

The Walker Of Voids

Chapter 111: Military Academy [1] - Groups

Lloyd stood on the platform of the teleporter and looked forward.

Determination could be seen on his face; he didn't really understand what was coming next after all, but he still knew he would get through it alive. He's gotten through everything so far... He lost too many people to die an impactful death.

He had to make sure that he would eventually return to his family. That he could protect them when the time was right.

He knew something was coming, and while he didn't know what it was, he knew that its very presence would change the universe.

That's when a set of words he had heard before echoed in his mind.

"The stars are going out... Silence will fall." Lloyd narrowed his eyes, taking a final glance at his family before the teleportation device sucked him out of the room and threw him into a dimensional tunnel.

A sense of euphoria washed over Lloyd the moment he entered the tunnel. It felt like he was at home, but he knew that wasn't the case.

It was temporary. Homes were not temporary.

A bright flash of light blinded Lloyd for a moment, yet in the next second, Lloyd regained his vision, finding himself in a place that looked similar to the outpost, but a bit larger with much stronger guards.

Leaving the teleportation pod, Lloyd looked back to see hundreds of teleportation pods placed in a grid-like pattern. People of all ages walked out of the teleportation pods, everyone from the age of 14 to 30 walked out, and while their commandments varied, most of them were first commandments or lower.

'I guess Arthur and Grace were right.' Lloyd thought while thinking back to them, telling him that many of those who would go to the military academy would be those without any fighting experience, or those with fighting experience but weak commandments.

Of course, this did not mean that those below the first commandment would be in the same class as Lloyd. Hell, they wouldn't even be in the same academy as Lloyd. Most

of them would be thrown into the boot camps for the first year. Think of it like a foundation year where they can catch up to their peers or even surpass them.

'Now that I think of it, when I last saw Arthur, he was in the early stages of the first commandment, and he is about the same age as me. Yes, he awakened before me, but from the reports about the 7 reapers, it said that Arthur was not a first commandment when he joined.

He has more than enough recourses to reach the first commandment in under a month, so why didn't he?' Lloyd thought.

While it was weird, it wasn't too weird per se. Many families had the tradition of making their children go through the commandments on their own without help them break through. Lloyd understood the reason behind why they did it, but for some reason, he didn't think of it until now.

'Oh wait. The Starforger family is like a huge sect. Maybe they don't have enough resources to go around? But my parents said he was an heir of the sect, so I don't know what to believe now.' Lloyd sighed while facepalming.

"Can you move out of the way?" A boy the same age as Lloyd asked with an annoyed voice after seeing Lloyd stand still for an extended period without moving.

"Oh yeah, sorry." Lloyd apologized before moving out of the way and leaving the teleportation room they were in.

Lloyd's eyes widened the moment he left the teleportation room. The place they were in, it was nothing like he had seen before. Hell, even Snow city didn't look as good as the place he was in right now.

Flying cars could be seen moving around the city skies. They weren't orderly in any way, shape, or form, but just when you'd think a car was about to collide with another, they would miss one another by a hair's breadth.

"Holy shit." Lloyd exclaimed while many others did the same. However, those who didn't exclaim looked much richer than he was just from their clothes and the enchantments he felt on them.

Most of the richer folk decided to wear something white with the main color their family crest held embroidered into the clothing lines.

Anyone from a strong backing did not forget to place a visible family crest on their chest pockets or into their dresses.

'Don't they look way too stylish for a group of people who are about to fight for the lives in the upcoming months?' Lloyd thought to himself, yet he did not make the mistake of standing still this time. Instead, he walked alongside everyone else, at the same pace everyone else was walking at.

It took a few minutes of walking, but they all eventually reached their destination.

"Please stand in an orderly line. When you reach the assessment podium, it will quickly check your identity and confirm your commandment.

It didn't take long for Lloyd to reach the front of the queue. Sure, the military academy had the most people enter it out of any academy, but they seemed to have it under control since they had hundreds of podiums in place.

The military academy was broken into several branches spread throughout the central sector of the Milky Way. Eight, to be exact.

North, North-East, East, South-East, etcetera.

Each branch took in the people closest to them, and while it doesn't seem like much at first, once you look at the numbers on paper, it makes sense why the military needs the largest budget in the Solaris Empire.

Once Lloyd reached the podium, he simply placed his hand on the crystal in the middle and closed his eyes.

He could feel his mana being forcefully pulled from inside him, traveling through a section of his nervous system-looking mana channels and into the crystal.

His mana channels weren't just split into two different sections, but rather into 4/5 if you count the capillaries.

After testing it out, Lloyd realized his output mana channels were his nervous system-looking ones. They were split in two. It is a section that channels mana into the core and a section that takes mana out of the core and releases it outside his body.

On the other hand, his blood circulation mana channels did not release mana outside his body. Instead, they used the mana gathered by the nervous system channels to circulate that very same mana throughout his body.

By doing this, he slowly increased the power of his body throughout every circulation, but there was a small problem that he hadn't really dealt with.

He didn't know how to strengthen his core's power, and despite trying to gather ambient mana inside, it didn't seem to be the trick to it.

He knew that it had something to do with the runes inside his mana core, but ever since he created his core, he hadn't been able to channel mana into the runes.

However, other than that, it was almost creepy how well his mana channels worked for him. Of course, he had no idea that the training he had with Eris had affected the way his mana channels would be formed, but it wasn't just that.

Years of using his father's katana techniques also added to create the perfect mana-channeling system, and if he were to add the fact that he had Eris's blessing when he had broken through, it became the complete package.

When Lloyd's mana finally finished channeling itself into the crystal, he felt his watch alert him of a message, and as he walked through the testing site, he looked at the message he had received.

[Military ID]

[Name: Lloyd Elrod]

[Age: 17]

[Year: First]

[Group: ---]

[Commandment: First - Initial Stage]

[Race: Human]

[Class: Shadow Assassin Hybrid]

[Talent: 2-Star]

[Affinity: Shadows - Fire]

'Hybrid, huh?' Lloyd thought to himself.

He walked for a few minutes, and before he knew it, he had reached an area with nothing but grass and groups of people walking around and talking to each other.

Lloyd didn't really want to talk to anyone. Socializing wasn't really his thing, and after everything that had happened with Felix, Tina, Veronica, and all the others in the dungeon, Lloyd wasn't thrilled nor eager to make friends.

After several minutes of waiting, a pillar was erected out of the ground with a man wearing military clothes standing atop it as it rose above everyone by at least 10 meters.

"Welcome to the military academy." The man spoke, his voice rough and low, almost like a threatening growl. The man standing there was and even slightly old, something you don't often see nowadays due to the increased lifespan.

He had a white goatee that wrapped around his mouth, as well as the brightest blue eyes Lloyd had ever seen.

His military coat was littered with dozens of badges, each one holding an honor of its own and a symbol that he had saved countless lives to get each of every one of them.

However, even after everyone had seen him, their chattering did not stop. It was quite the contrary, actually.

"Qui-ET!" The man slammed his foot onto the pillar, sending out a shock wave that made the entire place tremble with the power of an earthquake scaled 7 on the Richter scale.

His booming voice almost destroyed the eardrums of the weaker students, while his aura alone quieted down everyone to the point that it had become eerily quiet.

'He's stronger than my father.' Lloyd thought with a slight frown.

"You will be sent a message shortly that will tell you which class group you will be in for the next term. If you are lucky, you will move up a group when you reach the next term, which is usually the case for many of you since you won't be assessed by your talent or commandment, but rather by your skill.

Your entrance ceremony statistics will also be taken into account when choosing your group; however, since many of you either lost in the first round or didn't attend at all, we will be using the rest of the information we have in our hands to make the most educated and fair decision we are capable of making.

Throughout your first term, no matter what group you are put in, you will be learning the basics of fighting and cultivating. Anyone below the first commandment will be sent to a boot camp for their foundation year, except a few chosen individuals who will go straight into their first year.

If you can prove yourself within the first term, there is a chance that we will move you into the first year's groups. The same can be said for anyone who reached the first commandment within the first term." The man explained with a voice that inspired

determination in the hearts of anyone who knew they would be in the boot camps for their first year.

As if it had been waiting for this moment for its entire life, the promised message came as a wave of notifications swept through the crowd, making everyone look down at their watch to see what class they would be in.

[Military ID]

[Name: Lloyd Elrod]

[Age: 17]

[Year: First]

[Group: C-3]

[Commandment: First - Initial Stage]

[Race: Human]

[Class: Shadow Assassin Hybrid]

[Talent: 2-Star]

[Affinity: Shadows - Fire]

[Author's note: Just to give y'all context, this is how the group system works.

Going from highest to lowest, the lettering goes-

Special Class: X

S

A

B

C

D

Foundation Year: E

The number means nothing. It just tells you what class your going to be in, not how high your class ranks in the group you're in.]

Chapter 112: Military Academy [2] - Campus Tour & Dorms

--Military ID--

[Name: Lloyd Elrod]

[Age: 17]

[Year: First]

[Group: C-3]

[Commandment: First - Initial Stage]

[Race: Human]

[Class: Shadow Assassin Hybrid]

[Talent: 2-Star]

[Affinity: Shadows - Fire]

'C? It's not bad, but I expected a little better. You'd think that the news of me surviving a second commandment interplanetary dungeon would make them more enticed into throwing me into a higher group, but C group would do the trick just fine.

While Lloyd didn't know it at the time, his commandment had really brought him down a level. While many wanted to put him in B or even A-group, when they found out that he was barely in the first commandment, they scrapped the idea as fast as they thought of it.

Yes, it took years for people without backings or talent to reach the first commandment. Still, those with backing would usually reach it within the first one or two months of their awakenings. Of course, even a poor person with monstrous talent is capable of surpassing those with resources, but there were families out there who had both of these thing.

While the students didn't know of Lloyd's backing yet, the professors and the graders were well aware of his father's achievements and his connection with the glade family.

He also spent 3 months in a mana-rich environment, such as a dungeon, where he was reportedly trained during most of his waking hours.

However, even that wouldn't have gotten him demoted to the bottom class of the C-group. They considered putting him in the B-class since his fighting capabilities were marvelous, as seen in the entrance ceremony. Yet, fighting capabilities were considered secondary to talent and commandment in a world that valued power more than anything.

Lloyd's talent was a measly 2-star. It was disappointing, to say the least. I meant that the chances of him reaching the second commandment were low, let alone anything beyond that.

Lloyd was a little thankful he had taken part in the entrance ceremony and had even gotten past the first trial since he would have most likely been dropped all the way down to the bottom classes of the D-group, if not worse.

Lloyd's mind snapped back to reality when he realized that everyone was beginning to move to certain sections of the plain grassy area. After remembering where he was, he quickly understood that they were lining up into their class and groups.

"Your class professors will be taking you on a tour of the academy. If you ever get lost, you have a map installed into your watches, allowing you to navigate around the academy without too many problems.

For now, an indicator will show where your teacher is. In the future, this indicator will be used to show you the location of assemblies and events." The man on the pillar continued before finally seeming to be done with whatever he was saying.

The military academy was vast and spacious, never feeling too cramped, even if it were to be filled with people. The buildings of the place were as futuristic as they came, tall white skyscrapers erected above the clouds themselves.

The buildings go shorter the more out you go. It wasn't supposed to feel like a city, but it quite literally was one.

Shops could be seen everywhere, from leisure products to necessities like food or water.

