

## W. Secret 151

### Chapter 151: Attack!

As the Spell Casters gradually left the Dark Magic Region, the Dark Magic Region that was usually lively looked a little empty.

However, It was the same in Wizard Leo's tower after Numerous Spell Casters had left. . Merlin initially thought of constructing a First-level spell, but he eventually changed his mind due to a shortage of time as constructing it would take up to one or two days.

The Dark Magic Region was not a place for him to linger for long. It would be better for him to leave and move to another place as soon as possible, and only then should he attempt to construct a First-level spell.

Merlin bumped into Elena when he was leaving Wizard Leo's tower. It seemed like she had been waiting for Merlin on purpose.

"Wizard Merlin."

Elena stepped forward to Merlin looking slightly hesitant.

"Wizard Elena, is something wrong?"

Merlin knitted his brows together as he pondered about what went wrong. It was unlike Elena to be so hesitant in speaking.

Elena suddenly lifted her head looking as if she had made up her mind. Then, she asked in a low voice, "Wizard Merlin, if you have the opportunity to become a First-level Spell Caster in the future, will you consider making me your attendant?"

"Um..."

Merlin appeared confused. Why did Elena and Laurinka both believe that Merlin would one day become a First-level Spell Caster? Or perhaps, they had run out of options?

No matter what was the reason, it was definite that Merlin could never satisfy Elena's request. Hence, he shook his head and said, "Wizard Elena, I have an attendant. It's Wizard Laurinka who was sent out of the Dark Magic Region earlier."

Merlin had nothing to hide about Laurinka. However, a look of disappointment washed over Elena's face when she heard the name. she then shook her head and replied, "Wizard Laurinka made her move quick... Well, there's nothing much I can do now since Wizard Merlin already has an attendant. I'm afraid we'll have to be outside for a long time once we leave the Dark Magic Region. If Wizard Merlin's ever in the Floating City, don't forget to drop by the Delman Family and look for me!"

Merlin nodded and realized that Elena was showing her good intentions.

The both of them continued to chat for a short while before Elena left the Wizard Tower with several other Spell Casters.

Merlin glanced around the surroundings of the Wizard Tower and saw numerous Spell Casters moving in a hurry. Although the Dark Magic Region had announced that there were three days for preparation, almost half of the Spell Casters had already taken their leave on the first day.

Merlin did not linger either. In fact, He was headed for that massive Runic Magic Circle cast in the middle of the Dark Magic Region, because the only way to leave the Dark Magic Region was to be transported through these Runic Magic Circles.

Although Merlin had long figured out which Runic Magic Circle to select-, There was actually no Runic Magic Circle that could transport one directly from the Dark Magic Region to anywhere in the Prakash City State. Even the Runic Magic Circle in the Kurdish Mountains only allowed one-way entrance into the Dark Magic Region.

The closest transfer point to the Prakash City was near a small town called Ditas.

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Two silhouettes stood quietly among the red maple forest. One of them was dressed in a peculiar way — a long black robe with a large cloak that shaded almost his entire face.

“Neil, you better have some quality goods for me this time, seeing that you called me out in such a hurry. Don’t make me rush here for nothing like the last time.”

The man in black cloak said indifferently.

The figure that stood right next to the man in the black cloak was, surprisingly, Wizard Neil from the Dark Magic Region.

Wizard Neil sneered. “Heh, Vyksa, you still don’t trust me? You couldn’t have advanced to a First-level Spell Caster this quickly if we didn’t partner up to kill so many Spell Casters in the Dark Magic Region. Listen to me, I’m sure I’ll make you a huge profit this time.”

The Wizard in black cloak thought about it for a moment before he asked, “Neil, you wrote to me saying there’s a Six-Elemental Spell Caster. You must be kidding me, a Six-Elemental Spell Caster in the Dark Magic Region?”

The expression on Wizard Neil’s face twisted as he said in a low voice, “Have I ever lied to you? This Six-Elemental Spell Caster, hehe, would you believe me if I told you he was only a roaming wizard a year ago? Heh, I’ve already inquired about him. He’s from the Prakash City, so he’s definitely coming here through the Runic Magic Circle in the Dark Magic Region. Kill him, and we might be able to gain some unexpected results.”

The wizard in the black cloak did not reply. Instead, he turned his gaze toward a barely noticeable space within the maple forest.

“Buzz, buzz, buzz.”

All of a sudden, mysterious runes began to flash and a silhouette instantly appeared in the maple forest.

“Here he comes!”

Wizard Neil’s eyes immediately lit up with a glimmer of enthusiasm.

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“Swoosh.”

Merlin appeared out of the Runic Magic Circle. Although this was also a long-distance transportation, Merlin did not feel any discomfort.

“This should be the maple forest outside of Ditas Town?”

Merlin’s mood turned better as he looked around the red maple trees covering the hills, almost as if the hill has been set aflame. This was his first time seeing such breathtaking scenery.

“Hmm?”

Suddenly, Merlin noticed two figures in the distance and one of them was Wizard Neil.

Merlin still remembered the other day in Resource Tower when Wizard Ryllis relayed to him a message from Wizard Holmes, reminding him to beware of Wizard Neil. Yet, he did not expect to meet Wizard Neil here.

Merlin was not bothered by Wizard Neil, but he could sense a dangerous feeling coming from the man who stood beside him — the one dressed in a black robe cloak.

“Wizard Merlin, what a coincidence! You’ve just left the Dark Magic Region as well? I just arrived here and was getting ready to leave with Wizard Vyksa.”

Although There was nothing strange with Wizard Neil, he appeared unusually ‘surprised’ and ‘enthusiastic’ as he swiftly walked toward Merlin.

“Oh, it’s you, Wizard Neil. what a coincidence indeed!”

Merlin revealed a smile on his face, even though he tried to appear calm as he, too, fastened his pace and walked toward Wizard Neil.

A faint brilliance flashed across Wizard Neil's eyes. Then, as if he was pressed for time, he quickened his pace even more.

"Ten meters, eight meters, five meters, three meters..."

The smile still hung on Merlin's face, but he was silently counting the distance and waited until he was only three meters away from Wizard Neil.

"Attack!"

Without warning, Merlin waved his hand in the air.

"Dark Mist!"

Dark Mist's Spell Model was suddenly triggered by Mind Power, and a group of mist surrounded Wizard Neil and the cloaked man.

Merlin currently could not cast a strengthened version of the Dark Mist as he had not cast it for three times yet. However, the normal Dark Mist was enough for Wizard Neil to fall into the illusion.

"Thunderbolt Net!"

A massive Thunderbolt Net fell from the sky instantaneously, covering Wizard Neil and the man in the black cloak completely.

Apart from Thunderbolt Net, dozens of Fireballs appeared in front of Merlin within seconds. Among them were several Large Fireballs.

"Go!"

Merlin pointed and dozens of scorching Fireballs immediately flew into the Dark Mist.

"Whoosh."

Suddenly, a loud noise sounded in the air. Merlin immediately felt a strong threat as his Mind Power picked up the violent fluctuations of Wind Elements. Soon, an arrow came flying toward Merlin's direction.

Merlin instantaneously recognized this spell. It was the First-level Wind-type Bright Wind that was extremely powerful. Merlin had previously encountered it when he fought against Wizard Loan in the conference.

“Earth Guard!”

Wind Elements also appeared around Merlin's body. Then, He quickly cast Gale and Earth Guard and raised a sturdy protective wall around him.

However, the Bright Wind was released by the man in the black cloak, which explained why he was not affected by the Dark Mist. Instead, his Mind Power was so strong that it tore through the Dark Mist, located Merlin, and threw out a spell.

“Boom.”

This was the sound of the explosion made by Merlin's Fireballs. As Scorching flames scattered all around, Tongues of fire ignited the dry maple leaves on the ground. For a second, the flames rose toward the sky, as if it was trying to burn down the entire maple forest.

“Bang.”

Bright Wind also landed violently on the wall in front of Merlin, but without mercy, he broke it down completely before it started shooting toward Merlin. Fortunately, Merlin was well-prepared — he knew that dealing with First-level spell was not an easy task. After He cast several Earth Guards continuously, a strengthened version of Earth Guard was finally cast to fend off Bright Wind.

After that, both Merlin and the black-robed cloaked man that was trapped in the Dark Mist did not cast any more spells. Merlin just kept his eyes forward cautiously. When the Dark Mist eventually dissipated and the flames died down, a figure appeared from within.

This figure belonged to that man in the black robe cloak. Yet, there was no sign of obvious injuries on his body. Evidently, neither Dark Mist or Large Fireball that Merlin casted had any effect on the cloaked man.

However, Wizard Neil was not blessed by the same fate. He had fallen into illusion the moment Merlin enveloped him using the Dark Mist and was killed brutally by the great explosion created by dozens of Fireballs. The flames had burned his corpse beyond recognition.

All Merlin did was glance calmly at Wizard Neil's dead body before he focused his gaze forward at the man in the black-robed cloak. The other party who was invited by Wizard Neil was able to cast Bright Wind effortlessly. This meant that Wizard Neil had confidence in this cloaked man, and there was a high chance that he was a First-level Spell Caster.

"Poor Neil, he's such an idiot!"

The cloaked man said slowly in a calm voice.

"Frost!"

"Bright Wind!"

The both of them exchanged glances. Violent fluctuation of Elements sparkled on their bodies before they cast their spells simultaneously. In an instant, Ice-type spell and Wind-type spell blotted out the sky and covered up the earth.

Chapter 152: Two Sides of the Same Coin

Merlin cast Frost, which was incredibly powerful when fused with Large Frost. It was unbelievably close to reaching a First-level spell, and considering his strong Magic Power, the spell could be released continuously without fail.

The cloaked man's Bright Wind was also very impressive. As one after another struck, Merlin would have to build up even more Magic Power to prop up an Earth Guard, or else he would not be able to resist any longer.

"Dark Mist!"

This time, Merlin cast a strengthened form of Dark Mist. Despite possessing nearly peak Second-level Mind Power, even the silver-haired old man felt a slight blow from it.

This gave Merlin confidence in his spell.

However, as he released the strengthened form of Dark Mist and allowed it to surround the cloaked man, a strong force of Mind Power came rushing from the sky towards Merlin.

Upon experiencing such Mind Power, Merlin's expression changed slightly. Such strong Mind Power seemed even more terrifying than that of the silver-haired old man, it was almost to the extent of a Third-level Spell Caster.

The strengthened form of Dark Mist might have dealt some damage to a Spell Caster with Second-level peak Mind Power. However if it was with a Third-level Spell Caster, his spell would simply have no effect.

“Thunderbolt Net!”

Since the strengthened form of Dark Mist was useless, Merlin could only put up a hard fight. He immediately cast a strengthened form of Thunderbolt Net.

In an instant, the sky was filled with massive thunders and lightning. As the ground was filled with ice crystals, and a cold breeze filled the air, the spell quickly attacked the cloaked man.

“Earth Wall!”

Earth-element quickly formed on the cloaked man's body. His Earth-element was much stronger than Merlin's strengthened form of Earth Guard. Since Thunderbolt Net was only effective on the surface, it only made the cloaked man shift slightly.

Only Large Frost was able to freeze the entirety of it, but just as Merlin was about to bombard him with Fireball, the cloaked man propped up an Earth Wall once more.



As a result, Merlin felt quite helpless. He had no way of defeating the cloaked man, as the cloaked man had only cast Wind-type and Earth-type spells, there were more spells that he had not conjured yet. In that moment, Merlin knew he had to stay alert.

“Raining Flame!”

Suddenly, the cloaked man cast another spell. Rich Fire-elements emerged from his body, and the skies turned a fiery red color. Droplets of blaze came falling from the sky like rain forcing Merlin to take cover.

Merlin was alert from the start and quickly cast a new spell, and as expected, his opponent had conjured a wide-range attack. However Merlin was ready this time. As soon as the cloaked man had launched his attack, Wind-element emerged from Merlin’s body in a wave-like motion.

“Gale!”

Merlin’s silhouette stepped back in a flash, escaping the area that was being attacked by Raining Flame.

“Huh? How can you be a Six-Elemental Spell Caster and still try to escape? Ice Trap!”

The cloaked man sneered and once again cast an Ice-type and Binding spell. It was clear, the cloaked man was a powerful First-level Four-Elemental Spell Caster.

Merlin was slightly frightened. He had depended on his Magic Power, it was not often that he could be restrained by an opponent’s spell. If only the cloaked man had not cast Ice Trap, Merlin would still have a chance to slowly maintain his dominance and eventually kill him.

