically as quietness returned to the flame.

And indeed, after taking a casual glimpse of the list, especially the top, barely anyone could believe what he or she was seeing.

[1. Victor Goodwin – 100/100 (Full marks), Pass]

[2. Anastasia Foster – 99/100, Pass]

[3. Ismail Archer – 74/100, Pass]

[4. Damian Cline – 68/100, Pass]

[5. Abby Wu – 67/100, Pass]

[6. Lydia Ross – 52/100, Pass]

[7. Ian Brown – 51/100, Pass]

[8. Rita Buck – 48/100, Fail]

[9. Amir Gross – 39/100, Fail]

[10. Lukas Wang – Failure due to cheating]

[11. Mason Holland – Failure due to cheating]

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Chapter 398 Lydia Ross

Many jaws had already dropped on the ground because the number one seat had been taken away exactly by the person that some of them had been calling a 'loser'! Even more shocking was the fact that the loser had obtained full marks!

"H-how is this even possible..." Came the stuttering sound of the man who had been formerly mocking Virus while scolding the cute Asian girl and telling her that he was merely stating 'facts'. His name was Amir Gross and he was currently stuttering because of his utter failure in passing the exam.

Well, now it was a 'fact' that he failed instead as he was experiencing the thing he hated the most in the world, failure.

"Oh, everyone, look! The second spot is also taken by that loner beauty! She's a single point lesser than full marks! Wow, she's super smart too!" Said Damian Cline, the number four on the ranking of Test of Knowledge, while pointing at an alluring woman who had been quiet from the start of the first test until now. In fact, this particular woman had never approached anyone to start a conversation with.

No one had tried approaching her either since she had this unapproachable aura to herself.

Meanwhile, looking at the name occupying the second place, an interested glint went through Virus' eyes before he directed his sight toward the said person, Anastasia Foster.

And exactly at the same time, Anastasia also happened to look over as their gazes met and intertwined briefly.

Simultaneously, the tempting Asian girl's gaze was also secretly locked on Virus' figure. She was amazed by the person called 'Victor Goodwin'.

"Okay, all those who passed the exam, follow me." Declared the invigilator who had remained quiet until now.

...

Soon, the seven lucky candidates were led to a rather big hall.

Subsequently, while pointing at the orderly placed rows and columns of practice dummies at the front, the invigilator began explaining, "In this hall, using these facilities, you'll be going through the second examination, the Test of Power."

"But before we start, I'll clarify some matters regarding the incoming tests from now onwards." Phrasing this, he went on, "First, from this moment on, in each test, everyone will be graded from one star to five, with five stars being the highest."

"Keep in mind that you'll pass as long as you obtain even a single star at each test. However, if you are not even able to earn yourself a single star, you'll naturally fail since you and your Trait will be considered too weak for the Guardian occupation."

"Also, each orderly column of practice dummies are placed according to their level of hardness as their order of placement is, from the easiest to break to the hardest and they are respectively the plastic dummy, the wooden dummy, the clay dummy, the rock dummy, the iron dummy, the dummy made from the bones of a one-star monster which we will call one-star bone dummy, the dummy made from the bones of a two-star monster, aka two-star bone dummy, and so forth."

"That is all for now. If you have any other questions, ask. If not, we shall start." And with this, he momentarily stopped talking.

However, almost immediately, Ian Brown, the person who had barely passed the first exam, raised his hand as he questioned, "Um, sir, who are those people that are watching us from behind those huge glass windows."

Indeed, right now, some people were watching them from a large room which was separated from the hall by a gigantic see-through glass wall.

Hearing the question though, the invigilator could only scorn before responding, "You don't even know that and you're here to take the Guardian exams? Those people are the representatives from the various guilds, of course!"

"They are naturally here to judge you guys for themselves and try poaching those with potential before others snatch you."

"Alright, if that's all, we shall begin the test. The first participant is you yourself, Ian Brown, step up and start from the first evaluation target, the plastic dummy."

"Yes, sir." Stepping forward, Ian walked before the first column of the practice dummies. Then, standing before the plastic dummy, he raised both his palms, and before soon, his nails started growing somewhat larger and sharper before he slashed at the plastic dummy with them.

Swish~ Swish~ Swish~...

A minute later, many deep scratches took shape on the body of the plastic dummy as Ian stood there while trying to catch his breath.

Seeing the plastic dummy which hadn't even broken apart, however, furrowing his brows, the invigilator barked, "Hmph, you idiot, you're supposed to attack only once, didn't you read about that in the guide booklet. Let's just forget about that. The thing here is that even after so many attacks, you couldn't even rip that simple plastic dummy apart and you're here to be a Guardian!"