"The only thing you can buy here with dollars is food and other necessities. To buy anything else, you will need to either sell something you have to earn military points, or you can gain them from exceeding in classes and doing missions around the city or outside the city if need be." Lloyd's teacher explained.

Looking up, Lloyd finally got a good look at the man who was leading them. He looked like a serious man, and that was something Lloyd liked in a teacher. Sure, it was all fun and games to have a chill teacher who would let you do whatever you wanted, but that was back in high school, where consequences were minor, and everything was lax.

Lloyd had entered the real world, and who better to guide them than a man who was serious about his job?

The man was quite tall, standing at about 5ft 11, with black hair and emerald eyes. He looked physically strong. His muscles were bulging, and from using his mana sense as well as his soul sense, he knew that the man before him was a martial artist who cultivated his body and his aura.

'Third commandment?! God damn.' Lloyd thought to himself with widened eyes.

"The city is quite small compared to the planet. The city only takes up about 5% of the planet and branches out like a tree through the surface of the planet to reach every inch of the planet, reaching almost every inch of it or at least encapsulating that area as a controlled forest where kids could go to do missions whenever the wildlife became too much." The professor explained, but Lloyd was no longer listening.

The rest of the day went on as normal. Of course, the tour itself took several hours due to how big the place was. While many were physically exhausted, Lloyd was mentally exhausted.

He didn't really know what to do the entire time since he knew the rest of the information. He could have just turned his mind off the entire time, but he found himself bumping into too many people to make such a method viable.

He tried to cultivate his body in the meantime, yet even though he had seen many people do it on tv and even in front of him (like his father), he could not replicate their passive cultivation ability.

"Takes a lot of practice I guess." Lloyd thought aloud.

When they finally reached their dorms, Lloyd's mind screeched with happiness to finally escape the torture.

He was pretty sure he would have been bored to death if he had to go through another second of that.

"Your dorm number will be sent to you on your watch. You will most likely have one or two roommates, so don't be surprised if you see someone already in there." The teacher explained, causing Lloyd to look down at his watch to see the number on it.

[Block-B: 109]

"Floor one, room 9." Lloyd spoke aloud so he wouldn't forget the number. Sure, he had an amazing memory, but that only came to help him when it was on something useful.

After saying a few final words, every dispersed, and Lloyd walked up to his room. He just hoped that his roommate or roommates were nice. Otherwise, he would need to beat the shit out of them before moving into another dorm, possibly one without roommates.

'Should have asked for my own room.' Lloyd thought back to when he instructed his father on what he wanted when he went to military school.

Ding

Click

The door unlocked, and as he opened the door, Lloyd could not help but stiffen a little the moment he saw that someone was inside, already getting comfortable on the bottom bunk.

When he finally walked through, he looked at his roommate with a little bit of puzzlement.

There sat a man with jet-black hair slicked back with what seemed like jell. His hair looked a little greasy from where Lloyd was looking, but it wasn't hard to see that he most likely used jell since there was no way that hair would naturally stay slicked back the way the boy had it.

He had a pair of piercing blue eyes that would make most normals shudder, as well as a pair of round spectacles that would have made him look like a scholar if not for his lack of a beard. Yet the lack of a beard also had its advantages, allowing anyone and everyone a jawline so sharp that Lloyd had to question if it had the ability to cut through an apple like it was a hot knife passing through butter.

His build felt far more superior than Lloyds as this young man stood at about 6ft 2 with broad shoulders and an incredible physique that could easily be seen despite the all the clothing he had on.

"Really going for the professor look? All you're missing is a beard." Lloyd commented while looking him up and down.

He was wearing a black turtleneck sweater with a brown blazer over it.

"Oh, you must be my roommate. Nice to meet you; my name is Jay Ludwig." He smiled and reached for a handshake.

'German origins huh.' Lloyd thought before clasping his hand into a firm handshake and replying-

"Lloyd Elrod, nice to meet you." they both smiled before letting go of one another.

Lloyd was happy he the black contact lenses. While having black hair and black eyes was normal, it also indicated a low family status. Therefore no one would have ever suspected Lloyd of wearing a contact lenses since no one would want to downgrade to black, right?

Nothing much happened for the rest of the evening. Jay and Lloyd didn't speak much after their first introduction, and once they got settled in, Lloyd simply started cultivating while Jay went to sleep.

The morning light shone through the window as Lloyd's eyes flickered open. From what he had seen last night, Jay had readied an alarm of his own to wake him up, and even if he didn't, the military had a system in place that would wake you up out of your deepest slumbers, no matter what you're dreaming about.

"First day of military training starts in about 2 hours. I might as well kill time." Lloyd spoke to himself after having walked outside.

Closing his eyes, Lloyd tried to focus his mind on cultivating his body, and at the same time, he would try to move around in order to allow his body to adapt to such a thing.

Eventually, it'd be like an instinct that his body does on his own, but as a wise man once said-

"You to crawl before you can walk."

-Deroxa - Military Outpost-

Several army individuals sat in a room filled to the brim with screens and computers. They were all experts when it came to analyzing battlegrounds and learning from prior mistakes to make sure the army never made them again.

The interplanetary dungeon was an enormous scandal! Half a planet's population had to relocate so as to not be in the danger zone of the planet's corruption.

Others were also thinking of moving away before the damage became irreparable.

However, as teams of scientists, Battle Scene Investigators, and other experts looked at a certain location, they could not help but widen their eyes in surprise.

No... It wasn't just a surprise; even traces of horror and terror were in their eyes. They had seen things like these only during their education or while watching a movie, but now they were living it.

Evidence of spacial manipulation... No, not just that... There was evidence of reality warping. It looked slightly like a true domain, but that wasn't all.

No, true domains were things of legends, passed down from one family member to the next. The only person they knew with such a technique was the king of humanity... The emperor of Solaris.

The royal family's legendary technique that hadn't been seen in use in over 100 years.

They were looking at evidence that someone had learned how to use a true domain; all they had to do was find out who it was.

The men looked at each other momentarily with excitement as their eyes trailed to a set of youngsters that had come out of the dungeon alive.

And from the looks of it, there were only two people they could talk to.

Chapter 113: Military Academy [3] - First Class

Two hours flew by, and before Lloyd knew it, it was time for him to attend class.

His schedule so far looked blank except for the hour in the morning when his class was. Of course, Lloyd had no idea why that was the case, but his theory was that they'd either send them their schedules during their first class or that they'd be choosing classes to go to for the next term.

'Could have sworn we were supposed to do only training for the first term.' Lloyd thought to himself while entering the classroom and looking around.

It looked like an ordinary lecture hall capable of fitting 150-200 individuals.

"A hierarchy? Already?" Lloyd asked himself while looking at how the students were spread out.

From a simple glance at their stances, confidence, and manner of speaking, it was quite easy to see which ones were from powerful families and which ones were from weaker ones. It would have been much easier to recognize them if they were all wearing their own clothes, but since they were all wearing their military uniforms, it was a little harder.

They seemed to have also spread out amongst themselves, the top row being left for powerful family individuals only while the bottom row was the one closest to the lecturer and was left to those with lower families or even possibly orphans.

'They aren't even taking strength into account, it seems.' Lloyd thought to himself while walking to the bottom row, closest to the lecturer. He could feel that some of the people in the lower rows were stronger than those in the powerful rows

He caught a few glances as he walked down, primarily from the girls; however, when he passed the middle rows, a few girls from the powerful families lost interest, while the rest analyzed him from top to bottom until they moved on to their next point of interest.

Yes, he would have loved to take a powerful row, or at least one in the middle of all the mediocre families, but it was best if he just went to the bottom.

He didn't want anyone to know that he was THAT Lloyd Elrod. Both of his parents were generals, and even though Generals were quite respected in the army, they were considered thorns at the sides of the powerful family heads.

The military was owned by the royals, not the powerful families, and despite what many would like to believe, powerful families and royals are not on the same side. Sure, they are allies in the name of Solaris and humanity, but it didn't make them friends but closer to rivals and competition.

It was one of the main reasons why Generals were appointed higher than powerful families during times of war. The Royals could trust their sworn generals to do something and not stab them in the back; the same thing could not be said for the power-hungry powerful families.

'Better to look like an orphan than have a target on my back.' Lloyd thought to himself before taking a seat at the front.

He had spotted Jay, his roommate, within the crowd of the powerful families. It was a little weird to see him among them, because despite being 'among' them, he didn't feel like 'one' of them.

'Maybe he's from one of the upcoming powerful families?' Lloyd thought before shrugging; his interest in the subject died as fast as it had come up. He was a little

curious about who his roommate was, but since Jay wasn't bothering him, Lloyd would mind his own business.

Lloyd was quickly ripped out of his thought, was a low buzz sounded through the room, catching everyone's attention and causing them to look toward the expanding portal at the front of the classroom.

A man with brown hair walked through the portal as his emerald eyes scoured the classroom, looking over all of them with a disappointed look.

However, a look of confusion appeared on his face as his eyes scanned the room and reached the middle section.

That look of confusion turned into an unnoticeable slight surprise when he saw Lloyd, yet Lloyd didn't seem to be paying too much attention to the man who had just come into the room since he was focused on something else.

He was too distracted by the spatial energies flowing into the room. It was nothing like standing in front of a naturally spatial tear, but a slight sense of comfortability went through his body.

However, since he hadn't fallen into complete comfortability yet due to the low abundance of the spacial energies, he sucked some of it inside him, through the mana channels that looked like neurons and into his mana core that beat a little every time some mana entered it.

However, instead of simply moving to his rune, he felt the spatial rune, the rune that comprised one-third of his void rune, expand slightly. Yet, nothing really happened. The energy entered the runes, and that was it. The only thing Lloyd found weird was the fact that it expanded slightly when he thought of absorbing the mana.

'Damn it. What am I doing wrong! It just doesn't want to remain in the core. All I can do is circulate it around my body, which doesn't really do anything but strengthen my body a little, and even that, it doesn't do well.' Lloyd inwardly complained, his anger getting up for a second before he calmed his mind and looked to the front of the class.

"My name is Jack Heaver. We met yesterday. Well, I met most of you since there seem to be a few new faces around her." Jack said while narrowing his eyes and glancing at the individuals.

"Anyway, I will be your tutor for the next term. Your tutor may change next term if you either do poorly or completely awful. Anyone else will have me for another semester and possibly until the end of your first year. Understood?' He asked, making everyone in the classroom nod.

Today there isn't much to do. You will first stand up, introduce yourself, talk about something for less than 10 seconds, and then sit down. After that, a screen will appear on your desk and will give you a list of classes that you would like to attend.

You will be recommended your classes by the military's AI, but if you do not wish to choose what the AI has given to you, you can make your own list or add a few classes to the list the AI has given to you. Its up to you. Any questions?" He asked, yet all he received was silence.

"Alright." He paused momentarily, looking at the class before choosing a girl at the end of the bottom row to start with the introductions.

The girl stood up with a serious expression, and her arms glued to her sides. Her entire body was tense, and straight, which was exactly what the army wanted.

Her appearance, however, was average in every way, yet Lloyd was too focused on her uniform to realize that.

Women's uniforms were a little different than men's, but neither really felt like clothing they could fight. Sure, they were covered with more runes than the clothes of many of the higher-family kid's clothes, but other than that, they seemed pretty ordinary.

They were black with white strikes. The white strikes were thin and small, so most wouldn't see them from afar. Everyone wore buttoned black jackets with long collars; however, while men had a button on their collars, too, the girls did not.