However, the opponent was a Four-Elemental Spell Caster and a First-level Wizard. As Dark Mist was no use at this point, Merlin had only one option left, he had to defend himself and put up a hard fight.

“Earth Guard!”

Merlin quickly conjured the Earth-type Defensive spell. The opponent's Ice Trap and Bright Wind continued to attack, which forced Merlin to conjure a strengthened form of Earth Guard after every three common spells, leaving him depleted of Magic Power.

Luckily, Merlin had used elemental crystal stones earlier, this allowed him to accumulate Magic Power from every Zero-level spell as each one gave the ability to cast sixty or seventy spells. If The Matrix had not rebuilt the Spell Model, it was simply impossible for it to expand to store such a powerful accumulation.

Merlin's plan was to out maneuver the cloaked man till he expended his Magic Power.

As he continued to defend himself, Merlin kept up his furious attacks with Fireball, Frost and Thunderbolt Net. With vigorous Magic Power and innumerable successions of various attacks, the cloaked man went into a fury. He raised an Earth Guard once more, using up a great deal of his Magic Power.

Both were now caught up in an awkward predicament where they both had used up too much of their energy!

At Merlin's current strength, to defeat a similar First-level Spell Caster was not a problem. However, the opponent was a First-level Spell Caster, with powerful and a rather large reservoir of Magic Power. His various spells were cast fluently with incredible Mind Power. As Dark Mist was useless, Merlin felt that he no longer stood a chance, but kept putting up a hard fight.

The cloaked man was also getting angry. Once he received news from Wizard Neil, he rushed over. However, Wizard Neil failed to inform him of Merlin's strength. He had only mentioned that he was a Six-Elemental Spell Caster.

Who would have known that this Six-Elemental Spell Caster would be this terrifying? He had noticed that Merlin's most impressive spell was Dark Mist. If it were not for his Mind Power and experiences, he could be compared to a Third-level Spell Caster. However, if he had been drawn into the illusion created by Merlin's Dark Mist, he feared it would be a grim outlook

The cloaked man was furious at Wizard Neil. There was no way for him to escape. He could only hold his ground in hopes that Merlin would soon waste away his Magic Power. However, it had been half an hour and Merlin still had Magic Power. The cloaked man could not hold him off for much longer.

Suddenly, the cloaked man ceased casting his Raining Flame. From the looks of it, it would appear that his Magic Power was almost exhausted from fueling Raining Flame . At the same time because Merlin was continuously casting Fireball and Frost, he was also running low on Magic Power. He was firing off a dozen or so of Fireball or Frost in order for it be enough to break the cloaked man's Earth Wall.

Thus, Merlin abruptly ceased his Fireball and Frost attacks as well. He could only continue to cast Thunderbolt Net and maintain his Defensive spell, Earth Guard.

Another half an hour passed, both of the caster's faces was turning pale when suddenly, the cloaked man removed his hood and revealed his true face.

The man was about 30 years of age with fair skin. However, on the left side of his face bore a big scar. It was terrifying to look at, it was no wonder why he wore a cloak.

Merlin was already used to seeing Wizard Pario's terrifying looks. Compared to the cloaked man's looks, it was not a bother to him. It did make him curious, what was the cloaked man up to.

The cloaked man looked at Merlin. He was on his guard and kept his Earth Wall propped up as he said to Merlin, "Wizard Merlin, I am Vyksa. I was tricked by Wizard Neil and that was why I came to kill you. However, Wizard Neil is now dead. You and I cannot deal with each other. Why don't we give up and stop casting any more spells? Let us walk away from this fight. What do you say?"

By this point, Merlin was only putting up a strong front,. His biggest advantage, Dark Mist, had already been rendered useless against his powerful opponent who had Third-level Mind Power. That was how he had gotten into that Magic Power showdown with the cloaked man.

Even though he wanted to call it a day, he knew he could not trust the cloaked man as he looked towards Wizard Neil's burnt body, he laughed coldly and said, "Wizard Vyksa, it would seem you were rather familiar with Wizard Neil just a while ago. What a terrifying thing to happen, but this isn't the first time, is it?"

The cloaked man looked at Wizard Neil's corpse and grudgingly shook his head, "You're right. I used to be a roaming wizard when I met Wizard Neil. He had been looking for me, he told me that there was a quick method where I could get my hands on all types of potion materials and Spell Models. Hehe, you would have guessed by now. Wizard Neil's plan was to kill the Spell Casters that worked in the Dark Magic Region.

Merlin's heart sank. As expected, Wizard Neil had teamed up with roaming wizards to assassinate the Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region. With him in the Dark Magic Region, he could get a better understanding of the Spell Casters and ambush them when it was least expected. His plan would have had great success rates.

This time, Wizard Neil was planning to use the old trick to kill Merlin. That was why he picked the location and even called upon a much stronger wizard, Wizard Vyksa. If Wizard Ryllis had not reminded Merlin which allowed him to be prepared, things would have taken a turn for the worse.

As Merlin's expression grew gloomy, the cloaked man said, "Wizard Merlin, we don't have to fight to the death. You are a Six-Elemental Spell Caster with a promising future. As for me, I have already built up Four-Elemental spells and was just successfully promoted to First-level Spell Caster, with hopes of one day becoming even a Second or Third-level Spell Caster. If we die here, it won't be worth it. What do you say?"

With that, the cloaked man ceased casting his Ice Trap. He had no more Magic Power to complete the Spell Model for Ice Trap. He and Merlin alike, had no more Magic Power for a Wind-type, Fire-type nor Ice-type spells. He still had Earth Wall up, but even that seemed as if it would not last for much longer.

Merlin was in the same predicament. With the exception of Dark Mist, Gale and Earth Guard, he had no Magic Power left. Even with an Earth Guard, he barely had much Magic Power left.

As for Dark Mist, it had no effect against the cloaked man who had Third-level Mind Power and Gale was not an Offensive spell. Merlin had but one choice.

"Fine, let us cease our spells and take three steps back!"

Merlin agreed with the cloaked man's proposition and began to tear down his Earth Guard as the cloaked man did the same with Earth Wall. However, they both knew clearly, that even if they had not removed their defenses, their Magic Power would run dry with no way to cast another spell.

However as Merlin stepped back, another elemental crystal stone appeared in his hand. It was one he had hidden under his ring. He slyly took it out and used it to restore some Magic Power.

"Wizard Merlin, I hope you are still keeping your promise. Remove the elemental crystal stone from your hand."

The cloaked man said quickly with a deepened voice.

Merlin replied with a slight chuckle, “Wizard Vyksa, I should say the same to you as well. Let us not play these silly games and keep that elemental crystal stone away.”

It was apparent that as they both stepped back, they each took out elemental crystal stones sneakily to restore their Magic Power.

Both wizards chuckled lightly, feeling as if they were simply two sides of the same coin and placed their elemental crystal stones away.

“One, two, three steps! Alright, let us now slowly turn our bodies!”

The cloaked man stared blankly as he said with a deepened voice. Both men were on high alert as they gradually turned away from each other.

“Swish!”

Suddenly, both wizards turned back sharply. There was a hint of madness across their fa

Chapter 153: Tramp

“Die!”

No one knew when a greatsword had appeared in Merlin’s hand. Although he had depleted his Magic Power, his physique was comparable to a Third-level Elemental Swordsman at their peak, a little more and he would be comparable to the level of a Fourth-level Elemental Swordsman.

With such great physical attributes, he threw the greatsword with all his might. The speed the sword was flung was like a flash of white light across a vacuum, emitting a burst of swooshing sounds.

The cloaked man had the same idea as Merlin. As he turned around suddenly, he held a well-crafted black arbalest in his hand. With a quick release of the trigger, a black bolt shot toward Merlin in an instant.

The cloaked man was a roaming Wizard and therefore it was natural for him to have numerous survival methods. The bolts he carried around were simply a safety measure. After all, he did not come from a wealthy background like the Spell Casters in the Spell Caster organizations who could afford to have powerful casting tools, so he could only bring with him bolts and other tools for defense.

No matter the bolt or Merlin's greatsword, both were hurled at extremely fast speeds. As both wizards had exhausted their Magic Power, they were unable to cast Defensive spells.

"Swish!"

Merlin's greatsword punctured the cloaked man's midriff, the force of the impact hurled the cloaked man a good distance backwards before he landed heavily on the ground. His expression contorted as dissatisfaction filled his eyes, he struggled for a while before finally succumbing to his injury.

As for the cloaked man's black bolt, it was heading towards Merlin at a high speed. Merlin's Earth Guard no longer had any Magic Power – all he could do was cast "Gale" to divert himself to one side as quick as possible.

Still, he was unable to escape the black bolt, which sank into his calf. Immediately, Merlin felt a violent pain, followed instantly by total numbness.

"Damn the bolt was coated with deadly toxins!"

Merlin was startled – he did not think that the cloaked man's bolt would be laced with deadly toxins. The man must have prepared a Toxic Potion and smeared it on the bolt. Once it hit its target, even an Elemental Swordsman with a great physique would be killed at once.

Merlin sat down immediately and tore away the cloth at his leg. Where the bolt had pierced him, he could see his flesh rotting away at a visible speed, revealing the bone in a horrifying manner.

"It's a Corroding Potion!"

At once, Merlin recalled the details of highly toxic potion. If one came into contact with this potion, it would flow along the bloodstream and quickly eat into the flesh, corroding it straightaway. It was frightening indeed.

Without hesitation, Merlin drew a sharp dagger from his ring and directed a vicious swipe at the flesh of his calf.

“Pshhh.”

With the slash, a large part of the flesh was cut away. Naturally, ordinary people would not be able to withstand pain such as this, not even if one had astonishing willpower. However, Merlin had a strong Mind Power and could turn down the pain to its lowest. Only this allowed him to endure the pain of “flesh-cutting”.

This was real flesh-cutting, and it must be done quickly without the least bit of hesitation.

As Merlin continued to slash away at his thigh, almost half of the flesh on his thigh was sliced off. Most of the Corroding Potion had been cut away, but there remained a small amount that had invaded other parts of the body.

There was no way around this. It was impossible to get rid of the potion completely in such a short time, hence Merlin quickly took out some potions – amongst them was the Coagulation Potion, which could stop the bleeding, as well as a few simple Licorice Potions.

These Licorice Potions could neutralize a few common poisons. Although they might not eliminate the Corroding Poison in his body entirely, they could inhibit it somewhat; when there was time, Merlin would then prepare some other potions to clear the Corroding Potion from his body completely.

The Coagulation Potion was very effective but because he had lost too much blood, add with the fierce combat from before, Merlin now seemed to be exhausted. He glanced at the corpse of Wizard Vyksa and shook his head helplessly.

“It was really dangerous this time! Between Zero-level and First-level spells, there is still a disparity; particularly, when Dark Mist is of no use, this disparity is even more obvious...”

Merlin mumbled softly as he leaned against the large tree. Quietly, he recalled the battle just now – it was very dangerous indeed. If his attention had slipped for a moment, it would have been him who was lying on the ground now.

After resting for a while, Merlin felt some of his strength returning. He still could not move properly, so he could only crawl towards Vyksa's corpse and removed the ring from his finger.

Wizard Neil's ring was also taken by Merlin, after which Merlin checked the contents of both rings. Inside the ring of Wizard Neil were various potion materials, elemental crystal stones, and even some First-level spells – it must be a First-level spell he was getting ready to create.

Now that Merlin had it, it was considered a substantial amount of riches.

The contents of Wizard Vyksa's ring were even more surprising. As a formidable roaming Wizard, Vyksa had killed an indefinite amount of Spell Casters, thus obtaining numerous peculiar items from them.

“A potion formula? Not just any potion formula, it's a formula for Mind Power!”

Merlin was pleasantly surprised by this. He had discovered a rare potion formula for Mind Power in Wizard Vyksa's ring. No wonder Vyksa's Mind Power was so strong, reaching the standard of Third-level Spell Casters. Even the strengthened version of Merlin's Dark Mist was useless against Wizard Vyksa.

It seemed that Wizard Vyksa's Mind Power was largely linked to this potion formula.

This potion was called Blueberry Potion; its main ingredient was blueberries. Even though this sort of blueberry was highly prized, Merlin had seen them in the Resource Tower. When he returned to the Dark Magic Region, he could head straight for the Resource Tower to trade for them.

Compared to Magic Potion, the potion materials for this Blueberry Potion were much easier to find. There were even some blueberries stored in Wizard Vyksa's ring – enough to prepare a few batches of Blueberry Potion.