"For this, You can't even get a single star. Sigh...you fail. Please leave. Try to increase the power of your nails before you come back and take another shot at this."

"W-what..." Ian's eyes immediately went wide in disbelief. He couldn't believe he had failed just like that.

In the end, as his head was filled with the picture of his bleak future full of debts of money, he could only lower his head and leave the area with red eyes of anger and grief.

"Next in line, Lydia Ross, come forth."

"Yes." While displaying her adorable dimples, an extremely cute African-American woman stepped forward.

Meanwhile, the rest of the participants waited for this beauty to show her trait and sate their curiosity.

The same situation was taking place within the large room of the representatives.

Next, just as everyone was expecting some type of beautiful trait or something to pop up, Lydia opened her mouth and...

Spat!

Boom!

As her spit connected to the first plastic dummy, as if a bomb had dropped on it, the dummy instantly exploded into many bits!

Nothing remained of the first dummy!

Everyone's eyes nearly popped out of their respective sockets as they witnessed this unexpected scene. They were dumbstruck at once. Not even in their wildest dreams did they think of a Trait like this from the beautiful girl.

Of course, Lydia was not one to wait for others to regain their senses as she spat on the second dummy and...

Boom!

Successfully annihilated it!

Then, this process continued as one dummy after another was destroyed!

Ptooey!

Boom~

...

Ptooey!

Boom~

...

Ptooey!

Boom!

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Chapter 399 Anastasia Foster

Ptooey!

Boom!

Finally, when she spat on the sixth dummy, the one-star bone dummy, the dummy was, at last, barely able to keep its rough shape.

"What's my grade for this test, Mr. invigilator?" Staring at the invigilator, Lydia inquired while maintaining an innocent face as if she hadn't just killed an army with nothing but her spit.

A while later, still having not received any responses in return, Lydia could only repeat at the dazed man. "Mr. invigilator!"

"Ah, Y-yes. Y-your grade for the Test of Power is two stars."

"Em, but, wasn't I only able to deal damage to a one-star bone dummy? Shouldn't I receive a single star, then?"

"Haha... of course not. You see, being able to harm a one-star bone dummy means you would at least be able to harm the flesh of a two-star monster. Even though breaking its bones might prove to be rather difficult, in the bare minimum, you might be able to kill it by injuring its flesh and other fatal organs. Moreover, you've inflicted this much damage in a single attack. Therefore, you get two-stars indeed."

"Yay!" Fully understanding the situation now, Lydia jumped in elation before retreating.

Meanwhile, Ismail Archer, the third ranker on the previous Test of Knowledge, mouthed speechlessly, "I-is this the famous act of killing with a mere spit?"

"I-I suppose though. I just can't imagine who might dare kiss that mouth." Damian articulated as an intense shiver went down his spine at the mere picture of such a scene where a man would explode to countless gory bits. He thought although Lydia was extremely beautiful, it would take balls for someone to be her boyfriend.

And even if one did indeed find the balls to do so, he seriously doubted that person would live to tell all about it.

Subsequently, Abby Wu, the tempting Asian girl, who also happened to possess cute dimples, stepped forward before stopping in front of the next row of intact dummies.

Following that, she promptly took out a handgun from within her special purse before aiming it at the plastic dummy.

The moment she aimed the gun, however, a strange light seemed to enter the handgun from within her palms as it instantly started to transform the gun somewhat!

Soon, the handgun was done transforming as a more futuristic version of the same model was now being held within Abby's palm who didn't hesitate to pull the trigger!

Bam~

The next moment, in the middle of the plastic dummy's forehead, a hole was visible for everyone to see. Of course, not stopping there, she took a shot at the stronger dummy and continued the repetitive process.

...

"You're good, Abby Wu. You get two stars too." Announced the invigilator in an awestruck manner. Simultaneously, a legendary scene was replaying itself within his mind. The scene of a particular abnormal who was covered in pitch-black scales as he shot the terrifying flying pig of the past into smithereens right before everyone's eyes!

The Dark Savior!

"Thank you, mister." Truly happy with her results, Abby Wu thanked the man.

"En, you should be proud, I think you even have the potential to be someone like the Dark Savior in the future." Nodding in satisfaction, the invigilator mouthed. This was his sincere opinion coming from his heart.

Hearing about the Dark Savior, Abby Wu's mind promptly jumped back to recalling a particular video she had seen just a few days ago. The video of the Dark Savior's appearance in Shanghai where he killed the even more horrifying Plant Kraken!

Therefore, as her eyes were now exuding a monstrous degree of zeal and enthusiasm, she announced with unshakeable determination, "That's my goal! To keep up with my idol and even surpass him one day!"

...