Their jackets were a little more buttoned-down, and they had to wear a black belt along their waist for a reason that Lloyd still didn't understand.

All the women wore skirts that had to reach their knees while men wore normal pants. Shoes were customizable, yet they had to be black anyway, so Lloyd had chosen to use the normal ones.

"My name is Erika Smith, sir. I am of the warrior class, and my main fighting syle is close combat fist fighting." She said before sitting down.

'Shouldn't she be a martial artist? Or maybe she was a martial artist before, got warrior and decided to become a combat warrior.' Lloyd thought to himself.

Many stood up after her, each person saying their name, class, and something about them. Lloyd didn't bother to remember any of their names since most of them had common classes, and even those who didn't felt quite weak.

However, while the girl didn't say anything about her aspirations for the future, a few did, yet even they didn't dare say something too big at the risk of offending on the students from powerful families.

The room had almost 10 rows with 4 sections. Lloyd had simply chosen not to go to the front since he would become more noticeable.

When it finally came to his turn, Lloyd stood up, and stared at their tutor momentarily before opening his mouth.

"My name is Lloyd Elrod. I'm a shadow assassin hybrid, striving to become a lieutenant in the army to further help my race reach the top." Lloyd explained with a slightly apathetic tone, which he was not going for, but since it came out that way, he just went with it. Of course, he didn't mean any of what he said, but it was a goal that wouldn't put a target on his back so he was fine with it.

However, no one other than Jack, their tutor, cared about his goals. All they were focused on was the fact that he was not only a shadow assassin, but also a hybrid at that. Classes with an element attached to their names were always more rare than classes without a specific element. However, being a hybrid with a element class was even rarer, and usually even more powerful than the other two combined.

If that wasn't enough, they also had a much higher chance to evolve into a new class when reaching the next commandment.

The women who were previously slightly interested in him looked at him with a little more greed. Sure, he wasn't going to be the strongest, but who wouldn't want to be in a relationship with someone strong.

The icing on the cake was the fact that it seemed to them that he was from a weak family, making him more enticing in the eyes of the higher-family girls since it would be easy to lure him in and control him once they had a good grasp on him.

Without knowing it, Lloyd had put a lot of attention on himself due to a single mistake, which would cost him in the near future.

[P.S.- Lloyd didn't sit in the middle row because they would have asked him what family he was from, exposing him for being THAT Lloyd Elrod. Lloyd is a pretty common name, and Elrod, while not being as common as Lloyd, was still a little common when you think about it in the grand scheme of things.]

Chapter 114: Military Academy [4] - Dreamweaver & The Soul Reaper

Lloyd sat down again, unaware of what he had done, but at the same time, it was one of the best-case scenarios.

The introductions continued, yet the attention remained on Lloyd. At this point, Lloyd had already felt many eyes staring at him for prolonged amounts of time, and while it helped that most of them were girls, he also knew that women tended to bring more problems with them than men.

It was the cliché. Woman gets interested in man. Another man is interested in the woman and gets jealous and stupidly angry. He fights the man she likes for her attention, and the cycle goes on unless the man is someone from a powerful family.

'How do I get them off my ass... Can I make myself less noticeable? I'm an assassin; I should know this!' Lloyd thought; however, he quickly sighed in relief after seeing who the next person was.

"My name is Jay Ludwig. I'm a Dreamweaver. My goal is to become the strongest human and surpass the king himself."

"..."

"..."

"..."

The silence was deafening, but the expressions on everyone's faces were clear. Everyone's eyes widened in amazement at seeing a Dreamweaver for the first time. Dreamweavers were extremely rare. No... calling them rare was an understatement. You had a higher chance of putting yourself into a haystack and finding the needle immediately than seeing a Dreamweaver in the flesh.

Dreamweavers were the stuff of legends. Dozens of the heroes known today with their stories written in countless books were Dreamweaver. Why, you might ask? Because of one reason.

They were overpowered as fuck! Their presence alone could change the tide of the war.

While Lloyd knew that many of the stories about Dreamweaver were most likely exaggerated, they were still considered powerful even if you weakened them from their story counterparts.

"A dreamweaver?" A boy asked with excitement to his friend.

"Holy shit. Like, the ones that enter people's dreams?" The other asked.

'If I remember correctly. A Dreamweaver is not only able to enter your dreamscape and force you into it as well, unless the person they are using it on has a particularly weak mind, they can also change your dreamscape to their will, a bit like my Terraign.

They can access your memory, and weaken the real body of the person's mind they are in. The most skilled Dreamweavers could put themselves in hundreds of minds simultaneously.

They weren't immortal, per se. They couldn't enter the minds of people stronger than them mentally, nor could they actually kill enemies from within their minds, or at least not until they reached the higher commandments.

Lloyd knew they had a few more weaknesses, but he had to do more research to find out since he had never taken too much interest in the powers of Dreamweaver. All he knew were the basics; since they were practically impossible to meet, he didn't have to worry about them.

'Ironic, isn't it. Never thought I'd meet a Dreamweaver, yet here I am, seemingly morphed into a race that are considered nigh extinct.' Lloyd chuckled lightly when he thought of his situation, yet he quickly shifted his focus back to Jay.

Jay sat down without saying another word and let his words sink into the brains of everyone in the room.

All the girls that seemed even slightly interested in Lloyd had cast him aside and looked at their new target, yet Lloyd didn't mind. Actually, he was quite relieved that he wouldn't have to worry about the cliches.

'Now, the only problem is that they might approach me hoping to get closer to Jay. It might become a problem in the near future, but I guess that's a problem for tomorrow's me.'

The introductions continued; however, everyone else felt a little lackluster compared to Jay. They couldn't compete even if they tried to, and even as they introduced themselves, everyone's eyes and mutters were pointed toward Jay and not them.

Everyone except Lloyd, their tutor, and a few individuals from the top row.

The introductions carried on, with a few people standing out from the rest, catching the eyes of the tutor and Lloyd the moment they said their classes or goals.

Until, a certain person stood up.

"My name is Luna Night. I'm a soul reaper, and my goal is to take over as the Night family's leader." She spoke with an apathetic tone, but that was more than expected from someone from the Night family.

The Night family was considered a founding family of the Solaris Empire.

Their founder was one of the strongest men in the empire when Earth finally awakened. Several founding families, including the royal family, stood out on top; however, being a founding family was not just a name or a status.

It was a bloodline that shaped their future generations, allowing them to evolve from generation to generation while holding the same characteristics, classes, and talents throughout their lineage.

Some say that their bloodline and genes are so powerful children will not take any characteristics from their non-Night parent, making them fully Night unless they were to procreate with another founding family member.

'Soul reaper, huh.' Lloyd thought without much surprise, since the real surprise was the fact that she was a member of the night family; the rest was common sense from there.

While the Soul Reaper class was considered one of the strongest rouge-type classes humans could awaken, everyone knew that everyone from the Night family had the class.

Her presence alone caught the eyes of everyone in the room, but especially the boys. Lloyd couldn't help but think scornfully of the pubescent teenagers around him, but what did he know? He most likely would have ended up like them if it weren't for him suddenly becoming a void walker.

He had to admit, though, the girl was beautiful in every way. A little like an ice princess cliché, but that was probably something her parents and trainers ingrained into her. She was an assassin, after all. She had to know to control her emotions, and she was probably doing that now.

She was also pretty petite, so despite her charms, she looked like a traumatized child rather than an adult with their own problems.

Her golden eyes were cold and distant, and while her skin was as pale as a ghost, it had a certain charm to it.

Her black raven hair draped down her shoulder, reaching her waist in length, and due to the color of her skin, eyes, and hair, the mostly black uniform fit her nicely, blending in seamlessly as if everything she wore was one with her.

Lune sat down again, acting oblivious to the eyes that watched her like hawks, as if she was some kind of prey.

The introductions continued, yet no one other than the tutor took time out of their day to pay attention to them. No one cared anymore, and for a good reason.

'Wait, so if this is C-group, what kind of monsters is S and X hiding.' Lloyd thought, with a shiver running down his spine.

Everyone in the room was currently in between the early first commandment and the late first commandment, with only one person fitting that category. However, the average commandment in the room remained between early and mid stage first commandment, with an equal amount on either side of the spectrum.

'Wait... Am I the only person in the hall in the initial stage?' Lloyd thought with slight frown.

"If you look at your screens, you should see a few classes you can choose from. Again, I suggest you choose the ones that have been recommended to you." Jack, their tutor, explained, making everyone nod slightly before beginning to choose.

Looking down, Lloyd quickly read the recommended classes-

'Recommended: Rouge combat, Elemental classes: Shadow, Fire.'

'Compulsory: Unarmed basic combat, theory,'

Lloyd thought about the choices for a second. Sure, they were good, but after looking at how his schedule would look like, Lloyd decided to add a few more. After all, it's not like he can get tired? Or, at least not physically.

[Would you like to confirm your choices?]

[Yes] [No]

'Yes.'

[You have chosen the following classes: Rouge combat, Staff combat, Tactical Taekwondo, Elemental classes: Darkness, Fire, Lightning.]

'Eight hours of learning, 16 hours of cultivating, going to the library, eating and all that other crap.' Lloyd thought before leaning back on his chair to show that he was done.

When everyone in the hall was done, the tutor said a few more words that Lloyd had stopped listening to before he dismissed everyone from the hall before, turning around and leaving through a portal that had appeared out of nowhere.

'Maybe I can do that?'

Everyone left the hall as soon as they could, yet just as Lloyd was about to leave, too, he heard a commotion that stopped everyone in their tracks as they egged on whoever was fighting or simply wanted to watch from the sideline.

"Already?" Lloyd thought, yet when he saw who was fighting, he couldn't help but raise a brow.

"Well well, this should be interesting."

[Author's Note, Going to be changing a few things in the last two chapters because there have been a few inconsistencies. Quick note, powerful families is not the same thing as a higher family. Think of it like this. Middle Class ---> Powerful Family (higher middle class) ---> Higher family ---> Founding Families ---> Royals.

Also, before anyone starts complaining, there is a reason why each person is in the C group despite being from founding families, higher ones, or powerful ones in general. They will be explained, don't worry.]

Chapter 115: Military Academy [5] - Cultivation

The fight was between two boys, and while Lloyd recognized both of them, he only knew the name of one of them since they were his roommate, but he was still unwilling to interfere in the fight.

This was between them, and Lloyd wasn't too certain of the rules of the military academy yet, so he didn't really want to do anything that would put him in the limelight of teachers and professors any more than he already had.

Jay looked at the boy with piercing blue eyes, but he didn't move. From their current stances, it seemed like the boy was the one to attack first, not the other way around.

"You think you're a hotshot? You're not even from a powerful family. You're middle class at best." The boy laughed, yet Jay didn't react to his taunts. It seemed like it would take him much more to show emotion toward such an obvious provocation.

"How dare you try to sit with us!" The boy roared while charging forward like a mad bull. Lloyd couldn't remember what his class was, but from his movements, it seemed to be something like a berserker or barbarian, yet he was also sure that it wasn't any of those two.

He had seen Zack fight enough times to know that.

When Jay saw the boy charge at him, he got into a fighting stance, ready to stop his attacker even if he was forced to take a lethal measure.

However, even though the spectators seemed to be enjoying the fight, everyone knew how it would end. There was no way that some random kid could beat a Dreamweaver; they just wanted to see one in action.