After ransacking the bodies of Wizard Vyksa and Wizard Neil, Merlin used the little bit of Magic Power he had recovered to cast two Fireballs, which fell quickly onto the corpses of Vyksa and Neil. The flames burned violently, consuming the two corpses in a moment.



Merlin lowered his head to glance at his thigh, shaking his head helplessly. He was now powerless to leave this place and could only wait in this maple forest for his injuries to heal a little before he could leave.

Therefore, Merlin leaned on a huge tree and took out the elemental crystal stones, and began to gradually replenish his exhausted Magic Power in the Spell Model of his Awareness...

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On the wide road, about a dozen carriages slowly appeared. The carriages were not moving at a fast pace and there were some knights in armor beside the carriages, vigilantly watching the surroundings.

“Look, the maple leaves are so pretty.”

A young girl of about fifteen or sixteen parted the curtains, and upon seeing the stretch of maple trees before her, cried out in surprise.

The girl was tall and willowy, her hair tied in two braids behind her head. She was wearing riding boots on both of her long legs, which displayed the slim beauty of her legs as much as possible.

“That’s right, we’ve been out for a few months. I didn’t think the maple leaves would have turned red by the time we return. Ditas Town is right in front. We’ll rest in that town tonight, and continue on our way tomorrow. We’ll reach Sunland City as soon as possible!”

The one who spoke was a middle-aged man of over forty. He was also riding in the carriage. He was looking at the stretch of red maple forest outside as he spoke ruefully.

“Father, let’s go out to look at the leaves.”

Looking at the forest of red maple leaves outside, the young woman could not hold back her excitement and beseeched the middle-aged man.

Before the middle-aged man could say anything, the lady inside the carriage immediately rebuked, “No, Emma, it’s too dangerous outside. How many robbers have we met throughout our journey? It’s safer to hurry back to Sunland City as soon as we can.”

“Mother, it’s not too far from Ditas Town here. How can there be robbers? We’ll just go down for a moment and then leave immediately.”

The young woman pouted her lips as she begged.

The middle-aged man muttered to himself for a while and nodded. “We’ll let Emma head down for a look. It’s rare to see such a magnificent maple forest. Ditas is not far ahead so the robbers wouldn’t be so bold. Besides, we still have our bodyguards, so there shouldn’t be much danger.”

Seeing that the man had agreed, the girl appeared very excited. She quickly leaped down from the carriage.

Looking at the joyful girl, the middle-aged man said to the lady, “Come on, let’s go down and take a look as well.”

With that, he descended from the carriage with the lady, and the entire convoy also stopped. The guards that were decked out in armor relaxed visibly as well. Throughout their escort of the convoy, this was the place with the least danger – once they entered Ditas Town, their journey would be completed safely.

The stretch of red-leaved maple trees looked like the expanse of a red sea. It was soothing to the onlookers and it made them feel at ease.

However, in a short moment, a guard surreptitiously came in front of the middle-aged man, and said in a low voice, “Mr. Chablis, we’ve discovered a tramp in the maple forest.”

“A tramp?”

The man looked towards where the guard was pointing and saw that under a large tree far away was a tramp with dirty clothes, messy hair, and a hidden face.

“Ditas town is just right ahead, so why is this tramp here?”

The middle-aged man had the special vigilance of a merchant, which made him afraid of staying any longer. Therefore, he said in a low voice, “Alright, Emma, you’ve seen enough. We should hurry on our way!”

The man stared at the tramp under that faraway tree, then did not take notice of him anymore. He had let the guard retrieve the young Emma and prepared to hasten on with their journey.

Suddenly, a group of horsemen with fiendish expressions burst out from the depths of the maple forest. As these horsemen appeared, they let out a strange cry and surrounded the entire fleet.

“Oh no, it’s the robbers!”

The guard’s face changed instantly, as he loudly ordered the guards to begin fighting. However, these robbers were unusually vicious and there were a great number of them – almost three to four hundred of them. As the robbers swarmed upon them, the guards were no match at all.

Very quickly, the hundred or so guards were completely slaughtered. Three men who seemed to be the leaders of this gang of robbers approached the middle-aged man. One of them gave a cold smirk. “After robbing for so many days, there’s only such a small convoy. Well, it’s your bad luck. Kill all men, capture the women, and carry back the stuff!”

The chief of robbers barked the order cruelly. In an instant, the robbers became excited and began to massacre the unarmed, ordinary people.

Young Emma and the lady were trembling as they hid behind the middle-aged man. As for the middle-aged man, his face was one of utter despair.

“Great chief, there’s also a tramp in the maple forest.”

A robber suddenly spoke into the great chief’s ear.

“A tramp? Just kill him! Bring two others with you and kill him. Do you need my permission for such a small matter?”

The great chief also noticed the tramp leaning against a large tree in the maple forest a distance away as he spoke discontentedly.

A few robbers immediately turned around and sped towards the maple forest.

Chapter 154: Dire Situation

“Hehe, Eighth Commander. I think there are quite a few nice ones in this team. Tsk tsk. If you’re tired of them, could you give them to us to have a go at as well?”

A pockmarked man asked flatteringly. Three bandits rode on their horses and sprinted toward the maple forest rapidly.

“Pockmarked, if you’ve completed your duty as instructed, the Big Boss will definitely reward you! Quickly kill this tramp and report to the Big Boss.”

The Eighth Commander replied rather impatiently.

The bandits then raised their swords and flashed a cruel smile. They charged at the tramp who was leaning against the tree.

Suddenly, the still tramp raised his head in a sudden motion. When he stared at these three cruel-looking bandits, he did not reveal even a hint of panic.

“Ka-chak!”

Three bandits roared in laughter as they charged at the man. However, in an instant, a gust of chill air encompassed them. Then, the bandits were frozen into crystals together with their horses – resembling living ice statues.

“Bang! Bang! Bang!”

Three heavy thuds were heard. As the three of them charged at him too quickly, the inertia caused them to fall to the ground, breaking into a million pieces after they were frozen into statues.

There were broken limbs amongst the crystal pieces. However, there was not a single drop of blood on the ground and not even the smell of blood was in the air. It was exactly this scene that sent a chill down people's spine!

Then, the tramp's eyes were set on the gang of bandits further away from him.

...

"Great... Big Boss, something happened!"

The Big Boss' gaze fell on the beautiful maiden, Emma. At this moment, he heard the panic-stricken voice of a bandit behind him.

"What happened that made you so panic?"

The Big Boss scolded the bandit behind him loudly with a dark expression.

The bandit appeared pale as he replied with a shaky voice, "The Eighth Commander is dead... Also..."

"Also what?"

A light flashed across Big Boss' eyes as he shot a glare at the bandit.

"Moreover, his death is horrible! Big Boss, I think you should see for yourself..."

The bandit's teeth seemed to be trembling. As he recalled the scene he had just witnessed, he was immediately overcome with unspeakable fear.

"Hmph, bring me there!"

The Big Boss took a deep glance at the people of the fleet of carriages. He ordered his men to keep an eye on them. Then, he brought a gang of bandits and went straight toward the maple forest.

Soon, the Big Boss arrived at the maple forest and saw the crystals, which encompassed of broken limbs on the ground. Even if they were cruel, the scene before them still sent a chill down their spine. Their gaze was locked on the tramp who was under the tree with a hint of fear crawling onto their face.

“Damn it. It’s you?”

The Big Boss had a dark expression. Even though he did not understand why the Eighth Commander had become the way he was now, the Big Boss was known to be ferocious. He immediately shot his glance toward the tramp where fury flashed in his eyes.

“Kill this tramp right now!”

The bandits rushed out from the Big Boss’ back, riding horses and bearing a sword in their hands while sprinting toward the tramp under the tree.

“Phew...”

Suddenly, a pitch-black mist appeared out of nowhere and engulfed most of the bandits. Then, thunder began to flash in the mist.

“It’s a Spell Caster. It’s the mysterious Spell Caster! Run quickly!”

Upon seeing the strange scene, the bandits who were not engulfed in the mist immediately screamed and retreated frantically. Even the bandits who were keeping an eye on the carriages had noticed the huge commotion and ran away as if their lives were at stake.

There might not be many who had seen a Spell Caster, but most knew about the mystery and strength of a Spell Caster. After noticing that the tramp was actually a mysterious yet strong Spell Caster, naturally, these bandits did not want to stay any longer and scurried away in fear.

As compared to the bandits who ran away, the bandits who were encompassed in the mist were not that lucky. After the mist dissipated, dozens of bandits were lying on the ground in various poses, bearing a blank face. The ones hit by the lightning let out an unbearable stench as their charred bodies were revealed.

“So weak...”

The tramp looked at the bandits’ bodies all over the ground. He appeared very calm but sighed with mixed feelings.

“It has already been nine days. The effect of Corroding Potion still hasn’t been cleared. In addition, there’s a sign that it’s spreading throughout the body. I must find a quiet place and try to make an Antidote Potion.”

This tramp was Merlin. He had already been in the maple forest for nine whole days. He originally wanted to rely on the strength of his physical attribute and the Coagulation Potion. After his body could no longer support him to walk, he would find another safe place and make the potion.

Little did he expect that the poison of the Corroding Potion was not suppressed at all. Instead, the poison became stronger with time. Even Merlin’s strong physical attribute could not help in this matter. Other than casting spells, it was difficult to even move an inch of his body, not to mention making a potion.

The Big Boss of the bandits was merely a Third-level Elemental Swordsman. Once Merlin’s Dark Mist had engulfed them, they were all trapped in an illusion no matter how many they were and killed by Thunderbolt Net.

Merlin set his gaze toward the faraway carriages and a thought came to him – maybe these people could help him.

...

“Father, the bandits have left.”

The young girl, Emma, muttered after ensuring the bandits were not in sight anymore.

“Yes, they’re gone. They got in trouble with a mysterious and powerful Spell Caster!”

The middle-aged man looked toward the faraway maple forest. That man who looked like a tramp was a mysterious yet powerful Spell Caster.

Before this, he once heard about how powerful the Spell Casters were, but he had never seen one before. Now, he finally had the chance to see one where he killed dozens of ferocious bandits in an instant.

Moreover, that Spell Caster did not even move a muscle. Such dread!

When Merlin's gaze fell on him, Chablis was squeezed with anxiety.

After a long while, Chablis took a deep breath. He said to Emma and the noble lady, "Let's go. That Spell Caster has saved us all. We should show our appreciation to that sir!"

The noble lady appeared worried while Emma was filled with curiosity. She followed the middle-aged man and walked toward the faraway maple forest.

Soon, the three came to the maple forest. Upon seeing the bodies of numerous bandits, especially when an unbearable burning smell was still lingering in the air, the three were extremely nervous.

"Most respectable Sir Spell Caster, thank you for helping us and killing the bandits. You have saved us. I, Chablis, represent the Deqman family to thank you for your aid, sir."

Chablis held one hand over his chest as an expression of a formal etiquette. Although he was gripped by fear toward the Spell Caster, he still showed his appreciation to Merlin.

Merlin raised his head and his pale face showed a smile. "Mr. Chablis, I need your help!"

"Help?"

Chablis showed an odd expression. Merlin had just killed dozens of ferocious bandits with a wave of his hands. What help did he still require?

Merlin continued, "I need a safe place. Ditas town in front is quite good."



Chablis gave a relieved sigh. The Spell Caster only needed a place. For a merchant, this was a piece of cake. Thus, he smiled and answered, “Sir, please be at ease. We’ll definitely arrange a safe and quiet place for you in Ditas town. Please follow us.”

However, Merlin did not move. Instead, he sighed, “If I can walk, do I still need you?”

After Merlin said that, he took away the clothes used to cover his legs.

Instantly, they saw the terrifying bones and corroding flesh on Merlin’s thigh. Even Chablis who had seen and experienced many things could not help but be overwhelmed by the sight of this.

After a long while, Chablis returned to his senses and quickly said to Merlin, “Sir, let me call my men here and carry you into the carriage.”

Merlin nodded. He let Chablis call for his men and carry him into the carriage where they continued toward Ditas town slowly.

...

“Sir, how about this place? This is the residence I’ve found for you in town.”

Chablis had just led the carriages into Ditas town. Before having time to rest, he began to search for a safe place for Merlin.

Finally, he chose a residence which seemed rather quiet.

Merlin was carried by four men. His face seemed to turn a lot paler. Without checking out the residence, he said to Chablis in a deep tone, “Alright. Get me in. Right, call Emma for me. I need her for something!”

“Emma?”

Chablis’ expression changed. After looking at Merlin, he finally replied through gritted teeth, “Sir, Emma is still young. I can find a prettier woman for you...”