After Abby, it was Damian Cline's turn to go through the test. It was soon revealed that his trait was to turn his legs into iron.

But in the end, he only received 'one-star' since his damage wasn't that high even though his legs literally turn into Iron.

...

"Ismail Archer."

"Yes, sir." With a bow at hand, Ismail walked closer before he simply pulled the string of his bow without putting any arrows in it.

Stupefyingly, however, the moment he began pulling its string back, on the bow, a shiny arrow started forming, until he finally let go where the illuminating arrow successfully hit its intended target.

...

"Two stars."

"Thank you, sir."

'The family name 'Archer' is really well-suited and appropriate for this dude.' Meanwhile, the same opinion was going through everyone's head.

...

"Anastasia Foster."

Finally, the much anticipated second ranker was called while even Virus' interest seemed to have been peaked once more. 'I wonder what her trait is...'

Lydia, Abby, Ismail, and the other participants' attention seemed to have been flickered too.

Nevertheless, being called, Anastasia didn't voice a single word as she merely ambled before the plastic dummy.

Then...

Astonishingly, both her arms were abruptly covered in red flames.

Although they didn't really seem to be flames, only the word red 'flame' was capable of describing it.

Bang~

Regardless, as the red flame-like stuff was covering her hands, Anastasia didn't hesitate to punch the plastic dummy before shredding it into countless pieces.

'That's...'

Taking a close glimpse of the flame-like stuff surrounding Anastasia's arms, an odd light was flickered within Virus' eyes as he thought of something. Eventually, though, he could only put the matter aside temporarily and proceed with watching the rest of the show instead.

Afterward, one dummy after another was punched in smithereens until, finally, it was the turn for the sixth dummy.

'This should be her limit. No one was able to fully destroy the sixth one.'

This type of notion was passing through the minds of everyone present as they expected Anastasia to be incapable of annihilating the sixth one-star bone dummy.

Boom~

The following moment, however, as if to prove them wrong, she broke it apart.

"Oh!" Many shocked gasps could be heard immediately. Simultaneously, the eyes of many of the representatives started to shine like never before.

In the meantime, not pausing there, Anastasia moved to the seventh two-star bone dummy, and next, while both her arms were still covered in red-flames, she took a punch at it.

Bang!

This time, even though the bone was dented rather badly, she wasn't successful in harming it fully. Thus, this was the end of the Test of Power for Anastasia.

Refusing to utter a word even now, Anastasia merely started staring at the invigilator, meaning, she wanted to know her grade.

"A-ah... you get three-stars." With a few droplets of sweat covering his forehead, the man declared.

With that, Anastasia retreated as Virus' name was called in return.

"Victor Goodwin!"

At once, everyone's eyes were now focused on Virus' figure. Everyone was truly curious and looking forward to the results of this dark-haired man.

'I wonder what kind of trait he has?'

"I wonder, would he be able to get to the same level as that monster, Anastasia Foster?" Pronounced one of the representatives.

"That should be impossible. It's not every day you see a monster like her. He would achieve two-stars at most." Shaking his head, the other representative denied the possibility.

"Well, that's true. It's probably just that he's a little smart in the head. Nothing special."

Tap~ Tap~ Tap~

The noise of his steps reverberated as Virus casually walked before his own column of dummies.

Then, everyone was still waiting for him to display his own unique Trait when...

He directly punched the first dummy!

BAM!

The first dummy was gone!

BAM!

The second dummy... also gone!

BAM!

The third dummy... nowhere!

BAM!

The fourth dummy... no longer there!

BAM!

The fifth dummy... a matter of the past!

BAM!

The sixth dummy... no longer existed!

BAM!

The seventh... not!

BAM!

In the end, even the eighth three-star bone dummy disappeared!

However, it was exactly in this very moment when Virus stopped on his own accord. Although he could still proceed to the ninth four-star bone dummy and try his luck... for some reason, he did not.

Still, everything that happened in these mere dozen seconds had already left a deep image in everyone's mind, leaving their mouths dry while they could

only stare dumbfoundedly at the terrifying scene in front of them with their eyes already opened twice their previous absolute limits!

THE GOD VIRUS

Chapter 400 Four Stars!

"F-Four stars!!!" Screamed one of the representatives in stupefaction. Neither he nor anyone else could believe this dark-haired youth was able to break the bones of three-star dummy that effortlessly!

None of those present at the scene had ever witnessed a scene where a newcomer would be able to smash a three-star bone dummy on his very first time of participating in the Guardian Examination!

To them, this was an unprecedented event as he was indeed the absolute dark horse of this round of competitions.

"J-just who is he... so strong!"