"Both of you! Stop!" A slightly deep voice boomed throughout the hallway; however, while everyone first tried to disperse after thinking it was a teacher, they quickly realized that wasn't the case.

Instead, it was a boy the same age as Lloyd marching toward the center of the fight with both his hands extended toward both people in order to stop them from fighting.

"On the first day of your academy and you are already squabbling like children. Are you not ashamed?!" He roared, yet the boy who had momentarily stopped his charge threw the words aside and began his charge once more, this time with a blue aura surrounding his body.

'A martial artist?' Lloyd thought, remembering the fighting styles of every martial artist he personally knew.

While most of them didn't really charge into battle heads first, Lloyd concluded that it must have been something like the beast fighting martial art that allowed the user to forget their pain and simply move like a beast filled with nothing but bloodlust.

Of course, the boy before him couldn't emit bloodlust. Hell, it would probably take him a hundred years to even learn how to emit it. He was green behind the ears in every way. He was a kid from a powerful family that looked like he had every single thing in his life prepared for him by his maids and servants, so what would he know of bloodlust?

'How weak...' A voice echoed in Lloyd's mind as Lloyd's resentment for the boy suddenly increased. Maybe it was jealousy that the boy could live such a lavish lifestyle

without losing anyone or suffering until this point, or maybe it was Null amplifying his emotions to force him into doing something reckless.

Lloyd could see slight panic as Jay's attacker charged at the boy in the middle of both of them; however, at the same moment, a resolute expression appeared on his face before he closed his eyes, raised his foot, and slammed his heel onto the back of the attacker's head so hard that his face created cracks on the floor when he slammed into it.

The cracks immediately repaired themselves. However, the boy who had received the kick was now out cold.

'Hypocrite.' Lloyd thought to himself.

"DAMNIT GREG! You're a second-year representative, stop hitting the first years!" An older woman roared, marching her way to Greg, the boy who had kicked the attacker unconscious.

Greg stepped back with his hands up as he tried to explain his situation, yet the woman didn't seem to be having any of it.

That's when Lloyd realized something.

'Oh? He doesn't have white stripes. His are blue.' Lloyd thought while looking at his military uniform and seeing the white stripes that outline parts of the jacket, such as his chest pocket or his shoulder linings.

'If I remember correctly, blue means second year, right?'

However, before he could think about anything else or even analyze the Greg's uniform further, he watched him be dragged away by the older woman that held him by the ear as he screamed for her to let go of him.

'Hmm?' Lloyd furrowed his brows. He felt like he was being watched. No, it was different from being watched. It felt like someone was analyzing him to the core, or at least trying anyway.

Looking back, Lloyd found himself meeting the cold icy glare of a young petite girl with raven black hair that draped down her shoulder.

When Lloyd looked into her golden yet dull eyes with a questioning expression, she simply rolled her eyes and looked away in annoyance. Or, that's what Lloyd thought she was feeling. Sure, he was good at reading people to a certain extent, but when it came to people like her and Veronica, Lloyd found it hard to comprehend their expressions.

After that, everyone returned to their dorms. Jay and Lloyd naturally walked in the same direction. Yet, while Jay was walking at a good speed, Lloyd's walking speed was exceptionally slow as he tried to circulate mana throughout his body while walking simultaneously.

After seeing minimal changes, Lloyd sighed and decided to do something he had been thinking of doing since the day they went to the Glade family's planet.

Beep

The double doors before Lloyd opened up outwards. The sight of an enormous library was magnificent. The architecture was something else, making it look like one of those magic libraries.

A giant glass plane with several designs on it occupied one of the walls, allowing the light of the sun to shine through and create a beautiful spectacle. Since the sun seemed to be still rising, it created a warm yellow hue in the library that made it feel even more homely and magical than before.

"And to think this is only the first year's library." Lloyd muttered to himself, unable to imagine what the second and third-year libraries would look like.

The library itself was surprisingly empty, but he should have expected such a thing. First, years don't usually take anything seriously, unless they are already from poor backgrounds or have a military background and an image to uphold.

"Well, I have all day to kill, so I might as well start now."

It took about 10 minutes for Lloyd to find the section he was looking for, and another 10 minutes for him to find the book he wanted, or at least one that fit the criteria he had.

While the library had many books, a lot of the ones that featured cultivation techniques, martial arts, certain styles, techniques, and more, all cost quite a lot of points, and so far, Lloyd was certain that no one in the first year had gained any.

When Lloyd finally found a few free books on cultivation techniques, he went to one of the tables nearby and sat down. The books varied. Every cultivation technique was different in one way or another, yet they all practically fell into a few sections, and those sections eventually fell into certain categories.

Body and core cultivation fell under mana cultivation. Killing intent, aura, bloodlust, etc., all fell under soul cultivation. The last one was mind cultivation, but that was a lot more complicated, and people usually didn't go for it before the third commandment, and nor was Lloyd going to bother with it until he had more time on his hands.

Mind cultivation was useful because it allowed someone to fight off manipulation, made them more intelligent, and gave them a stronger will and a much more advanced control over their abilities, techniques, and spells. However, despite the drawbacks, Lloyd already had [4-dimensional thought] that made him have all that and more.

His primary objective, for now, was to get the hang of core and body cultivation, so he would do those first before moving on to other things.

[4-dimensional thought]

Activating his ability, Lloyd began to read through the books at a speed that wasn't humanly possible without mind cultivation.

Body cultivation. The act of absorbing mana and circulating it around the body, allowing mana to seep into the cells of the cultivator by destroying the cells and recreating them repeatedly, making their cells more and more powerful after every circulation.

It was painful, of course. That was the cost of body cultivation, but it was practically worth it. Yet, Lloyd couldn't really destroy his cells since he wasn't technically made of cells.

However, mana core cultivation was different, yet the same. All you had to do was strengthen the core through condensing the mana inside it... But that was the problem. Lloyd had already tried that through several different methods, yet no matter what he did, he couldn't get it right, and he felt like the runes inside his mana core had something to do with it.

Everything was different for Lloyd, but maybe what was holding him back was his human way of thinking... He could count on two hands the amount of classes that use both types of cultivations, and since he wasn't even human anymore, he had to change his way of thinking into that of a void walker.

And there was only one person he knew that could help him with that...

Chapter 116: Classes [2] - Unarmed Basic Combat [2]

'That sounds a little wrong.' Lloyd thought to himself before shrugging. Others didn't have the same reaction as him, as some of the boys blushed, while some of the girls grunted, already knowing their instructor's type.

She would most likely be a brutish woman without sympathy for her students.

'These kids with a silver spoon in their asses won't survive a single day with her.' Lloyd inwardly chuckled as he remembered his close-to-never-ending stamina.

As long as he had mana, he would never be tired.

The woman before them stood tall at the height of 5ft 7, and her brown hair that slowly faded to blonde, barely ending at her shoulders. Her arms were extremely toned, while her six-pack abs showed due to her sporty wear covering only the top portion of her torso.

She wore baggy pants that allowed her to move easily, and had her hands in her pockets in a relaxed yet attentive posture.

She radiated the aura of a veteran and a battle maniac simultaneously, giving off a sense that a single wrong look could get you beaten half to death by her.

'She's a body cultivator?' Lloyd thought, but when he felt her aura, he couldn't help but think that she might also be a soul cultivator.

"Oi, maggots? What are you staring at? stand up and ready yourselves..." She spoke almost threateningly, making everyone get into their fighting stances.

Her eyes looked over the crowd for a moment as she assessed everyone.

"Alright, now that I know your classes and your fighting styles, I'm going to assess your battle capabilities before splitting you into groups that will allow you to excel." She explained, making many grimaces.

"But some of us mages, archers, or other classes that aren't good in close combat. Hell, most of us don't body cultivate, so how do you expect us to do as well as those who have all the advantages against us." A boy spoke up, his hearty manner of speaking being that of a higher family.

He was one of the few people in the room who were from a higher family, yet despite expecting respect and an apology from their instructor, what he received instead was-

Swoosh

The instructor appeared in front of him with her leg held high as a solid kick slammed into his nose, sending him flying to the other side of the room.

"You will do as I say..." She unleashed the full power of her aura for a split second, causing many of those around her with weak minds and wills to almost faint.

However, while everyone felt dizzy, small, or even threatened by the aura, Lloyd felt a cold shiver run down his spine.

It wasn't because he was scared... Now... It was because he instantly felt his entire body and mind be engulfed with rage as a slither of killing intent threatened to leave his body.

He could sense [monarch's aura] scream at him to let it leave his body and engulf everything with its power, but Lloyd held it back.

'Her aura... It feels like Veronica's.' Lloyd thought, but his rage was snuffed out after a second inspection as a deep sigh left his mouth. Or, at least, it looked like it.

'No, they're both warriors who had fought for years and killed many. Yes, it feels similar, but that part is the part that feels similar in most people who have had the same lifestyle. The rest is different and unique to her.' Lloyd thought.

Aura's were unique to everyone, the same way a magic signature is unique to a person. A magic signature may feel similar to someone else's, but that only happens when they are using the same element or are of the same class.

The same could be said about auras.

Feeling a slightly hostile gaze, their instructor turned around to see Lloyd with his eyes closed as he slowly withdrew the faint aura that escaped from him.

'So he's Noah's kid, huh... To have gone through so much at such a young age...' She thought with a grin threatening to break out from the corner of her lips.

'He's going to be a fine warrior.' She thought.

Walking to the front again, she began calling up individuals.

"Attack me with everything you've got. You're not allowed to use mana, though." She smiled menacingly.

The boy frowned slightly, yet unlike the kids from the powerful and higher families, he did not complain. He simply shot forward with everything he had and threw out a punch.

Tap

" ... "

" ... "

"Is that... really all you've got?" She asked, sounding genuinely disappointed by the display she had just watched. She had stopped the attack with a single finger, causing the boy to look down in shame.

"Instructor... Uhm..."

"Rachel Kim..." She sighed.

"Instructor Kim! I'm not even a body cultivator, nor do I have the class to give a good fight." He tried to reason.

"Then, when you are in the heat of battle and sitting on your ass behind your fellow soldiers, and someone comes to attack you, what will you do?" She asked.

"Well, the front line-"

"The front line? How is the front line supposed to stop an assassin with the ability to be invisible? How are they going to stop a sniper bullet moving at the speed of light?" She asked, suddenly slamming her foot into his gut, causing him to puke onto the floor before coughing heavily.

"You need to learn to fend for yourself." She kicked up again, this time upwards and on the chin, causing him to fly up before falling onto the ground.

"If you don't, you might just die when that moment comes." She snapped her fingers, and the vomit immediately disappeared with the use of the self-cleaning feature of the hall.

"Next, you." She pointed at a girl with an impassive tone.

"With this clothing?" The girl asked with a little bit of fear.

"Oh yeah... I forgot." She scratched her temple and snapped her fingers again.

Instantly, the clothes of everyone in the room began to morph.

The girls had their skirts and stockings morph into something that looked like leather pants while their jackets and shirts underneath tightened slightly so they wouldn't be a bother.

The boys, on the other hand, had their clothes from a tight body suit that either showed off how muscular they were, or how unfit they were.

"Once Y'all start earning points, you can customize your battle clothes." She shrugged and called up the girl again, who was a little more confident now that she didn't have to fight in a skirt.

This continued for several minutes, yet for some reason, just when Lloyd thought it was going to be his turn, she picked the person beside him, that looked even more confused than he was.

However, they went up anyway, got their asses handed to them, and left right after.