Before he even finished his words, Chablis felt a chilling aura over him.

Merlin said in a dark expression, “Mr. Chablis, let me repeat myself. Call Emma here!”

Chablis’ expression kept changing, but finally, he walked out, looking down.

Merlin knew Chablis had misunderstood his meaning. With his body now, he could not even move a muscle. What more could he do? However, he was lazy to explain himself as he was in a dire situation. If he did not make the potion now, he would probably be in a deep trouble.

“Sir, Emma is here.”

Chablis’ voice rang outside the door,

“Let Emma in!”

“Squeak...”

As soon as Merlin finished his words, Emma pushed the door open lightly and entered carefully. Her face revealed a hint of nervousness.

Chapter 155: Reconstruction!

“Sir!”

Emma was rather cautious and she appeared nervous.

Merlin opened his eyes. After seeing it was Emma, he smiled and spoke softly, “Emma, I ask for you because I’d like you to help me in making a potion.”

“Making a potion? But I don’t...”

Emma was worked up at first but she shook her head after.

“No, don’t worry. The most important thing is to be attentive. I believe in you and I know you can succeed! Alright, I won’t say anything further. Time is ticking. I must make the potion in the shortest amount of time possible.”

Merlin was already a little impatient. The poison of Corroding Potion in his body was spreading rapidly. If he made an Antidote Potion now, it could still give him a great effect. However, if he waited until the poison was thoroughly spread, then he would be in great trouble.

Moreover, the reason he wanted the young Emma to help was that Merlin noticed that Emma had the most basic quality to become a Spell Caster – Mind Power!

Emma’s Mind Power was beyond ordinary people. Even she had not noticed this, but Merlin, as a Spell Caster, naturally noticed it easily.

Thus, even if Emma did not become a Spell Caster, she would be more focused than others if she was the one who made the potion. Those who had strong Mind Power usually had extraordinary talent in alchemy or potions.

Following that, Merlin took out the glassware used in potion-making from his ring.

Looking at this exquisite glassware, Emma was overwhelmed with curiosity. Merlin told her with a smile, “These are the glassware used in potion-making. After this, I’ll teach you the most basic steps in making potions.”

The potion Merlin was going to make was a common Antidote Potion in the Dark Magic Region. Its name was also quite simple – Detox Potion. Although Corroding Potion was powerful, it was only a type of common Toxic Potion.

Detox Potion would have an effect on Corroding Potion.

Following that, Merlin began to teach Emma to make Detox Potion. He first utilized the Matrix to strictly control the ratio of potion materials. Then, he strictly followed the steps to make the potion. Even if this was Emma’s first-time making a potion and her success rate was low, it would not be a problem to make the Detox Potion if she put in an effort.

Once she had made the Detox Potion, Merlin could use this potion to slowly clear the effects of Corroding Potion in his body.

Merlin carefully taught the steps in making the potion to Emma a few times. Following that, Emma seemed to ignore everything else as she focused on the steps in potion-making and dived into making the potion.

After all, this was her first time making a potion. Even if all her steps were carried out according to the Matrix's requirement, she still failed during her first time due to inexperience.

Following that, the second time, the third time, the fourth time... Until it was her fifth time!

This time, Emma finally made it successfully. When she handed the Detox Potion to Merlin, he could not help but flash a smile.

"Alright, Emma. You should go out now!"

Merlin instructed Emma directly.

Although Emma had made the potion for nearly ten hours, she still appeared quite energetic since her Mind Power was extraordinary. She was still reluctant to go out even after Merlin had asked her to.

Just when Emma walked to the door, Merlin hesitated and said, "Wait. This is a Mind Meditation Spell. Meditate according to the ways stated in here."

Merlin threw a Mind Meditation Spell at her. This was not any normal Meditation Spell as it was the intermediate Mind Meditation Spell Merlin had received from Wizard Leo back then.

Emma had never come across a Spell Caster before. If she yielded great result from cultivating the Meditation Spell, Merlin would not mind giving her some Spell Models to help her become a Spell Caster.

However, this must wait until he had recovered. After handing the Mind Meditation Spell to Emma, Merlin then waved his hands, signaling Emma to leave the room.

When Merlin was the only one left in the room, he swallowed the Detox Potion. Some potions needed to be applied externally while some needed to be consumed, just like the Detox Potion.

After Merlin had swallowed the Detox Potion, he closed his eyes slightly and silently waited for the effect to kick in.

After two hours, Merlin felt a heat in his body. Sweat drenched his body where it emitted a thick sweaty odor.

However, as sweat broke out, Merlin felt more relaxed. His Mind Power was sensing every change in his body. As soon as he had taken the Detox Potion, the poison of Corroding Potion in Merlin's body was slowly expelled along with the sweat. This showed that the Detox Potion was, in fact, effective!

"Phew..."

After a few hours, Merlin heaved a long sigh. Finally, he did not have to worry about the spread of the poison of Corroding Potion in his body. Once he made a few more Detox Potions, he could completely get rid of the poison from his body.

In the following days, Merlin let Emma come to his place once each day to make Detox Potion for him. Chablis seemed to have known the reason Merlin asked for Emma, so he became more passionate toward Merlin.

Thus, after taking six Detox Potions consecutively, all poison in Merlin's body had been cleared. On top of that, he could move his arms albeit only slightly.

Even though the poison had been cleared, the flesh that was cut from Merlin's thigh would not recover in a few days. Even if Merlin's physical attribute was strong and his recovery rate was astonishing, he would at least need two months' time for his thigh to fully recover.

...

"Bang!"

Emma's door was suddenly pushed open. Chablis entered Emma's room with a dark expression.

"Emma!"

Chablis yelled, his tone was filled with a hint of anger.

Emma surprised by this and looking flustered asked, "Father, why are you here?"

"Why am I here? This is the question I want to ask you instead. In these few days, you're either making potions in the Spell Caster's room or hiding away in your room. What are you doing?"

Chablis also noticed the strange change of his daughter, Emma. The lively Emma had changed into another person ever since she helped Merlin to make potions. She hid away in her room, doing who-knows-what.

Chablis was extremely worried, so he crashed into her room in such fury.

Although Emma had hidden in her room a whole day, she seemed quite energetic. She had a nice blush on her face and nothing seemed to be wrong. Looking at the stuttering Emma, Chablis' expression darkened a shade. He asked, "Emma, what exactly are you doing in your room?"

After a long pause, Emma took a deep breath and answered carefully, "Father, during my first-time helping Wizard Merlin to make the potion, Wizard Merlin has given me a strange cultivation method called Meditation Spell. I thought it's quite interesting. Moreover, after I meditated, I feel like my mind is very clear, so I've been in my room..."

Chablis did not catch the words after that. He stood up suddenly and showed a stirred expression.

"Emma, did Wizard Merlin really give you a Meditation Spell?"

"Wizard Merlin gave it to me. Father, do you know what a Meditation Spell is?"

Emma asked out of curiosity while she tilted her head.

“Haha. Meditation Spell – this is the key to become a mysterious yet powerful Spell Caster. It can’t be that you have the quality to become a Spell Caster?”

After a pause, Chablis revealed an elated expression and said, “It must be, it must be this way. Emma, you may have the quality to become Spell Caster. Let’s go. Quickly, meet Wizard Merlin with me. I’ll let him take you as his student!”

Chablis was different than the innocent Emma. He knew deeply what it meant to become a Spell Caster. Thus, since Emma had the quality to do so, he would seize this opportunity for her no matter what.

Once she had become Merlin’s student, Emma had a greater chance of becoming a Spell Caster.

Thus, without a moment of hesitation, Chablis brought Emma to Merlin’s place.

“Wizard Merlin!”

Chablis suppressed the excitement he felt in his heart and called out lightly.

“Come in.”

Merlin’s voice rang, then Chablis brought Emma into Merlin’s room.

After Chablis saw Merlin, he respectfully bowed to him and said, “Wizard Merlin, thank you for giving an opportunity to Emma. Emma wants to be your student. Please, Wizard Merlin, take her as your student!”

Upon saying that, Chablis signaled Emma to come to the front. This was a rare opportunity in a million years so Chablis could not let this pass him by in vain.

Without waiting for Emma to speak, Merlin waved his hands and said in a calm tone, “Mr. Chablis, I’m not the one who decides whether Emma can become a Spell Caster. Moreover, I’m only an Entrance-level Spell Caster. I won’t consider taking any student for now.”

Hearing Merlin's rejection, Chablis showed an anxious expression. When he wanted to say something, Merlin interrupted him again and said, "Although I won't take Emma as a student, I'll rest for a while in Ditas town. During this period, if Emma has any question about Spell Caster, I'll answer her. As to whether she can successfully construct Spell Model and become a Spell Caster, it's up to her."

After Merlin had finished his words, albeit Chablis thought that it was a shame that Merlin did not take Emma as a student, they still had some time left. Emma was not totally out of chance.

Thus, Chablis bowed again to Merlin and left Merlin's room with Emma.

In the following two months, when Merlin was recuperating, he often explained some simple knowledge about the construction of Spell Model to Emma, so she could slowly familiarize herself with it.

However, these were all the basics. Be it Mind Power or basic knowledge about the construction of Spell Model, they were all preparation for her to construct spells in the future.

Thus, whether she could become a Spell Caster depended on Emma herself. No one could help her in successfully constructing suitable Spell Models.

...

"It's time to construct my first First-level Spell Model!"

After more than a month, the injury on Merlin's thigh had recovered by half. He could get up from his bed and slowly walk now so Merlin was prepared to construct his First-level spells.

During this month, he had been meditating so his Mind Power had improved significantly. Hence, there would not be any problem for him to construct First-level spells now.

After the battle with Wizard Vyksa previously, Merlin's most profound thought was his spells were not powerful enough albeit he had many spells. If one or two of his spells were slightly suppressed, then he was no different than the ordinary Entrance-level Spell Caster. It would be extremely dangerous that way.



Thus, during the period he was recovering in Ditas town, Merlin planned to construct one First-level Spell Model.

About the First-level Spell Model he wanted to construct, it was not Furious Flame which Merlin had analyzed with the Matrix before. Instead, it was the Earth-type Defensive spell, Guardian Monument!

“The Matrix, begin analyzing Guardian Monument’s Spell Model!”

Merlin took a deep breath. He had already done all preparations. Now, he was only waiting to choose the best Spell Model. Thus, he directly ordered the Matrix to analyze Guardian Monument’s Spell Model.

“Beep. Mission created. Analysis initialized!”

Along with the analysis of the Matrix, Merlin’s mind, in fact, began to calm down and silently waited for the result of the Matrix’s analysis.

Chapter 156: Pandora Demon Ability

“Beep, analysis completed. In total, thirteen thousand eight hundred and ninety-one Guardian Monument’s Spell Models have been reconstructed.”

The Matrix had completed its analysis with a reconstruction of more than ten thousand Spell Models. Back then, there were only about eleven thousand Furious Flame’s Spell Models so, both Spell Models were about the same.

Among the reconstructed Spell Models, Merlin first chose those with a higher compatibility. Next, from the highly compatible Spell Models, he chose those with excellent stability and power.

Merlin was already greatly familiar with the process of choosing a Spell Model. He needed to consider compatibility, stability, and power, so Merlin quickly got the Spell Model he was satisfied with. However, Guardian Monument was less compatible with Zero-level spell Earth Guard than Furious Flame with Fireball.

At last, the Spell Model he had chosen had 76 percent compatibility with Earth Guard. Its stability was also amongst the top thirty in all Spell Models, which was rather good.

The next step after choosing the Spell Model was the most crucial. He had to simulate the complicated Spell Model in his Awareness with Mind Power. Previously, Merlin failed because his Mind Power was insufficient.

This time, not only did Merlin's Mind Power had reached that of a Second-level Spell Caster but he had also meditated for an extra month at Ditas town. His Mind Power had significantly increased since the time he constructed Furious Flame.

"Phew..."

Merlin took a deep breath and calmed his nerves. Then, he initiated all his Mind Power and began to simulate Guardian Monument's Spell Model.

...

"Heusius, have the Abyss Fort found the people from Ozmu?"

The black-robed Wizard Leo who wore a round, black hat asked in a calm tone.

At this moment, Wizard Leo, Wizard Heusius, and Spell Casters of Sixth-level and above from the Dark Magic Region had gathered. They were hiding in the forest as they stared deeply at an ancient castle in front of them.

Wizard Heusius squinted his eyes slightly, staring at the castle and replied softly, "I've received news from the Abyss Fort. The people of Ozmu have divided into a few groups. One of the groups is in this castle. But we'll only know when the people of the Abyss Fort are here."