"I-I don't know who he is! But he's definitely going to join our Dominators Guild, don't any of you dare try stealing him from us! You should now, being unnecessarily greedy would trouble you." A certain man pushed his spectacles behind as he mouthed a word of threat at everyone else.

And as a matter of fact, with that single threat of his, many of the representatives who belonged to the weaker-ranked guilds retreated feebly. They didn't dare offend the superpower that was the [Dominators] guild!

Still, a harrumph soon resounded throughout the area which had been allocated to the representatives.

"Hmph! Who do you think the Dominators are? We're not afraid of you, so do whatever you want. The [Weapon Stars] guild is taking him under our wing." A gorgeous woman spoke without trying to hold back in the least.

"Calm down, everyone, we should see how he does in the incoming tests first, if he simply possesses strength without being able to utilize it properly, that doesn't really matter." A beguiling old man suddenly talked at this moment, forcing everyone to grow quiet immediately.

...

"Eh, why did everyone go quiet after that stylish old man talked?" A young representative who was experiencing his first time in trying to scout new Guardians whispered in confusion to his friend.

"H-he's from the [Guardians of America]."

Promptly understanding the situation, the newbie representative's eyes went wide as he confirmed his comprehension, "I-I see."

...

"Do you think you could've harmed the ninth four-stars dummy?" Just as everyone had gone quiet, pushing his spectacles back, the man from the [Dominators] guild questioned.

"I don't think so. I believe he stopped because he knew his limits. But that's a good thing, in our line of work, those who understand the limitations of their power usually come to live a longer life." Shaking her head, the gorgeous woman from the Weapon Stars replied. In fact, the same notion was going through everyone's head. They didn't believe the dark-haired youth, Victor Goodwin, would've been able to harm the four-star bone dummy in the least.

To them, the notion of him being able to even damage that dummy was simply an absurd idea.

Hence, all of them vaguely nodded their heads in response to those logical words of hers.

...

Meanwhile, in the hall of the Test of Power, everyone's scalps had long gone numb as they continued staring at Victor's figure aghast. They didn't quite get how they should be feeling about the scene they had just witnessed.

Even Anastasia's eyes were wide open at the moment as she could not take her eyes off of Victor, not even for a second.

"Aren't you going to announce my results, Mr. invigilator?" Noticing his result wasn't being confirmed even after a long time, Virus could only remind the man helplessly.

"O-oh, yeah! Victor Goodwin, you get four stars! C-congratulations, from the time I've started working here, this is the highest I've seen anyone score in this test."

"Well, thanks for the compliment."

At this instant, gasping sounds reverberated among the candidates. If the notion of him getting four stars was a possibility before, it was now a reality!

"H-he's amazing!" Awestruck, Abby exclaimed.

"Yeah! He's the best! It's my first time seeing such a strong newbie... he just got here to be Guardian but he's already that strong! Who knows how powerful he would get when he actually goes hunting and consumes some Red-Crystals!" Lydia also agreed. That shine within her eyes was screaming that she had come to like this man called Victor a lot. Well, that was to be expected since she always used to adore the powerful.

"..." Predictably, although Anastasia was impressed by him, she refused to open her mouth.

...

Simultaneously, in China, Hu Yuexin was also going through her Test of Power.

Bang!

Charging at the sixth dummy, she destroyed it entirely. Of course, not stopping there, she stormed at the seventh one. Lamentably, she was only able to inflict very light damage which nearly wasn't worth mentioning. This was her current limit of strength.

'Sigh, this is my absolute limit for now. If I only had more time to...' She deliberated in some frustration. She strongly believed that if only she had more time to gather more and better materials, she would've been able to get an even better upgrade to herself.

"Hu Yuexin, since you were only able to lightly damage the seventh two-star bone dummy, you barely get three-stars. Of course, that still counts as a full three-stars since the evaluation doesn't go that much into details. So congratulations." The person in charge of watching over the tests announced.

"Thank you."

"Now, everyone, let's move on to the next test, the Test of Speed."

...

Very soon, Virus' group of candidates were brought to another hall as their eyes landed upon the middle section of the hall where there was an area that had been covered in a dome of glass.

Moreover, there were also many holes all over the dome, and behind those holes, many modified baseball Pitching Machines were installed.

"These dozens of Pitching Machines you see have been specially designed for the purpose of this test. Keep in mind that they are very different and even much more powerful than a normal Pitching Machine." Briefly explaining the construction surrounding this particular test, the invigilator also didn't forget to

add, "Anyway, the rules for this test, called Test of Speed, is the same as the previous test, Test of Power."

"Moving on to the purpose, all you need to do is to dodge the random balls that have been thrown at you within this dome of speed." He clarified while pointing at the dome.