There were only about people left in the hall that hadn't had their turn yet, and Lloyd, Luna, and Jay were three of them.

Not many were spectating anymore since most of them had gone to the infirmary, but those who held on after her beating stayed to watch how well the rest would do.

"You... Come here." She said with a weird smile while gesturing for him to come closer with her finger.

'Is she trying to court him or beat his ass?' Lloyd thought after remembering that no one else had gotten such treatment from her.

Lloyd had to admit, thought; the boy walking up had a killer glint in his eye.

While Lloyd didn't see it at first, he quickly realized that he was one of the youngest in the room, but not by much. While he was 17, the oldest person in the room was barely 20, and Lloyd assumed that it was the person before them.

'Mid-stage first commandment...' Lloyd thought as he analyzed him.

Boom

The boy... The man shot forward with everything he had. He wasn't a boy anymore since everything from his age and stature said otherwise, so Lloyd had to think of him as a man instead.

When the man shot forward, Lloyd could hear the air breaking around him as he pierced through it with everything he had. In an instant, he was already in front of instructor Kim and had his arm cocked back, ready to send out a devastating punch.

Yet, just like everyone else, his punch was stopped with a single finger.

'But his power...' Lloyd thought, when he felt the shockwave.

Despite not using any mana or abilities, his punch sent out a shockwave equal to the average peak first commandment.

"That's more like it!" She roared out in laughter while sending out a punch of her own. Since the man was in mid-air, he could not move or dodge in time, so he did the next best thing.

Slamming his fist into the side of her incoming arm changed the trajectory ever so slightly. It also gave him something to pivot off, allowing him to perform a backflip before landing it and sliding back a few meters.

'He's a big of a brute, but that was impressive.' Lloyd and Instructor Kim thought simultaneously, almost in sync with one another.

The man shot forward again, but everyone quickly realized the flaw of his attacks.

He only used his fists, and his attacks were too easy to read.

A disappointed expression appeared on the instructor's face and she dodged the attack and kicked him in to stomach, causing him to gasp out in pain as the air in his lungs forcefully left his body.

Yet, just when she was about to call up the next person, she saw the man stand up with a determined smile on his face.

"You are very strong willed. I like that." She grinned while walking over and standing over him.

"Stand up..." She said, her eyes boring holes into his skull.

The man stood up.

"What is your name?" She asked for the first time ever since the class had begun.

"Beliar Alfug..." He gritted his teeth to stop the pain from affecting his performance.

"Alright, Beliar Alfug... A lower middle class capable of coming this far all on his own... Your name is worth remembering." She grinned, and just when he was about to attack again, she disappeared from where she stood, and appeared at his side with her fist deep into his abdomen, causing him to instantly lose consciousness.

Chapter 117: Classes [3] - Unarmed Basic Combat [3]

A few nurses walked in and dragged Beliar away. Seeing him leave the room with the nurses, Instructor Kim looked at the remaining five and a hungry and almost seductive grin.

'Oh shit... No wonder she reminded me of Veronica... She's crazy!' Lloyd thought with panic while his eyes darted around the room so he could find some way to escape.

"You. Come here." She gestured with her finger again, causing the girl to furrow her brows slightly before walking toward her.

The girl had blonde hair and fiery red eyes. She reminded Lloyd of someone, but he couldn't put his finger on it.

"The name is Haley Reinhart. And I'm going to make sure you remember it." She grinned as sparks of fire came out of her skin.

"No mana usage." Instructor Kim narrowed her eyes.

"This is a battle field, and there are no rules in the battle field!" She roared as her flame-imbued mana coursed through her mana channels and into her muscles, skin, and body. Her skin began to glow a luminescent orange before flames engulfed her body, shot upwards, and descended onto Instructor Kim like a meteorite.

'Ah... I get it, she's crazy too.' Lloyd thought, having already prayed for the corpse she would undeniably be after breaking instructor Kim's rules.

"What you say is true..." Instructor Kim muttered, raising her finger and stopping Haley's foot without a second thought.

"However, among warriors, we have this thing we call etiquette and respect." She looked into Haley's eyes through the flames, causing a shiver to go down the young girl's back.

Haley jumped back and created a spread in her hand without a second thought before throwing it at the instructor. However, despite seeing a spear of flames approaching her, she did not move.

The instructor simply waited as the spear of flames slammed into her exposed abdomen, yet what Haley saw next made her chin fall to the ground.

Not a single scratch... She was completely unscathed.

'Damn... That was cool.' Lloyd thought with with starry eyes behind his contact lenses.

"Not only do you not have a single shred of etiquette in you despite being from a higher family..." instructor Kim took a step forward, her aura expanding out of her body, freezing Haley in place.

"I don't have a single shred of respect for you either." She spat on the ground and disappeared from where she stood, leaving a large footprint on the ground before appearing behind Haley.

"Your name is not worth remembering." She whispered into her ear before drowning her in her aura and causing her to faint.

The nurses came back and silently took the girl away.

"You, come here." She pointed at another boy that Lloyd didn't recognize. He threw three punches before being beaten, but that was much better than the majority of the class.

The same thing occurred when Jay was called up. Sure, he had the body for a close combat fighter, but he did not have the class, the body cultivation, or the skill and technique it took to be one.

"Jay Ludwig. You rely far too much on your abilities, class, and mana to be a good close-combat fighter. No matter how strong you are as a Dreamweaver, you are powerless when the person before you has a stronger mind than you." She explained, with a small nod before giving him a chop to the neck and knocking him out cold.

"Alright... Only you two left now. Which one wants to go first?" Instructor Kim asked, making both Lloyd and Luna look at each other.

Lloyd didn't want to go first since he wanted to watch Luna in action. On the other hand, if he had gone first, there wouldn't be that many people there to watch since most of them have been healed and are beginning to return.

"Can we both go at the same time?" Luna asked, being one step ahead of Lloyd since he was about to ask the question as well; it was just that he was trying to weigh the pros and cons of doing so.

"Uhhh. Sure? Why not? It'll be more fun." She grinned, finally getting into a battle stance.

"No mana... Come at me with the intent to kill." Her grin widened as she gestured for them to come at her, yet this time instead of using one finger, she used four.

"Don't hold me back, peasant." Luna snarled.

"I could say the same thing to you, brat." Lloyd chuckled mockingly.

BOOM

As if they were in complete sync, both Luna and Lloyd shot toward their instructor.

While Lloyd could have moved a lot faster, he was still surprised that Luna was moving at the same speed as him. If his knowledge was correct, the speed they were both moving at was comparable to a half-step second commandment.

Luna, on the other hand, was shocked. Lloyd was an initial stage first commandment that had entered the same class as her by some kind of miracle. She had tried to see if there was some kind of secret to him, but despite trying to analyze him, she could never see past his aura, and after a while, his commandment that she barely got a glimpse of.

Not wanting to be outdone, Luna let out the full power of her killing intent, allowing a wave of crimson darkness to leave her body for a moment.

Due to her young age, her killing intent wasn't as powerful as her commandment, but it was still far from what the others from higher families could do.

'I guess I should have expected this from a person from a founding family.' Lloyd thought.

"Come on, Lloyd Elrod! Show me what you've got!" Instructor Kim taunted, making Luna widen her eyes and Lloyd narrow them.

'She knows his name...' Luna thought with a scowl.

Seeing that she was asking him to release some of his killing intent as well, he chose to release a small portion of it, flooding the hall with his killing intent that was barely stronger than Luna's.

Lloyd didn't want to have too much attention on him, but what he failed to consider was the fact that Luna was technically a prodigy, while he was a nobody that sat on the first two rows.

Even those who have entered dungeons found it hard to create a slither of killing intent despite one of the more obvious ways of improving killing intent being the act of going through several life-and-death battles.

But for Lloyd, it was different.

When he entered the void for the first time, he didn't just fight to the death; he fought with everything he had until his final breath. He just got lucky that he was pulled out before his body and soul shut down, since it would have only taken a few more seconds for him to be killed despite his powerup at the end.

The same could be said about his fourth void walk when he fought against the lightning monster that almost killed him.

He was quite literally on the verge of death. He felt like blood was filling his lungs despite him not having both of those things. And then he used void channel, which restored him to his peak state before also trying to kill him again.

And the final reason was simple... Because there was another way to increase the power of your killing intent, and that was through killing sentient beings, or more specifically to him, humanoids.

The moment Lloyd executed Veronica, his killing intent skyrocketed in power. Now, even though he was trying to only send out tiny bits of what he had, his control over the improved killing intent wasn't strong enough to make it weaker than Luna's.

The moment Lloyd's killing intent washed over the hall, they all stood still, even stood still, more out of surprise than from the effects of the killing intent itself.

However, Lloyd didn't.

Blasting forward, Lloyd appeared in front of her and threw a punch as strong as the punch of a mid-stage first commandment.

The instructor narrowed her eyes but still blocked the attack by crossing her arms over her chest in "X."

However, the punch wasn't aimed at her... It was a ruse to create momentum, and that he did.

Stepping to the side, Lloyd's punch hit thin air, yet it gave him the momentum to spin on his toes and perform a backheel roundhouse kick.

Of course, instructor Kim saw the attack coming. Yet, she was still impressed since it would have most likely fooled anyone who wasn't as experienced as her, or anyone without the necessary reaction time to block the incoming attack.

But she had both of those things.

Ducking under the kick, she threw an uppercut toward his chin, but she made sure to reduce its power and speed to that of a peak first commandment.

Lloyd, seeing this attack coming, grinned. It instantly confused his opponent, but she quickly realized what was happening and was even more impressed.

Luna was now behind her, having completely concealed her killing intent until the moment of the attack.

Intending to chop her opponent in the neck, she sliced it through the air so quickly that it looked like a blur to most.

Lloyd had already jumped back the moment he saw instructor Kim's intention to uppercut him, and with the speed she was going at in that moment, it would be impossible for her to turn around in time to stop Luna's attack.

Or, at least, that's what Lloyd thought, but he was quickly proven right.

There was no need to stop the attack if you'd already planned for it, right?.

Instructor Kim placed a hand on the floor and kicked backward with her left leg, which had already been in the correct position to perform this move.

Lloyd's eyes widened when he saw this, and he tried to dash forward to help Luna out. However, Luna had already dodged the attack by flipping over Rachel Kim and using her flip's momentum to slice at their instructor with everything she had.

Rachel Kim barely dodged the incoming attack, but she found herself being attacked again quite quickly as Lloyd had reached her by then, his foot shooting toward her face at a speed that quite literally broke the sound barrier.

'Holy shit.' she thought, quickly jumping out of the way of the kick, but now she had to deal with Luna, and since Kim was in mid-air, Luna had the advantage.

Luna and Lloyd continued to attack their instructor with quick and cornering attacks that made it impossible for their instructor to fight back.

Well, that was until she got bored of the same routine and decided to finish their little spar.

Her power output didn't change immediately, but her aura did.

Dodging Luna's attack, she quickly punched her in the gut with the power of a peak first commandment before slamming her palm into Luna's side, causing her to fly toward one of the walls and crash into it.

Seeing this, Lloyd instantly knew that she was now serious, but he was now in the middle of a dilemma. Does he continue fighting, or does he let her beat him up?

Feeling her palm slam into his chest, Lloyd got blasted away and chose to stand down at that moment.

He could have increased his power once more to see how strong he was against her without using any of his abilities, but that were far too many spectators, so he threw that thought out of his mind.