"Whoosh..."

As soon as he finished his words, a gust of wind blew in the forest. Then, the originally dark forest became pitch black in an instant.

“Hehe, Heusius. It’s been a long time!”

From the dark forest, a hoarse voice sounded. Suddenly, a dozen Spell Casters who wore black wizard robes appeared.

Many Sixth-level Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region were gripped with shock. They did not sense any movement at all as these Spell Casters of the Abyss Fort appeared just like that.

However, Wizard Heusius appeared rather collected. He took a glance at the Spell Caster walking at the front and smiled. “Yes, Wizard Gryzlo. The last time we met was one hundred years ago.”

The Spell Caster of the Abyss Fort gathered with those of the Dark Magic Region under the leadership of Seventh-level wizard, Gryzlo.

“Are there any people of Ozmu in the castle?”

Wizard Leo’s tone was heavy as he asked coldly.

Wizard Gryzlo shot a glance at Wizard Leo, then showed a complicated expression. He asked softly, “I’m sure this is Wizard Leo? You’ve developed Darkness Eye. Tsk tsk. Even the Spell Casters of the Abyss Fort who specialize in Darkness-type spells didn’t develop Darkness Eye. If it wasn’t to deal with Ozmu today, I really want to have a go with the legendary Darkness Eye!”

Wizard Gryzlo was a Spell Caster from the Abyss Fort, a spell casters’ organization which specialized in Darkness-type spells. However, even in the Abyss Fort, no one had ever developed the legendary Darkness Eye. Hence, Gryzlo was naturally very interested in Wizard Leo’s Darkness Eye.

That vertical eye on Wizard Leo’s forehead flashed a faint red light. As he looked at Wizard Gryzlo, he replied coldly, “Wait until I kill the Ozmu. I’ll naturally let Wizard Gryzlo witness it!”

From Wizard Leo’s tone, he seemed to be unafraid of Wizard Gryzlo who was a Seventh-level Spell Caster.

“Hehe, Gryzlo. Stop the rubbish. This time, Ozmu came at us with overweening arrogance. I’m sure you won’t want them to leave easily, right?”

Wizard Heusius waved his hand suddenly and said in a cold tone.

“Hmph, Ozmu!”

Upon mentioning Ozmu, a hint of killing intent swept across Wizard Gryzllo.

“We’ve received accurate information that Ozmu has divided into a few groups. Some of their Spell Casters are in the castle in front of us. The Abyss Fort and the Dark Magic Region first gather strength and deal with these people. As for the other groups, they’ll naturally be stopped by Fire City and the Ashes Region.”

Wizard Gryzllo said in a heavy tone.

“Then, let’s kill!”

Wizard Leo’s face revealed a hint of craziness where his entire being gave off a chilling air. Meanwhile, Wizard Heusius who was behind him watched as Wizard Leo strode toward the castle. He shook his head slightly and muttered, “I hope this can resolve the hatred in your heart this time...”

The ancient castle under the setting sun appeared more deserted. There were no guards outside this large castle. Grass crawled over the ground – this was a castle that had already been deserted.

In the castle, there was not a single string of light present. Only a gust of whistling wind sent chills down people’s spine.

“Bang!”

A loud thud followed where the rusted iron gate was blasted open by Fireball. Wizard Leo walked at the front and the vertical eye on his forehead was opened wide with a hint of red light glimmered in it, looking extremely eerie in the dark night.

Wizard Leo did not mind at all. He headed straight into the castle. Looking at the grass on the ground, Wizard Leo raised his head suddenly and his vertical eye stared deadly at the castle.

“Whoosh...”

An intense fluctuation of Wind Element directly appeared on Wizard Leo. Then, his body flew toward the upper floor of the castle.

Normally, Fourth-level Wind-type spell had the ability to fly. As a Four-Elemental Spell Caster, Wizard Leo possessed Fire-type, Wind-type, Earth-type, and Darkness-type spells.

His Darkness-type spell was especially powerful. It was not surprising that he was able to develop Darkness Eye which even Spell Casters of the Abyss Fort could not.

Naturally, Wizard Leo’s movement had attracted the attention of many Spell Casters of the Abyss Fort and the Dark Magic Region. Then, the Spell Casters all flew directly toward the second floor of the castle.

Meanwhile, those who did not have Wind-type spell relied on their casting tools and flew to the second floor as well. These Sixth-level Spell Casters followed behind Wizard Leo, revealing their serious expressions. They were all cautious against any movement around them.

After all, they were about to deal with the legendary Spell Casters from Ozmu. In Ozmu, almost every Spell Caster was a prodigy, where they could not be understood from ordinary logic.

“Whoosh!”

Suddenly, a black light in the dark shot toward Wizard Leo soundlessly.

The vertical eye on Wizard Leo’s forehead flashed a red light as he waved his hands. Endless Earth Element immediately gathered beside him. That spell attack in the dark had no effect against Wizard Leo at all.

“Darkness Vortex!”

A crisp voice came from within the castle. In the endless night, a gigantic vortex seemed to appear and was about to directly engulf Wizard Leo.

Darkness Vortex was a Third-level spell. Its power was incredible and was known to be able to engulf anything!

“Darkness Eye, exterminate!”

Wizard Leo unleashed his spell emotionlessly. A blood-red light shot from his Darkness Eye. In an instant, that gigantic vortex was pierced, then rapidly dissipated. The night resumed its calmness again.

“Swish!”

Although it was still pitch black on the second floor, this was nothing for Wizard Leo who dealt with Darkness-type spell all year round.

His Mind Power clearly sensed that there were two Spell Casters in the room. One was a Third-level Spell Caster, another was a Fourth-level. Moreover, the Third-level Spell Caster gave a comfortable feeling to Wizard Leo.

“Darkness Heart. You’re the prodigy who has Darkness Heart in the Abyss Fort? Ramas?”

Wizard Leo asked in a calm tone. He knew that the Abyss Fort sustained a great loss this time as well. A genius Spell Caster who had Darkness Heart was seduced into joining Ozmu.

Darkness Heart and Darkness Eye were both the strangest and most powerful products of alchemy amongst Darkness-type spells in the legends. They were not spells but a terrifying force that was stronger than many casting tools produced from spells and alchemy methods.

Such force was known as Pandora Demon Ability! It meant that it possessed the ability of a demon and did not belong to a man.

The genius who possessed Darkness Heart betrayed the Abyss Fort. Such a loss was the same as the Dark Magic Region losing their Five-Elemental genius Spell Caster, Kleis.

That Third-level Spell Caster was still collected. Facing the Sixth-level Spell Caster, Wizard Leo, he still wore a prideful expression. With a cold smile, he said, “That’s right. I’m Ramas! Only with Ozmu, I can become the strongest Spell Caster. A normal Spell Caster like you can never understand our ambition.”

“Haha, that’s good. We’re all true prodigies! Ramas, when you’re back in Ozmu, you’ll be as strong as me. How does a mere Sixth-level Spell Caster compare with us?”

The Fourth-level Spell Caster beside him was, in fact, completely unafraid of Wizard Leo who was a Sixth-level Spell Caster.

“Swish!”

Wizard Leo’s expansive Mind Power immediately locked on that Fourth-level Spell Caster as he asked in a low voice, “You’re from Ozmu?”

“That’s right. I’m from Ozmu and have been there for three years! Only those who have stayed in Ozmu know how strong it is. Normal Spell Casters like you can never understand what a true genius is. Ramas, look at him – a Sixth-level Spell Caster is actually very weak!”

Strong fluctuation of Element appeared on this Fourth-level Spell Caster. Even if he had not cast any spell, he had given off an intense oppressing feeling to others.

Rumors said that Spell Casters of Ozmu had the extraordinary strong ability to battle, disregarding the level. Even a Fourth-level Spell Caster could deal with any ordinary Spell Caster!

This Fourth-level Spell Caster was obviously the genius amongst the geniuses. He did not take Wizard Leo seriously at all.

“Is that so? Genius Spell Caster of Ozmu... Then, die!”

Wizard Leo’s voice was calm but extremely cold as he gave off a chilling aura.

“Darkness Eye, elude!”

The Darkness Eye on Wizard Leo's forehead immediately shot a red light and instantly engulfed Ozmu's Fourth-level Spell Caster and prodigy Ramas of the Abyss Fort.

"Darkness Eye, exterminate!"

Wizard Leo only spoke twice. Two strings of light immediately shot into their body – that Fourth-level Spell Caster even had his mouth wide open where he wore an unbelievable expression.

"Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!"

From outside the castle, many Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region and the Abyss Fort flew into the room. However, when they entered the castle, they only saw two bodies on the ground.

Chapter 157: Darkness Eye!

Both bodies on the ground had a bloody hole through their head the size of a finger. Their faces revealed a hint of shock and unwillingness.

"That is Sodam. He betrayed Ice City three years ago and went to Ozmu."

"That's right, it's Sodam. Also, he appeared one year ago. He was fighting another Sixth-level Spell Caster then and even had the upper hand in the battle. It's truly terrifying. Sodam is only a Fourth-level Spell Caster!"

Some Spell Casters recognized the Fourth-level Spell Caster on the ground. It was Wizard Sodam, the genius Spell Caster in Ice City back then. He had also betrayed Ice City and went to Ozmu.

The most shocking fact of these Spell Casters was that Sodam was strong and could withstand an ordinary Sixth-level Spell Caster but he did not even survive Wizard Leo's first attack. This meant that Wizard Leo's Darkness Eye was truly strong!

Wizard Gryzlo of the Abyss Fort looked at Ramas' body on the ground with a complicated, dark look.



Wizard Heusius suddenly said, “Wizard Gryzlo, Wizard Leo has killed the genius in the Abyss Fort...”

Before Wizard Heusius even finished his words, Gryzlo had already interrupted Wizard Heusius as he understood what Wizard Heusius was saying.

Thus, he let out a cold snigger. “Ever since Ramas betrayed the Abyss Fort, he’s no longer one of us.”

After saying that, Gryzlo shot a serious glance at Wizard Leo and said, “Darkness Eye – nothing less expected of the legendary Pandora Demon Ability. When it’s executed with Wizard Leo’s ability, it comes close to the strength of a Seventh-level Spell Caster!”

Although Wizard Gryzlo did not rush into the castle earlier, his Mind Power had witnessed Wizard Leo’s actions where Darkness Eye had easily eliminated two strong genius Spell Casters – even he was shocked by this scene.

The power of Darkness Eye seemed to be even stronger than the description contained in some ancient texts!

“Just two? That’s not right. From the information I’ve received, there should be another strong Spell Caster of Ozmu!”

Wizard Gryzlo furrowed his eyebrow tightly.

“Boom!”

Suddenly, a sea of flame fell upon them, enveloping the entire room. In addition, this flame was extraordinary – it was white flames rather than bright red ones. Instead of emitting heat, it gave off a cool sensation.

Cold flame? Even if the Spell Casters present were of Sixth-level and above, all of them thought that it was odd.

However, only the two Seventh-level Spell Casters changed their expressions at the same time. They howled, “Leave quickly. This is Zero Degree Ice Flame! Damn it. It must be Osseus. Why is this psycho here?”

The two Seventh-level Spell Casters exchanged a look. They could see the shock in each other’s eyes. Rich Earth Element immediately appeared on the surface of their skin as they cast their Defensive spells respectively.

Zero Degree Ice Flame was a Seventh-level spell. Any Seventh-level spell had to be constructed and created by the Spell Caster himself. Meanwhile, Zero Degree Ice Flame was an extremely strong spell created by Osseus, a Spell Caster of Ozmu, which rose to fame with this intriguing spell.

He was able to incorporate some traits of Ice-type spell into a Fire-type spell and, at the same time, maintain the terrifying power of the spells. Only the unfathomable genius Spell Casters in Ozmu could construct such a spell.

When a spell had reached the Seventh-level, it depended on the Spell Caster’s understanding about spells. The deeper the Spell Caster’s understanding, the stronger the spell he could construct.

Moreover, one could do almost anything to a Seventh-level spell including converting the traits of an Ice-type spell for a Fire-type spell. Take Zero Degree Ice Flame as an example, it was a Fire-type spell but it possessed the traits of an Ice-type spell. As for its strength, it was even more terrifying!

The Spell Casters who entered the castle were all Sixth-level Spell Casters. Although they were extremely cautious of their surroundings, these icy flames fell upon them suddenly. Thus, there were still two Spell Casters who did not manage to cast their Defensive spell.

In the end, they were immediately frozen into ice crystals. Moreover, the crystals were burning in a white flame, making the others’ skin crawl.