Laying on the ground without saying a word, he simply listened to their instructor boast about her strength before he got up with a fake pained grunt and walked to his next class.

[Author's note: Do not worry. The rest of the classes will take up a chapter at most! And the elemental classes will all be done in the same chapter]

Chapter 118: Classes [4] - Rogue & Staff Combat

After unarmed basic combat, not much happened in theory class. The main points were simple, and almost everyone knew them. The class they were currently in was clearly just a way to get those who were clueless a chance to catch up with the rest. It was a bit of an introductory lesson that explained the curriculum and the main events that will be held in the next term.

Since everyone was already in the same class for theory, too, they only had to leave the hall so it could reset back to a lecture hall, and since that was over now, Lloyd was certain that he wouldn't have to see most of them until tomorrow.

'God, I wish no one from my tutorial is in rouge combat class...' Lloyd thought.

The first class Lloyd had was Rouge combat, a class specialized toward those who have a rouge class. While Lloyd was a bit of a heavy hitter and a tank when it came to close combat, he had to also keep up the facade of being an assassin.

Of course, he had many abilities that helped him when it came to being an assassin, but he wanted to learn the art from a master rather than have to rely on his abilities to perform any assassin feats.

In the future, too, Lloyd knew that the military and possibly even the adventurer's association might ask him to complete a mission that was suited to his assassin class, so he might as well add the rouge combat class into his arsenal of fighting styles.

Walking into the hall, Lloyd looked around momentarily before sighing slightly.

From what he understood, theory and unarmed basic combat were the only classes where everyone was stuck with the group from their tutorial class in the morning. However, when he goes to other classes, people from D to A could go to the same class, while S and X had their own separate classes.

After having walked in, Lloyd couldn't really tell who was from where.

From what he understood, the average commandment in his class was about early to mid-stage first commandment.

Still, despite there being a few late and even peak first commandments in the class, the average commandment was initial to early first commandment, and he was one of those people.

Standing with the rest of the people in the crowd, Lloyd felt a sharp gaze lock on him once more, yet he had done this charade far too many times for him to not know who it was.

She was a soul reaper, after all... What did he expect? Of course, she was going to be in this class!

A portal suddenly opened up in the middle of hall, and out of it came a man clad in black armor and a dark grey cloak.

The man was powerful; everyone could see that.

His dark aura expanded throughout the hall, causing many to shudder while others simply froze in place.

"Rogue combat training. Over several years of training kids the same age as you guys, I've come to realize that the best way to teach you how to be a good fighter is to enhance what you already know, or completely demolish it and build you from the ground up." he explained before vanishing into thin air and appearing in the same place a second later, this time having placed a dagger in everyone's hands.

"The dagger is the basic weapon for a rogue. Some rogues like to use guns, snipers, or even their own abilities to create such things, but most use the dagger, or that's at least the case with most classes." He explained while looking at the few people who he had placed a gun instead of a dagger in their hands.

Lloyd looked at the dagger momentarily before glancing at Luna, who was doing the same thing.

The dagger was nothing, really. It was weak, and could be easily considered a piece of crap. Yet, despite that, it was much better than the katana Lloyd had when he entered the eternal autumn dungeon.

"Now, I'd like you to team up with someone of equal strength to you. During your spar, you are not allowed to use your elements of abilities. I want to see your raw rogue combat abilities." The man said.

Lloyd looked around and tried to walk to someone at the initial stages of the first commandment too, but he felt a tug on his sleeve, was a glare pierced and made him smile in self-pity.

"What?" Lloyd asked, slightly annoyed.

"Me, you, spar." Luna crossed her arms with an equally annoyed expression.

"You know you can just leave me alone if you dislike me so much." Lloyd chuckled.

"You've caught my eyes." She narrowed her eyes before continuing-

"You should be honored that a peasant like you had caught the eyes of someone so much better than you, in every way." She boasted.

'Ah... This is why I don't like her.' Lloyd sighed after finally finding the reason why she ticked him off.

She kind of reminded him of Lucy the first time he met her... But that shit was behind him now.

"We aren't the same strength though, so there is-"

"Cut the crap. I saw you against instructor Kim. You are just a little weaker than me, and I am a prodigy!" She boasted once more.

Lloyd looked toward their instructor with pleading eyes, yet his instructor didn't react.

"Alright, the person you've chosen will be your partner for the next two weeks. Make sure you get to know each other over the next few days." He spoke before walking to the back of the room and simply staring at us as if he was waiting for something.

"Begin." He muttered after a couple of seconds, causing everyone to dash toward each other and begin sparring.

The spar with Luna went as expected. Due to Lloyd's power being way higher than hers, he was easily able to counter her attacks or even take them head-on without the fear of being hurt.

However, Luna was a lot more nimble and precise than he was. She was also super flexible, allowing her to hit Lloyd with combos that he never thought possible without dislocating a limb or two.

Luna moved with just as much expertise in the air, too, making what he thought was an advantage quickly turn into a disadvantage as he was forced to block multiple attacks from above while everything but her nimble feet was out of range.

Their instructor went around and simply observed, yet he didn't give them a single pointer on what to do and how to improve.

The class ended quickly afterward, making some grunt as they got off their asses and walked to their next class feeling bruised all over.

While the protection runes from the uniform protected them to a certain extent, it still made sure you felt the blunt impact of the attack you received.

"Thank you for a being my punching bag." Luna chuckled mockingly as she left the classroom, making several boys look at me with either pity or envy.

Going to his staff combat class, Lloyd recalled being forced to use the staff during his last void walk, so he wasn't about to let that drag him down again.

Ring Ring

Hearing a ring, Lloyd quickly looked at his watch, but he could not help but raise a brow when he saw who it was.

'Rosepetal?' Lloyd thought before pressing ignore rather than decline.

He remembered her calling him a few days after he left the dungeon and repeatedly after that. While he didn't really want to talk to her, he also didn't have the courtesy or time to do so. He had so much going on that talking to Rosepetal was the last thing in mind.

'If I think about it. Shouldn't Trishaless be in the academy now too?' Lloyd thought, remembering that she was a year older than him and most likely in one of the academies.

Walking into his staff combat class, Lloyd felt that something was different. No, it wasn't different; it was just that all the attention was being centered around a single individual, making Lloyd instantly analyze them before raising another brow.

'On the verge of reaching the half-step second commandment? Must be some kid from the A group.' Lloyd thought before ignoring him and joining the student crowd and waiting for their instructor to come.

When they finally opened a portal to come through, everyone's eyes landed upon a bald man wearing the robes of a monk and holding a staff in his hands.

His eyes were closed, and it didn't seem like he had any intention of opening them any time soon.

Tapping his staff onto the floor, he finally opened his mouth.

"I am Instructor Chen Yung. If you wish to learn the art of staff combat, you must put blood, sweat, and tears into this class. If you are in this class for the extra credit or just to add another martial art to your arsenal, then I suggest you leave. The art of the staff is not for everyone." he explained, making many look at one another before one of them finally left quietly.

Seeing that one had left, some of the others found the confidence to leave as well, making a class that was filled to the brim now reduced to only ten people.

'Damn... That many people left just because he said something about working hard? What losers.' Lloyd thought

However, when the instructor approached him and pointed his staff at his forehead, he finally understood why they all left so quickly.

"You have stayed, yet you are not a monk, nor are you a martial artist. Your class has nothing to do with the staff, so tell me, what gives you the confidence to stand before me?" He asked, his voice reaching an almost threatening tone.

"Confidence?" Lloyd mocked while looking him dead in the eyes... Or, technically, dead into his eyelids.

"What is your class?" The monk asked before Lloyd could continue.

"Shadow assassin hybrid." Lloyd answered, causing everyone who wasn't already looking at him to turn to their right or left and stare at him as if he was stupid.

"What is your main weapon of choice..." The monk asked another question as a scowl appeared on his brows.

"The katana." Lloyd answered without an ounce of shame in his voice.

"You think the katana is like a staff?! The katana is the weapon of the-" one of the weaker boys roared, but he was quickly stopped by their instructor, who lifted his staff and pointed it toward the boy's forehead.

"Why do you want to learn the art of the staff?" The monk asked.

Lloyd paused for a moment, thinking of what to answer him with, but eventually, he chose to answer truthfully. Or, to be specific, tell him half the truth.

"I once stood before several monsters with no armor and no mana left in my body to be useful. My katana was broken, and my backup weapons were gone.

However, in that moment of desperation, it wasn't a sharp claw of a dagger that I found in my hands; it was a staff. I can barely remember what happened afterward, but if it weren't for the staff I was holding, I would have died.

Despite it being a moment of desperation, that day, not only had I gained a new level of respect for the art of staff combat, but I also felt a connection to the weapon, as if it was a part of me... No, an extension of me. It was the same feeling I had when I first picked up the katana." Lloyd explained, making the monk raised his brows slightly, but barely enough for Lloyd to tell the difference.

"Would you not rather learn about the katana instead? Would you not rather learn how to weave it like a master rather than learn a new weapon from scratch?" The monk asked with a little more respect in his voice.

"I've been learning to to weave the katana for 15 years now, I think its okay if I try to learn another weapon." Lloyd chuckled, making the monk nod before turning around and walking to the front of the room.

"I accept you as one of my students, but do not expect me to go easy on you just because you're new to this." Instructor Yung spoke, making Lloyd nod with a determined smile.

Of course, most of what he said was part of his facade, but if he wanted to survive his next void walk, he might as well get used to the staff since it could be the line between life and death for him.

Council of Races - Planet Albergia

"There was clearly someone behind this attack! Are you telling me that despite standing right in front of the spatial tear the entire time, your soldiers didn't even realize that the very spatial tear they were guarding was a one way portal to hell?" A man with cat-like ears and bronze skin slammed his fist onto the table, causing the entire place to shake.

"General! Control yourself!" Another man ordered.

"I will not control myself until I find the person responsible for my daughter's condition!" The general roared out in rage, causing several soldiers to appear and restrain him.

Chapter 119: Pure Evil {1} - Kiss of Death

[Thank you Tyler_Hotker for your generous gifts]

"What happened to your daughter is a tragedy, but at least thank the gods that she's still alive. Half of her teammates died, and the rest are either also in a coma or deeply damaged..." A man lizard man spoke, his voice as calm as a spring lake.

"What about the boy?" A woman with bunny ears asked, making everyone look at her.

"you know, the boy in the report? He survived despite being the weakest among them by a lot. He's also the only one we can locate among the ones that have survived." The woman explained.

"Are you saying that he might have had something to do with this?" A man with bright red hair and eyes asked. He looked completely human, yet there was something about him that unsettled everyone in the room.

However, that was normal since he was by far the strongest person in the room, sitting on the main chair of the council hall and leading the meeting itself.

The council hall looked like a normal hall. The seats and tables were arranged circularly, allowing everyone to see everyone.

Each person had a banner in front of their table representing their faction, tribe, or race.

And the red-haired man's banner had similarities to the banners of the other humans in the room; his was a little redder and had the feeling of dragon hood.

While the table had been extended to add seats for the victim's families, the average commandment in the room remained high, everyone in there being in the 4th commandment or higher, except a few of the victim's families who were between the second and third commandment.

The average commandment throughout all of humanity was between the first to second commandments, making everyone in the room elite, even those who were only in higher second commandment or low third commandment.

"I think you are wrong to assume that had something to do with it." A man with blue hair stood up. Grief could be seen on his face, but the man stood strong as his wife beside him simply looked down.

"Lachlan might have died, but I wouldn't dare think that the boy had to do anything with it.

First off, he had awakened barely a few months before the dungeon appeared and only reached the initial stage of the first commandment despite being there for three months.

No matter how you look at it, he is far too weak to cause so much havoc on his own. However, don't you think it's right for us to listen to what he said?

Even Rex Talon, a respected soldier, said the same thing. According to their testimonies, Veronica Everdale was responsible for what happened, and the girl known as Tina Albert could barely save her comrades despite using a final spell..." Lachlan's father spoke, his voice seething with anger as he stared at the Everdales.

"How dare you! We are grieving just like you! Our girl hasn't returned home, and is possibly even dead, yet you point the finger at her just because she's the only one who hasn't been found!" a man with black hair and red eyes roared out while pointing at the blue-haired man.

"I am simply telling you what has been said in the testimonies. Which brings me to my second point. I cannot point the finger at Lloyd Elrod not only because the facts are against such a point, but because I know his parents, and his close family friends too.

You know them too, correct?" He asked while looking at the Everdale family.

"Of course, I don't believe Lloyd has anything to do with it. His father is a hero who even saved us at times of need, and his close family friends are the Glades, and well know how powerful yet honorable they are. Their founder cared for humanity more than any other higher family, and I'm more than certain that his teaching have been left to Benjamin Glade too." The vampire snarled.

Due to vampires living much longer than humans, Mr. Everdale was old enough to have known the founder of the glade family personally, and they had even fought together during the war against the void walker.

"Enough of this squabbling! We will come back next week to have a vote whether or not we want to bring Lloyd Elrod to the stand. This meeting is ajourned." The red-haired man announced before snapping his fingers and opening the portal behind him by using the runes embedded into the building itself.

Everyone left the room quickly and didn't look back.

"How did it go, master?" A woman in a maid's outfit asked while walking behind the Everdales.

The maid had beautiful emerald hair that glistened in the hallway lights they were walking down.

Her emerald eyes were also beyond beautiful. She was a natural seductress that was considered beautiful even among vampires.

"Not as well as I hoped..." Veronica's father sighed.

"Will you be needing my services?" She tilted her head.

"Yes, please." He smiled while they both entered his room.

His son, who was with him during the council meeting, hadn't spoken a single word and had left to god knows where, so on top of the stress and grief he had from losing his daughter, he had to also deal with his son that would simply not listen to reason.

Due to all of it piling up, Veronica's father had taken his maid as his lover. It was technically cheating by human standards, but for vampires who lived much longer lives, it was a normal act.

Once they entered their room, they both went close to the bed. The maid sat down, and he leaned forward to kiss her the same way he had done for the last month... But this time, it was different.

His kiss didn't land. Well, that was the least of his problems...

As he looked down, his eyes widened when he saw his lover's hand stabbed into his chest and tightly gripped around his heart.

"I must say, you are quite dumb." The girl grinned, causing his stomach to churn.

She spoke while leaning in and giving him a peck on his lips.

Her hair began to morph, becoming much straighter and darker, while her eyes went from emerald to a bright red. Her body morphed, too, becoming taller and less petite by the second, morphing back to a figure resembling an hourglass.

"You have disappointed me for the last time..."

She smirked as blood ran down her fangs.

"Father."

Planet Kepler 452b - Military Academy

Lloyd found himself laying on his back and looking at the sky with a pained expression.

No one told him that using a staff would be this hard... And no one told him that everyone else in that class would be a master!

"You sure you don't want to leave this class? You're really bad at this. It feels like you have absolutely no talent in using the staff." The boy he was sparring lent his hand to help Lloyd get up.

At first, Lloyd was certain that the boy would have been a pain in the ass and a kid from a higher family with a silver spoon in his mouth from the moment he was born.

The boy was not only the most powerful in the room and possibly in all of A group, but he was also really skilled with the staff, completely destroying Lloyd in every spar despite going easy on him.

And to top it off, he wasn't even from a higher family! He was from a lower middle class, making him not only not an asshole, but also super nice!

His words were quite ruthless, though...

"Thanks for the supportive words." Lloyd chuckled while taking his hand.

"You keep using your staff like you would use a katana. Sure, you have the right stance, and you're holding it from the middle instead of its end, yet mastering the staff is much more than that. Several martial styles are dedicated to using the staff, yet you are trying to make your own." The boy, Derek Cellar, explained.

"You try to move the staff at a speed that it can cut or damage, but it is much more than that.

The staff is primarily a defense weapon. It can defend you from your enemy's attacks, parry attacks, redirect spells, control and corner your enemy and his movements, attack with precise accuracy, and, as you've seen, you can also immobilize or neutralize an enemy to knock them down or out the say way I did to you." He continued.

Lloyd recalled back to how Derek had cornered his movements by using the staff's long and short reach of the staff, using them as if they were one. And due to the amount of movement that was happening, Lloyd found himself unable to see the pattern of his movements, allowing Derek to sweep the staff under his feet before hitting him in the forehead and knocking him to the ground.

"Alright... That will be all for today." Instructor Yung clasped his hands and created a clap to gain their attention.

He quickly gave feedback to everyone before landing on Lloyd.

"And you, Lloyd, have a very long way to go. For tomorrow's lesson, I want you to read up on a few martial styles for the staff. Understood?" He asked.

"Yes sir!" Lloyd placed his arms to his sides in a soldier's stance.

After that, everyone quickly morphed their suits back to their uniforms before leaving.

While some were simply going home since it was the end of the day, others went to bars, and the rest went to their elemental classes.

Lloyd was lucky to have all of his classes in a row, but at the same time, it didn't give him much time to rest.

Other people, on the other hand, didn't pick as many classes as Lloyd, so they had an hour or two between the compulsory classes and the evening ones.

Walking into one of the classes, Lloyd looked around momentarily with an aloof expression. But that's when he saw her... Luna was standing before their rogue combat class instructor with a scythe in one hand and a ball of dark energy in the other.

Looking down at his watch, Lloyd widened his eyes slightly.

"Shit... I'm late."

Chapter 120: Classes [5] - Elemental Classes & Tactical Taekwondo

Lloyd quickly hid himself among the students, and while the instructor might have caught anyone else trying to do what Lloyd just did, he not only had his hands full with Luna, but due to Lloyd's passive abilities, control over his aura, and a little bit of shadow manipulation, the instructor had no idea Lloyd had entered the room.

Hell, if his parents couldn't tell, who was he compared to them?2

Lloyd watched as their instructor jumped several meters back and looked at Lune passively.

"Attack me with all you've got." He said, his hands going behind his back.

"Sure..." Luna gave him a grin that sent a shiver down even his spine.

That wasn't the grin of a child. That was the grin of a psychopath.

'He wants us to display our prowess and control over our darkness affinities, or all the affinities that link to darkness. Since I have a shadow affinity, not darkness, my attacks won't be as strong as Luna's or anyone else with a darkness affinity, but it should do for now.' Lloyd thought.

Luna quickly through a ball of dark energies toward their instructor, and once they reached a certain distance from him, they exploded.

A massive cloud of dust was kicked up, yet the instructor cleared it instantly with a single step forward, allowing everyone to see that not a single scorch mark or scratch was left on him.

"Is that all you've got?" He narrowed his eyes in an expression that no one decypher. On the other hand, his words were so clearly filled with contempt and mockery, yet Luna didn't react.

She had full control over her emotions, after all.

Stomping on the ground, she instantly created several shadow clones that looked exactly like her in every way, but the only difference with them was their power.

Feeling their mana flow, Lloyd could instantly tell which one was the real one amongst the several shadow clones, and he knew the instructor could too.

The shadow clones all ran toward the instructor with their scythes in hand and began to attack him with everything they had. They worked in a perfect symphony of attacks, all working together with one mind, protecting and attacking with one another in a way that made them have almost no weak spots in their attacks.

Seeing that all of them were clones, the instructor turned into a blur for a moment, before returning to how he was before, but this time, his feet had sunk half an inch into the ground, and all the clones around him had been shredded into pieces.

However, while everyone else saw nothing but their instructor turn into a blur for a millisecond, Lloyd's eyes had widened as he had just seen the instructor reach for his weapon and slash all the clones around him into hundreds of pieces.

Of course, Lloyd only saw the grabbing of his knife clearly, but the rest was beyond a blur. It was as if the entire thing had happened in the same instant.

"Alright, that will be all. Next." He said emotionlessly, causing Luna to grit her teeth and leave the hall.

"Oh? Are we allowed to leave right after our turn?" Lloyd asked the person in front of him, who jolted at his touch due to not expecting anyone behind her.

"O-Oh... Yeah. We can just leave once we're done. Apparently, he just wants to see how good we are before out next class."

'Well, I guess that makes sense.' Lloyd thought before thanking the girl.

This went on for a bit longer. Lloyd had to admit, though, everyone else's control over their element was pathetic at best.

There weren't many there, to begin with, either. Only around 10 individuals in the class who even had an affinity linked to darkness, and they all seemed like they didn't know what they were doing, or like Luna, didn't have enough time to show the instructor their full capabilities.

Until there were only two people left.

"State your name, class, and commandment." The instructor ordered.

"Naomi Xandaer, Necromancer in the peak of the first commandment, sir!" She shouted. She had bright green hair and a pair of obsidian emerald eyes.

"A necromancer? There is no need to show me your prowess, then. You'll be given a personal tutor." He explained, causing Naomi to widen her eyes before cheering to herself while walking out of the class.

'Well... Just me now.' Lloyd sighed.

"Lloyd El-

"Lloyd Elrod, Shadow assassin hybrid, and the initial first commandment who finished 7th place in your star system during the foundation entrance ceremony, a survivor of an

interplanetary dungeon despite several second commandments dying, and has shown the prowess of someone with one to three topaz seals.

Furthermore, he declined several invitations to join the foundation years from the best academies, the son of Noah and Olivia Elrod, and is now, also, late for my class."

'Stalker...' Lloyd thought.

However, a smile broke out on his face as he got into a fighting position.

"Come at me with everything you've got. Only use your shadow affinity though." his smirk widened.

"I don't really have a weapon right now..." Lloyd scratched the back of his neck.

"Then I wont use mine either." The instructor shrugged.

"Alright, you asked for it." Lloyd lowered his posture and got ready to attack.

[Shadow expansion]

Lloyd's shadow expanded out for 20 meters.

[Shadow wings]

Using the shadows on the floor, Lloyd quickly created a pair of wings and expanded them out, causing a gust of wind to shoot past his instructor.

[Shadow arrows]

Several arrows shot out of Lloyd's wings before locking onto the instructor and shooting toward him at maximum speed.

[Shadow Claws]

[Shadow enhancement]

With a flap of his wings, Lloyd was already in front of his instructor, yet despite having lowered his power to someone on their third topaz seal, the instructor had a very easy time dodging the attacks despite their speed.

This battle went on for another half an hour, yet by the end of it, it was Lloyd on the floor with his instructor's foot on his chest.

"You're pretty strong. Honestly, I think your talent could take you to the B group if you tried to make a case for yourself... I but I suggest you don't."

"Why is that?" Lloyd grunted.

"You're not very good at using your weapons. While the classes in the B group might have more resources than the classes in the C group, I truly think you're going to learn more in your class than anywhere else. Plus, C-group people like you are pretty much invisible to anyone in the B group or higher. And from what I've seen, you don't want to expose your strength." He shrugged.

"Thank you for the advice instructor black hair." Lloyd thanked.