Both wore Defensive robes but the robes could not withstand Zero Degree Ice Flame. Hence, two strong Sixth-level Spell Casters were directly burnt to ashes.

“Damn it. Quick, leave the castle!”

A hint of madness jumped across Wizard Gryzlló’s face. A cold killing intent washed over him as the two dead Spell Casters were from the Abyss Fort.

In an instant, he had lost two Sixth-level Spell Casters – this was a great loss to the entire Abyss Fort!

“Swish! Swish! Swish!”

Except for Wizard Leo, Wizard Heusius, and Wizard Gryzllo, other Sixth-level Spell Casters had left the castle. All were aware of their surroundings and were on an alert.

“Osseus, reveal yourself. You can’t run away today!”

Wizard Gryzllo shouted toward the castle. His Mind Power even searched the entire castle frantically but to no avail.

“Run away? It’s been a long time since someone could make me run...”

Suddenly, a distant sigh reached them. From the darkness outside the room, a white-robed handsome man walked in slowly. He seemed to be in his twenties, but there was not a single hint of innocence in his eyes. In fact, his eyes were filled with endless depth.

The white-robed man did not look at the dark-looking Wizard Gryzllo. Instead, he set his gaze upon Wizard Leo. A playful smirk appeared on his face as he said softly, “Wizard Leo, we’ve met again!”

Wizard Leo’s expression changed, which was a first for him. With a slightly twisted face, he replied coldly, “Osseus, so it’s really you!”

“That’s right. It’s me. Back then, your brother, Raydore, wanted to join Ozmu. Didn’t I give you a chance? You killed your brother yourself... But I’m regretting it a little now. Your brother’s talent is indeed surprising at that time but it seems to me now that you’re the true prodigy. You’ve actually developed the legendary Darkness Eye and cultivated it to such a high level.”

Osseus flashed a smile but Wizard Leo’s aura had become more violent. His entire being could barely suppress the agitation of the Elements.

Wizard Heusius who was beside him changed his expression. He muttered in his heart, ‘This is bad. Raydore is forever the forbidden topic in Wizard Leo’s heart. This time, they met Osseus who invited Raydore to join Ozmu. I’m afraid that Wizard Leo can’t hold it in.’

Wizard Heusius knew about that matter. At that time, Raydore was coaxed by Ozmu and Wizard Leo went to stop him. In the end, he killed Raydore with his own hands. This was Wizard Leo’s reverse scale – no one could touch it.

“Boom!”

As expected, Wizard Leo acted without a moment of hesitation. He immediately cast Searing Blaze, a ferocious Sixth-level spell. In an instant, a furious flame was ignited in the room.

The terrifying force of this flame had melted the sturdy castle walls. It could be seen clearly that the castle was crumbling rapidly.

“Go!”

Wizard Heusius and Wizard Gryzlo did not hesitate and left the castle directly.

“It’s not enough. The sixth-level spell is just too weak. Cast your Darkness Eye. I also want to know how strong the legendary Darkness Eye truly is.”

Osseus raised his hand and a chilly air instantly put off a large area of flames.

“Rumble!”

The castle crumbled in an instant. The destructive power of a Sixth-level spell was terrifying. Fortunately, this was a deserted area. No one knew how long this castle had been deserted. Otherwise, no one could be sure how many would get hurt by their spells.

A fourth-level Spell Caster had the ability to destroy a strong military fortress alone, not to mention a Sixth-level Spell Caster. Moreover, Osseus was a terrifying Seventh-level Spell Caster!

Although the castle had crumbled, Wizard Leo and Osseus both flew in the air. Fluctuations of Wind Element glimmered on their bodies as they faced each other in the air.

Wizard Heusius and Wizard Gryzllo were staring at both Wizard Leo and Wizard Osseus who were in mid-air. Wizard Heusius suddenly said in a heavy tone, “Wizard Gryzllo, Wizard Leo is just a Sixth-level Spell Caster. Even if he has developed Darkness Eye, I’m afraid he still can’t stand against Osseus.”

Wizard Gryzllo nodded. “Don’t worry, old man. Even though you and I have fought in the past, but that’s not a huge matter. We must stand together while we face Ozmu. I’m sure you’ve heard of Osseus. He once killed a Seventh-level Spell Caster! Hehe. If we don’t act together, we’ll only be defeated by him one after another.”

“Good. Let’s do it!”

Two Seventh-level Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region and the Abyss Fort obviously dreaded the fight with Osseus, so they would not hold back and both cast their spells quickly.

“The extreme of ice! This is the brand-new spell I’ve constructed after spending eighteen years – Glacial Boundary!”

Heusius reached out his wizened hand and pointed at the faraway Osseus. At once, a layer of white crystals enveloped Osseus like an ice ring.

In addition, the place which was covered by the white rings began to freeze. This was not any ordinary cold. Instead, this was a horrifying spell that could even freeze the mountains, streams, and rivers.

“Ka-chak! Ka-chak!”

Layers of ice crystals approached Osseus rapidly.

“Ice-type spell? Heusius, you really didn’t improve after so many years. Even if you became a Seventh-level Spell Caster, you’re still so ordinary. You call this the extreme of ice?”

Osseus' face was filled with mock. Thereafter, a white flame instantaneously flew out from his fingertips; it was Zero Degree Ice Flame from before.

“Hiss! Hiss! Hiss!”

Osseus' Zero Degree Ice Flame had completely suppressed Wizard Heusius' spell. Layers of ice crystals were melted by the white flame in an instant.

At the same time, Gryzlo cast his spell as well.

“Darkness, the cover of endless sins! This is the brand-new spell that I've constructed after spending nine years – Hand of Sins!”

Immediately, a gigantic palm made of Darkness Element appeared in the sky and chased after Osseus.

The Hand of Sins had the obvious trait of Darkness Element – illusion. Not only Hand of Sins had an illusion effect but it could also pull the negative emotions from the target's heart.

This was the forte of Hand of Sins!

“Oh? This is quite interesting. It's commendable that it can pull out the negative emotions in me, but its strength is too weak that it's not even worth a mention!”

A smile still remained on Osseus' face whilst he faced the gigantic palm. A dense Earth Element appeared and covered his entire body.

These Earth Elements did not look hard and sturdy. Instead, it kept flowing like water. This spell had probably taken some Water-type spells as a reference, so it allowed the Earth-type spell to be flexible.

“Bang!”

Hand of Sins struck Osseus but it had no effect on him. Osseus' Mind Power was stronger beyond anyone's imagination, so he could easily suppress all sorts of negative emotions in him.

Gryzllo and Heusius' expressions changed slightly. They did not think that a spell could kill Osseus easily, so they were prepared to cast other spells.

However, Osseus would not give them a chance to do so.

“Too weak!”

Osseus pointed out his hand – it was still Zero Degree Ice Flame. Sea of flames fell upon them directly, threatening both Wizard Gryzllo and Wizard Heusius greatly. Thus, they cast Defensive spells to protect themselves respectively.

It was merely one spell and they could not stand against it!

They were all Seventh-level Spell Casters. The strength of the spells depended on the ability of the Spell Caster. Obviously, a prodigy like Osseus had completely displayed his exceptional talent in constructing spells after becoming a Seventh-level Spell Caster. The Seventh-level spell that he constructed was much stronger than those constructed by Wizard Heusius and Wizard Gryzllo.

“Leo, can you see it? This is the difference between the ordinary and the genius. Only by joining Ozmu, you can become a truly strong Spell Caster! It was a foolish act to stop Raydore then. You're the one who sent your brother to his death...”

“Osseus!”

Wizard Leo's aura appeared extremely violent. This was completely different from when he was in the Dark Magic Region. Wizard Leo stared at Osseus as he exclaimed, “Osseus, I said it before. I'll kill you and avenge Raydore! You lot sent Raydore to his death. Every person in Ozmu must die!”

Immediately, a large pillar of bloody red light shot out from the Darkness Eye on Wizard Leo's forehead, forming a huge shadow of the vertical eye.

This vertical eye was staring down at Osseus, then Wizard Leo howled, “Darkness Eye, elude!”

“Swoosh!”

A string of red light directly shrouded Osseus. He initially still wore a smile, but his expression changed drastically. His face was slightly twisting and becoming more ferocious.

“I... Illusion. How is this possible? Did I fall into an illusion? No, no. It’s impossible!”

Osseus suddenly yelled frantically. His powerful Mind Power wanted to tear the red light of Darkness Eye apart desperately. At the same time, he cast Zero Degree Ice Flame and frantically blasted it toward Wizard Leo.

“Darkness Eye, disintegrate!”

That gigantic shadow of Darkness Eye on Wizard Leo’s forehead shot out a string of red light again. At once, Zero Degree Ice Flame which Osseus had cast seemed to have met some sort of powerful energy where it was dispersed and put off.

“Darkness Eye, penetrate!”

It was still a string of red light; aimed directly at Wizard Osseus.

“No, no. How can it be so strong? Absolute Defense!”

Fear finally crawled onto Osseus’ face. Immediately, he cast a Defensive spell and formed a protective layer which resembled water on his body.

“Hiss! Hiss!”

He did not know what sort of energy was contained in the red light shot by Darkness Eye which penetrated Osseus’ Seventh-level Defensive spell. Although it seemed to weaken a little, it still overcame Osseus’ spell without fail.

Instantly, the red light was blasted onto Osseus’ white robe. Dense runes immediately appeared on his white robe and formed a large Runic Magic Circle.



However, the white robe still could not stop the red light. Osseus quickly moved sideways and a large bloody hole appeared on his left shoulder.

By now, Wizard Leo's face had turned extremely pale. It seemed that casting Darkness Eye for three times had taken a toll on him.

However, upon seeing that Osseus was still not killed by Darkness Eye, a hint of madness washed over Wizard Leo.

“Darkness Eye, exterminate!”

Upon seeing the gigantic Darkness Eye was about to shoot another string of red light, Osseus did not dare to take it directly anymore. The Wind Elements on him fluctuated violently.

“Velocious Wind!”

“Swish!”

Osseus' figure dived into the dark night in the blink of an eye.

“Leo, your Darkness Eye truly opened my eyes today – nothing less expected of Pandora Demon Ability. It seems that I've greatly misjudged you back then. You're the true talent...”

Osseus' voice still echoed in the air but his figure had far disappeared. A strong Seventh-level Spell Caster like him was exceptional in his ability to escape. Others had no way of chasing after him at all.

Wizard Leo turned around and glanced at Wizard Gryzllo and Wizard Heusius. He said in a cold tone, “I'll go after Osseus!”

Then, Wind Element fluctuated around him and he disappeared in the night.

All Spell Casters of the Dark Magic Region and the Abyss Fort were staring at Wizard Leo's back, wide-mouthed. Osseus, the legendary Seventh-level Spell Caster and psycho of Ozmu, could even stand against both Gryzllo and Heusius, two Seventh-level Spell Casters.

However, he was terrified of Wizard Leo, a Sixth-level Spell Caster, and ran away from the battle. Such a strange situation had gone beyond people's understanding.

“Darkness Eye. So, this is Darkness Eye, huh? The legendary Pandora Demon Ability...”

As Wizard Gryzlo looked at Leo's back, he seemed really stirred and a hint of passion danced in his gaze.

Chapter 158: Successfully Constructed

In Ditas town, Merlin instructed Chablis to prevent anyone from disturbing him.

Merlin began the final step to construct a First-level spell in his room. He simulated the Spell Model with his Mind Power. The Spell Model of the First-level spell, Guardian Monument which was reconstructed by the Matrix was as complicated as Furious Flame back then.

Before this, Merlin's Mind Power had not reached the Second-level. Six Zero-level spells had already used up half of his Mind Power. Thus, when he constructed Furious Flame, the act was quite forced, so he failed in the end.

If he only had four Zero-level spells, he would have probably constructed the First-level spell successfully by now. However, there were pros and cons. If he could become a First-level Spell Caster, his strength would improve significantly as a Six-Elemental Spell Caster and would have a greater potential as well. This was far from what an ordinary Spell Caster could have been.

If it was the Zero-level spell before, Merlin could simulate it in his Awareness with Mind Power in two or three hours since the Spell Model was not very complicated.

However, regardless of Furious Flame or Guardian Monument, the complexity of their Spell Models was far greater than that of a Zero-level spell. Merlin's Mind Power was simulating the complex Spell Model bit by bit now. Guardian Monument's Spell Model was just like a three-dimensional image in Merlin's mind – it was dense and packed with thin lines. One would feel dizzy just by glancing at it, not to mention simulating it in one's Awareness.