"..."

"What?"

"It's instructor Black..."

"Oh. I didn't know what to call you so I just went for your most defining feature."

sigh

Lloyd quickly went to his fire affinities class, his next class, and then to his lightning affinities class right after, yet they weren't as interesting as his darkness affinities class. Nothing notable happened in them.

Everyone introduced one another, and by the end of it all, the instructor had practically explained how everything would go for the next term.

The last class was tactical taekwondo, but Lloyd was far too bored to pay any attention to it...

Or at least that was before he was who the instructors were going to be.

Yes... Instructors.

"Oh, crap." Lloyd cried out when he saw instructor Kim. However, a smile appeared on he turned around when he saw instructor Yung standing right behind him despite previously being standing right next to instructor Kim a moment ago.

"Where you do you think you are going, young Lloyd." He asked.

"Why are there two of you teaching this class?" Lloyd avoided his question.

"Over a two hundred students decided to take this class. We will be splitting you into two groups and going on from there." He smiled before grabbing Lloyd by the back of his collar and dragging him to the crowd before disappearing.

Once instructor yung returned to the front, he finally spoke.

"Me and Kim here will be taking charge of your classes. You will be split into two groups, half of you with me, and half of you with here. However, we will be swapping between us every week so you can try out both teaching methods."

The rest was like a boot camp. Lloyd was unlucky enough to end up in instructor Kim's class for the week, and despite being much better than everyone else in the class, he suffered just as much as everyone else.

After tactical taekwondo, he went to the library and stayed there until midnight, where he tried and failed to cultivate his body with the shadow, fire, and lightning elements, and failed to cultivate his core.

The days passed by quite quickly. The classes were hitting his psyche a little hard since they were 8 hours of nothing but learning and training, but after a while, he had gotten the hang of it.

And then the weekend came, and after a week's worth of frustrations, a dangerous and possibly life-threatening idea came to mind.

'Since I'm a void walker... and my body has evolved to that of a void walker after i broke through to the first commandment, what if the reason for my stagnant growth isn't because I suck, but instead a product of my void walker body rejecting normal mana?' Lloyd thought.

'To cultivate my body, I theorize that simply activating the void rune in my core to turn my mana into void-tainted mana might be enough to do the trick, but at the same time, if I want to cultivate my body faster or even cultivate my core, I have to do what I've been doing since day one, and that was to kill monsters and absorb their energies...' Lloyd thought.

While he had no idea how he was supposed to do such a thing while he was stuck in the military academy, he knew that it would most likely be the only way for him to cultivate again...

For now, though...

'Let's see how well my body can hide the fact that I'm cultivating with void mana...'

Chapter 121: Reunion [1]

'Let's see how well my body can hide the fact that I'm cultivating with void mana...'

Lloyd closed his eyes and activated the void rune inside his mana core. It took less than a second for him to feel his mana being tainted by the void rune, and in the next moment, he began to circulate it around his body.

He knew that due to his nature as a void walker, he would never be able to cultivate the same way others did with normal mana, and after remembering the runes, he had on his skin when you used [Aspect of Void], he understood something else too.

This whole time he was trying so hard to appeal to his human side and his human cultivation, but even after everything that had happened, it was hard to accept that he was no longer human, and the same could be said for his body.

The skin on the outside is a shell, and it is considered nothing but a shell or another piece of material. It cracks like any other armor or weapon, and to temporarily enhance his body, Lloyd had to use an ability that temporarily inscribed a rune on his shell.

Of course, Lloyd had no idea what it would mean for him if he were to break away from his shell, and Null didn't seem very willing to tell him if his silence were to say anything about his opinion on the matter, but that was a problem for another day.

The reason normal mana didn't do it is the same reason as to why Lloyd feels at home when he goes through a teleportation procedure, or even a portal. Void walkers live in the void.

They sustain themselves off the void's energy, and they have evolved that way, too, replacing their need for mana with their new need for void energy.

As Lloyd sat crosslegged in the library and felt the void-tainted mana course through him, he felt whatever was below his shell squirm in nourishment and excitement.

It was a feeling of relaxation and invigoration that channeled itself into his body, and for once, he could feel a significant increase in cultivation. However, he quickly stopped himself when he felt something else.

"Shit... Even though it doesn't break down my cells and recreate them, they still seem to seep through my shell." Lloyd thought with a frown before another idea came to him.

Putting all the books back to where he found them, he returned to his room and sat in the lotus position on the floor before closing his eyes.

The shadow under him began to slowly expand, before his body suddenly sunk in, and the size of the shadow shrunk again.

His roommate was already asleep, but Lloyd didn't want to risk it, so he blocked the mana flow from entering or leaving his shadow.

'This will take longer, but it should be the safest way. I can use the mana I already have in my core to cultivate my body; when I run out, I leave and absorb some normal mana, taint it again and return to my shadow realm.' Lloyd thought.

Closing his eyes again, Lloyd circulated his void mana throughout his body until he was done with it.

However, there was a problem. He didn't know whether it was due to the fact that he had really advanced mana vessels to circulate the mana around his body, or the fact that void mana was used a lot faster than normal mana. Still, he could feel his body siphoning his mana away in less than 30 minutes.

When Lloyd was finally done with the amount of mana he had left that wasn't powering his [Shadow movement] ability, he simply looked into the abyss before furrowing his brows.

He had gotten two forms of mana cultivation. Body and core were the two options, but he didn't understand how it would work later on. He'd be forced to create his first seals in the second commandment, but he didn't understand how exactly he was supposed to do so.

Would he need 10 topaz seals on both his core and his body to reach the amethyst seal, or did he just have to have 10 in total like everyone else? And when he reached the third commandment, you usually solidify your choice of cultivation by either entering the third commandment by creating an iron body, or an iron core.

What were his advantages over others? Or has he already found his advantages over others? People with body cultivation usually pursued a martial art or a martial style directed toward their elemental affinities, like an elemental monk or a magic swordsman.

They use their bodies to conjure their abilities, techniques, and skills. A mage would manipulate the elements around them to create a spell or activate an ability. However, while they both have their advantages, they are usually about equal in power since one is much better at long-range explosive high, powered battles, and the other is really good at close combat.

Lloyd left his shadow for a few minutes to replenish his mana reserves before diving in again to do the same. Still, he knew such a method wouldn't hold up for long, especially not after he reaches the second commandment since his void walker attributes should only increase the stronger he gets.

The only way for him to properly cultivate was to either kill something, or to get it straight from the source.

'I haven't had a void walk in a while, huh...' Lloyd thought while going up for mana again. He repeated this cycle a few more times until he saw the sun finally come up, and since it was a Saturday now, his roommate only woke up at about 10am.

"Can't believe you're already awake... Again. It's the weekend. Can't you chill a little?" Jay asked with a sigh.

"I'm trying to catch up to you, monsters. At the rate you're going at, Jay, I don't even think we're gonna be in the same class next term." Lloyd replied, not bothering to open his eyes.

He was replenishing the mana he had used in the shadow realm. While it would have been considered a long task that could possibly take another half an hour at complete concentration, for Lloyd, it barely took him a couple of minutes due to the sheer absurd amount of mana channels he had in his body.

"You want to go out for breakfast. Me and some of my friends from class are going to go and eat." Jay offered.

"Nah, I'm good." Lloyd replied, yet this time Jay wasn't going to have no for an answer.

Throughout the entire week, people of all social classes have been either trying to butter him up or beat his ass. Due to his good looks, all the women from powerful families have been trying to get with him, while all the guys have been either trying to beat him up or join his friend's circle.

However, when it came to Lloyd, he was one of the very few exceptions. He didn't butter up to Jay due to his Dreamweaver class despite being his roommate, and he didn't treat him any different from how he would treat other people.

Hell, both of them weren't even technically friends since Lloyd never bothered to talk to Jay outside of their dorms. Seeing this, Jay felt the need to change the situation, which was why he walked up to Lloyd, grabbed him by the back of his collar, and dragged him to the canteen with him.

It was a little awkward since they weren't close enough for Jay to do such a thing, but since Lloyd hadn't eaten anything in a week, he didn't mind eating. Plus, this way, he didn't have to use his legs to get to the canteen since Jay dragged him around.

"You know you can use your legs now, right?" Jay asked.

"Eh... Its a lot more convenient to have you drag me around everywhere." Lloyd shrugged, causing Jay to sigh in annoyance.

Lloyd finally decided to stand when they got to the vending machine.

Jay quickly tapped the screen a few times to choose his food option before getting his food on a tray and stepping back. When Lloyd looked at his food option, he could not help but widen his eyes at the fact that the food was free, or at least the recommended amount was. If anyone wanted more food or less healthy options, they would have to pay using military points, something no one in the first year of the academy had.

Lloyd quickly got whatever tasted the nicest before following Jay to his table and sitting down, not bothering to look at the rest of the people on the table who were staring at him weirdly.

"Why is this bastard sitting with us." A girl with dull golden eyes and black hair complained, her voice oozing with annoyance.

"Luna is right. Why did you bring this commoner here!?" A girl with blonde hair and fiery eyes asked out of anger rather than annoyance.

"Haley, be nice." A boy with dark brown hair and a muscular build tried to calm the blonde girl down.

"Don't tell me to calm down, Beliar! I am calm. I just don't like it when commoners try to mingle with us." She harrumphed.

"You know I'm from a lower-middle class family, right?" Beliar asked while scratching the back of his neck.

"Still not a commoner." She spoke, yet this time her voice was a little quieter.

'Are they dating?' Lloyd asked himself while looking between the blonde-haired girl and the dark brown-haired boy.

While Lloyd didn't want to bother looking up, when he heard several familiar voices, his curiosity got the better of him.

On the table sat 5 of the final 6 students who fought against their instructor Rachel Kim, including him.

"Lloyd is my roommate. I brought him along since this guy never leaves his room..." Jay narrowed his eyes at Lloyd with a mix of pity and disappointment.

"When was the last time you touched grass bro?" Jay asked.

"I'm not sure. Maybe three weeks?" Lloyd answered while putting a piece of omelet in his mouth.

It tasted really good, but Lloyd missed the good old days when he could feel full or at least digest food properly instead of disintegrating it the moment it went through his through.

"It was more of a... Nevermind." Jay sighed.

Lloyd continued to eat his breakfast in silence while thinking about random things, from the color of his hands to how he was going to get void energy to cultivate his core.

'Maybe I can taint the mana with void energy and circulate it around my core for a bit until I can finally kill something?' Lloyd thought, but quickly threw the idea away.

The core was a delicate thing that should not be damaged no matter what. While he was a void walker, and his core was quite different from others due to its location and mana channels, it was still a core, and he was unwilling to risk it.

The rest of the people at the table talked about random things, but they all had their 'thing,' per se. Haley was loud and angry at everyone but Beliar, who she seemed to be flirting with, Beliar was always humble and nice, but he clearly had another side to him when he fought, which became more than evident when he remembered back to him fighting against their instructor.

Jay was neutral regarding many things, but he was clearly the life of the table, while Luna felt like the most normal out of them despite her frequent monotone voice and emotionless polite smiles.

Lloyd didn't mind this. He spoke occasionally but was always shut down by either Luna or Haley, who both seemed to have something against him.

Yet, the harmony quickly broke when he heard a familiar voice call for his name.

"Lloyd?"

Looking around, Lloyd saw a petite bronze-skinned girl with black hair and brown eyes looking at him with a wry grin on her face.

"Fatima?"