If Merlin did not have the aid of the Matrix, it was impossible to reconstruct such a complicated Spell Model. Merlin knew himself well. His talent as a Spell Caster, be it Mind Power or construction of Spell Model, was lacking. Thanks to the Matrix, he was able to take a step further than anyone else and had successfully become a strong Six-Elemental Spell Caster now.

An hour, three hours, five hours, ten hours...

An entire day went by and Merlin was still simulating Guardian Monument's Spell Model. During the last time when he simulated Furious Flame's Spell Model, his Mind Power was barely holding on, so he had no choice but to give up. This time, Merlin's Mind Power had reached that of a Second-level Spell Caster. With such a strong Mind Power, he would not feel tired even if he simulated the Spell Model for two or three days.

"Boom!"

Suddenly, Merlin shivered. The complex Guardian Monument's Spell Model had been successfully simulated with his Mind Power. At once, a storm swept through his mind and endless Earth Elements began to gather around him frantically.

Once the Spell Model had been constructed, it would automatically absorb the Elements and accumulate Magic Power. If he wanted to increase the accumulation of Magic Power, he could, of course, use the precious elemental crystal stones.

Merlin opened his eyes wide and a slight smile appeared on his face.

"Finally, I did it. I've successfully constructed a First-level spell!"

Although he had only constructed one First-level spell, this was a key step to Merlin. A first-level spell was totally different from a Zero-level spell; it was not an exaggeration to say it was the difference between heaven and earth.

However, Merlin was still closely observing the changes of Guardian Monument's Spell Model. Along with the frantic accumulation of Earth Elements in the Guardian Monument's Spell Model, it was also accumulating Magic Power rapidly.

Soon, Merlin became serious as he noticed an imbalance between all Spell Models in his Awareness due to the construction of a First-level spell, Guardian Monument.

Except for Guardian Monument, his other spells were still Zero-level spells. This could cause a momentary imbalance between the Spell Models in his Awareness.

It would be fine if it was only temporary. If it was a long-term imbalance and in serious cases, it could cause some beginner Spell Models to crumble apart. This was also the reason why many Spell Casters had advised him to construct other advanced Spell Models as soon as he had successfully constructed his first advanced spell.

Merlin was not in a rush to increase the Magic Power in Guardian Monument's Spell Model with elemental crystal stones. He was still observing the lower part of the Spell Model.

As expected, a gray horizontal bar appeared. This meant that he could still cast a strengthened version of the spell after he cast three ordinary ones.

Before Merlin constructed his First-level spell, he was afraid that the strengthening effect would disappear. Knowing that it was still here, he let out a sigh of relief.

Thereafter, Merlin began to speed up the rate of accumulation of Magic Power in the Spell Model with an Earth elemental crystal stone.

...

Another month passed by. Merlin finally came out of his room. He seemed no different than before but he knew that he now possessed a First-level spell. He had made a solid foundation to advance into a First-level Spell Caster.

"Wizard Merlin, you've finally come out of your room!"

Chablis was striding outside Merlin's room every day. When he found that Merlin had left his room, he immediately approached him.

"Oh? Mr. Chablis, what's the matter?"

Merlin had been accumulating Magic Power for Guardian Monument's Spell Model with elemental crystal stones during the past month. The Guardian Monument's Magic Power could now support him with thirty casts at any one time.

This would be enough for ordinary battle, so Merlin stopped the accumulation of Magic Power. After all, the accumulation of Magic Power could not complete over a short period. Even though he had enough elemental crystal stones, he still would not waste them. To release thirty casts at once was sufficient for self-protection.

The Spell Model could accumulate Magic Power over a long period just like Fireball and Frost which Merlin had constructed at the very beginning. They had indeed reached their maximum capacity where he could release about ninety casts at once.

Every Spell Model had its maximum capacity of Magic Power. Although he could only release less than one hundred casts, this number was already quite terrifying. The maximum capacity of a normal Zero-level spell was only about thirty casts where stronger ones would probably have forty to fifty casts. Meanwhile, the maximum capacity of Merlin's spell came close to a hundred casts, all thanks to the Matrix. The Spell Models it constructed were all excellent, so they were naturally stronger than others which were calculated manually by other Spell Casters.

Chablis naturally did not know that many thoughts had run across Merlin's mind. He took a careful glance at Merlin and said softly, "The thing is, Sir Baron of Ditas town heard that Wizard Merlin is here, so he wanted to meet you. If you're..."

Before even finishing his sentence, Merlin's expression darkened and shot a sharp glance at Chablis. He replied in a cold tone, "Did you leak the information?"

Chablis immediately felt a chill and held down the unrest in his heart as he quickly denied. "No, no. Wizard Merlin, you've misunderstood. It's not me. It's the knights unit of Ditas town. They found many bandits' bodies in the maple forest. After much inference, they've found me. Please forgive me, Wizard Merlin."

Merlin frowned. Chablis was a merchant, so this matter was more or less related to him. Indirectly, he wanted to rely on Merlin's identity as a Spell Caster to protect himself.

Merlin did not care about these matters, so he waved his hands. "I won't see him. I'll leave Ditas town soon. Call Emma for me!"

After a pause, Merlin's gaze found Chablis again. He resumed a cold tone and said, "Chablis, I hope this matter only happened once!"

Chablis quickly nodded. He knew that Merlin had seen through his thoughts. Although he knew Merlin was leaving Ditas town soon, he could not do anything except calling for Emma as Merlin had instructed so.

After a moment, Chablis brought Emma to Merlin's room. Merlin's Mind Power brushed against Emma and she seemed to sense it too so she felt uneasy.

After Merlin checked her out with Mind Power, he immediately knew Emma's current Mind Power. Indeed, she had a good potential of becoming a Spell Caster. Although she was far from becoming a First-level Spell Caster, it was enough for her to construct one or two Zero-level spells.

"Mr. Chablis, you should go out first. I have something to say to Emma!"

Chablis nodded respectfully and went out of the room. He instructed everyone to not get close to Merlin's room.

After Chablis had left, Merlin smiled as he looked at Emma. "Emma, do you want to become a Spell Caster?"

"Spell Caster? Like you, sir? To have a strong ability?"

Merlin nodded. "That's right. As long as you construct the Spell Model step by step, you can be as strong as I am!"

Emma's gaze revealed her excitement. Then, she answered, "If I can defeat those bandits and protect my parents, I wish to become a Spell Caster. I hope you can help me with that!"

Merlin smiled. This naive girl still did not understand how strong a Spell Caster truly was. If she became a Spell Caster, even an Entrance-level Spell Caster was far stronger than those bandits.

Looking at Emma's determined eyes, Merlin felt as if he was back in Blackwater City. When he received old man Etha's Spell Manual, he wished to be a Spell Caster wholeheartedly and thought deeply about his family.

“It’s not easy to become a Spell Caster. First, you must learn how to construct a Spell Model.”

Merlin agreed to give a chance to this young girl. Just like old man Etha left the ring with Merlin, old man Etha might have done it out of an impulse. This time, Merlin was the same. Upon seeing that Emma had the quality to become a Spell Caster, he also did it out of impulse and gave a chance to this naive girl.

“I’ll leave Ditas town soon, but before I leave, I’ll give you three Zero-level spells and also some notes I recorded about the things that need to be noted. You can try to construct these spells in the future. If I have the chance to do so, I’ll return to Ditas town three years later. If you’ve successfully constructed three Zero-level spells, I’ll consider taking you as a student!”

Although it was Merlin’s impulse, he believed that Emma had the talent. However, he would not remain here to teach Emma so she must depend on herself.

Subsequently, Merlin gave Zero-level spells – Fireball, Frost, and Earth Guard to Emma. She was luckier than Merlin when he received the ring from old man Etha then.

“Alright. Get a carriage for me from Mr. Chablis. I’ll depart today and leave Ditas town!”

After Merlin had instructed Emma with the arrangement, he was ready to depart.

## Chapter 159: It’s Been A Long Time

A carriage was slowly advancing on the wide road.

In the carriage, Merlin’s eyes were closed. He was meditating for a moment and checking the Spell Models in his Awareness. A few days had passed since he had left Ditas town.

The Guardian Monument’s Spell Model seemed to be fine. It was still absorbing and accumulating Magic Power as usual. Meanwhile, there was still yet another Spell Model below that of Guardian Monument – Zero-level Earth-type spell, Earth Guard.

Although Spell Casters had constructed more advanced Spell Models, the beginner Spell Models before would not disappear from their Awareness. Thus, Earth Guard's Spell Model in Merlin's Awareness was still accumulating Magic Power albeit at a slower rate.

Earth Guard had not reached its maximum capacity but most of the Earth Elements were absorbed by Guardian Monument's Spell Model. The ability to absorb Elements increased when the Spell Model advanced. The beginner Spell Model could only absorb a little Magic Power each time so Earth Guard would reach the maximum capacity of Magic Power in the near future.

"How far to Prakash City?"

Merlin pulled the curtain open and asked the carriage driver. This man was initially Chablis' servant, but before Merlin left the town, Chablis simply gave the carriage and its driver to him.

The driver looked at the topography, then answered respectfully, "Not too far. Three more hours at most. We should reach Prakash City then."

Merlin nodded. Although he had only left Prakash City for a year, he had experienced far too many things; from the rookie wizard in the beginning to a Six-Elemental Spell Caster now. He had even successfully constructed his first First-level spell!

After he had joined the Dark Magic Region, everything that had transpired in this year seemed unimaginable when Merlin thought about it.

Following that, Merlin shut his eyes and continued to meditate.

...

After two hours, Merlin suddenly opened his eyes and his expression turned cold. His Mind Power extended out of the carriage and toward the forest beside the road.

"Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!"

Fireballs appeared out of thin air and rapidly flew into the forest under the control of Merlin's Mind Power.



...

“Captain, there’s a carriage in front of us.”

A man who wore shiny armor reported softly in the forest.

The captain nodded. “Follow him. Don’t alarm them. The order we’ve received is to strictly monitor the people coming in and out of Prakash City. Don’t leave anyone out no matter who the person is.”

“Yes, Captain!”

This armored man was about to turn and leave, but he revealed a hint of hesitation. Then, he asked in a low voice, “Captain, will our city, Lebis City, start a war with Prakash City?”

The captain’s expression changed, and his gaze turned fierce. He replied in a cold tone, “Is this what you’re supposed to ask? Quickly, keep an eye on that carriage!”

The armored man quickly nodded, but as he turned around, a few scorching fireballs suddenly appeared from afar. The fireballs were heading toward the forest at an incredible speed.

The captain’s expression changed drastically and he could not help but shout, “Not good. It’s a Spell Caster. Run!”

After saying that, the captain let out a sudden burst of frigid aura. He was obviously a Third-level Elemental Swordsman. However, the fist-sized fireballs immediately exploded after entering the forest.

“Boom!”

The explosion of ten fireballs was terrifying. The Elemental Swordsmen who hid in the forest were immediately engulfed by the furious flame...

...

In the carriage, Merlin seemed calm. Even the carriage driver sitting outside did not express any emotion. Back in Ditas town, Chablis had mentioned to him that the person he would follow now was a mysterious yet powerful Spell Caster.

“Pick up the speed and get to Prakash City as quickly as possible!”

Merlin looked at the forest at the sides of the carriage, frowning. He did not know what had happened in Prakash City to render so many Elemental Swordsmen monitoring the people going in and out of Prakash City.

The carriage began to pick up speed and Merlin felt it was getting bumpier. However, he was more concerned over what had happened in Prakash City.

Although it was just a short one-hour journey, Merlin had already noticed a few groups of Elemental Swordsmen, sneakily hiding in the forest along the way.

Merlin did not even spare these Elemental Swordsmen and killed them off with Fireball. The Wilson family was in Prakash City and he would not allow anyone to threaten them.

“Sir Merlin, we’ve arrived at Prakash City!”

Suddenly, the carriage driver’s voice reached Merlin. Surprised, he quickly pulled the curtain open and found the familiar Prakash City in sight.

“A year. A whole year...”

When Merlin first left, he thought that he would only be back after a decade or so. Even after joining the Dark Magic Region and knowing about the three-year limit, he had thought that it would take him three years to be back in Prakash City.

Little did he imagine that there would be changes in the Dark Magic Region. Hence, he was now back in Prakash City after a year.

After exclaiming for a moment, Merlin noticed that the security of Prakash City had been tightened. He extended his Mind Power to the walls and found archers with crossbows densely packed on the walls. Moreover, there seemed to be heavy-armored knights in the town as well.

It was very much different from the serene Prakash City when Merlin left back then. After relating this situation to the Elemental Swordsmen hidden at the sides of the road out there, Merlin faintly sensed that something serious could have happened in Prakash City. Otherwise, the air here would not be so heavy and tense.

“Let’s go in.”

Merlin put down the curtain and said to the carriage driver. He would only know what had truly transpired after he entered the city.

The carriage slowly came to the gate but it was blocked by the guards.

“Wait. Prakash City has tight security now. Without the Castellan’s order, no one can enter!”

When the carriage driver was in a pinch, Merlin had already presented a golden plate from within the carriage. He said monotonously, “I’m the baron personally knighted by Count Selin. Can’t I enter?”

Once these guards saw the name on the plate, their faces immediately changed. They respectfully replied, “Oh, it’s Baron Merlin. The city has tight security now, so no one can enter the city easily. However, if Sir Castellan knew that it’s you, sir, he’ll definitely grant you entrance. Please, Sir Baron!”

Merlin pulled the curtain wide open and stared at the guard strangely. He asked with a confused look, “You know me?”

The guard quickly answered, “I was a guard back in Sir Castellan’s castle. I’ve seen Sir Baron once.”

“Oh…”

Merlin nodded. There were many guards at Count Selin's castle back then. He would not remember this guard so he put down the curtain and said to the carriage driver, "Let's go."

The carriage slowly left the gate and entered the city.

After the carriage had left, some guards at the gate asked in confusion, "Didn't Sir Castellan order that even the aristocrats who wish to enter the city have to seek his approval? Why did you let them in without authorization?"

Apparently, letting Merlin's carriage into the city was only a presumptuous act of this guard.

However, this guard took a thoughtful glance at the carriage Merlin was in and sniggered. "Hmph. What do you know about it? That is not any ordinary baron – he was the wizard who has helped Sir Count before. Baron Merlin is now back. I believe Sir Count will be elated about this. Wait here. I'll immediately report this news to Sir Count."

Then, this guard left the gate and headed toward the count's castle quickly.

...

The carriage was moving slowly on the street. The people on the street appeared rushed in their journey. They even had a hint of anxiety in their faces. Moreover, there were fewer merchants promoting their products on the streets now.

Suddenly, the entire Prakash City seemed to appear deserted. As compared to the prosperous view before Merlin left, the present scene showed a great contrast.

"Turn left and go straight until you see a castle."

The carriage driver did not know the exact location of Wilson Castle, so Merlin showed him the way.

After a short while, the carriage slowly came to a halt in front of a huge castle according to the direction pointed out by Merlin.

“Sir Merlin, we’re here!”

The carriage driver turned around and informed Merlin respectfully.

The curtain was pulled apart, and a large black robe shrouded Merlin’s entire body. He seemed extremely strange in the outfit, but this outfit was the most common in the Dark Magic Region.

“Finally here at Wilson Castle!”

Merlin raised his head and gazed upon the castle before him. The unrest he felt before had disappeared and he was calm now.

Outside the castle, there were two one-year-old children, learning to walk. They waved their little hands as they dashed about outside the castle.

Behind the children, a few maids were carefully following them, afraid that the children might fall.

Looking at these two children, Merlin’s heart moved. He looked at the children, full of love, as he muttered, “Celia and Conxion. Yes, it must be them!”

Merlin recalled that they were just born before he left Prakash City. They would be about one year old now. They were Merlin’s children; his blood flowed in their veins!

Upon thinking about Celia and Conxion, Merlin quickly walked toward the two children.

The maids seemed to notice Merlin, so they quickly picked up the children and walked toward the castle. At the same time, Merlin also quickened his pace.

“Swish!”

Suddenly, a young knight dashed out from the castle and blocked in front of Merlin. He held a large sword in his hands as he said in a cold tone, “Stand there. This is Baron Merlin’s castle!”

Merlin was slightly stunned, but he paused after realizing something. He slowly pulled away the large robe on his head to reveal a young face.

“Yaguez, it’s been a long time!”

Merlin glanced at the muscular knight in front of him and flashed a smile.

Chapter 160: The Warmth of Family

The young knight was Yaguez who had followed Old Wilson from Blackwater City to the Kingdom of Blackmoon. Back then, Yaguez was just an ordinary knight. He was not even a heavy-armoured knight nor did he have any quality to become an Elemental Swordsman.

However, a year had gone past. When Merlin saw Yaguez again, he noticed that Yaguez had grown into a muscular man, as if he had undergone a second puberty where his physical attribute was astonishingly excellent. He had reached the peak of a First-level Elemental Swordsman.

Merlin immediately realized that Old Wilson must have taught the strange posture of the mysterious relief sculpture to Yaguez. This was why he possessed such strong physical attribute now.

Yaguez was extremely surprised. Staring at Merlin who had uncovered his face, he exclaimed in an almost shaky voice, “Baron... Sir Baron? Is that really you?”

Merlin nodded. “That’s right. I’m back. Let’s go in together.”

Then, Merlin brought Yaguez and entered the castle together.

Celia and Conxion were brought to the hall by the maids. When Merlin reached the hall, Yaguez explained Merlin’s identity to the two young maids.

These maids had entered Wilson Castle after Merlin had left. Upon hearing that this young man was the true master of Wilson Castle, Baron Merlin, they quickly put Celia and Conxion down and bowed respectfully to Merlin. “Sir Baron!”

Merlin waved his hands and placed his gaze on Celia and Conxion. These two were not afraid of strangers. Full of curiosity, they even blinked softly and stared at Merlin.

Merlin reached out his hands and hugged Celia and Conxion – both seemed quiet and did not wriggle out from his arms. They were only curious about the long black robe on Merlin as they pulled the robe relentlessly.

Looking at Celia and Conxion, Merlin did not feel particularly pumped up. Instead, a faint warmth flowed into his heart as they were the best proof of his existence in this world – his blood flowed in Celia and Conxion's body.

“Merlin!”

“Merlin!”

Suddenly, two familiar voices rang. Merlin raised his head to see two beautiful women running down from the second floor. They were Merlin's wives – Charise and Avril.

Charise seemed to look the same whilst Avril was younger. After a year, her figure had bloomed into a full-grown and her physique looked fuller. Her exquisite face which resembled a porcelain doll back then had become mature and more attractive now.

Merlin put Celia and Conxion down and smiled at his wives, walked toward them quickly and spoke softly, “Yes, I'm back.”

Charise and Avril were filled with surprise. They quickly came to Merlin while holding Celia and Conxion in their arms respectively.

Avril was still as shy and quiet as before even though she kept her eyes glued on Merlin. She seemed to have a lot of questions, but she did not reveal her thoughts. Charise appeared more outspoken as she said to Merlin, “Merlin, we've received your letter where you mentioned that you'll be back after two or three years.”

Merlin shook his head rather helplessly. “There's a small incident in the Dark Magic Region, so I return earlier than expected. But I don't know when I'll leave again.”

Following that, Merlin asked about some matters regarding Celia and Conxion. When the children were mentioned, even the shy Avril had endless stories to share where she could not stop the chat.

Merlin listened carefully as he glanced at Celia and Conxion. Warmth which made him feel like home filled his heart to the brim. Only in his home and in front of his family that he was able to feel completely relaxed.

After the few had chatted for a while, the maids had understandingly left them. Merlin asked about Old Wilson.

“Right, where’s Father? Is he still at the territory?”

Charise nodded. “Yes. Father’s been in the territory all this while, taking care of Conxion Town. But due to the tension between Prakash City and Lebis City lately, the merchants in Conxion Town have been decreasing. The tax revenue from the territory has declined by at least thirty percent during these few months.”

Upon mentioning this, Charise seemed helpless. Moreover, since Old Wilson was at the territory all the time and with Merlin’s absence, almost everything in Wilson Castle was managed by Charise and the old butler.

Probably Charise was more experienced in management, the old butler had seldom cared about the matter in the castle lately. Most of the things were arranged by Charise and nothing had gone wrong. Instead, everything was managed neatly and accordingly.

Thus, when she talked about the tax revenue from the territory, Charise furrowed her eyebrows.

“Lebis City?”

Merlin recalled about those sneaky Elemental Swordsmen he had met during his journey back to Prakash City. They must be from Lebis City.

“What’s the matter exactly?”

Merlin did not know a lot about Lebis City except that it was a city-state near Prakash City. Before he left Prakash City, everything seemed to be fine.



Charise shook her head. "I'm not sure about the exact reason. Maybe only Count Selin will know. There's increasing tension in the air during these few months. Even Count Selin has gathered some Spell Casters again. They seemed to be preparing for a war."

Avril glanced at Merlin, then added in a low voice, "Yeah. Since you left, Count Selin recruited two Spell Casters, especially that Wizard Baires..."

Before she finished her words, Charise quickly interrupted her. "Avril!"

Merlin frowned and a strange light flashed in his eyes. Then, he waved his hands. "It's alright. Avril, continue what you're saying!"

Avril did not dare to speak now. Instead, she glanced at Charise cautiously. Having seen Avril's reaction, Merlin knew that Charise had become the true master of Wilson Castle.

However, Merlin was not dissatisfied by that. Having a capable wife was an excellent thing, so he placed his gaze at Charise. He said in a heavy tone, "Since Avril doesn't want to say it, Charise, you tell me about it!"

Charise was a little helpless, but she saw Merlin's slightly dark expression. After hesitating for a while, she told him at last, "Alright. Three months ago, Wizard Baires, whom Count Selin has recruited, heard from who-knows-where that you've defeated Merilung of the Abyss Fort and you've also obtained Merilung's ring.

"Then, he looked for all sorts of excuses to enter Wilson Castle, but we rejected him. Dissatisfied, he crashed into the castle thinking that you must have left something in Wilson Castle, so he came looking for them."

"But Wizard Hill came right in time and scared Wizard Baires away..."

After Charise explained the situation, Merlin squinted his eyes and let out a frigid air. He looked at Charise and Avril and asked softly, "Did anything happen to you guys?"

Charise and Avril shook their heads and replied, "We're fine thanks to Wizard Hill... But I heard Wizard Hill's situation has worsened. He did not go out in public lately."

Merlin nodded again. This was the reason he asked the black-robed old man to take care of the Wilson family as well as Count Selin at the same time. If it was not the old man, he was afraid that Wilson Castle would not be as calm as it was now.

However, Merlin knew about the old man's situation. He might have "scared" Wizard Baires away, but he must have paid a great price for it. After all, his Spell Models were unstable. He could not easily cast a spell or his Spell Models might crumble anytime.

"Baires, huh? I owed Wizard Hill once this time... But it's good that you're fine. Alright, let's not talk about the unhappy incident. Let me have a good look at Celia and Conxion..."

Merlin glanced at the children who were twisting around on the ground. Then, he played with Celia and Conxion, along with Charise and Avril. He was enjoying a chance that was hard to come by to spend quality time with his family. At once, a series of laughter echoed from the hall...

...

In the castellan's castle, a guard was reporting the news that Baron Merlin had returned to Prakash City in detail.

Count Selin revealed a hint of surprise and asked anxiously, "Are you sure it's Baron Merlin?"

The guard nodded with a serious face. "Yes, it's Baron Merlin indeed. I won't see it wrongly."

"Haha. Good. Good. Now that Baron Merlin is back, we have another strong aid to our side!"

Count Selin was truly exhilarated. He had been worried about the matter with Lebis City recently. Now that Merlin had returned, this was already the best news during these few months.

"Oh? Is it Wizard Merlin who have resolved the danger at Sir Count's castle and defeated Merilung of the Abyss Fort?"

Beside Count Selin, one of the calm-looking men suddenly spoke in a passionate tone.

Count Selin nodded and smiled. “That’s right. It’s Wizard Merlin! But he’s the baron in my Prakash City now. Wizard Baires, didn’t you always want to meet Wizard Merlin? Here’s your chance now. I’ll call for Wizard Merlin.”

Count Selin immediately sent a few guards to look for Merlin at Wilson Castle.

“Yes, I really want to meet Wizard Merlin.”

Wizard Baires stared at the door, his gaze filled with passion...

...

“Sir Baron, there’re some guards out there, saying they’re sent by Sir Count. They want to invite Sir Baron to the castle.”

The muscular Yaguez suddenly walked in the castle and informed Merlin respectfully.

The smiles on Charise and Avril’s face slowly disappeared. They glanced at Merlin.

Merlin slowly stood up and replied calmly, “Since it’s Count Selin, I’ll go. It’s time to meet Count Selin as well!”

Merlin’s aura was a little dark. Then, he walked out of Wilson Castle and followed the guards, heading to Count Selin’s castle.